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REPORT  
ON  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA  
FOR THE YEAR 1903-04.



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# REPORT

ON

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE YEAR 1903-04.

### PART I.

#### GENERAL SUMMARY.

The rapid increase of population in the Irrawaddy delta since the formation in 1893 of the Myaungmya district has made a further subdivision of charges necessary, and a new district, called the Pyapón district, was formed during the year. Relief was thus given to the Deputy Commissioners of Thóngwa and Myaungmya, and by a re-arrangement of townships the most valuable fishery tracts were brought together under the Deputy Commissioner of Thóngwa, now called Ma-ubin district. Two new townships, Moulmeingyun and Tharrawaddy, were also constituted, the former in Myaungmya and the latter in Tharrawaddy district. Territorial changes.

2. Sir Frederick Fryer was succeeded as Lieutenant-Governor on the 4th April 1903 by Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. The Administration.

3. External relations remained peaceful, though there were some disturbances in Northern Siam in the first half of the year, and the ferment across the border gave cause at times for some anxiety in Kéngtúng. Within the frontier, discontent in the lake district of the Yawngwe State, caused by the *Sawbwa's* fiscal innovations, threatened to break out into serious disorder, but the opportune arrival of a British officer on the scene averted the immediate danger. The misconduct of the administrator of Wanyin compelled his removal from his post. The new scale of tribute proved more onerous than was anticipated, and some remissions were granted. Improvement in communications made satisfactory progress except in Mongnai and Kéngtúng. The important question of the construction of a railway to Taunggyi was again under consideration. A successful durbar was held at Taunggyi, combined with an agricultural show and an exhibition of arts and crafts. Southern Shan States.

4. The Northern Shan States enjoyed a prosperous year. Order prevailed on the frontier though there was trouble on the Chinese side of the border. The only untoward event was the death of Captain Wyllie, Assistant Commandant of Military Police, who was shot while effecting the capture of a notorious Chinese dacoit. Northern Shan States.

5. From the Chin Hills also come reports of continued peace and progress. While the Chins beyond the borders continued to raid and quarrel among themselves, the frontier was respected, and in several instances the tribesmen expressed their willingness to come under British protection. Useful progress was made in disarmament. Chins were substituted to a small extent for Indian military police in the Pakókku Chin Hills, and the experiment has so far proved successful. The Chin Hills.

## The Kachin Hills.

6. There was some increase of petty raids on the Chinese frontier of the Kachin Hills, but relations with the Chinese frontier officers were satisfactory. A number of claims against Chinese subjects were amicably settled, and an understanding was reached on the question of runaway slaves. Frontier trade was encouraged by the grant of a drawback of seven-eighths of the customs duty on goods imported into Burma by sea and passing into China *via* Bhamo and Tèngyùeh. The mule road from Bhamo to the frontier was with the consent of the Chinese extended to the Manwaing plain. The work was carried out by Engineers of the Burma Public Works Department and is to be paid for by a special cess or tax levied by the Chinese customs. A bridge remains to be built but the rest of the work was nearly completed by the close of the year.

## Condition of the people.

7. There was no check to the steady advance in the prosperity of the country.

## Realization of land revenue.

8. The land revenue of the province was collected on the whole with ease. The outstandings were small, and the number of coercive processes, though still large, decreased. Nearly eighty-eight per cent. of the revenue for which processes issued was realized.

## Surveys.

9. A party of the Survey of India was at work in the Pakòkku and Shwebo districts, and completed nearly eight hundred miles of traverse and an equal amount of cadastral survey. Original and revision survey work was also done by local parties over areas aggregating more than five hundred miles.

## Settlements.

10. Original settlement operations were in progress in seven districts. The new rates proposed in Myaungmya and Pyapòn were sanctioned, and resulted in a large increase of revenue. The old rates were fixed when these districts, now populous, were almost covered with tidal forest. The Katha district is unhealthy and operations were delayed by sickness in the staff. The 1888 settlement of a part of the Akyab district was revised and the revenue increased by a third. Revision and summary settlements were in progress in other districts.

## Land Records.

11. Two districts of Upper Burma were brought for the first time under supplementary survey. The records of land transfers show a large increase in sales and decrease in mortgages, due, perhaps, partly to speculation and partly to the transferees insisting on outright sales, at least on paper, in place of the usufructuary mortgages for indefinite periods hitherto common in Burma.

## Waste lands.

12. There was a large increase in the area granted or leased in the Tenasserim division, especially the Amherst district, but a falling off in Pegu. The number of pending applications was in some cases unduly large, and in view of the delays inseparable from the present system it has been decided as an experiment to suspend the issue of grants in one division.

## Revenue and rent paying classes.

13. Nineteen-twentieths of the land is held by agriculturists, and the proportion increased during the year. This was due to a favourable season, the area cultivated in Upper Burma being very variable. On the other hand the general tendency in the delta is a steady rise in the proportion of land held by non-agriculturists.

## Legislation.

14. Two bills, to amend the Upper Burma Towns Regulation and the Burma Municipal Act, became law in 1903, and three others giving the Rangoon Magistrates special powers for dealing with thieves and vagabonds, defining the word

and so as to make a license necessary for boat and other races, and restricting the sale of cocaine, were introduced in the Burma Legislative Council and passed into law in the present year. Regulations enabling revenue officers to be invested with the powers of civil courts, and bringing the right of second appeal in civil suits more into conformity with the Civil Procedure Code, were passed for Upper Burma by the Governor-General in Council.

15. The main features of the year's police work were not satisfactory. There was an increase in cognizable crime, especially of the more serious kinds, less successful recruiting, and a greater number of departmental punishments. Good progress was made in the housing of the men, which had hitherto left much to be desired; and a number of outposts in remote places were converted into police-stations, enabling accused persons to be released on bail at once and their cases investigated whereas formerly they had to be taken in custody to a distant police-station. The reports on the working of beat patrols, the identification of criminals by the central bureau, and the relations between the police and headmen were satisfactory. The increase in serious offences was shared by Rangoon town. The work done by village headmen, useful in other respects, showed a failure to assist the police in excise and opium cases. Police.

16. Certain Assistant Commissioners were, before the end of the year, empowered to sentence up to seven years in criminal cases, thus relieving the overburdened Deputy Commissioners in the most hard worked districts of much of their criminal work. The number of criminal cases increased in Lower Burma, but remained about the same in the upper province. Revisions by District Magistrates increased largely in number. Much greater use was made in Lower Burma of the power to release first offenders on security. The number of persons arrested on suspicion and ordered to find security for their good behaviour somewhat decreased. Criminal justice.

17. The number of admissions to the jails was greater than in 1902, but owing to the larger proportion of short-term prisoners the daily average population was less. A large number of prisoners were released on account of the Coronation. Punishments increased in number owing to stricter discipline. Fetters were more seldom used for safety, but more frequently as a punishment. There were three escapes, one followed by re-capture. The accounts show a large saving in expenditure, mainly in dieting, and the nett cost per prisoner also largely decreased in spite of a falling-off in the profits from manufactures. The jail gardens supplied the prisoners with vegetables and yielded a handsome profit in addition. The death-rate showed a slight increase, but was below the average of earlier years. Prisons.

18. There was a general increase in litigation. Pending the introduction of a separate judicial service, executive officers in the heavier charges were relieved as far as possible of their civil judicial work by the appointment of special judges. The clerical establishment was strengthened. Civil justice.

19. The number of documents registered in Lower Burma increased largely, and the value represented by them rose in even greater proportion. Much of the increase was due to speculation in land. Registering officers are now required to take the thumb impressions of all executants who are not personally known to them, or who are unable to sign their names. Registration.

Municipal Adminis-  
tration.

20. The revenue of the Rangoon Municipality showed a substantial increase. Large expenditure was incurred on new water-works and on reclamation. Arrangements are being made for providing electric light and trams. A  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. loan of fifteen lakhs was raised during the year, and was tendered for considerably above par. At Moulmein and Prome large sums were expended on new water-works, but the scheme at Mandalay is in abeyance. The financial position of the Moulmein Municipality has improved, and a general revision of assessment has resulted in a large increase in the revenue of that town. Electric tramways were started at Mandalay after the close of the year, and the new buildings for the Zegyo market, by far the largest in Burma, approach completion.

Military and Volun-  
teering.

21. The strength of the regular military force was somewhat reduced. Volunteering showed a steady increase.

## Marine.

22. Marine surveys were in progress in the Tenasserim and Arakan divisions. A new light-house, better placed than the old, was opened at the mouth of the Moulmein river, and a light-house off Cheduba on the coast of Arakan was under construction. Three new launches were added to the Government fleet. There was a large increase in the number of vessels visiting the ports of the province. The ship *Laomene* foundered off the Alguada reef in February 1904.

## Agriculture.

23. There were no serious epidemics among cattle, and agricultural stock increased. Inoculation against rinderpest was tried with varying success. A bumper rice crop produced low prices, but the prosperity of the country was shown by the ability of the people to keep back their crops until the price rose again. Cotton was in active demand. Cultivators were assisted with advances in nearly all districts. Endeavours are being made to encourage thrift among agriculturists by the establishment of co-operative societies under Government supervision. The protective embankments of Lower Burma in charge of the Public Works Department continued to assure the crops over a large area and thus to justify their construction. Several retirements and a small extension were made.

## Weather and crops.

24. The rainfall was good at the beginning and end of the season, but deficient in the middle, in Upper Burma so much so as to threaten at one time serious scarcity. The season on the whole was good, and there was an increase of a million acres in the area of land under rice alone.

## Horticulture.

25. Small experimental gardens were maintained by Government at various places, the most successful being in the Southern Shan States. Havana and Virginia tobacco-seeds were again distributed and excellent results obtained. Tea succeeded in the Shan States. An attempt to rear silkworms from French eggs failed.

## Forests.

26. The forest reserves now exceed twenty thousand square miles. Fire-protection was made more systematic, but was not altogether successful. Some interesting experiments in teak-reproduction with the aid of fire were carried on. Forest offences increased in number. The output of teak was considerably enhanced owing to a good floating season.

## Minerals and quarries.

27. The output of petroleum in the fields of the Burma Oil Company largely increased, and the royalty amounted to nearly twelve lakhs. The Ruby Mines Company prospered and renewed their lease. Work was abandoned in the coal-mines in Shwebo. Dredging for gold was carried on in the upper reaches of the

Irrawaddy. Tin is still worked only on a small scale by native miners, but several European prospectors are in the field.

28. Twelve new rice mills were established and the number of operatives ~~was~~ largely increased.

29. The value of the sea-borne trade was the highest yet recorded, in spite <sup>Trade.</sup> of a decline in the exports of rice. Imports rose in value by well over a third. The higher value was partly due to a rise in the price of cotton, but the bulk even of cotton goods increased. Large imports of silk from Japan placed her third among the importing countries, next to the United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements. The Straits and Japan received most of the rice. The coasting trade, and that with the Shan States and with China, also showed an advance, and the cessation of disturbances in Siam was followed by a large increase in the trade with that country.

30. Several important roads were under construction, and that connecting <sup>Public Works.</sup> Moulmein with the Siamese frontier was practically completed. Traffic on the railways grew considerably, and the net earnings rose by three lakhs. Sanction was received for a railway line from Pegu to Martaban.

31. There was a large increase in the area irrigated from canals in Upper <sup>Irrigation.</sup> Burma, chiefly owing to the opening of the new Mandalay canal and to the abundant rains in the latter part of the season. It was partly counterbalanced by a decrease in tank irrigation in Yamèthin and Meiktila owing to the failure of the middle rains. The construction of the Shwebo canal was advanced and work was started on the Môn canals.

32. The total gross revenues of the province increased by seventy-three lakhs <sup>Imperial revenue.</sup> and a half and the Imperial share by nearly forty-four lakhs. The expenditure rose by thirty-two and a half lakhs, of which the Imperial share was nearly fifteen. The railways were largely responsible for the increase on both sides of the account. There was a marked decrease in the expenditure on military works.

33. Land revenue proper showed an increase of nearly twenty lakhs. Of this <sup>Land Revenue.</sup> over five lakhs resulted from the substitution of land-tax for *thathameda*. The rest of the increase was due to the introduction of new rates following on settlement, a temporary expansion of agricultural operations in Upper Burma owing to a good season, the steady advance of cultivation in the lower province, and the opening of the Mandalay canal. The number of persons assessed to capitation-tax in Lower Burma increased by two per cent. and the demand by over a lakh. Village headmen made greater use of the powers of exemption on account of poverty or old age lately conferred on them. In Upper Burma the *thathameda* declined by over six lakhs, partly owing to migration, but mainly on account of the substitution of land revenue mentioned above. The revenue from fisheries steadily increased, and the royalty on petroleum rose by nearly fifty per cent.

34. There is only one navigation canal on which dues are collected. The <sup>Canal revenue.</sup> receipts slightly declined.

35. The import duties yielded nearly eight lakhs more, but the export duties <sup>Customs.</sup> produced nine lakhs less owing to the restricted exports of rice.

36. The second year's working of the new opium scheme showed an increase <sup>Opium.</sup> in receipts of fifty per cent. over the first, and the net revenue far exceeded that under the old system, notwithstanding the large increase in expenditure and the

handsome profits of the vendors. Though much more Government opium was sold than formerly, the general opinion is that the consumption of opium in the province is much the same and that the gain to Government has been at the expense of the smuggler.

**Salt.** 37. There was a large increase in the local outturn of salt, and a decline in duty-paid foreign imports. The proportion of English to other foreign salt was much larger than in the previous year. The imports of salted fish fell off by nearly a third, the deficit being no doubt supplied locally. The new system of assessing duty on the outturn instead of at a fixed amount per cauldron proved a financial success, and its operation has been extended.

**Excise.** 38. The excise revenue showed a considerable increase, mainly in imported liquors, the enhanced receipts from which were largely due to the break-up of a combination of bidders in Rangoon. Larger consumption was the cause of an increase in the revenue from native fermented liquors. Security for the payment of license fees was dispensed with, and a system of monthly payments in advance was substituted.

**Stamps.** 39. The stamp revenue also showed an increase above the average, owing to the prosperity of the year and to land speculation in and near Rangoon. The increase was mainly in non-judicial stamps.

**Assessed taxes.** 40. Income-tax, hitherto levied on incomes of Rs. 500 and over, was remitted under an Act passed in 1903 on all incomes under Rs. 1,000, and the number of persons assessed was less than half that of the previous year. The demand, however, decreased only slightly, and in Rangoon and five other districts there was an increase.

**Forests.** 41. The forest revenues increased by more than a fourth owing to the larger extraction of teak. The exports of timber in the previous year were much below normal.

**Provincial revenues.** 42. The provincial share of the increase in the gross revenues was over thirty lakhs and a half and of the increase in expenditure nearly eighteen. The increases were mainly under the heads shared with imperial funds, but expenditure on civil works rose by nearly seven lakhs.

**Local Funds.** 43. The district cess funds in Lower Burma grew in sympathy with the land revenue. The other funds generally showed substantial increases.

**Births and deaths.** 44. The birth-rate rose to a little under thirty-four per thousand. An abnormal monsoon and heavy rains toward the end of the season brought a large increase in the death-rate, from twenty-one to twenty-four in the lower and from seventeen to nearly twenty-two in the upper province. There was a large increase in deaths from cholera, but the rise in the death-rate was mainly due to fevers and bowel complaints.

**Emigration and Immigration.** 45. The stream of immigrants from India continued to increase, and an addition of at least fifty thousand was made to the population in this way.

**Medical relief.** 46. The number of in-patients admitted to the hospitals showed a considerable increase. Seven new dispensaries were opened during the year. In Lower Burma the most prevalent disease was worms, and in Upper Burma malaria.

**Sanitation and Vaccination.** 47. The Hlawga water-works for Rangoon are still under construction, and the Victoria Lake, the only good drinking water available, was lower than usual.

To prevent a water-famine it was necessary to limit the supplies and to use for a time the water of the Royal Lake, which caused an increase in bowel complaints. The Moulmein water-works also were not completed. A successful experiment in the disposal of refuse was made by the construction of a septic tank at Maymyo. The staff of vaccinators was again strengthened, but their work was reported to be unsatisfactory.

48. Good progress was made in education, the attendance, especially at *Education.* schools controlled by Government, being largely increased. The pay of teachers in municipal and Government schools was raised considerably, Government undertaking to pay half the salary in the former provided the prescribed tests were passed. Itinerant teachers were made pensionable servants. A new vernacular curriculum, of a more practical character and better suited to the needs of agriculturists, was introduced; and better terms were offered to the managers of small vernacular schools. Steps are being taken to introduce a system of grants on the lines approved by the Simla Conference. Vernacular secondary education showed a decline. The number of University passes was below the average, but one striking success was secured. Technical education is as yet backward.

49. The work of repairing and restoring the pavilions on the walls of Man- *Archæology.* dalay city was completed and further repairs were made to the palace buildings. The Queen's monastery at Mandalay and several pagodas at Pagan were repaired, and a museum at Pagan was under construction.

**PART II.**  
**REPORT.**

**I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.**

**REFERENCES.**

Report on the Administration of the Shan States for the year ending the 31st March 1904.

Report on the Administration of the Chin Hills for the year ending the 31st March 1904.

Report on the North-Eastern Frontier of Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.

**Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples.**

For information concerning these matters paragraphs 1 to 8 of the Report for 1901-02 may be consulted.

**POLITICAL.**

**Historical summary.**

**Form of administration.**

**Character of land tenures, system of survey and settlement.**

For information concerning these matters, paragraphs 9 to 55 of the Report for 1901-02 may be consulted.

**Civil divisions of British territory.**

1. Permanent information concerning these divisions was given in paragraphs 56 to 67 of the Report for 1901-02. The most important territorial change of the year was the constitution of the Pyapôn district. Formation of a new district. Owing to the rapid increase of the population in the delta of the Irrawaddy since the new district of Myaungmya was formed in 1893, it was found necessary to relieve the Deputy Commissioner of that district and also of the adjoining district of Thôngwa, which had its headquarters at Ma-ubin. The new district was composed of the Pyapôn, Kyaiklat and Dedayè townships and part of the Pyindayè township of the old Thôngwa district, with subdivisional headquarters at Pyapôn and Kyaiklat, while the Pantanaw township was transferred from Myaungmya to Thôngwa, now called the Ma-ubin district. That part of the Pyindayè township which was retained was renamed Bogale, as the headquarters are at that station. A new township of Moulmeingyun in the Myaungmya district was formed out of the remainder together with part of Wakêma. One effect of the new arrangement is to collect the most valuable fishery tracts of the province under the hand of the Deputy Commissioner, Ma-ubin, who will become an expert in fishery administration. Some slight alterations were also made in other township boundaries. The new arrangement took effect from the 1st December 1903.

2. A new township of Tharrawaddy was formed from parts of the Letpadan and Minhla townships with effect from the 1st November 1903. Other changes. The Yenangyaung township, formerly part of the Magwe subdivision, was made into a separate subdivision under the Deputy Commissioner, Magwe. Yebaw, an island in the Irrawaddy, was transferred from the Sale township of Myingyan to the Salin township of Minbu, and the village of The-in-kyun from the Allanmyo to the Kama township of Thayetmyo. The boundaries of the Myoma and Leiktho townships of Toungoo, and of the Mergui, Bôkpyin and Tenasserim townships of the Mergui district were revised; and the headquarters of the Seikpyu township, Pakôkku district, were transferred from Aukseik to Seikpyu, those of the Taungdwingyi township, Magwe, from Taungdwingyi to Sathwa, and those of the Thigwin township, Myaungmya, from Thigwin to Einmè.

**Details of the last census. Tribes and languages.**

The Report for 1901-02, paragraphs 68 to 75, gives this information.

## Changes in the Administration.

I.—PHYSICAL AND  
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3. THE HON'BLE SIR H. S. BARNES, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., I.C.S., received charge of the administration from SIR F. W. R. FRYER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., on the 4th April 1903, and held charge till the end of the year.

### Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Southern Shan  
States.

4. The external relations of the Southern Shan States were peaceful throughout the year. There were some disturbances in Northern Siam, and the ferment across the border gave cause at times for anxiety in Kengtung, but the year passed without the occurrence of any regrettable incidents. Within the frontier, the discontent in the Lake district of the Yawnghwe State, caused by the *Sawbwa's* fiscal innovations, threatened, early in the cold weather of 1903, to break out into serious disorder. But the opportune arrival on the scene of a British officer averted the immediate danger, and it is hoped that the moderation shown by the *Sawbwa* under the guidance of the newly appointed Adviser will have the effect of allaying the disaffection of the turbulent Intha population. The misconduct of the Administrator of Wanyin, who was suspended on a charge of shielding offenders and harbouring criminals, compelled his removal from his post. With these exceptions there were no very serious instances of maladministration, though many of the Chiefs still need constant guidance and supervision. The new scale of tribute, which fell due for the first time in the year under review, proved in some cases to be more onerous than was anticipated and has lately been under the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration, more especially in the Myelat, where it is clear that some relief is necessary to enable allotments of funds to be made for public works. Many of these States are so small, and their resources so meagre, that they cannot be expected without assistance to accomplish much in the way of public improvements. After an examination of their position some remissions for the past year have recently been granted. Outside the Myelat many States made satisfactory progress in improving communications, and several Chiefs, notably the Mōng Kūng *Myosa*, deserve mention for their energy in constructing roads and bridges. On the other hand both in Mōng Nai and in Kengtung the interests of the people were not in this respect sufficiently considered. The opening up of communications within and between the States is a matter of much importance to the future development of the natural resources of the country, more especially if the construction of a railway to Taunggyi, which is again under consideration, should meet with approval. Though the past year was one of good crops and of improved trade, experience tends to show that until a cheap and easy means of communication with the markets of Burma is provided there is no sufficient incentive to, and no immediate prospect of, any large extension of cultivation. The durbar at Taunggyi was well managed, and it is hoped that the agricultural show and the exhibition of arts and crafts, which were this year associated with the durbar gathering, will be established as annual events. Crime was fairly well reported. Some serious cases of violent crime were reported from Kengtung; but it would not be reasonable at present to expect in Kengtung, with its large area and long external border, the same degree of tranquillity that exists in the inland States. The public health was good, and the civil hospital at Taunggyi continued to advance in popularity. The Kengtung Civil hospital so far has not been very successful. The school at Taunggyi for the sons of Shan Chiefs showed satisfactory progress.

Northern Shan  
States.

5. The Northern Shan States enjoyed a prosperous year. Though there was much trouble on the Chinese side of the boundary, order prevailed on the frontier, and there was no important disturbance within the States themselves. The steps taken to effect the capture of a notorious Chinese dacoit in North Hsenwi unfortunately led to the death, in January 1904, of Captain Wyllie, the Assistant Commandant of the Military Police Battalion. The despatch of a party to the frontier to carry on the work of erecting permanent boundary pillars caused some alarm among the Was on the North Hsenwi frontier, but their apprehensions took no offensive form. The annual settlement of border cases with the officials of the States of Chefang and Mōngmao on the Chinese side of the

frontier proved to be satisfactory, and year by year this system of maintaining order and punishing crime on the frontier is likely to be more widely and readily accepted. The financial embarrassment of Saw Hkè, the acting *Sawbwa* of Hsipaw State, was a serious drawback to his efficiency as an administrator. The treasury of this important State has been in the charge of a Treasury Officer appointed by the Local Government since July 1902, and the revenue realised shows a substantial increase. In December 1903, the Palaung State of Tawngpeng was included in the charge of the Assistant Superintendent at Hsipaw. Since the close of the year an officer has been posted to Tawngpeng as a temporary measure, under the Assistant Superintendent, in order to assist in the reorganisation of the finances of the Chief, who has asked for help and guidance. The irregularities and abuses characteristic of the more backward Shan States continued to exist in North Hsenwi. The South Hsenwi State was well administered and the Chief of East Manglîn, the greater part of whose State lies beyond the Salween, showed himself to be friendly and loyal. The rapid development of railway traffic deserves notice. Although exports by road naturally diminished, the returns show a large increase in the total exports of the States, and a small decrease in imports. Much useful work was done in the making and the repair of roads; violent crime decreased, and the statistics of detection are satisfactory. In Hsipaw the revenue administration was good and the income of the State increased. Elsewhere the fiscal methods of the Chiefs are still very primitive, though they are gradually improving under the advice and guidance of the Superintendent and his officers.

6. The Chins of the unadministered territories beyond our borders continued to raid and quarrel among themselves: but as a rule they respected the frontier. The progress of the Chin Hills was on the whole satisfactory, but there are indications that the Chins still feel the need of sources of income other than agriculture and trade to compensate them for the lawless profits of slave and cattle raiding which they used in old days to enjoy. The hospital and Government Vernacular School at Falam give evidence of increasing popularity. Useful progress was made in the matter of disarmament. Considerable expenditure was incurred during the year in constructing mule tracks and roads from Mindat-Sakan to Khrum and Kanpetlet in the Pakòkku Chin Hills and from Falam to Tyao River in the Chin Hills proper. A project for a piped water-supply at Falam was sanctioned shortly after the close of the year. In the Pakòkku Chin Hills the substitution to some extent of Chins for Indian military police has so far proved successful, and has been instrumental in inducing the villagers of Khrum to tender their submission. The Chin Hills.

7. There were no important disturbances on the Kachin Hills frontier during the year, but the number of minor border cases increased. The Chinese authorities have not succeeded in carrying out fully their part of the Manai Agreement of 1902 with respect to the establishment of military outposts for the better control of the Kachin tribesmen on the Chinese side of the frontier. On the confines of the Myitkyina district they are reported to have made no attempt to station a border post, while on the Bhamo frontier their operations were frustrated by sickness among the troops. Nevertheless, though there was some increase in the number of petty raids on the frontier, relations with the Chinese frontier officers were satisfactory. Officials of both Governments met near Namhkam in January 1904, and were able to settle amicably most of the pending claims against Chinese subjects. Some later cases were compounded by His Majesty's Consul at Têngyüeh in communication with the *Taotai*. Altogether the Chinese authorities paid damages or restored cattle to the value of nearly Rs. 3,000. A noteworthy event of the year was the extension, with the consent of the Chinese authorities, of the mule road from Bhamo as far as the Manwaing plain beyond the Chinese frontier. A meeting between the Civil Officer, Kamaing, and the independent Chief of Ningting, in the Hukawng Valley, resulted in a good understanding on the difficult question of runaway slaves. The settlement of forest reserves in the Bhamo district, which was postponed in the previous year, was successfully carried out, and was made the occasion of an attempt to encourage the Kachins to abandon shifting cultivation and cultivate irrigable land. Four reserves were settled in the Myitkyina district during the year. In that district there has The Kachin Hills.

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POLITICAL GEO-  
GRAPHY.

been a large and satisfactory increase in the revenue from india-rubber. Trans-frontier trade is improving, but only slowly. In order to assist in the development of this route the Government of India have accepted a proposal to grant, with certain exceptions, a drawback of seven-eighths of the sea customs duty on goods imported by sea into Rangoon and re-exported to China *via* Bhamo and Têngyöeh. To facilitate the working of this scheme a bonded warehouse under the control of the Customs department has been opened at Bhamo. The number of violent crimes decreased, the aggregate in the Myitkyina district in the previous year having been somewhat abnormal. The total number of criminal cases tried by the Courts in each of the districts concerned is, however, greater than in the previous year. Considerable activity was shown by Civil Officers, and especially by the Civil Officer, Sima, in the arrest of opium smugglers, and the seizures of illicit opium were large. The measures taken for the registration and licensing of firearms were much more effectual than in previous years.

#### Condition of the People.

8. The remarks under this head on page 28 of the Report for 1901-02 apply to the current year. There was no check to the steady advance in the prosperity of the country.

## II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

### REFERENCES.

- Land Revenue Administration Report for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
Land Records Administration Report for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
Nineteenth issue of the Agricultural Statistics of India for the years 1899-1900 to 1903-04. Part I, Tables VA and B and VIA and B.

### Realization of the Revenue.

9. The total demand of land revenue proper assessed during the year was Rs. 2,18,15,715. With the exception of Rs. 45,471 the whole amount was collected before the end of the year. The collections were nearly 20 lakhs more than in the previous year. The outstandings on account of capitation-tax in Lower Burma on an assessment of Rs. 49,13,655 amounted to Rs. 52 only, while out of Rs. 46,41,173 *thathameda* assessed in Upper Burma Rs. 29,222 had been remitted and a sum of Rs. 723 was outstanding at the close of the year. The fishery revenue amounted to Rs. 29,07,886, of which Rs. 31,050 remained outstanding. Amounts recovered and outstanding.

10. The total amount of land revenue of all kinds for which application for coercive processes was made was Rs. 6,34,034 as compared with Rs. 8,23,388 in the previous year, and the amount of revenue realized thereby was Rs. 5,56,677. The revenue courts issued 35,779 notices to defaulters and 19,946 warrants of attachment of property. In 1,094 cases the property attached was sold. Warrants of arrest numbered 14,675, and 6,883 persons were arrested and 78 committed to jail. Nearly 88 per cent. of the revenue for which processes were issued was realized. Coercive processes.

### Surveys.

11. Demarcation work was continued in the Pakòkku district, and an area of 931 square miles completed at a cost of Rs. 4,097. Work was confined to the Seikpyu and Pauk townships, the former of which is now finished and the latter still in hand. In Tavoy an area of 21 square miles was demarcated at a cost of Rs. 408 by a small staff for a local survey party which operated there during the year. In Mandalay 51 square miles were demarcated according to village boundaries in connection with revision survey operations which were being carried on by a special staff. No extra cost was incurred on this as the work was carried out by the existing staff. For the work of the special local survey party operating in the Katha district advance demarcation was done by Township Officers and Land Records Inspectors, assisted by Inspectors belonging to the Settlement party which was at work in the district at the time. The total area completed was 118 square miles at a cost of Rs. 1,492. About 9 square miles comprising the extended limits of the Rangoon Municipality are in progress of demarcation for a large scale survey. Demarcation preliminary to survey.

12. No. 7 Party of the Survey of India completed 560 square miles of traverses in the Myaing and Seikpyu townships of the Pakòkku district, and 221 square miles in the Ye-u subdivision of the Shwebo district. It also finished the cadastral survey of 301 square miles in the Pakòkku and Myaing townships of Pakòkku and 507 square miles of scattered villages in Shwebo. The cost during the field-season for traversing was Rs. 46,081 and for the detail survey Rs. 66,397, while the estimated cost of the entire work of the recess-season is Rs. 94,000. The total cost, actual and estimated, of the combined operations thus amounts to Rs. 2,06,478. Survey of India.

13. Owing to numerous changes in field boundaries and to large extensions of cultivation it was found necessary to revise the surveys in the Danubyu and Yandoon townships of the Ma-ubin district before the re-settlement proposed in 1904-05. The work was carried out by three Inspectors and 22 Surveyors under the Superintendent of Land Records, and 366 square miles, including 112,782 Survey by local parties.

II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LANDS.

acres of cultivation, were surveyed at a cost of Rs. 23,000. Smaller staffs re-surveyed 49 square miles containing 20,037 acres in Mandalay at a cost of Rs. 8,000 and 35 square miles containing 17,000 acres in Kyaukse at a cost of Rs. 3,400. Certain islands in the Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Myingyan, and the Mandalay canal tract, are surveyed afresh each year owing to constant changes. The settlement pending in Katha necessitated the surveys, mostly original, of 88 square miles containing 16,605 acres of cultivation, and this work was done by local parties at a cost of Rs. 19,203. In Tavoy district, which is to be settled this year, 15 square miles containing 6,429 acres of cultivation were surveyed for the first time at a cost of Rs. 3,676. The large scale survey of Tavoy town was continued and 1,774 acres mapped at a cost to the Municipality of Rs. 1,304. In 22 districts special staffs were employed on the survey of *potlis*, partly on regular pay, but chiefly by payment on the piece-work system. The total number of cases dealt with was 16,007, the area surveyed 201,521 acres, and the cost of the operations Rs. 85,102. The staffs engaged consisted in all of 29 Inspectors and 197 Surveyors, working for varying periods. The fees realized came to Rs. 1,04,194, mostly at a rate of 2 annas per acre. The largest areas surveyed were in Amherst (57,433 acres), Pegu (30,215), Toungoo (25,940) and Pyapôn (20,543).

### Settlements.

Original settlements.

14. Original settlement operations were in progress in the Myaungmya, Pyapôn, Hanthawaddy, Tharrawaddy and Prome districts of Lower Burma and the Shwebo and Katha districts of Upper Burma. The total cost during the year was Rs. 2,14,669, and the cultivated area dealt with 474,698 acres. The cost per acre varied from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  annas in Pyapôn and Myaungmya to  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in Katha. The last figure, however, was abnormal, and the cost of an Upper Burma settlement may be ordinarily taken as 6 or 7 annas. The Katha operations were considerably delayed by sickness in the staff, the district being an unhealthy one. A special report on land tenures in Katha was submitted by the Settlement Officer and has furnished Government with data for settling the much-vexed questions relating to them. The new rates proposed in Myaungmya and Pyapôn were sanctioned during the year and came into force on the 1st July 1904, over a cultivated area of 235,995 acres. The settlement resulted in an increase of Rs. 4,65,108. There has been a large influx of population into these districts, which were but a few years ago covered with tidal forest. The average enhancement per acre was Re. 1, and the cost As 5.

Revision settlements.

15. The revision of the rates fixed in 1888 in the south-east of the Akyab district was completed during the year, and resulted in an increase of Rs. 1,80,522, or 33 per cent., on a cultivated area of 297,507 acres. The average cost per acre was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas. Revision settlements were also in progress in Myaungmya, where 103,043 acres were dealt with at a cost of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  annas per acre, and Kyaukse in Mandalay, where 169,478 acres were re-settled at an average cost of 4 annas.

Summary settlements.

16. In Lower Burma the summary settlement of a compact area in the Akyab district, measuring 14,972 acres, was carried through at the low rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas per acre. Summary settlements in Upper Burma were somewhat expensive. They dealt with large areas which contained scattered blocks of cultivation. In the Lower Chindwin 25,031 acres cost 5 annas an acre, and in Meiktila 8,492 acres cost on the average 6 annas. The increase of revenue on a total of 199,066 acres settled in this and previous years in the Lower Chindwin was Rs. 66,183, or 30 per cent., and on 18,230 acres in the Upper Chindwin Rs. 3,399, or 5 per cent.

### Land Records.

Area under supplementary survey.

17. The total area under supplementary survey was 41,919 square miles, with a total assessment of Rs. 2,22,03,617. The increase in the former over last year was 4,285 square miles, and in the latter close upon 18 lakhs. The main reason for the increase in the area dealt with by the supplementary survey is the addition of the Magwe and Lower Chindwin districts, which were under settlement during the previous year and thus not taken into account before, and the inclusion of 120 square miles in Sandoway, which were cadastrally surveyed two years

previously and have now been brought under supplementary survey for the first time. The other changes are minor ones. The total cost on account of superintendence and inspection amounts to Rs. 3,71,035 and for the survey staff to Rs. 6,21,539; in all Rs. 9,92,574 against Rs. 9,10,363 the year before. The cost per square mile was Rs. 23.68, or 4.26 per cent. on the assessment, both slightly lower than last year.

II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

18. The area sold during the year increased from 465,805 to 554,213 acres and that redeemed from 211,658 to 269,345, while the mortgaged area decreased from 397,852 to 293,159. The increase in sales is ascribed in the Pyapôn district to rampant speculation, which also produced a large number of nominal redemptions as the mortgage-deeds changed hands. In the Myaungmya district the increase is attributed to the growing dislike of the transferees for the old Burmese custom of conditional sale, whereby land, though nominally sold outright, could be redeemed by the transferor or his heirs after an indefinite period, extending sometimes over several generations. These conditional sales are, of course, really mortgages, and were shown as such. It is probable that many such mortgages are now shown as sales, a separate agreement for redemption, not enforceable by law but adhered to in practice, being made between the parties.

Transfer of land.

#### Waste Lands.

19. The area granted or leased for cultivation was 110,776 acres, rather more than in the previous year. More than half of this was assigned in the districts of Amherst, Toungoo and Thatôn, all in the Tenasserim Division. In the Pegu Division there was a falling-off except in Prome. In the Pyapôn district the number of applications awaiting disposal at the end of the year was no less than 1,220. Delays seem inevitable under the present system, and in the Pegu Division it has been decided to suspend the issue of grants experimentally for two years. Before a grant can issue the land must be inspected by the revenue officer to enable him to determine the period of exemption, and it must also be surveyed so that it may be afterwards identified. In some cases, too, rival claims have to be considered.

Grants and leases for cultivation.

20. One hundred and seventy acres were granted revenue free for religious edifices. As usual the bulk of this area was granted in Tharrawaddy and Hanthawaddy for the consecration of *theins* and the erection of monasteries. Of 36.47 acres granted revenue free for public purposes 12 acres represent the area of the grant to the Roman Catholic Mission in Mandalay town for use as a cemetery and ten acres the extent of the concession to the American Baptist Mission at Maymyo. The remaining area was granted in small lots for the erection of *sayats* or travellers' rest-houses and the digging of tanks for the supply of water.

Revenue-free grants.

#### Government Estates and Wards' Estates.

21. There are no such estates in Burma.

#### Revenue and rent-paying classes.

22. The area occupied by agriculturists has increased from 9½ to 10½ million acres. That occupied by resident non-agriculturists has advanced only from 608,679 to 622,651, and by non-residents from 952,316 to 985,181. (The increase in the first-mentioned area is due to extensions of cultivation following a favourable season. The most marked increase was in Hanthawaddy. The proportion of non-agriculturists, however, in Pegu, Tharrawaddy, Prome, Pyapôn, Myaungmya, Thatôn and Amherst is steadily rising, and the question of an enquiry on the subject is now before the Local Government.)

Landholders.

23. The number of tenants renting lands for 5 years or over has risen from 20,444 to 21,568 and those for under 5 years from 1,27,881 to 1,42,213. The number of the latter was swelled by a large influx of Chittagonians into Akyab. Other districts in which there was a considerable increase in tenancies were Pyapôn, Bassein, Myaungmya and Thayetmyo.

Tenants.

### III.—PROTECTION.

#### REFERENCES—

- Report on the Police Administration of Burma for 1903.  
 Report on the Police Administration of Rangoon Town for 1903.  
 Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burma for 1903.  
 Report on the Prison Administration of Burma for 1903.  
 Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Burma for 1903.  
 Note on the Working of the Registration Department in Burma during 1903.  
 Report on the Working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Resolution on the working of Municipalities in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Report on Government Steamers, Vessels and Launches in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Ninth Issue of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04 and preceding years—Tables I, II, III, IV, V, VII, IX, XI and XVII.

#### Legislating Authority.

The Report for 1901-02, pp. 33 and 34, should be referred to for information under this head.

#### Course of Legislature.

Acts passed.

24. The Bills to amend the Upper Burma Towns Regulation and the Burma Municipal Act, the provisions of which were described in last year's Report, became law during the year as Burma Acts I & II of 1903. Several other Bills were under the consideration of the Local Government, and three, the provisions of which are summarized below, were introduced in the Burma Legislative Council towards the end of 1903.

Rangoon Police Act Amendment Act

25. The Act to amend the Rangoon Police Act, I of 1904, empowers the criminal courts of Rangoon town to require a person convicted of an offence under section 30 or 31 of the amended Act to execute a bond with or without sureties for his good behaviour for a period not exceeding one year. The above sections have been found of great value in the prevention of crime in Rangoon town, but the majority of persons convicted under these provisions are habitual criminals who again begin to prey on the public on their release from jail after undergoing imprisonment for three months, the maximum term which may be imposed under these sections. In several cases a conviction under section 30 was the third conviction of the same person under the same section within a period of twelve months, and the further power conferred by the amending Act is necessary to protect the public from the depredations of such persons.

The Burma Towns and Village Laws Amendment Act.

26. The object of the Act to amend various enactments relating to towns and villages in Burma (II of 1904) is to define the term *pwé* as used in these enactments and to make it clear that the provisions requiring a license to hold a *pwé* apply to native cart, pony, or boat races, as well as to entertainments of a theatrical nature. Power is also taken to enlarge the definition further so as to apply the provisions, in particular localities, to any form of public entertainment or gathering which may hereafter require similar regulation. The amendments will also remove the cause of the conflicting decisions as to the meaning of the term *pwé*, which, by a full bench decision of the Chief Court of Lower Burma, had been restricted to entertainments of a theatrical nature, whilst the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma had held that the term applied also to pony races and other similar gatherings. Cart races, pony races, and boat races in this province are fruitful causes of crime, and it appears that, during the five years from 1897 to 1901, in 606 cases acts of violence were committed at *pwés* which were not of a theatrical nature, causing the death of 33 persons, serious hurt to 256 and simple hurt to 317; such meetings are, moreover, not infrequently promoted by gamblers who hope to collect a large crowd and use the race meeting as a cloak for extensive gambling operations. Under these circumstances

it is necessary that the local authorities should have sufficient notice of an intended meeting to enable proper police arrangements to be made, and should also have the power to prevent or curtail any meeting, especially if not promoted for the *bona fide* advancement of legitimate sport under the guidance of respectable persons.

27. The Burma Excise Law Amendment Act, III of 1904, authorizes the imposition of restrictions on the sale of cocaine by empowering the Local Government to declare by notification additional intoxicating drugs of which the sale and possession may be restricted under Chapters III and VII and other provisions of the Excise Act, 1896. The Bill was drafted in consequence of the large increase in the sale of cocaine in Rangoon town and the noxious results found attendant on the use of the drug, which when taken habitually causes emaciation, sleeplessness, and loss of memory and mental control. The effects of the drug are said to be infinitely worse than those following the excessive use of opium, being more permanent and often resulting in insanity. The Bill also provides for the control of places where liquor is sold. Moreover, the Local Government desires to put a stop to the evils which have been found to attend the employment of barmaids in Rangoon. The practice has only recently attained any considerable dimensions, and the change in the law will not involve undue interference with the rights of individuals or with the interests of trade.

28. Fourteen General Acts affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council during the year.

29. Two Regulations, amending the Upper Burma Land and Revenue and Civil Courts Regulations, were enacted during the year by the Governor-General in Council. The former enabled the Local Government to confer on Revenue officers any power exercised by a civil court in the trial of suits; the latter brought the right of second appeal more into conformity with the Civil Procedure Code.

30. The provisions of the Burma Ferries Act, II of 1898, were extended to the Shan State of Mông Mit with its dependency Mông Láng; and the Burma Forest Act, IV of 1902, was declared applicable to Chins in the Chin Hills under the provisions of the Chin Hills Regulation, 1896, and to members of a hill-tribe in a hill tract under the provisions of the Kachin Hill Tribes Regulation, 1895.

### Police.

31. Colonel S. C. F. Peile, C.I.E., I.A., was Inspector-General throughout the year. He was assisted by Deputy Inspectors-General of Civil and Military Police and Supply and Clothing.

32. The sanctioned strength of the regular force at the close of the year, excluding Rangoon town and the railway police, was 13,202, distributed among 465 police-stations and 232 outposts. The sanctioned strength was increased by 10 head constables, 37 sergeants and 210 constables, the largest addition being in the Pegu district. The formation of the new district of Pyapón made an addition necessary in the list of District Superintendents, who now number 40. An important reform effected during the year was the conversion of 48 outposts, situated in places remote from their police-stations, into second class stations. The effect of this was to empower the officer in charge to investigate offences and release accused persons on bail. An outpost officer can do neither, and much delay in investigation and hardship to accused persons will thus be avoided.

33. The total cost of the force was Rs. 38,21,884, of which Rs. 1,34,231 were contributed by local funds. An increase of slightly over a lakh was due mainly to large expenditure on cottages for the men.

34. The force was 544 below strength at the end of the year. Recruiting was difficult owing to the high rate of wages prevailing as compared with the pay of the constable, and the deficiency was increased by the large number of resignations, desertions and dismissals. No less than 29 officers and 532 men were dismissed and 353 officers and 1,944 men punished departmentally, figures which led the Lieutenant-Governor to doubt whether the police were treated with sufficient consideration by their officers. In the Tharawaddy district it was considered

III.—~~Provincial~~ necessary to dismiss 40 men out of 350. (The Thaton police were unfavourably reported on, and revenue exceeding Rs. 5,000 was stolen from the police-station at Cheduba in Kyaukpyu district.)

**Training.** 35. Nearly two thousand recruits entered the training depôts during the year for the six months' course, and 1,084, or 89 *per cent.* of those who appeared for examination, passed the prescribed tests. In Akyab and Thaton less than 40 *per cent.* passed. The number of old constables brought in for a month's training during the year was 6,406, of whom 87 *per cent.* passed. More than half of those appearing at Magwe failed to qualify. Musketry training was interfered with by the want of ammunition for Sniders, pending the re-arming of the force with the smooth-bore Martini-Henry carbine.

**Buildings.** 36. Good progress was made in the housing of the men, and it is hoped that the removal of the deficiency in house-accommodation will increase the popularity of the service, the force consisting largely of married men.

**Inspection.** 37. The Inspector-General visited eleven Upper Burma and nine Lower Burma districts. The Deputy Inspector-General of Civil Police made a very large number of inspections. District Superintendents and Subdivisional Police Officers inspected almost every police-station and out-post in the province.

**Cognizable crime.** 38. The police investigated 49,366 cases during the year. Of these 34,634, as compared with 32,357 in the previous year, were found by the magistrates to relate to real offences, the remainder being either false charges or reports made through mistake of fact or law. The number of murders by dacoits or robbers increased from 13 to 20, and the total number of violent crimes from 649 to 801; hurt by dangerous weapon from 1,726 to 1,837, dacoities from 57 to 76, robberies from 230 to 323, cattle thefts from 2,145 to 2,523, and ordinary thefts from 9,178 to 9,887. The growth of crime was most marked in the Tharrawaddy district. Cases under the Excise and Opium Acts rose from 2,947 to 3,471, owing mainly to greater activity on the part of the excise staff. The most serious cases were an attack by five men, armed with a gun, on a house in Kyaukpyu district, in which a villager was killed; and the plundering of a village in the Amherst district by a gang of 11 dacoits carrying six guns, who removed property to the value of Rs. 15,000. Firearms were used altogether in 40 cases, of which 28 occurred in the lower province.

**Detection and prevention of crime.** 39. On the whole, detection has kept pace with the increase in crime. The percentage of conviction in true cognizable cases of all kinds investigated by the police was 67. In classes I to V, which include all offences against property, 52 *per cent.* of the cases investigated were detected as against 51 *per cent.* in the previous year. In violent crime and cattle-theft the percentages were 57 and 42 as compared with 56 and 41 of the previous year. The number of persons called upon to furnish security for their good behaviour was 2,378, or 79 *per cent.* of the number arrested. Little use was made of the orders empowering District Superintendents to institute proceedings of this class without the sanction of a magistrate.

**Surveillance of criminals and beat patrols.** 40. At the end of the year there were 20,822 persons entered in the police registers as habitual criminals. Of these 6,950 were in jail and the residence of 3,546 was unknown. Of the registered criminals 1,319 were re-convicted during the year. The number of conditionally released convicts at the close of the year was 115, an unusually large figure mainly due to clemency shown at the time of the Coronation. Reports from magistrates and police officers show that the beat patrol system is well suited to the requirements of the province, but that the arrangements are too rigid and leave insufficient scope for the intelligence of the station officer. Reporting of petty offences by patrol constables also requires to be discouraged, their duty being not detective but preventive. The relations between the police and the village headmen appear on the whole to have been excellent. The central bureau for the identification of criminals did good work during the year.

**Rangoon Town Police.** 41. The police in Rangoon town are excluded from the figures given above. The sanctioned strength was 960 and the actual strength at the end of the year 956. Of these 37 were European, 783 Indian and 136 Burmese. A small addi-

tion was made during the year owing to an extension of the municipal boundaries. III.—~~Police~~  
 The total cost was Rs. 3,41,570. The number of true cases dealt with rose from 9,609 to 12,241. This was mainly owing to greater energy shown in the suppression of public nuisances, but there was a pronounced increase in crimes against property. Two dacoities were committed in the town. Robberies increased from 9 to 18, house-breaking cases from 55 to 69, and thefts from 639 to 818. The last, however, include many cases in which in the opinion of the Commissioner of Police investigation should have been refused. Orders have been issued defining more clearly than before the circumstances under which this course may be taken. The conduct of the force, especially of the European members, was on the whole satisfactory.

42. The railway force consisted of 6 inspectors, 9 head constables, 78 sergeants Railway Police.  
 and 279 constables, all under a District Superintendent. There was an increase of 41 during the year owing to the opening of new sections. The cost of the force was Rs. 1,08,736. About one-third of the men were Indian. The force dealt with 619 offences, of which 7 were crimes of violence.

43. The sanctioned strength of the military police was 15,197 and the cost Rs. Military Police.  
 49,60,608. The force was 135 below strength at the end of the year. Of the total number 3,909 were employed on treasury and escort duty in Lower Burma under the orders of the District Superintendents of Police. The remainder, with duties of a more military nature, were distributed over Upper Burma under ten Battalion Commandants.

44. Both village headmen and their assistants are invested with the powers of a Village Administration.  
 police officer, but they are in no way subordinated to the regular police. The headmen are empowered to try petty criminal cases and are directly responsible for the collection of the revenue. Their number decreased from 18,885 to 18,506, chiefly owing to the abolition of separate charges in Kyaukpyu and Shwebo. Of the whole number 6,556 were subordinate to the old circle thugyis, now being gradually abolished, and most of these, while assisting in the collection of revenue, drew no commission, the circle thugyi receiving the whole. Special criminal powers, including authority to fine up to Rs. 50 and inflict a month's imprisonment, were exercised by 556 headmen during the year, and 779 were empowered to try civil suits up to the value of Rs. 20. The total amount of fines inflicted by the headmen was Rs. 1,05,558, a decrease of Rs. 7,968 from the previous year. Over 6,000 cases tried were examined by Deputy Commissioners, and 90 per cent. of the decisions confirmed. While the conduct of headmen was in the main satisfactory, there was a general failure to assist the police in excise and opium cases. It was found necessary to punish 977 headmen, an increase of 42 over the previous year. Of these 309 were dismissed and the rest suspended or fined. Rewards for good work were granted in 521 cases. Under the special provisions for enforcing village responsibility existing in Burma 176 villages were fined Rs. 44,361 for suppression of evidence and harbouring or failing to arrest criminals, and 110 were fined amounts aggregating Rs. 14,354 under the Track Law, which throws on the village the responsibility for stolen property tracked to within its boundaries.

### Criminal Justice.

45. The disposal of criminal business in Lower Burma was in the hands of nine Cores.  
 Judges of Sessions Courts, 21 District Magistrates, and 200 Subordinate Magistrates, under a Chief Court consisting of four judges. The Hon'ble Sir H. Thirkell White, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., was Chief Judge throughout the year except between the 17th August and 17th November, when the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Fox, *Barrister-at-Law*, officiated for him. In Upper Burma there were five Sessions Judges, 16 District Magistrates, and 169 subordinate magistrates under a Judicial Commissioner. Mr. Harvey Adamson, C.S.I., I.C.S., was Judicial Commissioner until the 25th November, when he was relieved by Mr. Irwin, C.S.I., I.C.S. Before the end of the year the Headquarters Assistant Commissioners in most of the more important districts in Lower Burma were invested with powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as a measure of relief to District Magistrates

III.—PROTECTION. and Sessions Judges. District Magistrates again mentioned the valuable assistance rendered by the Benches of Honorary Magistrates, especially in the trial of offences under the Municipal Act.

Work done.

46. The courts of Lower Burma disposed of 59,230 regular cases and 1,133 relating to miscellaneous business. In addition to these 4,948 regular appeals were heard. The Upper Burma courts tried 16,845 regular and 1,480 miscellaneous cases, and heard 1,520 regular appeals. Altogether 133,719 persons were under trial during the year. In Lower Burma original regular cases increased by 5,081 and regular appeals by 330. In the upper province the number was nearly the same as in the previous year. In some districts the District Magistrate was overburdened with executive and revenue work and was in need of relief as regards the trial of cases. The District Magistrate of Prome tried no less than 101 important cases. Appeals from second and third class magistrates were in certain districts heard by special assistants. District Magistrates called up for examination 8,196 cases, Sessions Judges 1,557, and the Chief Court and Judicial Commissioner 2,800. Each trial lasted on the average ten days in Lower Burma and nine in Upper Burma. There were 3,883 persons under trial at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

47. Of 93,596 persons tried by magistrates in Lower Burma 62·2 *per cent.* were convicted and 37·8 acquitted or discharged. The proportion of convictions was lowest in Hanthawaddy (51·26) and Tavoy (52). In Upper Burma the percentage of convictions was 63·32, and was lowest in Meiktila (48·35), where gambling cases were instituted without sufficient care. The statistics show compounded cases as acquittals. If such cases are excluded from the Upper Burma returns the percentage of convictions would be 68, and the proportion of successful prosecutions, including compounded cases, would be higher still. The percentage of convictions in sessions courts in Lower Burma was 62, and in the upper province 61·14.

Results of appeals and revisions.

48. District Magistrates and their assistants confirmed the sentence in 56 *per cent.* of the appeals from second and third class magistrates which came before them. The proportion in sessions courts, which ordinarily dealt with appeals from 1st class magistrates, was 72, in the Chief Court of Lower Burma 77, and before the Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma, 75. These figures do not include appeals by Government against orders of acquittal, which were disposed of in 19 cases in Lower Burma and were successful in all except two. Of the cases dealt with in revision the orders were confirmed in 89 *per cent.* In 123 cases the sentence was enhanced.

Punishments.

49. Out of a total of 78,640 persons convicted 93 were sentenced to death and 347 to transportation for seven years and upwards, four-fifths of these cases being in Lower Burma. Imprisonment for terms exceeding seven years was inflicted in 24 cases, and between two and seven years in 889. Sentences of two years and under numbered 5,443, whipping 3,216, and fine 59,838. In 1,287 cases solitary confinement was imposed. There is a tendency to pass severer sentences of whipping than formerly. Steps have been taken to secure as far as possible that whippings should be performed by trained agency at district headquarters when they cannot be carried out at a jail. Twenty boys were sent to the Insein Reformatory School. The number of first offenders called upon to give security on conviction in lieu of being sent to jail rose in Lower Burma from 99 to 235, but fell to 95 in the upper province, where a ruling of the Judicial Commissioner, since cancelled, restricted the application of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code to youthful offenders.

Special provisions of law.

50. The number of persons proceeded against with a view to calling upon them to give security for their good behaviour fell from 3,044 to 2,823 in the lower and rose from 503 to 577 in the upper province. Altogether 3,400 were proceeded against, 1,135 found security, 1,446 went to jail, and 735 were discharged.

#### Prisons.

51. The jail population at the beginning of the year was 11,168, including 128 females, or 563 less than in 1902. At the end of the year it had risen to

11,669. The number of admissions was 30,773, including 990 females, against 29,169 in the previous year. Nevertheless, the daily average number decreased, owing to the greater proportion of short-term prisoners, from 11,525 (128 females) to 11,187 (113 females), and was smaller than in any of the eight previous years. Owing chiefly to clemency shown at the time of the Coronation the number of prisoners released by order of Government on grounds other than that of sickness was no less than 1,183. III.—Protection.

52. Of the 16,098 male and 646 female prisoners admitted during the year, 2,140 males and 27 females had been convicted once, 788 males and 9 females twice and 719 males and 10 females more than twice. The percentage of admissions of prisoners shown as previously convicted varied from 42.44 in Bassein to 5.30 in Bhamo, the average provincial ratio being 22.06 against 22.95 in 1902. All the habituals except 41 were identified before conviction. Of the remainder 36 were identified from jail records and the other five on their own confession. Habituals.

53. The number of prison offences rose from 38,701 to 42,913. The increase is reported to be due to greater vigilance. Fifty cases out of the total were dealt with by the criminal courts, the rest by the Superintendents. Of the total number of punishments 9,783 were inflicted on convict officers, who averaged 1,980 in number, against 9,357 in the previous year. Their conduct, however, is reported to have been generally satisfactory. The number of prisoners on whom fetters were imposed as a punishment rose from 2,513 to 4,057, but on the other hand the number fettered for safety fell from 3,071 to 1,889 in consequence of remarks made by the Inspector-General of Prisons in the previous year's report. Discipline.

Three prisoners escaped during the year, two from Shwebo and one from Toungoo. The last was re-captured.

54. The gross cost of up-keep of the jails decreased from Rs. 7,86,585 to Rs. 6,84,233, and the nett from Rs. 5,85,540 to Rs. 4,97,333. Nearly half the decrease is in dieting charges, and is due, it is reported, to stricter check exercised by the head office on the purchase of food-stuffs and to the use of cheaper food. There were also considerable savings on establishment and hospital charges. The profits from manufactures fell off from Rs. 2,01,045 to Rs. 1,86,900, owing mainly to the loss of expert workers by the Coronation releases and large transfers to the Andamans, and to a rise in the price of timber. The average nett cost per prisoner nevertheless decreased from Rs. 50.13.0 to Rs. 44.8.0. The diminution is partly a matter of accounts, but in the main represents a real saving. The value of labour supplied to other departments and the profits of the jail branch of the Government printing press, which amounted to Rs. 1,28,584 but were only partly derived from convict labour, are not included in the earnings. Financial.

55. Practically all vegetables required for the consumption of the prisoners were obtained from the jail gardens, which also realized Rs. 8,724 by sales to the public. Six per cent. of the prisoners were employed in the gardens and farms. Gardens.

56. The death-rate rose from 15.88 to 17.07, but is lower than in any of the eight years preceding 1901. The number of admissions to hospital per thousand fell from 537 to 474, and is the lowest on record. The most sickly jail was that at Mandalay, where the water-supply was bad. This has been remedied by an artesian well being sunk in the compound of Government house, and it is expected that the supply of water from this source will bring about an improvement. The substitution of *pèyin* and *pègya* for *dal* and of cotton-seed oil for sesamum gave good results, but *pyaungsun* was condemned as causing bowel complaints. Over 2,000 prisoners, or about 12½ per cent., confessed to being habitual consumers of opium. In the Bhamo jail the percentage was 43. Health of prisoners.

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### Civil Justice.

57. Civil justice in Lower Burma was administered by six divisional, 26 district, <sup>Courts.</sup> and 175 subordinate judges under the Chief Court. There was also a judge in the Arakan Hill Tracts not subject to the Chief Court. In Upper Burma there were under the Judicial Commissioner four divisional, 20 district, and 135 subor-

III.—PROTECTION. **Magistrate judges.** Four of the last were specially empowered to hear appeals. The establishment of a separate judicial service is still under consideration. Meanwhile Subdivisional and Township Officers in all the heavier townships of Lower Burma are relieved of most of their civil work by specially appointed judges, while in two districts of Upper and 13 of Lower Burma civil appeals are disposed of by Assistant or Extra Assistant Commissioners specially empowered to hear them. Sundry proposals for increases of the number and pay of clerks in **subdivisional** and township offices were sanctioned during the year, and a graded service of interpreters for Rangoon town was organized. Some improvements were made in court buildings, but the accommodation is still inadequate. It has been arranged that plans for new buildings should in future be submitted through the Chief Court.

**Work done.**

58. The total number of suits instituted was 68,656. Of these 47,970 were in Lower Burma. The Rangoon Small Cause Court accounted for 7,267, and of the rest all but 10,386 were disposed of in the Township Courts. There were 2,134 suits for immovable property, and 1,320 mortgage suits. Nearly all the rest were for money or movables. Suits of over Rs. 500 in value numbered 4,079; of the remainder nearly half were for Rs. 50 or less. There has been a general increase of litigation in both provinces, only Myingyan showing a decline. In Tharrawaddy it increased 25 per cent., and in Akyab 20 per cent. The percentage of increase for Lower Burma was 7, and for Upper Burma 4. The number of appeals from decrees rose from 5,024 to 5,377, and of applications for execution from 33,987 to 36,445. The average duration of contested suits in Lower Burma, excluding the Chief Court and the Rangoon Court of Small Causes, was 49 days, and in Upper Burma 38. For uncontested suits the averages were 27 and 25. At the close of the year there were 5,113 cases pending, 1,113 of them for over three months.

**Results of litigation.**

59. Out of a total of 20,859 contested suits disposed of, 14,152, or 68 per cent., were decided in favour of the plaintiff, and 6,707, or 32 per cent., for the defendant. Of the other suits before the courts 14,461 were disposed of without trial (i.e., settled out of Court), 4,801 compromised and the agreement recorded by the Court, 13,870 decreed on confession, 14,590 decreed *ex parte*, and 475 dismissed *ex parte*. Only 71 were referred to arbitration. Of 5,377 appeals, heard mostly by the District Judges and their assistants, 2,661 resulted in the decree of the lower court being confirmed. In 341 cases it was modified and in 1,123 reversed, while 153 cases were remanded to the lower court.

**Execution of decrees.**

60. Of 36,445 applications for execution 17,129 resulted in satisfaction being obtained wholly or in part, while 13,582 were wholly infructuous. The proportion of infructuous applications in Lower Burma was again large. In 2,734 cases the judgment-debtor was arrested and in 589 imprisoned. Immovable property was sold in 2,042 cases.

**Registration.****Changes in the Registration Law and Rules.**

61. The only change in the rules was the insertion of a new provision (Rule 48A) requiring registering officers to take the thumb impressions of illiterate executants and of persons not personally known to them. A new and simplified form of catalogue was prescribed, and the miscellaneous rulings and orders which from time to time had issued in the form of letters and circulars were gathered together and republished under the title of "Lower Burma Registration of Deeds Directions, 1903." Stamps for impressing skeleton forms of endorsement were introduced into some of the larger offices.

**Number of offices.**

62. One hundred and forty-six offices were open for the registration of deeds. During the year an office was opened at the headquarters of the new Moulmein-gyun township in the Myaungmya district.

**Documents registered.**

63. The total number of documents registered during the year was

The increase was in instruments of sale, the value of which nearly doubled, and of mortgage, gifts showing a large decline. Optional registrations of deeds affecting immovable property were somewhat fewer (637 as compared with 706), but the value of the property affected was doubled. The increase is generally ascribed to the stimulus given to speculation in paddy by the abnormally high prices which obtained at the beginning of the year, but in one or two districts other causes were at work. In Hanthawaddy there was a considerable amount of speculation in land suitable for industrial purposes along the railway on the outskirts of Rangoon. In Rangoon town the boom in land which started with the acquisitions for the Chief Court site revived, and many building sites changed hands more than once, each fresh sale at greatly enhanced prices. Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards increased 28 per cent., but instruments of mortgage compulsorily registered were only 14 per cent. more than in 1902. The increase in sales was probably due to extensive speculation in land, and except in Pegu apparently does not indicate that they are displacing mortgages in popular favour. In Upper Burma, beyond a slight increase in the value of the property affected by registered deeds, there is nothing worthy of note in the figures for the year. Generally speaking, the slow progress of registration in the upper province was due to the poor harvest of 1902 in the unirrigated tracts. It is, as a rule, only in the irrigated tracts, where land is valuable, that a poor harvest means an increase of mortgages and registration.

64. The income from fees increased by nearly 26 per cent. (from Rs. 1,09,980 to Rs. 1,38,508) in Lower Burma and 5 per cent. (Rs. 20,324 to Rs. 21,322) in Upper Burma. Expenditure (Rs. 46,971) increased by Rs. 2,550 in the lower province and decreased in the upper. In both provinces there was an increase in the cost of permanent establishment due to the further substitution of salaried clerks for clerks remunerated out of fees. Receipts and Expenditure.

### Municipal Administration.

65. There were 41 municipalities in the province, of which eight were administered under the Upper Burma Regulation. The number given in last year's report excluded Rangoon, and there has been no change. The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 6-8-4 in Rangoon and Rs. 1-10-3 in other municipalities, where it ranged from Rs. 4 in Moulmein to As. 4 in Taungdwingyi. The main sources of income of each municipality and the manner in which the money was spent is shown in Chapter V.

66. In Rangoon the ordinary revenue increased by a lakh and a third to Rs. 23,32,391. An increase of over a lakh from taxation was attained without any general revision of assessment or alteration of the rates. The most important works in hand were the Hlawga water-works, dealt with in Chapter VI under "Sanitation," and the reclamation of town lands, on which an expenditure of over 3½ lakhs was incurred during the year. The fund for the latter is excluded from the municipal accounts. More progress was made than in the preceding year, but it has been found impossible to work up to the programme. Arrangements for the introduction of electric lighting and electric tramways, made satisfactory progress, and both schemes will, it is hoped, be working by the end of 1906. Land was acquired behind the town-hall at a cost of Rs. 1,69,182 for the extension of the municipal offices. The new air-compressing machinery in connection with the Shone system of sewage removal worked well. A 4½ per cent. loan of 15 lakhs was raised during the year at a premium of Rs. 69,747. The accepted tenders varied from 104½ to 106 per cent., the average being Rs. 104-10-4. Rangoon.

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67. At Akyab plans and estimates were under preparation for a water-works scheme, which is expected to cost about three lakhs. A revision of the assessment-rolls was carried out during the year. The protection of the town from the encroachments of the sea and the extension of the principal market engaged the attention of the Committee.

68. At Dagon a 6-inch tube-well was sunk and at 260 feet reached good water. Dagon.



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### Municipal Administration.

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66. In Rangoon the ordinary revenue increased by a lakh and a third to Rs. 23,32,391. An increase of over a lakh from taxation was attained without any general revision of assessment or alteration of the rates. The most important works in hand were the Hlawga water-works, dealt with in Chapter VI under "Sanitation," and the reclamation of town lands, on which an expenditure of over 3½ lakhs was incurred during the year. The fund for the latter is excluded from the municipal accounts. More progress was made than in the preceding year, but it has been found impossible to work up to the programme. Arrangements for the introduction of electric lighting and electric tramways, made satisfactory progress, and both schemes will, it is hoped, be working by the end of 1906. Land was acquired behind the town-hall at a cost of Rs. 1,69,182 for the extension of the municipal offices. The new air-compressing machinery in connection with the Shone system of sewage removal worked well. A 4½ per cent. loan of 15 lakhs was raised during the year at a premium of Rs. 69,747. The accepted tenders varied from 104½ to 106 per cent., the average being Rs. 104-10-4. Rangoon.

67. At Akyab plans and estimates were under preparation for a water-works scheme, which is expected to cost about three lakhs. A revision of the assessment-rolls was carried out during the year. The protection of the town from the encroachments of the sea and the extension of the principal market engaged the attention of the Committee. Akyab.

68. At Pegu a 6-inch tube-well was sunk and at 360 feet reached good water, which promised to be adequate for the wants of the town. Unfortunately the pipe was soon choked with sand, and the experiment has so far proved a failure. Much of the town is reported to be in an insanitary state, but the Committee rejected a Pegu.

mortgage, gifts showing a large decline. Optional registrations of deeds affecting immovable property were somewhat fewer (637 as compared with 706), but the value of the property affected was doubled. The increase is generally ascribed to the stimulus given to speculation in paddy by the abnormally high prices which obtained at the beginning of the year, but in one or two districts other causes were at work. In Hanthawaddy there was a considerable amount of speculation in land suitable for industrial purposes along the railway on the outskirts of Rangoon. In Rangoon town the boom in land which started with the acquisitions for the Chief Court site revived, and many building sites changed hands more than once, each fresh sale at greatly enhanced prices. Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards increased 28 per cent., but instruments of mortgage compulsorily registered were only 14 per cent. more than in 1902. The increase in sales was probably due to extensive speculation in land, and except in Pegu apparently does not indicate that they are displacing mortgages in popular favour. In Upper Burma, beyond a slight increase in the value of the property affected by registered deeds, there is nothing worthy of note in the figures for the year. Generally speaking, the slow progress of registration in the upper province was due to the poor harvest of 1902 in the unirrigated tracts. It is, as a rule, only in the irrigated tracts, where land is valuable, that a poor harvest means an increase of mortgages and registration.

64. The income from fees increased by nearly 26 per cent. (from Rs. 1,09,980 to Rs. 1,38,508) in Lower Burma and 5 per cent. (Rs. 20,324 to Rs. 21,322) in Upper Burma. Expenditure (Rs. 46,971) increased by Rs. 2,550 in the lower province and decreased in the upper. In both provinces there was an increase in the cost of permanent establishment due to the further substitution of salaried clerks for clerks remunerated out of fees. Receipts and expenditure.

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a new one at Green Island, a mile away, opened in its place. A light-house at Beacon Island off Cheduba on the Arakan coast was under construction. The receipts from light dues advanced from Rs. 4,27,124 to Rs. 4,49,109. The expenditure, apart from capital outlay, was Rs. 1,46,007. III.—PROTECTION.

80. There were 21 pilots at Rangoon, nine at Moulmein, 3 at Akyab, and five, including a native, at Bassein. At Rangoon the Pilot Fund closed with a balance of Rs. 78,820. The pilotage earnings were Rs. 2,33,325 and the disbursements to pilots Rs. 1,47,311, a decrease from the previous year owing mainly to a reduced scale of fees. Pilot service.

81. The ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Kyaukpyu, Tavoy and Mergui each had a separate port fund administered in the first four cases by the Rangoon Port Trust or the Port Officers, and in the others by the Deputy Commissioner. The Rangoon Port Trust had an income of Rs. 17,82,817, an increase of nearly two and a quarter lakhs over the previous year. The increase was general. A loan of 40 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government of India to meet expenditure on a scheme for the improvement of the port, estimated to cost in all 89 lakhs, and 30 lakhs were taken up. The health department cost Rs. 1,40,312. Port Administration.

82. One steamer of the Royal Indian Marine, the *Minto*, was on duty throughout the year and visited the light-houses and light-vessels of the province once a month. The Government river steamers *Irrawaddy*, *Sladen* and *Bhamo* carried 6,926 tons of stores and 58 lakhs of specie, besides troops, cattle, ammunition, etc. The wants of local officials were provided for by 65 launches, four sailing vessels, and three house-boats for use with district launches, at a total cost for maintenance of Rs. 4,81,713. Three launches, a tug and a house-boat were added to the fleet. The steamer *George* was condemned and sold. The *Pegu* sank but was raised. The *Waterwitch* foundered off Mònywa, and only her engines and boilers could be salvaged. Government steamers and launches.

83. The number of vessels visiting the ports of the province rose from 7,518 to 9,392, of which 2,961 visited Rangoon. The tonnage at Rangoon was 4,149,409 out of a total of 5,844,292. The vessels entering from and clearing to foreign ports numbered 1,138, with a tonnage of 2,129,830. Of these 94 were sailing vessels. Two hundred and thirty out of the whole number were foreign, principally Norwegian, German, Austrian and French. The coasting trade employed 8,254 vessels, having a tonnage of 3,714,462. The number of sailing vessels increased largely from 1,351 to 2,418, and the tonnage rose from 56,207 to 79,685. The only serious casualty was the foundering of the ship *Laomene*, off the Alguada Reef in February 1904. The captain was censured by the Court of Enquiry for failing to exercise sufficient vigilance. Commercial Marine

III.—PROTECTION. proposal to extend the scavenged area. The market has been improved and some land reclaimed near the hospital. A town survey has been sanctioned.

Prome. 69. The new water-works scheme at Prome approached completion. An expenditure of Rs. 80,000 was incurred. The works provide 400,000 gallons in 8 hours, or 20 gallons per head. The dry goods bazaar was rebuilt at a cost of over Rs. 5,000.

Bassein. 70. A disastrous fire occurred at Bassein in which 70 houses were burnt and property estimated at about 4½ lakhs destroyed. A steam motor fire-engine has been ordered at a cost of £875.

Thaton. 71. At Thaton a new hospital, costing Rs. 27,379, was completed and a new school building begun.

Moulmein. 72. At Moulmein revision of assessment approached completion and has so far resulted in an increase of over Rs. 19,000. It is expected that the total increase will be twice that amount. The system of street lighting by oil gas was reorganized and showed an annual saving of nearly two thousand rupees. There has hitherto been a large deficit. It is expected that the new water-works, on which 3½ lakhs were spent during the year, will be completed by the end of 1904. A scheme for surface drainage was discussed with the Sanitary Board. There was an improvement in the financial position, and it was expected that the roads, which have been neglected for want of funds, would soon be put in order.

Mergui. 73. No progress was made with the revision of assessment at Mergui pending completion of the town survey undertaken by the Committee. The question of sanitation of the foreshore has been partly solved by compelling house-owners to make their latrines accessible by means of platforms. The idea of reclaiming the foreshore has been abandoned for the present owing to the large expenditure involved. The town is much overcrowded, and an attempt is being made to improve matters by requiring land to be given up for roads before new houses are built or, in some cases, old ones re-erected. The question of a site for a new bazaar to replace the dilapidated buildings in the Zedan quarter engaged the attention of the Committee.

Mandalay. 74. The water-scheme providing for a reservoir on Mandalay Hill at a cost of nearly 14 lakhs will probably be abandoned as too expensive. Experiments are being made in sinking wells. A loss on the bazaar owing to a fire, which necessitated a reduction of the lessee's rent, prevented the scheme for masonry drains in the business quarter being put in hand. An electric tramway system was opened in July 1904. It is expected that the new Zegyo bazaar buildings will be completed early in 1905.

Mônywa. 75. The imposition of a night conservancy rate at eight annas for each house served was sanctioned for Mônywa.

Myingyan. 76. A new fish and meat bazaar was completed at Myingyan.

### Military [Volunteering.]

77. The volunteer forces consist of the Rangoon Port Defence (Artillery, Naval and Engineer Corps), the Moulmein Volunteer Artillery and Rifles, the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles, the Burma Railways Volunteer Corps and the Upper Burma Volunteer Rifles. The enrolled strength of the force on the 31st March 1904 was 2,750 active and 89 reservists against 2,602 active and 135 reservists on the same date in the previous year. Of the active volunteers 2,456 were adults and 294 cadets. The amount of capitation and other grants earned was Rs. 91,696 against Rs. 89,888 in 1902-03.

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Surveys. 78. The R.I.M.S. *Investigator* surveyed the Hinze basin and some other parts of the Tenasserim coast and then proceeded to Arakan, where she joined the *Nancowry* in a survey of the Mayu river. A number of surveys were also made in the Rangoon river by the Deputy Conservator of the Port.

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**Light-houses and light-vessels.** 79. There are nine light-houses and two light vessels. The light-house at Amherst Point at the mouth of the Moulmein river was closed in May 1903, and

## IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

### REFERENCES—

- Land Revenue Administration Report for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
 Season and Crop Report for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
 Report on the Civil Veterinary Department for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Land Records Administration Report for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
 Report on the Forest Administration of Burma for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
 Report on the Census of Burma of 1901.  
 Resolution on the Reports on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Burma for 1903.  
 Report on the Maritime Trade of Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Report on the Trade between Burma and the adjoining foreign countries during the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Twentieth issue of the Agricultural Statistics of India for the years 1899-1900 to 1903-04, Part I, Tables 1 to 5 A and B.  
 Eleventh issue of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Tables XXVI (Coal Mines), XXVII (Minerals) and XXX (Foreign Trade).  
 Thirty-eighth issue of the Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India with foreign countries and of the Coasting Trade, Volume I, Table Nos. 6, 6A, 7, 14, 19, 23, 24 and 25 of Part I and Nos. 1, 2, 9 and 10 of Part II.  
 Ninth issue of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04 and preceding years—Table XIX.

### Agriculture.

#### Agricultural stock.

84. There was a substantial increase in cattle (bulls, bullocks, cows and calves) from 3,548,930 to 3,850,495, and in buffaloes from 1,114,015 to 1,120,006. Goats increased from 96,637 to 112,179, ponies from 46,333 to 49,375, and sheep from 13,743 to 16,005. Cattle are most numerous in Myingyan and Pakòkku, buffaloes and goats in Akyab, and ponies in Pakòkku. There were large importations of cattle into Akyab from Chittagong.

#### Cattle-disease.

85. There has been no widespread epidemic of cattle-disease during the year and the health of cattle has been generally good. There was, however, a large increase of mortality from rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease in the Irrawaddy and Tenasserim divisions and a severe outbreak of rinderpest in the remote subdivision of Gangaw in Upper Burma. Veterinary Assistants have made themselves useful chiefly in helping to enforce the segregation rules. Inoculation against rinderpest was practised in several districts, and successfully checked an outbreak in Mandalay, but failed in Bassein. There is no opposition on the part of the people. Agricultural shows were held at four centres with fair success. The total cost of the Veterinary Department was Rs. 1,21,545. Nearly a third of the total cost, and about half of the pay and travelling-allowance of subordinates, was met from local funds.

#### Prices.

86. The rice crop of the year was a bumper one, and in spite of very large exports to the Straits, China, and Japan the price never exceeded Rs. 105. The market opened in January at Rs. 86 to Rs. 90, rose towards the end of the month to Rs. 89-94, fell early in March to Rs. 84-5, when supplies immediately stopped, the people storing their grain in the interior on a more extensive scale than ever before, and gradually rose to Rs. 94-100, a price maintained throughout May, but followed by a decline in June.

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#### Agricultural loans.

87. Advances to cultivators were made in all districts except Ma-ubin, Amherst, the Salween Hill Tracts and Sagaing. The total amount rose from Rs. 3,47,078 to Rs. 3,61,056. The largest advances were in Kyaukse, Yamethin and Myingyan. Much depends on the interest taken by Township Officers and

the promptness with which they dispose of applications. Advances would be more sought after were it not for the delays and trouble involved in waiting on overworked revenue officers. Endeavours are being made to encourage thrift among agriculturists by the establishment of co-operative societies under Government supervision.

IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

88. A cultivated area of 381,930 acres, over ten thousand more than in the previous year, was protected by the important system of embankments on the Irrawaddy and Ngawun rivers at a cost during the year of 2½ lakhs, the net receipts being nearly eight lakhs. The Sangin-Sagayi embankment, on the right bank of the Irrawaddy, protected 41,830 acres and yielded Rs. 96,045 after deducting working expenses, and the Thónigwa Island embankment 29,363 acres, an increase of 4,397, yielding a net profit of Rs. 39,418. A capital account is kept for the above embankments, which have up to date yielded a net profit of 140 l khs. No such account is kept for the Ma-ubin Island and Sittang embankments. The former protected 127,414 acres and the latter 35,624. Three other embankments are under construction. The Sittang embankment was extended by over a mile and some retirements were made on the Irrawaddy and Ngawun rivers.

Protection from floods.

### Weather and Crops.

89. The monsoon arrived somewhat late, but the early rains were good throughout the province. In Lower Burma the middle rains were slightly deficient while the fall at the end of the season was heavier, and continued longer, than usual. The damage to standing crops from this cause was, however, insignificant. In Upper Burma the failure of the middle rains was such as to threaten serious scarcity in Shwebo, Sagaing, the Lower Chindwin, Yamèthin, Meiktila and Myingyan. This was happily averted by exceptionally good later rains.

The monsoon.

90. The area under crops increased from 11,355,614 to 12,595,156 acres. By far the largest increase was in Shwebo, where the area rose from 153,042 to 961,975 acres, owing to a better supply of water from the Mu Canal and to a generally good season. Eight other Upper Burma districts show increases ranging from 11,000 acres in Pakòkku to 59,000 in the Upper Chindwin. Three districts showed a decrease. In Upper Burma the extent of land cropped varies greatly with the season, and the increases are no indication of the spread of cultivation. (In Lower Burma, on the other hand, an expansion usually means the bringing of waste lands for the first time under the plough. Pe heads the list with an increase of 36,000 acres, followed by Hanthawaddy, Myaungmya and Thatón. In Prome only there was a decline.)

Cropped area.

91. Rice is by far the most important crop in all parts of the province except the block of districts with small rainfall and little irrigation, of which Pakòkku and Myingyan are the most important, situated in the heart of Upper Burma. Here, except in Magwe, millet is the main crop, though rice occupies a considerable area on the lands and along the banks of rivers and at the foot of the hills which separate the tract from Arakan. Sesamum, maize, gram and peas are also important crops, and in Magwe sesamum heads the list. North of Mandalay and in Lower Burma the area planted with annual crops other than rice is quite insignificant. Palms and fruit-trees, however, cover large areas in the Henzada, Ma-ubin, Hanthawaddy and Amherst districts of Lower Burma, while in Tavoy a fourth and in Mergui a third of the cultivated land is planted with them. The cocoanut, betelnut, and Nipa or *dani* palms are all of importance in Lower Burma, and the toddy palm in the upper province. The chief cotton districts are Myingyan, Sagaing and Meiktila.

Area under various crops.

The total area under rice was 9,306,551, an increase of a million acres. That under millet increased slightly to 1,148,747 acres, and sesamum to 993,770. Peas advanced from 289,916 to 379,307 acres, maize from 112,181 to 119,989, and cotton from 141,529 to 160,126. Fruit and palm trees covered 429,404 acres, slightly more than in the previous year. Among minor crops the area under wheat shows a large increase, while ground-nuts have trebled their area.

## Horticulture.

IV.—PRODUCTION  
AND DISTRIBUTION.  
Agri-Horticultural Societies.

92. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma continued to show progress. The number of members rose from 124 to 133, and the balance at the credit of the Society from Rs. 1,37,462 to Rs. 1,44,373. This sum will be utilized for laying out and equipping the new gardens at Kandawgalay. The distribution of plants is steadily increasing, over 4,000 ornamental plants being supplied to members during the year, and a large stock is now maintained. The Tenasserim Agri-Horticultural Society, which has now been established for 20 years, held a successful show.

Horticulture.

93. Experimental gardens were maintained by Government at Myitkyina, Sima, Sinlumkaba, the Chin Hills, Katha and Taunggyi. Of these the garden at Taunggyi in the Southern Shan States is the largest and most successful. An interesting experiment was made with American sweet potatoes. Three varieties were tried and all did well. The cherimoyer, which does not appear to have succeeded elsewhere in Burma, gave another heavy crop. Peaches and apples fruited fairly well, and small crops of plums and apricots were obtained. The other gardens produced good English vegetables and the hardier kinds of fruit, but the more delicate and thin-skinned fruits, such as peaches, apricots, nectarines and cherries, were not successful. Either no fruit at all of these varieties was obtained, or, if obtained, it was of very poor quality. The potato crop was good everywhere except in Katha. The usual distribution was made of Havana and Virginia tobacco-seed. Although the crop failed in nearly half the districts in which the seed was tried, excellent results were obtained in Ma-ubin, Hanthawaddy, Henzada, Minbu and Mandalay. The outturn was heavy, and the average price obtained considerably better than that of country tobacco. The Havana variety in particular is much esteemed by the people, and the cultivation of tobacco from this seed has been especially successful at Ma-ubin. The cultivators used seed obtained from previous experiments and there is a large and increasing export both of tobacco leaf and of locally made cheroots. (Plants grown from Arabian coffee seed are reported to be doing well at Taunggyi, Myitkyina and Thaton.) Tea succeeded in the Shan States and further experiments will be made in hilly districts where interest is shown in the cultivation. An experiment with French silk-worm eggs was not successful. One hundred ounces were obtained from France and distributed to the five chief centres of the silk-worm industry. As a rule the eggs did not hatch, and where they did hatch the silk-worms died in a few days without eating the mulberry leaves provided for them. The chief cause of the failure is supposed to have been unfavourable conditions of climate, which were no doubt assisted by ignorance on the part of the native silk-worm breeders.

## Forests.

Reserves.

94. An addition of 329 square miles was made to the area of reserved forests, bringing the total area up to 20,038 square miles. Of the areas added 259 miles were in Upper Burma, where large areas still remain for settlement. Only 27 square miles were notified in the Tenasserim Circle owing to the want of officers.

Surveys.

95. Over one lakh was spent on surveys, more than half in the Northern Circle. An area of 1,006 square miles was taken in hand for working-plans, and sanction obtained with respect to 743 square miles. The number of forest offences reported increased from 2,264 to 2,647.

Fire-protection.

96. A more uniform system of fire-protection was introduced during the year, and the results were generally better than in previous years both on this account and because of early rains in April when the risk from fire is ordinarily greatest. The season was favourable in the Tenasserim and abnormally so in the Northern Circle, but large and destructive fires traversed parts of the Pegu Circle and the Southern Circle of Upper Burma. The area over which protection was attempted was 8,151 square miles, of which 509 square miles were burnt. The cost was Rs. 2,72,623.

Sylviculture.

97. The area of plantations operated on during the year was 21,629 acres. The receipts were Rs. 7,761 and the charges Rs. 1,19,211. The Pegu Circle has 65 square miles of very valuable plantations under teak and cutch, which are suffering for want of an efficient staff. Nearly 1,600 acres in all have been planted with

rubber at Sandawut in the Mergui district, 70 having been added during the year. Altogether a lakh of rupees has been expended on this plantation up to date. The chief difficulty to contend with is the damage done by deer, pig and porcupine. In the Mergui experimental garden the tapping of 2,851 trees produced 864 lbs. of rubber, fetching from 4s. 5d. to 5s. 1d. per lb. The price indicates more careful preparation, but the market was abnormally high. Interesting experiments for the reproduction of teak were carried on in the Katha division, the chief feature being the controlled use of fire to secure germination and assist the young seedlings in evergreen forest.

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98. Over 26 million cubic feet of timber were extracted during the year, nearly half being teak. Purchasers extracted rather more teak than Government, and nearly all the timber of other kinds. The amount extracted by free grantees was 295,611 cubic feet, nearly half of it teak.

Extraction and  
sale of timber.

### Mines and Quarries.

99. The chief centres of the petroleum industry are Yenangyaung and Magwe and Yenangyat in Pakokku district. A new field has lately been developed by the Burma Oil Company at Singu in Myingyan. A small quantity of oil is also obtained in the Akyab and Kyaukpyu districts. At Yenangyaung the royalty rose from Rs. 5,68,429 to Rs. 7,37,134. The industry is almost entirely in the hands of the Burma Oil Company, who are vigorously exploiting the fields. The output increases steadily and there is no sign of exhaustion of the supply. Yenangyat is a newer field, and out of 50 blocks, each measuring a square mile or nearly so, leased to the Burma, Rangoon, and Minbu Oil Companies, only five are paying royalty. The outturn has risen to 22,356,904 gallons and the revenue from Rs. 2,22,837 to Rs. 2,93,022. The Burma Oil Company is working 8 blocks and has tested four others without finding oil. The Rangoon Oil Company is paying royalty on one block and getting a small amount of oil on several others. The Minbu Oil Company works one block, and has begun on two others. At Singu the royalty paid was Rs. 1,60,832. The Burma Oil Company prospected in Prome but found no oil.

Petroleum.

100. A new lease for 28 years from the 30th April 1904 was issued to the Burma Ruby Mines Company, fixing the royalty at two lakhs with 30 per cent. of the net profits. The Company's receipts were 14½ lakhs and the expenditure 8 lakhs. License-fees from native miners rose from two to over three lakhs owing to the Company throwing Kyauklongyi open to them. The market was normal and the industry in a flourishing condition.

101. Under a license issued to them in 1901 Choy Yin and Maung Yin Det of Mandalay continued to pay an annual sum of Rs. 50,400 for the right of collecting jade and amber in the Myitkyina district. The jade mines are in the Kachin Hills, and are administered by a Kachin Chief under the control of the Deputy Commissioner. The output was 1,182 cwt., valued at Rs. 77,691. There was a falling-off in the output, but the stone was of a better quality, and the market was good owing to the quiet across the Chinese frontier. The exhaustion of the water in the mines by hand-labour becomes more difficult every year. The amber mines are in unadministered territory. The licensees reported an output of 91 cwt., valued at Rs. 11,752. Several hundred persons also worked amber in a remote part of the Upper Chindwin district, but paid no royalty to Government.

Jade and amber.

102. The Letkokpin coal mines in Shwebo district stopped work during the year, and the plant was sold to Messrs. Clifford and Sevastopulo, who abandoned work after a few months and are removing the machinery. A prospecting license was held by Colonel Foss for two small areas on the Tenasserim river in the Mergui district, but no work was done.

Coal.

103. Messrs. Moore and Terndrup, who obtained from Government the right to dredge for gold in the river Irrawaddy, have disposed of their concession to a limited liability Company called the Burma Gold Dredging Company. Two new dredgers are under construction in Great Britain. Dredging operations, intended mainly to test the value of the different portions of the river falling within the

Gold.

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OF

concession, were carried on during the whole of the dry season. (Prospecting licenses for gold are held or have been applied for in Tavoy, Thatôn, Katha, the Ruby Mines and the Northern Shan States.)

Tin.

104. Tin is found in almost every part of the mainland of the Mergui district, but has so far been worked only on a small scale by Chinese and Siamese miners. The workings are dotted over the centre and south of the district, and are nearly all alluvial. The existence of an extensive lode at Maliwun in the south has long been known, but the syndicate formed for the purpose of testing it failed to raise sufficient capital, and has now withdrawn. The Burma Development Syndicate are applying for the concession. At Yanggwa, further north, two European prospectors were at work for the greater part of the year with a view to introducing machinery for hydraulic sluicing. The outturn of tin, which has remained for some years at about 60 tons, declined somewhat owing to the late and scanty rains at Maliwun, and the royalty fell from Rs. 3,705 to Rs. 3,517. In Tavoy district there are some small workings, but the output is less than a ton a year. A syndicate represented by Colonel Foss is carrying on extensive prospecting operations for tin and gold.

Other minerals.

105. The number of licenses for tou maline in the Ruby Mines district doubled, and the fees rose to Rs. 1,058, owing to a good market among the Chinese in Mandalay. Steatite continued to be worked in Minbu and Pakòkku, but the demand is dying out as more modern materials are substituted for the steatite pencil and *parabaik* among the Burmese. The issue of licenses for Sagyin marble in Mandalay was suspended owing to an application from a Rangoon firm for a lease. Specimens of marble from the Mergui Archipelago have been sent to experts for examination. (Limestone was worked in Toungoo and Thatôn. The Burma Development Syndicate held a license for galena on Maingy Island in the Mergui Archipelago and have sent home a small consignment of the ore for report.)

## Manufactures.

Principal industries.

106. Nearly all the manufactures of Burma are carried on in the home. Rice-mills, however, supported, according to the 1901 census, over 41,000 people, of whom four-fifths were workers, and saw-mills 8,000, of whom three-fourths were workers. Of the home industries cotton-weaving and spinning were by far the most important, supporting nearly a quarter of a million persons. Over 90 per cent. of the actual workers were women. Carpenters and sawyers with their families numbered each about 70,000. Tailoring supported 58,000, the sexes being nearly equally divided. Goldsmiths, silk-weavers, mat-makers, cheroo-rollers, blacksmiths and potters come next in order of importance, and after them turners and lacquerers and makers of felt or wooden shoes.

Factories.

107. The number of factories which come within the scope of the Indian Factories Act, 1881, increased by 17 and now stands at 190. In Rangoon Town district the number rose from 64 to 99, owing mainly to the transfer from the Hanthawaddy district of 29 rice-mills situated on the south side of the Rangoon River. The establishment of 12 new rice-mills, 8 in the Rangoon and Hanthawaddy districts, is noticeable. The number of operatives increased from 28,517 to 32,345. Over 26,000 of these are in the districts of Rangoon and Hanthawaddy. Wages compared favourably with those prevailing among the labouring classes not employed in mills. The general condition of the operatives is said to be satisfactory. More women and more children were employed, but they still form little more than 3 per cent. of the total number of operatives. They are usually employed in rice-mills, where they make or carry bags, sample rice, or do other light work. Seventy-three children are shown for the first time as employed in the oil works at Syriam. As a result of a fatal accident at Bassein, a wire fence was ordered to be erected in all three saw-mills at each bench between the saw and the belt pulleys. The number of accidents decreased from 185 to 163, but the number of those resulting fatally rose from 3 to 9 and resulted in 11 deaths. A factory owner in Rangoon who was fined in 1902 for neglect of fencing was again convicted and fined. This was the only prosecution. The

question of the sufficiency of the provisions of the existing law for the purpose of providing against accidents and deaths from fire in factories was under consideration during the year. Proposals to reduce the minimum number of inspections were also discussed and have now been carried into effect.

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### Trade.

108. The value of the total volume of sea-borne trade of the province rose from 37,37 to 39,46 lakhs, and is the highest yet recorded. The imports were valued at 17 and the exports at 22½ crores. Nearly 62 per cent. of the total trade was foreign.

Maritime trade.  
Total value.

109. The value of foreign imports by sea increased from 6,25 to 8,47 lakhs. Excluding gold and silver, the value rose by no less than 38·7 per cent., from 5,95 to 8,26 lakhs. This remarkable increase was the result of bumper crops and an accommodating money market. The imports of yarns and textile fabrics rose from 2,26 to 2,92 lakhs. So far as cotton yarn and piece-goods were concerned the increase was in value rather than in quantity, owing to a rise in the price of the raw material. The imports of silk, however, rose from six to nine million yards, and the value from 36 to 54 lakhs. The increase was almost wholly due to the large imports of piece-goods of pure silk from Japan, which are steadily ousting the European-made cloths from the markets owing to their greater durability, superior lustre, and better value generally. Woollen piece-goods doubled in quantity, and rose in value from 10 to 22 lakhs. Matches, mainly from Japan, rose from 9½ to 12 lakhs. The imports of sewing machines doubled in value, and those of manufacturing implements nearly trebled, while the value of enamelled ironware was nearly four times as great as in the preceding year. The imports of iron more than doubled, and the value rose from 45 to 87 lakhs. The imports of kerosene oil, nearly 13 lakhs, were normal, though in excess of the previous year. Liquors increased from 29 to 37 lakhs, of which 18 lakhs were beer and stout, and sugar from 23½ to 31½. The imports of salted fish and *ngapi* from the Straits declined owing to local competition, but luxuries such as bacon and hams, biscuits, butter, cheese, condensed milk, jams and sardines increased largely. Most of the goods came from the United Kingdom, 58·67 per cent., and the Straits, 11·72. Japan has attained the third place, the proportion of her goods rising from 4·6 to 6 per cent. The other countries in order are Germany, Belgium, Holland, the United States, France, China, Austria, and Java. The United Kingdom supplied 91 per cent. of the liquors, 62 of the hardware and cutlery, 77 of the iron, and 78 of the piece-goods. A cargo of Russian oil was put on the market but did not find favour. The imports of oil from the Straits increased.

Maritime trade.  
Foreign imports.

110. Exports of goods to foreign countries increased from 15,47 to 15,82 lakhs in value. The bulk of the trade consisted of rice, rice-bran, pulse, raw cotton, hides, cutch and teak. The three first heads showed a decline, from 13,47 to 13,35½ lakhs, but under nearly all the others there was an increase. The exports of rice declined from 1,841,664 tons to 1,667,999, owing to two-thirds of the crop being held back by the cultivators and middlemen, who were not satisfied with the moderate prices obtained. The export trade in beans to Europe, which had developed greatly in the previous year, fell off as quickly owing to adverse reports. Exports of cotton to the United Kingdom showed a large increase owing to the Russo-Japanese war, which reduced the supplies to Japan, and to the corner in the American product. It is doubtful whether it will be maintained, as the English spinners report that Burma cotton is too uneven in quality for their requirements. Teak exports showed an advance from 65 to 88 lakhs, and cutch from 13 to 19. Of the total exports the Straits took 21·6 per cent., Japan 19·4, the United Kingdom 15·6, and Germany 10·3. The figures for the year for the first time show the ultimate destination of the cargoes. Of the husked rice 7 million cwt. each went to the Straits and Japan, 4½ million to Germany, nearly 3 to the United Kingdom, and 2½ each to Austria-Hungary and Holland.

Foreign exports.

111. Imports of Indian produce increased from 6,09 to 6,51 lakhs, and of foreign merchandise from Indian ports from 1,16 to 1,27. Exports to Indian ports of foreign merchandise also increased from 84½ to 90 lakhs, but those of home

Coasting trade.

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AND DISTRIBUTION.

produce declined from 5,87 to 5,31 owing to the curtailment in the supplies of rice. The exports of kerosene oil, 18 million gallons in the previous year, were nearly doubled, and those of candles rose from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds, in spite of the enormous number used at pagodas in Burma.

Trans-frontier  
trade.

112. The value of the trans-frontier trade was 370 lakhs or 60 lakhs more than in the previous year. Imports increased by 26, and exports by nearly 12 per cent. Trade with Western China showed a moderate increase. The imports, more than half silver, were valued at 27 lakhs, and the exports, mostly piece-goods, at 36. With the Shan States there was a decided advance in imports, mostly along the Salween river, but a decline in exports. Traffic is being diverted to the railway. The value of the total trade was 105 lakhs. The cessation of disturbances in Siam was followed by a revival in the trade with that country. Imports rose from 29½ to 49 lakhs, and exports from 17½ to 32½. There was a large importation of elephants owing to keen competition among merchants. The trade with Karenni, in all 41 lakhs, consists almost entirely of teak, silver being exported in exchange. The imports of teak rose in value, but not in quantity.

## Public Works.

## Roads.

113. The province contained 1,603 miles of metalled and 7,766 of unmetalled roads outside municipal boundaries. Of the former 1,454, and of the latter 5,480 miles were in charge of the Public Works Department. The following were the most important roads under construction :—

- (a) A metalled road 37 miles long from Kawkareik to Myawaddi, to complete connection between Moulmein and the Siamese State of Rabeng. The road is practically completed and will shortly be open to traffic.
- (b) A road from Taunggyi, the headquarters of the Southern Shan States, which is connected by road with the railway at Thazi, to the outpost of Kengtung, where there is an Assistant Superintendent and half a battalion of native infantry. About 95 miles of a cart road 175 miles long have been completed, and a mule track for the remaining 100 miles is being improved.
- (c) A road from Toungoo on the railway to the sanitarium of Thandaung nearly completed. An estimate for a bridge over the Sittang river is under preparation.
- (d) A metalled road 25 miles long from Bhamo towards the Chinese frontier on the north-east was nearly completed, and a mule-track for the remaining 21 miles improved.
- (e) A road from Seikpyu on the Irrawaddy river to Saw, at the foot of Mount Victoria, on which the headquarters of the Pakòkku Chin Hills are established. The most difficult part, between Saw and Kawtón, 41 miles long, approached completion. The remaining 27 miles will be taken in hand later.
- (f) By agreement with the Chinese Government a road 15½ miles long from Kulika on the frontier to Man-Tu in Chinese territory was constructed by the Department.
- (g) A road 14 miles long to connect the headwaters of the Yan-ngwa river, Mergui district, where there is a rich tin country hitherto little worked owing to absence of communications with Bòkpyin on the sea-coast, was nearly completed, and surveys were made for other roads in the same district.

A survey for the re-alignment of the Mogòk road was in progress.

## Railways.

114. The length of line open to all descriptions of traffic on the 31st March 1904 was 1,337 miles, 6 miles less than at the beginning of the year owing to the re-aligning of the Bassein—Henzada—Letpadan line and to the cessation of work on suburban lines at Bassein. The construction of a line from Pegu to Martaban, 131 miles in length, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in November 1903. A

survey was carried out from Thamaing to Mahlagôn, and that from Prome to Taunggòk in the Arakan division continued.

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No less than five accidents, causing serious damage to rolling stock and permanent way but happily little loss of life, were due to collisions with buffaloes. In one a cooly woman was killed and the guard and seven coolies injured, in another the guard was killed. A goods train was derailed owing to the breaking of an axle, and two passenger trains from some cause not stated. Damage from floods or heavy rain caused the main line to be blocked for three days in August and again in October, the Letpadan-Tharawaw line from the end of August to the 18th November, the Lashio line from September 1st to November 6th, and the Bassein-Henzada line from the 19th to the 25th September.

The capital outlay during the year was Rs. 29,75,839 and the expenditure up to date Rs. 13,16,03,186. The gross earnings for the year were Rs. 1,41,21,600, or Rs. 14,69,216 more than in 1902-03. The working expenses increased by nearly twelve lakhs, and the net earnings by three. The percentage of net receipts to capital outlay increased from 3'84 to 3'94, and the train mileage from 3,560,434 to 4,421,034.

115. A steam tramway  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, owned by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Tramways Company, connected the headquarters of the Thatôn district with the Company's launches at Duyinzeik. The earnings were Rs. 44,827. The Rangoon steam tramways, over 4 miles long, carried 3,204,166 passengers and earned Rupees 2,48,485. The electric tramways in Mandalay were not opened until after the close of the year.

116. The only navigation canals of the province in charge of the Public Works Department are the Pegu-Sittang, Sittang-Kyaikto and Twante canals. Dues are levied only on the first. The navigation of the Panblaing creek is being improved by an artificial cut near Yandoon.

### Irrigation.

117. The irrigated area increased from 649,062 acres to 686,588. That in Shwebo nearly doubled, and there were large advances in Mandalay and Minbu. The increase was generally due to the abundant supply of water from the heavy September rains. Yamèthin and Meikila, however, failed to benefit by these, and there was a considerable decrease. The irrigation was mostly from canals, three-fifths of which were under Government management. Where an area is too small or the supply of water too uncertain to make the construction of permanent works advisable, there is a tendency to return to the old Burmese method of holding the people responsible for the upkeep of irrigation works in consideration of a remission of part of the *thathameda*-tax, and legislation enabling the managers elected by the cultivators to enforce their orders is under consideration. The area irrigated from tanks is comparatively small. Irrigation was extended in Pakòkku at the cost of the District Fund.

118. The capital expenditure, direct and indirect, incurred during the year on the three large irrigation canals under construction, the Mandalay, the Shwebo and the Môn, was Rs. 13,98,507. The Mandalay canal, which is nearly completed, was opened for irrigation in June 1903. Thirty thousand acres, mainly rice, were irrigated. The opening of this canal was opportune, as the early rains failed and the smaller works which the canal replaces would not have given a sufficient supply of water. Only half water-rates were assessed on lands previously cultivated. The length of the canal and its distributaries in operation at the end of the year was 225 miles. The total capital outlay to the end of the year was Rs. 50,38,052, of which Rs. 3,41,288 were spent during the year. The revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 92,796, while the working expenses were Rs. 95,277. Construction work on the Shwebo canal progressed satisfactorily. The capital outlay during the year amounted to Rs. 10,10,525, bringing the total to Rs. 30,18,109. Work on the Môn canals was started and Rs. 46,694 expended. Surveys for a new scheme, the Ye-u Canal Project, which is expected to irrigate 100 square miles annually, were also undertaken.

Major irrigation canals.

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tion.

Minor irrigation  
works

119. The other irrigation systems under the care of the Public Works Department were in the Kyauksè, Mandalay and seven other Upper Burma districts. The area irrigated and assessed to revenue increased, owing to the abundant rainfall in the latter part of the season, from 239,474 to 274,934 acres. The revenue assessed on this area amounted to Rs. 8,21,877. More than half of this was from Kyauksè district, where there is a highly-developed system of canals. In Myingyan, Meiktila and Yamèthin irrigation is mostly from tanks. The Shweta-chaung canal in Mandalay district yielded nearly a lakh of gross revenue and a net revenue of Rs. 81,000. The Kyauksè canals yielded a net revenue of over a lakh, but in all the other districts except Shwebo the working expenses, including indirect charges, exceeded the receipts. The total net revenue was Rs. 41,857. The Kanna tank in Myingyan district was breached during the year and has so far been a failure.

## V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

### REFERENCES—

- Land Revenue Administration Report of Burma for the year ending the 30th June 1904.  
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 Salt Administration Report for 1903.  
 Note on the Administration of Stamp Revenue in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
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 Report on the Maritime Trade of Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Eleventh issue of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Tables I—Area, Population and Land Revenue, III—Salt, IV—Opium, V—Excise, VII—Stamps, and VIII—Income Tax.

### (a).—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

#### Gross Revenues.

120. The total revenues of the province, other than local funds and the receipts of the postal and telegraph departments, amounted to Rs. 8,84,78,570, an increase of Rs. 73,42,610 over the previous year. The Imperial share of this was Rs. 5,13,45,517 and the share of the increment 42½ lakhs. The total expenditure was Rs. 5,24,71,206, an advance of 32½ lakhs. Of this burden the Imperial share was Rs. 1,33,60,360, or nearly 15 lakhs more than in the previous year. The fluctuations in those parts of the revenues which are shared between the Imperial and Provincial Governments are dealt with below under each head. The only other heads of importance are State Railways, the gross earnings of which rose from Rs. 1,26,67,364 to Rs. 1,41,06,869, and Tribute from Native States, which increased from Rs. 4,24,754 to Rs. 4,79,926. The expenditure showed a slight decrease from Rs. 2,64,658 to Rs. 2,57,508 on account of general administration charges and from Rs. 8,41,200 to Rs. 6,47,927 for military works. The working expenses of State railways rose from Rs. 77,32,319 to Rupees 89,17,418.

#### Land Revenue.

121. The total assessments of land revenue proper, not including the special water-rates levied in certain districts, were Rs. 2,18,15,715, an increase of nearly 20 lakhs over the previous year. Hanthawaddy, with 33 lakhs, had by far the largest revenue in the province, Pegu following with 18 and Akyab and Bassein with about 14 each. In Upper Burma the small district of Kyaukse had the largest land revenue, nearly 7 lakhs. Over a third of the increase in the revenue demand was due to the introduction of the settlement rates of land revenue in Sagaing and Yamèthin. As a set-off to this must be placed the reduction of Rs. 4,92,441 under *thathameda*, and of Rs. 28,098 in the demand from water-rate in Yamèthin. The increases in Akyab (Rs. 1,82,629), Tharrawaddy (Rs. 1,02,437), the area now comprised in the three districts of Ma-ubin, Myaungmya and Pyapôn (Rs. 1,17,640), and Bassein (Rs. 69,434) were in the main due to the introduction during the year of revised rates of assessment in parts of these districts. That of Rs. 1,51,132 in Mandalay is the result of the extension of irrigation from the new canal; that of Rs. 1,02,447 in the Lower Chindwin of the larger area in which the assessment rates fixed on the summary settlement of the district were in force. The improvements elsewhere were mostly due to the larger area under cultivation and the better character of the season.

122. Remissions amounted to Rs. 2,60,550, slightly less than the previous year's amount. Two-fifths of the whole were in the Hanthawaddy district, and were due to floods in the Hlaing river. Floods also accounted for heavy remissions in Ma-ubin and Tharrawaddy, and smaller amounts in Henzada and Mandalay. It is only in the lower province that all land sown or planted is assessed. In Upper

## V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Burma crops which have failed to mature at the time of the surveyor's visit are excluded from assessment. This system is made necessary by the precarious nature of cultivation in the dry zone.

## Water-rate.

123. A water-rate, to repay Government for the cost of irrigation works, is levied on lands irrigated from small irrigation works in certain Upper Burma districts which have not been settled. In the others a separate rate is dispensed with in the case of petty works, the land revenue being proportionately increased. The latter system was introduced in Yamèthin during the year. Shwebo is now the only district with any considerable area assessed to water-rate, and here the area nearly doubled owing to a good rainfall. The total demand for the province was Rs. 27,301.

## Capitation-tax.

124. Outside the larger towns a poll-tax is levied, with certain exceptions on every able-bodied man in the lower province, married men paying double. The number of assessee rose from 1,156,825 to 1,179,251, an increase of two per cent., and the demand by over a lakh to Rs. 49,13,655. The only districts in which there was a decrease were Akyab and Prome. No satisfactory explanation is given for the former decrease, which seems to be due to insufficient checking. In Prome the falling-off is attributed to migration to other districts owing to the shortage of rainfall at the beginning of the year. There has been a general increase from 82,324 to 90,881 in the number of persons exempted on account of poverty or old age, due to village headmen making greater use of the powers lately conferred upon them to enter these classes in the rolls as exempted, a power which is reported not to have been abused. Exemption could formerly be obtained only on application to the Township Officer.

## Thathameda.

125. The *thathameda* is a kind of income-tax levied on each household in Upper Burma outside Mandalay. Government takes a fixed sum from the village, calculated at an average rate per household, and this is assessed on each household in proportion to its means by the village assessors. The number of households assessed was 693,504, only 528 more than in the previous year. There was generally a decrease in the north and an increase in the south of the upper province. The former was due to migration to Lower Burma in consequence of the unfavourable character of the early rains. The demand, Rs. 46,41,173, fell off by nearly 6½ lakhs, but most of this is due to the assessment for the first time to land revenue of private lands in Sagaing, Yamèthin and the Lower Chindwin and the consequent reduction of the *thathameda* assessment on agricultural sources of income. A sum of Rs. 29,222 was remitted. The reduction of the rate in districts where revenue is assessed on private lands has produced a tendency among assessors to make the assessment uniform, partly in imitation of the Lower Burma poll-tax, and partly owing to the fact that few households are too poor to pay a reduced rate. It is not the policy of Government to interfere with the discretion of the assessors, but it has been explained to them that such uniformity is not intended.

## Fishery revenue.

126. The year shows a further increase in fishery revenue from Rs. 28,38,846 to Rs. 29,07,886. Nine-tenths of the demand is from leased fisheries and the remainder from nets and fishing-traps for which licenses are issued. There was a decline in the latter, probably owing to insufficient checking. The detection of unlicensed nets is difficult, especially in the sea-fisheries, and an attempt was made during the year to facilitate it by attaching lead labels to the nets. It is as yet too early to pronounce on the results of the experiment. In Mergui the plan of affixing numbered boards to fishing-traps at sea was attended with some success. The pearl fisheries in that district, though abandoned by the Australians, are being successfully worked by natives, and the number of pumps rose from 60 to 70. The leased fisheries of the delta, as re-organized in accordance with Major Maxwell's proposals, again showed a substantial increase (Rs. 77,669), in spite of the loss of half a lakh through combination between the bidders of the Pantanaw township, the most important of all the fishery tracts. The largest increases were in Pegu, Bassein and Hanthawaddy. In Mergui the leases issued had hitherto been for the right to collect green snails and *Scapharca* in the Archipelago. The inclusion of the right to collect mother-of-pearl shells without

diving apparatus and the conical shells known in commerce as top shells and locally as *trocas* produced an increase of Rs. 11,700. V—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

127. The total area assessed to land rate in lieu of capitation-tax in the seven towns of Lower Burma in which this tax is levied rose from 7,209 to 7,529 acres, and the revenue demand from Rs. 79,720 to Rs. 88,317. Every town contributed to the larger demand, which was due to the assessment during the year of land belonging to persons who became exempt from income-tax by the raising of the taxable minimum to Rs. 1,000. The only decrease in area was in Prome, where the owners of certain garden lands surrendered their holdings in consequence of the enhancement in the rate of land revenue made at the recent settlement. The double burden of land rate and land revenue is no doubt heavier than the less productive and valuable gardens can bear with profit to their owners. Of other miscellaneous receipts by far the most important is petroleum, which yielded Rs. 12,05,674, an increase of Rs. 3,98,226 over the previous year. The royalty on rubies fell from Rs. 3,89,788 to Rs. 2,11,545. Among other receipts fines under the village laws increased from Rs. 1,58,839 to Rs. 1,83,820, survey fees for *pottas* from Rs. 67,995 to Rs. 1,05,749, and rent of town lands from Rs. 66,082 to Rs. 66,191. Land rate and other miscellaneous land revenue.

### Canal Revenue.

128. The Pegu-Sittang canal is the only navigation work on which dues are collected. The receipts fell slightly from Rs. 1,12,272 to Rs. 1,12,414.

### Sources of Imperial Revenue other than the Land.

129. The import duty rose from Rs. 48,12,149 to Rs. 55,93,097, there being an increase under every head except salt, salt fish and raw silk. The export duty declined, owing to the restricted exports of rice, from Rs. 96,74,024 to Rs. 87,62,302. Customs.

130. The gross receipts from opium rose from Rs. 30,64,946 to Rs. 45,50,182. The arrangements described in last year's report continued in force with some modifications in detail. The vendors' profits in some of the larger shops had been excessive, and these were reduced by raising the fee and the wholesale rate per seer. The number of shops was further increased by 31. In last year's report it was seen that the increase in receipts from duty under the new scheme was balanced by a loss in license fees, while there was a large increase in expenditure owing to the strengthening of the staff. The sales of opium have now further increased to so large an extent that the net revenue, even if the whole cost of the excise establishment is debited to opium, far exceeds that under the old system. The sales rose from 37,232 seers to 50,026 in the first year of the new scheme and now show a further rise to 70,446. This result has been obtained mainly by the destruction of the trade in contraband opium, through the lowering of the retail price, the increase in the number of shops, the better supervision of the vendors, and the activity shown by a better-paid and more efficient preventive staff. While it is true that the system has failed to prevent the hawking about the country of the three tola packets bought at shops, or to keep the drug away from the Burman who gets it through a person entitled to buy, the general opinion is that the amount of opium consumed in the province has not increased, and that the large profits shown in the returns have been obtained, not by the spread of the opium habit, but at the expense of the smuggler. The contraband trade has not been destroyed, but it has certainly been decreased and in some districts broken up. It is now proposed to reduce the opportunities for petty hawking of Government opium by directing Resident Excise Officers to prevent sales to individuals in excess of their probable consumption or means of purchase. This will tend to check the practice of buying on behalf of unregistered Burmans, but it is impossible altogether to prevent this, and no satisfactory measures have so far been suggested for the exclusion of Burmans from opium dens where they are taught the habit. Opium.

131. The local outturn of salt increased from 544,801 to 705,606 maunds and the duty thereon from Rs. 2,30,600 to Rs. 3,14,537. The duty on foreign salt, on the other hand, went down from Rs. 14,39,979 to Rs. 12,74,992. The falling-off was entirely in imports from Germany and other foreign countries, British Salt.

## V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

imports increasing by over a fourth from 25 to 42 per cent. of the whole. There was a still larger decrease in the imports of salted fish, from 333,268 to 232,452 maunds. As the consumption has certainly not decreased and the decline is accompanied by an augmentation of the fishery revenue it is evident that Burma is becoming better able to supply its own needs.

The price of salt was generally lower than in the previous year owing to the efforts made by the importers of salt from Liverpool to regain the market. English and German salt went down in May to Rs. 66, but rose in October to Rs. 77. At the same time a late monsoon increased the outturn of local salt by lengthening the season during which it was possible to work.

The system of assessing duty on the actual output, instead of by means of a composition duty on the cauldrons employed in the manufacture, which was experimentally tried in Bassein in 1902, was extended to Myaungmya during the year of report, while some of the Hanthawaddy salt boilers, who had refused to work on the new system in 1902, resumed operations. The change cannot be said to be altogether popular with the salt boilers, who dislike the supervision which it involves and its interference with trade. They are no longer able to sell when they please, but must wait the arrival of the Inspector to weigh out the quantity on which duty has been paid. From a financial point of view the scheme is undoubtedly a success, and it may be possible still further to strengthen the establishment employed in the supervision of manufacture, and thereby provide additional security for the revenue and extra facilities to the manufacturers for the removal of salt.

## Excise.

132. Except for a few European distilleries where duty is levied according to the outturn, the revenue from liquor continues to consist mainly of license fees fixed by auctioning the right to sell in a given tract. A proposal to extend the duty system is however under consideration. The gross receipts rose from Rs. 29,01,045 to Rs. 33,34,653. The right to sell imported liquors produced Rs. 11,48,095, an increase of nearly three lakhs. Of this more than half came from Rangoon owing to the break-up of a combination of bidders. It is believed that a portion of the stuff sold as foreign liquor is country spirit of illicit distillation doctored by means of various essences. The fees from country spirits are comparatively small and are derived almost entirely from the Tenasserim and Arakan divisions, especially the towns of Mergui and Tavoy, and some Upper Burma districts. They increased from Rs. 1,32,591 to Rs. 1,44,495, chiefly owing to the opening of two new shops in Thatôn. Fermented liquors are used most in the delta districts. *Tari*, the juice of various kinds of palm, showed a decline from Rs. 5,58,590 to Rs. 5,21,558, but other native liquors rose from Rs. 10,80,068 to Rs. 12,05,341. The substitution of the less potent kinds of liquor for spirits is part of the policy of Government, and it is proposed not to re-issue a number of the foreign liquor licenses. The duty on foreign spirits distilled in the country rose from two to two-and-a-half lakhs. An improvement in the system of collecting license fees was inaugurated during the year, whereby the taking of security is dispensed with and the fee collected by monthly payments in advance. This widens the field of competition by enabling individuals of small capital to bid for licenses formerly confined to the wealthy or to syndicates. A defect in the existing rules was supplied by prescribing a special form of license for the sale of liquor at entertainments. A blow was struck at illicit distillation by the inclusion of *kasawye*, a fermented liquor made of rice and used in the manufacture of spirit, among the liquors of which it is illegal to possess more than a certain amount.

## Stamps.

133. The gross receipts from the sale of stamps rose from Rs. 26,32,482 to Rs. 29,41,940. The nett receipts, after deducting cost of stamps, discount to vendors, etc., were over 28 lakhs. The increase, which though not quite so great as in the previous year is above the average rate of former years, is the more satisfactory as it appears mainly in the non-judicial stamps. The year was a prosperous one for both agriculturists and traders. Receipts from court-fees increased everywhere except in the adjacent delta districts of Ma-ubin, Myaungmya and Pyapôn. Non-judicial impressed stamps show an increase everywhere except in Akyab and Thatôn, and rose from Rs. 5,25,545 to Rs. 6,20,808. Impressed labels and special adhesive stamps, which are used mostly for printed documents, and nearly all in

Rangoon, again show a large advance from Rs. 2,90,304 to Rs. 3,80,712. Land V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.  
speculation in Rangoon and the neighbourhood is mainly responsible for the increase. The number of cases in which duty and penalty were levied on documents filed in the courts rose from 1,050 to 1,285, and the number of prosecutions, due to a sudden outburst of activity in Pakòkku, from 219 to 314.

134. In accordance with the provisions of Act XI of 1903, incomes of less than Rs. 1,000 ceased to be subjected to taxation. The result was a decrease in the number of persons assessed from 25,308 to 11,431, and of these 608 were persons with incomes of less than Rs. 1,000, whose March salaries were assessed in April, but who paid no tax in the remaining eleven months. The final demand, however, decreased only slightly, from Rs. 9,56,621 to Rs. 9,52,131, owing to greater prosperity and probably also stricter assessment. Rangoon, Toungoo and four other districts actually show an increase over the previous year. The number of Government servants paying the tax was reduced by more than one half. They are nearly one-fourth of the total number assessed. The collection of the tax gave no difficulty, and the number of warrants against defaulters fell from 766 to 241.

135. The following statement shows the sources of forest revenue and Forewa.  
compares the receipts with those of the previous year :—

Particulars.	1902-03.	1903-04.	Increase or decrease.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. °
Timber and other produce removed from the forests—			
by Government Agency ... ..	33,33,004	43,29,281	+ 9,96,277
by purchasers and consumers—			
timber ... ..	23,53,495	29,85,216	+ 6,31,721
firewood and charcoal ... ..	1,56,539	1,61,465	+ 4,926
bamboos and canes ... ..	1,70,225	1,91,048	+ 11,823
grazing and fodder ... ..	2,148	2,523	+ 375
other minor produce ... ..	1,00,991	1,41,529	+ 40,538
Confiscated drift and waif wood ... ..	2,07,601	2,40,774	+ 33,173
Duty on foreign timber and other produce ... ..	3,03,776	3,63,377	+ 59,601
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,01,046	1,04,191	+ 3,145
Total ... ..	67,37,825	85,19,404	+ 17,81,579

136. The financial results of the year's working are shown below :—

Circle.	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.	Proportion of surplus to gross revenue.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Pegu ... ..	31,98,789	13,57,599	18,41,190	58
Tenasserim ... ..	19,69,005	8,20,234	11,48,771	58
Northern ... ..	22,81,484	7,66,922	15,14,562	66
Southern ... ..	10,70,126	5,55,556	5,14,570	48
Total for 1903-04 ... ..	85,19,404	35,00,311	50,19,093	59
Total for 1902-03 ... ..	67,37,825	29,63,316	37,74,509	56
Difference ... ..	+ 17,81,579	+ 5,36,995	+ 12,44,584	+ 3

The revenue for the year was much in excess of the previous years' figures. The improvement was due mainly to the high prices obtained at the sales of Government teak timber throughout the province, and to the larger quantities of timber which were placed on the market in consequence. Every effort was made to bring to the depôts and sell as much timber as possible at the prevailing rates. A good floating season permitted of the extraction from the Toungoo forests by

V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

purchase-contractors of a larger amount of timber than had been estimated, and the increased royalty on this timber, as also the higher duty obtained at *ad valorem* rates on foreign timber brought down the Salween river, aided to swell the revenue for the year. The growth in expenditure was mainly due to larger extraction of teak timber by Government Agency.

(b).—*Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.*

### Provincial Revenues.

137. The Provincial share of the revenues amounted to Rs. 3,71,33,053, an increase of Rs. 30,65,149. The fluctuations in those parts of the revenue which are shared between the Imperial and Provincial Governments are dealt with above under each head. The only other heads of any importance are Courts of Law, the receipts from which rose from Rs. 4,74,360 to Rs. 5,03,053, Marine (chiefly coast light dues), which increased from Rs. 4,65,838 to Rs. 4,86,753, and Civil Works, which rose from Rs. 2,84,634 to Rs. 4,41,743 mainly owing to the sale of buildings and old materials under the Sudder Bazaar expropriation scheme. Expenditure on Courts of Law rose from Rs. 28,48,430 to Rs. 30,27,662 on Police from Rs. 94,25,489 to Rs. 95,90,371, on Marine (launches, etc.) from Rs. 8,36,145 to Rs. 9,47,800, on Medical from Rs. 8,34,685 to Rs. 9,28,178, and on Civil Works from Rs. 37,34,355 to Rs. 96,21,089.

### Local Funds.

138. Under this head are included the District Cess Funds in Lower Burma which are proportionate to and collected with the land revenue; and the District Funds in Upper Burma, the Taunggyi Improvement Fund; and the Cantonment, Town, Port, Pilot, Akyab Land Sale and Rent, Rangoon Police Reward, Rangoon Cantonment Garden, Educational Syndicate, and Rangoon College Funds. The first three are classed by the Accounts Department as Incorporated Local Funds, the accounts being kept by the district treasuries; the others, the accounts of which are kept by the local staff of the fund, are called Excluded Local Funds.

District Cess Funds.

139. The receipts from 20 District Cess Funds in Lower Burma rose by nearly a lakh to Rs. 22,82,147 and the closing balance to nearly 12 lakhs. Four-fifths of the receipts are derived from the cess on land, the remainder being mostly from bazaars. The result is that the amounts vary greatly in different districts, from over 4 lakhs in Hanthawaddy to Rs. 14,241 in Sandoway. Eleven districts out of twenty had an income of over a lakh. The expenditure of the smaller funds went mostly to the support of the village headmen, that of the larger to the construction of roads and rest-houses.

District Funds.

140. The receipts from 16 District Funds in Upper Burma rose by Rs. 11,616 to Rs. 4,39,504, but the closing balance fell by an almost equal amount to Rs. 2,71,461. The amounts varied from Rs. 61,831 in Meiktila to Rs. 2,936 in Kindat.

Cantonment Funds.

141. There are Cantonments at Rangoon, Mandalay, Thayetmyo, Bhamo, Meiktila, Shwebo and Maymyo. The income of the funds apart from loans, rose from Rs. 2,03,537 to Rs. 2,29,098 and the expenditure from Rs. 2,14,847 to Rs. 2,22,534. The fluctuations were almost entirely due to grants-in-aid from the general revenues.

Town Funds.

142. There were 14 towns in the province considered of sufficient importance for taxes to be imposed on the inhabitants for purposes of conservancy and other local needs, but not large enough to be declared municipalities. Of these three were new, Wakema and Insein having attained sufficient importance to be added to the list, while the Pagan Municipality was abolished and the Nyaungu Town Fund created in its place. The total income of the funds rose from Rs. 2,15,572 to Rs. 3,48,056, and the closing balance to Rs. 1,68,917.

Port Funds.

143. The Rangoon Port Trust had an income of Rs. 17,82,817, an increase of over 2½ lakhs above the previous year and a closing balance of Rs. 9,70,141. The Port funds at Moulmein, Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Bassain, Tavoy and Mergui had a total income of Rs. 3,05,688 and showed a closing balance of Rs. 2,16,711.

Their income somewhat decreased. The Bassei fund owed Rs. 11,000 to Government and the Rangoon Port Trust nearly 12 lakhs to the public. V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

144. Pilot funds exist at Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab and Bassein. Receipts ~~Pilot Funds~~ for pilotage are credited to the fund, the greater part disbursed to the pilots, and the balance retained for maintenance of pilot vessels, etc. The receipts rose from under 4 lakhs to Rs. 4,25,987. The closing balance was Rs. 1,00,857.

145. The income of the Educational Syndicate fund was Rs. 43,363, that of ~~Other funds~~ the Rangoon College fund Rs. 51,181, the Rangoon Police Reward fund Rs. 618, the Akyab Land Sale and Rent fund Rs. 2,943, the Rangoon Cantonment Garden fund Rs. 5,135, and the Taunggyi Improvement fund Rs. 7,703.

## Road Cesses.

146.

Nil.

## Education Cesses.

147.

Nil.

## Municipal Revenues.

148. The following statements show the income and expenditure of the municipalities of the province under the most important heads, omitting fractions of rupees:—

Name of Municipality.	Income from							Total income with opening balance.
	Opening balance.	House and land tax.	Markets and slaughter-houses.	Conceivancy tax.	Lighting tax.	Grants.	Loans.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rangoon	19,95,224	6,64,924	3,16,928	4,21,962	71,372	1,81,906	15,00,000	66,73,720
Akyab	19,378	25,776	37,716	77,864	3,464	13,890	—	1,94,322
Kyaokpyin	2,960	2,668	6,298	—	—	2,180	—	14,943
Sandoway	2,048	1,206	6,191	—	856	1,848	—	13,124
Pegu	24,880	16,865	5,430	3,448	1,329	1,751	—	1,34,967
Thonzá	40,101	3,109	17,388	—	988	3,296	—	70,819
Letpadaun	17,473	4,491	30,291	—	—	2,591	—	62,632
Gyobingauk	25,762	3,381	23,219	1,254	—	5,007	—	66,666
Prome	147,786	12,248	62,626	13,409	5,091	4,225	—	2,93,865
Paungó	24,901	4,335	25,589	—	511	1,521	—	68,711
Ma-uhle	10,502	2,571	18,386	2,809	—	16,870	8,000	64,972
Yandoon	10,251	4,704	26,246	5,261	—	600	—	64,023
Bassein	20,976	28,676	55,091	11,009	10,294	2,360	—	1,98,859
Ngathalingraung	6,360	2,904	15,279	—	—	944	—	19,663
Heinzada	2,970	14,708	46,349	8,133	4,627	—	30,000	1,20,953
Zatun	1,208	2,997	8,597	—	—	900	—	19,872
Myanaung	6,669	3,764	12,691	—	—	—	—	36,722
Kyanglo	3,223	2,587	9,474	3,043	—	—	—	19,771
Myaungmya	17,194	2,103	17,507	719	715	3,000	—	43,865
Toungoo	16,286	10,661	41,598	1,221	7,210	1,000	—	1,00,365
Shwegyin	5,757	3,330	11,346	—	1,699	150	—	37,870
Kyaukse	10,201	3,872	12,067	—	1,040	1,000	—	33,491
Thabe	33,911	4,730	18,091	—	1,549	900	—	71,896
Moolmein	44,552	72,563	20,362	20,042	19,433	1,180	2,95,000	7,80,323
Tavoy	4,128	11,806	12,064	6,550	323	365	—	42,900
Mergui	11,033	14,742	10,304	2,168	4,625	332	—	43,743
Thajetmye	26,177	8,329	16,704	—	—	—	—	66,449
Alasmye	8,742	—	17,201	—	—	—	—	36,693
Pakokku	7,400	11,080	19,809	—	—	100	—	52,967
Minbu	4,409	3,806	9,107	—	—	4,265	—	35,722
Salle	5,143	3,962	12,226	—	—	4,800	—	36,445
Taungwinyi	2,087	1,042	11,516	—	—	120	—	17,481
Mandalay	64,921	2,36,773	2,54,514	—	—	480	—	18,46,368
Bhamo	8,070	3,538	12,089	1,131	—	2,400	—	34,308
Shwebo	8,290	4,419	12,701	—	—	1,000	—	34,390
Sagalng	8,898	3,768	14,785	—	—	—	—	30,467
Moogywa	3,247	2,906	11,793	—	—	1,800	—	30,047
Kyaoké	7,699	4,488	11,115	—	—	475	—	25,903
Yamethin	8,256	4,379	12,018	—	—	800	—	35,930
Pyin Oon	9,526	8,140	30,277	—	—	—	—	60,254
Myingyan	21,368	5,800	22,220	—	—	—	—	60,254

Name of Municipality.	EXPENDITURE ON							Closing balance.	Total expenditure with closing balance.	
	General administration and collection charges.	Public Works.	Education.	Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Conservancy.	Lighting.	Repayment of loans.			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rangoon	3,86,199	8,50,329	1,00,721	99,871	2,31,240	45,548	4,02,500	11,58,130	66,78,120	
Akyab	14,579	27,798	6,243	21,354	31,434	3,945	2,223	35,298	4,23,422	
Kyaukpada	1,091	1,081	1,500	9,004	1,950	—	—	3,571	1,17,43	
Sandway	1,322	163	566	3,135	938	992	690	8,927	12,129	
Pegu	8,382	22,305	4,940	19,744	16,131	4,080	—	27,437	1,25,367	
Thoné	3,401	4,007	1,703	2,943	4,454	4,679	—	45,295	70,433	
Ictpadon	6,749	5,023	2,012	4,816	4,258	1,894	1,101	14,846	62,623	
Grobingank	4,251	8,052	2,853	2,077	6,300	1,401	—	21,201	65,028	
Prome	10,017	26,192	7,600	6,909	60,254	3,949	11,805	33,411	3,21,970	
Paungde	3,277	10,841	3,780	2,022	4,320	1,901	—	39,449	68,711	
Maubin	3,674	3,701	2,474	4,490	7,306	690	429	30,470	64,879	
Bassein	6,418	16,344	1,822	4,357	6,800	1,992	5,225	4,389	64,022	
Ngaingmyathazi	11,185	47,791	7,507	20,088	25,220	12,093	—	37,230	1,29,320	
Herazada	2,902	3,757	1,356	7,981	4,106	—	—	9,991	29,028	
Zaton	11,080	39,393	6,800	11,800	15,452	4,454	970	12,029	1,20,322	
Myanmanc	8,698	4,810	894	1,282	2,937	—	—	2,776	33,979	
Kyauhin	2,287	2,534	3,000	3,121	4,601	83	—	7,026	35,723	
Myanmyathazi	1,944	2,112	2,000	894	5,202	49	—	6,929	39,771	
Toungoo	6,597	4,723	1,500	5,760	5,133	813	1,504	8,005	63,226	
Shwebo	7,498	17,703	8,771	9,296	24,454	5,217	—	11,174	1,00,000	
Shwebo	2,936	4	3,500	3,007	3,231	1,845	1,115	4,474	27,570	
Kyaukse	3,466	3,151	734	2,329	2,923	2,022	—	8,220	39,421	
Thaton	6,762	4,597	2,300	25,085	4,634	3,665	—	15,011	71,223	
Moulmein	28,988	59,373	—	28,129	42,168	43,501	—	1,27,312	7,90,829	
Lave	6,241	1,895	3,000	5,993	13,171	—	—	9,261	43,922	
Mong	4,374	4,410	3,000	9,299	5,229	4,306	870	15,489	65,725	
Thapintaw	5,303	2,168	1,000	25,460	8,702	821	—	3,462	54,429	
Atankyo	3,316	6,759	1,196	3,155	4,099	—	—	15,591	39,000	
Pakokku	11,116	9,345	600	4,369	11,104	3,714	—	4,447	43,947	
Muth	2,551	5,098	—	35	4,912	294	—	5,078	26,723	
Saia	2,555	4,727	278	2,439	7,552	939	—	2,375	25,426	
Taungthaingyi	1,366	2,961	—	3,499	2,906	—	—	2,946	77,491	
Mandalay	23,784	1,85,772	64,000	75,009	1,11,553	43,003	—	3,61,297	15,45,323	
Bhamo	2,523	1,523	—	6,194	11,626	3,000	—	3,597	25,222	
Shwebo	2,971	11,502	600	4,434	4,657	4,187	—	3,011	29,320	
Sagalay	2,265	3,921	2,222	5,431	6,388	2,923	—	2,615	23,047	
Maunwa	4,398	4,394	—	3,231	6,402	1,304	—	3,081	23,047	
Kyaukse	3,019	4,731	—	4,925	4,049	1,175	—	4,815	24,928	
Yamethin	2,443	3,912	410	3,078	4,049	1,175	—	4,815	24,928	
Pyin-ona	6,251	8,714	—	4,798	6,883	4,402	—	17,354	50,645	
Myittha	3,873	6,704	200	5,482	7,457	4,646	—	19,364	60,544	

The Rangoon Land Reclamation Fund was for the first time excluded from the municipal accounts. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 3,81,290. Loans to the amount of 16 lakhs were transferred to the account of the fund. The house and land-tax increased by 8 and the conservancy tax by 9 per cent. The charge for pensions and gratuities rose from Rs. 16,488 to Rs. 50,564 owing to the retirement of certain employes. A sum of Rs. 1,69,182 was spent in acquiring land for new offices. At Pegu the house and land-tax trebled, chiefly on account of a new tax on uncovered areas, and there was a large increase in the income from markets and slaughter-houses. There was a correspondingly larger outlay on public works and hospitals. At Prome, on the other hand, the land-tax rate was reduced by one-half, and a considerable decrease resulted. Moulmein shows substantial increases in the revenue from taxation and markets. (The revenue from markets and slaughter-houses showed a large increase at Maubin and Bassein, but declined at Toungoo and Thaton.) At Mandalay the house and land tax rose by Rs. 11,247 owing to an increase in the number of assesses, a fact which seems to indicate that the decline in the population which was noticeable at the last census has reached a turning point. There was a loss of over half a lakh owing to the fire in the Zegyo market.

## VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

### REFERENCES.

- Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for 1903.  
 Notes and Statistics on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in Burma for 1903.  
 Notes and Statistics on Vaccination in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.  
 Ninth issue of Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, 1903-04. Tables No. XIII (Vital Statistics), XIV (Hospitals) and XVI (Vaccination).

### Births and Deaths.

System of Registration.

149. The registration of vital statistics is one of the duties of the village headmen, and of the ward headmen who exercise some of their functions in the towns. A counterfoil book is supplied to each headman and the Township Officer or the town authorities compile monthly returns from the outer foils, which, in the case of villages, are collected by police patrol constables. The wilder and more inaccessible tracts are excluded from registration, and in Upper Burma births are recorded only in the towns. The ratio per thousand shown in the tables is based on the census of 1901. Excluding the Shan States and Chin Hills, where there is no registration, the rate of increase between 1891 and 1901 in Lower Burma was 2.26 *per cent. per annum*, and for Upper Burma 1.6 *per cent.* Assuming a similar rate of increase since the census of 1901, the population in 1904 in Lower Burma would be 6.79 and in Upper Burma 4.83 *per cent.* more than the census figures, and the nominal ratio per thousand should be reduced by  $\frac{1}{12}$  in the former and  $\frac{1}{24}$  in the latter in order to arrive at approximately correct figures. The ratio given below is in each case the nominal ratio.

Births.

150. In Lower Burma the number of births recorded was 184,561, the males exceeding the females by 6,683. The birth-rate rose from 31.57 to 33.54, which points to better registration. The rural birth-rate was 34.52, and the urban only 26.57. There is no doubt the registration in towns is unreliable. In the towns of Upper Burma the ratio was 37.48. Twenty-two per cent. of the boys and 16.8 of the girls born died before they were a year old. As, however, 108 boys are born for every 100 girls, there is no great inequality of the sexes after the end of the first year.

Deaths.

151. In Lower Burma the deaths numbered 132,767, the death-rate rose from 21.16 to 24.13. This was probably a real increase owing to the abnormally heavy rains, following a prolonged drought. In Upper Burma the deaths were 62,941. Here too the death-rate rose from 17.29 to 21.80. The rainfall, light at the beginning of the season, was abnormally heavy in October and November. Registration is still very defective, Meiktila showing a death-rate of 12.02 and several other districts very low ratios. Both parts of the province showed a large increase in deaths from cholera, which numbered in all over 8,000. These, however, affect the death-rate comparatively little. The increase was due mainly to fevers and bowel complaints.

### Emigration and Immigration.

152. There is practically no emigration from the province, but there is a constant stream of immigrants from India. Most of these return after having made a little money, but a large number settle down in the country. The only statistics available are of persons arriving and leaving by steamer at the ports of Rangoon and Akyab. At Rangoon 165,555 arrived and 115,770 left, at Akyab 14,670 arrived and 24,029 left. This leaves a balance of 40,426 to increase the population. The increase is really greater, for the fact that the returns show an excess of over 9,000 in departures from Akyab is due to Chittagonians entering the district by inland routes in search of work and leaving with their earnings by the safer and quicker steamer route. Their entry would not be shown in the returns.

### Medical Relief.

153. Colonel Little, M.D., I.M.S., was Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals from January 1st to May 28th, and Colonel Benson, M.B., I.M.S., for the rest of the year.

154. When the year began there were, under the control of the Inspector-General and available for the general public, 113 hospitals and 16 dispensaries in the province. During the year seven dispensaries were opened and one closed. The number of in-door patients admitted to these hospitals rose from 42,168 to 47,934. Of these 77 per cent. were discharged cured and 8 per cent. relieved, while six per cent. died. Medicines were dispensed in 931,260 cases, an advance of 48,014 over the previous year. The number of surgical operations performed was 23,086. Of the total number of in-door patients 14 per cent. were women and children, and of the persons to whom medicines were dispensed 43 per cent. In addition to the above there were under the control of the Inspector-General 13 special hospitals for the Military Police, where 15,734 in-patients were treated and medicines dispensed in 66,039 cases; and 20 railway dispensaries treating 50,509 persons. The Duffein Maternity Hospital, which is partly supported by Government, treated 715 in-patients and dispensed medicines to 2,324; and four Christian mission dispensaries dealt with over 2,000 cases.

155. In the Lower Burma hospitals the most prevalent disease was worms, which were treated in 91,464 cases. Dyspepsia, diarrhoea, and other diseases of the digestive system accounted for 82,616, malarial fevers for 76,854, ulcers 64,254, skin diseases 42,753, and local injuries, mostly from assaults, 38,939. In Upper Burma worms were much less prevalent, accounting for only 21,517 cases. Malaria heads the list with 68,130, followed by diseases of the digestive system with 63,499 and eye affections with 60,296. Ulcers again hold an important place, the cases numbering 45,028, but skin diseases and local injuries were both under 20,000. Cholera patients were treated in the hospitals of the province to the number of 674 and small-pox cases to the number of 271.

156. The total expenditure was Rs. 7,94,045, a slight increase over the previous year. Nearly half of this was met from municipal and local funds and 42 per cent. by Government. Subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 37,423.

### Sanitation.

157. The expenditure on removal of night-soil and street refuse was Rs. 12,64,397, of which Rs. 2,94,131 were spent in Rangoon. An interesting experiment was tried at Maymyo in the construction of a septic tank for night-soil at a cost of Rs. 5,500. The tanks are specially fitted to hasten natural decomposition. Solids are liquified by the action of bacteria, and the sewage passes in a continuous stream into a filter bed, where it is further purified and rendered fit to be discharged. The experiment has so far proved successful.

158. Over two lakhs are reported to have been spent on drainage, but the figures are of little value as they cannot be separated from those for road-making and conservancy.

159. All the municipalities outside Rangoon get their supply of water from rivers or wells, and expenditure under this head is generally insignificant. Out of a total of Rs. 32,15,263, twenty-one lakhs were spent on a new scheme for Rangoon and four lakhs on water-works at Moulmein. It is hoped that both these schemes will be in working order in the course of a year. Rangoon is at present supplied with water from the Victoria lake, which was constructed for the purpose. Owing to insufficient rains in 1903 the lake fell short by three feet of the full supply level, and to prevent a water-famine it was necessary to adopt stringent measures for the prevention of waste, the supply being cut off where waste was detected, and to make use for a time of the water of the Royal Lakes, which proved unfit for drinking purposes and led to a large increase in bowel complaints.

160. Ten imported cases of plague were discovered, but not a single indigenous case has yet been reported in Burma. This satisfactory result amply justifies the strict enforcement of the sanitary regulations. Some inconvenience to shipping

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES Administration.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Principal diseases treated.

Financial

Conservancy.

Drainage

Water-supply.

Plague.

## VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

and to individuals has been caused thereby, but after a very careful consideration of the special cases which have been represented the Local Government has found it impossible to agree to any relaxation of the rules which is likely to impair their efficiency.

## Sanitary Board.

161. The Sanitary Board met twice during the year at Rangoon and Moulmein, and gave advice on a number of references from Municipalities.

**Vaccination.**

162. The number of vaccinators was increased from 213 to 224. Their salaries are defrayed mainly from local funds. It is complained that their work is unsatisfactory and the question of taking measures for securing better supervision and improved pay and prospects for the staff has been under consideration. The number of operations was 398,634, and the ratio of success 87.2.

## VII.—INSTRUCTION.

### REFERENCES—

Report on Public Instruction in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.

Report of the Insein Reformatory School for 1903.

Ninth issue of Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04 and preceding years Tables X (Education), XI (Reformatory Schools), and XII (The Press).

### General system of Public Instruction.

163. This is explained on pages 92 to 98 of the Report for 1901-02. Some of the facts therein stated, however, are out of date. There are now five Inspectors, 45 Deputy Inspectors, and 178 itinerant teachers. There are five high schools, and 14 normal (training) schools, of which three are vernacular only, two Anglo-vernacular only, and the rest for both classes of students. All the high and middle schools have primary departments attached to them. Result grants have been abolished, and also the Karen teachers' system grants. The *Patamabyan* has now four grades, the *Patamagyi* coming before the *Patamagyaw*.

### Education.

164. The number of schools in the province recognized by the Education Department was 19,716, attended by 347,135 scholars, of whom 47,466 were girls. The percentage of boy scholars to the male population of school-going age was 38.6, and that of girls 6.35. The public institutions (*i.e.*, those managed or aided by the State or by municipalities) numbered 5,557, and were attended by 187,098 scholars. All these figures show a substantial increase over those of last year, when the total attendance was 331,525 and the percentages 37.22 and 5.71.

Number of Schools and Attendance.

165. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 22,74,002 to Rs. 23,90,735. This was met partly by fees, which increased from Rs. 6,15,591 to Rs. 6,80,207, and partly by grants from provincial, municipal and local funds. A scheme by which the pay of teachers in municipal and Government schools was made more uniform and in most cases considerably raised was introduced during the year. In lieu of a fixed grant Government now pays half the prescribed salary of teachers in municipal schools, provided that the teacher has passed the Government test. As a result of this scheme the provincial grants increased by Rs. 91,836, from 37 to 39 per cent. of the whole, while the municipal share fell from 11.4 to 10.4. Itinerant teachers have been made pensionable servants. It has not been found possible to arrange for pensions for municipal teachers.

Finance.

166. Primary schools (*i.e.*, those teaching up to Standard IV) have increased from 4,264 to 4,511, and the attendance from 123,540 to 132,116. A new curriculum, of a more practical character and better adapted to the needs of agriculturists, has been introduced, and better terms offered to managers of private schools. The secondary schools (*i.e.*, those teaching in higher standards) increased from 261 to 269, and the attendance from 17,395 to 17,908. Model schools on a somewhat expensive scale were proposed, but have been abandoned in favour of buildings on the ordinary village school plan. Salaries were paid to 82 private managers, and a system of fixed grants, not based on examination but framed on the lines approved by the Simla Conference, is about to be introduced. Vernacular secondary education makes its way slowly, and the number of passes in the Seventh Standard which rose rapidly up to 1901, has since then steadily declined.

Vernacular Education.

167. In Anglo-vernacular schools under official control English and Burmese are taught side by side up to the Fourth Standard. After that English is the medium of instruction so far as books are concerned, but explanations are given in the vernacular up to the Seventh Standard, above which English is the sole medium. The number of schools increased from 76 to 77, and the attendance from 14,267 to 15,769. There has been a tendency to open small private schools with inad-

Anglo-vernacular Education.

VII.—Instruc-  
tion.

equate staffs, but this has not been encouraged. In Rangoon the accommodation was inadequate. Passes in the Seventh Standard, which is the minimum test required for entering Government service, have steadily increased and reached a total of 548. In the higher standards the results are less satisfactory, the passes in the Calcutta Entrance examination being only 105 against 151 in the previous year.

Collegiate  
Education.

168. The Rangoon and Baptist Colleges are the only institutions in the province which go beyond the Ninth Standard. In the former the number of students rose from 160 to 166; in the latter from 18 to 28. The B.A. passes were 7 and the F.A. 18. The total number was below the average of the previous five years, but one student took first class honours in English and stood first in order of merit in the Calcutta University.

## Female education.

169. The number of girls in public schools rose from 38,492 to 43,017 and the total number from 42,617 to 47,466.

Training of  
teachers.

170. New Government training schools for masters were opened during the year at Rangoon and Akyab, bringing the number to eight. The attendance increased from 357 to 473. For mistresses there were six aided schools. The attendance did not increase.

Technical educa-  
tion.

171. Proposals for the improvement of technical and industrial education are under consideration. So far there is little technical education in the province. A Government engineering school at Insein was attended by 75 pupils. There were three technical and three industrial schools under private management. Drawing was taught in 26 Anglo-vernacular and 14 vernacular schools, and 1,325 pupils passed the tests out of 2,754 sent up. Vocal music was taken up by 21 schools and needle-work in some girls' schools, but this and kindred industries as a part of girls' education are much neglected.

## Survey schools.

172. There are 18 Government survey schools in the province. The number of pupils on the rolls on the 31st March was 455, of whom 140 were free pupils, the rest paying the school fee of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per mensem. There was a marked falling off in numbers in the year, due in great measure to the application of the new tentative rule, making the Fourth Standard compulsory for admissions into the Lower Burma schools. Scholarships to the number of 68 of Rs. 10 and 134 of Rs. 5 per mensem were given to deserving scholars. The cost on this account came to Rs. 14,913. A sum of Rs. 480 for prizes was allotted to the various schools according to their relative strength and awarded on the result of a local test examination. Only 33 boys of the total number were holders of the Seventh Standard certificate. Sixty-nine passed candidates are reported to have obtained permanent work, and large numbers secured temporary appointments. More boys would obtain immediate employment were it not for the strong ties of home and the general unwillingness to go to other districts. The total expenditure on schools amounted to Rs. 39,896 against an income of Rs. 6,377, which gives the net cost at Rs. 33,519. The cost, therefore, of educating each pupil was Rs. 72, higher by Rs. 10 than that of the previous year owing to the diminished attendance in the year of report.

Insein Reforma-  
tory school.

173. The number of boys detained at the Insein Reformatory decreased from 86 to 82. Discipline and conduct were fairly good.

Non-Burman  
schools.

174. There were 33 schools for Europeans (including Eurasians) with 2,431 pupils, but of these 270 were natives. The latter are being gradually withdrawn. A school for sons of *Sawbwas* at Taunggyi in the Southern Shan States did well under a European head-master and was attended by 82 boys. Karens, Shans, Chinese, Talangs, Chins, Kachins, Taungthus, Manipuris and Madrasis all had their own schools, mostly under mission management.

## Literature and the Press.

Publications re-  
gistered.

175. The number of publications registered under Act XXV of 1867 rose from 123 to 146, including 21 republications. Only five works were published in English, of which one was religious and one legal, and five, mostly on the Burmese language, in English and Burmese. The number of Burmese works was 68, of which

five were religious, 32 drama or fiction, and 11 songs, while the rest included books on language, law, medicine, astrology and fortune-telling. Forty-three works in Burmese and Pali were nearly all religious, as were 11 out of 13 in Pali alone, five in Sgau-Karen, and two in Shan. An Urdu geography, a Bengali play, and a spelling-book in Kachin were published. Educational works numbered 11 and included several useful books, and there were some legal works of merit. Otherwise the secular publications were generally of little value.

176. The principal English dailies are the *Rangoon Gazette*, with a circulation of 1,500 copies, and the *Rangoon Times*, with a circulation of 1,000. Both these papers issue weekly editions. The *Rangoon Advertiser* also issues 1,000 copies. The *Times of Burma* is published in Rangoon twice a week, and has a circulation of 1,250. At Mandalay the *Upper Burma Gazette*, with a circulation of 350, is published daily and the *Mandalay Herald* three times a week. Akyab has two papers with a circulation of 150 each, issued two and three times a week. The *Moulmein Advertiser* circulates 500 copies. Some advertising sheets were also issued in Rangoon, Mandalay and Prome. All the English papers except those at Akyab were controlled by persons of European extraction. Only religious periodicals were published by private persons. The *Buddhist Quarterly Magazine*, published in Rangoon, had a circulation of 3,000.

177. Two Burmese newspapers, the *Friend of Burma* and the *Burma Herald*, issued daily nearly 1,000 copies each in Rangoon. The *Times of Burma* has a Burmese edition. At Moulmein the *Burma Times* had a circulation of 900. The American Baptist Mission Press issued 600 copies monthly of the *Burmese Messenger* and 1,100 of the *Karen Morning Star*, besides religious monthly periodicals in Burmese, Pwo-Karen, and Sgau-Karen, the last reaching a circulation of over 8,000. The Burmese *Hanthawaddy Weekly Review* had a circulation of 1,000, and the *Karen National News*, issued twice a week, of 800. The Society for promoting Buddhism issued 1,000 copies monthly of a Burmese review.

### Literary Societies.

See Report for 1901-02, page 101.

### Arts and Sciences.

178. The usual Art Handicraft competition was held in January in Rangoon under the patronage of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. About a fourth of the exhibitors were from towns outside of Rangoon, but competition was severe only in the silverwork class, which showed a distinct advance over the previous year. The wood-carving was poor and there were but few exhibits. Statuettes in bronze, copper, and silver nickels maintained the high standard attained in previous years.

### VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

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#### REFERENCE—

Report on Archaeological work in Burma for the year ending the 31st March 1904.

179. The principal work carried out was the restoration and repair of the *Pyatthats* (pavilions with successive carved roofs) on the walls of the Fort at Mandalay at a total cost of about Rs. 67,000, of which Rs. 42,540 were spent during the year. A further sum of Rs. 5,468 was expended in repairing the Palace buildings, Rs. 3,076 on the Queen's Monastery at Mandalay, and Rs. 17,812 on the Ananda, Thatbyinnu, Shwegugyi, Gawdawpalin, and Manuha pagodas at Pagan, where Rs. 4,875 out of an estimated cost of Rs. 7,898 was spent in building a museum. Steps were also taken to establish a museum at Mandalay for the preservation of relics connected with the native dynasty. The expenditure on salaries, etc., was Rs. 16,547.

## IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

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### Ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

See page 104 of the Report for 1901-02.

#### Ecclesiastical.

180. Eight Chaplains under a Bishop and Archdeacon are sanctioned for the province, but owing to the difficulty of filling two successive vacancies the establishment was complete for only one month in the year. There have been several applications for transfer to India owing to the high cost of living in Burma. Bhamo was without a chaplain. The formation of a new station, with troops and a large number of Government Servants, at Maymyo has increased the work. The erection of a suitable church at Maymyo has been deferred till it has been decided to what extent troops are to be permanently stationed there. The clergy of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel have shown frequent failures in health, and seven out of thirteen have been sent to England in the last two years.

#### Stationery.

181. As in previous years, the stationery required for Government use throughout the province was procured from the Comptroller of Stationery, Calcutta. The cost was Rs. 2,72,429 or Rs. 32,298 less than in the previous year. Except in the higher grades, of which comparatively small supplies are needed, the paper used is of Indian manufacture. These papers are improving in finish and quality and are well suited to all ordinary official purposes.