

abandoned, as they entirely failed in the object for which they were instituted. The schools at Moulmein and Akyab do not evidence the same display of energy as that at Rangoon. The gradual decay of the Diocesan school in Rangoon is to be regretted. An increased grant has recently been made, in the hope that a reduction of fees and the adoption of certain measures proposed by the committee may lead to a revolution of its present condition within another year. There were reasons connected with the internal management of this important institution, beyond the mere question of fees, which appeared to contribute towards the failure. Recent communications from the Secretary give every promise that the proper remedies have been insisted on, and it is hoped that this will ensure early success. The other aided schools in this grade are doing fairly, particularly that at Moulmein.

513. As regards female education, the progress of the past year in this branch of the work is generally satisfactory. The increase of attendance in the indigenous lay schools, and the success which has followed the efforts made in the Government cess schools, are promising features; but, clearly the best results are found in the work of several missionary institutions, and notably at Moulmein, where Miss Haswell's energy and self-devotion in the cause of female education deserve all commendation. The difficulty is recognized that the employment of Burmese ladies as teachers, unless they have received a European training, is not successful; but the instances are very rare where either European or Burmese ladies combine a knowledge of English and vernacular sufficient to qualify them for the management of girls' schools in the Province; and, in the meantime, the best must be made of the agency available. For Burmese girls, a purely vernacular education is quite sufficient. For children of European descent, the case is different; but for these the Convent schools at Rangoon and Moulmein, and the Diocesan school at Rangoon, supply all that is needed.

514. Of the miscellaneous work of the year, it is necessary to notice the establishment of a central book depôt at Rangoon. The duty of selecting, editing, and circulating educational works, especially in the vernacular, in the Province, is one of the greatest interest in the cause of education. Nothing has hampered the operations of the department more than the absence of an adequate supply of suitable text-books.

515. For a young periodical, the *Education Gazette* has made a remarkable progress, and its further development is only retarded by the indifferent means of postal communication in the interior. To improve this, an arrangement might possibly be made with the postal department to extend the district dak system, which would admit of the village school-masters being post-masters as well.

516. The satisfactory working of the District Committees and of the local Sub-Committees, composed of the village elders, under the direction of the resident

Assistant Commissioners, is specially gratifying. The association of the district officials and of men of local influence and position with the departmental agencies in the work, apart from the material aid afforded, secures a healthy general interest in the progress of education.

#### Literature, Science, Art, and the Press.

517. The operations of the Education Department in the domains of science and art are, at the present very early period of its existence, necessarily little more than nominal. No more than an outline has yet been prepared of the future training which is to be offered to the youths of the Province in arts and sciences; and the beginning made in the past year, to put into practice the scheme which has been sketched, is only of a tentative nature. The literary task set to the department has a more clearly-defined scope, and the work of the year has not been insignificant. The progress made under this head will therefore first be noticed.

518. The special Committee, formed for the purpose of editing and publishing a popular series of the best Burmese classical works, has continued to prosecute actively the task set to it. A competent Burmese scholar, Mr. W. S. Sandys, has been employed on a fixed salary to collate the manuscripts of the selected works in succession, and to prepare them for the press, and both the Government Press in the Rangoon Central Jail and a private press at Bassein have been kept fully occupied. The latter has issued an edition of the *Waythandaya Zai*, and the Jail Press has provided, at a cheap rate, a large edition of the Pali texts, Glossary and Grammar, which were noticed last year as under preparation. Through the agency of the Government Book Depôt established in the course of the year, these works will be distributed through all districts of the Province, and will, it is expected, do much to help the department in its efforts to raise the general standard of vernacular education, as well as to popularize its measures for the extension of primary education. The first of the *Zais* which was published last year has proved highly popular, and a third is now in course of publication at the Rangoon Jail Press.

519. Lists of Burmese and Pali manuscripts are in course of preparation in each district by the Deputy Inspectors of Schools, with a view to the formation of the proposed library in the Phayre Museum at Rangoon.

520. Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the series of text-books required for the use of schools, the principal publications during the year being a revised edition of Mr. Hough's text-book on General Geography in Burmese, an Anglo-Burmese Spelling and Reading Book, and a Burmese Atlas, in addition to the Pali texts which have been noticed above. Since the close of the year a new edition of Stilson's Arithmetic in Burmese, which is much in request, has been prepared and sent to the press.

REPORT

723

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA

During 1874-75.

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IN THREE PARTS:

PART I.—SUMMARY.

" II.—DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

" III.—STATISTICAL RETURNS.



LONDON:

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1875.

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## Part I.

## INTRODUCTION

TO THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA, 1874-75.

# INTRODUCTION.

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## SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ADMINISTRATION, 1874-75.

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A YEAR of scarcity and famine in Bengal, involved the necessity for the early importation of large quantities of rice—the ordinary food of the Indian peasant—into that province, a requirement which the conditions of production in British Burma were peculiarly adapted to meet. The harvest of 1873 reaped in December had been abundant, an increased area had been brought under the plough, and the indent was complied with fully and promptly, and with a minimum disturbance of the general export trade of the country. The apparent magnitude of the demand, however, in spite of every precaution, necessarily forced up prices to a higher level than hitherto known, although the purchases on account of Government were made at a reasonable figure. Every Burman in the interior is a cultivator, every cultivator cultivates paddy, and the available land is practically limitless. The high prices were a consequence of the urgency of the demand, and not of the limit of supply. Accordingly, we find the province during the commencement of 1874, in a position which seldom can be rivalled by an Indian presidency, *viz.*, that a year of extraordinarily high prices should be possible, consistently with an abundance of food, and that dearness of the chief necessary of life may mean increased material prosperity, and not want to the people. Such was the economical position of British Burma in the earlier months of 1874. The famine shipments were concluded in May. The rainfall, though registered lower than in any preceding year, was evenly distributed throughout the monsoon months, and the harvest of 1874-75 was fairly abundant. After the experience of the famine year, the producers of paddy naturally anticipated a continuance of the remunerative rates they then obtained, and some difficulty was at first experienced by mill owners and merchants with contracts to fulfil and ships on demurrage, to keep the initial prices at a low figure. A short delay soon brought them to their normal level, and they continued tolerably even and moderate to the close of the official year.

2. A history of two years' continued administration of the hill tracts of Northern Arakan, undisturbed by raids, in itself characterizes the management of that district as energetic and successful.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier affairs.

During a year of absolute peace, every symptom of contentment was apparent within our administrative limits. Personal intercourse between the Superintendent and the chiefs or representatives of the raiding and non-tributary clans beyond the frontier was held on an extended scale. The Shindoo tribe, long infamous for their marauding propensities, deputed no less than six missions, representing four clans, to interview the district officers, and exertions will be made to induce their settlement within our frontier—a consummation which their excellence in workmanship and superior physique render extremely desirable. The new regulation defining the nature of the revenue to be demanded, and the mode of assessing it came into operation during the year, and all the evidence is in favour of its satisfactory working. The physical features and climate of the district, which are unfavourable to the remunerative production of the ordinary necessaries of life, are such as to secure it a possible future eminence in the cultivation of tobacco and cotton. The trade in teak and lac also promises to become valuable. The patrolling of the frontier was efficient, but to secure a more uninterrupted succession of posts, a proposal to transfer the Upper Lemroo guard to the junction of the Lemroo and Peng rivers was sanctioned. The transfer was not to be effected till the close of the rains of 1875.

3. Ordinary negotiations with the Court of Mandalay, which were principally confined to matters of extradition, maintained a friendly character. Two embassies, or deputations, from the King of Burma to foreign Powers, passed through Rangoon during the year, but neither was of much significance. The first was to Persia, and was not reciprocated; and the second to Paris, to procure a ratification of the treaty concluded with Count Rochechouart's mission of the year previous. In December a third mission visited India, and, with the permission of the Governor-General, proceeded to Gya, with offerings for the Buddhist shrine at that city.

4. The country east of the Sittang river, in the same degree of latitude as the Toungoo district, is inhabited by tributary tribes of Karens, up to the present time be-

Scarcity among the Karen tribes.

yond our administrative control, though within our actual frontier line. Since 1870 the crops had continued to suffer annually from the alarming ravages of rats. In the commencement of 1874 it was ascertained that the scarcity had become serious, and in April a sum of £800 and 4,000 baskets of paddy were distributed through the agency of the Toungoo district officers, in the anticipation that, with the rains, rice might be successfully cultivated. The rats, however, re-appeared in July, the crops were again destroyed, and although every inducement was held out to the people to proceed to Toungoo for employment, little attention was paid, and they preferred the chance of maintaining a precarious existence on green bamboo-shoots and jungle roots, to emigration of even so elementary a character. In September they yielded to necessity and came to Toungoo, where work was provided for them, all the sick and helpless being supplied with food at the expense of Government. Up to January 1875, £3,700 had been expended, of which £1,700 were on works more or less reproductive, and £2,000 on the purchase of rice and seed-paddy. The rats have not returned during the present season, and it is estimated that, with immunity from further ravages, £10,000 will cover the total expenditure until the crops of the present season are ripe. No deaths from actual starvation have been authentically reported, though the mortality was excessive owing to innutritious and depraved diet before the migration to Toungoo.

5. Ever since the suppression of the Panthay insurrection in Western China, the importance of securing accurate information and a scientific survey of the Bhamo trade route and its capabilities has been constantly before the Government. Major Sladen's party in 1868 only succeeded in reaching Momein; so, eventually, it was decided to organize an expedition on a scale and with equipments which should contain every guarantee for successfully traversing China from Yunnan to the Pacific. This determination once arrived at, negotiations to secure the unmolested passage of the party and their escort as far as the confines of China were concluded with the King of Burma, and by an arrangement with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking a deputation from the Chinese Consular Service was to leave Shanghai in September, and endeavour to reach Bhamo overland, before the expedition from this side should commence their march. Mr. Margary was selected for this arduous duty, and, after a tedious journey, successfully reached Bhamo in the middle of January. The

members of the expedition from Rangoon were Lieutenant-Colonel Browne of the British Burma Commission, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Clement Allen of the Chinese Consular Service, Mr. Ney Elias, and Mr. Fforde in charge of the Sikh escort. They left Bhamo in company with Mr. Margary on the 23rd January. At Sawaddy they were detained by the obstructiveness of the Kachyens and their extortionate demands for carriage. After further delays, on the 21st February they reached a spot within twelve miles of the town of Manwyne, where Mr. Margary had been hospitably received on his former visit. Accordingly he preceded the party to prepare the authorities, and was treacherously murdered that afternoon in the streets of the town. On the following morning the party was attacked by an armed Chinese rabble and turned back to Bhamo, though without any casualties beyond a trifling loss in baggage. Mr. Ney Elias, who undertook to survey an alternative route for the first part of the way, as far as Momein, was detained at Myne-maw through the influence or intrigues of Li-see-tahi, and returned to Bhamo on the 2nd March.

6. The recent treaty with Siam, which was noticed in some detail in last year's review, came into operation on the 1st January

#### Relations with Zimmai.

1875. It will be remembered that its most characteristic feature was the creation of a mixed tribunal for the adjudication of disputes between such foresters as are British subjects, and the Zimmai Chief; and the Assistant Commissioner of Salween was selected as the colleague of the Siamese Judge appointed to the Court. An early opportunity of testing the merits of the agreement and the value of the pledges of the Siamese Government presented itself in the visit of Mr. Edwardes, of the Bangkok Consulate, to Zimmai at the commencement of the year. Mr. Hildebrand was at the same time deputed to Zimmai, where he met Mr. Edwardes on the 2nd March. He found the officials courteous and friendly in the extreme, but they persisted in ignoring every invitation to proceed with the judicial business which was the primary object of his visit. After some procrastination, the Siamese Commissioner agreed to hold a Court on the 7th March, when some petitions were received, and the business adjourned. No progress was made, and as the days went on, it became abundantly evident that the affectation of apathy and listlessness by the Native Judge was due to a dread of responsibility for proceedings which threatened to decree his immediate suzerain liable for large sums of money in favour of British

subjects. The treaty, as far as the results following the institution of the mixed Court are concerned, must be pronounced an entire failure. Another result of Mr. Hildebrand's visit was to elicit a determined, but polite, refusal on the part of the Chief of Zimmai, either to apply any remedy to the gross fiscal system that prevails, or to the internal administration of justice. It is probable that the deputation of a permanent resident Consul to Zimmai would, in some degree, go to consummate the desired reforms. The Chief owes his appointment to the Bangkok palace, but he owes no more. His allegiance is at most nominal; and a treaty concluded with a Bangkok Ministry will command only the most superficial attention from a Zimmai Prince, unless a direct and continuous supervision by a resident representative of the British Government be rigidly insisted on. We have to rely on the successful and equitable administration of the Zimmai State for the security and tranquillity of a long line of frontier and the continuance of a trade in timber which contains the germs of great possibilities. A revision of last year's treaty and the establishment of a Consulate or Vice-Consulate at the head-quarters of the Zimmai Viceroyalty is shown to be the only apparent and adequate guarantee that the Government will be justly and vigorously conducted.

7. The frontier generally remained quiet. One raid of some gravity occurred on the Amherst frontier: some thirty men, an off-shoot of a large marauding band in Siam, numbering three to four hundred Siamese, Shans, and Tounghoos, made an incursion into the Salween district, attacked a village, and carried off £1,300 and five captives. They have not since been heard of. It is probable they were part of the band of dacoits who infested the trans-Salween country in 1872. An investigation of the case was called for from the Siamese Government, hitherto with no result. The frontier police force has since been strengthened by the addition of one sergeant and fifteen men, and an additional post has been sanctioned for the Karennie frontier. The cases on the Toungoo and Thayetmyo frontiers were confined to cattle thefts and dacoities on a small scale.

8. The settlement of the land under cultivation is usually by lease of a five or ten years' tenancy, and is made direct with the cultivator. The first settlements were made between the years 1868 and 1869, and owing to the gradual expiry of these

#### Surveys and Settlements.

short-term contracts, and the rapid extension of cultivation, only a very fractional portion of the cultivated land is exhibited as under settlement in the statistical returns. In the past year alone the area of such land decreased from 588,092 to 481,545 acres, a result for which the simultaneous lapse of short leases in the Rangoon, Bassein, and Henzada districts is almost entirely responsible. In Rangoon and Bassein, the lapsed areas will be re-settled on leases for terms of years as before, but, owing to the absence of any adequate staff, the work has to be carried on by the district officers, at much inconvenience and delay, during which the old rate of assessment is continued on the actual area, as ascertained by rough measurement from year to year.

9. The Revenue Settlement and Survey officers, who are primarily responsible for this important duty, are neither numerous enough, nor possessed of the necessary experience or knowledge to secure a speedy and adequate settlement. Their operations during the year were confined to the Rangoon and Henzada Districts. In every case the ascertainment of a very remarkable increase (averaging considerably over 50 per cent.), in both cultivation and revenue was the result of the new survey. Indeed, cultivation is so rapidly extending in Henzada, that it has been deemed expedient to defer any—even a temporary settlement for three years—of most of the land.

10. The cultivated area is, of course, no criterion of the cultivable area. Lack of population, and not of land, is the only factor wanting to ensure a almost unlimited extension of cultivation. Land, exempted from payment of revenue for various periods, was granted under the revenue rules to the extent of 31,548 acres. The area of land granted under the waste land rules of 1865 amounts to 68,447 acres; eight grants, aggregating 4,759 acres, having been resumed. An Assistant Commissioner was deputed to resurvey and scrutinize these grants, but as his services were not available for the whole working season, no great progress has been made. Sufficient, however, has been done to show that in many cases the original surveys were entirely fictitious, and that large areas in excess of the original grants have been appropriated.

11. The police force in the province for the year aggregated 6,552 men of all ranks, and was maintained at a cost of £143,076. There

were 18,850 cognizable offences investigated as against 15,784 in 1873. In 57 per cent. convictions were obtained, against 67 per cent. in 1873. There were 23,964 as against 23,135 persons put on their trial for these offences, out of which 80 per cent. were convicted. Contrasted with the previous year, the results of police action are thus shown as having deteriorated in their most essential characteristic, *viz.*, capacity for successful detection. But, on the other hand, the average is absolutely a remarkably high one, and will compare favourably with the returns of other provinces—a result the more creditable as the ratio of police to population is only one to 440, and to area one to every thirteen and a half square miles of country. Judged by the latter standard, no portion of the empire is more inadequately supplied with a protective force than British Burma.

12. In assigning causes for the increase or decrease under particular classes of crime, more numerous factors appear to enter into the calculation than is generally the case in Indian provinces. It will be noticed, as a speciality of the province, that there is an almost total absence of that marked intimacy between prevalence of theft and dearness of food which is seen so plainly elsewhere. In the year under review there was a considerable increase in the aggregate of cognizable crime, but a decrease in all but two heads. These were classes II. and V., *viz.*, minor offences against the person, and minor offences against property. The former increased 17 per cent., the latter 8 per cent. The year was one of remarkable prosperity, prices received for agricultural produce were more remunerative, *viz.*, higher than in any former year, and this, too, simultaneously with a very abundant harvest. Accordingly the increase in the cases of theft and kindred offences can only be explained on the general theory that a decrease in the more violent crimes against property, such as dacoity and robbery, is sufficient indication that offenders have become more timid, and content themselves with minor breaches of the law. Another reason for the increase in thefts, and which may appear paradoxical, is found in the very prosperity of the year itself. There were large sums of money in transit in the interior, the realizations of paddy sold to the seaport merchants and brokers. The bad communications and the deserted nature of the country would in such cases, and actually did, suggest to the evil-disposed an easy method of offending with comparative impunity. Neither of these theories, however, will avail to explain the increase under class II. The same

tences passed by judicial officers on offenders in hurt cases and kindred crimes where the *dak* is used have been quite inadequate as deterrents. The increase of wounding cases has been very marked, but the attention of officers has been specially directed to the results of their procedure.

13. Of the graver individual offences, murder, which fell from 103 in 1870 to 60 in 1873, again increased to 72. Dacoity has a better history, from 133 cases in 1870, the crime fell to 84 in 1873, and to 23 in the year under review. It seemed as if the crime which was once the special characteristic of this province, was on the verge of extinction. The dacoities that did take place were more the acts of timid bullies than of defiant desperadoes. The character of the crime had become revolutionized, though its name remained unchanged. With such anticipations the year 1875-76 commenced, but before the end of May the country was startled by the daring and violence of the Pyagalay gang which rivalled those of the old professional freebooters of Pegu, and which ended in the melancholy death of Colonel Hamilton, then officiating Inspector-General of Police. Cattle theft, another class of crime for long very prevalent in the Pegu Division, showed a gratifying decrease of from 951 to 833 cases. This result was apparently secured by the creation of Pegu as a sub-division and the location there of an European Assistant Commissioner and the founding of numerous cattle-markets. The state of the crime in the frontier district of Thayetmyo is still unsatisfactory.

14. The difficulty of maintaining a high standard of efficiency among the rank and file of the force will be appreciated, when it is recollected that 655 men, or 10 per cent. had to be discharged for misconduct, and 1,124 men voluntarily resigned during the year. This is equivalent to saying that the material of which the force is composed will undergo an entire change within four years if the present rate is maintained. The disposition of the Burman is itself the leading cause of this phenomenon, though it is doubtless possible that tact on the part of both superior and inferior officers would conduce to more satisfactory results by rendering the service more attractive to the men.

15. During the year 27,363 offences of all kinds were reported, for which 44,800 persons were put on their trial. Up to the

close of the year all had been disposed of, with the exception of 213, and with the following results, *viz.*, 29,314 convicted (excepting prisoners committed to Sessions Courts) and 14,277

Criminal Justice.

acquitted. For the past two years the work contrasts as follows:—

Year.	Cases reported.	Persons under trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Undisposed of.
1875	27,513	44,402	15,293	28,639	269
1874	27,363	44,200	14,277	29,314	213

16. From every aspect the contrast favours the year under review: there was less crime, a greater proportion of the perpetrators were brought to trial, and a greater proportion convicted. Convictions have reached an average standard. They rose from 64 per cent. of persons tried in 1873, to over 66 per cent. in 1874. Excluding miscellaneous criminal cases taken into consideration in framing the above aggregates, *e. g.*, *quasi*-trials under certain sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, the character of the criminality of the province results as follows: non-bailable offences, 10,148; bailable offences, 16,998. For the past four years the following are the totals:—

Year.	Non-bailable offences.	Bailable offences.	Total.
1871	9,585	17,978	27,563
1872	8,648	19,016	27,664
1873	10,008	17,425	27,433
1874	10,148	16,998	27,146

17. This comparison, though favourable in the aggregate, evidences a higher degree in the character of crime, though over a regularly decreasing area. The increase of 140 in the number of non-bailable offences is matter for regret, and it is entirely due to the results shown for the town of Rangoon. Elsewhere the province showed a decrease of 184 on the returns of 1873 in these offences. Energetic measures such as an increased police force and a regular system of lighting the town, have been taken, and it is anticipated that the Magistrate's hands are now sufficiently strong to ensure more favourable results for future years. The classes of offences which caused this increase were theft and house-breaking.

18. The distribution of punishments has undergone but slight modification: there is still a marked tendency to utilize those clauses of the criminal law permitting fine as an alternative punishment, and an apparent reluctance in all grades of Courts to award sentences of solitary confinement. Out of the total of 29,314 persons convicted, no less than 20,249 or 68 per cent. were sentenced to fine only, and 5,888 to rigorous imprisonment only, or 18 per cent. This is a *prima facie* indication of undue leniency on the part of Magistrates and Judges to the criminal classes. The prison returns for the past three years show that the inclination

maintained their reputation for healthiness. Excepting some trifling attacks of scurvy, no marked disease manifested itself during the year, and the ratio of deaths per cent. of average strength appears at the low average of 2.98.

23. The experience of an additional year indicated the inadequacy of the Burma Courts Act of 1872 to the necessities of the province, and led to a reference to the Legislative Department, which resulted in its subsequent repeal. Particular attention has been directed to the translation of the more important enactments of the Indian Legislature into the vernacular. The series is now reaching completion, and will help to provide the native judges, who dispose of by far the greatest proportion of bench work in the province, with some more accurate ideas of procedure and jurisprudence than they have hitherto possessed. Additional evidence of the popularity among his fellow-countrymen of the Burmese Judge of the Small Cause Court in Rangoon resulted in orders attaching him permanently to that Court. The litigation of the province increased by some 500 cases or .18 per cent., the numbers being—

			Rs.
Original suits instituted	...	...	28,074
Appeals ditto	...	...	1,457
		Total	29,531

The number disposed of was 28,118, of which 11,864 were contested, and 16,754 uncontested. The proportion of contested cases to the number instituted reached 40 per cent. as against 39 per cent. in 1873. There were 7,610 applications for execution of decrees, of which 2,284 were filed in the Rangoon Small Cause Court; of these 4,828 or 57 per cent. were completely executed—a most favourable result. The value of litigated property aggregated £243,934, giving an average to each suit of £9-13-0. In the interior 20 per cent. of the suits were on written obligations. The average duration of suits has improved all round. In the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon it fell from 87 days to 82 days for contested cases; in the Small Cause Court from 14½ to 13½ days, and in the district courts from 17 for contested and 11 for uncontested to 11.5 and 5.8 respectively. Considering the impracticable nature of the court, and the fact that the decrease is quite general, these are encouraging indications of the quick despatch of work. There were 1,457 appeals, of which 1,401 were disposed of, and of these 1,100 or over 85 per cent., were more or less successful, not

altogether indicating a high quality in original judicial proceedings.

24. There is no evidence of a progressive desire on the part of the indigenous population to avail themselves of the advantages of the Registration Law. The Assistant, or Deputy Commissioner in districts where there is no Assistant at head-quarters, and the officers in charge of sub-divisions conduct the duty, and, except in the case of Rangoon town itself, received no remuneration on this account. There were in all 2,759 documents registered as against 2,616 in 1873, and of these, 2,144 were compulsory registrations affecting immovable property, to 1,954 of the same class last year, an increase of 9.7 per cent. Optional registrations again decreased from 657 to 587, or nearly 12 per cent. The Burmans themselves continue to exhibit singular indifference to the additional security afforded by written and registered contracts. In the interior, they live in a most simple manner, are seldom in the position of borrowers of large sums of money, and whatever private transfers of land or immovable property are effected do not often end in litigation, as the judicial returns clearly indicate. In the year under review, there were 1,463 cases involving claims to immovable property instituted in all the courts of the province, exclusive of that of the Recorder of Rangoon, and nearly all these are attributed to the careless allotment of land by the subordinate revenue officers, and not to the result of private negotiations. The receipts of the department were £700, and profit £296, almost identical results with those of 1873-74.

25. The receipts of Municipal and Town Funds amounted to £101,898 and expenditure to £94,198. The Act (VII of 1874) creating municipalities administered by committees was worked during the year, and under its provisions the even most important towns in the province, *viz.*, Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Henzada, Prome, Bassain, and Toungoo were declared municipalities. The creation of the new system of administration was of too recent introduction to show any decided results by the close of the year, beyond that in the seaport town at any rate, the non-official members of the committees evinced considerable interest in municipal affairs. The octroi tax has been nowhere imposed, and the principal sources and amounts of income are as follows: tax on the land occupied by houses and buildings, £17,818; license tax on hack-carriages, carts, boats, vend of liquors, and

slaughter-houses, £13,301; lease of tolls and ferries, £2,190. The land sale and rent fund realized £38,155; fines and fees, £10,794, and miscellaneous sources of revenue gave £19,637. The entire benefit of the proceeds of the land assessment rate (the substitute for capitation tax within municipal limits) was conceded by Government to each municipality. Expenditure was under the following heads: establishment, £21,308; street watering (in Rangoon) £423; original works and repairs, £42,974, and contingencies, £29,892. The incidence of taxation was Rs. 3-11-7 per head, or 7s. 5½d. The character of the principal municipal works will be noticed more appropriately in the paragraph on public works.

26. The number of troops in the province during 1874 was 4,548, and of these 2,106 were  
 Military. Europeans, and 2,437 natives. The garrison was maintained at a cost of £247,006, which includes pay, commissariat, medical, and ordnance staff, but is exclusive of transport charges. At the close of the year 1874-75, owing to the excitement caused by the Karennee frontier question, the detachment at Port Blair was recalled, and supplemented by troops from Madras. An extra battery of Artillery, and a wing of a Native infantry regiment were also added to the strength of the garrison, as a temporary measure.

27. During the year 1,751 vessels of 1,017,725 tons entered  
 Marine. and 1,721 vessels of 928,007 tons cleared at the several ports of the province, showing a decrease in number of 30. The registered tonnage of ships entered has, however, progressively increased since 1872-73, when it aggregated 893,116, and in 1873-74, 973,467 tons. Clearances decreased both in number and tonnage, viz., from 1828 vessels of 953,268 to 1,721 vessels of 928,007 tons—a decrease entirely attributable to the late commencement of the rice trade by reason of the reluctance of producers to offer paddy at lower rates than in 1874; which cause also extended the export season to long after the close of the financial year. Nine inland steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company carried on the traffic between Rangoon, Mandalay, and Bhamo, making in all 170 voyages as against 161 in the previous year. There were few casualties; the China Buckeer steam-house was partially reconstructed, and some, though not satisfactory progress made in the works on the Oyster reef. Receipts were £31,125, and expenditure £37,852, resulting in a loss of £1,500 to the Rangoon municipality.

The pilot fund receipts aggregated £6,960 and expenditure £7,161. The working of the new system of pilotage introduced in 1874 is reported as satisfactory.

28. Despite the prevalence of cattle disease in the delta districts of the Irrawaddy, and which carried off 11,661 head of cattle in the Rangoon District alone, there has been a large and general increase to the agricultural stock of the country. Absence of shelter from rain or sun and inappropriate diet, are the causes to which this excessive mortality is referred; and notwithstanding the appointment of a Veterinary Surgeon, and the instruction of natives in veterinary science, little good will result unless the owners learn to appreciate the value of taking care of their beasts. Government has contributed, as far as possible, by setting apart grazing-grounds, and reserving small tracts of water, hitherto leased as fisheries, for the use of the cattle. Buffaloes, however, increased from 590,009 to 630,708; cows and bullocks from 565,980 to 618,401; carts from 170,695 to 196,626; boats from 63,673 to 64,689, and ploughs from 253,472 to 383,976. The increase in live-stock is peculiarly great, and that in carts and boats is in some places attributed to the brisk trade in paddy between the villages and the seaports during the exports to Bengal.

29. The rain-fall registered at the chief stations of the province give results for 1874 considerably below the average of the last five years, though, owing to defective agency, little credit can be claimed for the comparison. It was evenly distributed throughout the monsoon months, and did not very materially affect the harvest, though the unprecedented fertility of 1873 shows the relative productiveness of the two years adverse to 1874. Thus, notwithstanding a largely extended area of cultivation, the outturn of the principal rice-producing districts was only an average one, but while tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton showed a decrease, the produce of gardens and orchards sensibly increased. The land under rice cultivation rose from 2,061,563 acres to 2,301,573 acres, an increment of 11.64 per cent.; the cause for which is plainly assignable to the impetus caused by the handsome profits secured by cultivators during the famine year. Gardens and orchards occupied 146,201 as against 134,000 acres in 1873-74, and miscellaneous cultivation in tobacco, oil-seeds, sugarcane, cotton, &c., retrograded from 77,647 to 76,800 acres. The successful cultivation of these crops is

dependent on the alluvial deposits of the rivers, which, owing to the diminished rain-fall did not rise to the same extent as in previous years.

30. Forests cover 563 square miles of country, of which 267 square miles of teak and 15 of catch were reserved during 1874-75 ;

## Forests.

an area which it is proposed to extend very considerably. The ubiquitous presence of *toungya* cultivators, who appropriate the best grounds and cause constant conflagrations by their carelessness, is the great obstacle with which the department have to contend in enlarging the conserved tracts. It has been finally determined that in future demarcations of reserves these cultivators shall be compelled to move beyond forest limits, where reasonable compensation in some form will be made to them. Another important decision was for the final abolition of the permit system. Most of the existing permits expired during the year, more lapse during the current year, and no fresh ones will be issued, it having been ascertained that the forests can be much more economically worked by immediate Government agency. Teak cultivation was extended by 623 acres, and experiments in the production of lac, india-rubber, and cinchona, were held with varying success. The aggregate outturn of the Government forests was 37,990 tons of teak and 4,665 tons of other woods, a decrease of 1,647 tons in all on the result of 1873-74. Imports from trans-frontier forests increased from 126,557 tons to 165,913 tons, the large augment being attributed to low rain-fall in the former year, which caused the neaping of much timber in transit, and which consequently appears in last year's returns. The receipts of the department were £107,480 and expenditure £60,263, leaving a net profit of £41,216 as against £59,397 of the year previous. An important characteristic of the year's operations was the diminished number of teak trees girdled for future felling. They aggregated in all 3,764, or about one-third of the number girdled in 1873-74. This stricter conservation will very markedly modify the revenue of the department in coming years, unless alternative sources are worked especially in the matter of "other woods" for which there is an increasing demand; and for this purpose every injunction has been given to the officers of the department.

The progress made in working up the mineral resources of the country is slower than it might be, if funds were available for operations in backward districts. Mining opera-

tions were confined to the tin mines of the Malewoun subdivision of Mergui, and were conducted by Messrs. Steel & Co. of Rangoon, who have taken a lease of the property from Government. Small deposits of coal were discovered in Northern Arakan. Road metalling operations were delayed through dearth of laterite, though the material is known to exist in large quantities throughout the country. Instructions to open out new quarries for its supply have been issued.

32. The number of steam rice-mills is returned at 43, an increase of one on last year's return.

## Manufactures.

Tea is cultivated and manufactured on a small scale in Northern Arakan. Goldsmiths' and silversmiths' work, and ivory carving (specialities of the Burmese mechanics) are improving in quality and finish as well as in price, owing to the increasing demand for specimens by the European community. The principal industries affected by the indigenous population are umbrella-making, mat-weaving, and the manufacture of oil and cheroots; in addition to these, there is a large domestic production of silk and cotton goods, in the composition of which English yarns are largely consumed.

33. The nature of the disturbing causes, excited by the Bengal famine on the trade of this province is most perceptibly reflected in the comparison of results for 1874-75 with those for the year previous. Notwithstanding the steady and indisputable march of the country in material prosperity, the urgent necessity for the immediate importation of large quantities of rice into India during the early months of 1874 forced prices to a figure which gives the values of exports for last year an undue relative prominence in the statistical returns. When the rice season opened in January 1875, a combination of the leading merchants sufficed to keep prices at a moderate rate, notwithstanding the anticipation by the producers of a repetition of the remunerative prices of the famine year. But, beyond the question of demurrage, there was no urgency for early exportation, and the disappointment of the cultivators was naturally increased in their holding back their supplies of paddy as long as possible. Thus, besides being a year of lower prices of the principal article of export, the season was a later one than the year previous. All these factors contribute to the results which the statistics show, *viz.*, a decreased value in exported merchandize in the year under review, but at the same time they admit of the concurrent maintenance of the proposition.

that the trade of the province is rapidly extending. The large purchases by Government for the famine in 1874 had another effect which appears very prominently in the returns, *viz.*, the very reduced transactions in treasure, which is answerable for the entire aggregate decrease of the year with the exception of a sum of £5,660.

34. The total value of seaborne and inland merchandise imported and exported, aggregated £12,819,201 against £12,324,866 of the year previous, and of treasure £2,846,030, against £5,044,832, a decrease on the whole of £2,704,412. In merchandise exported by sea, the falling-off was £667,012. Besides rice, which alone showed a decrease of £823,754, export of hides and lac diminished, while in timber, cotton, catch, and india-rubber, there was a large increase of value. Seaborne imported merchandise increased by £429,980 and was general to every branch of trade, with the exception of betel-nut and tobacco. The rapidly-growing consumption of silk, both as regards quantity and quality, affords a remarkable reflection of the great access of prosperity to the people. This article alone, the imports of which in 1870-71 had a value of £173,647, was imported to the extent of £545,538 in the year under review, an increase of 214 per cent. in five years.

35. The inland trade developed in almost every department, showing a total of merchandise of £2,357,756, and of treasure of £570,077, giving a gross increase of £338,008 over last year's results. The improvement in the export trade was mainly in piece-goods, rice, salt, and raw-silk—betel-nut, cotton twist, yarn and crockery showing a decrease. In the imports the increase was even more general, and took place principally in cotton, but was participated in by jaggery, petroleum, cotton and silk piece-goods, catch, and stick-lac.

36. The outlay on public works reached £353,200 of which £135,324 were devoted to Imperial works (military, irrigation, and railway), and £217,876 to provincial and local objects. On military buildings the outlay was £30,787; on embankments and irrigation works, £22,149; and on the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, £79,250. In the Military Department the pagoda detonates at Rangoon were completed; some progress in the construction of the redoubt at Thayetmyo was made, and the building of the new barracks for the European infantry at Rangoon well advanced. The principal works under reclamation and irrigation were the completion of the Donabyoo em-

bankment, with the exception of about half a mile at its southern end, and also that of the Ngathine-gyoung embankment, the estimated length having been increased by two miles. The railway to Prome progressed satisfactorily, and from the rate of advance should be almost ready for traffic by the close of 1875.

37. The principal provincial works were the building of the Rangoon high school and Moulmein Government school, extensions in jail accommodation, and the commencement of the new Court-house for the judicial officers of Rangoon town. Progress in the construction and maintenance of roads, owing to the difficulty of procuring an adequate supply of laterite was by no means satisfactory. The roads between Pegu and Toungoo, and Thayetmyo and Toungoo are being metalled, and orders to push on the latter work as rapidly as possible have been issued. On the Pegu and Sittang canal, the locks at the termini were almost finished at a cost of £9,065 and more than half the excavation work completed for £29,800. The building of the Oyster Reef Light-house does not proceed at all satisfactorily. Local works in Rangoon comprised ordinary repairs to roads, the building of the new municipal bazaar, repairs to the wharves and port buildings, and the erection of a new house and office for the Master Attendant. The China Buckeer Light-house was partially reconstructed, dredging operations on the Dallah shoal were started, and the reclamation of drainage of the Sinzoo quarter of Prome nearly completed. In addition to these, numerous miscellaneous improvements were carried out.

38. On the 2nd March 1874, the British Burma Municipal Act, and on the 23rd February 1875, the British Burma Fisheries Bill received the assent of the Governor-General in Council. In addition to these enactments specially affecting the province, ten Acts of general import were passed, and three bills appertaining to this administration were under consideration during the year. These were the Land Revenue Bill, the Labour Law Bill, and a bill to further amend the Burma Courts' Act of 1872, which last has since become law.

39. In the British Burma division, which is confined to the Pegu and Tenasserim provinces, a second line was laid down during the year between Rangoon and Prome, and the working of the Mandalay line, which is still far from efficient, somewhat

proved. The value of the traffic with Upper Burma was £1,600. In the British Burma division the number of messages sent was 53,913 to 49,078 in the previous year, and the receipts amounted to £22,293 against £23,474, the decrease being entirely attributable to the abnormally high realizations in 1873-74 on account of correspondence arising out of the famine transactions. In the Arakan Division the receipts were £2,944, giving an aggregate of £25,237 for the province.

40. The existing mail contracts were carried out satisfactorily by the British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamers during the year; fortnightly communication between Rangoon and Madras, and Rangoon and Singapore, was substituted for the previous monthly services, and by a contract made in November 1874, direct communication between Rangoon and Port Blair has been re-established. A weekly mail steamer, which has subsequently developed into bi-weekly service, between Rangoon and Bassein, was started by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company.

41. The Imperial revenue demand was £1,575,861, an increase of £62,351, or 4.12 per cent. on the results of 1873-74, and of this £1,486,445 were collected on account of the year. The increase was most prominent under the three main heads of land revenue, excise, and stamps, and the only department of importance which exhibited any but a trifling decrease was the customs, a result, however, which the paragraph on the relative condition of the export trade of the last two years completely explains.

42. In addition to an assignment of £307,000 from Imperial revenue to provincial services, the Provincial receipts and local funds. departments concerned contributed £34,008 against £26,345 in the previous year, and of this two-thirds were the produce of jail productions. Expenditure through provincial offices amounted to £368,629, or against £345,136, and was applied chiefly to jail, police, and public works administration. Local funds realized £177,480 to £141,927 in 1873-74, and the expenditure reached £193,063, the excess being provided from the credit balances of the previous year.

43. The amount of land revenue assessed exceeded the demand for 1873-74 by 11.1 per cent., owing to the exceptionally

large area brought under cultivation during the year in anticipation of a repetition of the profits of the famine year. The area under the plough in 1874-75 was 2,669,879 acres, paying a revenue of £440,704; the corresponding figures for 1873-74 being 2,410,117 acres and £396,683. The incidence of the tax is at almost the same rate for the two years, viz., slightly over 3s. 3½d. per acre. The demand on account of capitation-tax was £254,240, of which £1,436 were remitted; indicating an excess of revenue of £8,498 or 3.48 per cent., and an increase in the number of tax-payers of 20,367. The rent derived from the leasing of fisheries aggregated £80,523, an unusually small increment of 1.5 per cent. on the previous year's realizations. The cause for the low rate of progress is referred to the existence of leases for a term of years, and to the resumption of the smaller fisheries by Government on the lapse of the agreements, and their subsequent transfer to the people as watering-places for cattle. Salt excise receipts decreased from £6,570 to £5,164—a result entirely due to the larger importations from Europe, which is amply demonstrated by a comparison of the aggregate realizations on salt both as excise and duty for the past two years. In 1873-74 this amounted to £13,237, and in 1874-75 to £13,744. Customs receipts declined from £420,846 to £401,956, notwithstanding a general increase in almost every branch of trade, affording a transparent index of the relative condition of the export market in the two years. Excise receipts, inclusive of license fees for the sale of imported liquors, reached £140,655, indicating an increase of £20,382 in a peculiarly elastic department of revenue. Stamps yielded £93,440, the increase being altogether attributable to excess of litigation.

44. There were 48,847 births, and 32,937 deaths registered during the year, giving averages of 16.9 per mille for births, and 11.3 for deaths. Both rates proclaim a high amount of inaccuracy in registration. Assuming, however, that the degree of inaccuracy was constant for the two past years, the period under review was one of remarkable healthiness. With the exception of cholera, which only claimed 960 victims as against 8,109 in 1873, the distribution of diseases was much as usual. The deaths from small-pox fell from 1,406 to 1,191. Without claiming for these statistics any measure of credit, it can be shown, *aliunde*, that reasons do exist to show an abnormally low death-rate in British Burma. The conditions of existence are much more favourable than in India

proper; seldom is there seen any grinding poverty, there is no lack of space, the houses are roomy and well-ventilated, and the mode of life of the people is generally cleanly. Again, the climate over a large extent of the province, *i. e.*, the districts bordering the sea, is very equable, and there is a large floating population of aliens, who return to their native lands comparatively early in life; all of which causes contribute to cause a lower death-rate than that of other Indian presidencies.

45. From returns which exhibit the movements of the provincial population from district to district, it is difficult to arrive at any accurate idea of the actual condition of immigration, properly so termed. The statistics exhibit 94,553 souls as immigrants, and 61,950 as emigrants, leaving a balance in favour of the permanent population of 32,603. But it is certain that, in many cases, the method by which these returns are calculated admits of the same person being shown on both sides, but for different districts. The enumeration is made towards the close of the year, and at a time when the floating population, especially the Madras cooly portion of it, is at its highest. In addition to the labourers from the Coringa coast and from Chittagong, Shans and Tounghoos are in the habit of settling in the valleys of the Sittang and lower Salween, either as agriculturists, pedlars, or cattle-dealers. In Pegu, there is an annual influx of reapers from Upper Burma, and in Arakan the slight access of 990 to the population is entirely due to cooly immigrants from Chittagong.

46. The system of State immigration, organized at the close of 1873, continued throughout the year, and some 5,000 immigrants were imported through this agency. On the whole, the experiment may be pronounced a success, though the difficulties in the way of recovering their debts from the men have been considerable. The system is now on the eve of extinction, and will become merged into the much broader scheme contemplated by the British Burma Labour Bill under consideration by the Legislative Council.

47. The creation of municipalities in the larger towns has caused a more general attention to sanitary improvements. They have not yet been in existence long enough to develop comprehensive schemes of drainage or water supply, but everything which present means afford seems to have been done. Proposals

for supplying the Thayetmyo Cantonment with water from the Irrawaddy are under consideration, and a scheme for improving the condition of Pahpoon—a district on the Siamese frontier,—and which has long had a notoriety for malignant fever is being actively pushed to completion.

48. The vaccination staff numbered 81, against 26 last year.

The number of cases has risen from 18,469 to 21,154, and the successful cases from 18,921 to 17,648, or 83 per cent. of the number treated. The cost of the department was £1,237, and of each successful case Rs. 0-11-2, or 1s. 4½d. As shown by the vital returns the proportion of cases to children born is very high—43 per cent. The evil which the system has to contend with is the wide-spread system of inoculation which prevails over the entire country. It has been intimated to the sanitary authorities that some effort to teach the inoculators the practice of vaccination, and thus utilize them in the Government interests might very possibly repay a trial.

49. There are still only 17 dispensaries in the province.

They were attended by 5,649 in-door and 53,323 out-door patients—a gross increase of 10,157 in the number treated in 1873. The Burmese population, however, evince little inclination to submit to European treatment, except in cases requiring surgical manipulation, and this fact alone is sufficient argument against any extension of the system in the interior of the country. The income of the department was £9,777, of which £3,014 were contributed by Government. The apathy of all classes of the mixed population to contribute towards these charitable institutions is very marked. To this characteristic the Chinamen form a remarkable exception. It has been suggested that sufficient trouble to explain to the people the nature of the demand for aid has not been taken, and district officers have been instructed to circulate the necessary information in the most public way. Of the patients admitted 20.98 per cent. were treated for fever, and 23.42 per cent. for injuries.

50. Seven Lock-hospitals were in operation, that at Toun-goo having been added during the year.

In Rangoon the effect on the health of the European troops has been very marked, *viz.*, a gradual decrease in venereal diseases, from 19.54 per cent. of strength in 1871 to 7.6 in the past year. The work of registration has

nowhere been efficiently performed except in Rangoon, where, the percentage of registered women to population reached 35. Mismanagement by the local authorities of the Thayetmyo hospital has led to its being placed on a similar status to that at Rangoon.

51. There is one lunatic asylum in the province, *viz.*, that at Rangoon. During the year 188 patients (of whom 52 were criminals) were subjected to treatment. Of these, 19 were cured and 10 died. The cost rose from £1,148 in 1873 to £1,320 in 1874, and the average per patient from £8 18s. 4d. to £9 8s. 7d., owing to the high prices which obtained for paddy and rice. A similar result was observed in the case of the jails, and from the same cause. The large proportion of criminal lunatics is noticeable. A net sum of £154 was realized from the articles manufactured by the inmates.

52. During the year considerable progress was made in advancing the educational principles recently adopted as most suited to the conditions of the province. The system was described with some detail in last year's report. In 1874 the year's operations included the establishment of three Government schools, considerable additions to the inspecting staff, the founding of a Madrassah department for the education of Mahomedans in the Rangoon high school, the opening of a central book depôt with mofussil agencies for the supply and distribution of educational necessaries, and the issue of a Government educational newspaper. The increased inspecting staff, on the efficiency and adequacy of which all the success of the system followed hinges, admitted of a considerable development of the measures adopted for raising the character of, and fostering emulation among the numerous indigenous schools, which have always been a peculiar characteristic of the social institutions of the Burmese people.

53. The number of Government schools has risen from 7 in 1872-73, to 21 in 1873-74, and to 24 in the year under review. And missionary schools have advanced from 14 in 1872-73, to 23 in 1873-74, and to 27 in the past year. Other schools, aided either by masters trained and supplied gratuitously by Government, or by participating in the general scheme of inspection and rewards, have risen from 8 to 936 in 1873-74, and to 1,148 in 1874-75. Accordingly, the number of children, whose education is in some manner

supervised and aided by Government, has risen from 26,618 to 33,027, a little over 1.2 per cent. of the population—a proportion which does not fairly represent the condition of education, though it does exhibit the limits of the action of Government. There are several districts as yet entirely uninspected, and in those that have the advantage of supervision there are many monastic schools conducted by phoongyees or priests, who repudiate every advance by Government with persistent bigotry. These results, which must be accepted as entirely favourable, were attained at an expenditure of £33,239, an increase of £10,602 on the expenditure of 1873, making the average expended on each child included in the Government scheme rather over £1, as against £0 17s. in the previous year. With the extended area over which the inspections will be held in ensuing years the average should decline considerably.

54. Of the indigenous primary lay, and monastic schools, the number under supervision reached 1,167, with 28,489 pupils, owing partly to the fact that a new district—Bassein—was placed under inspection for the first time during the year. The prize-winners, *i. e.*, those who qualified at the examinations held by the Deputy Inspectors on their tours, declined from 3,585 to 3,403, a result of the revised standard of the examinations, and one which there is no reason to regret. It is proposed to raise the standard gradually as the system becomes familiar to, and understood by, those for whose benefit it is maintained. The proportion of prize-winners to the number of pupils at the schools examined reached 12 per cent., and it is noticeable that, in the case of girls the percentage was so high as 18½, a result due to the fact that none of them are educated in the monastery schools. The indigenous lay schools invariably disclose the best results: results which can, and with reason, be classed as gratifying. It is from these institutions, assisted by teachers trained and salaried at Government expense, that we have to look for a sound system of primary education, and the educational authorities have been directed to extend their influence to the furthest possible limits in this direction. The difficulty which presents the greatest obstacle is the absence of any source from which to draw qualified teachers. Everything that can be done towards this end is being done; normal classes have been opened at the Rangoon high school, scholarships have been offered annually for competition, and additional money has been allotted to this head, but every energy must of necessity fail to produce

qualified men when they have not had a sufficiently protracted course of training to secure more than a modest standard of acquirements for themselves.

55. Government cess schools increased from 12 to 15. They were originally intended as institutions for the sole purpose of imparting a sound vernacular education. Great as this *desideratum* is, it has been found necessary to the existence and success of the schools, to transform them into those of an anglo-vernacular class; so great and so earnest is the desire of the Burman youth to acquire a knowledge, however superficial and useless, of English, at the expense of a knowledge of their mother-tongue. Middle class schools (Government or aided), continued stationary at fourteen, of which nine were aided. Most of this class did badly, a result ascribed to the incompetence of the masters. There were six high schools, of which three were purely Government institutions. The standard of classification is at present local, but it is proposed gradually to raise it to that adopted elsewhere, *viz.*, the entrance examination of the Calcutta University, in compliance with the desire of the Governor-General in Council. The boarding system, which the conditions of life in Burma render peculiarly applicable to school life and discipline, has been started, and is now being further developed in the schools of this grade, in the hope that it will result in moral as well as intellectual improvement in the pupils.

56. The condition of female education continues satisfactory. From the indigenous lay schools, 1,551 girls were examined, of whom 287 were prize-winners, and there were 88 pupils attending the various aided female schools which exist at many of the district head-quarter stations in the provinces. As in the case of boys, the *desideratum* is a supply of qualified female teachers, but in the case of the primary schools the want is not so marked, since girls and boys alike attend the schools, the former frequently showing proficiency far ahead of the latter. The well-known social freedom which the Burmese women enjoy secure them at least a more favourable chance of acquiring knowledge than elsewhere in the empire, and Government entirely accepts the fact that this affords an opportunity, of which the fullest advantage must be taken.

57. This closes the record of the fourth year of Mr. Eden's vigorous administration of this Province. No one feature in this year can assert any especial prominence or conspicuity for

Conclusion.

itself; but from every point of view there is evidence of the certain advance of the country in wealth and material prosperity, and so long as Government can point to a continuance of the present rate of development and progress, it can fairly claim the recognition of having done its duty.

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DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

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Part II.

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## I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

THE CHAPTERS of this section, which are printed at intervals for permanent reference, will be found in the Administration Report of British Burma for 1872-73 as follows:—

Omission of certain chapters intended for reference only.

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Physical features of the country, area, climate, and chief staples ... ..	1 to 12
Historical summary ... ..	13
Form of administration ... ..	14
Character of land tenures, system of survey and settlements ... ..	15 & 16
Civil divisions of British territory ... ..	17 & 18
Details of the last census ... ..	19 to 21

### *Changes in the Administration.*

No changes in Administration.

2. There were no *local* changes during the year of report.

### *Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.*

3. A history of two years' continuous administration of the hill tracts of Northern Arakan, undisfigured by raids, in itself characterizes the management of that district as energetic and successful. During a year of absolute peace, every symptom of contentment was apparent within our administrative limits. Personal intercourse between the Superintendent and the chiefs or representatives of the raiding and non-tributary clans beyond the frontier was held on an extended scale, with results which afford gratifying indications of the silent influence that the contiguity of a tolerant Government with unrestrained barbarism is gradually fostering. The Shindoo tribe, long infamous for their marauding propensities, deputed no less than six missions, representing four clans, to interview the District Officers, and exertions will be made to induce their settlement within our frontier—a consummation which their excellence in workmanship and superior physique render extremely desirable. The new Regulation, defining the nature of the revenue to be demanded, and the mode of assessing it, came into operation during the year, and all the evidence is in favour of its satisfactory working. The physical features and climate of the district, which are unfavourable to the remunerative production of the ordinary necessaries of life, are such as to secure it a possible future eminence in the cultivation of tobacco and cotton. The trade in teak and lac also promises to become valuable. The patrolling of the

frontier was efficient, but to secure a more uninterrupted succession of posts, a proposal to transfer the Upper Lemroo guard to the junction of the Lemroo and Peng rivers was sanctioned. The transfer was not to be effected till the close of the rains of 1875.

4. Ordinary negotiations with the Court of Mandalay, which were principally confined to matters of extradition, maintained a friendly character. Two embassies, or deputations, from the King of Burma to foreign Powers, passed through Rangoon during the year, but neither was of much significance. The first was to Persia, and was not reciprocated, and the second to Paris, to procure a ratification of the treaty concluded with Count Rochechouart's mission of the year previous. In December a third mission visited India, and, after interviewing the Governor-General, proceeded to Gya, with offerings for the Buddhist shrine at that city.

5. The country east of the Sittoung river, in the same degree of latitude as the Toungoo District, is inhabited by tributary tribes of Karens, up to the present time beyond our administrative control, though within our actual frontier line. Since 1870 the crops had continued to suffer annually from the alarming ravages of rats. In the commencement of 1874 it was ascertained that the scarcity of paddy were distributed, through the agency of the Toungoo District Officers, in the anticipation that, with the rains, rice might be successfully cultivated. The rats, however, re-appeared in July, the crops were again destroyed, and although every inducement was held out to the people to proceed to Toungoo for employment, little attention was paid, and they preferred the chance of maintaining a precarious existence on green bamboo-shoots and jungle roots, to emigration of even so elementary a character. In September they yielded to necessity and came to Toungoo, where work was provided for them, all the sick and helpless being supplied with food at the expense of Government. Up to January 1875, £3,700 had been expended, of which £1,700 were on works more or less reproductive, and £2,000 on the purchase of rice and seed-paddy. Their employment was on various Municipal improvements in Toungoo, but principally on the new roads to the cinchona plantation, and to the district in the Karen hills now about to be brought under administrative control. It was scarcely remunerative, as their incapacity for work prevented their earning more than the four annas (or sixpence) a day allowed for their subsistence. The rats have not returned during the present season, and it is estimated that, with immunity from further ravages, £10,000 will cover the total expenditure, until the crops of the present season are ripe. Of this sum £1,800 were provided by the subscribers alone to the Bengal Famine Relief Fund in British Burma, that being the unexpended balance at the disposal of the Fund. No deaths from actual starvation have been authentically reported, though the mortality was excessive, owing to innutritious and depraved diet before the migration to Toungoo.

6. Ever since the suppression of the Panthay insurrection in Western China, the importance of procuring accurate information and a scientific survey of the Bhamo trade route and its capabilities has been constantly before the Government. Major Sladen's party in 1868 only succeeded in reaching Momein; so, eventually, it was decided to organize an expedition on a scale, and with equipments, which should contain every guarantee for success, and comprise every essential for reaching the coast of the Pacific Ocean through the almost unknown regions of Western and Central China. This determination once arrived at, negotiations to secure the unimpeded passage of the party and their escort as far as the confines of China were concluded with the King of Burma, and by an arrangement with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking a deputation from the Chinese Consular Service was to leave Shanghai in September 1874, and endeavour to reach Bhamo overland, before the expedition from this side should commence their march: Mr. Margary was selected for this arduous duty, and, after a tedious journey, successfully reached Bhamo in the middle of January 1875. The members of the expedition were Lieutenant-Colonel Browne of the British Burma Commission, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Clement Allen of the Chinese Consular Service, Mr. Ney Elias, and Mr. Florde in charge of the Sikh escort. They left Bhamo in company with Mr. Margary on the 29th January. At Sawaddy they were detained by the obstructiveness of the Kachyens and their extortionate demands for carriage. After further delays, on the 21st February they reached a spot within twelve miles of the town of Manwyne, where Mr. Margary had been hospitably received on his former visit. Accordingly, he preceded the party to prepare the authorities, and was treacherously murdered that afternoon in the streets of the town. On the following morning the party was attacked by an armed Chinese rabble and turned back to Bhamo, though without any casualties beyond a trifling loss in baggage. Mr. Ney Elias, who undertook to survey an alternative route for the first part of the way as far as Momein, was detained at Myne-maw through the influence or intrigues of Li-see-tahi, and returned to Bhamo on the 2nd March.

7. The recent treaty with Siam, which was noticed in some detail in last year's review, came into operation on the 1st January 1875. It will be remembered that its most characteristic feature was the creation of a mixed tribunal for the adjudication of disputes between such foresters as are British subjects, and the Zimmai Chief; and the Assistant Commissioner of Salween was selected as the colleague of the Siamese Judge appointed to the Court. An early opportunity of testing the merits of the agreement, and the value of the pledges of the Siamese Government, presented itself in the visit of Mr. Edwards, of the Bangkok Consulate, to Zimmai at the commencement of the year. Mr. Hildebrand was at the same time deputed to Zimmai, and he met Mr. Edwards there on the 2nd March. He found the officials courteous and friendly in the extreme, but they persisted in ignoring every invitation to proceed with the judicial business which was the

primary object of his visit. After some procrastination, the Siamese Commissioner agreed to hold a Court on the 7th March, when some petitions were received, and the business adjourned. No progress was made, and as the days went on, it became abundantly evident that the affectation of apathy and listlessness by the Native Judge was due to a dread of responsibility for proceedings which threatened to decree his immediate suzerain liable for large sums of money in favour of British subjects. The treaty, as far as the results following the institution of the mixed Court are concerned, must be pronounced an entire failure. Another result of Mr. Hildebrand's visit was to elicit a determined, but polite, refusal on the part of the Chief of Zimmai, either to apply any remedy to the gross fiscal system that prevails, or to the internal administration of justice. It is probable that the deputation of a permanent resident Consul to Zimmai would, in some degree, go to consummate the desired reforms. The Chief owes his appointment to the Bangkok palace, but he owes no more. His allegiance is at most nominal; and a treaty concluded with a Zimmai Ministry will command only the most superficial attention from a Zimmai Prince, unless a direct and continuous supervision by a resident representative of the British Government be rigidly insisted on. We have to rely on the successful and equitable administration of the Zimmai State for the security and tranquillity of a long line of frontier, and the continuance of a trade in timber which contains the germs of great possibilities. A revision of last year's treaty, and the establishment of a Consulate or Vice-Consulate at the head-quarters of the Zimmai Viceroyalty, are shown to be the only apparent and adequate guarantees that the Government will be justly and vigorously conducted.

8. The frontier generally remained quiet: one raid of some gravity occurred on the Amherst frontier: some thirty men, an off-shoot of a large marauding band in Siam, numbering three to four hundred Siamese, Shans, and Tounghoos, made an incursion into the Salween District, attacked a village, and carried off £1,300 and five captives. They have not since been heard of. It is probable they were part of the band of dacoits who infested the trans-Salween country in 1872. An investigation of the case was called for from the Siamese Government, hitherto with no result. The frontier police force has since been strengthened by the addition of one sergeant and fifteen men, and an additional post has been sanctioned for the Karennee frontier. The cases on the Toungoo and Thayetmyo frontiers were confined to cattle thefts and dacoities on a small scale.

## II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

### *Surveys, Settlements, and Waste Lands.*

9. The Officers of the Survey and Settlement Department organized under the rules framed by the Special Revenue Committee of 1872, were employed in the Henzada and Rangoon Districts during the year under review. In the former district some portion of the establishment was engaged in finishing parts of the Myanoung township left incomplete in the previous year, but most of the party opened up new ground in the more valuable and extensive lands protected by the Henzada section of the embankments, where the holdings are larger, and the country more open and regular than in Myanoung. Work consequently progressed much more rapidly, and 13,167 holdings, with an area of 63,503 acres, were surveyed, against 9,638 holdings, and 26,630 acres in the previous year. The rates of assessment were revised, and 48,785 acres were leased for ten years, and 1,665 acres for five years—a total of 50,674, or 73.34 per cent. of the acreage surveyed. The result of the work by the Department in this district was an increase to the revenue of £1,994 per annum.

10. After the payment of the revenue in 1873-74, the ten years' leases expired over the whole of the large division of Tharrawaddy, and as it was decided not to again lease these lands for the present, it became necessary to make accurate measurements of the areas under cultivation. Certificated surveyors were therefore sent out by the Deputy Commissioner to measure the land under the Thoogyees' orders, with very satisfactory results; the complaints made against the measurements were exceedingly few, and the following increase was shown to have taken place in the decade:—

	Acres.	Revenue.
1864-65	64,367	2,932
1874-75	101,021	14,927
Increase	36,654	4,995

or 56.95 per cent. in area, and 50.25 per cent. in revenue, which, in a country like Tharrawaddy, subject over the greater part of its area, to heavy flooding, and where little permanent cultivation can be carried on, the majority being miscellaneous, may be considered a very gratifying improvement.

11. The work in the Rangoon District during the last season comprised the survey and measurement of about 90,000 acres; a considerable portion of this area has been plotted and computed, and in

Rangoon District.

three circles which had been completed at the date of the submission of the report, an increase of 47.27 per cent. over the Thoogyee's measurements, in the acreage under cultivation, had been found. No settlements were made, but the leasing of the lands will be taken in hand by the Deputy Commissioner during the present dry season.

12. There were no settlements made in the Arakan Division, and in but one district of Tenasserim—Tavoy—where an increase of 15,231 acres took place in the quantity of land brought under lease.

Arakan and Tenasserim.

Area of land under settlement in the several districts.

13. The following statement shows the area under settlement in each District of the Province, in each of the last two years :—

DISTRICT.	AREA UNDER SETTLEMENT.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1873-74.	1874-75.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Akyab .. .. .	58,480	59,466	986	..
Northern Arakan .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Kyauk-hpyoo .. .. .	54,570	54,533	..	37
Sandoway .. .. .	8,589	8,588	..	1
Rangoon .. .. .	65,079	1,446	..	63,633
Bassein .. .. .	40,372	13,768	..	26,604
Henzada .. .. .	149,433	123,981	..	25,452
Prome .. .. .	164,846	154,756	..	90
Thayetmyo .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Toungoo .. .. .	28,695	28,695	..	..
Shwe-gyean .. .. .	153	..	..	153
Amherst .. .. .	11,182	9,517	..	1,665
Tavoy .. .. .	11,564	26,795	15,231	..
Mergui .. .. .	129	..	..	129
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>583,092</b>	<b>481,545</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>101,547</b>

The chief decrease occurred in the delta districts of the Pegu Division. In Henzada it does not appear advisable to lease more land just now, the increase in cultivation behind the embankment and elsewhere is considerable year by year; but in Rangoon and Bassein the settlement of large tracts is desirable, and every endeavour will be made to carry out the work with the least possible delay. There are, however, only three Officers at work in the Survey Department at present, and it is a great difficulty to get competent men to fill the existing vacancies.

14. The quantity of land granted under the waste-land and other revenue rules, liable to taxation during the year under review, was 19,070 acres, which yielded a revenue of £1,860. The decrease, compared with the previous year, is 98 acres and £19. In the District there was an increase in the taxable area of 1,071

acres; the grants in this district were again tested to see if the due proportions were under cultivation, and in three instances where this was found not to be the case the lands were resumed. In the Pegu Division only 2,501 acres were assessable during 1874-75—a decrease of 1,169 acres as compared with the preceding year—owing to grants having been given up. In the district of Rangoon no less than 78,206 acres have been granted away as waste lands under the rules promulgated by Lord Canning, very extensive estates having been allotted to one or two persons who have made no effort to bring the land under cultivation, but who merely hold it for speculative purposes, and for the extortion of petty dues from the surrounding villagers. Eight grants, aggregating 4,759 acres, have been resumed from time to time, but 68,447 acres still remain under grant, a very small portion of which has been tilled. During last year an Assistant Commissioner was deputed to scrutinize these grants; but as, owing to a paucity of Officers, he could not be spared for the work continuously, no great progress has been made. Sufficient has been brought to light, however, to show that in the majority of cases the original surveys of the grants were entirely fictitious, and that as a consequence encroachments have been made on the Government lands on all sides, and large areas appropriated, the revenue on which has been absorbed by the grantees. Under the revenue rules, pottahs were granted during the year for 22,192 acres in the Pegu Division, and for 9,251 acres in Tenasserim.

15. There are no Government or Wards' Estates in the province.

No Government or Wards' Estates.

## III.—PROTECTION.

## I.—Legislating Authority.

Vide Report for 1872-73, page 26.

*Course of Legislation.*

16. The undermentioned Acts, which affected British Burma in common with other parts of the Indian Empire, were passed in the year 1874 by the Legislative Council of the Government of India:—
- II.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the office and duties of Administrator-General.
- III.—An Act to explain and amend the law relating to certain married women, and for other purposes.
- IV.—An Act to control recruiting in British India for the service of Foreign States.
- VI.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to appeals to the Privy Council from decrees of the Civil Courts.
- IX.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to European Vagrancy.
- XI.—An Act to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- XIII.—An Act to provide in the Punjab and elsewhere for the guardianship of European British minors.
- XIV.—An Act to ascertain the enactments in force in various parts of British India, and for other purposes.
- XV.—An Act for declaring the local extent of certain enactments, and for other purposes.
- XVI.—An Act for the repeal of certain obsolete enactments.
17. The following Act, which relates solely to this Province, received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th March 1874:—
- XVII.—An Act to provide for the appointment of Municipal Committees in towns in British Burma, and for other purposes— which authorizes the Chief Commissioner to extend the Act to any town in the province; to appoint Municipal Committees; to sanction the taxes which shall be levied within the Municipal limits; to confirm the bye-laws and rules which may be drawn up by the Committees for the good government of the towns, and for regulating the business of their meetings; to approve the purchase of any lands required for

the purposes of the Act; to cancel, suspend, or limit any of the acts, proceedings, or rules of the Committee; to abolish any tax or rate which may have been sanctioned; and to make rules consistent with the Act as to the cost and class of works which the Committee may execute.

18. The British Burma Revenue Bill, to which allusion was made in paragraph 17 of the report for 1873-74, is still under the consideration of the Supreme Council; and the Labour Contract Bill has again been brought before the Legislature. An Act to regulate Fisheries in the Province was passed on the 23rd February 1875.

*Police.*

19. For the purposes of comparison in criminality with other Provinces, the population of British Burma must be estimated for the past year at 2,896,368. This number is inclusive of the ascertained average annual rate of increase, and also of an additional 5,000, which have been allowed for State immigrants imported during 1874. In that year the Police force of the Province consisted of 1 Inspector-General, 18 District and Assistant District Superintendents, 462 subordinate officers, 5,153 foot, and 321 water police constables, who were maintained from the Provincial revenues at a cost of £130,229; and of 2 Assistant Superintendents, 70 subordinate officers, and 525 constables entertained by Municipalities, or at the expense of town funds, at a charge of £12,847. The total force was, therefore, 6,552, and the aggregate cost £143,076. This gives an average of one man to 442 of the inhabitants and to 13½ square miles—a low proportion, particularly in a country where the population is much scattered.
20. Various races are represented in the force, which consisted of 49 Europeans, 21 Eurasians, and 6,488 natives of India and Burma (the latter, of course, being in the majority); and with regard to religion and caste—among the officers of all classes, 71 were Christians, 42 Mahomedans, 31 Hindoos, and 409 Buddhists; while of the constables 12 were Christians, 721 Mahomedans, 655 Hindoos, and 4,611 Buddhists. In the interior the Police are almost entirely composed of the people of the country, who are best suited, by their habits and constitutions, for the rough work required of policemen. The dismissals for misconduct during the year were 23 subordinate officers and 632 constables, a large increase over the preceding year; but the number of men fined and punished judicially decreased considerably—597 under the former head, and 20 under the latter. The voluntary resignations were 1,124 (an increment of 128 as compared with the previous year), or 17 per cent. of the whole force. Such extensive changes in the force must be prejudicial to its efficiency; but, although there may, in some cases, be a want of judicious management of the men on the part of the officers, yet most of the

resignations are due to the instability of the Burmese, and their averseness to habits of regularity and discipline. The number of men rewarded for specially meritorious and approved service by promotion was 41 in 1873, and 122 in 1874—a very satisfactory increase.

21. The arrangements for instructing the members of the force were fairly satisfactory, though a lengthened service is necessary to reap the benefit of any knowledge a policeman may acquire.

22. Several new station-houses were built during the year, and others are in progress.

23. The number of cognizable offences reported, and which may, therefore, be taken as a fairly accurate indication of the number committed during the year, shows an increase on the result of 1873, which itself was characterized by an undue prominence in crime. The figures are—

Year.					No. of cognizable offences.
1872	...	...	...	...	14,268
1873	...	...	...	...	17,477
1874	...	...	...	...	18,032

This gives an increase in 1874 of 555 cognizable offences over the number of an abnormal year; but these figures do not strictly represent the condition of crime proper in the Province. Deducting from the total of 1873 the minor class of cognizable offences under special laws—*e. g.*, Municipal Act, Excise Act, &c.—the totals of the first five classes are as follow:—

1873	...	...	...	...	11,548
1874	...	...	...	...	11,855

This calculation leaves 1874 with a surplus of 307 crimes over the number of the preceding year; an increase of 2.7 per cent., or but little in advance of the ascertained increase of the population.

24. The classes of crime in contrast with that of previous year, according to class. 1873 are shown as follows:—

Class I.—Offences against the State, &c.—	A decrease of 17 per cent.
.. II.—Serious offences against the person,—	An increase of 17 per cent.
.. III.—Serious offences against person and property, or property only,—	A decrease of 7 per cent.
.. IV.—Minor offences against the person,—	A decrease of 21 per cent.
.. V.—Minor offences against property,—	An increase of 8½ per cent.
.. VI.—Offences other than above,—	An increase of 4 per cent.

Under class II. there was an increase in number of 112, under class V. of 339, and under class VI. of 248; under class I. a decrease of 17, under class III. of 55 and under class IV. of 81. The increase under class II. is the most serious, especially as the percentage of convictions fell from 61 in 1873 to 59 in 1874; the total percentage, however, of persons convicted to persons arrested, increased to the extent of 2 per cent. as compared with 1873.

25. The crime of murder, which has yearly diminished since 1870, once more shows an increase. The following are the figures:—

Years.			Number of cases.
1870	...	...	103 (of which 19 by dacoits).
1871	...	...	86 (of which 12 by dacoits).
1872	...	...	76 (of which 8 by dacoits).
1873	...	...	60 (of which 1 by dacoits).
1874	...	...	72 (of which 1 by dacoits).

Direct preventive measures against this crime cannot, except in extraordinary circumstances, be expected from the police. The most effective deterrent must be the influence exercised by the continuance of successful detections and prosecutions, and in this matter it is gratifying to find that the year under review contrasts favourably with 1873; there having been a marked improvement in the working of such cases, for whilst in 1873, there were 22 convictions, or a proportion of 36 per cent., in 1874, 35 cases, or 48 per cent., were carried to conviction.

26. In twenty-seven cases the cause of murder was a quarrel, and in about half those cases the parties quarrelling were heated with drink; in twenty-two cases the motive is shown to have been matters connected with women; in eleven cases plunder was the incentive; in three cases lunatics were the offenders; in two cases murder was committed by criminals resisting arrest; and seven cases remained undiscovered.

27. There were eight cases of murder in the Akyab District, with fourteen victims, and the circumstances under which they were committed illustrate the inherent ferocity of the Arakanese race. Light and trivial causes suffice to arouse an uncontrollable fury which expends itself, not only on those who have been the immediate cause of the outburst, but on all within reach. The ever-ready *dak*, which Arakanese and Burmans alike are trained to use from childhood with dexterity, is the terrible instrument almost invariably resorted to. There is always one heavy *dak* at least in each house for domestic purposes, and frequently there are several. An Arakanese has only to stretch out his hand, and it comes in contact with one of these weapons, and before there is time for reflection, the deed is done. The sight of the blood of the first victim, instead of causing horror or remorse, seems to madden the murderer, who is hurried on, till his fury finds nothing on which to expend itself.

28. The only murder of a Judicial Officer which has taken place for many years past, occurred in the Kyauk-hpyoo District, during the year of report, of which the following are the particulars:—An Arakanese, named Nga Mouk Kai, was convicted by the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Ramree, of assault in attempting to commit theft. On the sentence being pronounced, the man fled from the Court, the

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Police constable in charge having been, it is reported, lax in watching the prisoner. The whole of the Police about the Court started in pursuit, and whilst they were looking in the place where the man escaped into the jungle, he doubled back to the Court armed with a butcher's knife. As he went up the steps, some bye-stander attempted to stop him, but, receiving a wound on the arm, did not succeed. Some Thogyees in Court and the Court Clerks fled on approach of Nga Mouk Kai, and the Extra Assistant Commissioner himself was about to fly, but, before he reached the door, was mortally stabbed in the back. The murderer escaped; and, although a reward of £50 was offered for his capture, he has never been taken.

## Dacoity.

29. The history of dacoity continues satisfactory. The figures for the past five years are—

Years.	No. of cases.
1870	188
1871	118
1872	55
1873	34
1874	23

—a decrease in 1874 of 11 cases. These figures would appear to justify the conclusion that the sustained effort of one or two more years would see the extermination of this offence. Unhappily, recent events since the close of the year under review have too pointedly shown the fallacy of any such hypothesis, though the tragic occurrences in the Rangoon District in May last may not unreasonably be ascribed in a measure to the exceptional circumstances of the times and the excitement prevalent from the rumours of war. The success which attended the operations of these dacoits indicate in a prominent manner the difficulties which the Police have to encounter in dealing with crime at periods of unusual disquietude, and the dangers to which the country is exposed by the want of timely vigilance and precaution. It is clear now that the gang of robbers, who for several months spread alarm and desolation throughout the Pegu sub-division, were men who, in the first instance, had simply evaded arrest on minor charges of theft and cattle-lifting, and who in ordinary times would have given little trouble. Proclaimed as offenders, they took advantage of the temporary excitement, which political events favoured, to turn their hands to more serious crime, and for several months the terrorism of their acts secured to their side the passive co-operation of the surrounding villages, from the inhabitants of which the Police could obtain no assistance. The final destruction of this gang was the result of extraordinary exertions in which valuable life was sacrificed. The lesson has to be learnt that times, such as those passed through during the current year, require especial vigilance on the part of the police, and that the day of small things in crime, where such exciting influences prevail, cannot be despised as of little consequence. As regards the results of the past year, however satisfactory they were in respect of the number of dacoities, they were extremely unsatisfactory in the way those cases were worked. In 1873, the per-centage of reported cases in which some conviction was

obtained was 68, in 1874 it fell to 35. This is a serious falling-off, and calls for every energy on the part of the Police to secure its remedy. Unsuccessful detection is, of course, synonymous with allowing men to commit crime with impunity, and it is impossible to exaggerate the effect of a series of unsuccessful prosecutions. There appears also to have been less discrimination than usual in making arrests. In 1873, there were 92 persons convicted out of 125 placed on their trial; in 1874 only 48 out of 92.

30. In the Arakan Division there were no crimes under this head. In Pegu only 16 cases were committed against

Divisional crime. 187 eight years ago; in the Bassein District, which was formerly very troublesome, there was not one case during the year, and only two in the Hensada District which includes Tharrawaddy, a sub-division where dacoities were a few years ago very numerous. In Tenasserim there were 7 cases. The district of Salween was free from attacks by frontier gangs during the year, but in Amherst there was one dacoity by a large gang from Siamese territory, which gang has since been broken up. In Thayetmyo and Toungoo four dacoities were committed by men from Upper Burma, but the gangs were small, ill-armed, and did not contain any men of note.

31. The kindred crime of robbery remains almost stationary since 1872. The figures are—

Years.	No. of cases.
1872	111
1873	100
1874	104

The results of police action again show a falling-off from 1873. Only 35 per cent. of the cases were prosecuted to conviction, and only 56 per cent. of persons under trial convicted.

32. The crime in class II, which shows the most marked and prominent increase, is that of hurt by means of dangerous weapons. These cases numbered 141 in 1873, and 219 in 1874, indicating that the use of the *dak* as an offensive weapon is becoming much too popular.

33. The number of cases of house-breaking fluctuate from year to year in a somewhat inexplicable manner. The figures since 1871 are—

Years.	No. of cases.
1871	673
1872	498
1873	706
1874	685

The result is satisfactory, as compared with the preceding year, but still shows a large number over 1873. The results of the two years, in respect of the action of the Police, are identical: they are good in neither as regards the number of cases successfully detected. The proportion of accused persons convicted is satisfactory—73 per cent.

34. Ordinary thefts continue to increase. A decrease in the serious crimes affecting property is found to cause an increase in the minor ones. There was also probably more money in transit in the interior during 1874 than in any previous year. The figures are—

Years.	No. of cases.
1872	6,926
1873	7,565
1874	8,107

The police, however, show a marked retrogression in their handling of this crime.

35. Cases of cattle theft decreased from 951 to 838. To this result the Rangoon District has mainly contributed, the losses of the people by thefts of cattle having sensibly decreased. The number fell from 874 to 268 cases, or 28 per cent., while the number of convicted cases were 76 against 71; and of sentenced persons, 115 against 140. Adding those under section 411—receipt of stolen property (cattle)—the two combined stand thus:—

Cases in which convictions have occurred	1873.	1874.
Number of persons convicted	182	129
	253	214

Pro a ly the creation of Pegu as a sub-division, under an European Assistant Commissioner, has contributed in no small degree to these results, as well as the establishment of cattle-markets, owing to which the disposal of stolen cattle is rendered much more difficult. One great cause of cattle theft in the Rangoon District is that, in the plains, immense herds of cattle are turned loose without a herd, and the owners do not look after them for weeks or, probably, months. These are a great temptation to any casual passers-by. All a man has to do is, to seize a buffalo or bullock in the dark, mount it, and by the next morning he is twenty miles away, perhaps further. For some time, probably, the owner does not think of looking after his herds. He then, when a beast is missed, takes some days to search, and when unsuccessful, finally makes his report to the Police. It will be readily seen with what difficulties a case is then surrounded. Thayetmyo retains its unenviable prominence in respect of this crime. The number of cases continues to increase (from 197 in 1873, to 205 in 1874), and the results of the detection were worse than anywhere else in the Province, but the position of this district on the Burmese frontier enhances the difficulties of detection.

36. The aggregate value of stolen property is less by 4 per cent. than in 1873, *vis.*, £41,250, as against £43,302. Though this is satisfactory, it is not so much so to learn that the per-centage of recoveries has retrograded from 89 per cent. in 1873 to 29 per cent. in 1874.

37. The general results for the province may be summarized as follows:—There were 16,950 cognizable offences investigated during the year, as against

15,784 in 1873. In 57 per cent. convictions were obtained, as against 67 per cent. in 1873. There were 23,671 persons, as against 23,135, put on their trial for these offences, of whom 80 per cent. were convicted in the year under review, and 81 per cent. in 1873. The general conclusions to which these figures lead are that, while detection is becoming rarer, the amount of discrimination in pressing charges against accused or suspected persons remained the same in the two years, and that, too, at a high average. But it is noticeable that these high averages are in a great measure due to the treatment of offences coming under class VI. Now, the majority of these cases, though cognizable offences, can scarcely be considered as crimes proper, and to arrive at a true and satisfactory appreciation of the condition of the Province, the figures should be confined to those offences coming under the first five classes. These show that 12,153 cases, as against 9,853, were investigated by the police, but that the per-centage of successful detections fell from 56 in 1873, to 43 in 1874. The proportion of successful prosecutions against accused criminals fell from 74 to 73 per cent.

38. The amount of aid exacted by the Magistracy from the police in non-cognizable cases is represented by 977 cases in which their agency was employed. In these cases, 2,326 persons were arrested or summoned, and convictions were had against 1,766, or nearly 76 per cent.

39. The number of offences of all kinds reported to the police, and those which have come before the Magistrates directly, are as follows:—

Year.	Non-bailable.	Bailable.	Total.
1871	9,606	18,485	28,091
1872	8,648	19,016	27,669
1873	10,008	17,425	27,433
1874	10,148	16,998	27,146

so that, while there was a small increase in non-bailable offences, the bailable cases decreased by 427.

40. In the Akyah District, a raid was committed by 80 Khyens, from five villages on the Wa-khyoung, on Yotun village, situated on a stream tributary of the Wa. The cause of the raid was *goung-hpo*, or the price of a head, as the raiders had suffered a good deal from small-pox, which they said had been brought from Yotun. The raid took place on the 22nd January, and as all the villagers were taken away captive, nothing was known of it until March, when three of the captives made their escape, and reported the circumstance to the Police out-post at Prengwa. The report reached Akyah on the 23rd March. Both the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police were absent from Akyah at the time, but they returned on the 29th March, and at once, under orders from the Commissioner, organized a small party of police and started, on 1st April, for the Wa-khyoung, and, after a rather fatiguing march from Prengwa, succeeded in recovering all the captives. Eighteen captives were carried away—four escaped previously, and fourteen were given up.



The increase in the number of offences reported during the year 1874 was, it will be observed, 878, or 22.4 per cent., of which 274 or 29 per cent. were non-bailable, and 604, or 80 per cent., bailable. The large increase in non-bailable offences following the large excess in 1873 over the year preceding is to be regretted, and the attention of both the Magistracy and the Police has been called to the subject; while an increase to the force has been sanctioned. The number of persons brought up for trial was 8,608, of whom the large proportion of 824 or 9½ per cent. were discharged without trial, which can only be explained on the supposition that processes were issued indiscriminately, and without the usual preliminary enquiry. The number of persons convicted, was 6,841, or 78.6 per cent. of the total, which is about the same as in the previous year, and of those acquitted 1,364, or 15.5 per cent., against 18 per cent. in 1873.

48. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease in the nationalities of all offenders brought before the Magistrate and Assistant Magistrate of Rangoon, during the year under review as compared with the previous year:—

Nationalities.	1873.	1874.	Increase.	Decrease.
1.—Burmese .. .. .	2,740	3,498	758	..
2.—Chinese .. .. .	394	350	..	44
3.—Natives of Bengal and Upper India ..	1,531	1,719	188	..
4.—Malay .. .. .	1,978	2,516	538	..
5.—Chingunians .. .. .	148	409	261	..
6.—Europeans and East Indians ..	109	118	9	..
Total ..	6,900	8,608	1,708	..

COURTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER.

49. The criminal returns for 1874 of these Courts show a total number of offences reported of 22,845, of which 8,928 were non-bailable and 18,417 bailable, a decrease on the former as compared with 1873 of 184, and on the latter 1,091 cases, together 1,275 cases—very satisfactory result for the Province. There has been an almost universal falling-off in crime throughout the country, and the decrease is under every description of crime, except in the case of offences against property with violence. The only districts which exhibit really unsatisfactory returns are Bassein and Rangoon. In the former, the non-bailable offences increased from 840 to 1,167,

and bailable offences from 1,450 to 1,792, or an aggregate increase of 669 crimes reported over the preceding year. In Rangoon, non-bailable offences showed a satisfactory decrease of 189, but other descriptions increased by 471, leaving a net increase of 282 cases for the district. The results shown for the Froma District—*vis.*, a decrease of 931 in offences reported—are extremely favourable.

50. The number of persons brought to trial was 34,278, or less by 2,840 than the number in 1873. The number acquitted or discharged was 11,786, and convicted, 22,017. This gives a per-centage of convictions of 64, which is a reasonably good result, and 2 per cent. better than that of the previous year.

51. The distribution of punishments has undergone but little modification. There was still a marked tendency to utilize the law permitting fine as an alternative punishment, and apparent reluctance to award sentences of solitary confinement or whipping. The offences reported to these Courts were:—

Against the State, the Public, and Justice .. .. .	2,947
Against the person .. .. .	6,089
Against property .. .. .	9,889
Under the Penal Code not included in the preceding ..	1,332
Under special laws of the Provinces .. .. .	2,688
	<u>22,845</u>

The number of prisoners sentenced to solitary confinements was ten against six in the previous year; there must be many cases which call for this kind of punishment, and it would be well if Magistrates would conquer the aversion they at present display to awarding it. Simple imprisonment seems to have been more resorted to in the year of report than in the previous year, the numbers so sentenced in the two years having been 288 and 171; while in the punishment by rigorous imprisonment there was a considerable decrease from 5,394 to 4,848, which may be attributed to the decrease in the number of persons brought before the Courts. Seven hundred and fifty prisoners were sentenced to whipping against 648 in 1873; a marked increase in the extent to which this penalty has been inflicted has taken place during the last few years.

52. The vast majority of the sentences passed by the Burman Magistrates are "fines." Sixteen thousand six hundred and seventy persons were sentenced to fine, as compared to a little over five thousand sentenced to imprisonment. Even for such offences as theft, the Burman Magistracy prefer a sentence of fine to that of imprisonment or whipping, which is the more appropriate penalty. This is partly due to the idea of their own criminal law, which favours pecuniary compensation, and partly to the disposition of the Magistrates themselves, which favours the less disgraceful punishment. The amount of fines imposed, *vis.*, £91,244, shows an average fine of about £1 18s.; but the heavier fines are no doubt inflicted in

the Courts of the Magistrates of the first class; and the average fine in the Courts of the subordinate Magistrates is probably not half the amount above mentioned. A satisfactory proportion of the fines inflicted—*viz.*, 74 per cent.—was realized; and there was also a large increase in the amount awarded as compensation to persons injured.

Realized.

53. The number of persons ordered by the District Magistrates to give security for good behaviour was 1,137, the number in 1873 having been 1,492. Although there has been a decrease, the number is yet

still excessive and disproportioned to the number of convictions, and gives this Province a very prominent position as compared with other Presidencies. It is possible that the measures adopted are considered necessary to ensure comparative immunity from crime, and this is the only justification of the procedure; still, there is the fear that the police have a tendency to utilize these clauses of the law to anticipate the more onerous and legitimate duty of investigation and detection after the commission of crime. Charges of this nature are easily preferred, and, with the assistance of the police, can be easily established for the purposes of conviction; while the presentation of sureties, who will give security that will satisfy, is not an easy matter to villagers placed in such a position, intimacy with whom would in all cases imply, from a police point of view, a disreputable connection against the sureties themselves. The practice under Sections 504 and 505 of the Criminal Procedure Code seems so common in this Province, and is often so lightly talked of, that all Deputy Commissioners, who, as Magistrates of districts, are required directly to supervise the action of the police of their districts, have been warned that, in resorting to this summary procedure in the idea of suppressing crime, they may often give encouragement to grave injustice. To young Officers in charge of divisions of districts the warning is especially necessary.

54. Of 57,440 witnesses examined, 49,784, or 86 per cent., were examined on the day of their arrival.

In the town of Moulmein and the Thayet District, the result might be better. It is to be hoped that further improvement will take place in the practice of the Courts in this respect, for there is hardly any fault which tends to make the administration of justice more unpopular than the detention of witnesses. The

average duration of cases was 3.69 days, and was nowhere excessive.

55. The number of persons convicted in the Courts of the Subordinate Magistrates was 10,045 in 1874, against 11,691 in 1873—a decrease of 1,646; the number who appealed to the superior Courts was in the former year 374, or 3.7 per cent. and in the latter 427, or 4.2 per cent., and the sentence was confirmed, or appeal rejected, in the cases of 179 and 257 persons; sentences modified in 59 and 89; and reversed, or proceedings quashed, in the cases of 134 and 151 persons respectively—the percentage of reversals to convictions being 1.33 and 1.29 in the two years. The reason for these small numbers of appeals

is no doubt the generally light sentences passed by the Burman Magistrates, and the ignorance of the people as to their right of appeal, or unwillingness to exercise it; but it must be mentioned that one Magistrate has noticed that no appeal was preferred to him during the year from the sentences of the Native Magistrate, whose Court adjoins his own, and in this instance, at least, it would be unfair not to attribute the result to the general justice of the sentences passed, and the soundness of the convictions; and, in another case, there has been no appeal from an Extra Assistant Commissioner's decisions, since his appointment to a district in 1873.

56. Only 194 persons were committed to Courts of Sessions under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Commissioner throughout 1874, and of these thirty-eight were in Arakan, 101 in Pegu, and fifty-five in Tenasserim, sixteen of the last-mentioned being to the Court of the Judge of Moulmein. In 1873, the Sessions cases were 211. The per-centages of convictions in the two years were 68.5 and 61.6 respectively, and forty-eight and fifty-four persons were acquitted. Twenty-two were capitally sentenced against nineteen; twenty-eight to transportation for life against thirty; and eighty to rigorous imprisonment of various terms against seventy in 1873. The work of the Sessions Judge of Pegu was again heavy, and more than that of Arakan and Tenasserim combined; as a consequence, the average duration of the trials before him was seventy-one days, that of Arakan being thirty-eight, and Tenasserim thirty-five.

57. By Magistrates of the first class, 3,639 persons were convicted in appealable cases, of whom 681, or 18.7 per cent. appealed to Courts of Sessions; of these 468 had their sentences confirmed or appeals rejected, sixty-one had their sentences reduced, and 121, or 17.7 per cent. had their sentences reversed, or proceedings quashed.

58. In the appellate Courts, excluding that of the Judicial Commissioner, 762 cases were brought forward, 388 of which were in the Court of the Commissioner of Pegu, or again more than half the work of the Province under this head. The number of cases decided was 735, or 96.4 per cent. of the whole, with an average duration of slightly under ten days. To the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, 115 persons appealed against 126 in the previous year. It is possible that the power of enhancement of penalty, which now resides in the appellate Court, and which was exercised on three occasions during 1873, may have checked appeals. It was not found necessary to exercise the power during 1874. The sentences passed on eleven persons were reduced, and only twenty-six persons, or 22.6 per cent. of the total number of appellants succeeded in obtaining a judgment of acquittal.

59. As a Court of revision, the Judicial Commissioner had the cases of 193 persons before him, against 109 in 1873. In 161 cases it was found necessary to reverse the sentence of the lower Courts on

account of some material error on a point of law; for instance, in one case forty-eight persons were convicted by the Magistrate of the offence of setting animals to fight in a public place, but as the Section under which they were punished (18 of the Gambling Act), only authorizes the Magistrate to fine persons apprehended by the Police in the act, and as these persons were not so apprehended, it was found necessary to annul the convictions.

60. Twenty-three sentences of capital punishment were referred to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, of which sixteen were confirmed; four persons were acquitted as their guilt did not appear to be conclusively established by the evidence; one conviction was annulled, and a new trial ordered, which resulted in a verdict of acquittal by the jury; the sentence in one case was modified, and one case remained pending at the close of the year.

61. Rules having been promulgated regulating the fees chargeable for the service of processes and the remuneration of peons, 81,518 processes were served during the year, on which £2,236 were realized as fees. The charges amounted, however, to £2,480, thus leaving a deficit of £244; a loss will be avoided in future by the issue of orders that, when the number of criminal processes falls short of fifteen in the month, a permanent peon need not be appointed, but the work will be done either by a police or special messenger.

62. During the year under review, all the criminal courts at the head-quarters of every district in British Burma, excepting the Hill Tracts of Northern Arakan and the Salween District, and many also of the courts in the interior of districts, were visited, and the opportunity taken to point out any errors of procedure that the inspection of records and of proceedings brought to notice.

63. Any general errors of procedure on the part of the criminal courts, which were brought to notice in the course of judicial proceedings in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, such as the omission to record the confessions or examinations of accused persons, with the formalities required by law, were corrected by circular letters.

64. Rules of practice were framed, with the concurrence of the local Government, regulating the inspection by advocates and suitors, of the records of decided cases, the keeping up of cause-lists showing dates fixed for hearing cases or for delivery of judgment, the mode of giving speedy effect to the orders of the appellate courts for the release of prisoners acquitted on appeal, and the employment of "volunteers," or unpaid assistants about the courts.

65. The practice of allowing persons, hangers-on, or relatives of the presiding Magistrate, to attend the courts as volunteers has been found to be productive of abuses in the courts in the

Sentences of capital punishment referred to Judicial Commissioner.

Fees for the service of processes.

Errors of procedure corrected.

Rules of practice framed.

Employment of hangers-on in court as volunteers.

interior; and, in order to remedy these abuses, the rules last mentioned provide for the employment of only a selected number of persons, under the denomination of "copyists," to be appointed by the District Magistrate. No relative of the presiding Magistrate will be appointed, and the persons selected will not be allowed to write petitions for hire on behalf of the suitors of the Court, but they will receive remuneration simply as copyists.

66. Rules were also promulgated under the authority of the Government for the payment of the expenses of complainants and witnesses in criminal trials.

67. The forms of the periodical judicial statements and of the annual report were revised. Standard forms of registers were prescribed for use in the Courts, and additions made, as occasion required, to the sanctioned forms of judicial proceedings.

Rules for payment of expenses of complainants and witnesses.

Forms.

Prisons.

68. As stated in the Administration Report for 1873-78, the prisons in British Burma are—two central jails, one at Rangoon, the other at Moulmein, in which long-term prisoners are confined; one divisional jail at Akyab; six second class district jails at Bassein, Thayetmyo, Toungoo, Tavoy, Kyouk-hpyoo, and Sandoway; and five district lock-ups at Henzada, Myanung, Prome, Shwe-gyeen, and Mergui. Only the two prisons first named are supervised by special Superintendents; the other prisons are either in entire charge of the Civil Medical Officers, or of Assistant Commissioners who hold executive control, whilst medical supervision is exercised by the Civil Surgeons.

List of prisons.

69. The work of inspection was energetically carried out during the year of report, every jail in the Province, except Sandoway, having been visited.

70. The efforts made to impress approved principles of prison administration on the Jail Superintendents and officials have been attended with fair success, the best results having been attained in the Rangoon, Akyab, Thayetmyo, and Moulmein Jails. In Bassein and Mergui there is still much room for improvement.

71. The total prison population aggregated 15,022, of whom 4,985 were prisoners of the preceding year, and consisted of 14,601 males and 421 females. The total for 1878 was 14,291, so that the year shows an increase of 731.

Prison population.

72. The admissions, however, fell from 8,494 in 1873 to 8,396 in 1874, indicating that the actual increase in the prison population was entirely due to the larger number (4,985, as against 4,254) remaining in jail on the 1st January 1874 as compared with the previous year. The decrease in

Admissions.

the number of admissions as compared with 1873 is not surprising, as that seems to have been an abnormal year, the increase of 1873 on 1872 having been so great as 13.43 per cent. Although showing an actual decrease for the year, the figures may be accepted as evidencing a potential increase, and as proof that the number of convictions has a tendency to multiply. The numbers since 1870 are—

Year.	Admissions.
1870	7,709
1871	6,588
1872	7,486
1873	8,494
1874	8,896

73. The daily average number declined from 4,824 in 1873 to 4,786, notwithstanding the increase in the gross population. This result was mainly due to the larger number released on expiry of their sentences, viz., 7,430, as against 6,859—a natural consequence of the increased number of prisoners remaining from the preceding year. The releases on appeal increased from 166 to 244, or 2.9 per cent. of the prisoners admitted, and on payment of fine from 596 to 709, or 8.4 per cent. In the number of prisoners transported, there was a further decrease to 29 as against 33 in 1873 and 53 in 1872; and the number executed was 15, being 2 less than in the previous year and 10 less than in 1872. Escapes were also still further reduced to 23, being a decrease of 4 as compared with 1873, and 12 below the number in the year preceding. The transfers show an increase of 494, viz., 1,243 to 1,737. It is a

procedure which the peculiar conditions of the Province render indispensable. Every jail in the Pegu Division, except Myanoung, was invariably overcrowded, while those in the other divisions—notably Moulmein and Toungoo—remained comparatively empty. In the case of Moulmein, the deficiency of local prisoners is supplemented in a large degree by transfers of considerable batches from Rangoon. The easy means of communication render this possible; but at present Toungoo is so isolated and difficult of access, that a jail with accommodation for 307 prisoners had a daily average of 68 only. The arrangements in progress for improved means of communication between Rangoon and Toungoo will remedy this evil in the course of another year. The capacity of the Thayetmyo Jail has been recently raised by additions and improvements so as to accommodate 580, instead of 384 prisoners, as formerly—a result which should have some effect on the number of transfers during the current year. The normal state of the Bassein Jail appears to be excessive overcrowding, and it seems quite insufficient for the wants of the district, notwithstanding the frequent transfers to Rangoon. It is impolitic to have very large jails in stations which are unprotected by troops; still, the fact that the daily average in the Bassein Jail during 1874 was 472, while the capacity is only sufficient for 363 prisoners, demands careful attention, with a view to some action being taken in the matter. Proposals for certain extensions in this jail have been recently submitted, and are under consideration, and, with the transfer of some of the townships to another

district, and the founding of a new jail at Ma-co-bin, sufficient accommodation may be secured at Bassein for all the wants of the district for some time. Thayetmyo was even more overcrowded than Bassein: it had a daily average of 122 over its capacity. The increased accommodation now afforded should not only suffice for its own wants, but probably will afford relief in some measure to Proma.

74. The recent orders for the erection of lock-ups at sub-divisional head-quarter stations will go far to relieve the Pegu jails. The suggestions of the late Committee have been accepted in their entirety, and the Public Works Department have been asked to submit early estimates for the erection of suitable buildings at Ngatheingyoung, Pongday, Thaton, Yandoon, Tharrawaddy, Donabyoo, and Pegu. Prisoners under sentences of one month or less are to be retained in these lock-ups. The extent of relief will be considerable, for, during the past year, out of a total prison population of 15,022, one-sixth, or 2,658, were prisoners undergoing sentences of one month and under.

75. The following table shows the number of prisoners of each religion, and the proportion to the corresponding class in the population:—

Religion.	Number in Province on the 15th April 1872.	Number in jail.	Percentage in jail in 1874.
Christians .. .. .	52,299	357	0.68
Mahomedans .. .. .	99,938	650	0.65
Hindoo .. .. .	26,658	788	2.91
Buddhists .. .. .	2,447,833	11,919	0.45
Others .. .. .	110,518	417	0.37

The above is, however, hardly a fair indication as to the proportion of Christian criminals, for a large number of the Europeans were soldiers and sailors sentenced under military and marine laws. While the number of Europeans has decreased from 244 in 1873 to 194 in 1874, the number of Eurasians has increased by 11 and the native Christians by 45. The Buddhists were nearly as many as they were last year. The Hindoo, Mahomedans, and other classes have increased considerably.

76. Taking the ages of the convicts, it would appear that 82.6 per cent. of the total number were between 16 and 40 years of age, 15.0 from 40 to 60. 1.4 above 60, and 1.0 below 16 years.

77. A decrease took place in the number of juvenile prisoners, from 147 to 136. The number is still much too great, and Proma, Myanoung, Thayetmyo, and Bassein all show very high averages. It has again been found

It is necessary to call the attention of Magistrates to the provisions of the Whipping Act. Until the time has come for the establishment of juvenile reformatories, the punishment of boy-offenders by whipping is not only the most effectual deterrent for that class, but it also saves Jail Officers from a most onerous and troublesome task. With a rare exception, this would be quite sufficient in all cases of a first offence. For juveniles who are habitual criminals, separate accommodation will be provided in the Rangoon jail.

Previous occupation of prisoners.

78. The proportion of each occupation to the total male population is as follows:—

Occupation	Total	Per cent.
Agriculturists	5,041	29.8
Labourers	4,585	28.8
Shop-keepers	1,146	8.8
No occupation	1,072	8.2
Artizans	472	3.6
Government servants	366	2.8
Domestic ditto	208	1.6
Professionals	68	0.6
Independent property	5	0.05

79. The number of Government servants imprisoned increased from 187 in 1871, to 366 in the year of report. The increase is chiefly due to an increase in the number of Police constables punished, and may fairly be attributed to the carelessness of Burman sentries. This administration, served as it is to a large extent by aliens, is, however, better in this respect than the North-Western Provinces or Bengal, and only a little behind the Punjab. The proportion of Government officials imprisoned to total imprisonment is as follows:—

Province	Proportion
Punjab	3.4
Burma	2.8
North-Western Provinces	3.2
Bengal	4.0

Among the Government officials convicted was a Magistrate of the third class, a school master, a head accountant, a jailer, eight Thoo-gyees, ten clerks, twenty-three jail-warders, and about 200 Police of different grades.

80. One of the most satisfactory features in the administration of the year is the further decrease in the cases of simple imprisonment—*vis.*, 6.8 per cent., as against 7.31 in 1873, 10.52 in 1872, and 13.34 in 1871.

81. There were 2,445 re-convicted prisoners in the jails during the year, or 18.57 per cent. as compared with 2,276, or 17 per cent. in 1873. This further increase may be attributed to the orders issued regarding the classification and isolation of this class.

82. The proportion of punishments inflicted for breach of prison discipline and other prison offences nearly corresponds with that of 1873, *vis.*, 59.91, as against 60.59. The diversity of the dif-

ferent jails in respect of the number of punishments inflicted is very remarkable: the extremes are 446.66 per cent. at Myanong, and 17.80 at Sandoway. Such small per-centages of punishment as 17.80 (Sandoway), 21.62 (Kyook-hpyoo), and 22.69 (Rangoon) cannot be accepted as true indices of the comparative good conduct of the occupants of these jails—they rather indicate either unrecorded punishments, extra-judicial ones, or ineffective supervision. The people in our jails are most impatient of restraint, and are, perhaps, for the first time in their lives, placed under a system of sustained discipline and regulated labour, and good results are often attained by departmental punishments for the infraction of rules. Punishment by whipping has diminished from 71½ per cent. in 1873, to 63½ for the past year. It is impossible to expect great reduction in this proportion until arrangements are made for a large increase to the cell accommodation of the several prisons.

83. The per-centage of the average number of convicts employed as Jail Officers to the average daily number of prisoners was 3.38, as against 3.04 for 1873. The average daily numbers were 162 for 1874 and 147 for 1873. In the selection of prisoner officials from long-term prisoners, it is of the very highest importance that the greatest care should be exercised. The subject has recently been under consideration in connection with the case in the Rangoon Jail, which might have resulted in a very serious outbreak; and it is only necessary to repeat that, when the Superintendent has a very large field for the selection of work overseers and convict warders, with the acceptance of the authority he must accept also the responsibility of making a proper choice. After some correspondence, it has been settled that the eligibility of long-term prisoners to jail appointments should be recognized. The practice has been successful in other places, and is commendable in itself, both in the interests of the prison work, and of the prisoners themselves, from the power it places in the hands of the Jail Authorities, and the effect it has upon the behaviour of the prisoners. A criminal who is treated with the severest rigours of jail discipline up to the last days of his confinement, because he was a dacoit, will most probably leave the jail a more hardened criminal than when he entered the jail walls. The prospect of an easier life during the last quarter of his sentence, and the indulgences which a gradual increase of trust secures, cannot but operate beneficially upon the character of the convict. To remedy the defects which interfere with its proper direction and execution, it has been decided that the European Officers subordinate to the Superintendent must qualify themselves in a knowledge of the Burmese language; and if, to carry it out more efficiently, it is necessary to resort to the mark system which has been established elsewhere, that system may be introduced.

84. Out of a total of 9,896 persons admitted into the jails of this Province 1,216 or 14.49, per cent. could read and write well; 2,785, or 33.17 per cent. could read and write a little, and 4,895, or 52.34 per cent. were entirely uneducated. These figures when compared with those of the

previous year,—17-78, 24-02, and 58-25—show a falling-off among those who were well educated, whereas the numbers who could read and write a little have increased very considerably. This is probably due to greater care in testing the statement of prisoners that they can read and write well. Although there are no special institutions for the education of women in this country, it is curious to find that out of 355 women admitted, 31 had received some education as compared with 4,527 admitted into jails in Northern India, of whom only two could read and write a little, and two were well educated, one of these being an European.

85. The following table exhibits the aggregate expenditure incurred in maintenance and guarding, and also the cost per head:—

Expenditure in maintenance and guarding, and cost per head.

	1873.		1874.		Difference.
	Expenditure.	Perhead.	Expenditure.	Per head.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Rations ..	11,620 5 10	2 6 6	13,018 16 0	2 18 0	x 6 6
Fixed establishment ..	5,318 8 3½	1 1 1½	7,076 6 4	1 8 3	x 7 1½
Police guards ..	4,977 12 0	0 19 6	5,168 8 0	1 0 5½	x 0 11½
Extra establishment ..	565 7 4½	0 2 3	428 15 7	0 1 9½	— 0 6½
Hospital charges ..	566 8 1	0 2 3	614 12 0½	0 2 6½	x 0 8½
Clothing ..	919 18 4½	0 3 9	1,010 14 10	0 4 2	x 0 5
Contingencies ..	1,681 9 9	0 6 7½	1,948 15 1½	0 7 10	x 1 2½
Total ..	25,648 19 9	5 2 0	29,266 7 11	5 18 0	16 0

The comparison is not altogether correct, however, since the figures for 1873 represent the outlay on the maintenance and guarding of convicts, without including the additional expenses for civil, under-trial, and insane prisoners; but the result per head for that year, viz., £5-2-0, was obtained by dividing the aggregate of the charges on account of the convicts by the total convict, civil, under-trial, and insane prisoners. The calculations for 1874 are more exact, inasmuch as the figures shown under the heading "expenditure" are the total for all descriptions of prisoners. The apparent increases in the expenditure per head are accordingly not so great as shown in the table. It is impossible to arrive at them exactly for last year, as the statements do not furnish data from which to calculate the cost of either civil, under-trial, or insane prisoners under each individual head. There is sufficient evidence, however, to show a very marked increase in the charges almost all round, and especially so in the items of rations and fixed establishment. The increase in the latter is capable of explanation, but that in the former could probably have been reduced by more careful supervision.

86. The question of reducing the cost of certain jails, by lowering the strength of the police guards attached to them, has been under consideration several times. At Toungoo Jail, the cost per head

of police guard is £5-18-1, against £0-11-10 in Rangoon: but it must be remembered that there are other matters to provide against, besides the mere average number of prisoners confined—the extent of jail building to be guarded, the position of the prison on the frontier, and the state of the political atmosphere, are sufficiently obvious and important items of consideration to show that the matter cannot be decided from a mere departmental point of view. The real test of financial success and economical management are those of rations and clothing and, perhaps, hospital charges.

87. A daily average of 4,528 out of 4,736 were sentenced to labour, which gives an average of 258 sentenced to simple imprisonment. The prisoners were employed as under:—

	1873.		1874.	
	Number employed.	Amount earned.	Number employed.	Amount earned.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Jail duties.				
Servants .. ..	662	2,079 17 9	619	1,981 18 7½
Buildings .. ..	153	535 10 10	156	941 8 6
Cleaning rice, &c. ..	169	2,637 10 8½	207	1,991 17 4½
Gardening .. ..	148	904 0 3	180	949 5 4
Profits on manufactures ..	2,055	8,439 17 8½	2,440	9,329 1 9½
Labour for Municipalities ..	490	2,223 18 3½	288	1,579 15 4½
Total ..	3,607	15,123 15 9½	3,740	16,773 7 0

88. The ratio of jail servants to the daily strength has been reduced from 13-16 per cent. to 10-84; much, if not the whole, of this reduction is accounted for by the reduction in the Rangoon jail, which reduced its jail servants by 180 men, or from 17-62 to 10-25 per cent. Bassein, as is the case with some other points in its jail management, shows a falling away, the jail servants having risen, without any apparent reason, from 10-52 per cent. in 1873, to 15-04 in the year of report. A number of the smaller jails also show an unreasonable increase; in these jails, however, the difference of one or two men more or less makes an apparently large difference in the per-centage employed.

89. Following the procedure of previous years, the estimated monthly earnings of prisoners employed as jail servants has been fixed at 6s. 4d., which is the earning per head of those employed on manufactures. The average monthly earning was higher by 2d., but the total amount earned was less, because the number employed was much reduced.

90. The number employed on jail buildings was 156, as compared with 159 in the previous year; the amount earned Building and repairing jails. per prisoner was 10s. as compared with 5s. 10d. These figures are more or less arbitrary, but the rates returned by the different jails are more uniform than in the previous year, and, considering that the extramural labour earnings were 11s. per prisoner, these rates are apparently not too high.

91. An average of 207 men were employed in rice-cleaning and clothes-making, as against 169 in 1873. The estimated monthly earnings per head are fixed at 16s. as against 26s. last year. This is a much more moderate calculation, but it is still a question if it accurately represents the money value of the work done. There are two branches of employment—manufactures and extramural labour—where the earnings can be gauged with a tolerable degree of accuracy. The monthly value of the work done per head in each of the three departments contrasts as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Manufactures	...	...	0 6 4
Extramural labour	...	...	0 11 0
Cleaning rice, &c.	...	...	0 16 0

92. The decrease in the average number of prisoners extramurally employed—20 to 238—is one of the most satisfactory features of the year's administration. To this arrangement are due, in a great measure, the reduced number of escapes and the reduced expenditure for extra establishment.

93. There were 180 men employed in jail gardens, as compared with 148 men in the previous year; and, although the quantity of vegetables grown was 599,741lbs. against 531,726lbs. in 1873, and the quantity furnished to prisoners was larger by 68,015lbs., there still remains much to be done to improve the supply. The amount sold to outsiders shows a very considerable increase, £78 1s. 8d., as compared with £23 6s. 8d. The average estimated monthly earning per prisoner, in consequence of the low rates fixed was 8s. 9d. as compared with 10s. 2d.; the total earnings were £949 4s. as compared with £904 in 1873. Satisfactory results were attained at Thayetmyo, where, notwithstanding the increased consumption necessitated by the outbreak of scurvy, the home supply sufficed for all requirements, and left a surplus, which realized £84 11s. 6d. in the open market. In Rangoon, though improvement is apparent, much more might be done with the land and material at the Superintendent's disposal. An expenditure of £260 for the purchase of vegetables is quite avoidable with proper management. Bassein again shows the worst results, closely followed by Prome. There is no excuse for their failure, and the Officers at these stations should make a better use of the means at their disposal for supplying the prisoners with healthy food at a small cost.

94. The manufacturing account is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash remitted to Treasury...	...	20,507	7 6
Difference of excess balances at the close of 1873 and 1874	...	104	1 2
Excess on outstanding bills—	...	673	17 6
Excess value of raw material	...	1,336	17 6
Excess value of manufactured goods on hand	...	1,629	13 10
Excess value of plant, &c.	...	929	19 0
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>24,879</b>	<b>16 6</b>
Less expended during the year	...	15,550	14 7
<b>Balance in favour of manufactures</b>	...	<b>9,329</b>	<b>1 11</b>

This shows £9,329-1-11 as the net profits on manufactures, as compared with £7,668-18-8 for 1873. This is not so satisfactory as it appears. The increase over last year is almost, if not altogether, accounted for by increased credits in items where an increase is much to be deprecated. The very great excess in the amount of outstanding bills, and in the value of manufactured goods on hand, is not exactly an index of administrative success—especially so when a large proportion of the latter appears to be unsaleable oil, which, for all practical purposes, is without value. The monthly earning per prisoner, £0-6-4, in the same way apparently compares favourably with the result of last year, £0-6-2. The cash earnings are decidedly in favour of 1873, viz.:—

	£
1873	6,301
1874	6,956

or a difference of £1,485. Leaving out of consideration the very small jails, the best results have been achieved in Rangoon, Myanong, and Kyouk-hpyoo. A very useful development of jail industry in Rangoon and Moulmein is shown in the arrangements effected for the supply of the waggons for the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway. The work is well advanced, and does credit to the jail officials. For a jail of any size, Bassein, though employing a large number of prisoners on manufactures, gives a very poor out-turn. Thayetmyo, in this department, fails to sustain the reputation it has acquired in other respects. For the current year it is satisfactory to know that the saw-mill is ready in the Rangoon Jail, and largely-increased profit will be looked for.

95. The following balance-sheet shows the cost of the jails to Government during the year of report:—

Cost of jails to Government.

Dr.

Cr.

To maintenance and guarding—	£	s.	d.	By Profits—	£	s.	d.
Rations .. .. .	12,683	5	9	Extramural labour ..	1,579	15	0
Fixed establishment ..	6,776	16	6	Profits on manufactures,	9,229	1	9
Police guard .. .. .	4,993	16	10	Miscellaneous receipts,	421	17	19
Extra establishment ..	428	15	7	Sale of vegetables ..	78	1	8
Hospital .. .. .	602	0	10				
Clothing .. .. .	1,007	19	7	Total ..	11,408	18	8
Contingencies .. .. .	1,781	6	8				
Expenditure on jails by Public Works Department ..	9,390	8	7	Net cost to Government	29,099	13	10
Ditto ditto by jail department ..	142	16	6				
Total for convicts ..	37,646	1	5				
Inspection charges ..	1,558	2	4				
Civil prisoners ..	217	12	7				
Under-trial prisoners ..	763	13	0				
Insanes .. .. .	112	19	9				
Total expenditure ..	40,297	9	1	Total ..	40,297	9	1

96. The number of sick admitted into hospital decreased from 8,527 in 1872, and 8,580 in 1873, to 2,688 in the year of report. The daily average number sick was 135 as compared with 149 in 1873. The ratio per cent. of average strength, of admissions into hospital was 60·23, as compared with 78·17 in 1873; in the same way the ratio of average sick decreased from 8·08 in 1873 to 2·82 per cent. There was an increased amount of sickness in only two jails and two lock-ups, viz.:—Akyab, Bassein, Hanzada, and Tavoy. In all the other prisons the decrease in the number of sick was considerable, especially at Moulmein.

The diseases which caused most admissions.

97. The diseases which caused the largest number of admissions were:—

Diseases.	Total admissions.	Per cent. to total admissions.	Per cent. of average strength.
Intermittent Fever ..	739	25·6	15·44
Ulcers and boils ..	400	12·9	9·3
Diarrhoea .. .. .	293	10·1	5·12
Dysentery .. .. .	248	8·4	5·07

98. Six admissions and three deaths from cholera are returned as having occurred in the jails of the Province; to this should be added three suspicious cases which proved fatal at Tavoy, and which were returned as diarrhoea. All these cases, with the exception of that at Rangoon, occurred at the beginning of the year, and were

clearly (especially in Moulmein and Tavoy) the last cases of the epidemic of 1873. There was a serious increase in the number of cases of small-pox, forty as compared with five in 1873; most of the cases occurred at Akyab and Bassein. In the former jail there appears to have been a severe epidemic. The mortality from small-pox was extremely small, one out of forty cases.

99. The total number of deaths decreased from 237 in 1873 to 143 in 1874. If the deaths from cholera are deducted from both years, the figures would stand thus: In 1873, 140 deaths; in 1874, 138.

The ratio per cent. of daily average strength was 2·98 as compared with 4·91 in 1873, and 3·02 in 1872. There is a general impression in India that Burma is unhealthy. As regards Europeans and the troops generally, those who are acquainted with the Province know that this is not the case; as far as the jails are concerned, the following table shows the position that Burma takes when compared with the favourite Provinces of Northern India, deaths from cholera being excluded:—

Provinces.	Ratio per cent. of average strength.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.
Burma .. .. .	2·65	2·57	2·90
Central Provinces ..	2·47	3·35	3·25
Punjab .. .. .	2·73	3·23	4·87
Bengal .. .. .	3·80	4·65	4·13
North-Western Provinces ..	4·14	4·11	4·40

100. The number of male civil prisoners received during the year was 442 as compared with 579 in 1873 and 490 in 1872. The number of females admitted was 105, the same as it was in the previous year. With a considerable reduction in the total population, the daily average number was higher than in 1873—48 in the year of report as compared with 46 in 1873. In connection with the proportion of female to male prisoners, it is curious to notice the influence that the customs of a country have on questions of this kind. Women possess property in their own right to a very considerable extent in this country, and are more given to business on their own account, than natives of the East generally; the result is seen in the following table:—

Provinces.	Total admissions.	Number of females admitted.	The per-centage of females to total admissions.
North-Western Provinces ..	2,148	97	4·5
Bengal .. .. .	2,047	91	4·4
Punjab .. .. .	1,042	54	5·1
Burma .. .. .	547	105	19·1

*Civil Justice.*

101. There was a very considerable decrease in the number of under-trial prisoners during the year of report, 2,965 having been received during the year as compared with 3,905 in 1873. The total population was also nearly a thousand less than in the previous year. The daily average fell from 144 in 1873 to 118 in 1874. The average duration of imprisonment of under-trial prisoners for the whole Province was 13.4 days, but some districts differ very much from others.

102. Eleven insanes remained in the jails of the Province on the last day of the previous year, as many as 5 of these being in Akyab; 49 males and 2 females were admitted, making a total population of 62 and giving a daily average of 16, the daily average in 1873 being 17. Of the total population 24 were released, and 22 were transferred to the Lunatic Asylum, leaving 16 still in custody at the close of 1874. Of those who remained, 10 were confined in the Rangoon jail; all these are criminal lunatics who have become comparatively sane, and whom it would be unsafe to place in the Asylum.

103. On the 31st December 1873 there remained in the Province as ticket-of-leave prisoners 591 males and 32 females; of these 7 males and 3 females were released by order of their respective Governments, and two men transferred to Akyab to act as executioners escaped during the year; the full amount of security was realized in each case, and all possible steps taken to re-capture the prisoners. Six males were remanded to jail for various offences; 88 males and 1 female died during the year, giving a death-rate of 6.26 per cent. as compared with 7.80 in the previous year. Many of this class are now from length of imprisonment getting very old and feeble. As a rule they were very well-behaved and attended muster regularly. The majority are well-to-do petty traders, artisans, and cultivators. There remained on the last day of the year 538 males and 28 females, more than half this number being residents of Moulmein.

104. The State prisoner, Ram Singh, and his voluntary followers are accommodated in the quarters at the main guard in Rangoon. The cost of their maintenance was £30-7-0 for the whole year. As close confinement appeared to be injuring Ram Singh's health, the Government sanctioned his being taken every evening for a drive or walk. The three Kooka prisoners, Jukka Singh, Jawahir Singh, and Brahma Singh, now confined in Moulmein, behaved very well, and enjoyed perfect health during the year. They are accommodated in a separate bungalow specially built for them within the Kyouktan jail enclosure; an allowance of 1s. 6d. a day is paid to each prisoner, and a certain sum per annum is allowed for their clothing.

105. The past year has not been characterized by any changes in the judicial machinery of the Province. The administration of justice appears on the whole to have been satisfactory, and, as far as can be judged, acceptable to the people. Additional evidence of the acquiescence of the people in the rulings of Native Judges has been brought forward; and, notwithstanding the existence of patent defects in the subordinate Judicial Service, the ground-work seems substantial enough, and it is at least reasonable to anticipate a progressive increase of efficiency with the gradual development of the comprehensive measures for general and technical education now in progress. This service, which disposes of by far the greatest proportion of the civil bench work of the Province, has what is unfortunately almost a monopoly of the knowledge of Buddhist law: it fails in the scanty acquaintance with the principles of English law by the majority of its members, and in some few cases from an apparent shirking of responsibility, which results in suits being compromised or submitted to arbitration through the influence or persuasion of the Judge. It is impossible to look for the eradication of the first defect by sudden means—it will be a work of time and education; the second will encumber to the confidence which invariably accompanies conscious knowledge.

106. The town of Rangoon is administered by a special set of Courts subordinate in different degrees to the Recorder: the Judicial Commissioner supervises all other tribunals in the Province. The system, which was prescribed in the Burma Courts Act of 1872 has answered fairly well, but the additional year's experience has revealed some defects in that Act. This led to correspondence which has resulted in its entire revision, and a new Bill is now under discussion by the Legislative Council. One of the most important deficiencies is apparent from a recent decision of the Special Court, which ruled that there was no High Court jurisdiction in the Province in respect of the Recorder as a Court of Sessions, within the meaning of Section 4 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Another ruling of the Recorder to the effect that, in the present condition of the law, his Court has no jurisdiction in respect of trading corporations or firms, whose head office is not in the town of Rangoon, indicated a second serious omission. References on both these points, with suggestions for their remedy in the new Act, have been forwarded to the Government of India.

107. The work of translating the Acts specially appertaining to the Province has received attention during the year. Recently, orders were passed which, it is hoped, will result in suitable translations of the more important enactments at an early date, and the separate publication of all the Acts of the Governor-General in Council affecting British Burma, has been sanctioned.

108. The personnel of the principal Courts remained unchanged during the year, except during the absence of Colonel Ardagh on three months' leave, when Colonel Horace Browne officiated for him as Commissioner of Pegu.

109. The High Court jurisdiction, as already noticed incidentally, is more or less defective as exercised at present. The Recorder has most of the powers of a High Court in respect of the Small Cause Court and Magistrate's Court of Rangoon, and exclusive jurisdiction to try European British subjects throughout British Burma. The Judicial Commissioner has all the powers of a High Court over all the other Courts. The Special Court, again, hears criminal appeals from the Recorder, and the High Court at Fort William the civil appeals from the same tribunal.

110. The undernoted statement gives the number of appeals and references to the Superior Courts during the last two years:—

Court of Appeal or Reference.	Appeals.		References.	
	1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.
High Court, Fort William .. .. .	1	3	..	..
Special Court .. .. .	12	20	..	3
Judicial Commissioner's Court .. .. .	55	106	14	8
Recorder's Court .. .. .	..	..	12	20

111. The total number of suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province was in 1874, 28,074, and in 1873, 27,576, an increase of 498; and of appeals 1,457 and 1,887 respectively, or aggregates of 29,531 and 28,918; while the number of cases disposed of were—

	1873.	1874.
Contested .. .. .	10,800	11,364
Uncontested .. .. .	16,667	16,754
	<u>27,467</u>	<u>28,118</u>

showing that the proportion of contested cases to the number instituted, rose from 39 per cent. in the former year to 40 per cent. in the latter.

112. The total number of applications for execution of decrees was 7,610, of which 2,284 were filed in the Rangoon Small Cause Court. Of these 4,326, or 57 per cent. were completely executed—a result which will compare favourably with that of any other Province in India.

COURTS EXERCISING JURISDICTION IN THE TOWN OF RANGOON.

113. The civil judicial work of the town of Rangoon is conducted by the Court of the Recorder and the Court of Small Causes. The following table exhibits the number and value of suits instituted in the former Court for the last six years:—

Year.	Regular.	Miscellaneous.	Value.
1869 .. .. .	339	176	100,900
1870 .. .. .	614	634	84,100
1871 .. .. .	324	634	89,500
1872 .. .. .	141	308	67,900
1873 .. .. .	179	305	77,100
1874 .. .. .	124	357	28,300

114. The result of this comparison is not so much to indicate any remarkable decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1874 as in their value, which has fallen in a very noticeable degree. Admitting that 1873 was an exceptional year, the deficiency from the average since 1871 is still so great as to suggest, *prima facie*, that the year under review was characterized by some marked peculiarities which tended to lessen litigation. In the first place, there seem to have been no cases involving large sums of money, or property of great monetary value, filed. Again, the export trade in rice, which ordinarily continues till after the middle of the year, was almost entirely over early in May. The exports to Bengal resulted in abnormally high prices, there was a general feeling of prosperity and security, and few failures in consequence. All these conditions, but more especially the latter, would have a direct tendency to suppress litigation. To a great extent, then, the decrease in the value of litigated property may be accepted as a satisfactory guarantee of the prosperity of the year. With regard to the comparison in the number of suits instituted, a reference to the results of any year before 1872 is calculated to mislead. The extension of the Small Cause Court jurisdiction from £50 to £100 and the passing of the Burma Courts Act in 1872, which transferred cases up to £100 under Act V. of 1866 to the Small Cause Court, though not affecting the amount of litigation of the town, caused a re-adjustment of it between the two Courts exercising the civil jurisdiction within its limits. Thus the variation for the last four years is not so great. Deducting the number of Act V. of 1866 cases tried in 1871 from the total for that year, the results are—

Year.	Number.
1871 .. .. .	137
1872 .. .. .	141
1873 .. .. .	179
1874 .. .. .	124

115. The diminution in the value of the suits has caused a corresponding falling-off in the revenue and stamps. The following table gives the details under these heads—

Year.	Number of regular suits instituted.	Number of miscellaneous suits instituted.	Number of regular suits disposed of.	Number of miscellaneous suits disposed of.	Value of suits instituted.	Value of suits disposed of.	Total revenue.	Cost of tribunal.
1878 ...	179	805	172	295	£ 77,188	₹ 42,000	2,837	4,008
1874 ...	124	257	124	259	28,200	82,144	1,551	4,633
Decrease...	55	48	48	37	48,988	9,856	1,286	..
Increase ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	634

This indicates a decrease all round, except in the cost of the Court, which is mainly due to the fact that, in 1878, the Judicial Commissioner held both offices for some five months of the year. It would also be obviously unfair to debit the revenue realized on the civil side with the entire charge of the establishment. The Recorder is equally a Civil and a Criminal Judge.

116. The average duration of contested cases is given at 83 days, as against 87 in 1873. This is still high, but it is certain that, in a town situated like Rangoon, with a large floating population, and with a trade in the hands of alien merchants from Europe and from every Presidency in India, long delays for the purpose of taking evidence on commission and the like are unavoidable.

117. The miscellaneous work of the Court was of considerable variety, as will be seen from the following particulars:—

References from the Small Cause Court	...	...	...	37
Ditto from the Judicial Commissioner, under Section 79, Burma Courts Act	...	...	...	4
Proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act	...	...	...	7
Applications for review of judgments	...	...	...	2
Ditto to sue <i>in forma pauperis</i>	...	...	...	12
Ditto to letters-of-administration and probate	...	...	...	43
Ditto for removal of attachments	...	...	...	13
Ditto for discharge from custody	...	...	...	2
Processes forwarded by other Courts for service on defendants residing within the jurisdiction of this Court	...	...	...	24
Appeal under Section 73 of the Indian Registration Act...	...	...	...	1

Applications for execution of decrees	...	...	...	60
Ditto under Section 4 of Act XXIII of 1861 for an order to the Small Cause Court to entertain a suit against several defendants who one of them is neither resident nor personally working for gain within its jurisdiction at the time of filing the plaint	...	...	...	15
Other Miscellaneous suits	...	...	...	26

118. There were two reviews of judgment granted during the year. The appeal to the Privy Council pending during the year 1873 was decided in 1874, the decree of this Court passed by the late Recorder being reversed; and the appeal to the High Court in a Miscellaneous suit from an order of the late Recorder was decided by the appeal being dismissed. During the year 1874 there were three appeals to the High Court, one of which was from an order made by the Judicial Commissioner, whilst performing the duties of the Recorder, suspending an advocate of this Court for champerty, which was reversed; the others were in Regular original suits, and are still pending.

119. It has been suggested that one of the leading causes of the decrease of litigation in the Court of the Recorder, is the resort of the people to arbitration, consequent on the high fees which have to be paid on the institution of a suit. Many disputes are no doubt settled in this way, especially those arising out of failures in business; but arbitration has long prevailed among the people of this Province, and, even if it be more common than it used to be, it is a question if it is objectionable, in the absence of adequate proof that the people are forced to it by reason of the heavy expenses attending litigation, or especially by the existing scale of Court fees.

120. No alteration was made in the constitution of the Court of Small Causes in Rangoon during the year. The appointment of the Burman Judge was made permanent by the Government of India, and it is evident, from the large majority of Burman cases instituted in his Court, that this Officer is popular, and that the people repose much confidence in him.

121. In the Court of the First Judge, the total number of cases instituted was 5,430 as against 5,957 in 1873. This indicates a decrease of 527, but it must be remembered that, for the first three months of 1873, there was only one Court. The number of regular suits was 3,001 as against 3,223 in 1873, and of miscellaneous 2,429 as against 2,734. A total of 5,437 was disposed of in 1874, of which 3,002 were regular, and 2,435 miscellaneous. There were 178 cases of both descriptions pending at the close of the year, viz., 125 regular and 53 miscellaneous, as against 116 and 71 for the preceding year.

122. The total number of cases instituted in the Court of the Second Judge, both regular and miscellaneous, was 1,649 as against 1,200 in 1873; the number of regular suits instituted was

1,196, showing an increase of 313, and of miscellaneous suits 452, showing an increase of 185. The total number of all cases disposed of was 1,631 as against 1,178 in 1873; of these 1,193 were regular, indicating an increase of 329 over 1873, and 438 were miscellaneous, showing an increase of 129. The total number of cases pending at the close of the year was 44, as against 27 in 1873: 22 of these were regular, showing an increase of 8, and 22 were miscellaneous, showing an increase of 14; but it should be remembered that this Court only came into existence on the 1st March 1873.

123. Taking both Courts together, the amount of work has been almost identical with that of 1873. The regular cases increased by 91, and the miscellaneous diminished by 170; but the actual work of the Court should be gauged rather by the number of the former, than the latter. The following table exhibits the result of the two years:—

YEAR.	Number of regular cases instituted during the year.	Number of miscellaneous cases instituted during the year.	Total number of regular and miscellaneous cases instituted during the year.	Number of regular cases disposed of during the year.	Number of miscellaneous cases disposed of during the year.	Total number of regular and miscellaneous cases disposed of during the year.	Number of regular cases pending at the close of the year.	Number of miscellaneous cases pending at the close of the year.	Total number of regular and miscellaneous cases pending at the close of the year.
1874	4,197	2,861	7,078	4,195	2,873	7,068	187	85	272
1873	4,106	2,051	7,157	4,074	2,080	7,140	185	79	264
Increase	91	..	..	121	..	..	2	6	8
Decrease	..	170	79	..	198	72	..	..	..

The value of litigated property, like the number of suits, remained almost stationary, viz., £34,406 in 1874, and £34,422 in 1873. The average duration of cases diminished from 14½ to 12½ days. The stamp revenue realized in the two Courts during the year amounted to £2,799, a decrease of £24, as compared with 1873. The gross revenue aggregated £3,508 against £3,598, a falling-off of £95. The expenditure was £2,552, so that a surplus of £951 remained in favour of the Government.

COURTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER.

124. The civil litigation of the Courts subordinate to the Judicial Commissioner shows a trifling increase.

The number of suits instituted was 23,753, as against 23,291 in 1873, an increment of 1.98 per cent. The number brought on the file during the year was 29,985, of which 23,802 were disposed of. The increase is assigned to somewhat general causes, viz., growth of population and activity of trade. It was confined to the districts of Hensada, Rangoon, Shwegyeen, and Amherst, and, except in the first named, is nowhere such as to call for any explanation beyond that of the ordinary fluctuations from year to year. In Hensada, however, there was an excess of 716 cases on the previous year,—a result which is referred to the fact of its connected with Buddhist law being transferred to a Burman Judge for disposal. Whatever this may mean (with two exceptions, all Extra Assistant Commissioners are Burman Judges), it is probably a leading cause of the increase. In those districts which show a decrease, it is attributed to the new system of maintaining a uniform scale of process fees. A comparison of results between 1873 and 1874 is, however, apt to convey an untenable idea of the progress of litigation in the Province. In the former year litigation increased 9.67 per cent. on 1872, which year showed a decrease of about 4 per cent. on the returns of the previous year. The figures justify the hypothesis that the average annual rate of increase for the next few years will be about 2.5 per cent., or identical with the rate of growth of the population as at present ascertained. The state of the files was very satisfactory at the close of the year; of the cases then pending only two had been filed over four months, and the cause of the delay in these was the inability to find the defendant for the service of process.

125. The increase in the value of litigated property adjudicated on, has advanced in a slightly higher proportion than the number of suits. The figures are—

YEAR.	Number of suits disposed of.	Value.
1872	21,336	£141,640
1873	23,406	155,230
1874	23,802	173,938

giving an average of £7-6-0 for each suit disposed of, against £7 in 1872. There has, notwithstanding, been a falling-off in cases involving large sums, and the increase is confined exclusively to those of a value between £2 and £10, viz., 10,855 as against 10,039 in 1873.

126. The 23,985 cases brought on the file, including those pending from 1873, were disposed of as under:—

Transferred	81
Withdrawn or adjusted without decree	1,733
Dismissed for non-appearance of either party	4,222

Decreed on compromise or confession	...	...	3,898
Decreed <i>ex-parte</i>	...	...	8,518
Judgment by default	...	...	207
Decreed by arbitration	...	...	696
Contested cases...	Judgment for plaintiff	...	7,018
	Ditto defendant	...	3,148
Pending at close of the year	...	...	183

127. Adding the number of cases decreed *ex-parte* and on confession to those decided on their merits in favour of the plaintiff, it is found that 59 per cent. of the total number of suits on the files of the Courts were decided by the Courts in favour of the plaintiff. This is the same proportion as was observed in last year's report.

128. Of the 23,985 suits brought into Court, 10,166, or 42 per cent. only, were decided after a contest in Court; and 69 per cent. of these terminated in favour of the plaintiff. These proportions also correspond very closely with those noted last year.

129. The duration of suits showed a marked improvement on last year. The average fell from 17 for contested and 11 for uncontested in 1873, to 11.5 and 5.8, respectively, in 1874. The decrease has been quite general, and is most marked in the Town of Moulmein and Amherst District. It is especially creditable to the latter, as showing the largest proportion of contested cases in the Province.

130. Registers of the attendance of witnesses were kept up for the first time during the year 1874, and show that witnesses were detained for longer periods than necessary in many instances. This is very unsatisfactory and objectionable, for little renders a people so dissatisfied with a system of justice than one which admits of their being detained at a Court for days together, through indisposition to work on the part of the Judge; explanation should be insisted upon in all cases where adjournments or postponements are unreasonably conceded.

131. The number of decrees passed during the year was 17,562, and the number of applications for execution including those pending from last year, aggregated 2,884, those partially executed 836, and the number of applications struck off was 1,849, leaving 187 cases pending at the close of the year. The number of processes issued for arrest of the person was 779, or 56 less than those issued in 1873, and only 310 of the persons arrested were actually imprisoned.

132. Out of 1,762 cases in which movable property was attached, the property was brought to sale in only 595 cases; and of immovable property there were only 248 sales. With the departure of the Chetty money-lenders from Prome, the sales of immovable property have decreased from 86 to 46 in that town.

133. The miscellaneous business performed by the Civil Courts consisted of 8,848 cases, which were principally in connection with the execution of decrees.

134. The number of appeals preferred to the Deputy Commissioners from the decrees of Assistant Commissioners and Extra Assistant Commissioners was 1,292, which, compared with 10,475 appealable decrees, gives the same proportion as was shown by the figures in the report for 1873, *vis.*, twelve per cent.; and the proportion of these appeals which were successful was 36 per cent.

135. Only four appeals were heard in the Appellate Courts of the Commissioners of Arakan and Tanasserim. Appeals to Commissioners. The Civil Appellate Jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Pegu has been transferred to the Judicial Commissioner.

136. The number of processes served by peons of the Civil Courts was 76,604, on which £6,702 were realized as fees, while the charges were £4,861.

137. One hundred and thirty-six memoranda of appeal were presented in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner; but thirty of these were rejected without being admitted on the file,—ten, because the Judicial Commissioner considered that no further consideration of the cases was requisite for the ends of justice; two, because the Judicial Commissioner had no jurisdiction; two, because the period of appeal had expired; one, because copy of the judgment appealed against was not filed; and fifteen, because no second appeal lies against the decision of a lower Appellate Court, which confirms that of the Court of first instance on a matter of fact, and in which no question of law is involved.

138. Of the 106 appeals admitted, sixty-seven were disposed of in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, as compared with fifty-five in the preceding year and with twenty-seven in 1872; thus the appellate work of the Court, though still very light, is shown to be on the increase. Fifteen cases were undecided in the Judicial Commissioner's Court at the close of the year; but of these, six had been sent to the Lower Courts for the determination of fresh issues. In 29 cases of second appeal, the decree of the Court from which the appeal was preferred was confirmed; in 32 cases it was returned, and in three it was modified.

Under the Burma Courts Act, second appeals can only be preferred when the decision of the Court of first instance is altered by the Court of first appeal; and the effect of a successful appeal is generally to restore the decree of the Court of first instance. It may be thought strange that in so large a proportion of the appeals that were heard by the Judicial Commissioner the judgment of the

first Court was restored; but it must be remembered that the institution of an appeal in the Judicial Commissioner's Court is a matter of considerable trouble or expense, involving generally either a long journey and absence from home, or the employment of an Advocate; and appeals are, therefore, not as a rule instituted without reasonable hope of success. Moreover, unless the appellant can show that a further consideration of the case is requisite for the ends of justice, the appeal is not admitted on the file at all. On these considerations the proportion of second appeals actually heard that were successful, *viz.*, 54 per cent., does not appear abnormal.

189. Twenty appeals, being from the decrees of the Judge of the Town of Moulmein, were heard in the Special Court; and in thirteen of these the decision of the Judge was confirmed.

Appeals to Special Court.

140. There were three appeals preferred from the decision of the Deputy Commissioner of Prome to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner exercising the appellate jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Pegu, which has, under Section 29 of the Burma Courts Act, been transferred to the Judicial Commissioner. Of the three, one was a cross appeal, which was dismissed. In the other two appeals the judgments of the Lower Courts were reversed.

Appeals to Appellate Court of Pegu.

141. Three references were made to the Special Court under Section 70 of the Burma Courts Act, and eight to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner under Sections 81 and 85 of the same Act, and besides the latter there were five cases in which the Judicial Commissioner was of opinion that the Court of first appeal had wrongly refused to submit a statement under Section 85 of the Burma Courts Act, and the records of the cases were accordingly called for and tried as if they were appeals instituted in the Judicial Commissioner's Court under Section 9 of the Burma Courts Act Amendment Act.

Cases instituted in Special and Judicial Commissioner's Courts under Burma Courts Act.

142. During the year under report all the Courts at the headquarters of the different districts in the Province away from Rangoon, except the remote district of Salween, were visited by the Judicial Commissioner; and many also of the Courts in the interior. The opportunity was taken to point out any errors in procedure that an inspection of the records and of pending cases brought to notice.

Inspection.

#### Registration.

143. There were no changes in the administration of the Registration Department during the year of review. Two additional offices were opened in the

Operations of the Department.

Tenasserim Division, making a total of twenty-five, and the number of documents registered was 2,759 against 2,616 in 1873-74, an increase of five and a half per cent. only. Of these the compulsory registration of immovable property numbered 2,144 and 1,954, respectively—an increment of 9·7 per cent. In the number of optional registrations relating to immovable property, there was a decrease of ten as compared with 1874-75; in conveyances of movable property and receipts or acknowledgments for the same, a falling-off of eight; in obligations for the payment of money, fifteen; in all other documents connected with movable property, twenty-eight; in wills, an increase of nine; and in written authorities to adopt, five additional. These figures do not show any evidence on the part of the indigenous population of a progressive desire to avail themselves of the advantages of the registration law. Quite two-thirds of the increased registration took place in Rangoon, and the Deputy Commissioner reports that "the persons who principally register deeds are natives of India in a proportion of more than ten to one of Burmans, and the proportion of persons residing in the town who register deeds to those living in the district is about fifty to one. The very few cases in regard to immovable property instituted in the Civil Court of the district show that there are but few transfers of land, for it is very seldom that a transfer of land situated in the district is registered. As long as there is available waste land this will be the case, and there will be but little resort to registration. In matters where registration is not compulsory the people will not take the trouble to have their deeds registered; the rules and forms to be observed are too stringent for them."

144. In the value of the property transferred by registered documents there was a decrease as compared with the previous year, *viz.*, £368,517 against £402,720.

Value of property transferred.

145. The receipts of the department aggregated £700, and the expenditure £405, leaving a profit of £295. Only one officer of the department throughout the Province receives any remuneration, *viz.*, the Sub-Registrar of Rangoon. The balance at the credit of the department at the close of the year was £452.

Receipts.

#### Municipal Administration.

146. On the 24th March 1874, "An Act to provide for the appointment of Municipal Committees in the towns of British Burma" received the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, and during the year under report Municipalities, in the proper sense of the term, were for the first time established in this province in seven of the principal towns, *viz.*, Akyab, Rangoon, Moulmein, Bassein, Henzada, Prome, and Toungoo. The Committees have been selected from among the official and non-official residents of the respective stations in the following proportions:—

Administration under the new Act.

Towns.	Date of appointment.	ORDINARY MEMBERS.		Ex-officio Official Members.	Total.
		Official.	Non-Official.		
	1874.				
Akyab ..	1st October ..	5	5	5	15
Rangoon ..	31st July ..	11	15	6	32
Monlmein ..	31st July ..	4	20	9	30
Bassein ..	30th Sept. ..	8	10	5	18
Henzada ..	5th Novr. ..	3	7	5	15
Prome ..	12th Novr. ..	4	7	5	16
Toungoo ..	31st July ..	2	6	7	15

A President for each Committee was also appointed by the Local Government. From the dates entered above, it will be seen that the new system of administration was in force for but a portion of the year only, so that there was not time for any decided results, but the Committees generally have taken much interest in the affairs of the several towns, and most of their meetings were devoted to the organization of the necessary establishments for carrying out the duties of the Municipalities, the discussion of bye-laws, the consideration of the taxation which should be imposed under the Act, and other matters of a preliminary character.

147. The following two statements show details of the receipts and expenditure of these Municipalities during the year under report:—

Revenue and expenditure.

Towns.	Balance at credit on 1st April 1874.	Tax on houses and lands.		Licenses.		Lease of tolls at ferries.		Rent and sale of land.		Bazaar rents.		Fines and escheats.		Night-soil tax.		Grants from Port Funds.		Loans.		Miscellaneous.		Income during the year.		Total.	
		£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	Rs.	£	
Akyab ..	379	480	1,136	590	..	154	217	..	4,504	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,242	
Rangoon ..	744	5,798	6,010	625	12,177	90	1,898	89	2,164	90	2,671	178	1,000	1,000	4,504	1,000	11,000	11,000	1,246	251	49,248	4,372	3,863	44,092	
Bassein ..	1,074	788	556	385	86	2,164	2,671	86	1,185	2,720	382	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,446	
Henzada ..	869	685	184	33	284	2,720	178	86	1,185	2,720	382	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,220	
Prome ..	594	1,200	798	85	612	..	382	284	1,185	2,720	382	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,279	
Monlmein ..	1,477	3,355	2,564	120	96	..	953	612	..	..	953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,885	
Toungoo ..	977	834	660	96	..	2,352	182	..	..	2,352	182	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,347	
Total ..	6,064	13,135	11,908	1,983	13,148	8,665	3,977	4,585	1,500	12,972	1,684	73,407	1,684	73,407	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461	79,461

TOWNS.	MANAGEMENT.		POLICE.		CONSERVANCY.		PUBLIC WORKS.				Total expenditure.	Balance at credit on 31st March 1875.	
	Head Office.	Cost of collection.	Establishment.	Clothing and contingents.	Establishment.	Contingencies.	Watering.	Original works.	Repairs.	Establishment.			Miscellaneous.
Akyab	£ 16	73	£ ..	£ ..	£ 223	£ 638	£ ..	£ 1,083	£ 78	£ ..	£ 78	£ 2,053	
Rangoon	1,580	858	3,399	295	895	6,133	423	18,240	4,413	2,660	1,600	40,436	
Bassein	..	603	777	99	303	31	..	1,780	783	102	285	4,763	
Henzada	20	147	442	71	118	8	..	484	53	..	168	1,511	
Prome	..	295	985	114	405	31	..	3,993	17	..	220	1,269	
Moulmein	..	704	2,768	221	387	..	..	145	2,277	..	669	2,664	
Toungoo	125	218	575	59	205	355	..	2,510	393	..	398	509	
Total	1,741	2,898	8,896	659	2,536	7,196	423	28,385	8,014	2,762	3,418	60,978	12,483

148. It will be observed that the tax on houses and lands aggregated £19,135; this was levied at the rate of one pie per square foot on all land covered by buildings. An income of £11,908 was realized as fees for the licensing of hack-carriages, carts, and passenger-boats, for the use of slaughter-houses, and for wholesale, retail, and tavern licenses for the vend of imported liquors. The large receipts under this head at Rangoon and Moulmein were chiefly derived from the sale of the tavern licenses by auction. The privilege of working the ferries within the limits of the Municipalities is sold by auction for periods not exceeding one year, and the prices obtained during the year aggregated £1,883. From the sale and rent of town lands £13,148 were received. In Bassein, Henzada, Prome, and Toungoo, large, airy, well-drained, and well-ordered bazaars have been constructed out of the surplus revenue of those towns, which return a large income; the rents for stalls, &c., in these four towns during the year having amounted to £8,421. At Akyab there is a small bazaar not much used, and at Rangoon a market in one of the suburbs; in both these towns, as well as at Moulmein, the principal bazaars are in the hands of private persons. A fine meat and fish bazaar is now in course of erection on the bank of the river in Rangoon. Fines, escheats, &c., totalled £3,977; these are derived mainly from gamblers and pounds; gambling is carried on to a considerable extent among the people through the Chinese, especially in the seaport towns, and heavy fines are often inflicted on detection. At Rangoon, a special tax is levied for the night conservancy of the town, and yielded £4,504; this is carried out by natives of India, many of the *mekter* class having been imported from Bengal. Grants of £1,000 and £500 respectively were made to the Municipalities of those towns from the Port Funds of Rangoon and Moulmein as a contribution towards the expenses of the Police and Conservancy. A loan of £1,246 was made from the Akyab Port Fund to the Municipal Fund of that town, for the purpose of carrying out some drainage works; £11,000 were borrowed by the Rangoon Municipal Committee from other local funds for expenditure on the bazaar and other public works; and £726 were allotted from Provincial Services to the town of Prome to assist in filling up an extensive piece of swampy ground. No octroi is levied in the Province.

149. The cost of establishments of all kinds and the expenses contingent thereon aggregated during the year of report £24,126, of which £4,639 were on account of collection and management, £9,755 on the police, and £9,732 on conservancy. Watering the roads in Rangoon was carried out on a small scale at an expenditure of £423. On public works the large sum of £39,011 was disbursed, of which £25,313 were expended in the town of Rangoon, where a large bazaar is being constructed, and where also two new wards within the general dispensary enclosure were built, and several important works in raising low lands, drainage, digging tanks, and extending roads were executed. In the other towns the chief expenditure under this head was on roads, drainage, and repairs. There were no disbursements on account of lighting, but arrangements were made for lighting the town of Rangoon with Kerosine oil, which

have since been carried out. A portion of Toungoo has also been lighted in the same manner. A scheme of water-supply for Rangoon has been brought under consideration.

150. Besides the Municipalities there are twenty-six towns in the Province with special funds, the receipts of which are expended on the improvement, and for the benefit generally, of the respective places, under the supervision of the District Officers. The balances at the credit of these funds at the commencement of 1874-75 aggregated £19,464, and the receipts during the year were £19,631, a total of £39,095, of which £20,158 were expended, leaving a closing balance in hand of £18,937.

#### Town Funds.

#### Military.

151. During the year 1874 the force stationed in this Province consisted of two Regiments of European Infantry—the 45th posted at Rangoon, with a detail of one company at Port Blair, and the 67th divided between the frontier stations of Thayetmyo and Toungoo: the second, fourth, and sixth batteries of the fifth Brigade, and the G battery of the ninth Brigade of Royal Artillery—the second and sixth at Rangoon, the fourth at Toungoo, and the G battery at Thayetmyo: the B company of Native Sappers and Miners stationed in Rangoon: and the first, tenth, thirty-ninth and a wing of the 27th Regiments of Native Infantry—the 39th at Rangoon, the 1st at Thayetmyo, the 10th at Toungoo (100 men being detailed to Shwe-gyeen), and the 27th at Moulmein.

152. The number of European troops was 2,106 and of Natives 2,437, a total of 4,543, besides 550 paid camp-followers and other non-combatants. The total cost of the garrison, including pay, commissariat, medical, and ordnance staff, but exclusive of transport, was £247,006, the pay and allowances of the Europeans having amounted to £85,611, and of natives to £60,146. Towards the close of the official year 1874-75, owing to the excitement caused by the Karennee frontier question, the detachment of European troops at Port Blair was recalled and replaced from Madras; an extra battery of Artillery and a wing of a Native Infantry Regiment were also added to the garrison as a temporary measure. A detachment of fifty men with Officers was sent to Bassein.

153. The garrison is under the command of a Major-General with the usual divisional staff, and is controlled by the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army.

#### Control of the garrison.

#### Marine.

The number of vessels which enter and clear at the ports of British Burma depend entirely on the rice season, so that the adoption of the financial year misleads as to the actual traffic. In 1874-75 the square-rigged ves-

sels which entered the four principal ports aggregated 1,751, or 30 less than in 1873-74, and exactly the same number as in 1872-73; but there was a great difference in the registered tonnage in the respective years, the totals being 1,017,725—973,467, and 893,116, or an increase in two years of 124,609 tons, with no increment in number. In the clearances there was a considerable decrease in numbers, but an increase in tonnage as compared with 1872-73, thus:—

Year.	No.	Tonnage.
1872-73	1,859	870,589
1873-74	1,828	953,268
1874-75	1,721	928,007

At the close of the latter year a great many sailing vessels were at anchor in the ports of Akyab and Rangoon, waiting for rice cargoes, which the merchants were unable to furnish so readily as in previous years because of the paucity of supplies, and this accounts for much of the decrease in the number under the head of clearances. The two statements hereunder given show the details of the tonnage entered and cleared at the chief ports during the last two years:—

#### Entered.

PORTS.	1873-74.		1874-75.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Akyab .. ..	329	182,576	337	192,829	8	10,253	..	..
Rangoon .. ..	849	525,470	838	565,021	..	39,551	11	..
Bassein .. ..	95	63,193	102	69,980	7	6,787	..	..
Moulmein .. ..	508	202,228	474	189,935	..	..	34	12,333
Total .. ..	781	973,467	1,751	1,017,725	..	(Net) 44,258	(Net) 80	..

#### Cleared.

PORTS.	1873-74.		1874-75.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Akyab .. ..	..	187,803	310	172,410	..	..	30	15,393
Rangoon .. ..	811	504,891	733	498,919	..	..	42	11,072
Bassein .. ..	36	63,292	103	71,020	7	7,818	..	..
Moulmein .. ..	551	197,372	509	190,758	..	..	42	6,614
Total .. ..	1,828	958,268	1,721	928,007	..	..	(Net) 107	(Net) 25,261

155. Steam communication with India and the Straits has increased during the year. Under the new mail contract, entered into with the British India Steam Navigation Company, "Limited," they keep up weekly communication between Calcutta and Akyab, and Rangoon and Moulmein; fortnightly communication between Akyab and Kyouk-hpyoo, Akyab and Rangoon, Rangoon and the Straits ports, as also Madras; and run a steamer every four weeks from Calcutta to Singapore, calling at all intermediate ports. Two additional steamers have been put on by the owners of the *Ananda*, between Rangoon, the southern ports of Tenasserim, and Penang, while the Chinese continue to run their steamers, at intervals, to Penang and Singapore.

156. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company have a splendid fleet of nine steamers and nineteen flats running from Rangoon to all stations on the Irrawaddy as far up as Bhamo; with Mandalay a regular weekly mail service is kept up, and a monthly service with Bhamo; in addition to which extra steamers are run, as the requirements of trade necessitate—generally one, and sometimes two a week. They are still making additions, a new steamer having been lately launched for the line to Bassein through the creeks, as also a special steamer for the trade between Mandalay and Bhamo, and other steamers and flats are now in course of construction. In addition to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's vessels, two steamers belonging to the India General Company, and four to the King of Burma, together with a number of flats, were engaged in traffic on the Irrawaddy between Rangoon and Mandalay, with an occasional extension to Bhamo. By the whole of these steamers eighty-four voyages were made upwards and eighty-six downwards, as against eighty-one and eighty in the previous year. The steamers of the India General Company were, however, taken off the line towards the close of 1874, and the King's steamers were very irregularly employed, so that the bulk of the trade was carried by the fine boats and commodious flats of the Flotilla Company. In addition to the steamers, 8,208 boats, with an aggregate tonnage of 57,285 passed up with exports, and 8,819 boats, of 76,894 tons, were entered with imports. In comparison with the previous year, these figures show an increase of ninety-six boats, but a decrease of 1,427 tons. The boat traffic has been but little affected by the steamers for the past two years, notwithstanding that the latter convey much larger cargoes than formerly, showing that the trade is considerably expanding in bulk as well as value.

157. There are seven light-houses along the coast of this Province in full working order, and an eighth is in course of construction. When the latter is finished, and one of the light-houses off the port of Rangoon has been removed from its present position to the edge of the sands, the system of lighting the coast will be almost perfect: all the principal ports and the most prominent dangers will then be marked off, and, with ordinary caution, there should be no casualties on the coast other than those which may arise through bad weather.

158. The coast lights are as follows:—*Alguada Reef*, which is a revolving light of the first order, situated on a dangerous reef some distance off the entrance to the Bassein river. It is looked after by a staff of three European and ten Native light-keepers, two of the Europeans and one-half of the Native establishment being constantly at the light-house. *Cocos*—situated on Table Island, one of the Cocos group. It is a fixed light of the first order, first lighted in February 1867. The establishment consists of one European and five native light-keepers. *Krishna*.—This is a fixed light of the second order, which was first lighted on the 10th of June 1869, and which is entirely in charge of natives, and is kept in excellent condition. The expenditure on account of these lights during the year was £5,443, whilst the receipts on account of coast light-dues aggregated £6,912, leaving a balance of £1,469, which gives an interest of 1.15 per cent. only on the original outlay, the *Alguada* Light-house having cost about £100,000; the *Table Island*, £12,000; and the *Krishna*, £16,000.

159. Another coast light is being put up on the *Oyster Reef*, a very dangerous stretch of shallow water situated about fourteen miles off the port of Akyab, from which it bears W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. The construction of this light was under consideration for many years: the first piles were placed in position during the fine season of 1871-72, and fair progress was made with the work; but when the bad weather set in, and operations had to be suspended, the contractor's agent, with very culpable negligence, left in position the large wooden staging from which the work had been conducted, instead of removing it in accordance with the strong recommendations of the Government engineers. This staging, owing to the great force of the sea, which is very heavy on the reef during the south-west monsoon, was driven again and again on to the piles until it was broken to pieces. The result was that the piles were thrust out of position to such an extent that they had all to be removed, and the seasons of 1872-73 and 1873-74 were absorbed in repairing the damage. In 1874-75 most of the substructure was re-constructed, and would have been completed, had not three piles been lost in the Rangoon river while in the slings of one of the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers bound to Akyab. New piles have been ordered, and there is every prospect that the next working season will see the light-house far on towards completion.

160. At the entrance to three out of the four principal ports there are port light-houses, and the *Alguada* may be said to be a leading light for the fourth, Bassein. On *Sar e Island*, at the entrance to Akyab, and about five miles from the centre of that port, an excellent revolving light of the third order is exhibited; it is kept in very satisfactory working order by the six native light-keepers who are in charge. The expense of keeping it up during the year under review, including repairs, was £456, and the light-dues collected amounted to £806.

There are two lights off the approach to the Rangoon river,—one, a fixed light of the third order on *Grove Point*, on the eastern side of the mouth of the river; the other, a bright revolving light of the first order fixed on screw-piles close to high-water mark about two miles north-east of the *China Buckeer* branch of the Irrawaddy, and some fifteen miles to the westward of the Rangoon river. The latter light has been found to be badly placed, and arrangements have been made to remove it about five miles to the southward, on to the edge of the sands, where it will be of much more use to vessels approaching Rangoon than it is in its present position. Both these light-houses, which are in charge of natives exclusively, were kept in a very satisfactory state during the year. The cost of keeping them up was £1,527 and the light-dues received amounted to £3,255. The difference of £1,728 gives a return of 13.29 per cent. on the original outlay of £13,000. The *Double Island* light, which is a fixed one of the first order, marks the entrance to the Salween river, on which the port of Moulmein is situated. It is in charge of six native light-keepers, and is supervised entirely from Rangoon by the Inspector, who is in command of the tender *Dauntless*. The cost of the light-house during 1874 was £612; the port light-dues received in Moulmein amounted to £1,139.

Removal of the China Buckeer Light-house.

Expenditure on Grove Point and China Buckeer lights, and receipts from light-dues.

Light-house off Moulmein.

161. The want of an efficient steamer, in which the light-houses could be regularly visited, is much felt, especially now that the machinery is getting somewhat worn, and will require more careful supervision in the future than it has done in the past. In consequence of no Government vessel being available, steamers had on two occasions during the year to be chartered in order to visit the light-houses.

162. The only vessel attached to the Imperial Marine in British Burma during the year, was the steamer *Nemesis*, but she did not render much service. As noted in last year's report, she grounded on a sand-bank off the frontier station of Thayetmyo in August 1873, where she remained until July 1874, when the high rise of water in the river floated her, and she was brought to Rangoon, received sundry repairs, and during the latter part of the rainy season took the Chief Commissioner on tour to the principal stations on the Irrawaddy. On her return she was surveyed, and having been found much worn was considered unseaworthy, except in the finest weather, and was sent to Calcutta, where she remained under repairs until the end of the year.

163. In April 1874, an Italian vessel was grounded while in charge of a Pilot on the Rangoon river, and in the following June the canal steamer *Tenasserim* was stranded on the China Buckeer Sands,

but was got off without injury. A court of enquiry found the Pilot guilty of carelessness, and he was dismissed the service; the Captain of the *Tenasserim* was tried before the Recorder under the provisions of Act XV. of 1863 on a charge of gross misconduct and drunkenness, but was acquitted. There were no accidents of any kind at Bassein. The only casualty at Akyab was the wreck of an unseaworthy native vessel anchored outside the harbour, which went down at her anchorage with a stated loss of five men, seventeen having been saved. At Moulmein only one accident of a serious nature occurred, just at the close of the official year: the *Hindustan*, an old country trader, grounded while being docked, and became a total wreck.

164. Her Majesty's corvette *Briton* visited Rangoon in November, and after a short stay left for Calcutta. The trooping necessary during the year was carried out by the hired steamer *Himalaya* and the Government sailing transport *Czarewitch*, the latter being towed by the steamer.

165. The pilot service of the port of Rangoon has been, as stated in the report for 1873-74, brought more directly under the orders of the Government; the vessels belonging to the former pilot club were purchased by the Rangoon port fund, and the pilots now work out of these vessels, paying twenty per cent. of their gross earnings to keep up the vessels and necessary establishment. The arrangement has been found to work pretty satisfactorily, and the men have realized good incomes.

166. The ports of the Province are A yab and Kyouk-hpyoo in Arakan; Rangoon and Bassein in Pegu; and Moulmein, Tavoy, and Mergui in Tenasserim. At the close of 1873-74, the balance at the credit of the funds of these ports was £24,112; during the year under report the receipts aggregated from—

	£
Port dues	15,720
Port light-dues	5,758
Wharf dues and godown rent	5,980
Miscellaneous	3,660
Total	31,118

and the expenditure was on—

	£
Salary of Conservators and office establishments	6,486
Vessels, boats, &c.	8,041
Light-houses	2,167
Public Works	13,133
Miscellaneous	4,250
Contributions to Municipalities	1,500
Total	40,577

leaving a credit balance at the end of the year of £14,646.

167. The expenditure on account of Imperial Marine was £22,779,

Imperial Marine receipts made up as follows:—

				£
Pay and allowances	...	...	...	9,411
Stores	...	...	...	8,426
Subsidies to steam-boat companies	...	...	...	9,100
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	842

and the receipts £7,518, viz.—

				£
Shipping fees	...	...	...	240
Coast light-dues	...	...	...	6,905
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	873

#### IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

##### Agriculture.

168. The area of land brought under cultivation during the year showed the unprecedented increase of 10·77 per cent., or 1·40 per cent. above the increment in the year immediately preceding, over 1872-73; the total area tilled in 1874-75 was 2,669,879 acres, and in 1873-74, 2,410,117 acres, the increase being 259,762 acres. The improvement in the several divisions was as follows:—

	Acres.	Per cent.
Arakan	18,800	4·83
Pegu	210,865	14·28
Tenasserim	80,597	6·16

169. The largest proportion of the increase in cultivation was, of course, under rice, the area tilled with this grain in the year of report having reached the large aggregate of 2,301,573 acres, against 2,031,568 acres in 1873-74. The increment was thus 240,005 acres, or 11·64 per cent. In Arakan 13,874 acres more were actually under rice cultivation, the fallow land having decreased by 1,504 acres, and in Tenasserim 28,361 acres, an increase of 89 acres having taken place in the area left to rest. In Pegu the increment was 199,185 acres. The large increase in this kind of cultivation was no doubt due to the exceptionally high prices paid for rice in 1874, when a large demand existed for the famine districts of Bengal, and when rates were in some instances quite double those which usually prevail, and were throughout the season fully 50 per cent. higher. The crop of 1873 was also a very fine one, and the out-turn one of the largest on record. The harvest of 1874 was, however, owing to a light rain-fall in the principal rice-producing districts, not above the average, and prices having resumed their normal level, the cultivators did not find the season a profitable one.

170. Under gardens and orchards there were 146,201 acres in 1874-75, which consisted of—vegetables, 14,695 acres; cocoanuts, 6,413 acres; betel-nuts, 12,846 acres; *durian*, 21,747 acres; plantains,

15,395 acres; and the remainder mixed fruit trees. The increase in area as compared with the preceding year was 12,200 acres, of which 362 acres were in Arakan, 9,435 acres in Pegu, and 2,408 acres in Tenasserim. This branch of tillage is likely to steadily improve with the additional requirements of a growing population, and increased means of communication.

171. There was again a falling-off in the total area of *miscellaneous* cultivation, which has decreased over 5,000 acres since 1871-72, when there was a heavy inundation. The quantity of land cultivated during the year of report was 76,809 acres, the principal products being—oil-seeds, 24,740 acres; sugar-cane, 4,596 acres; cotton, 16,838 acres; tobacco, 15,253 acres; fibres, 482 acres; and tea, 110 acres. In 1873-74, 77,647 acres were under this description of tillage. In Arakan there was an increase of 792 acres, in Pegu a decrease of 1,540 acres, and in Tenasserim a falling-off of 96 acres. This kind of cultivation is in a measure dependent on the rise of the rivers and the deposit of alluvium, and is not so much resorted to when the prospects of the rice harvest are good. The chief part of the decrease under this head in Pegu was in the Hensada and Prome Districts, owing to the unfavourable nature of the season; clearings that had been made having had to be abandoned in consequence of the insufficient rise of the Irrawaddy.

172. In Arakan a portion of the area under *toungya*, known in India by the name of *jhoom*, is measured and assessed at six pence per acre, and the balance, over three-fourths, is estimated at two acres to each person, from whom a tax of two shillings per annum is levied. In Pegu and Tenasserim a like fee per *ach* is assessed. Sixty-three thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven persons were engaged in this hill cultivation during 1874-75, with an estimated area of 182,232 acres. The increase in the Arakan Division was 1,945 persons and 4,205 acres, and was almost exclusively due to a change in the system of assessment which prevailed in the hill tracts. This alteration was made because the incidence of taxation levied previous to the year under review caused some discontent among the hill people. A special report was called for, after considering which—

The rate of taxation was altered, and a uniform rate of capitation-tax of two shillings a family and a *toungya* tax of the same amount was ordered to be levied. Previous to this a capitation-tax of four shillings a family, and a *toungya* tax of two shillings, was levied from all Chyongthas, irrespective of the positions of their villages, and from all the more southern Mros and Khyongs. From the Khamics and from the higher Mros, a hill tax or tribute of two shillings a house only was taken. The villages in which the capitation-tax has been reduced from four shillings to two, number forty-one, and the villages in which, instead of tribute at two shillings a house, both capitation and *toungya* tax have been levied, number 188. The Upper Khyengs, consisting of eleven villages, appear not to have paid any fixed rate per family, but to have given a small lump sum for each village, irrespective of the number of houses. They have this year paid two shillings a house for *toungya* tax, but no capitation-tax. These changes have been received very quietly, and considering that several of the Chyongthas villages, which were paying six shillings a family, were placed between Khamic villages, which were only paying two, nothing could fairly be said against it.

An increase also took place in Pegu; but in Tenasserim there was a decrease. In the Shwè-gyeen, Toungoo, and Salween Districts much damage was done to the *yaks* by rats; and from the same cause much distress was caused among the Karens to the eastward of Toungoo, whose crops were almost entirely destroyed.

173. Oil seeds are grown chiefly in the Thayetmyo and Hensada Districts of the Pegu Division; cotton extensively in the former district, and in Northern Arakan, where it grows luxuriantly on the slopes of the hills; tobacco is produced in Northern Arakan, Kyouk-hpyoo, Sandoway, Hensada, Prome, and Thayetmyo, but not by any means in sufficient quantities, and large imports are made from India; the only tea plantation is in the Akyab District, and its produce during the year amounted to 21,000 lbs. which realised an average price of about 1s. 6d. per lb. Potatoes were cultivated experimentally at Thayetmyo and Toungoo with fair success, especially in the hills beyond the latter place, by the Karens, who brought a considerable quantity to market. Doorians and mangosteens are cultivated largely in Amherst, Tavoy, and Mergui for the supply of the Moulmein and Rangoon markets. *Dunnet* leaves for thatching are also grown over large areas in those districts and in Akyab and Kyouk-hpyoo.

174. Agricultural exhibitions were again held during the year in the head-quarter stations of the several districts, where over £600 were distributed as prizes.

175. STOCK.—The number of buffaloes in the Province during 1874-75 was 630,708, an increase over the preceding year of 40,699; and of cows and bullocks, 619,401, against 565,990 in 1873-74. These increases are very satisfactory. In Arakan the increment in buffaloes was 8,260 and in cows and bullocks, 16,894; in Pegu, 16,559 and 29,862; and in Tenasserim, 15,880 and 6,165, respectively.

176. Cattle-disease again prevailed to a considerable extent during the year in the delta districts of the Pegu Division, viz., Hensada, Bassein, and Rangoon; in the latter 11,661 head died, and consequently the number of cattle remained stationary. Grazing-grounds have in many places been set apart, and ponds, hitherto let as fisheries, have been reserved for the use of the cattle; but, unless the owners themselves take more care of their property, it will be impossible to stop the great mortality which takes place, year by year, during and after the close of the rainy season.

177. In February 1874, a Veterinary Surgeon was specially employed with a view to remedial measures being adopted, and in the year under review his operations were mainly confined to the district of Rangoon and other parts of the Irrawaddy delta. In his report to the end of July last he observes that—

Mortality amongst cattle will always be great in this Province so long as the conditions under which they labour remain unchanged. First, it must be remembered that all buffaloes used in the district are purchased from dealers, who bring them great distances from other states into a country deficient in two great necessities to animal life, viz., shade and water, and this can only be effected in the dry season. The buffaloes before they reach their destination are generally in an exhausted condition, inviting disease in various forms, and I have heard of two or three hundred buffaloes dying out of a drove, in a few days.

The main supply of water is obtained from tanks. As the dry weather advances this gradually diminishes, and cattle are driven to drink water from tidal creeks, which is brackish and contains large quantities of earthy-matter, salts, and other impurities. It is hardly possible to obtain fresh water from wells, owing to the amount of salt in the soil. Every well that is sunk in the rains will turn brackish in the dry weather, if in the dry weather nothing else than the same can be obtained. It is from this scarcity of water that dysentery is so prevalent and fatal at the end of the dry season.

Tracts of land where buffaloes generally graze fall under the full influence of the scorching heat of the dry season; no umbrageous trees shield the poor panting animals; seldom will the owners erect sheds for them: wedded to the custom of their forefathers, they point to the cause of mortality as arising from other causes, forgetting that, in former times, so much land was not under cultivation and the virgin forests were then cattle-grazing-grounds; in fact, they will not live with the times, and the only suggestion I would offer to diminish the high rate of mortality is to demarcate at once grazing-grounds, and have the necessary sheds erected by the owners.

During the hot season animals find food dry and scanty, and have to travel great distances for it. At the beginning of the rains they suddenly change to abundance of young succulent grass, and thousands die annually from *hoven*; this is due to the carelessness and improvidence of cattle-owners. It is the custom, after the grain has been trodden out of the ear, to burn nearly all the straw; if this was stacked and given to the cattle in pens several hours a day, instead of allowing them to graze at large, it would gradually accustom the animals to the change of food, and thereby save numbers from death and their owners from heavy losses. This is no new suggestion. I believe it has been advocated by every one who has reported on cattle-disease in this Province.

The season for ploughing and preparing the land for crops is also attended with heavy losses in cattle; animals are generally fat, and out of work for some time past, enjoying the abundance of forage, and spending most of their time in the water. They are taken into the fields and worked several hours a day, and then left to do for themselves. Old animals are the first to succumb,—an attack of fever sets in, the animal refuses food, dysentery too rapidly follows, and the animal is often dead before his owner knows that anything is amiss. This, again, is due to carelessness on the owner's part: it is unreasonable to expect any animal to undergo severe physical exertion for several hours a day on such food as can be picked up near a rice-field. A more generous diet is required; paddy is cheap and abundant, and should be given with straw when heavy labour has to be performed. In addition, animals are left at night exposed to wind and rain, immersed in water, and it is no longer a matter of surprise that so many animals die at this season.

At the close of the rains, when the ground is saturated with moisture and covered with heavy dews, foot-and-mouth disease is very troublesome to oxen. It always assumes an epizootic form, and extends over whole districts. A great deal depends upon the season: if the rains cease soon after it makes its appearance, the outbreak will not be severe, as it does not prove fatal in dry weather with ordinary care. Should the wet season be a protracted one, then the mortality is great, owing to the villagers having no dry place for their cattle. Burmans do not fear this disease, and segregate affected animals. It is worthy of notice that buffaloes are not so prone to this disease as oxen. An instance came under my observation where a herd of over 800 oxen sick with foot and mouth, lost many animals from want of proper accommodation, &c.; within twenty yards were penned at night a herd of 150 buffaloes that traversed the same ground daily, yet only six contracted the disease, and these in a very mild form.

Laying aside the consideration of any outbreak of *murrain* that may occur, we find that this Province annually loses thousands of animals from preventable causes, *viz.* :—

- (1) buffaloes from dysentery owing to deficiency of shade and good water;
- (2)—oxen from foot and mouth, owing to deficiency of dry sheds;
- (3) and (4)—oxen and buffaloes from *hoven*, fever, and dysentery, owing to bad management and want of accommodation.

With a view to overcome these evils, instruction has been imparted to youths from the different districts of the Province, and, after subjecting them to the test of an

examination, they have been sent out as pioneers, to pave the way to the knowledge and proper treatment of cattle-disease. Cultivators and owners of cattle will soon understand how to act in cases of epizootics, and the best method of teaching a race so slow to perceive advantages which arise from the adoption of courses diametrically opposed to their ideas, is to establish depôts of medical stores at the head-quarters of sub-divisions, to enable those requiring them to easily obtain the same at a moderate cost.

A veterinary school was established in Rangoon in June 1874, composed of seventeen youths, carefully selected by the Deputy Commissioners of Rangoon, Henzada, Prome, Bassein, and Moulmein from the rural population, to go through a course of studies lasting twelve months. These youths are unacquainted with the English language, and had to be instructed through interpreters, thereby increasing the difficulties to be surmounted, as the Burman dialect is not sufficiently advanced to meet the requirements of medical science, and it is quite impossible to translate many expressions that are in common use. The curriculum consisted of a minute study of the osteology of the ox; afterwards the general anatomy was exhausted, step by step, more superficially. It is out of the question to expect a dissection of so large an animal as the ox, in a tropical climate with the present material, and I do not consider it either necessary or essential to the utility of the class. No dissection was therefore attempted, but all the viscera were placed one by one before the class, and the peculiarities and uses of each demonstrated. Special attention has been directed to the composition of the blood, the pulse as an indication of disease, the anatomy and physiology of the digestive system, with practical demonstration, whenever possible. In pursuing my instructions in the various diseases met with in our domesticated animals, I first endeavoured to thoroughly ground the pupils in the laws which govern inflammation in animals; this occupied a great deal of time, and then proceeded with the other diseases *seriatim*—those most common in the Province receiving the larger share of attention.

Practical instruction, whenever diseased cattle were met with, was given on the spot, in addition to the theoretical lessons within the house. They understand the preparation and uses of medicines in common uses in veterinary practice with the doses and modes of administering them. They have a fair knowledge of English weights and measures, and, under my supervision in the district, have always compounded and administered medicines without assistance.

178. Of the seventeen pupils who originally joined the veterinary class, eleven passed creditably, and were posted to the Rangoon, Thonkwa, Bassein, Henzada, Prome, and Amherst Districts, on salaries of £2-10-0 per month each, payable from the District Funds; they were furnished with medicine-chests, and, as their supplies of drugs become exhausted, the chests are replenished at the cost of the funds in question. The first two or three months of their employment were very unfavourable for treating cattle owing to the flooded state of the country, but latterly those appointed to the delta districts have been fully engaged, and appear to perform their duties satisfactorily, with zeal, and to the benefit of cattle-owners. The number of men at present employed is, however, far too few, and measures will be taken to increase it.

179. The Veterinary Surgeon has visited the lower districts of the Pegu Division from time to time, and will, during the present dry season, extend his tour to Prome, Henzada, and Amherst. In the last-named district disease has been raging of late

in two or three townships, and there has been great mortality. Foot-and-mouth disease is very prevalent in the Rangoon District at present; it has assumed an epizootic form, and both oxen and buffaloes are suffering from it in large numbers in almost every village round Rangoon.

180. Of horses and ponies there were 6,845 in the year under report, as compared with 6,168 in the previous year; of elephants 1,119 and 1,004 respectively; of sheep and goats, 18,400 against 16,508; and of pigs, 95,871 and 90,868 in the respective years. The aggregate number of carts was 200,758, an increase of 30,063; of ploughs, 388,976, an improvement of 190,504; and of boats 64,689, an increment of 1,016. There were forty-three steam rice-mills, an additional one having been erected at Akyab, and twenty-six steam saw-mills, of which eighteen are at Rangoon and eight at Moulmein; besides a very large number of hand rice-mills and saw-pits throughout the country.

181. Cattle-markets were opened in several places during the year, and have as a rule been found a convenience to the people. On the Thayet frontier, at Allanmyo, a large trade is carried on in cattle and ponies in the weekly market, to which persons from all parts resort, and which is even attended by people from Rangoon, who, at times, effect large purchases. Measures have been taken to improve the breed of ponies by placing, at Prome and Allanmyo, small Arab stallions for stud purposes.

182. RATES OF RENT, PRODUCE, &c.—The average rent per acre on land tilled with rice is three shillings and four pence; on land under gardens and orchards four shillings and six pence; on miscellaneous cultivation, three shillings; and on *toungya* or hill cultivation, one shilling. The yield of rice per acre is stated to be on an average 1,800 lbs.; of cotton, 431 lbs.; of oil-seeds, 746 lbs.; and of tobacco, 437 lbs.

183. For the chief food grain of the people (rice), the average price throughout the Province was four shillings and ten pence per maund of 80 lbs., which is slightly below the average in 1873-74 but the highest average price reached was one shilling and three pence less per maund than the maximum rate in the preceding year. The price of indigenous cotton averaged 12s. 4d. per maund, the maximum in Amherst being 31s., and the minimum in Toungoo, 4s. 7d. Tobacco varied from 36s. per maund in Sandoway (where an excellent quality is grown) to 4s. 4d. in Prome. Salt sold at 6s. 3d. a maund in Mergui and 1s. at Kyouk-hpyoo, and in Rangoon and Bassein, where the markets are almost exclusively supplied by European salt, the rate was 1s. 9d. Coconut oil varied from £1 to £2 per maund. Plough-bullocks averaged about £5 each, and buffaloes £6-10-0. Elephants have increased in value, and the average price is now shown as £110 each. Tuskers required for timber working frequently cost double that price. The value of the *gayal*, which is bred in the Hill Tracts of Arakan, is

184. The rate paid per diem for skilled labour ranges from one shilling and three pence to four shillings, and for unskilled, from nine pence to two shillings—the average of the one is about two shillings

and sixpence, and of the other, a little over one shilling. A cart and pair of bullocks can be hired for three shillings per day, an elephant for ten shillings, and a pair of buffaloes for three shillings and sixpence. It will be seen that the rates for labour are much higher than in other parts of India. In the seaport towns the highest rates quoted are paid, as a rule, and during the shipping season even more than two shillings per day is demanded and paid for unskilled labour employed in the loading of vessels. Cooly labour has hitherto been chiefly obtained from the Madras coast for Rangoon and Moulmein, and from Chittagong for Akyab; but of late some thousands of persons have come down from Bengal under a system of State immigration.

### Weather and Crops.

185. The weather during the year under review varied but little from that described in the report for last year, but it will be seen from the following statement of the rain-fall registered at the principal stations in the Province during the last five years, that the fall in 1874 gives the lowest average, and that at Akyab, Sandoway, Rangoon, Henzada, and Prome, there was a considerable falling-off in that year as compared with 1873:—

Division.	Places at which observations were taken.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
ARAKAN	Akyab .. ..	176-10	200-00	175-80	208-80	185-19
	Northern Arakan .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	85-05
	Kyouk-hpyoo .. ..	157-50	191-20	159-80	168-10	164-95
	Sandoway .. ..	217-93	236-89	196-60	251-10	152-79
PROU	Rangoon .. ..	44-60	143-61	119-00	124-95	70-80
	Bassein .. ..	87-54	84-31	84-27	119-38	110-50
	Henzada .. ..	74-13	89-72	64-35	90-80	67-29
	Prome .. ..	46-21	63-11	46-82	47-98	88-83
	Thayetmyo .. ..	41-13	54-85	39-91	43-42	52-47
TENASSERIM	Moulmein .. ..	184-45	245-85	188-85	212-85	207-00
	Tavoy .. ..	185-60	229-60	163-50	205-54	213-34
	Mergui .. ..	147-70	188-10	128-84	165-90	164-52
	Shwe-gyeen .. ..	183-60	916-19	138-00	127-90	132-40
	Toungoo .. ..	64-63	93-72	75-37	83-22	.. ..
	Salween .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	33-50
Total .. ..		123-94	156-68	131-15	142-11	116-97

186. As a consequence of this diminished rain-fall, the rice crops were light in Akyab and Rangoon, two of the principal rice-producing districts, and there was, as a matter of course, a decrease in the quantity available for export. A large quantity of rice-land was also thrown out of cultivation.

tion in the Prome and upper part of the Henzada Districts owing to drought; and the miscellaneous cultivation in those districts was not so successful as in years of greater rain-fall, and rise of the Irrawaddy.

#### Agri-Horticultural Society.

187. During the year the experimental cultivation of flax, tobacco, sorgham, and varieties of rice was taken up, and many products exhibited at the District Agricultural Shows were examined and reported upon by the Society. Some samples of roughly-prepared india-rubber from the milk of the *Chavarrussia esculenta*, received from the Shwe-gyeen District, were sent to England, where they were valued at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. A sample of gutta-percha received from the same district has caused much enquiry to be made for the article. Fibres and fibre-yielding plants have had considerable attention given to them—many acres of *Rhea* are now under cultivation in the suburbs of Rangoon, flax has been found to thrive well in Shwe-gyeen, and the growth of jute on an extensive scale has been commenced by a mercantile firm. Many thousands of rooted cuttings and young plants were distributed from the Society's Garden during the year, seeds were despatched to several Horticultural Societies in India, and a box containing a number of specimens of the *Amherstia nobilis* and other flowering and fruit-bearing trees and plants indigenous to Burma was sent to the Queensland Acclimatisation Society. The revenue of the Society amounted to £482; of which subscriptions from members were £136; grant from Government, £120; grant from the Rangoon Municipality, £80; and receipts from produce of gardens, £96; while the expenditure aggregated £459. The Municipal Committee have sanctioned an annual grant of £120 to the Society in support of the garden, which is much frequented by the townspeople.

#### Forests.

188. Sanction has not been received to any of the measures proposed by Mr. Baden-Powell under Act VII. of 1865, and noticed in previous annual reports.

189. Rules under the timber duty Act—XIII. of 1873—were framed, and sent to India for approval on the 7th October 1873; on the 20th March 1874, the notification laying down the rates of duty to be imposed on timber floated down the rivers of British Burma, except that from Upper Burma, was sanctioned, but the rules are still under consideration. By that notification, Section 6 of Schedule VII. of the Forest Rules, framed under Act VII. of 1865, has been cancelled. Under the section in question duty was levied on logs of and above five feet girth at the rate of 5s. 6d. each, half that rate was assessed on logs below five feet girth, and stem-pieces were charged 1s. 1½d. each; whilst, under the notification, a rate of duty of

seven per cent. *ad valorem* is leviable on the selling or market price. This duty has been collected on the selling price by the Officer in charge of the station at Kadoe, which is the only revenue station in the Province for foreign timber, and through which all the timber floated down the Salween and the Thoungyeen, from Zimmay and Karennee, has to pass. The arrangement appears to have been satisfactory, since no disputes arose during the year under review, and £1,775 more were realized as duty than would have been obtained under the old rates of assessment, at fixed rates per log.

190. Proposals have been submitted to bring a large extent of country on the western bank of the Irrawaddy, extending from the frontier to Cape Negrais; in the Shwe-gyeen District; on the Yoonzaleen, the Houndraw, and the Thoungyeen rivers; in Lower Amherst; and in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, under the scope of the rules framed under Act VII. of 1865: these tracts have not hitherto been properly conserved, and there can be no doubt that within them much destruction of valuable timber has prevailed, and will continue until the rules are extended.

191. Propositions for the reservation of teak, cutch, and fuel reserves have been forwarded from the Salween, Prome, and Rangoon Divisions, but had not received sanction at the close of the year. In regard to fuel reserves, most of the propositions were either annulled or ordered to be revised.

192. Towards the close of the year of report, the final orders of the Government of India were received as to the formation of special and ordinary reserves, and measures will be taken to carry out the arrangements as soon as possible. There will be considerable difficulty, however, in clearing both kinds of reserves from *toungya* cultivation, as, with the exception of about thirty square miles only, all the State reserves in the Province are encumbered, more or less, with such cultivation, which is scattered about in numerous small blocks in every direction, and, according to the reports of Forest Officers, appropriates not only the very best grounds, but is the frequent cause of forest conflagrations. From the nomadic habits of the Karens, who indulge in this sort of cultivation, and their carelessness in dealing with the fire they employ for their clearances, the object of the Government should be to try to restrict these people in their operations to limited and clearly-defined settlements, imposing upon them a strict fire conservancy rule, requiring all cultivators to burn a fire-tracing of not more than five hundred feet in width round their clearances. Such arrangements and rules may cause difficulties so long as *toungya* cultivation is permitted within the outer boundaries of forests; and, if it leads to the abandonment of their lands, such a result is unavoidable, and must be accepted, if the important interests of the Government in the Forest Department are to be protected. In laying out the boundaries of the forests to be reserved, every consideration will, of course, be shown to villagers, who have settled within

the proposed reserved limits, and the lines of demarcation will, if possible, exclude such villages; but when the hamlets are so situated that they cannot well be shut out, then arrangements will be made to remove the houses to a more suitable site, a proper amount of compensation being paid.

198. The areas reserved by the Government as forests are as follows:—

	Teak.	Acres.	Sq. miles.
Tharrawaddy Division	...	100,162	156-50
Prome ditto	...	219,894	343-45
Salween ditto	...	10,720	16-75
Sittoung ditto	...	8,441	12-87
Rangoon ditto	...	1,764	2-74
		<u>335,881</u>	<u>524-51</u>
	Cutch.		
Prome Division	...	17,000	27-50
	Fuel.		
Tharrawaddy Division	...	7,030	10-97

or a total of 360,501 acres and 563-28 square miles, of which 170,816 acres, or 267 square miles of teak, and 9,600 acres, or 15 square miles of cutch, were reserved during the year under review.

194. The reservation of the *Acacia catechu* for the production of cutch, in portions of the Thayet and Prome Districts, has been of much advantage to the trade, as the following figures show that, whilst during the last year or two there has been a large falling-off in the imports from Upper Burma, the out-turn within British territory has increased:—

	Exports from Pegu. Mds.	Imported from Upper Burma. Mds.	Balance produced in Pegu. Mds.
1871-72	324,564	97,536	127,028
1872-73	416,987	158,829	238,259
1873-74	247,408	62,561	194,887
1874-75	274,436	50,168	324,278

There should be no serious objection to reserving further areas for the growth of this tree on the banks of the Naweng river in the Prome District, by which stream firewood and the cutch manufactured could easily be brought to market. There is a great demand for fuel for the river steamers, and the present supply is by no means of first-class quality; at the same time the cutch market is in a satisfactory state, and is likely to continue so. The difficulty seems to be with these, as with teak reserves, the presence of *toungya* cultivators; but arrangements should be made to provide for these people elsewhere: from their wandering habits they have no claim to any particular portion of land, and the reservation of small areas should not interfere to any great extent with their operations. The question of reserving

woods other than teak, *thitka*, *thitkades*, and cutch is under consideration.

195. In the Prome Division the work of demarcation was carried on briskly by blazing and marking the trees on which boundary boards had to be affixed. The work was completed by the 20th February 1875.

In the Sittoung Division, the Pyoun-choung reserve was demarcated by masonry pillars erected at the salient angles. In the Tharrawaddy Division, the work of demarcating the Gwadohkuang, Kyeobyoo, Kadingouk, Kadin Thongyai, and Yoma block reserves had been nearly completed, but the fuel reserve pillars were not put up, as these reserves had not received final sanction in their present form.

196. A more complete system of fire conservancy is necessary, for in the best-protected reserves, the destruction by fire has been most serious, as instanced by that at the Kyek-pyooagan and Magayee plantations in the Rangoon Division, where very considerable damage was done soon after the close of the year under review. The additional area protected from fire during the year was 206 acres only, and that in the Rangoon Division; but £426 were expended throughout the several divisions, principally in Tharrawaddy and Prome, in guarding tracts, which had been previously preserved from fire.

197. Only 3,764 trees were girdled during the year, against 11,028 in the previous year. It was proposed to girdle 4,000 trees in the Tharrawaddy Division, but the work was begun so late in the season that only 424 were girdled. The wishes of the Government of India as regards the limitation of girdling operations have therefore been complied with during the year of report, for the total number which it was proposed to girdle was only about two-thirds that girdled in 1873-74, and just one-half of the number proposed was actually girdled.

198. Blasting operations were carried out successfully in the Hlowa *khyoung*, in the Thayet District, which opened out a means of floating timber from the Mendoon forests which are rich in teak; and in the Moay-gyee *khyoung*, situated in the Tharrawaddy Division, from which 177 rocks, aggregating 214,893 cubic feet, were removed by 200 lbs. of gunpowder, at the moderate cost of £88.

199. No serious breaches of Forest rules were reported to have occurred during the year, and the prosecutions under the rules were comparatively few. Cases of illegally disposing of drift timber will always form a large proportion of the cases brought for trial, and this is scarcely to be wondered at, seeing the extensive water communication which exists in the Province, and the great distances that timber has to be floated to the depôts or markets.

200. In the Prome Division, the examination of the Arakan Yoma forests was undertaken by Mr. E. P. Dansey, Assistant Conservator. He describes the

ensemble of the country generally as uninviting to the eye and the peuplement as much degenerated. In the Sittoung Division, Mr. Adamson made a special examination of the *thitka* localities, and found them to be scarce, and incapable of being marked to any great extent. The Attaran *thitka* and *thingan* tracts were examined by the late Assistant Conservator, Moungh Hpo Oh, but his figures are not considered reliable. The hill tracts of Arakan were also examined by a Native Forester, but nothing important was elicited from his report.

201. On the 10th December 1874, a report on the forests of the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, which had been examined by Mr. Elsner in the preceding dry season, was forwarded to the Government of India, and particular attention was drawn to the importance of preserving and working the *thingan* timber, which exists in large quantities in both these Districts. This wood has been placed second in the scale below teak in Lloyd's register of woods for ship-building purposes—a high position, which shows that it is a very valuable timber, and if it were properly worked, there is no doubt that a large quantity might be disposed of yearly. Sapan, *thitka*, and *thitkades* also exist, and cardamoms are grown extensively; but there seems to be some doubt whether the last named is the same as the *elletaria cardamomum*—the true spice of commerce grown on the western coast of India—and the question has been referred to an authority at home.

202. The orders of the Government of India on this report were that *thingan* and the other valuable woods growing in Mergui and Tavoy should be preserved as much as possible, and the suggestion made, that an Assistant Conservator should be appointed to the charge of the South Tenasserim Division to work out the timber, was approved. Mr. Whittall has accordingly been posted to the charge of these forests, with his head-quarters at Mergui, and has been provided with a good-sized boat and the necessary crew, so that, in addition to his duties on the main land, he may be in a position to examine the larger islands of the Mergui Archipelago with a view to utilizing any forest produce on them. The boat will be serviceable also in the supervision of sea-shore salvage, the reclamation of which is financially of an importance that every year increases.

203. Mr. Elsner, under great hindrances from sickness and the difficult nature of the country to be traversed, continued the examination of the forests in these districts during the year of review. The results were not, however, so satisfactory as in the previous year, as he found that the forests to the west of the Tenasserim watershed are not capable, at present, of yielding any notable quantity of timber of any kind; that they are more or less peopled and subjected to *toungya* cultivation; and that the formation of reserves containing any large quantity of timber would interfere with existing cultivation. From this report it is evident that the conservancy of the forest tracts in Mergui and Tavoy has already been delayed too long. Every line of the report testifies to the ruthless destruction of forests, and

the loss to which Government has been subjected by the indiscriminate felling of valuable timber. So great has been the diminution of the stock by these wholesale extractions, that even the estimate on the valuation surveys of last year are said now to be perfectly useless. The starting of a saw-mill at Mergui would imply that more extended felling is intended. Certainly, *toungya* cultivation appears to be spreading, and the young trees are destroyed by fire through the carelessness of the *ya* cultivators.

204. This work was undertaken in all the Divisions, and may be thus summarized:—

Plantations.	Area planted in acres.
<i>Prome Division</i> —	
Cutch ... ..	2 successfully.
<i>Tharrawaddy Division</i> —	
Mixed ... ..	8 ditto.
Teak ... ..	6 failure.
Mixed nursery ... ..	1.25 successfully.
<i>Sittoung Division</i> —	
Cinchona ... ..	80 ditto.
<i>Rangoon Division</i> —	
Teak ... ..	206 ditto.
Lao ... ..	23 ditto.
Mulberry ... ..	4 ditto.
<i>Ficus elastica</i> ... ..	22 ditto.
	296.25

The above was carried out by departmental agency. The following exhibits work undertaken by *toungya* cultivators:—

The rrawaddy Division—	Acres.	Plants per acre.
Mihla forests ... ..	80	497
M'young Choung ... ..	20.75	550
Mokkha Beeling ... ..	157	423
Amim and Tsatpoko ... ..	50	stocked with cutch.
<i>Salween Division</i> —		
Si-uway reserve ... ..	89	284
	326.75	

The cost of the cultivation and clearing undertaken by the Karens was £1 8s. 2d. to £1 4s. 1d., and 4s. 7d. to 4s. 9d. per acre, respectively; while the cost of preparing 150 acres for planting, in the Kyekpyoogan plantation, was £326 or £2 8s. 6d. per acre, and the cost of clearing in the same plantation was slightly in excess of that on the *toungyas*. Arrangements were made with the head-men of Karen hamlets in the Prome and Tharrawaddy Divisions for planting out a large number of *yas* during 1875-76; and although all may not abide by their agreement, it is yet hoped that the area under teak plants will be considerably augmented. This system is to be introduced into the Salween Division also, and the Deputy Conservator expects that it will be successful.

205. The cinchona plantation in the Sittoung Division has been a success. There were at the close of the year of report 19,294 plants growing well; a further area of thirty acres, to receive from 20,000 to 25,000 seedlings, had been prepared; and the nurseries contained 46,823 plants, some of which it was proposed to give to the Missionaries in the Karen Hills to the eastward of Toungoo for planting out by Christian Karens. A full report on the progress of the cinchona plantation was submitted to the Government of India in July 1874, and the appointment of a Superintendent was strongly recommended, with a view to preparing rough alkaloids from the *succirubra* variety for local use, and to extending largely the production of the better kinds of the bark, such as the *calisaya*, for export either to Europe or to India, for the manufacture of quinine. This proposal was not, however, favourably received by the Government of India, as they had no intention of manufacturing quinine in this Province, and preferred that the extension of the cultivation should be carried out through the agency of Karens, suggesting that four Karen youths should be sent to the Sikkim plantations to be there trained in the work, with a view to the trees being grown inexpensively by the people themselves, and the bark generally utilized.

206. The lac nursery in the Prome Division was unsuccessful. In the Rangoon Division a breeding nursery of three acres was established, and an additional area of nineteen acres stocked with several thousand transplants of three to five years old, 61 per cent. of which succeeded, although planted out at the close of the rains. Two hundred and fifty *Cajanus* trees bear lac in its natural state, and insects from other trees have been transplanted successfully to other *Cajanus* trees. A successful beginning has been made, though the experiment was somewhat costly on account of the lateness of the season. From the Sittoung Division 91lbs. of lac were despatched to Magayee, 76lbs. of which arrived in a swarming condition; 54lbs. were subsequently obtained, and applied to 117 trees on all of which lac has formed.

207. Four acres were cleared at Magayee and stocked with mulberry cuttings. The *tussa* cocoons received from the Central Provinces were dead, and the *ova* from Cashmere were decomposed on arrival.

208. Twenty-two acres have been taken up for this cultivation. The plants brought by Mr. Stretzell from Upper Burma are looking remarkably healthy, and success in this branch of arboriculture is confidently anticipated. Numerous cuttings from trees planted in 1873 are also growing well.

209. A block of 100 acres in extent has been selected on the Zilico Choung, Rangoon Division, for the cultivation of this creeper.

210. The *sapan* plants, mentioned in the report for 1873-74, continue strong and vigorous. Of the *baobab*, only two remain alive. Seeds of *arducaria cun-*

*ninghami*, *bidoellia*, *hardindiofia monophylla*, and *seafortia elegans* failed to germinate. The marble-wood plants keep alive, but make no progress. Of forty vanilla cuttings put out, thirty-seven are alive and have sent out fresh shoots. Only three of those received from India succeeded. Of sixteen *rhea* plants three are left, but they can now be easily multiplied. Of cocoa but one plant is alive, and seventeen out of twenty-four mahogany. Twenty-seven ipecacuanha plants are living, but are decidedly unhealthy.

211. The whole of the permits for working forests on either side of the Irrawaddy expired during the year and were not renewed, as also did those in the Sittoung Division, with the exception of one granted to the Burma Company (Limited), which has to run until the 1st December 1876. In the Salween Division, too, there are but few permits in existence, and no fresh ones will be granted, except for outlying tracts. Thus the wasteful and destructive system of extracting timber from the forests by private persons, under permit, whereby the best and most easily worked logs were got out in large numbers year by year, and a large loss was caused to the Government, has been stopped, and in future the whole of these forests will be worked by direct Government Agency, under careful conservancy.

212. The following table exhibits the yield of the forests in British Territory:--

Yield of forests.	Teak.	Logs.	Tons.
Brought to depôts by Government contractors in the Tharrawaddy, Salween, and Sittoung Divisions ... ..	...	11,504	11,814
Obtained from the sea-shore ... ..	...	511	500
Diff. from drift and miscellaneous sources	...	4,162	4,079
Worked out by permit-holders ... ..	...	26,884	21,517
		<u>42,561</u>	<u>37,910</u>
Other wood brought to depôts by Government contractors--			
<i>Thitka</i> ( <i>Pentaca burmanica</i> ) and <i>Thitkadoe</i> ( <i>Cedrela toona</i> ) ... ..	...	4,709	4,540
Sleepers, chiefly <i>Xylia dola briformis</i> et <i>hopsa odorata</i> ... ..	...	4,179	125
		<u>8,888</u>	<u>4,665</u>
		<u>51,449</u>	<u>42,575</u>

which shows, as compared with the produce of the previous year, a reduction on teak of 5,344 logs and 1,723 tons, and an increase in *thitka* and *thitkadoe* of 1,520 logs and 76 tons. The falling-off in teak was entirely due to a decrease of 6,181 logs and 6,783 tons in the quantity brought to market by direct Government agency from the Sittoung and Tharrawaddy Divisions, attributable to the comparatively small rain-fall of 1874, which did not flood the creeks sufficiently to enable 1,100 logs in transit from Toungoo to reach the depôts, and which left a large quantity of timber neaped on the banks of the Hline. Though this is the main cause of decrease in the year

under review, it yet must not be overlooked that the reduction in the number of trees girdled annually, under the revised working plan of 1868, and as prescribed by the Government of India last year, will be a disturbing element in the quantity to be brought to market in future. A permanent demand exists for *thitka* and *thitkadoe*, and other species of wood have been felled and brought to the depôts with a view to making their qualities known. Of these other kinds the exports from Moulmein were 1,196 tons during the year 1874-75; and from Akyab 386 tons of ironwood, of the value of £2,044, were shipped, chiefly to Chittagong, for house-building.

213. The imports of teak from forests beyond British territory during the last two years have been as follows:—

	1873-74.		1874-75.	
	Logs and pieces.	Tons.	Logs and pieces.	Tons.
By the Salween river	75,878	101,402	99,811	133,746
„ Sittoung ditto	19,818	16,529	29,856	26,884
„ Irrawaddy ditto	20,862	6,626	7,772	5,783
	<u>126,557</u>		<u>165,918</u>	

There was thus an increase of 32,344 tons brought down the Salween, and of 7,855 tons by the Sittoung, whilst 843 tons less were imported by the Irrawaddy. The increased production of timber beyond the frontier has far more than made up for the slight falling-off in the output from the forests within British territory during the last two years, but it can scarcely be expected that these large imports can continue for any lengthened period, especially as it is believed that for some years past the proportion of under-sized timber has shown a steady increase, which implies that the larger and better trees are already becoming scarcer.

214. The financial results of the year's working may be summarized as follows:—

Receipts.		£
(1)—Value of timber brought to depôt by direct departmental agency		49,328
(2)—Revenue on wood removed from the forests by permit-holders		15,728
(3)—Realized for confiscated, drift, and waif wood		20,708
(4)—Duty on foreign timber at Kadoe		22,098
(5)—Miscellaneous receipts		728
		<u>107,490</u>
Disbursements.		£
(A.)—Conservancy and working		53,184
(B.)—Establishments		18,079
		<u>66,263</u>
Net Revenue		<u>41,227</u>

Comparing these figures with those of the previous year, the receipts under (1) show a decrease of £4,360; (2), an increase of £789; (3), an increase of £2,045; (4), an increase of £2,953; and (5), a decrease

of £809—or a net increase on the aggregate of £618; whilst the expenditure increased under (A.) £19,945, and decreased under (B.) £1,134, a net increment of £18,810. The surplus net revenue was therefore reduced by £18,192; “Home or Forests” having decreased £20,665, and “Kadoe or Foreign” increased £2,478.

215. These results are not on the whole satisfactory; the decrease is due to the enhanced cost of the timber brought to depôt by departmental agency, the difference on which amounted to £17,698, while the sum realized for the sale of such timber fell off by £2,314, as compared with the receipts in 1873-74, and this notwithstanding that the price received per ton was 11s. 8d. in excess of the rate realized in that year. This difference is not altogether explained by the amount disbursed on account of 1875-76,—£16,074,—which exceeds that disbursed in the previous year on account of 1874-75 by £13,530, but the balance may, it is presumed, be set down to the enhanced cost of extracting timber by Government Agency and contractors.

216. The balance-sheet of the department for the year of report, exhibits still more unsatisfactory results, as compared with that for the previous year:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	£	£
Value of the year's transactions	107,716	120,580
Cost of ditto ditto	47,200	52,969
	<u>60,516</u>	<u>67,661</u>
Difference between the value of stock at the commencement and close of the year	+ 25,325	— 12,604
Net result of the year	<u>85,841</u>	<u>54,762</u>

or a difference in a favour of 1873-74 of £31,079; but it must be noticed that the net result of the transactions in 1874-75 was £13,156 in excess of that in 1872-73.

217. The cargo of timber supplied to the Government of the Cape of Good Hope cost £8,234, which amount is still outstanding in the accounts of the Forest Department.

218. The Madras Government have been supplied with a quantity of *padouk* for the making of gun-carriages; an enquiry has been made by the Admiralty in England as to curved teak for ship-building purposes, and a quantity is now being procured for them; and large numbers of *thitka*, *pyinkadoe*, and teak sleepers are being supplied to the railway.

219. The total quantity of teak exported during the year was 115,806 tons. In addition Moulmein exported 1,196 tons of *thitka*, *thitkadoe*, *padouk*, *engyin*, *pyinkadoe*, and other varieties. For the two

former a small but steady demand has sprung up, but the exports made by some firms have proved unremunerative.

220. The local demand for this branch of industry is pretty considerable; a small steamer and thirty large cargo-boats were built at Moulmein during the year.

Ship-building.

221. There were ten deaths among the elephants, a number slightly in excess of 1873-74, but it does not compare unfavourably with other years; twenty-one animals were paid for by the contractors to whom they were loaned. A severe epidemic broke out about the close of the year, resulting in numerous casualties, and information has been received that the Karens lost 180 out of 500 animals. The epidemic then spread amongst other animals, and even wild beasts were found dead in the forests.

Elephants.

222. Collections of various kinds of woods have been made during the year, viz., of hard woods for die handles for the Calcutta Mint; of twenty specimens for the French National Forest school at Nancy; and of the different species grown in the Province, with a view to exhibiting them in a Forest Museum, which it is proposed to establish in connection with the Phayre Museum in Rangoon. Orders were issued for the collection of a considerable quantity of turpentine in the Yoonzakeen, where there are numerous pine forests, and of specimens of gums and resins, in order to test their economic value.

Collections of woods.

223. Eighty-three maunds of teak-seed were distributed during the year under review, chiefly to Bengal, Arakan, and Assam; a small quantity was sent to Port Blair, as also to the Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

Distribution of teak-seed.

224. During the year, free grants of timber were made in the following Divisions:—

Free grants of timber.

	Divisions:—			Logs.
Tharrawaddy	...	...	...	814
Prome	...	...	...	185
Sittoung	...	...	...	10
Salween	...	...	...	187
				646

It has always been customary in this Province to make these grants for works of public utility, such as religious buildings, schools, rest-houses, bridges, &c., to persons residing in the districts near the forests and at a distance from the principal rivers, under certain conditions, the grantees felling and removing the timber to the place which it is required.

225. An old hospital was purchased at Prome for a Forest Office, at a cost of £170, and improved at a further outlay of £57.

Buildings.

226. A bazaar, at a cost of £74, was established at Magayee for the benefit of the Plantation labourers, who previously had to obtain their supplies from a bazaar miles distant.

Government bazaar, Magayee.

227. A bridge over the Magayee khyoung was completed at a cost of £74.

Magayee bridge.

228. Five rest-houses were completed during the year—four in the Tharrawaddy, and one in the Sittoung Division. It is of importance that Forest Officers, who have to go through much exposure and fatigue, should find proper and comfortable accommodation in the forest.

Completion of rest-houses.

229. The health of the establishment was on the whole good, and the control and management by the officers of the Division satisfactory.

Health of establishment, and control and management.

### Mines and Quarries.

230. No examination of the Arakan Division for metalliferous minerals has ever been made, and no such minerals are known to exist. During the year of report coal was discovered in small quantities in the hills of Northern Arakan, a sample of which was fairly reported on by the Superintendent of the Geological Survey, but it is inaccessibly situated, and is not likely to be of much practical value. There are nine limestone-quarries in Kyonk-hpyoo, which are worked as the demand of that district and Akyab require. Earth-oil is also found in these two districts; but the yield of the wells is small, although the quality is excellent.

Arakan Division.

231. Pegu, also, so far as is known, is devoid of metalliferous minerals, with the exception of ironstone; but valuable limestone exists in Bassein and Thayetmyo, and earth-oil in the latter district and Prome. The yield of petroleum was not great, and the workings were not very successful during the year, but operations have now been resumed—by Chinese in Padoung, who, aided by an advance of money from the Government, promise more energetic exploration, and by a European firm in Thayetmyo, whose researches so far have not been so profitable as could have been wished.

Pegu Division.

232. The only mines in the Tenasserim Division of any importance are those worked in the southern portion of it. Tin exists over a large extent of country in the Mergui and Tavoy Districts, and has hitherto been obtained from alluvial deposits, the ore being found intermixed with sand and pebbles in beds some fifteen to twenty feet below the surface. Lately, however, lodes or veins of the mineral have been discovered in the hills in the Malewoon township. The right of mining in this township has been leased to a firm of Rangoon merchants for a period of thirty years, at a ground rent of £1,000 per annum, which merges into a royalty of seven per cent. on the value of all ores or metal sold, should such

Tin in Tenasserim.

royalty exceed the sum stipulated. Operations were commenced about two years ago, and are now being carried on vigorously. Machinery has been erect, roads opened out, and, in addition to working the deposits of stream tin, explorations have been made in the neighbouring hills, resulting in the discovery of a large lode containing tin in valuable quantities, which is now being excavated and crushed. During the year fourteen tons of black tin or the ore cleaned fit for the smelting furnace, and seven tons of metal, were exported. Tin is also worked by the Chinese in several parts of these districts. They formerly carried on their operations without paying a tax of any kind, but under the rules recently issued, they are now subject to a ground rent as well as to royalty on the value of the metal extracted. The mines are rented out annually, and during 1874-75 the following were leased:—

	Rs.
Six at a ground rent of 100 each.	100
Three ditto ditto ditto	75 do.
One ditto ditto ditto	70 do.
Two ditto ditto ditto	50 do.
Five ditto ditto ditto	25 do.
One ditto ditto ditto	20 do.

a total of eighteen, which yielded £114; and, in addition, forty individual permits were granted at 10s. each, or £20. The quantity of tin exported by the Chinese was twenty-six tons, on which they paid a royalty of £121, making the total receipts £235. Coal exists on the banks of the Tenasserim river and in other parts, but it has never been worked to any extent. Lead has been found in Toungoo and on Maingay's Island in the Mergui Archipelago, but nothing has been done towards utilizing it. This mineral exists, too, in the Shwe-gyeen District, where gold, antimony ore, and iron stone are also found. Limestone is found in the Mergui District, but it is not worked, as the lime required for local purposes is manufactured from shells. Lime is plentiful near Moulmein, where limestone can be got in any quantity required.

Coal and other minerals.

Manufactures.

238. Weaving is carried on throughout the Province, silk and cotton goods being manufactured in large quantities, chiefly for home use, in small hand-looms. A loom usually forms part of a Burman's household furniture, and it is worked by the female members of the family. The articles woven are waist-cloths for men, petticoats for women, and cotton-quilts for use as coverlets. The cloths are rough, but strong, and some of the silk goods are of considerable value.

Weaving.

239. A coarse description of salt is made on the sea-coast, which is used chiefly in the preparation of *gnapee*, a favourite article of food amongst the Burmese. This manufacture has,

Manufacture of salt.

however, fallen off to a considerable extent of late years, owing to the introduction of European salt, which is sold at a less price than that of local manufacture.

235. The gold and silver-smiths of Burma are very clever in the particular kind of work which they turn out. Cups and bowls are the chief articles made, and for originality and boldness of design they are unequalled.

Gold and silver work.

236. Lacquered-ware, which consists of fine cane and bamboo work covered with coloured lacquer, on which fanciful and sometimes elegant designs are traced, is manufactured to a considerable extent in the Prome and Thayet Districts for domestic purposes.

Lacquered-ware.

237. Carving and gilding are carried on in the chief towns, mainly, however, in the decoration of religious buildings.

Carving and gilding.

238. A rough description of silk, which is entirely worked up in the Province, is prepared in the hilly tracts of Prome and Thayetmyo. It is a branch of industry repugnant to the feelings of a Buddhist, as, according to the method followed in Burma to obtain the silk-thread, the worm has to be killed, hence the rearing of the silk-worm is confined to only one class of people, the *yabeins*.

Silk.

239. Umbrellas of oiled paper, after the Chinese fashion, are also manufactured extensively.

Umbrellas.

240. In the Prome District, the substance called *cutch* is manufactured in large quantities for exportation to Europe. Cutch is an extract of the *Acacia catechu*, and is used for dyeing purposes.

Cutch.

241. A manufactory for the preparation of refined burning-oil from the earth-oil, or petroleum, produced at Thayetmyo and in Upper Burma, and for the manufacture of candles from the paraffin extracted from the crude oil, has been in operation in Rangoon for some time.

Manufactory for preparation of earth-oil.

242. A lac manufactory has also been started, and both shellac and dye of excellent quality are being prepared.

Shellac and lac-dye manufactory.

243. Measures are, it is understood, being taken to grow fibre-producing plants on a large scale, with a view to manufacturing various kinds of cloth. Indigenous fibres are now utilized in some parts of the country for making fishing nets, &c.

Growth of fibre-producing plants.

244. The growth and manufacture of tea in the Arakan hills is now meeting with success: about 110 acres are under plants at Pongda-breng, on the Mayoo river, which produced 21,000lbs. of tea in 1874.

Tea.

Trade.

245. The total value of the trade of British Burma—sea-borne, and with the countries beyond the frontier line which divides Lower and Upper Burma—during the official year under report was £14,665,286 against £17,369,698 in the preceding year, a decrease of £2,704,412, of which merchandize amounted to £5,661 only, and treasure to the large balance of £2,698,751.

246. The sea-borne trade of the Province during the year of review was of the value of £11,797,453, against £14,779,874 in 1873-74, showing a decrease of £3,042,420, of which £237,038 formed the falling-off in the value of merchandize, and £2,805,382, the diminished transactions in treasure. The aggregate trade under this head in the several divisions of the province during the last two years has been as follows:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Arakan ...	1,848,038	1,469,836	378,702
Pegu ...	10,435,671	8,248,588	1,192,082
Tenasscrim ...	2,496,165	2,024,529	471,636

From these figures it will be seen that there was a considerable falling-off in the gross trade throughout the province.

247. A decrease in the aggregate value of merchandize exported by sea during the year under report was fully expected, seeing that the shipments of rice in 1873-74 were abnormally large through the demand for Bengal, which also enhanced the price considerably. A further cause of decrease was the unsettled state of the rice market during the first quarter of the calendar year 1875, owing to prices in the home markets being low, and a consequent agreement among the merchants at the chief ports not to pay more than a certain rate for the unhusked grain brought to market. This kept back supplies, and retarded shipments, while large sums were paid as demurrage on vessels detained in port beyond the number of "lay days" stipulated in the charter-parties. The falling off in the value of rice alone amounted to £829,754, or £156,735 more than the net decrease under exports. The only other articles in which there was an important falling-off were hides, through a large decrease in the supplies, and lac, owing to a diminished supply from Upper Burma; while in cotton, catch, india-rubber, jade, spices, precious stones, timber, and miscellaneous, there was a large increase in value.

248. The sea borne imports of merchandize increased in a very satisfactory degree, viz., by £430,000, almost every article showing an improved trade; the only important exceptions being betel-nuts and opium, with both of which the markets in Pegu were overstocked in the previous year. In the trade in apparel, cotton-twist,

and yarn, piece-goods (especially silk), crockery-ware, provisions, salt, liquors, and other articles of general consumption, the improvement was very marked, and the value of metals also increased to a large extent.

249. The transactions in treasure were much more limited in the year of review than in that immediately preceding, and the gross decrease, in both exports and imports, amounted to the large aggregate of £2,805,382, of which £2,115,711 were on account of Government. The amount of Government money which passed through the Province in 1873-74 was very large, and was required for the purchase of rice for shipment to Calcutta. The imports and exports by private parties were also considerably affected since, in consequence of the Government requirements of rice for the famine districts in 1874, the purchases of private firms were not so great, less money was expended, and the large balances of specie remaining in the hands of the local banks at the end of the season were returned to Calcutta; whilst in the early part of 1875, owing to the lowness of prices and limited trade, the demand for treasure by private parties was also limited, and the imports decreased very considerably.

250. The sea-borne trade of the last two years has been distributed as follows:—

Ports.	1873-74.				1874-75.				DIFFERENCE.		
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	£	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	£	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Net.
Indian	£ 3,906,556	£ 3,276,256	£ 7,182,812	£ 3,618,452	£ 1,197,294	£ 4,815,746	£ 288,104	£ 2,078,962	£ 2,367,066		
Foreign	£ 5,261,018	£ 75,541	£ 5,336,559	£ 5,206,645	£ 58,713	£ 5,265,358	Increase. 54,873	£ 16,828	£ 71,201		
Provincial	£ 1,080,914	£ 1,229,699	£ 2,260,503	£ 1,136,353	£ 519,936	£ 1,656,349	Increase. 105,439	£ 709,593	£ 604,154		
Total	£ 10,198,488	£ 4,581,385	£ 14,779,874	£ 9,961,450	£ 1,776,009	£ 11,737,453	Decrease. 287,088	£ 2,805,868	£ 3,042,421		

and shows a decrease all round, with the exception of merchandize between provincial ports.

251. The sea-borne trade of the year of report compares, however, very favourably with that of 1872-73, the increase being over one million sterling, Sea-borne trade of 1874-75 compares favourably with that of 1872-73. merchandize having improved by £1,176,919, and treasure having diminished by £135,141.

In 1872-73 the value of the merchandize exported to, and imported from, Indian ports was £2,291,818; in 1874-75 it amounted to £3,618,451, an increase of nearly one and one-third millions sterling; to and from foreign ports, the aggregate was in the one year £5,525,660, and in the other £5,206,644, a falling-off of £319,016, due exclusively to the decreased shipments of rice, which diminished in value to the extent of £590,000, mainly through the demand for India; between the provincial ports the trade in merchandize was, in 1872-73, £967,052, and in 1874-75, £1,136,353 an increase of £169,301.

252. There was, again, a considerable difference between the value of exports and imports, the total of the former having been £6,087,817, and of the latter £5,649,636; but, after deducting the treasure, it will be found that the value of exports and imports.

merchandize was more equalized than in the previous years, the exports having exceeded the imports by £524,417 only, as against £1,621,418 in 1873-74, and £1,862,847 in 1872-73.

253. The following statement shows the value of the exports from each port of the Province, during the year under review and that immediately preceding:—

Detail of exports from each port.

Ports.	1873-74.			1874-75.			INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Merchandise.	Treasure.
Akyab	£ 822,446	£ 88,875	£ 911,421	£ 689,147	£ 109,188	£ 798,835	£ ..	£ 20,213	£ 138,290	£ ..
Kyauk-hypoo	..	19,500	26,121	4,492	24,500	28,992	..	5,000	2,129	..
Rangoon	3,459,639	735,351	4,195,020	3,196,260	631,955	3,828,615	..	..	264,400	103,996
Bassein	879,092	50,000	429,092	407,825	5,000	412,825	..	..	..	45,000
Moulmein	1,167,885	76,230	1,244,113	872,110	55,539	927,689	..	..	295,773	20,701
Tavoy	34,920	12,600	47,520	32,372	14,145	46,617	..	1,545	2,548	..
Mergui	39,323	6,920	46,243	41,728	5,186	46,894	2,405	..	..	1,764

254. The total value of merchandize under this head in 1874-75 was £5,212,934, to which Arakan contributed £698,639; Pegu, £3,603,085; and Tenasserim, £946,210; and of treasure, £844,883, the amount from Arakan having amounted to £138,888, from Pegu to

£636,354, and from Tenasserim to £74,841. In the previous year the exports of merchandize aggregated £5,909,954, and treasure amounted to £989,576 which were divided over the several divisions as follows:—

	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
	£	£	£
Arakan	829,067	1,08,475	937,542
Pegu	8,838,761	785,851	4,624,112
Tenasserim	1,242,120	95,760	1,837,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,909,954</b>	<b>989,576</b>	<b>6,899,530</b>

255. The falling off in the value of merchandize exported from Arakan was due entirely to the decrease in the quantity and value of the rice shipped, the season of 1874 having been an early one, so that the bulk of the crop was exported before the close of the official year 1873-74, and that of 1875 a little late, owing to the harvest having been somewhat backward, and because the low prices offered by the merchants for the unhusked grain retarded supplies. In cotton and catch there was again, a fair increase. The Rangoon trade was also affected by rice to a far greater extent than the net decrease shows, and there were likewise diminished exports of several other principal articles, but the falling-off in these was much more than covered by enhanced shipments of cotton, catch, india-rubber, and timber. At Bassein there was an actual increase in both the quantity and value of rice exported, which forms the only staple of that port. The rice and timber trade of Moulmein decreased to the extent shown in the above statement, the falling-off in the former being due to the demand for the famine districts having caused early shipments during the last quarter of the previous official year; and in the latter to a paucity of shipping. The rice trade of the southern ports of the Tenasserim Division was also slightly diminished, but in the remainder of the trade there was a favourable increase, especially in fruits, of which large quantities are now sent to Rangoon and elsewhere.

256. The exports to India during the year of report were of the value of £2,189,947, against £2,275,907 in 1873-74. In merchandize there was a decrease of £307,452, whilst the amount of treasure increased by £221,492 owing to the return to Calcutta by private parties, the Banking Companies chiefly, of the surplus specie imported by them in the previous year, and not utilized. The greatest decrease under the head of merchandize was, of course, in rice, 57,161 tons less having been sent to Calcutta, the value of which was £417,274. There was also a falling-off in other branches of trade, viz. :—

	Mds.	£
Catch	2,855	4,586
Petroleum (crude)	26,826	10,179
Lac	18,240	88,147

but these decreases were far more than counterbalanced by increases in the following items:—

			£
Cotton (raw)	...	Mds. 32,156	47,696
Hides	...	No. 6,448	1,080
Horns	...	821,819	1,520
Petroleum (refined)	...	Galls. 46,727	2,405
Precious stones	...	...	7,806
Timber	...	Tons 6,479	65,238
Drugs and medicines	...	...	2,758
India-rubber	...	...	490
Orpiment	...	...	5,260
Spices	...	...	10,527
Tin	...	...	6,680
All other articles	...	...	8,710

257. To foreign ports there was a diminished trade to the extent of £458,036, the value in 1873-74 having been £3,502,406, and in the year of report £3,044,370. This falling-off is accounted for by the undernoted figures:—

Decreases.				£
Hides	...	No. 167,141	...	58,197
Horns	...	60,515	...	8,193
Ivory	...	Mds. 902	...	5,025
Rice	...	Tons 84,533	...	410,823
Timber	...	8,108	...	52,670

Increases.				£
Cotton (raw)...	...	Mds. 16,598	...	19,289
Cutch	...	38,182	...	52,511
Jade stones	...	8,626	...	29,904
Precious stones	...	...	...	2,650

In the aggregate of "all other articles" there was also a large apparent decrease of £23,298, but under this head last year the following items, which are now shown separately, were included:—

	£
Drugs and medicines	268
Fruits and vegetables	246
India-rubber	12,104
Lead	868
Orpiment	580
Spices	8,584
Tin	1,278

a total of £23,878

which equalizes the gross value for the two years.

The interportal exports also decreased, as compared with 1873-74, the totals for the two years being £858,498 and £1,121,215, but it will be seen

from the following figures that the value of merchandise increased by 17 per cent., while that of specie decreased 56 per cent.:—

	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1873-74	494,761	626,454	1,121,215
1874-75	580,205	278,298	858,498
Increase	85,444	Decrease 348,156	Decrease... 262,712

The increase was in

	£
Drugs and medicines	961
Fruits and vegetables	9,255
Lead	295
Spices	25,170
Tin	2,795
Timber	10,494
Miscellaneous	40,277

259. The chief articles of export will now be particularized, and an explanation furnished as to the cause of increase or decrease in the trade of each.

260. Cotton (raw).—The shipments of this staple revived to a considerable extent during the year of report, as compared with that immediately preceding; but the trade has not yet resumed the position it held in 1871-72 and 1872-73, although it is far in excess of the years previous thereto, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	Mds.
Average of four years, 1866-67—1869-70	52,782
187-71	98,163
187-72	182,192
187-73	182,820
1874-74	98,109
1874-75	142,397

The increase in the latter year over 1873-74 was 49,288 maunds, valued at £67,285, of which about two-thirds were sent to India, and the remainder to foreign ports. The imports from Upper Burma were 77,298 maunds—an increase of 42,700 maunds (of the value of £62,916) over the quantity brought down in the preceding year, so that there must have been a large additional quantity grown in British Burma, both for export and local requirements. Almost the whole of the shipments were, as usual, from Rangoon; 3,125 maunds—an increase of 1,927 maunds over the previous year—having been exported from Akyab to Chittagong, and 1,821 maunds from Moulmein—a decrease of 832 maunds, "the yield not being sufficiently tempting to establish a mart for other ports." The largely enhanced imports from beyond the frontier would seem to imply that the Western China market, viz Bhamo, was not so brisk as in 1874-75, but there were still large quantities sent there. The market in Rangoon was also favourable during the early and closing months of the official year.

261. *Cutch*.—Of the quantity shipped during 1874-75 (388,827 maunds), 79,915 maunds were sent to India, Exports how distributed. 208,191 maunds to foreign ports (chiefly Europe), and 721 maunds to provincial ports, the increase being entirely in the foreign trade. From Pegu (Rangoon), the exports were 274,436 maunds, an increase of 26,968 maunds, which were shipped chiefly to Europe; from Akyab, 12,572 maunds, the bulk of which was sent to Chittagong—a satisfactory increment of 7,124 maunds, there having been larger supplies than usual from beyond the frontier through Aeng; and from the Tenasserim ports, 1,819 maunds only.

262. *Hides*.—There was a remarkable falling off both in the number shipped and in the value thereof, as compared with the exports in the previous year, thus:—

	No.	£
1873-74	468,568	120,061
1874-75	802,557	68,075
Decrease	161,028	51,986

The supplies from Upper Burma decreased considerably, and there was also a falling-off within British territory, which, if due to less cattle-disease, is a matter for congratulation. The demand for cow-hides in particular was active throughout the year, and as supplies were moderate, somewhat high rates were paid. Considerable shipments were made to the Straits, and towards the close of the official year large exports were made to Europe direct.

263. In the number of *Horns* exported there was likewise a large decrease—126,815 in 1873-74 and 100,645 in the year of report—with a more than corresponding decrease in value, the figures for the two years being £5,441 and £4,002 respectively.

264. The trade in *Ivory*, which is carried on almost exclusively with the Indian and Straits ports, was also checked without any apparent cause, the shipments having fallen off from 669 maunds, valued at £12,897 in 1873-74, to 204 maunds of the value of £7,696 in 1874-75.

265. A comparatively large traffic has sprung up in *India-rubber* during the last two years, the exports being as follows:—

	Mds.	£
1873-74	1,006	8,105
1874-75	2,900	12,594

Supplies are obtained from Upper Burma, and as a good demand exists for the article in Europe, whither all the shipments—except 94 maunds of *Salvadora*—in the year of report were made, the trade is likely to be increasing. There were no exports of this gum in 1872-73.

266. A considerable increase took place in the exports of *Jade-stones*, the quantities and values for the last two years having been as follows:—

	Mds.	£
1873-74	8,405	60,254
1874-75	7,104	80,656
Increase	8,699	80,402

The shipments are governed entirely by the supplies from Upper Burma, which pass through the hands of the Chinese merchants to the Straits ports for China where the mineral is worked up into ornaments.

267. *Orpiment* is the yellow sulphide of arsenic, which is found native in China, whence it is brought, *via* Upper Burma, for shipment to India. It is used chiefly, by pyrotechnists and as a pigment. During the last two or three years there has been a considerable revival in the trade, owing, it is presumed, to the cessation of hostilities in Yunan. The quantity exported from Rangoon in 1873-74 was 2,542 maunds, and in the year under review 8,578 maunds, of which 8,222 maunds were sent to India.

268. A large decrease in the exports of *Petroleum* took place in the year of report as compared with previous years, notwithstanding that here was a considerable increase in the imports from Upper Burma. The following figures show the trade of the last four years:—

	Mds.	£
1871-72	70,998	20,703
1872-73	77,989	32,587
1873-74	78,867	36,791
1874-75	51,414	26,787

The whole of the decrease was in the shipments to Indian ports, principally Chittagong, regarding which no explanation has been given.

269. Of *refined petroleum*, that is, burning oil, 53,409 gallons, valued at £2,740, were shipped from Rangoon, of which 46,727 gallons were sent to Bengal. The exports to foreign ports were limited to 821 gallons, mainly, it is said, owing to the duty which prevents it from competing with American oil in the Straits markets. Under the new tariff, which came into force on the 5th August 1875, the duty has been abolished, and it is hoped that the foreign trade will now improve.

270. The *rice* trade of the Province during the year of report decreased considerably when compared with that of the two preceding financial years, but was still far greater than in years previous to 1872-73, and the shipments were about 200,000 tons in excess of the annual average of the ten years from 1864-65 to 1873-74, as will be seen from the following statement:—

Year.	Arakan.	Rangoon.	Bassein.	Tenasserim.	Total British Bur- ma.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1864-65 ..	121,277	239,290	64,225	25,046	469,838
1865-66 ..	190,472	202,125	32,449	40,351	465,397
1866-67 ..	81,991	107,863	32,690	82,162	248,706
1867-68 ..	97,976	163,143	27,160	27,725	295,915
1868-69 ..	111,192	244,510	60,549	30,858	446,109
1869-70 ..	69,185	181,934	51,063	27,429	329,611
1870-71 ..	123,571	230,101	44,291	42,028	440,001
1871-72 ..	106,894	265,613	55,274	60,881	487,162
1872-73 ..	172,252	415,028	74,227	57,143	720,850
1873-74 ..	162,788	482,479	88,495	77,244	811,006
Average per annum, 1874-75 ..	117,690	254,211	56,532	42,008	470,441
	141,416	389,897	89,743	49,169	670,225

271. The official year does not show fairly the progress of the rice trade year by year, as it commences in the height of the shipping season, and is influenced by circumstances which do not affect the statistics of the calendar year so materially. During 1874-75 the trade was to a certain extent diminished owing to the crop of 1873 having been early and the demand for the famine districts of Bengal having forced exports in the early part of 1874, whereby the bulk of the crop was shipped during the first quarter of that year, and the trade of 1873-74 consequently much enhanced. A further disturbing cause was the backwardness of shipments during the first quarter of 1875, consequent on the refusal of the people to bring in extensive supplies at the low rates which the merchants had by agreement bound themselves to pay.

272. The following table shows the distribution of the entire export trade of port trade during the last five official years:—

	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom ..	844,178	845,183	547,065	532,371	457,107
Foreign Europe ..	9,347	12,296	27,438	9,788	16,332
Straits Settlement ..	23,259	25,237	25,573	54,453	21,577
Other Foreign Ports ..	23,261	20,687	22,852	17,241	12,579
Indian Ports ..	22,754	22,224	20,080	196,434	199,271
Provincial Ports ..	592	226	1,443	819	1,481
Total ..	440,901	487,162	720,850	811,106	670,225

273. The total quantity of rice husked and unhusked, shipped from Akyab during the year of report was 141,280 tons against 161,557 in the preceding year, and 173,089 in 1872-73. The falling-off is explained by the fact that the season of 1874 was an early one, whereby the bulk of the crop was shipped before the close of the official year 1873-74, and that the season of 1875 was late, due to the harvest having been a little later than in the previous year and to the low prices offered by the merchants having kept back supplies. The exports of 1874-75 were, however, still considerably in excess of the average annual shipments during the preceding ten years, which amounted to 117,155 tons. The shipments during 1874, which aggregated 166,460 tons contrast very favourably with those of the calendar years preceding, and were the largest in any one year since 1855, when 166,965 tons were exported.

274. The exports of rice and paddy from Rangoon showed a large decrease, as per table in the margin. This was due mainly to the large exports to Calcutta in the early part of 1874, which reduced the stocks available for shipment in the current official year.

Rangoon.		Tons.	Value.
Year.			
1873-74 ..	.. ..	482,479	2,265,215
1874-75 ..	.. ..	389,897	1,769,371
Decrease ..	.. ..	92,582	495,844

275. Bassein is the only port in the Province at which an increase in the export of rice took place, as compared with 1873-74, the shipments being as follows:—

	Tons.	£
1873-74 ..	68,495	376,564
1874-75 ..	89,743	405,784
Increase ..	21,248	29,220

To the United Kingdom 65,850 tons and 73,977 tons were sent in the respective years; to Foreign Europe, 4,580 tons against none; to the Straits Settlements, 258 tons against 208 tons; to Indian ports, 18,849 tons against 14,240; and to Provincial ports, 206 tons against 75 tons.

276. At Moulmein the shipments aggregated 44,788 tons against 71,949 tons in 1873-74, a falling-off of 27,161 tons, consequent on the market having been drained in the previous year to meet the requirements from Bengal.

277. This item has been detailed for the first time in the year of report; a considerable trade in carried on in the various articles included under this head, the value of exports in 1873-74 having been £26,430, and in

1874-75 £39,263—an increase of £12,833: large quantities of chillies, ginger, cardamoms, and other condiments are shipped to India, the Straits, and between one provincial port and another, the bulk of the trade being confined to the latter.

278. The export of rubies and other precious stones depend much upon the King of Burma, who holds them as a monopoly under the Treaty of 1867. The value fluctuates year by year, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	£
1870-71 ... ..	19,966
1871-72 ... ..	82,048
1872-73 ... ..	25,297
1873-74 ... ..	18,578
1874-75 ... ..	26,978

279. The trade in Lac decreased in the year under review very considerably, as compared with the exports in 1873-74, but it was in excess of the annual average of the four years preceding the latter year, viz.:—

	Mds.	£
1869-70 to 1872-73	Average per annum ...	12,741
1873-74		29,925
1874-75		18,520
		80,505
		41,961

The decrease in quantity is mainly due to the limited supplies sent down from Upper Burma, the King having made the trade in the article a monopoly also, and having set up a factory for the preparation of shell-lac and lac-dye. A manufactory has likewise been started in Rangoon, and some small shipments of shell-lac have been made, which have met with favour in the home markets. Previous to the year of report, stick-lac only was exported. The raw material was in good demand throughout the year, with increasing prices.

280. Tin has been entered separately for the first time; the exports in 1873-74 were 1,652 cwts., valued at £10,233, and in 1874-75, 2,575 cwts., of the value of £10,698, so that, whilst the quantity has increased considerably, the enhancement in value is but slight. The latter is, however, due to a more correct valuation having been made in the year of report than in the previous one. This is a branch of trade which may be expected to increase considerably as the mineral is more extensively worked in the Mergui and Tavoy Districts.

281. The trade in Timber, which is the article of export next in importance to rice, has fluctuated but little during the last three years, as far as quantity is concerned (*vide* the undernoted figures), but there has been a gradual increase in value for some time past, the declared rate having improved to the extent of £1 per ton since 1870-71.

	Tons.	£
1873-73 ... ..	115,648	725,114
1873-74 ... ..	116,902	791,184
1874-75 ... ..	716,715	814,136

About one-third of the latter quantity was shipped from Rangoon and the balance from Moulmein, the exports from the other ports being insignificant. From Rangoon there was an increase of 9,109 tons in the quantity of teak exported, the largest shipments of which were to Bombay, but at the same time the Europe market was supplied with 3,126 tons more. The shipments of teak from Moulmein fell off by 9,722 tons, said to be due to a paucity of ships; to India there was but a slight difference as compared with the previous year, but the trade with the United Kingdom fell off by upwards of 10,000 tons.

282. In the imports of merchandize there was again a satisfactory increase, the value of the trade in 1873-74 having been £4,288,535 and in 1874-75, £4,718,516—an improvement to the extent of £430,000. The increase would have been much greater had the trade in betel-nut, tobacco, and gunny-bags not fallen off to so great an extent, owing to the over-importations during 1873-74. The increase in the value of these goods in that year, as compared with 1872-73, was £308,837, whilst, in the year of report, there was a decrease of £120,485—a difference of £429,322. If the value of these three articles be deducted from the total value of merchandize imported during the last three years, the result is that, while the trade in other goods increased in 1873-74, over 1872-73 to the extent of £270,855 in 1874-75, it increased by £550,466 over the previous year.

283. The value of the import trade of Arakan during the year of report was—merchandize, £411,413—treasure, £230,596, a total of £642,009; whilst the aggregate in 1873-74 was £910,497—£362,976 being the value of merchandize, and £547,521 the amount of specie: there was thus an increase in the value of goods to the extent of £48,437, but a decrease in treasure of £316,924. Into Pegu, merchandize of the value of £3,629,956 was imported in 1874-75, against £3,304,330 in the previous year, the increase being £325,626; and the transactions in specie aggregated £374,191 and £2,507,229 in the respective years—the difference being the large sum of £2,133,038. The import trade of Tenasserim also increased as regards merchandize, the values for the two years being £677,147, and £621,229—an improvement to the extent of £55,918; but in treasure there was likewise a large decrease from £537,059 to £326,882.

284. The value of the import trade at the several ports of the Province during the last two years will be found in the following statement:—

Trade of each port.

Ports.	1873-74.				1874-75.				INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Merchandise.		Treasure.		Total.		Merchandise.		Treasure.		Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Akyab	862,976	547,371	910,347	411,876	280,206	641,482	48,300	..	..	317,165	..	..
Kyauk-hpyoo	..	150	150	136	390	520	136	240	..	..	..	..
Bangoon	3,359,788	2,843,409	5,602,197	9,537,067	372,177	8,359,244	329,279	..	..	1,971,282	..	..
Bassein	45,542	169,820	309,362	42,888	2,015	44,903	..	..	..	161,805	..	..
Moulmein	561,288	507,950	1,068,688	614,794	305,030	909,814	53,506	..	..	219,250	..	..
Tavoy	36,748	33,985	50,783	29,063	25,343	54,406	2,315	..	1,859	..	..	..
Mergui	33,543	5,374	31,917	33,291	5,069	39,260	..	..	595	..	..	269

285. The merchandise imported into Akyab increased in value by 18.31 per cent., an improvement having taken place in the trade in all the important articles, owing to more money being in circulation among the people through the high prices paid for the rice crops in 1874. The large decrease in treasure was, of course, due to the unsettled state of the rice market in February and March 1875. These two months are the busiest of the season in the purchase of the unhusked grain from the cultivators, and an idea may be formed of the difference in the trade in them in the years 1874 and 1875, even after allowing that the price was higher in the former than the latter by about 50 per cent., by the fact that the amount of treasure brought in during the one period was £422,201, and in the other only £146,969. The trade of Kyouk-hpyoo is very limited, and the small increases shown call for no special remarks. The value of the goods brought into Pangoon by sea again increased in a satisfactory degree, and the whole of the increment was in the trade from foreign ports. The Collector has observed in his report that "the import trade of this port is steadily increasing, and attention was directed during the year under report to the correct valuation of goods. To show how far close supervision in this respect was carried out by the appraisers, it may be noted that they detected under-valuations in *ad valorem* dutiable goods to the extent of £39,201 which, at an average duty of six per cent., is equal to £2,312 or 2.6 times the salaries of the present appraising staff. In point of fact, this goes to show that the cost of the establishment to the State is ~~not~~, and the more efficient that department, the greater surety is there that the Government dues are collected. Those acquainted with the working of a custom-house can understand that not half the revenue due to Government would be realized if the integrity of importers were relied on, for, with the knowledge of their goods being liable to examination and re-assessment, importers will try to slip their goods through at an under-valuation." The decrease of £2,654, shown under the head of merchandise at Bassein, was due to "a less quantity of coals having been imported." The sea-borne import trade of this port is comparatively small, most of the supplies required by the people being purchased at Rangoon, and conveyed through the creeks to their destination. At Moulmein there was a general increase, the only articles showing a noticeable falling-off being oils, raw silk, and tobacco. This was the case at Tavoy also, with which port, and likewise with Mergui, a thriving trade is carried on from Rangoon by the steamers which now call at these places frequently, and at regular intervals.

286. From India the imports of merchandise were of the value of £1,994,771 in the year under review, while in the preceding year they aggregated £1,975,423, a comparatively small increase.

The trade generally appears to have been good, but in betel-nut there was a decrease of £58,000 and in tobacco £19,700, both due to the market having been overstocked at the close of 1873-74. The value of the goods brought in from foreign ports was £2,167,596 and £1,776,958 in the respective years, an increase of £390,638, of which

£60,000 were in cotton-twist and yarn, £150,000 in piece-goods, £10,000 in wines and beer, £15,000 in crockery-ware, £20,000 in salt, £6,000 in coal, and the remainder was spread generally over most of the other principal articles. In the interportal trade in merchandise under this head, there was a small increase of £19,995, the value in 1874-75 having been £556,148 and in 1873-74 £536,163. The improvement was chiefly in cotton-twist and yarn, piece-goods, and liquors.

287. The local import market was on the whole in a satisfactory state during the year, as far as the quantity of business was concerned, but prices were not all that could be wished, and there were several failures among the bazaars dealers. More money than in previous years was in the hands of the people generally, in consequence of the high price paid for the rice crop, and in almost every description of goods there was an increased trade, as will be seen from the following details of the more important articles of import.

288. *Apparel* is again shown in the accounts separately, and the trade in it is large and improving, to meet the requirements of the increasing European community. In the year of report the value of the goods imported was £90,276 against £76,219 in 1873-74.

289. *Betel-nut* holds an important position in the trade of the province, being universally used; but the quantities and values fluctuate from year to year. In the year under review there was a considerable falling-off in the trade as compared with the preceding year, but it was, nevertheless, more than in 1872-73 and years previous thereto, as will be seen by the following figures:—

	Mds.	£
1870-71	201,611	152,863
1871-72	179,473	110,063
1872-73	186,778	111,199
1873-74	290,265	248,708
1874-75	234,166	187,219

At both Akyah and Moulmei the trade improved, but at Rangoon there was a decrease of 61,469 maunds of the value of £69,058 entirely from Indian ports, a slight increase having taken place in the traffic from the Straits and provincial ports. Large quantities were brought from India in the closing months of 1874-75, presumably owing to low freights consequent on so many steamers plying between the two chief ports on account of the famine, and large stocks were therefore in hand at the commencement of the year of report.

290. The value of *candles* imported in 1874-75 was £20,813 and in 1873-74 £19,040; large quantities are used as offerings at the pagoda shrines and to the priests. But little was done in the manufacture during the year, owing to the want of regular supplies from Upper Burma of crude petroleum, from which the paraffine, in making the candles, is obtained.

291. There is a large and increasing trade in *coal* for consumption in the numerous mills (rice and timber), erected at the principal ports of the province, and in steamers both sea-going and inland. In 1873-74 the imports aggregated 81,489 tons, valued at £55,878 and in 1874-75, 86,790 tons, of the value of £62,684.

292. The import of these staples increased to a very large extent as compared with previous years, as the following statistics will show:—

Cotton Twist and Yarn.		lbs.	£
1871-72	...	3,498,000	366,165
1872-73	...	2,016,105	406,777
1873-74	...	4,126,839	431,799
1874-75	...	5,086,888	511,228

Of the last-named quantity, Arakan took 275,718 lbs., against 271,316 lbs. in the previous year; Pegu, 4,296,981 lbs., of which 2,070,875 lbs. were exported to Upper Burma—the figures in the preceding year having been 3,493,176 lbs., and 2,186,501 lbs., respectively; and Tenasserim, 464,184 lbs., against 362,147 lbs. From Indian ports 1,679,776 lbs. were imported in 1874-75, and 1,443,906 lbs. in 1873-74; from foreign ports 3,120,075 lbs., and 2,499,969 lbs. respectively; and the inter-provincial transactions aggregated 236,982 lbs. and 182,764 lbs. in the respective years. During most of the year Turkey red yarn was in excellent request, and a very large business was done in it, shipment after shipment being sold to arrive. A good demand also existed for grey yarns, but coloured did not find a ready sale generally.

293. In *Crockery-ware* there was likewise a greatly increased trade, the value in the year of report having been £54,081 and in the previous year £38,672—an increase of £15,409, of which £14,636 were in Rangoon, where the market was, however, somewhat overstocked. Immense quantities of Englishware are now used by the Burmese and cognate races throughout both Lower and Upper Burma, and the manufacture of lacquered-ware must, to a certain extent, be affected thereby.

294. It might have been expected that, with the decreased shipments of rice, the number of *gunnies* imported would also have shown a decrease, but this was not the case, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Gunny-bags.		Number.	£
1872-73	...	9,413,386	370,589
1873-74	...	9,655,865	367,948
1874-75	...	6,616,280	366,924

an increase in the latter year as compared with the immediately preceding of 960,875 bags, but a falling off in value of £2,028, consequent on the prices in Calcutta having gone down considerably after the demand on account of the famine ceased.



299. The trade in cotton-goods increased in a satisfactory degree both in Arakan and Pegu, but there was a decrease in the Tenasserim Division, entirely in Moulmein, where there was a temporary falling off in the demand. At Akyab the value diminished slightly, owing to a more regular valuation of the goods and to lower prices prevailing in Calcutta, from whence almost all the supplies are drawn. The imports into Rangoon increased by 253,346 pieces, and by £71,061, notwithstanding that the exports to Upper Burma fell off to the extent of 92,246 pieces.

300. Silks show a general increase. Handkerchiefs, hameins, loonyees, and putsoes of English manufacture are now used largely by the Burmese, who invest their spare cash in silk-goods instead of cotton, in preference to hoarding it. One of the chief signs of the prosperity of the people is the almost universal change from cotton to silk clothing, the latter showing out the brilliant colours which they particularly affect. The increase at Akyab was 7,227 pieces with an enhanced value of £3,646; at Moulmein, 7,587 pieces and £3,821; and at Rangoon 62,001 pieces, and £134,960—18,126 pieces, valued at £36,116 more having been sent to the countries beyond the frontier. Into the chief port of the province there has been an enormous increase in the imports of these goods during the last five years, vide the following statistics:—

	Pieces.	£
1870-71	264,009	178,647
1871-72	588,896	266,565
1872-73	475,698	315,022
1873-74	659,331	410,577
1874-75	791,852	545,587

an improvement in the last over the first-named year of 173 per cent. in quantity, and 214 per cent. in value, a remarkable commentary on the improved condition of the people.

301. The imports of Woollen goods fluctuated much at the several ports—Akyab having had a great increase in both quantity and value; Rangoon, a considerable increment in quantity, but a falling off in value, owing to a quantity of cheap stuffs having been brought in to meet local requirements; and Moulmein, a large comparative increase in quantity, with but a slight improvement in value.

302. The quantities of cotton-goods imported from India were 897,078 pieces in 1873-74 and 452,564 pieces in 1874-75; from foreign ports 1,167,824 and 1,871,935 pieces respectively; while the interportal trade in the respective years was 202,821 and 204,149 pieces. Of silks the imports were as follow:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	Pieces.	Pieces.
India	487,569	448,580
Foreign	261,162	804,067
Provincial	72,169	98,019

and of woollens—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	Pieces.	Pieces.
India	15,876	18,062
Foreign	41,861	52,241
Provincial	4,825	5,941

303. Preserved Provisions and other Stores are now largely consumed by the Burmese, and there was a great increase in the trade at all the principal ports during 1874-75 as compared with 1873-74, the values for the two years having been £132,088 and £77,799.

304. An improved demand for salt took place during the year of report, the quantity passed into consumption being 30,744 tons, or 5,299 tons in excess of the cleared imports in 1873-74, and slightly over those of the year preceding. There were no imports of any note from beyond the province into Akyab and Moulmein, but almost the whole of this trade in Pegu was from foreign ports. At Rangoon, 3,434 tons more than in the previous year were imported, and at Bassein 1,541 tons additional became dutiable. At the former port large quantities of salt are now received from Trepani (Sicily), of which a good proportion is sent to Mandalay. The exports beyond the frontier during the year under review, at the rate of one per cent. duty only, which is but a nominal tax, were 12,406 tons, valued at £22,497, an increase of 1,863 tons over 1873-74. But little provincial salt is now brought into Rangoon.

305. The imports of raw-silk have increased in a very remarkable degree within the last few years, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	lbs.
1870-71	107,548
1871-72	139,986
1872-73	187,378
1873-74	232,769
1874-75	275,018

The chief portion of the trade is with Rangoon, and the increase during the year of report was 46,846lbs. Of a total of 261,805lbs., 242,501lbs. were imported from the Straits ports, and 173,619lbs. were shipped to Mandalay under the treaty of 1862—an increase of 36,688lbs. as compared with the previous year.

306. A general increase took place in the quantities of spirits, wines, and beer imported during 1874-75, as per details in the following return:—

General increase in liquor trade.

DIVISIONS.	1873-74.		1874-75.		INCREASE.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
Arakan	8,348	8,044	7,675	6,016	4,327	2,974
Pegu	7,240	4,616	11,099	5,362	3,650	746
Tenasserim	87,489	55,189	104,515	56,189	17,026	1,009
	194,619	62,549	245,005	71,716	50,986	9,168
	27,740	16,643	30,865	20,543	3,125	3,900
	18,142	6,490	25,519	8,647	7,377	2,167
	116,577	74,876	149,065	82,750	24,478	7,874
Total	220,001	78,644	291,629	85,725	61,022	12,091

The bulk of the increase was in the imports from foreign ports, so that the local revenue benefitted to the fullest extent by the enhanced consumption. Into Rangoon large quantities of cheap gin and brandy are imported from the continent of Europe, and pass into general consumption, the Burmese preferring these spirits to the locally-manufactured arrack. A considerable trade in rum, distilled at Penang and Singapore, is carried on at Moulmein by the Chinese.

307. The trade in *Sugar* again increased, but the improvement was not so great as in the previous year, as the following figures show:—

	Mds.	£
1872-73	46,292	88,581
1873-74	61,458	47,215
1874-75	64,568	54,998

A small increase took place in the Akyab imports, while a large comparative decrease was experienced at Moulmein, but the Rangoon trade improved to the extent of ten per cent. At the latter port a large proportion of the trade is carried on with the Island of Penang, from whence large quantities are received by every steamer.

308. As before stated, the large importations of *Tobacco* into Rangoon in 1873-74 interfered considerably with the trade in the year under report, but the quantities brought in during the latter year were still in excess of the imports in each of the two years previous to 1873-74. as will be seen from the following statistics:—

	Mds.	£
1871-72	181,928	159,269
1872-73	117,847	189,199
1873-74	198,166	231,160
1874-75	161,448	174,187

There was an increase in this trade at all the principal ports except Rangoon, where the decrease was 49,757 maunds, of the value of £62,242. Measures are still being taken for increasing the cultivation of the plant in the province.

309. In the trade with Upper Burma, the Shan States to the eastward, and Western China *via* Bhamo, there was a considerable increase in all branches; the aggregate value in the year under review having been £2,927,832 against £2,689,824 in 1873-74, an increment of £238,008, to which merchandise contributed £231,377, and treasure, £106,681: this is a very satisfactory increase, as compared with that of 1873-74, over the year immediately preceding, especially in merchandise. The export trade improved mainly in piece-goods, rice, salt, and raw silk; betel-nut showing a decided decrease, owing to the excessive supply of the previous year; and cotton twist, yarn, and crockery-ware a slight falling-off. In the imports there was a general increase, the most marked being in cotton, which more than doubled in quantity, and almost tripled in value—a reaction having evidently taken place in the demand for Western China—jaggery and molasses, petroleum, cotton and silk piece-goods, the latter having

increased to the extent of about 60 per cent., which shows that the people had more money than usual to spend on expensive articles of dress—much of the silk goods made in Ava being very valuable. Cutch, again, showed a diminished trade, possibly owing to the people not finding its manufacture so profitable as formerly, and in both the quantity and value of stick-lac there was a great falling-off—due to the interference of the Burmese officials with the dealings in this article by the Shans, the King having monopolized the trade in it.

310. The total trade under exports during 1874-75 was of the value of £1,470,260, of which that by the Irrawaddy was £1,394,109, and that *via* Toungoo, £76,152; while in the preceding year the value of the traffic registered at Allammyo was £1,241,679 and at Toungoo £55,966, an aggregate of £1,297,645. There was thus an increase, during the year of report, through both the frontier stations, that *via* Allammyo having improved to the extent of £152,429, or 12 per cent., and by the Toungoo route, £20,185, or 36 per cent. In quantities, however, there was a falling-off in several items. The market at Mandalay was not, on the whole, in a satisfactory state during the year, as at the commencement there were several failures among the native dealers, and subsequently the trading on the part of the King kept prices low.

311. The trade in imports increased in a satisfactory degree, also, the aggregate having been of the value of £1,457,572 against £1,292,179 in 1873-74. The value entered at the Allammyo Customhouse in the respective years was £1,254,304 and £1,087,461—an increase of £166,843 or 15 per cent.; and at Toungoo £203,267 and £204,717—a decrease of £1,450.

312. The Commissioner of Tenasserim observes that, “as regards our inland trade with Burma *via* Toungoo, I fear there will be little improvement till the King gives up his monopolies, and his people are kept from interfering with trade.

The object of the King now is to draw all the trade of the Shan States across to the Irrawaddy, there to levy his taxes on it. As communication with Toungoo improves by road and by the canal now being made, our trade with the Shan States will gradually improve in spite of the King of Burma; but if we can get him to give up his monopolies and to put a stop to the extortion, annoyance, and obstructiveness to trade that now exists, no doubt a great impulse would be given to our inland trade by Toungoo.”

313. By far the largest proportion of the goods of foreign manufacture sent to Upper Burma during the year under review was cleared through the Rangoon Custom-house under the fourth article of the Treaty entered into between the English and Burmese Governments in 1862, at the nominal duty of one per cent. The trade so passed in 1874-75 was of the aggregate value of £606,517, on which £6,065 only were realized by the Customs

Department, instead of about £30,000 which would have been collected had the same rates as those which are levied on the goods imported for consumption within our own territories been imposed. By the same Treaty the frontier duties, which yielded close upon £60,000 per annum, were abolished. The principal one per cent. goods are detailed in the following statement, which gives the values of the trade during each of the last five years:—

DESCRIPTION.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton piece-goods .. .. .	85,641	111,966	182,429	135,191	171,283
Silk ditto .. .. .	25,661	45,238	53,239	71,958	90,874
Woolen ditto .. .. .	10,311	13,664	10,111	12,887	15,695
Raw silk .. .. .	31,946	25,695	39,166	55,609	69,603
Cotton twist and yarn .. .. .	98,224	108,924	141,479	148,607	178,636
Spirits .. .. .	1,658	1,896	606	771	788
Wines .. .. .	2,998	162	272	387	429
Salt (Europe) .. .. .	..	11,729	27,769	18,971	22,497
Metals, exclusive of machinery .. .. .	2,909	4,312	..	..	4,758
Sundries .. .. .	11,919	9,021	26,966	34,618	52,153
Total ..	369,562	333,208	452,047	601,099	604,517

#### Public Works.

314. The average strength of the working staff of the Public Works Department of the Province throughout the year was—

- 1 Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,
- 1 Assistant to ditto and Assistant ditto ditto,
- 8 Executive Engineers,
- 12 Assistant ditto,
- 29 Upper subordinates,

besides the usual complement of lower subordinates; but out of this number two Executive Engineers, two Assistants, and two upper subordinates were employed for about half the year on the Railway works, so that the actual strength available for ordinary Imperial and Provincial works was, if anything, somewhat less than in the previous year. The staff for the Railway was only formed at the close of the year under review, and consisted then of—

- 1 Engineer-in-Chief,
- 4 Executive Engineers,
- 8 Assistant ditto,

and a staff of subordinates.

315. The following abstract shows that the expenditure under all heads during 1874-75 aggregated £358,200, out of grants amounting to £498,176—

Expenditure.

SERVICE HEADS.	Original budget grants.	Final grants.	Outlay.	DIFFERENCES.	
				More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imperial Ordinary	Military .. ..	35,000	35,000	30,737	4,263
	Other Services ..	3,300	3,300	3,188	112
Total Imperial Ordinary ..		38,300	38,300	33,925	4,375
Imperial Irrigation (Agricultural)	Capital .. ..	22,300	22,300	16,462	5,838
	Revenue .. ..	5,500	5,200	4,370	830
	Ordinary, Agricultural .. ..	2,500	2,500	1,317	1,183
Total Imperial Irrigation ..		30,000	30,000	22,149	7,851
Imperial State Railways	Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley, Capital Account ..	..	130,000	79,250	60,750
Total State Railways ..		..	130,000	79,250	50,750
Grand Total Imperial ..		68,300	198,300	135,324	62,976
Provincial .. ..	..	115,000	163,000	163,187	187
Municipal .. ..	..	..	36,873	13,937	22,936
Local .. ..	..	49,312	30,003	40,752	10,749
Grand Total Provincial and Local .. ..		164,312	229,876	217,876	12,000
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL BUDGETS..		232,612	428,176	353,200	74,976

316. Excluding expenditure on the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway for four years excluding expenditure on the accounts of the current year, the total appropriation and outlay for the last four years are as follows:—

	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
Final grants .. ..	£244,680	£239,018	£287,489	£298,176
Outlay .. ..	£222,364	£245,529	£263,136	£273,950
Percentage of lapse on grants .. ..	9.19	8.80	8.45	8.12
Charges for establishment .. ..	£38,929	£37,374	£40,424	£29,086

317. The results in connection with lapses which were preventable under Military works are generally unsatisfactory, and much more money in the

Thayetmyo Division might have been utilized. Under the head of "Irrigation," the lapses are explained by the abandonment of one work in the Kyouk-hpyoo District, the delay involved in the prosecution of further enquiries regarding the Thatone plain reclamation scheme, and the want of labour for the Irrawaddy embankments.

318. The following table exhibits the per-centage of establishment charges on the outlay for works and repairs during the past year, as compared with the four preceding years:—

Services.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
Imperial, ordinary .. ..	29.7	22.6	18.23	16.6	23.69
Ditto irrigation .. ..	29.7	22.6	19.18	22.5	23.12
Provincial .. ..	29.7	22.0	19.29	20.6	16.98
Local .. ..	29.7	18.4	{ 17.31 5.75 }	15.9	14.00

Aggregating the expenditure on these services, the mean per-centage for the past year becomes about 17.05. The high per-centage on imperial expenditure is entirely due to short outlay on works and repairs. The per-centage of cost of establishment to outlay on works on the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway is 20.38, as calculated by the Controller of Public Works Accounts, but this per-centage will be very much diminished during the current year as the store suspense account gets worked off.

#### IMPERIAL WORKS.

319. MILITARY, Rangoon.—The estimates of these defences were completed. Most of the huts on the eastern glacis were removed and the latter formed up. A considerable quantity of earth-work was also

done on the north and west glacis. Banquettes were formed all round, and some concrete platforms for guns constructed. All the platforms will be laid in granite, as soon as that material can be procured. The works require only some finishing-off, which will be done during the rains. The outlay during the year was £2,398, and the total expenditure up to its close £40,096.

#### Harbour defences.

320. This work is still in abeyance, pending the orders of the Government of India.

321. The work on the first section of the new barracks was completed, with the exception of some earth-work and arrangements for the supply of water. On the second section, about one-third of the earth-work was done, posts for one barrack put up, and wood-work in progress. The expenditure on the first and second sections amounted to £5,566 and £2,067 respectively, and the total outlay to £12,860 and £2,078.

322. A sum of £864 was expended in repairs to fortified works; and £457 on sundry works within the Royal Artillery lines; £140 were disbursed for the construction of temporary accommodation

Minor works and repairs.

for a company of European Infantry detached to Bassein; £1,440 were expended in improving wells in the European Infantry lines and in repairs to their barracks and other buildings; £294 on an Armourer's shop for the Native Infantry, and on repairs to buildings generally; £802 in the erection of a barrack for ordnance lascars, and in asphalt-ing the floors of godowns and staff quarters; £474, in improving the Commissariat bakery and in the necessary repairs; £215 as rent for quarters; and £1,586 on general repairs and improvements, including the staff buildings and the encamping grounds on the road between Rangoon and Toungoo.

323. *Thayetmyo*.—The escarp-wall was completed, except a small portion near the south gate. One drop-bridge was nearly finished; the other has not yet been commenced. All the earthen ramparts are completed and dressed, also the parapet on the river face. The formation of *glacis* on the west side is still in progress. The gun platforms are said to have been delayed by the contractor, but will be completed during the early part of the current year. These works are included in one original and two supplementary estimates, and the outlay during the year was £2,077, the total expenditure amounting to £12,282.

324. The expenditure on these works during the year was as follows:—

	£
Fortified works	140
Improvements to stables of Royal Artillery	288
Ditto to the rooms of the sergeants of the European Infantry, and repairs to the barracks	724
New rifle range for Native Infantry and sundry repairs	298
General repairs	428

There was much unnecessary delay in carrying out the repairs at this station.

325. *Toungoo*.—A new canteen for a garrison battery was commenced and satisfactorily completed at a cost of £554.

Canteen.

326. This work was also commenced and nearly finished, the expenditure being £1,200 against an estimate of £1,490.

Quarter-guard and cells.

327. This building was put in hand and completed in a satisfactory manner during the year, at a cost of £312.

Quartermaster Sergeant's quarters.

328. A workshop for a wing of European Infantry was commenced, and satisfactorily completed during the year at a cost of £1,152.

Voluntary workshop.

329. In repairs to fortifications, £150 were expended during the year; in petty works and repairs in connection with artillery buildings, £299; on the barracks and other buildings of the European Infantry, £825; on native Officers' quarters and sundry repairs, £340; on ordnance buildings, £89; in improving the bakery and bullock-sheds, and in repairing the Commissariat buildings, £679; and on general works, £448.

330. *Moulmein and Shwe-gyeen*.—Native troops only are stationed at these two places, and sundry repairs to barracks, &c., were executed during the year at an expense of £705.

331. OTHER SERVICES.—A new building with quarters and out-offices for the Post-master were erected at Henzada, at a cost of £326; stables for the Rangoon General Post-office, huts for peons at Henzada and Rangoon, and a small office below the Deputy Commissioner's Court at Shwe-gyeen, were constructed at a total expenditure of £167; and £117 were disbursed on general repairs.

Post-office.

332. A Telegraph Office, with quarters and out-houses, were commenced at Moundoc, in Arakan, and nearly completed, the expenditure being £375 against a sanctioned estimate of £411. Owing to the out-of-the-way situation of this place, supervision during the construction of the buildings was almost impossible, consequently the workmanship and materials are not so good as they might have been. A Telegraph Office, with quarters and out-houses, were put in hand at Bassein and completed during the year, at a cost of £653. A new Telegraph Office, with quarters and out-offices at Thayetmyo, were commenced and completed during the year, at a cost of £578.

Telegraph Offices.

333. The outlay during the year for the Province on minor works was £83, and on repairs £140. The charges for minor works comprise a well for the establishment at Monkey Point, near the mouth of the Rangoon river, fencing in the premises at Shwe-gyeen, and painting the interiors of the Telegraph offices at Toungoo and Shwe-gyeen.

Cost of minor works and repairs.

334. IRRIGATION.—The Donabyoo section, twenty-four and a half miles in length was completed, with the exception of about half a mile at its southern end, and the cutting down of the Donabyoo fort wall to form the embankment. The retirement of the line at the 34th mile from the Nga-woon river was not commenced, but will be put in hand and completed before the rains set in. The quantity of earth-work executed to date is 17,238,457 cubic feet, of which 5,914,173 cubic feet were thrown up during the year. During the height of the floods in 1874, the inner berm of the large bund over the Allay-yua *choung* slipped forward; but, owing to the strength of the puddled wall, which was made the full width of the base of the embankment, the latter was not injured. The outer slope was at once protected with three rows of jungle wood piles, and no further damage occurred. The expenditure

Irrawaddy embankments.

on this section during the year was £4,592, and the total cost up to close of the same, £11,930. The Ngathinegyoung section has been completed, with the exception of some raising which will have to be done on the first ten miles, where the work has settled below the intended height. The length of the embankment as executed is twenty-seven miles, the estimated length being twenty-five miles. The extra length is due to diversions which were found necessary, and to an extension of the bund beyond Nga-pe-seit below Ngathinegyoung (the cost of which was met from savings in the estimate), for the purpose of closing up a creek through which a great deal of flood-water formerly passed into the interior. The quantity of earth-work done up to date is 29,769,585 cubic feet, of which 10,366,053 cubic feet were executed during the year. The Executive Engineer states that, had it not been for the difficulty in procuring labour, owing to competition by the Railway Department and the Engineer in charge of the works on the Sittoung Canal, the raising of this embankment would have been completed. The expenditure during the year was £6,954, and the total cost up to date of report was £19,644. An estimate, amounting to £299, was sanctioned in 1873-74 for adding wing-walls and laps to sluices in the Henzāda section. The work was not quite completed, owing, it is said, to want of brick-layers. The expenditure during the year was £53, and to close of the same, £253. The two iron sluices for the Zaloon embankment, referred to in last year's report, were completed with the exception of fixing the bottom plates of the lifting gates which, by an omission, were not supplied by the contractor. As this work will only take a few hours when the plates are received, the sluices may be considered as practically completed with a very considerable saving on the estimated cost, the total expenditure up to date only amounting to £242. Two more 2nd class inspection bungalows with out-offices—one at Kyon-sha in the Donabyoo section, and one at Zee-min-gon in the Ngathinegyoung section—were put in hand, but not completed during the year, owing, it is alleged, to the scarcity of sawyers. The outlay during the year was £522 on the first, and £325 on the second.

335. The Kyon-hpyoo embankment was satisfactorily completed in May 1874, at a cost of £2,639, the expenditure during the year having been only £86. The Peuk-too-doung embankment has also been completed. During the south-west monsoon of 1874, a portion of the bund, where it crosses a *nullah*, was swept away; this was thoroughly repaired with the least possible delay. The expenditure during the year amounted to £702, and the total outlay up to date, to £3,394. It was found necessary, however, to raise this embankment in other places where old *nullahs* were crossed, owing to great settlement having occurred. This has been done at a cost of £157, and the work is reported to be standing well.

336. At the urgent request of the Commissioner of Tenasserim, a short embankment of 3,400 feet in length, between Doung-woon and Kamat-zine to the north of this plain, was put in hand, as an

experimental measure for the exclusion of spill and flood-water from the Beeling river, and two-thirds completed at a cost of £298. The main project has not yet been matured, the cause of the heavy inundation which prevents the cultivation of the entire tract not having been definitely ascertained during the year. The information required has been only partially obtained during the heavy floods of this year, and further levels are necessary, on the completion of which, during the dry season, it is hoped that a proper scheme will be worked out. The experimental bund above mentioned, from not having been sufficiently raised, was topped throughout a great part of its length and breached in three places during a very heavy fall of rain in June of this year. As the embankment averaged eight feet in height, it is clear that a very considerable amount of flood-water must have always passed through this gap to the southward, whether it came from the Beeling river or from other sources. This work will have to be properly repaired and strengthened during the current year.

337. Of minor and petty works on the Irrawaddy bunds £606 were expended, principally on the construction of a retired line for a portion of the Zaloon section, and a cross or flank embankment for the town of Kanoung. The outlay on the necessary repairs to these works, inclusive of buildings, sluices, &c., amounted to only £2,631 for a length of 155 miles, which is very moderate, considering that fifty miles of recently-formed embankments are included. A sum of £113 was expended in annual repairs to the Kyonk-hpyoo and Pouk-too-doung bunds, the expenditure on the latter, which was hardly completed, being trifling in comparison with its extent.

338. RAILWAYS.—Orders were received from the Government of India, in July 1874, to commence the first thirty miles of earth-work on the Rangoon and Prome line, mainly with the view of giving immediate employment to the immigrants arriving from Bengal. The final orders of the Secretary of State, granting sanction to the whole line, were communicated by the Government of India in Public Works Department resolution No. 3050-3E., dated 4th December 1874, but, owing to the paucity of establishment during the succeeding three months and other causes, the progress on the work has been somewhat limited.

339. Portions of the 1st section of thirty-two miles from Rangoon to Hmaubee and the 3rd section of thirty-six miles from Pongday to Prome were set out and levelled afresh. On the 2nd section, where the existing road has to be utilized, nothing was done.

340. All the land, with the exception of a few areas for stations and some re-alignments in the 2nd section, has been taken up.

341. In the 1st section, twenty-five miles were actually put in hand, of which about twenty miles have been completed. In the same section a very good

beginning was made towards raising the site of the terminal station with earth carried from the cuttings in the town and cantonment by locomotive engine-power. In the 2nd section, the existing road requires but little, beyond adjustment of gradients, to adapt it for the permanent way; this will, however, require a considerable amount of levelling and setting out. In the 3rd section, the earth-work was well in hand throughout, and about ten miles have been fully completed.

342. In the 1st section, three over-bridges for the roads in Rangoon were completed and two others about half finished; a sixth, in the suburbs, was also well in hand. All the small bridges and culverts for the first fifteen miles were so well in hand at the close of the year, that they will be completed during the early part of the current year, excepting the superstructure for three iron bridges. No bridge-work was undertaken on the 2nd and 3rd sections. It may, however, be remarked that, for the most part, the existing bridges on the road in the 2nd section will be utilized.

343. Sufficient brick slag has been received over with the road to form bottom ballast for the entire 2nd section, but nothing has been done towards the collection of ballast for the 1st and 3rd sections.

344. Three thousand four hundred and seven rails with fastenings were received, and three-fourths of a mile laid for temporary purposes. Arrangements have been made for the supply of the entire quantity of sleepers required, but very few were actually delivered on the line, either at Rangoon or Prome.

345. Three 3rd class station-houses have been contracted for in the 1st section, but only the one at Kemendine has been commenced. A small temporary work-shop was built during the year at Rangoon, and furnished with some plant, &c. Two locomotives were received and put together, and twenty tip-waggons were made up.

346. The following statement shows some of the quantities and value of work executed in the actual construction of the line during the year:—

			£
1st Division	Earth-work ... ..	7,500,688 cubic feet	6,285
	Bridge-work ... ..	...	5,820
	Level-crossings ... ..	...	44
	Fencing ... ..	...	808
	Ballast and Permanent Way ... ..	...	56
	Stations, buildings, workshops, &c., ... ..	...	449
Total 1st Division ...			12,901
2nd Division	Ballast (almost entirely received on transfer from Provincial road) 2,991,290 cubic feet		18,249
Total 2nd Division ...			18,249

3rd Division	Earth-work ... ..	5,689,768 cubic feet	4,627
	Stations and buildings ... ..	...	30
Total 3rd Division ...			4,657
Grand total for construction ...			85,807

to which must be added for

Preliminary expenses in surveying, setting out lines, &c.	524
Acquisition of land, compensation, &c.	5,687
Engineering plant, machinery, and furniture...	4,358
Locomotive stock ... ..	3,426
Carriage and waggon stock ... ..	1,819
Suspense account (value of rails, fish-plates, bolts, spikes, crossings, weigh-bridge, timber, and sleepers, &c., not issued to works) ... ..	23,280
Outstanding advances ... ..	929
Total ...	89,508
Add, for establishment and contingencies ...	8,940
Grand total expenditure ...	79,250
Deduct expenditure in England ...	1,740
Net expenditure in India ...	77,510

347. On the recommendation of Mr. Eden, the Chief Commissioner, the Government of India, in Public Works Rangoon and Toungoo line. Department letter No. 1962R., dated 17th August 1874, sanctioned the survey of this line as a preliminary measure, but establishment for carrying out the work did not arrive till after the close of the official year. The best part of the working season was thus lost, and consequently no progress can be recorded for the year under review.

#### PROVINCIAL WORKS.

348. A second shed at the Phayre Street Wharf, Rangoon, for the reception of goods, was completed during the year, with the exception of metalling the approach to it. The total expenditure on this building amounted to £693. On minor works and repairs in this department throughout the Province, £267 were expended.

349. At Bassein a distillery with quarters for an Excise Officer was constructed at a cost of £582, and a similar building was finished at Henzada, the total disbursements on it being £556. A distillery was also completed at Moulmein, at a cost of £556.

350. JAILS.—An enclosure wall for the new jail buildings at this station was completed. The expenditure during the year being £659, and the total outlay up to date £2,189. The total outlay on the new jail buildings has been £3,841, of which nearly £3,500 were expended during the year under review, mainly on the collection of large quantities of materials, such as timber, shingles, and bricks. The Jailer's quarters were commenced and the foundations laid in; but beyond this little or no

progress can be reported. As the contractor's bad work had to be pulled down several times.

351. The extension of the jail enclosure wall was completed in the early part of the year, at a total cost of £2,045, the outlay for the year being £218.

Rangeon.

Quarters for Superintendent were finished by the jail department at a cost of £1,107; the expenditure for the year amounted to £153. Partition walls in the old jail were also built by the jail department, the materials only having been furnished by the Public Works Department at an outlay of £213. Two of the three new work-sheds were completed, and the third nearly so, only the laying of the roofing tiles remaining to be done. Some delay was caused by the indecision of the Jail Authorities in regard to the site for this last shed. The expenditure was £650. Two new wards—one for civil and one for under-trial prisoners—in the new enclosure, were nearly two-thirds finished. The outlay for the year under review was £625. The European prisoners' ward was also commenced and about half completed, at an expenditure of £195. Good progress was made on the solitary cells for Europeans, about 37,126 cubic feet of brick-work having been executed and most of the materials brought to site. The payments during the year amounted to £1,066. The Hospital and out-offices for Native prisoners, was commenced late in the year, the expenditure being £537 against a sanctioned estimate of £1,903, but the allotment made was fairly worked up to. The building for the saw-mill was completed, and the machinery received from England erected. Some work of a minor nature still remains to be done. A tank was completed and borings were commenced for fresh water in the bottom of the tank. A canal for floating timber from the river was in progress. The outlay against the budget provision of £2,000, amounted to £2,174.

352. The wards for female and civil prisoners, and the dry-earth shed were completed, also the latrine, cook-house, and enclosure wall for females. The

Kyook-hpyoo.

main enclosure wall was raised to the required height and plastered. The solitary cells and two wards for long-term prisoners were nearly finished. The ward for simple imprisonment and hospital was in progress. The commencement of these works was greatly delayed by difficulty in getting contractors for delivery of timber from the forests and for the work of construction; hence, the expenditure only reached £700 out of a budget appropriation of £950. The total outlay amounts to £1,275, against an estimate of £1,948. As all the materials are at site, the buildings will certainly be completed about the middle of the current year.

353. The female ward and partition wall were commenced and completed during the year, at a cost of £890.

Moulmein.

One work-shed was finished during the year at a cost of £197. The balance available for the other work-shed was transferred to the Jail Authorities for the purpose of carrying out, by contract labour, sundry jail work required by the Inspector-General of

354. A new lock-up at Nagathineyoung was commenced late in the year, and was about half-finished with an outlay of £296.

Bassein District.

355. The extension of the lock-up at this station, in order to accommodate more prisoners, was commenced. The surrounding wall was nearly finished, and two new wards more than three-fourths completed. Expenditure, £355.

Henzada.

356. The lock-up for the new civil station of Ma-oo-bin was not commenced till just at the close of the year; a trifling expenditure of only £48 having been incurred in the purchase of materials.

Thonkwa District.

357. The female ward in this jail was completed at a cost of £399, of which £196 were expended during the year.

Thayetmyo.

358. The outlay on minor works and repairs to the jails throughout the province was £2,358. The principal minor works consisted of a printing office for the Rangeon jail; sawing-shed, palisading and bathing-places at Bassein; a guard-house for Prome lock-up; and a second partition wall of brick work in Moulmein jail. The only extraordinary outlay on repairs was the re-roofing of most of the buildings in the Tavoy jail with shingles instead of tiles, to render them watertight, and this amounted to £517. The remaining expenditure on the maintenance of all the jails in the Province was very moderate.

359. The lock-up with residence for inspector in the town of Rangeon was satisfactorily completed and occupied during the year, the expenditure being £2,792, and the total cost £3,811. A Police Office at Henzada was commenced and finished during the year at a cost of £291. On minor works and repairs £173 were disbursed. The main expenditure was on account of the construction of a Police magazine at Palukwa in the Arakan Hill Tracts, which was very nearly completed.

Police.

360. For the Protestant Church at Bassein, an expenditure of £230 was incurred in constructing a wooden porch for the entrance, and sun-shades over the windows on the south side. An ornamental wooden porch was in progress for Trinity Church in the Town of Rangeon, and nearly completed at an outlay of £157. A verandah was added to the Roman Catholic Chapel in the Cantonment of Rangeon at a cost of £83. The expenditure on petty works and repairs, on account of churches and cemeteries throughout the Province, was £1,164. The whole of the interior of Christ Church in the cantonment of Rangeon, was re-painted, and the pendants re-hung. Special repairs were executed to the roof of the Roman Catholic Chapel at Toungoo.

Ecclesiastical.

361. The main building of the High School in Rangeon was completed, also the wash-house, latrine, and yard, with the exception of fixing the pumps and earthenware pans that had not arrived from England. The hall,

Educational.

covered way, and servants' quarters were in progress. The expenditure during the year was £6,597, and the total outlay up to date £13,628. The girls' school, estimated to cost £2,033, was commenced late in the year; the posts and frame-work have been put up and materials collected at an expenditure of £498. An estimate for improving the Government school at Akyab, amounting to £438, was sanctioned, but hardly any progress has been made with the work, owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials at Akyab, which necessitated the collection and shipping of timber, &c., from Rangoon. The expenditure during the year was £153. The Government school at Moulmein was completed, with additions and improvements subsequently estimated for, at a cost of £2,104, the expenditure during the year amounting to £904.

362. MEDICAL.—A ward for lepers and incurables, and an operating theatre were constructed in the Civil General Hospital compound, Rangoon, the former costing £767, and the latter £250.

363. A new lock-hospital was commenced at Prome, and completed at a cost of £233. The old building was sold to the Forest Department for an office.

364. The foundations of the new courts for the Judicial Commissioner, Recorder, &c., were completed, and walls built up to within three feet of the first floor level. The outlay for the year amounted to £5,237, and up to its close to £6,676, the whole estimated cost being £15,682. The old Public Works store-yard and buildings thereon were transferred to the Jail Department. New premises were constructed in a more central locality, and practically completed for £336. At Henzada a new building for the accommodation of Officers on circuit was commenced and completed at a cost of £90. Alterations to six Myookes' court-houses in the Henzada District, so as to admit of their giving shelter to inspecting Officers, were commenced, but not completed, owing to difficulty in procuring labour and material. The expenditure amounted to £230. A court-house and custom-house at Allanmye was commenced and nearly completed during the year at a cost of £402. Two Myookes' court-houses, with witness-shed and out-offices, were constructed by District Officers for about £600, one at Moodong and one at Thatone in the Tenasserim Division, and a witness-shed and lock-up at Kyouk-hpyoo in Arakan were completed.

365. COMMUNICATIONS.—The piers of the large bridge over the Pegu river were strengthened at a cost of £456, the greater part of which was spent during the year. In minor works of improvement to the formation bridges, and bungalows on this section, there was an expenditure of £259, and on annual repairs of all kinds £2,096, or at the rate of about £63 per mile, for which it was maintained in fair order.

366. Owing to floods topping the road in several places, the formation level had to be raised. A sum of £434 was expended on this work during the year,—the progress has not been satisfactory. On

Rangoon and Pegu road,  
thirty-four miles.

to the formation bridges, and bungalows on this section, there was an expenditure of £259, and on annual repairs of all kinds £2,096, or at the rate of about £63 per mile, for which it was maintained in fair order.

366. Owing to floods topping the road in several places, the formation level had to be raised. A sum of £434 was expended on this work during the year,—the progress has not been satisfactory. On

Rangoon and Prome road, 1st section, thirty-seven miles.

metalling this section, for which an appropriation of £2,600, was granted, only £776 were spent. On bridging, fair progress has been made, ten or twelve bridges having been completed during the year at a cost of £3,152. The two inspection bungalows, commenced in the previous year, have been completed at a total outlay of £1,443, payments during the year under review being £789. The cost of maintenance was £547, or about £20 per mile.

367. The progress on earth-work, permanent and temporary inspection bungalows, and temporary bridging on these sections has been very satisfactory, the allotment for the year having been fully worked up to throughout the line; angle has been kept down. The total amount expended on this item is £4,589, of which £645 were expended during the year. The twenty-seven miles of earth-work in progress at the close of last year, together with ten miles additional, have been completed and work is now in progress on the remaining twenty-four miles, the whole of which, with the possible exception of three or four miles, will be finished before the rains set in. Altogether 231½ lakhs of earth-work, costing £16,607, have been executed, of which ninety-five lakhs, costing £6,815, were the work of the year. It has been found necessary to construct some extra bridges. The whole were maintained in fair order, the cost being charged to contingencies. The three second-class inspection bungalows at Kyouk-ta-lin (eleventh mile), Kamoung-young (thirty-second mile), Kine-gyoung (fifty-fourth mile,) commenced last year, have been finished; two only remain to be built, one at Seo-gon-gon (sixty-fifth mile), and one at Chaung-zouk (seventy-seventh mile). On the five completed bungalows, £2,592 have been expended, £806 being the expenditure of the year. The Pyoo bridge was virtually completed at a cost of £2,183, the expenditure during the year being £383. The piling of the bridge over the Koon stream was completed, trusses framed, and all materials at site, the expenditure during the year being £580. Piles, iron-work, and timber were collected for a similar bridge for the Kau-le-yah at a cost of £264. Materials were also collected for two larger bridges over the Yan-uay and Beinda streams, on which £781 were expended during the year.

368. On annual maintenance and petty repairs, £1,964 were spent, or at the rate of nearly £66 per mile; the Rangoon and Prome road, 1st section, thirty miles, road, where metalled with laterite, requires constant repair.

369. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections, there was an expenditure, in preparing burnt clay ballast, of £1,094, and in completing the bridges and culverts, of £648. About 100 miles of this road as completed, together with burnt clay ballast to the value of £17,005, have been handed over to the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway, which, under orders from the Government of India, is to provide for the construction of a new road where required, running parallel with the Railway line. A considerable portion of the 5th section between Pongday and Engmah, has been raised above highest

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th sections, 140 miles.

flood level, and additional flood openings provided, at a total outlay of £1,489, the expenditure for the year being £346. A hundred miles of the road for the most part unmetalled, but bridged throughout, were maintained in repair during the year at an outlay of £2,500, or at the rate of £25 per mile. Forty miles, all metalled and bridged, cost for maintenance and extensive renewal of metal about £3,000, or £75 per mile per annum, and as there is an immense amount of traffic on this section, something like this rate will always be required to keep it in decent order. Broken stone metal is being substituted, wherever it can be advantageously applied, in lieu of gravel, which is quite unsuited for the heavy traffic.

370. This section was maintained in fair order at a cost of about £1,700, or £43 per mile. The traffic on it, as compared with that on the 5th section, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Prome and Allanmyo, is trifling.

371. The first and second sections of this road, fifty-three miles, fully metalled and bridged, has been fairly maintained for about £1,250, or £23 per mile; the traffic is only heavy for about sixteen miles out of Moulmein. A large bridge over the first tidal creek on this line was destroyed by a heavy flood in 1873. A sum of £229 was spent during the year in collecting and preparing materials for its reconstruction, but up to the present time, no proper design and estimate for the purpose have been received from the Executive Engineer. The third and fourth sections, fifty-eight miles, are at present intended to be only a cleared and slightly-raised track. Fifteen miles of the line have been cleared of jungle and side-trenched, at a cost of £778.

372. The first section, Martaban to Thatone, thirty-seven miles, is intended for the present to be only a slightly raised and cleared track capable of improvement hereafter, according to the future requirements of traffic. About twenty miles have been cleared and side-trenched at an outlay of £1,774.

373. No progress whatever has been made during the year in renewal of culverts on the first section of this line. This is attributed by the Executive Engineer, to bad establishment and contractors. The first section of twenty-five miles was maintained by the Public Works Department at a cost of £143, and the remaining eighty-five miles of hill track by the Telegraph Department, at an outlay of £420.

374. The earth-work formation, with temporary bridges and inspection lungalows, has been practically completed at a cost of £5,167, the outlay for the year amounting to £1,504; about £620 have been expended in collecting and spreading gravel metal, the greater part during the year under review. Nothing has been done by the Executive Engineer on the further alignment required over the hills. The road was maintained in fair order at a cost of £261.

375. A small estimate for providing additional water-way on this line was sanctioned, but not more than a third of the work was done, owing, it is said, to bad establishment and contractors. A large bridge over the Tahpoon creek was about half completed. The expenditure amounted to £365, out of an estimate of £620. An outlay of £503 was incurred on repairs, chiefly for collection of metal. The traffic is very heavy on this branch road, which will form an admirable feeder hereafter for the Railway.

376. A road from Mengla Zee-gong to Tsa Lu Kan Lan, about four miles in length, was nearly completed and bridged at a cost of £734; another of over six miles from Leppadan to Wah-yua-bin-zin was projected, but no commencement made on it, owing to some change in alignment being deemed advisable.

377. On the last six miles of this section up to the Myo Ferry, estimated to cost £4,173, the work has been nearly completed at an outlay of £3,575, the expenditure during the year amounting to £1,700.

378. At the Pegu lock, sixteen of the well blocks for foundations of the upper gateway have been built, of which eleven are being countersunk, five having nearly reached the proper depth. For the foundations of the lower gateway, the well curbs have been prepared and laid ready for the commencement of brick-work. A good supply of materials has been collected, and the gates are being put together. At the Sittoung lock, great difficulty was experienced in keeping down the water level, owing to the want of sufficiently-powerful pumping appliances; this will be rectified during next working season. Sheet piling round the abutments and gateways was put in hand. Eleven well foundation blocks were built and countersinking was commenced. A considerable quantity of materials was collected at site. The expenditure on these two locks has been £9,065. On the formation of the canal itself, a sum of nearly £20,700 was expended during the year under report, making the total outlay up to its close £25,557 out of an estimate of £49,782. Considerably more than half of the work was completed. A heavy embankment across the Abya creek, to keep out the tide water and floods of the Sittoung river, was in progress. The whole of the excavation required should be completed by May 1876, unless any exceptional difficulty in keeping down the spring water be experienced.

379. LIGHT-HOUSE.—The Government brig *Dolphin* not being available, the barque *W. T. Lewis* and a large lighter had to be chartered for the accommodation of the contractor's establishment, work people, and stores. Operations at the reef did not commence till the 17th November 1874, when the fixing of the staging was started. The actual business of screwing down piles was only commenced on the 18th December, and was carried on but slowly and at intervals, till the 6th March 1875, when the last available pile was screwed down. Fourteen days were lost in January.

owing to the breaking of the only capstan-head that the contractor had at site, while attempting to unscrew one of the two remaining bent piles; much other time also has been wasted. There are now twenty-one piles in position, of which three had to be sunk to proper level with fifteen-inch steel-pointed rock screws. These last gave a great deal of trouble, one of them requiring seven days' of work and two hundred and eighty-two revolutions of the capstan to get it down to the proper depth. The heads of two other piles had to be cut off 18 inches and 7½ inches, respectively, to bring them to the general level. The superstructure could not be commenced last season, owing to the unfortunate loss in the Rangoon river of the centre pile while being shipped on a steamer for transit to Akyab, consequent on the breaking of the ship's tackle. This mischance has arisen from the contractor despatching his materials to Rangoon instead of to Akyab, thus putting Government to the very unnecessary expense and risk of double transshipment and delivery, and causing needless delay in the progress of the work. On the 27th March the operations closed, but much work, in the way of drilling and fitting, was left undone that might have been done. From the result of this season's work it is questionable whether the light will be exhibited by April 1876. The expenditure, up to the close of the year under report, amounted to £49,881 against an estimate of £55,795, the payments during the year having been £11,268.

880. LOCAL WORKS.—The market with *kotwallie* in the Sudder Bazaar at Rangoon was completed. The cantonment roads were kept in order at an outlay of £421.

*General*  
A new charitable hospital and dispensary was constructed at Toungoo, costing £845. A separate ward, for the treatment of infectious cases, was built in the compound of the general hospital, Rangoon, at a cost of £938.

S 1. On metalling Tamway, Kokein, and Magistrate's Boundary roads, Rangoon, an expenditure of £899 was incurred, and a trifling outlay on repairs of £76. A new road, with six-foot crest for foot and horse traffic, and proper bridges for carts, was put in hand between Ngathingyoung and Pandau, the distance being nearly twelve miles, the outlay amounting to £474. A sum of £102 was expended on the commencement of a strand road at Ma-oo-bin, the head-quarter station of the Thonkva District. An estimate for £3,682 was sanctioned for the formation and temporary bridging of the 1st section of the Thayetmyo and Mandon road, twenty-one miles in length; one-third of the work has been done at an outlay of £1,842, the payments for the year amounting to £1,125.

882. Before the Rangoon Municipality undertook the sole charge of its own public works, the following were carried out by this department, *viz.*, Municipal Bazaar, on which £7,841 were expended during the year, the total outlay being £18,850, for which sum this building is more than half completed; it might have been nearly finished, but for the great and unaccountable delay in sending out the roofing tiles from England, which indeed have not yet arrived, although more than eight months

have elapsed since the work was transferred to the Municipality; £1,881 were spent in improving the canal tanks and raising town lots; £244 in improvements to Police stations; £585 in repairs and maintenance of Municipal buildings, &c.; £554 on the smaller bazaars; on the formation of new roads and metalling the smaller streets, £639; on maintenance of roads and streets, &c., £3,878. The timber bridge over the canal at Keighley Street, commenced last year, was completed, £232 having been spent during the year. On the construction of brick side-drains to the streets, with outlet into the river, there was an expenditure of £2,035, and in preparing new sites for squatters, ejected from town lots on account of requirements of the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, £1,086. A small outlay of £177 was incurred in partially deepening the western end of the Kan-dau-gyee Lake as part of a project for the water-supply of the town.

883. Further improvements to the Soolay Pagoda Wharf have been effected by putting up a two-ton steam travelling crane, with turn-tables and rails for the trucks, also by opening out side-doors in the godowns. Quarters for the Superintendent of Wharves have been nearly completed. The outlay on these improvements amounted to £2,968, making the total cost of the Latter Street and Soolay Pagoda wharves and godowns up to the close of the year £52,822. The enlargement of the port tank at Dallah could not be quite completed, as the water did not fall sufficiently; £291 were spent on this work. The landing jetty between Monkey Point and the Botatoung creek was completed. The new office for the Master Attendant, commenced last year, was finished with considerable improvements on the original design, at a total cost of £385, of which £648 were spent during the year. Excellent new quarters were also constructed for the accommodation of this Officer, costing in all £1,079, and a set of quarters for Harbour Masters and Larcaers at Monkey Point at an outlay of £398. On petty works and repairs to port light-houses, wharves, jetties, buildings, tanks, &c., there was an expenditure of about £850.

884. The re-construction of the China Buckeer light-house was commenced during the year, and the sub-structure framing very satisfactorily completed by the 22nd March. Very great difficulties were experienced on this work, owing to the prevalence of bad weather for some time, and the strength of the tides (five knots), by which the wooden staging piles were repeatedly knocked over, and the bed of the sea at site dangerously scoured to depths of from nine to eleven feet. The wooden piles and iron sinkers were therefore removed, as soon as they could possibly be dispensed with, and the timber heads and staging secured to the iron piles which were already in position. On the removal of the timber staging, the bed of the sea silted up again to its former level, and the iron piles are all down to from eighteen to twenty feet below this. Each pile took on an average twenty-six hours to screw down, a double purchase-winch with twelve men being employed for the lower half depths: the ground varied in density. The expenditure amounted to £5,580.

385. Dredging was commenced on the Dallah Shoal in the harbours of Rangoon on the 13th January, but, owing to defects in machinery and engines, which were not set right before the close of the year, but little work was done, and that at a very heavy cost, viz., 144,000 cubic feet removed at an outlay of £1,916. The dredger cannot work in a greater depth than five fathoms, or thirty feet; consequently, work can only go on during a portion of each tide instead of continuously, and will be very costly where there is a great rise and fall of tide, as in Rangoon harbour.

386. In metalling streets and the construction of brick side-drains 5742 were expended, and £331 on the reconstruction of the Julliapore river wall.

The allotments made were not fully utilized, owing to scarcity of labour and material, and to the works having been transferred during the year to the Municipality.

387. In the town, on roads, streets, culverts, &c., including repairs and maintenance, there was an outlay of £980, and on improvements and special repairs to bazaars of £1,179. A Municipality was formed in this town also during the year.

388. The reclamation and drainage of the Sin-zoo quarter of the town was nearly completed at an outlay of £6,816, the expenditure during the year amounting to £3,697, of which £2,762 were contributed from Provincial funds. Since this project has been taken in hand, the town has been singularly exempt from attacks of cholera and small-pox, and consequently the initiation and spread of these disorders into the surrounding district have been, humanly speaking, prevented.

389. In the town, brick side-drains and culverts were constructed, at a cost of £469; a branch road, making a short cut to the cantonment, was completed for £199; an expenditure of £422 was incurred on additions and improvements to the bazaar and its maintenance, and £90 were spent in repair of streets.

### Telegraphs.

390. There are two divisions of the Telegraph Department in this Province,—the Arakan extending from Mung-doo, on the Naf estuary which divides

Arakan from Chittagong, to Padoung on the western bank of the Irrawaddy; and the British Burma, from Padoung south, with branches to Myingoung, Henzada, and Bassein, and on to Moulmein, Shwe-gyeen, and Toungoo.

391. The length of the line in the former division is 415½ miles, and of wire 498 miles; there are five stations, and the amount of fees realized for messages during the year was £9,944.

392. In the latter division the length of the line is 780 miles, and the length of wire employed 1,016 miles, of which 682 miles are insulated, and 334 unsulated. The Irrawaddy river is crossed three times by cables; the Salween twice by spans; the Shwe-gyeen river once by two spans; the Chinee Myoung, and a branch of the Irrawaddy by spans; and the Hine river and the Bassein creek by cables.

393. The number of stations in this division is twelve, and the message fees received in 1874-75 aggregated £22,298, of which £17,851 were collected in Rangoon; in the previous year the total realizations were £23,473, and Bangoon yielded £12,814 were to the credit of the Government of India in 1874-75, and £12,907 in 1873-74; considering the abnormal increase in the latter year, due to the Bengal scarcity, this is not an unfavourable result.

The number of paid messages sent in the year under report was 52,918 against 49,073 last year. Thus there was an increase under this head, with a decrease in receipts; this was due to the fact that the messages sent about the famine were as a rule much longer than usual, and partly also to the more extended use of codes, by which one word is made to express a sentence, so that messages of twenty words in ordinary language, are condensed into half that number, or less, of code words.

394. During the year, a second wire was erected between Rangoon and Promé, supported on the same posts as the first wire; a defective cable across the Irrawaddy at Promé was replaced by a good one; the line from Allamyo to the frontier was insulated; and the line in the town of Rangoon re-constructed. Considerable injury is done from time to time to insulated lines, by the insulators being willfully damaged, and the earth-wires on the posts cut; but the only instance in which willful interference of this kind was brought home to the offenders occurred near Allamyo, in the neighbourhood of which place, on the double line of seven miles, almost every wire was cut. A Burman was here found, who was, according to his own admission, amusing himself by throwing a heavy club at the insulators and wires; he was arrested and sentenced to hard labour for some weeks.

395. New offices were erected during the year at Thayeto and Bassein, and the department is now housed throughout the division in Government buildings.

396. The Electric Telegraph has been extended from the British frontier beyond Thayeto to Mandalay, by His Majesty the King of Ava. This line appears to have worked a little better than during 1873-74, but there is still a great deal of improvement wanted.

The share of the Indian Government of the traffic from Upper Burma was £342, and as nearly all messages are to British Burma, the total amount of fees collected in Ava may be taken as about £680. The

share of the King's Government on messages to Upper Burma was £436, which is something less than half the collections on these messages. These figures give for messages both ways about £1,600 as the total value of the traffic. There is no doubt it would be very much larger if the department were better managed in Mandalay.

### Post Office.

897. During the year each Imperial Post-office in the Circle (Bhamo only excepted) was visited by the Chief Inspector, who reported that, at the close of the year, competent and trustworthy men were in charge of each.

898. The Deputy Post-master of Kyouk-hpyoo and the clerk in charge at Shwe-gyeen were convicted on criminal charges,—the one for embezzlement, and the other for opening and making a copy of a service letter posted by the Deputy Commissioner.

899. The mail services entrusted to the British India Steam Navigation Company have been punctually performed. The Company now maintains a fortnightly line of steamers between Madras

and Rangoon and between Moulmein and Singapore, instead of a monthly line as heretofore. Weekly communication is kept up with Calcutta, and fortnightly with Akyab. The contract concluded with the Company on 4th November 1875, places Rangoon once more in direct communication with Port Blair. Since the beginning of January the Burmese Steam Tug Company have maintained fortnightly communication between Moulmein, Tavoy, and Mergui.

400. The steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla and Burmese Steam Navigation Company have been running regularly to Mandalay and to Bhamo. The contract entered into with the Company on the 2nd January 1875, to maintain steam communication between Rangoon and Bassein, does not as yet benefit the Postal service as the principal mail has still to be conveyed by canoe. This has since been remedied by the establishment of a bi-weekly steam service.

401. No new Imperial Post-Offices have been opened during the year, but District offices have been opened at Shwe-doung, in the Prome District; at Ngathineyoung and Laymyethna in the Bassein District; at Pegu in the Rangoon District; and at Yandoon, Pantannau, Donabyon, and Na-oo-bin in the Thonkwa District. With the exception of the three first named, it is expected these offices will, at no lengthened period hence, develop into Imperial offices.

### V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

402. The gross receipts of revenue from all sources during the year under report were £1,665,073, of which £1,486,445 were on account of the Imperial Government, £21,008 on account of Provincial Services, and £164,620 on account of Local Funds and Municipalities. As compared with the collections of 1873-74, these sums show a decrease in Imperial revenue of £14,667, an increase in Provincial Services of £7,668, and of £22,698 in Local Funds and Municipalities—the aggregate collections of that year having been £1,669,885, of which £1,501,118 were Imperial, £26,845 Provincial, and £141,927 Local Funds, &c.

403. The population of British Burma in 1873-74 numbered 2,818,573, and in the year under report 2,896,868, so that the receipts of the former year give an incidence of 11s. 10d. per head, of which 10s. 7½d. were Imperial, 2½d. Provincial, and 1s. Local, and in the latter year of 11s. 7½d. per head, of which 10s. 3½d. were Imperial, 2½d. Provincial, and 1s. 1½d. Local.

404. The expenditure on the civil administration of the Province (including refunds and drawbacks and charges of collection under certain heads) during the year under review, aggregated £625,857, while that of the previous year amounted to £544,800. Deducting these sums from the Imperial and Provincial receipts for the two years, balances of £895,096 and £982,598, respectively, remained available for Military and Public Works expenditure, and for a share of the cost of the Central Government. The Local Funds disbursements in 1874-75 amounted to £175,309, and in the preceding year to £142,058.

405. The following tabular statement shows the gross revenue and disbursements on account of Imperial and Provincial Services for each of the past eight years:—

Revenue and disbursements for past eight years.

1874-75.]

DETAIL OF ITEMS.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1869-70.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
<i>Gross Revenue.</i>								
Civil Department (Imperial and Provincial)	1,086,708	1,306,575	1,191,666	1,304,927	1,264,373	1,416,398	1,537,458	1,530,453
Public Works ditto	5,521	12,480	5,285	4,665	4,687	4,018	4,266	6,543
Total	1,092,229	1,319,055	1,197,181	1,309,592	1,269,060	1,420,416	1,541,724	1,537,996
<i>Gross Charges.</i>								
Civil Department (Imperial and Provincial)	461,138	494,588	516,856	497,003	496,714	500,170	544,860	625,357
Public Works ditto	287,303	283,674	182,004	143,885	168,644	208,254	215,028	207,487
Total	748,441	778,262	698,860	640,887	665,358	708,424	759,888	832,844
<i>Results.</i>								
Surplus in Civil Department	625,590	711,967	675,010	707,925	757,659	916,196	992,598	895,006
Deduct net Public Works expenditures	261,787	241,194	177,339	189,330	163,957	199,286	210,763	200,644
Net surplus available for Military expenditures, and for a share of the cost of the Central Government	345,795	470,798	497,671	568,705	593,702	716,922	771,836	694,452

406. From these figures it will be observed that, during this period, there has been a total net surplus of £4,657,844, so that this Province has contributed an annual average of £582,330 for military expenditure and other charges of the Central Government. The contribution from the revenues of British Burma, on account of the above charges in 1867-68, was £343,793. During the year under report it amounted to £694,452, an increase of 102 per cent. in the eight years.

407. The net charge of the troops stationed in the Province for the year under report was £247,005,\* leaving the surplus available for the Central or Imperial Government at £447,446.

408. In the year under review, as in the previous year, the Post-office receipts and charges have been included in the Imperial Finance Accounts of the Province.

(a)—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

409. RECEIPTS.—The Imperial receipts for 1874-75, as compared with those of 1873-74, show a decrease of £13,668, or '89 per cent. In this year the Customs decreased by £21,794 or 5'26 per cent., the year 1873-74 having shown a decrease of 2 per cent. as compared with 1872-73; while the latter showed the extraordinary increase of nearly 46 per cent. over 1871-72. The trade has been slack during the year under review owing to the disturbing effect of the late heavy rice shipments to India. The growers, having realized high prices in the previous year, held out for similar prices this season, which the state of the home markets did not warrant merchants offering, consequently shipments were deferred to the detriment of the Customs revenue in the closing months of 1874-75. The first quarter of the year 1875-76 shows an increase of £56,492 as compared with the corresponding period of the last year—a proof that the decline of the Customs revenue in 1874-75 was due to causes affecting that particular period of time rather than to any real retrogression of the trade in the great staple of the Province.

410. The realizations from land revenue, capitation tax, land assessment in lieu of capitation tax, fisheries, sale proceeds of waste lands (a sum of £10 only was received on this account in the Shwepyithar District), &c., aggregated £728,425 in 1874-75, against £752,334 in 1873-74, and showing a decrease of £23,909. This decrease is nominal, and has been made good by the increased collections (£51,492) in the first quarter of 1875-76; the same causes that operated to defer the customs duty on the rice exported, affected the land revenue collections—cultivators standing out for better prices, and withholding payment of the Government dues in the expectation of forcing their terms on the

\* This figure has been obtained from the Controller of Military Accounts, Madras Government.

purchasers. The following figures give the collections and assessments under this head during the last five years:—

Years.	Collections.	Demand.
	£	£
1870-71 ...	597,620	638,621
1871-72 ...	646,416	654,654
1872-73 ...	656,078	679,182
1873-74 ...	752,888	788,262
1874-75 ...	728,425	791,246

The details of the territorial revenue demand for the year 1873-74 and 1874-75 are given in the following comparative statement:—

DETAILS.	Demand for		Increase in 1874-75 over	
	1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	
	£	£	£	Per-centage.
1—Land tax .. .. .				
2—Capitation tax .. .. .	396,683	440,704	44,021	11.10
3—House tax and land assessment in lieu of capitation tax in towns .. .. .	246,963	254,240	7,277	2.96
4—Fisheries, sea and inland .. .. .	15,262	15,779	497	3.25
	79,334	80,523	1,189	1.50

411. The above figures show that the amount of demand on land was, during the year under report, considerably in excess of that assessed in 1873-74. This increment was mainly in the revenue derived from land under cultivation with rice, and was no doubt due to the exceptionally high prices paid for that grain in 1874, when a large demand existed for the districts in Bengal in which there was a scarcity. Remissions of land-tax were larger than in the previous year—£8,280 against £2,289,—owing to drought in Prome and Henzada.

412. Capitation-tax is levied on the male population of the country between the ages of eighteen and sixty years—with the exception of those unable to earn their own livelihood, those engaged in religious services, and Government officials—at a general rate of 10s. on each married man, and half that sum on each bachelor; 627,981 were assessed for the tax during 1874-75, and the revenue thereon amounted to £254,240, less £1,486 remitted. In the previous year the tax was imposed on 607,564 men, and aggregated £248,969, the remissions being £2,658. The increase in favour of the year of report was, therefore, 20,367 persons, and a net revenue of £8,498, or 3.48 per cent., which, although not equal to the excess in 1873-74 of 1874-75, was yet above that in the last-mentioned year as compared with 1871-72.

413. Land-tax in lieu of capitation-tax is levied in Akyab, Kyouk-hpyoo, Rangoon, Bassein, Prome, Thayetmyo, and Toungoo, on the area occupied by buildings. The number of tenements assessed in the year of review was 28,538 against 26,862 in the previous year, and the revenue in the respective years amounted to £15,779 and £15,282. With the close of 1874-75 this tax was made over as a tentative measure to the Municipal Committees of each of the above-mentioned towns—excepting Kyouk-hpyoo and Thayetmyo, which have not yet been brought under the Municipal Act—for expenditure on the improvement of the several stations, and forms a handsome contribution from the Imperial Government to Municipal Funds. In like manner the capitation-tax collected in the town of Henzada has been given over for the benefit of that place.

414. The tax assessed on sea and inland fisheries increased from £79,334 in 1873-74 to £80,523 in the year of report, the actual realizations credited having been £79,891. In the Arakan Division, where the tax is levied chiefly in the shape of a tax on nets for fishing along the sea-board, there being only one lake fishery, there was a falling-off in the Akyab District; in Sandoway, turtle-banks yielded £86. In the Pegu Division £67,000 were realized by sale by auction of the pond and lake fisheries in the Bassein, Rangoon, and Henzada Districts. In the Tenasserim Division the receipts show a falling-off as compared with the demand—£12,061—of £427, due to the reservation of ponds for the watering of cattle.

415. The revenue derived from timber disposed of by public and private sales, from duty levied on foreign timber at the Kadoe station, and from the sale of confiscated, drift, and waif timber, &c., amounted to £107,480 in 1874-75, and to £106,862 in 1873-74, showing a small increase of £618 in the year of report. Timber was shipped to the Cape of Good Hope in July 1874, valued at £8,223, but this was not paid for up to the close of 1874-75. More than £5,000 were due from the Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway at the end of the year. Permit-holders were privileged to work to the end of 1874, when their permits were finally cancelled, and they exerted themselves to work out as largely as they could, raising the receipts under the head of sale of timber removed by purchasers by £7,829. There was a large increase of £6,958 under the head of confiscated drift and waif timber. An exceptionally good floating season caused a large increase in the arrivals of foreign timber, and the market being brisk throughout the year, 1,005,740 logs were cleared against 889,427 of the previous year, in addition to which the levying of duty under the *ad valorem* system added a little over £1,700; the increase from foreign timber altogether was £4,022.

416. The receipts under this head show an increase in the year of report of £15,566, as compared with 1873-74, the amount realized having been £140,655, and £125,089 respectively. Of this increase

the sale proceeds of Excise opium yielded £8,401 and License and distillery fees and duties for the sale of liquor and drugs gave an excess of £7,234, while there was a small decrease of £69 on fines, &c. The demand of Excise revenue on account of the Imperial Government during the year was £137,939, against £121,452 in the year 1873-74, the increase being 13.57 per cent. The fees for licenses for the vend of opium during the year were £29,361, as compared with £27,856 in 1873-74, showing an increase of £1,505, or 5.40 per cent., whilst the net profit on the sale of the drug from the Government stores increased by £8,401, or 18.29 per cent.

417. There is no doubt that a portion of the yearly increase in this branch of the Revenue is due to the growing prosperity of the people generally, and especially during the year of review, which followed one of the most profitable rice seasons ever known to the producers, whereby the people in every district of the Province, except two or three of the most isolated, were affected advantageously; but much of it is also due to the improved working of the department in the check that has been given to smuggling and illicit distillation and the more effective control exerted over every branch by the District Officers.

418. The net revenue derived from opium during 1874-75 was £83,699, of which £54,938 were the net profits on the sale of the drug, and £29,361, the amount realized as fees for licenses to vend it. The aggregate was obtained for 32,364 seers, and the average price per seer, inclusive of about £1 per seer for the license fees, was £3 6s. 6d., of which 14s. 6d. is the price charged for the opium by the Government of India.

419. The amount realized as license fees and duty on spirits manufactured in Rangoon and Moulmein after the English method increased from £17,198 in 1873-74, to £18,454 in the year of report. The increment was entirely realized from duty on the liquors passed into consumption, the license fees having been augmented by 0.63 per cent. only.

420. The license fees paid for the manufacture and sale of country spirits amounted to £17,128 in 1874-75, against £14,321 in 1873-74. There has been a steady increase under this head ever since licenses for the manufacture and sale of spirits made by the native process of distillation were first sanctioned in 1872.

421. For the right of vending fresh and fermented tãri, £21,806 were realized as license fees in the year of report, whilst in the previous year £15,727 were received. The increase in this revenue, which was general throughout the province, must be considered satisfactory, as the liquor sold is wholesome, and comparatively harmless.

422. In the year under report there was no income tax, and the only receipt was a small arrear of £3 16s.

423. The following figures give the collections of customs duty during the last eight years:—

Year	Customs.	£
1867-68	...	200,201
1868-69	...	234,983
1869-70	...	308,388
1870-71	...	277,265
1871-72	...	306,280
1872-73	...	449,680
1873-74	...	414,067
1874-75	...	392,273

The collections in the year under review show a decrease of £21,794 as compared with the preceding year. The decrease in exports of £40,000 was due to diminished shipments of rice to foreign ports, partly in consequence of the demand during the first two months of the fiscal year by the Government for Bengal, and partly to the limited exports in the last quarter of the year through the backwardness of the people in sending supplies to market at the very low rates which prevailed in comparison with the prices which were given during the similar period in the year 1874. Imports show the large increase of £ 7,647, the net increase of the preceding year having been £6,376 over its predecessor. This is due to the stimulus to foreign trade given by the direct monthly line of steamers from the United Kingdom to Rangoon.

424. There was an increase of £1,458 in the salt revenue over the year 1873-74, entirely from imported salt, the excise on locally-manufactured salt showing a decrease of £479. Pegu is now almost exclusively supplied with foreign salt from England and Sicily; the imports in 1874-75 aggregated 26,611 tons.

425. There was a large increase in the stamp revenue during the year under review of £11,783, or 27.7 per cent., the value of stamps sold having been £57,131, as compared with £45,348 in 1873-74. The increase of £1,800 under sale of general stamps shows increased commercial transactions, and is indicative of the growing wealth of the province. The use of Court fee stamps for the execution of process is shown by an increase of £10,000 under that head.

426. In the revenue of the Postal Department there was an increase of £862, the amounts realized being £18,822, and £12,960 for 1874-7. and 1873-74 respectively.

427. The revenue realized and credited under this head was £23,004, as compared with £22,977 in 1873-74. It consists of fees, fines, forfeitures, and escheats.

428. These receipts show an aggregate decrease of £481 on those of 1873-74, accruing under coast light-dues. The totals were £7,518 and £7,997 for the two years respectively.

Marine.

429. Only £3 were realized as interest on unpaid portions of purchase money of waste lands.

interest.

430. These receipts show an increase of £1,328 over those of 1873-74. Sale of old stores, unclaimed deposits, and miscellaneous were in excess and an arrear adjustment of £403 was made.

Miscellaneous.

Heads of account appertaining to other Governments.

431. The following heads of account appertain to other Departments and Governments:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.	1874-75.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Electric Telegraph Department ...	2,441	27,428	...	1,012
Indian Money Order ditto ...	63,536	59,052	...	4,484
Overland ditto ditto ...	2,156	2,255	129	...
Military ditto ...	55,254	44,586	...	668
Public Works ditto ...	218,382	244,835	25,953	...
India and other Governments ...	1,648,265	522,767	...	1,125,498
Bills of ditto ditto ...	29,062	69,424	40,862	...

The Telegraph and Indian Money Order Departments both show a small falling-off from 1873-74, which was a year of extraordinary activity, owing to the large demand in the Province for rice for Bengal. The Public Works remittance transactions were increased by operations on the Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway, and larger works on Provincial Services and Local Funds accounts. The year of report still show traces of the disturbing effect of the Indian famine on its monetary operations, the Province having required large funds, in the shape of cash remittances and supply-bills from India, for payment for the rice supplied, although the cash remittances were larger by about a mill on sterling in the year 1873-74. Bills for £25,000 were drawn on Calcutta in the early part of the year on account of rice shipments; a sum of £254,700 was received as subscription to the new four per cent loan.

432. The opening cash-balance of the year of report showed an increase of £214,783, as compared with that of the previous year. The following are the details:—

Details.	1873-74.	1874-75
Notes .. .. .	£ 71,540	£ 25,063
Silver .. .. .	221,463	883,517
Copper .. .. .	4,090	3,297
Total ..	297,093	511,876

433. DISBURSEMENTS.—The charges of collection and the amount of refunds under the head of Land Revenue, aggregated in the year of report £101,563, as compared with £103,265 in 1873-74, showing a decrease of £1,702. The short collections noticed under revenue caused a smaller disbursement for commission. Revenue settlement charges are higher by £1,084 owing to increase of establishment. The cost per cent. of collecting the Land Revenue in 1874-75 was 13.9.

434. In the year under review the expenditure of the Forest Department amounted to £66,264, or £18,811 in excess of the previous year. This was owing to large payments made for extracting timber from the Thoungyeen forests, which will not come to hand until the rains of 1875; to the provision of sleeper pieces for the Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway; and to the general introduction of the contract system, in supersession of the permit system of working. The net gain accruing to Government from this department was £41,216 in 1874-75, as compared with £59,409 in 1873-74. The falling-off is, however, no doubt temporary.

435. The charges, including £40 for refunds, under the head of Excise for 1874-75 were £508, as compared with £430 in the preceding year. The establishment for the Bassein and Hensada distilleries was only entertained for a portion of the year. The cost of collecting the Excise revenue is 0.35 per cent.

436. The cost of establishments employed in the collection of the Customs duty and Salt duty in the year of report was £19,667 and £4.8, respectively, whilst the cost in the previous year was £19,950 and £546. The refunds under these heads were £10,919 and £213, as compared with £7,342 and £368 of the previous year. Under the head of Stamps, Law and Justice, and Miscellaneous the refunds during the two years were £7,514 and £5,579, respectively, the charges on stamps being £995 and £980.

Post-office.  
in 1873-74 to £8,625.

437. The expenditure of the Postal Department amounted in 1874-75 to £8,751 and

438. In the year under report interest on the deposits in the District Savings Banks amounted to £260, as compared with £143 of the previous year, a very good sign of the progress of these institutions.

Interest on Savings Banks deposits.

439. The disbursements on account of Civil and Political Establishments amounted in 1874-75 to £55,095, and in 1873-74 to £49,944. The increase is mainly in the Political Department, on account of the Western China Expedition £6,717, and increased allowances to State prisoners. In the Civil Establishment the difference of the two years is £1,300, due to the salary of a covenanted Officer as Accountant-General for four months of the year being charged in the accounts.

Civil and Political Estab-  
lishments.

440. Under the head of Minor Establishments are included Donations to Agri-Horticultural Society, Experimental Farm, and Breeding Establishments, Exploration of Coal, Veterinary Class and Immigration Allotment. The expenditure for the year was £14,966, of which £13,090 were for immigration. In the previous year the expenditure was £1,733, of which £1,000 were for immigration.

Minor Establishments.

441. The expenditure on Law and Justice aggregated in the year of review £72,118, and in the previous year £62,539. The increase is due to the full salary of the Recorder being charged in the year under review, to the augmented pay of the Government Advocate Rangoon, to a larger staff of officers employed for the administration of the criminal law, to an allowance to the Assistant Cantonment Magistrate at Thayetmyo as Judge of the Small Cause Court, to establishment charges, and also to salaries of process-servers, which amounted to £7,028, as compared with £647 in 1873-74, the fees being paid in stamps.

Law and Justice.

442. The Marine expenditure for the year of review was £22,780, as compared with £13,571 in 1873-74; of this increase the chief item was £5,732 for hire of steamer *Moulmein* while the *Nemesis* was aground. The following are the payments made for subsidies for mail communication; £6,100 for communication between Rangoon, Mandalay, and Bhamo; £1,800 between Moulmein, Mergui, and Tavoy; £1,200 between Akyab, Kyoak-hpyoo, and Sandoway; the last mentioned is now provided for by the Government of India in the main contract.

Marine.

443. The Ecclesiastical expenditure was £3,958 in the year of review, as compared with £3,842 in the previous year, there having been a small increase in salaries and travelling allowance.

Ecclesiastical

444. In the Medical establishment there was a trifling increase of £168, the figures for the two years being £7,326 and £7,158, respectively.

Medical

445. An increase of £369 in superannuation and of £128 in gratuities appears in the year owing to more retirements.

Pension.

446. Under Miscellaneous there was an increase of £3,768, which is due to a considerable expenditure for the relief of the scarcity amongst the Karens, for which £5,662 were disbursed in 1874-75.

Miscellaneous.

447. The following statement shows the disbursements within the Province during the last two years on various accounts other than the civil administration:—

Disbursements on account other than civil administration.

	1873-74.	1874-75.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Electric Telegraph Department ..	24,429	20,814	..	3,615
Indian Money Order ditto ..	18,051	16,631	..	1,420
Overland Money Order ditto ..	80	153	73	..
Public Works ditto ..	277,369	355,109	77,740	..
Military ditto ..	233,687	231,879	..	1,708
India and other Governments ..	1,981,450	1,041,786	..	939,664
Bills ditto ditto ..	98,680	16,824	..	81,856

The prominent features in this table are the decreases in the Telegraph and Inland Money Order Departments. The increase in Public Works is due to the works of the State Railway in process of construction and the decrease in transactions with India and other Governments is consequent upon the cessation of the rice shipments to Bengal.

448. The closing cash-balances of the year under review show £510,249, as compared with £511,876 at the close of 1873-74:—

Cash-balances.

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	£	£
Notes .. ..	35,000	36,077
Silver .. ..	432,517	412,570
Copper .. ..	43,732	62,602
Total ..	511,249	510,249

(b) Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

449. PROVINCIAL RECEIPTS.—The assignment for the year under report, from the Imperial revenue to meet the expenditure of the Departments transferred to Provincial Services, was £307,000, as compared with £302,000 in 1873-74. The original grant was £282,000, increased by £25,000 at the close of the year.

Assignments from Imperial Revenues.

450. The receipts on account of jail manufactures, printing work executed at the jail press, and for the hire of convict labour showed an increase of £6,886 during the year under report, as compared with the previous year, the amount realized having been £24,991 and £18,605, respectively: the increase is due to the introduction of machinery, cotton gins, oil and saw-mills, &c., and the manufacture of waggons, by the Rangoon Central Jail for the State Railway.

Jails.

451. The registration fees show a small falling-off, the realizations being £626 and £650 in 1874-75 and 1873-74.

Registration.

452. The receipts on account of police show a decrease of £498 as compared with the previous year in which there was an abnormal item transferred from the village chowkedaree cess. The fees from fines, &c., increased by £620.

Police.

453. There was a large increase in Educational receipts of £1,181, accruing chiefly in fees, the attendance of pupils having been larger; also subscriptions to the *Education Gazette*, and receipts of the Book Depot started during the year. The total realizations were £2,103 in 1874-75, and £922 in 1873-74.

Education.

454. The Medical receipts in the year under report were much the same as those of the previous year, being £768 and £762, respectively; they consist of fees, fines, &c., of lock-hospitals, and proceeds of labour of inmates of the Lunatic Asylum.

Medical.

455. There was a further decrease in printing receipts, owing to the discontinuance of payments by Government departments for the *British Burma Gazette*; the figures were £488 and £613 for the year under report and the previous year, respectively.

Printing.

456. There was an extraordinary receipt of £999 under marine, the unexpended balance of an advance made to the Engineer of the Alguada Reef Light-house.

Marine.

457. Under the head of miscellaneous receipts are included fees for the construction of masonry graves and monuments; the amount realized in 1874-75 was £30, and in the previous year £56.

Miscellaneous receipts.

458. The receipts on account of sale proceeds of buildings and stores, for rents of buildings, &c., amounted in the present year to £5,409, and in 1873-74 to £2,925. The principal items being rents, £3,179; sale of lands, houses, &c., £610; and recredits to stock, £970.

Public Works.

459. PROVINCIAL DISBURSEMENTS.—The expenditure on account of funds of police fines this year was £310 as against £100 in 1873-74, chiefly gam-

Revenues.

460. The expenditure on account of jails in the year of review was £13,904 against £36,854 in the previous year, the increase being in the manufacturing departments of the central jails. The net cost to Government was £18,913, and £18,249 respectively.

Jails.

461. The cost of the registration establishments during 1874-75 was £340, as compared with £367 in the previous year.

Registration.

462. The expenditure in the Police Department showed an increase of £1,477 in the year of review. The amounts being £125,675 and £1 4,176 respectively.

Police.

463. The Educational charges in 1874-75 amounted to £16,036, as compared with £10,899 in the previous year; the increase of £5,137 was for the salary of an Inspector, for increased staff on the higher class of schools, for a book depot, and vernacular newspaper, &c.; the expenditure on grants-in-aid was £9,681 in 1874-75, as compared with £3,725 in 1873-74.

Educational.

464. In the Medical Department, the expenditure for the year under review was £10,496, and for 1873-74, £9,186, being an increase of £1,310, owing to higher grades of native medical officers being employed, to enhanced charges for diet and medicines, to better wages to watchmen in the lunatic asylum, and to the opening of a new lock-hospital at Toungoo.

Medical.

465. The expenditure for printing press establishments and charges in 1874-75 amounted to £11,880 as compared with £9,035 in 1873-74. The increase is on account of enhanced demands in the departments of Law and Justice, and Education.

Printing.

466. Under Marine, which includes the expenditure for the maintenance of light-houses and of the schooners employed on the duty therewith, £5,493 were expended in 1874-75, as compared with £4,668 in 1873-74; the increase of £825 being for repairs to the *Pharos* and the *Dauntless*.

Marine.

467. The expenses for cemeteries, survey of sea-port towns, office-rent, rates and taxes, and miscellaneous, were £279, £1,310, £462, and £1,058, respectively, as compared with £385, £201, £437, and £1,079, respectively. Miscellaneous includes the following:—

	£
Donations for charitable purposes	100
Rewards for destruction of wild animals	804
Books and publications	4
Conservancy charges	506
Accountant-General's Office, extra duties	159
Phayre Museum, grant-in-aid	120
Playre Museum, grant-in-aid	1
European vagrants	68
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges	

Contributions to Local Funds.

468. The only grant made to local funds was that of £480, to the Akyab Municipal Fund.

469. The expenditure on roads, miscellaneous public improvements, civil buildings, and petty construction and repairs amounted, in the year under review, to £151,417, as compared with £143,928 in 1873-74, showing an increase of £7,489.

470. LOCAL FUNDS—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.—These funds consist of the Five per Cent. Cess, District, Port, Town, Dispensary, Dalhousie Park, Customs Confiscation, Cantonment, and Pilot Funds. The Immigration Fund is not included, as its main asset, £13,090, is a contribution from Imperial Funds, the remainder being made up of cash recoveries of advances made to the immigrants, and as the charges balance the receipts, the account has been excluded. The total receipts of the year were £78,011, of which the Five per Cent. Cess contributed £24,406; the District Funds, £6,082; the Port Funds, £31,125; the Town Funds, £2,617; the Dispensary, £3,050; Dalhousie Park, £259; Customs Confiscation, £694; Cantonment, £2,818, and the Pilot Fund, £6,960. The total expenditure from the Local Funds during the year under review was £86,519, of which the local cess charges on Police, Education, and Public Works amounted to £24,881; the District Funds, £5,685; the Port Fund £38,592 (including a grant of £1,500 to the Rangoon and Moulmein Municipalities); Town Funds, £3,539; Dispensary, £3,222; Dalhousie Park, £76; Customs Confiscation, £371; Cantonment, £2,992; Pilot Fund, £7,161.

471. The following tabular statement shows in juxtaposition the receipts and disbursements of each fund:—

	Receipts.	Disbursements.
	£	£
Five per cent. cess	24,406	24,881
District	6,082	5,685
Port	31,125	38,592
Town	2,617	3,539
Dispensary	3,050	3,222
Dalhousie Park	259	76
Customs Confiscation	694	371
Cantonment	2,818	2,992
Pilot	6,960	7,161
Total	£78,011	£86,519

472. MUNICIPALITIES—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.—These amounted during the year under review to £86,609, and £88,684, respectively.

473. The introduction of Act VII. of 1874 will have the effect of removing, from the category of Municipalities to that of Town Funds, many small towns hitherto classed as Municipalities. Only the large towns of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Henzada, Prome, and Toungoo will at present be classed as Municipalities, and the accounts will follow this arrangement.

## VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

### Births and Deaths.

474. On the 15th August 1872, British Burma possessed a population of 2,747,148 on an area of 88,556 square miles; in the census report for that year it is stated that the population has, during the last ten years, increased at the maximum rate natural to countries most favourably circumstanced, and since as many as 36·08 per cent. of the total population are under twelve years of age, and over the half under twenty, the increase appears to be attributable more to the excess of births over deaths, and to Burman settlers who bring with them from foreign territory their wives and families, than to immigrants from India, whose numbers are approximately counterbalanced by the emigrants.

475. The rate of increase of population deduced from the figures for the nine years preceding 1872 is 2·68 per cent., and taking this as the rate of increase for the two years from 15th August 1872 to 15th August 1874, the population on the latter date would be 2,896,268.

476. The number of births registered throughout the Province during the year 1874, according to the returns furnished, was 48,847, of whom 25,043 were males and 23,804 females. The ratio of births per 1,000 of the population is stated at 17·50 males and 18·20 females, a mean of 17·71, which is about the same as shown by the returns for the preceding year. As observed in the reports for previous years, the registration of births, even in the towns, is admittedly very defective. The statistics from the head-quarter station of each division show that in Akyab the birth-rate was 18·91 per 1,000, in Rangoon 13·65, and in Moulmein 10·47, and as these differ very widely from the returns sent in from districts, no safe conclusion can be drawn as to the actual birth-rate of the Province.

477. The statements submitted from the several towns and districts of the Province show that the total number of deaths decreased from 41,159 in 1873 to 32,937 in 1874, or a falling-off of 8,222. This decrease is almost entirely due to the comparative absence of cholera during the year under review; in the previous year, 8,100 deaths were attributed to that disease alone.

478. The cholera epidemic, which commenced towards the autumn of 1873, continued into the earlier months of 1874, and died gradually away with the progress of the year. In all, 960 persons fell victims to it. However, the return of deaths is not only low in contrast with a year of epidemic, but also with the average of normal years. The death-rate is calculated (on the assumption of an annual 2½ per cent. increase to the population) at 11·3 per mille, as against 15½ in 1873 and 12·4 for 1872. Absolutely, of course, the returns proclaim their own inaccuracy, as the results attained for the present year would indicate an average duration of life of something over ninety years. Still, they have their value: if they are untrustworthy, as exhibiting the actual value of life in this country, they at least are safe indices of the relative healthiness of each year. It is not too violent an assumption to postulate that the average degree of inaccuracy of each year's returns from the true state of things is liable to little variation from year to year. With this hypothesis, we attain the satisfactory result that, with a population increasing at a rate unparalleled in any other quarter of our Indian possessions, we have a death-rate (whatever it may be absolutely) decreasing, except in a year of virulent epidemic, year by year, viz.:—

1871 ...	...	...	...	14·26
1872 ...	...	...	...	12·43
1873 ...	...	...	...	15·22
1874 ...	...	...	...	12·32 or 11·8

allowing for the increase in population since the census of 1872 was taken.

479. While accepting this conclusion as satisfactory, so far as can be judged from the returns, no confidence can be placed in the accuracy of statistics which show a death-rate of only 11·3 per mille. Much correspondence has taken place with District Authorities on the necessity of exerting themselves to secure accurate registration. Simple forms have been prepared and issued at much expense, the head-men of the villages have been instructed in this duty; and, with the new system, which commenced from the 1st January 1875, results of some higher degree of accuracy may be anticipated.

480. There is no necessity for further demonstration of the inaccuracy of the present returns beyond the figures themselves. If there were, the remarkable diversity of results attained in town and country would establish it. The case of Akyab is singular. In the town, where registration can be assumed to be fairly correct, the death-rate is 23·94, and in the district only 3·86 per 1,000. The attempted explanation of this anomaly—viz., that sick people prefer to die in towns rather than in their homes in the country—cannot be accepted; and, even admitting the greater immunity from disease which the freedom of country life affords, the difference in the rate of mortality which the returns indicate is too marked to certify their

unqualified acceptance. Under the present conditions of the country the attainment of scientific accuracy in the returns of vital statistics is not to be expected, but every year should record progress, and local authorities, both European and Native, can materially assist in securing such improvement.

481. With the exception of the victims to cholera, the deaths were distributed among the various classes of diseases in very much the same proportion as in 1873. It is noticeable, however, that, with a smaller total of deaths, a greater number were ascribed to fever. The year contrasts as follows.—

YEAR	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Bowel-complaints.	Suicide.	Wounding.	Accidents.	Snake-bites.	Other causes.	Total deaths.
1873 ..	8,109	1,406	19,964	5,099	66	78	138	205	6,084	41,159
1874 ..	960	1,191	20,137	4,360	68	83	201	180	5,763	32,937

482. The prominence which the fever returns invariably assume—the ratio of deaths from this cause in 1874 having been shown as 7·35,—is doubtless correctly attributed to inaccurate diagnosis. The village returns are compiled by men who are absolutely ignorant of the nature and character of different diseases, and it is impossible to hope for competence in this direction from either them or the relatives of the deceased. It will be a great advance on the existing state of things to secure a correct aggregate of deaths. Under existing circumstances the sub-division and classification of their causes, except in the case of epidemics and small-pox, can scarcely be hoped for.

483. Bowel-complaints have proved themselves this year the next most important cause of mortality, their victims numbering 4,360, about one-fifth of those from "fever." The ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population is 1·59, whilst that for 1873 was 1·93 and for 1872, 1·80. During the six months, from June to November inclusive, bowel-complaints appear to be most common, the average monthly total mortality from these being 420, whilst that for the other six months is a little more than 306, so that they are probably in part due to the injudicious use of fruits, &c., when these are abundant and cheap, and to the use of impure water from wells badly protected against entrance of surface water, the country being at this time pretty generally inundated from the rains. Small-

pox is the third in the list of causes of mortality, but cholera and small-pox conjointly have victimized at the rate of but three in every 1,000 inhabitants. During 1873, for every thousand of population 0.52 succumbed to variola; during the one under review, 0.49; in 1872 there were fewer than in either of the preceding, viz., 31, or less than one in 3,000. In the town of Rangoon there were more than twice as many fatal cases as anywhere else (1.44 per 1,000); next comes the district of the same name (0.68), followed closely by Henzada (0.66), by Shwe-gyeen (0.64), and Amherst (0.61). Civil Surgeons complain of the native practice of inoculation being too freely had recourse to by Burmans, and explain in this way the prevalence and fatality of this zymotic. In England the mean annual mortality from this cause in the twenty years from 1850 to 1869 was 0.204 per 1,000, but in 1871 it rose to 1.02, and in 1872 was 0.83, so that, with all her laudable efforts to extend vaccination and to suppress inoculation by legal enactments, the small-pox returns in British Burma compare favourably with those in England. This is no reason, however, why vaccination should not be extended with all possible energy in Burma, for it has been found that exactly twice as many unvaccinated die as those who have been vaccinated.

#### 484. British Burma is no doubt one of the healthiest Provinces of

the East. The conditions which occasion so much sickness and mortality in India have no counterpart here. In India, the dwellings of the poorer classes are close, ill-ventilated, confined mud buildings; in Burma, they are raised from the ground, and the plank walling and bamboo floors allow free ingress and egress of air. There is no lack of space or overcrowding, and cattle are not, as a rule, kept under the same roof as their owners. Observation alone sufficiently establishes the fact that no place in India can show such swarms of plump, healthy-looking children, or such vivacious, manly inhabitants as Burma. In addition to these causes, there are others which combine to show a low death-rate. A large proportion of the inhabitants of the towns are aliens. Few of this class ever settle permanently: having made a competency, they leave to end their lives in their native countries. This fact would eliminate one very general cause of death—viz., that from old age. Again, over a large extent of the Province, the climate is much more equable than in India. The thermometer has an extremely limited range. In Rangoon, the extremes at 4 p.m. were 79° in December and 97° in April. All these factors combine to give the Province a singularly favourable position in respect of mortality and the average duration of life.

#### 485. With the exception of a diminished rainfall, there was not

any marked change in the meteorological features of the past year, as compared with previous ones. The seasons followed each other with their accustomed regularity, the cold extending from November to February, the hot from March to the middle or end of May, and the rainy from this

period to the end of October. The mean temperature of the past cold season was 78.5; of the hot season, 86.3; and of the rainy season, 80.5.

The mean annual temperature was	...	...	...	81.50
The mean humidity	...	...	...	76.90
Intensity of solar heat	...	...	...	184.11
Mean weight of atmosphere	...	...	...	29.85

At Thayetmyo, Tavoy, and Shwe-gyeen, the rain-fall of 1874 exceeded that of the previous year by a few inches; in every other station it fell short of the amount recorded in 1873, and at Akyab the difference between the fall of the two years is very marked, being no less than 73.6 inches. At Thayetmyo not only was the rain-fall greater than that of the preceding year, but the number of days on which rain fell was also greater than it had been for thirteen years previously. Toungoo, which, in 1873, was exceptionally unhealthy owing to the severe hot season, is described as having been very healthy during the year under review. The hot season was a comparatively mild one; and there was none of that dampness so common in this station during the rains.

#### Emigration and Immigration.

486. There is no emigration from this Province similar to that which exists in India. The Burmese are not a migratory people outside of their own country, and those who are termed emigrants from the Province are chiefly coolies from Chittagong and the Madras coast, who come here for a time, save as much of their earnings as possible, and, when they think they have a sufficient sum of money, return home. The chief movements among the population in the interior are from district to district, except in the districts on the frontier, into which large numbers of people from Upper Burma and the Shan States come; whilst into the sea-port towns considerable immigration takes place every year from the northern ports of Madras and from Chittagong, and many Chinese and others from the Straits ports also arrive as permanent residents.

487. The number of persons who, according to the returns, entered the several districts of the Arakan Division during the year was 6,491, and of those who emigrated 5,501, of whom 3,966 and 2,506 respectively were in the Akyab District. These figures cannot be considered reliable as the movements of Chittagonians, between the Akyab district and their own division, must be far in excess of the numbers given. These people do not, however, as a rule become permanent settlers, as they come in for the reaping and shipping seasons only, and are not therefore, it is presumed, included in the returns. The immigrants into the Pegu Division are said to have aggregated 49,640 and the emigrants from

that division are entered as 35,703, leaving a balance in favour of settlers of 13,937. The statistics given for Tenasserim are 33,422 immigrants and 20,716 emigrants, the permanent addition to the population being 17,676. For the whole Province the increase of immigrants over emigrants is shown as 32,603 persons, equal to 1.15 per cent. on the gross population.

488. Since the scheme of State emigration from Bengal was started by the Government in February 1874, 7,897 persons have been brought down from Calcutta, and out of that number about 240 have, so far as it has been ascertained, died and been sent back as invalids. No doubt others who have paid up their advances have returned to their homes, and the net increase to the population may in round numbers be stated at 7,000, most of whom have been employed on the works of the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway; many have also been engaged by private people as labourers and domestic servants, and many have found profitable work in cultivating and reaping the rice crops.

*Medical Relief.*

489. The number of Civil Dispensaries, exclusive of jail and lock-hospitals, in the Province in 1874, was seventeen, of which one at Pongday was opened during the year. Two more dispensaries are now in course of construction, and measures for affording some description of medical aid to remote sub-divisions have for some time been under consideration. In the majority of the sub-divisional stations it has been decided that, at the commencement, at any rate, a supply of a popular medical manual and the accompanying medicine-chest, by Dr. Moore, to the resident Assistant Commissioner, will suffice as an experiment. The fact that successive reports adduce little additional evidence of the capacity and desire of the Burman population to accommodate themselves to our system of treatment and its attendant restraint is a strong argument against a too hasty development of medical institutions in the interior. In favour of their extension the most reasonable suggestion is the fact that, while distrusting the adequacy of civilized remedies in internal illnesses, the Burmans believe implicitly in the skill of Government doctors in surgery cases; and in a country where the *dah* is used with a familiar frequency, such cases are tolerably numerous.

490. Tentative measures for the education of Burman boys in medicine have been started in several stations in the Province, with a fair prospect of ultimate success.

491. The following tabular statement exhibits the attendance at the several Dispensaries of in-door and out-door patients during the past year, compared with that of 1873:—

STATIONS.	ATTENDANCE.				DIFFERENCE.			
	1873.		1874.		In-door.		Out-door.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Akyab .. .. .	204	2,204	560	1,890	96	..	..	414
Kyauk-hpyoo .. .. .	140	755	156	783	16	..	28	..
Sandoway .. .. .	66	107	52	192	..	14	85	..
Palukwa .. .. .	..	..	153	204	153	..	204	..
Taungoon .. .. .	1,713	8,236	2,209	11,644	496	..	3,408	..
Bassain .. .. .	147	2,020	186	2,339	39	..	379	..
Henzada .. .. .	204	2,504	218	2,533	14	..	29	..
Myanong .. .. .	106	643	125	678	19	..	29	..
Mengyee .. .. .	5	427	46	1,255	41	..	768	..
Prome .. .. .	219	1,976	306	1,813	87	..	..	163
Pongday .. .. .	..	..	..	677	..	..	677	..
Thayet .. .. .	139	2,461	258	2,610	119	..	149	..
Moulmain .. .. .	540	6,806	520	6,973	..	14	..	223
Tavoy .. .. .	163	3,046	142	3,527	..	20	481	..
Mergui .. .. .	190	2,939	192	2,935	2	..	..	4
Shwe-gyeen .. .. .	207	3,898	273	5,556	66	..	1,660	..
Toungoo .. .. .	251	6,276	248	3,054	..	3	1,776	..
Total .. .. .	4,453	44,263	5,619	53,223	1,096	..	3,061	..

It will be seen that there has been an increase in the number of both classes of patients—the in-door sick being 1,096, and the out-door 3,061 in excess of the number treated in 1873. Of the 17 hospitals in the Province, 13 show an increase and 4 a decrease. There has been a remarkable falling-off in the number of out-patients attending the Akyab Dispensary, due, in the opinion of the Civil Surgeon, to the comparatively general healthiness of the past year.

492. The average daily attendance of in-door and out-door patients is given in the following table:—

STATIONS.	1873.		1874.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.
Akyab .. .. .	16-83	11-26	22-58	15-87
Kyauk apyee .. .. .	5-19	19-91	5-80	23-75
Sandaway .. .. .	8-59	2-10	2-38	4-87
Palakwa .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	9-31	7-77
Rangoon .. .. .	88-75	163-38	110-44	169-54
Bassein .. .. .	13-33	23-75	11-96	19-70
Henzada .. .. .	11-30	20-20	8-70	22-80
Myanounng .. .. .	2-00	7-50	2-00	8-00
Mengyee .. .. .	0-33	7-00	2-66	5-41
Prome .. .. .	9-40	58-60	14-10	59-60
Ponngday .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	81-90
Thayetmyo .. .. .	7-50	22-50	10-21	28-40
Moulmein .. .. .	22-58	21-30	22-22	21-70
Tavoy .. .. .	5-78	25-66	5-77	28-29
Mergui .. .. .	10-11	61-60	12-30	58-30
Shwe-gyean .. .. .	7-19	19-61	10-53	30-68
Toungoo .. .. .	11-83	34-49	13-41	48-69
Total .. .. .	215-71	498-86	264-87	634-67

Compared with attendance in 1873, the above statement shows a net increase of 48-66 in the number of in-patients, and of 135-81 among the out-patients. In nine hospitals there has been an increase in the average daily attendance of intern patients, notably in that of Rangoon; in three there has occurred a decrease; in three the numbers of the past year approximate closely with those of the previous one, and in one the attendance has been the same as in 1873. In the attendance of out-patients, 13 hospitals show an increase, and four a small decrease. The number of patients treated according to nationality was as follows:—

	In-patients.	Out-patients.
Europeans .. .. .	814	1,072
Eurasians .. .. .	90	2,975
Mussulmans .. .. .	1,000	8,418
Hindoos .. .. .	1,865	6,707
Burmese, Shans, Karens, and others .. .. .	2,890	83,158

and their ratio per cent. thus:—

	In-patients.	Out-patients.
Europeans .. .. .	5-56	2-18
Eurasians .. .. .	1-60	5-60
Mussulmans .. .. .	17-71	15-75
Hindoos .. .. .	88-08	14-42
Other castes .. .. .	42-10	62-05

493. The subjoined statement shows that the per-centage to total admissions, of fevers, respiratory diseases, and dysentery was higher last year than the year before, and it was less in cholera, diarrhoea, and diseases of the skin. The per-centage of rheumatism, syphilis, and injuries was nearly the same in both years.

DISEASES.	1873.		1874.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.
Fevers .. .. .	18-45	17-74	20-65	.. .. .
Cholera .. .. .	1-54	0-17	0-27	.. .. .
Rheumatic affections .. .. .	4-96	4-15	4-75	.. .. .
Syphilitic ditto .. .. .	8-95	1-35	3-28	.. .. .
Respiratory diseases .. .. .	2-10	6-38	8-50	.. .. .
Dysentery .. .. .	4-80	2-46	6-89	.. .. .
Diarrhoea .. .. .	8-87	4-11	2-07	.. .. .
Skin diseases .. .. .	6-61	14-74	5-72	.. .. .
Injuries .. .. .	23-48	5-99	20-42	.. .. .
Other diseases .. .. .	30-71	43-01	82-45	.. .. .

494. Five hundred and forty-five deaths, or 9-94 per cent., on the total treated occurred among the in-door patients.

495. The income of the past year was £9,777, being an increase of £1,219, on the receipts of the previous year. The expenditure of the past year was also greater than that of 1873 by £2,198. This increased expenditure occurred chiefly under two heads, viz., "Repairs of buildings" and "Purchase of bazaar medicine"—the largest outlay on both these particulars being on account of the Rangoon Dispensary. Of the total receipts during the year, £3,014 were contributed by Government, and £1,469 received as voluntary subscriptions and donations.

496. The lock-hospitals are seven in number, one additional having been opened at Toungoo in June 1874, thus completing the arrangements for the protection of the European troops in this particular. The results of the introduction of the rules, as far as the European garrisons in the Province are concerned, are that, during the last four years, the percentage of cases of disease to strength of European troops has been reduced from 19-54 to 7-6 at Rangoon and from 10-5 to 7-9 at Thayetmyo. The per-centage for 1874 at Toungoo was 15-6. The results of the Rangoon hospital were as usual satisfactory in every particular; the financial results were extremely good, for, out of a total expenditure of £573, only £90 was the actual cost to the Government, the balance having been made up by the monthly fee of two shillings payable by each prostitute. This institution is believed to be the first instance of an almost self-supporting lock-hospital in India. At Thayetmyo there was an increase in the per-centage of cases as compared with 1873: this was probably, in a great degree, due to the unsatisfactory measures in force for punishing breaches of the rules. The Cantonment Magistrate is powerless outside cantonments, and the Government of India have already been addressed with a view to confining his powers to punishing offences which occur actually within cantonment limits, and to give the Deputy Commis-

sioner cognizance over those occurring outside the limits. The advisability of amalgamating the establishment with that of the Civil Hospital and Dispensary is also apparent, and sanction has further been applied for to this arrangement.

497. Material has not been afforded for ascertaining the number of cases treated at all the hospitals: where they are given—as at Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, and Thayetmyo—an increase is apparent in every case; but this is probably due to the fact of the increasing popularity of the hospitals, and must not be accepted as a sure indication of increased disease among the civil population. The following table shows the numbers registered, and percentages to population in the several towns:—

	Monthly average number on register.	Population, 1872.	Per-cent-age.
Rangoon	358.41	98,746	.35
Akyab	45.45	19,280	.23
Moulmein	.79	46,472	.17
Prome	83.6	91,157	.15
Thayetmyo	.19	15,142	.12
Toungoo	12.88	10,732	.11
Bassein	14.9	20,688	.05

This shows Rangoon to have had the most efficient system of registration, and Bassein the worst. Bassein shows particularly badly; but, with the exception of Rangoon and Akyab, none exhibit results of any rigorous action being taken in this matter. The variety of systems, too, adopted by the different officers is noticeable. At Thayetmyo with a population of 15,000 and a garrison of 682 European soldiers and a native infantry regiment, the fact that there were so few registered prostitutes shows that there has been a serious misapprehension of the intentions of the law. Admitting the difficulties experienced in detecting public women and securing their registration, and recognising further that the system at its best is attended with much evil, its maintenance is justified by the preponderating amount of good which results; but this can only be secured by persistent efforts to bring all women who ply their trade on the register, by subjecting all to periodical examination, and by detaining the diseased in the hospital for treatment. These remarks apply with equal force to Toungoo, where a very inadequate plan of registration is adopted. In all places it would be better if a more general employment of the *dhai* system were practised.

498. The number of patients in the Lunatic Asylum at Rangoon on the 1st January 1874 was one hundred and thirty-two, and fifty-six were admitted during that year, making the total number under treatment one hundred and eighty-eight. Of these nineteen were discharged as

cured, nine were transferred (one to his friends, three to stand their trial, and five to the Rangoon Jail for safe custody), one escaped and ten died, leaving one hundred and forty-nine in confinement at the close of the year. The daily average number was one hundred and forty, or thirty-one above that of the previous three years. The mortality was 5.81 per cent. of the number treated, somewhat less than the proportion in 1878. The number of criminal lunatics neither increased nor decreased, thirty-eight were resident at the commencement of 1874, fourteen were admitted, and the same number was transferred (12) and died (2). The total cost of the Asylum during the year was £1,820, equal to £9-8-7 per patient, which is about 10s. 6d. per head in excess of the cost in 1878, mainly due to the enhanced cost of diet and the increase in the establishment. The amount received from friends of patients on account of maintenance was £45-10-10, and on account of manufactured articles sold, £175-6.

### Sanitation.

499. But little of importance was effected in sanitary progress during the year. All the principal towns in the Province have now been brought under the control of Municipal Committees legally invested with large powers to control all sanitary arrangements; and, though there has been as yet no time to introduce any comprehensive schemes of drainage or water-supply, the subject has not been without consideration, and every reasonable precaution seems to have been adopted which present means afford. There has been much correspondence regarding the water-supply of the Thayetmyo cantonment; and a measure for supplying it with water from the Irrawaddy river, in lieu of well-water, is now under the consideration of the Public Works Department. The station of Pahpoon, in the Salween District, has maintained its notoriety for malignant fever, and several measures in connection with it have been under consideration, but the situation of the station itself is such as to preclude any real amelioration in its condition, and suggestions have been made for an adjoining site for the head-quarters.

### Vaccination.

500. Twenty-one thousand one hundred and fifty-four\* persons were vaccinated during the year; of these 17,648 were successful cases and 8,511 the reverse—i. e., nearly 17 per cent. were failures. Both the number operated on and the success this year compares very favourably with preceding years, as the annexed table will show.

\* Exclusive of 444 who were vaccinated in the Dispensaries, of whom 394 were successful. In addition to the above, much good work in this way has been effected by the Missionaries of the different denominations throughout the Province of which no account is given in this report.

OPERATIONS.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
Total number of people vaccinated ..	23,144	14,076	16,877	18,469	21,154
Number of successful cases ..	18,101	9,669	11,665	13,921	17,643
Number of unsuccessful cases, including doubtful ..	4,762	3,991	4,367	4,141	3,611
Number of cases the result of which is unknown ..	281	..	445	407	..
Percentage of successful cases to total operations ..	78.68	67.98	70.22	75.37	83.40

In 1870-71 there were more individuals operated on, but the percentage of unsuccessful cases was higher than in 1874-75. Although 17 per cent. is the average unsuccessful deduced from the total operated on, there is no correspondence in the results of individual operators; thus in Henzada and Amherst but between four and five in a hundred were unsuccessful, whilst in Tavoy forty-four, in Mergui over fifty-one and in the Rangoon Jail nearly 67 per cent. are recorded as unsuccessful. Kyouk-hpyoo and Sandoway with climatic and other conditions peculiarly similar, show very different results, the former having but 13 per cent. unsuccessful, compared with nearly 49 per cent. for the latter. The small per-centage of successful cases in Sandoway is attributable to the carelessness of children and their parents. The vesicles are broken as soon as they make their appearance, depriving the children of the protection vaccination gives and the vaccinator of lymph. In Rangoon great difficulty was again experienced in getting and keeping up a due supply of pure lymph; the vesicles shown were very often broken, and it was therefore almost impossible to tell whether the vesicles were really characteristic ones or not, and many Burmans positively declined to allow lymph to be taken from the arm.

501. Twenty-one tubes and nine crusts were received from Calcutta, and 261 tubes and 604 crusts from Almorah during the year; most of these proved valueless, and there appears to have been great difficulty in maintaining the supply, even where success had been met with.

502. Small-pox caused 1,191 deaths during the year; much of this mortality, Civil Surgeons maintain, is caused by inoculators whose operations are fraught with danger, not only to the patients, but to the community at large.

503. The total cost of the department including the pay of the Provincial Superintendent and his office establishment was £1,238,—£96 more than the preceding year. This excess was due to the printing of vaccination registers in the vernacular, and to two additional vaccinators being appointed to Shwe-doung and Northern Arakan in the latter part of the year.

VII.—INSTRUCTION.

Education.

504. The year under review was one of peculiar interest from an educational point of view. Without claiming for the department any measure of finality in its work, the record of what has been accomplished bears testimony to active and intelligent progress on a basis which gives security for excellent results, and in a direction which, in its full development, will complete the system of public instruction to be adopted henceforth for the Province. Besides the foundation of Government schools, the appointment of an Inspector and Deputy Inspectors, and a tentative experiment on a series of lectures in law, the year's operations include the establishment of a Madrassah department in the Rangoon high school for the education of Mahomedans, the establishment of a central book depôt, with agencies throughout the country for the distribution of appliances for educational purposes, and the issue under Government auspices of an educational newspaper. Important as these results have been, however, the main interest attaching to the year's work centres in the measures adopted for developing the system of imparting primary education to the masses by means of the indigenous lay and monastic schools, which came into existence independently of the Educational Department.

505. The number of Government schools in the Province has risen from seven in 1872-73, to twenty-one in 1873-74, and to twenty-four in the year under review. Aided missionary schools have advanced from fourteen in 1872-73, to twenty-four in 1873-74, and to twenty-seven in the past year. Other schools, aided either by masters trained and supplied gratuitously by Government, or by participating in the general scheme of inspection and rewards, have risen from eight to 996 in 1873-74, and to 1,143 in 1874-75.

506. Accordingly, the number of children, whose education is in some manner supervised and aided by Government, has risen from 26,618 to 33,027—a little over 1.2 per cent. of the population. The smallness of the proportion is no certain indication, in British Burma at any rate, of the extent to which children receive education; for there are several districts in which as yet no inspecting agency has been initiated, and even in those that are inspected, there are numerous monastic schools, either too remote or too exclusively conservative to submit to any interference. Indeed, primary education of a certain degree is, perhaps, more general in British Burma than in any other portion of our Indian Possessions. The following table

will show the gradual extension of Government influence in educational matters:—

Year.	SCHOOLS. GOVERNMENT AND AIDED.				PUPILS.			
	Government.	Missionary.	Others.	Total.	Government.	Missionary.	Others.	Total.
1872-73 ..	7	14	8	29	519	1,677	621	2,817
1873-74 ..	21	24	936	981	1,127	1,791	23,680	26,618
1874-75 ..	24	27	1,143	1,194	1,945	2,091	28,991	33,027

Putting aside the large increase in the number of pupils aided indirectly through the inspecting agency, the most striking feature of the above table is the singular access of popularity in the Government schools. These, which have only increased in number by three, show an increase in pupils of 798 on last year—a result which in itself is ample testimony of the appreciation by the natives of higher education and, in some measure, of the care and discretion with which the teaching in these institutions has been conducted.

507. These results, however, have been obtained at a considerably increased expenditure, viz., £33,239, as against £23,668 for 1873-74, making the average expended on each child included in the Government scheme something over £1, against 17s. for 1873-74. This sum was provided in the following proportion:—

	£
Provincial funds	15,919
Local cess do.	9,297
Fees	8,022

The local cess funds have been relieved of all charges, except those directly connected with primary education. The tendency of the expenditure is to increase yearly, and in a much greater proportion than the income at the disposal of the department. The limit is by no means reached yet, and the extension of the scheme of inspection and rewards for the indigenous schools to the remaining districts of the Province will entail a further heavy charge on the Cess Fund. On educational buildings £10,546 have been expended, of which, £9,152 were provided by the Public Works Department budget.

508. The system of inspection and rewards, with the object of improving the indigenous primary monastic and lay schools, has been detailed at length in previous reports. The operations of the year included six districts,

Bassein having been added to those originally under inspection. The results are summarized as follows: The total number of schools under supervision has risen during the year from 929 to 1,107, and the number of pupils from 23,112 to 28,489. Deducting the Bassein returns, the increase shown in the five districts included in last year's report, is forty-one schools and 12,221 scholars. The large increase in the number of scholars appears to point to greatly-increased attendance at the schools scattered through these districts. The total number of prize-winners has, however, in spite of the extension to Bassein, diminished from 3,585 to 3,463, and, deducting the Bassein returns, a net decrease of 777 is shown in the districts reported last year, although the number of schools and scholars in the same districts has increased. Thus the per-centage of prize-winners on the number of pupils in attendance is reduced from fifteen to twelve. Two reasons must be assigned for this decrease in the number of prizes gained—(1) the revision of the standards at the beginning of the year, (2) increased strictness in their application by the Deputy Inspectors. Although the total number of prizes awarded has been smaller than during last year, there has been an increase of efficiency in the schools, and greater discrimination in the award of prizes; and on this understanding there is no need to regret the decrease in the number of prizes.

509. The following statement shows the proportion of pupils who have passed under each standard in the three subjects of examination:—

STANDARD.	PRAKASE.			PAI.			ARITHMETIC.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
I. .. ..	1,391	216	1,607	195	13	208	300	66	366
II. .. ..	891	56	947	92	11	103	158	29	173
III. .. ..	340	9	349	48	1	50	113	5	118
IV. .. ..	102	1	103	10	..	10	19	..	19
V. .. ..	9	..	9	2	..	2	5	..	5

The reduced per-centage of prize-winners was a necessary consequence of the revision of the standard of examination, and will even now bear gradual reduction by means of a stricter test. But sudden measures cannot be applied. Once the Phoongyees and schoolmasters become familiarized with, and accustomed to, what is now a novelty, experiments may be held with impunity, which attempted too early would lead to a partial collapse of the whole system, which has commenced so satisfactorily. In the monastic schools the great

Difficulty seems to be—with rare exceptions—that of overcoming the prejudice of the Phooogyees to teaching, or allowing to be taught, numeration or arithmetic of any description. Perseverance and, above everything, tact on the part of the Deputy Inspectors are the only remedies. They have already done much in securing the silent (in some cases the active) co-operation and approval of a large portion of one of the most bigoted and exclusive of sects, the Buddhist monks. It is noticeable that, in the inspection of these indigenous schools, 1,551 girls were examined, of whom 287 gained prizes. This gives a per-centage of eighteen and a half, or considerably higher than in the case of the boys; but there is the additional consideration for this, that the lay schools are almost invariably found better conducted and in better order than the monastic ones: all the girls are educated at the former, and this may account for the difference. The inspection of these schools seems to have been most successfully carried out in the Rangoon and Prome Districts. In the former 241 schools and 8,004 pupils, and in the latter 286 schools and 5,623 pupils, were examined. The results are, indubitably, that the lay schools assisted by trained and salaried teachers will continue to be the sheet-anchor of a sound system of popular education in the Province. The number of indigenous primary schools receiving direct aid from the State in the shape of trained masters, has risen from thirteen to twenty-seven. It is satisfactory to notice that, of these twenty-seven, eight are monastery schools. The development of this scheme is only limited by the scarcity of teachers. The results of the past inspections clearly indicate that numerous schools are deserving of aid in this shape.

510. Government cess schools have increased from twelve to fifteen.

Government cess schools. Except in very rare cases, it has been found impossible to maintain the proposed *status* of the schools, and at the same time secure their popularity. The people crave for an English education, however imparted, and at the expense of the vernacular. To this general desire it has been found necessary to yield, and the schools are now of an Anglo-vernacular, and not a vernacular, class. At the same time, it is absolutely necessary to frame stringent rules as to the conditions under which a pupil is permitted to study English in them. Those conditions should insist on a sustained improvement in the vernacular, as a necessary preliminary to the continuance of such study. Special rules to encourage the learning of land-measuring in these schools have been lately sanctioned, in view of the requirements of the public service.

511. The number of middle class schools, Government and aided,

Middle class schools. continues stationary: of the former class there were five, an increase of one (the Bassein school) over the number in 1873-74, and of the latter nine, a decrease of one on the last two years. Notwithstanding the ill-success which has attended hitherto the Government schools of this grade, it is at least satisfactory to know that the attendance at them has increased from 284 to 420. The following table shows the results of the two years contrasted:—

Number of schools.		Number of pupils at close of year.		Average daily attendance.		Total expenditure.	
1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.
						£	£
14	14	1,372	1,422	1, 23	1,166	4,379	4,975

These statistics do not indicate much progress during the year, except in the matter of expenditure, which has considerably increased without corresponding results in education. The Government schools at Prome and Bassein, and the S. P. G. aided school at Henzada, are partial exceptions to the general failure.

512. With the single exception of the Akyab school, the reports of the position and success of the higher class schools are much more encouraging. The following table shows the results attained: out of the six institutions three are Government schools:—

Number of schools.		Number of pupils.		Average daily attendance.		Expenditure.	
1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1873-74.	1874-75.
						£	£
6	6	816	1,174	723	951	5,375	6,506

The progress of the Rangoon high school is particularly gratifying. It is, however, necessary to note that, in the classification of these schools, the Governor-General in Council has desired that the adoption of a local standard, which has been found necessary as an initiatory measure, may only be temporary, and that the test adopted elsewhere—that of the entrance examination of the Calcutta University—must be considered as the eventual standard up to which the pupils of these institutions must be educated. In the Rangoon school the innovations of the year were the formation of a Madrasah department for the education of Mahomedan children—an institution much needed in a town where so many of the merchants and traders of the better class profess the Mussulman faith—and the establishment of drawing, medical, and law classes. The former class is alone in operation, the second is undergoing organization, and the law lectures have to be

## VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

526 No additions have been made to the information given under this head at paragraph 159 of the Administration Report for 1874-75.

## IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

*Ecclesiastical.*

527. There are eight churches of the Anglican Communion in the Province—viz., two at Rangoon (town and cantonment), one at Moulmein, and one at Toungoo, each provided with a Chaplain of the Bengal Establishment; one at Thayetmyo under the ministrations of a Missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; one at Akyab, with a Clergyman of the Additional Clergy Society; one at Kyouk-hpyoo, which is visited by the latter periodically; and one at Passein, which is occasionally visited by the Rangoon Cantonment Chaplain. In addition, another Missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel visits the stations on the Irrawaddy between Rangoon and Thayetmyo quarterly. The Minister of Akyab further visits Sandoway, Toungoo, and An occasionally, and proceeds to Chittagong several times during the year; the Clergyman of Toungoo visits Shwe-gyeen periodically; and Tavoy and Mergui are visited annually by the Chaplain of Moulmein.

528. A Presbyterian Church has been opened in Rangoon, a fine building having been erected by private contributions aided by a grant from the Government. The congregation numbers 140. The Minister receives a monthly allowance from the Government in consideration of his services to some of the European troops.

529. The Roman Catholic Clergymen at military stations also receive allowances from the Government, and the Right Rev. Bishop Bigandet, who presides over the Roman Catholic Churches in Pegu and Tenasserim, is paid a monthly stipend of £80 for the compilation of certain ecclesiastical returns. The Roman Catholics have thirty-nine churches and twenty-four priests in the various towns and districts of the Province, and Missions to the Karens and other hill people; their congregations aggregate 9,668 persons.

530. Protestant dissenters have 248 institutions, 197 ministers and teachers, and congregations numbering, it is stated, 10,290 persons; but these figures must be incorrect, as in one district alone more than this number is said to attend the Baptist Churches. The principal churches are those of the American Baptist Society, whose missionaries have been very successful in converting to Christianity the Karens in Pegu and Tenasserim, among whom there are many congregations presided over by pastors and teachers of their own race.

521. The first issue of a periodical journal in the vernacular by the Education Department has to be noticed here. The journal is entitled the *Education Gazette*, and has for its object, not only the promotion of the special interests of the department, but also the dissemination of reliable general information, whether of a public or official nature, and the awakening of an interest in literature. The report of the editor at the end of the first six months is sufficiently promising, upwards of a thousand names being on the subscription list. The principal attraction of the paper appears at present to be in the excerpts of the national literature which each number contains.

522. The number of books published during 1874 was thirty-three, of which four were in English, twenty-five in the vernacular, and four in more than one language. Seven were educational, and twenty-six non-educational. There were sixteen original works published as against thirty-five in the previous year, and of re-publications seventeen from the original texts and from translations, to twelve in 1873. There were no translations from original works published during the year. Of the original works the most important are the *Thamoo-hadda Wait-sadaneé Danathat Choke*, being a collection of the Civil Laws of the Burmese by Mr. W. deCourcy Ireland, Deputy Commissioner; and the Peguan Grammar by the Rev. Dr. Haswell, American Baptist Missionary, in English, and also in the Peguan or Taline language. The rest of the original works consisted of tracts and reports published by the American Baptist Missionaries. Among the re-publications was the *Laukanidhi*, a collection of maxims published in Pali and Burmese. The remainder comprised religious works, dramas, and fictions in the Burmese, Karen, Pwo, and Sgau languages.

523. The Rangoon Literary Society, which is still aided by a small grant from Government, is reported to be in a very flourishing condition. Being now provided with the necessary building accommodation, its funds are being devoted to the gradual extension of its already valuable library.

524. As noticed above, the several schools which it is intended to form for instruction in special subjects, have not yet been organized. An experimental beginning has, however, been made in several directions. In view of the formation of a school of medicine, elementary classes have been sanctioned at six of the principal towns under the resident Civil Surgeons. Special drawing classes are also held at the Rangoon high school in view of the formation of a future drawing school, and Normal classes for the training of schoolmasters both vernacular and Anglo-vernacular, will be immediately formed at the same institution. The experiment of founding a lectureship of law has been tried at Rangoon, but has proved to be premature in the present state of education in the Province.

525. There are two Government Presses in the Province—one attached to the Secretariat, the other to the Rangoon Central Jail; and fifteen private

presses,—one in Akyab, ten in Rangoon, one in Bassein, two in Moulmein, and one in Thayetmyo. Eleven newspapers are published, of which one is a tri-weekly, four bi-weekly, five weekly, and one monthly—the last, named being a regimental paper issued by the 67th Regiment, stationed at Thayetmyo. There are also several advertising sheets; and four monthly magazines are published by the Baptist Missionaries and other religious bodies, in English, Burmese, and Karen, for distribution among their congregations.