

67 and the value by 108 per cent., and wolfram, the value of the exports of which also more than doubled. Imports of treasure fell to a very low figure and the trade balance in favour of the Province was thirteen and a half crores of rupees. The share in the trade which fell to the United Kingdom continued to expand, decrease in imports being more than set off by a considerable increase in exports. In the import trade the most noticeable features were the very great increases in the value of goods imported from Japan and the United States which took the place lost by Germany. The share in the total trade of the Province which passes through Rangoon continued to increase during the year; it amounted to well over four-fifths.

Transfrontier trade.

37. There was a heavy decline in the total value of the transfrontier trade. Imports continued to increase slightly, but the effect of this increase was swept away by a fall of twenty-eight lakhs of rupees in the aggregate value of the exports. There was an increase in the imports from Western China due principally to the rise in the price of silver, a large quantity of which found its way to Bhamo and thence to the Bombay silver market. In the case of the Northern Shan States the rapid development of the silver and lead mines at Namtu by the Burma Mines Company, Limited, led to large increases in both the export and the import trade. In unadministered Kachin territory, the Southern Shan States, Siam and Karenni large decreases were recorded. Part of the trade which formerly reached Siam through Moulmein is reported now to be done from Bangkok.

Public Works—
Roads and
Buildings.

38. The effects of the war were visible in the reduction by fifteen lakhs of rupees of the expenditure of the roads and buildings branch of the Public Works Department on a comparison with the previous year. The balance, about eleven and a quarter lakhs, of the special grant of fifty lakhs made by the Government of India, was expended on improvements to communications. Among the numerous urgent problems raised by the sudden demand for large supplies of wolfram created by the war not the least important was the necessity for extensive improvements to the roads in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, on which much money was spent and in which enormous improvements were effected during the year. In the Bhamo and Myitkyina Districts the work of improving the frontier roads was continued. In connection with the whole question of communications in Burma the most important event of the year was the appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor of an Advisory Committee to consider and advise the Local Government upon the numerous related problems, such as the relative importance of through communications by trunk roads and the construction of feeder roads subordinate to the railway, the best methods of railway extension, and the action required in view of the progressive deterioration by silting up of many of the navigable creeks of the Irrawaddy Delta. The new customs house and new telegraph office in Rangoon were nearly completed at the close of the year. Good progress was made with the construction of the necessary buildings at Mawleik, the new headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District. The amount expended on public improvements and sanitary works was about one lakh of rupees more than in the previous year and was spread over numerous local works of town improvement, construction and repair of markets, and water-supply to towns. The expenditure on reclamation and the equipment of reclaimed areas in Rangoon was about three lakhs of rupees, the same amount as in the previous year.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE YEAR

1915-16



RANGOON

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA

1917

BENGAL

CHITTAGONG

LUSHAI HILLS

S

S

A

M

LAKA TRIBES

SOUTH
INDIA
STATES

UNADMINISTERED

PUTAO

Nam Khong or Kaxong R.

Nam Fong R.

Nam Tong

Loang

H

C

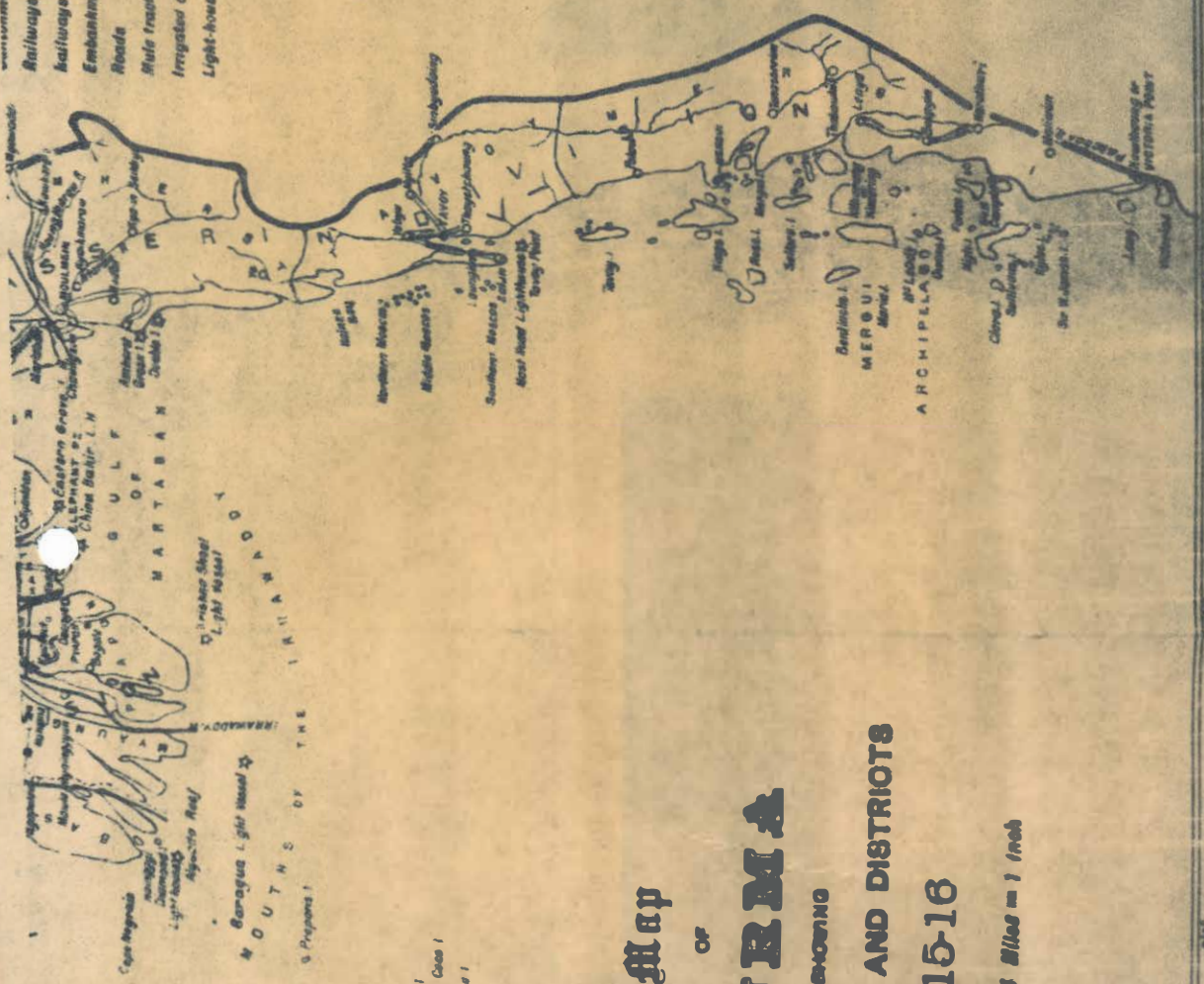
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I

A



- Railways completed
- Railways in progress
- Embankments
- Roads
- Mule trails
- Irrigated areas
- Light-houses and Light-vessels



Map
OF
BURMA
SHOWING
DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS
1915-16

Scale: 0.5 Miles = 1 Inch

□ Table 1
★ Great Circle
○ Little Circle

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

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE YEAR 1915-16.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

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

1. The Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson, M.A., LL.D., Kt., K.C.S.I., I.C.S., was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma from the beginning of the year till 28th October 1915 when he was succeeded by the Hon'ble Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., who held the appointment during the remainder of the year. Administrative and territorial changes during the year were few and of slight importance.

Administration.

2. The Shan States enjoyed a year of peace and prosperity, and on the whole were little affected by the war. Across the northern frontier disturbances among the tribesmen resulted from events in China, but did not affect British territory save at one point, where a party of armed traders entered Kokang in search of opium. The disturbances in French territory on the Mekong did not extend across the border, and on the Siamese frontier peace remained unbroken and relations between British and Siamese officials were as usual cordial. Success attended the annual meeting of British and Chinese officials at Nawn-gma and many outstanding frontier cases were adjusted. The only disturbance within the Shan States was a local rising against the Chief of Mōng Hsu, which was suppressed without difficulty or bloodshed. The *Sawbwas* of North Hsenwi and Manglun died during the year. The *Sawbwa* of Manglun was succeeded by his son Sao Som. In North Hsenwi a board of officials was placed in charge of the administration pending the final settlement of the succession. The administration by the Chiefs in the Shan States of their respective charges was on the whole satisfactory and in many instances creditable. During a second year of war they maintained peace and order and continued to carry out public works for the benefit of their States. Their desire to assist the Empire was sustained and they subscribed liberally to various funds connected with the war. In order to prevent the entry of emissaries of hostile and seditious organizations beyond the frontier they established and maintain, in many cases at considerable expense, a system of watch and ward on all important roads and ferries; and their action was of the greatest value to the

The Shan States and Karen.

Province. Their loyal attitude is reflected in that of the people who shewed no unrest or uneasiness on account of the war. The rice crop was nearly everywhere above the average. Potatoes were also a good crop, and the curtailment of the supplies from India to Burma raised prices to a very profitable level. Despite considerable losses from cattle disease the year was a good one for the cultivator. In the Northern Shan States the volume of trade increased owing to the rapid and successful development of their valuable property at Namtu by the Burma Mines Company, Limited, but elsewhere fell off considerably on account of the collapse of the cattle market in Burma and the decreased import of textiles. The continued stagnation of the timber trade resulted in heavy losses to timber traders everywhere, but in Karenni, where the extraction of timber is the chief industry, had the most serious effects and sensibly diminished the wealth of the community. More than half of the total trade of the Southern Shan States was carried by the recently opened railway. There was some increase in crime generally and in violent crimes but organised crime was infrequent. There was a recrudescence of elephant theft along the Siamese border. Cattle theft shewed a decrease especially in the Northern Shan States and in the Myelat. The work of the Government, State, and village police was favourably reported on except in Karenni where the detection of cattle theft left much to be desired. The expenditure on public works paid for from State funds supplemented by remissions of tribute increased in the Southern Shan States, but decreased largely in the Northern Shan States owing to the inability of the Public Works Department to supply the necessary supervising establishment. The educational system in the Shan States was under consideration and measures were adopted in order to increase the supply of elementary teachers.

The Chin
Hills.

3. In the Chin Hills proper and the Pakòkku Hill Tracts the year was uneventful and prosperous, crime was almost non-existent, crops were good, and tribute was collected in full and without difficulty. There were no raids from unadministered territory into the Chin Hills proper and the offenders in the single raid into the Pakòkku Hill Tracts were promptly punished and the captives recovered. Four minor raids into the Hill District of Arakan were promptly and effectively dealt with and had no political significance. From the unadministered territory lying between the Chin Hills and Arakan information was received of two raids, one a blood-thirsty affair in which eleven persons were killed or sacrificed, apparently as an incident in the course of a blood-feud between two villages. The proposal to place under administrative control the Somra tract on the border of the Upper Chindwin District remained in abeyance but peace was well preserved and the principal Chief of the tract was disposed to be friendly.

The North-
Eastern
Frontier.

4. As a sequel to the complete suppression and condign punishment of the attempts at insurrection in the Myitkyina and Putao Districts the peace of the North-Eastern Frontier remained undisturbed. More of the leaders including one persistent irreconcilable who had been a centre of unrest for years were arrested and the last embers of revolt were so thoroughly stamped out that it was found possible to allow one Chief who had been deported for complicity in it to return to his village. Road-making operations by the Public Works Department were at a standstill but a considerable amount was accomplished under the supervision of

the civil officers. In other respects, in the newly administered country, headmen were appointed, boundaries fixed, communications improved, guns registered and tribute collected. Information was recorded concerning the forest and mineral resources. Relations with the authorities in Yunnan were satisfactory and events in China did not hinder the transaction of business with the Chinese officials concerned with the border; the annual meetings were in fact more than usually successful. The conduct of the trans-border tribes was unobjectionable and some of their Chiefs displayed a friendly disposition by paying visits to British officers in administered territory. Violent crimes were more frequent in the frontier districts than in the previous year, but ordinary crime was below normal in Myitkyina and Putao. Some success was achieved in the suppression of poppy cultivation in Bhamo. Survey work in the frontier tracts made good progress and valuable assistance was rendered in various ways to civil officers by the survey staff.

5. In Lower Burma the rains were on the whole favourable, damage from flood not greater than usual, and, what is of most importance, the harvest price of the principal staple, unhusked rice, considerably higher than in the previous year. The rains in Upper Burma were patchy and in certain districts crops were poor. Nowhere however was there any approach to scarcity. Public health was not so good as in the previous year. Cholera and small-pox were both present in epidemic form and the death-rate was comparatively high.

Condition of the people.

(2) The Administration of the Land.

6. The increase of two and four-fifths lakhs of rupees in the total of the land revenue demand was due entirely to the introduction of revised rates of assessment following settlement in two districts. The season in Lower Burma was not much more favourable than its predecessor and extensive damage to crops by floods exercised a depressing influence on the revenue. In Upper Burma the failure of the middle and late rains necessitated a general reduction of assessments throughout the dry zone districts of the Meiktila Division, while an unusually high rise of the Irrawaddy in August caused widespread damage to crops throughout the riverine areas. The aggregate amount of revenue remitted fell by over two and three-quarter lakhs to five lakhs, but these figures do not give the full measure of the revenue lost as crop failures in Upper Burma were met, not by remission, but by non-assessment or assessment at reduced rates, of land revenue. The difficulties in the way of the collection of land revenue caused by the direct and indirect results of the war, though still in existence, were not so severely felt as in the previous year and the total collections improved by nearly five and three quarter lakhs of rupees. There was an increase in the number of coercive processes issued.

Realisation of the land revenue.

7. Surveys by Imperial Agency were carried out in the Katha, Myitkyina, Tavoy and Mergui Districts. The survey and demarcation of over 1,500 square miles of mountainous forest-covered country in the Tavoy District, rendered necessary by the development of wolfram mining, were brought to a successful completion. In the case of a similar area in Thaton District the rush of applications for prospecting licenses rendered a detailed survey impossible but

Surveys.

blocks were demarcated with wooden posts protected by stone cairns. In Thayetmyo a newly-discovered petroliferous area was surveyed on the sixteen-inch scale and divided into blocks demarcated by reinforced concrete pillars. Re-survey and the subdivision and re-arrangement of *kwins* or survey units of unwieldy size were carried out in five districts. No re-surveys were made in any towns except Rangoon but the maps of the work of the previous year were prepared and printed.

Settlements.

8. One Settlement Party was disbanded during the year and five were at work at its close. The operations extended over nine districts. Three settlements were completed and reports submitted and in the Henzada District revised rates of assessment, based on the settlement and estimated to produce an enhancement of revenue of 29'64 per cent., were sanctioned.

Land Records.

9. The net result of a number of minor changes in the rural area under supplementary survey in a few districts was a diminution of the provincial total by 181 square miles; similar adjustments in the urban area ended in a corresponding reduction by one square mile. There was a substantial increase in the amount of revenue for the assessment of which the Land Records Department is responsible and a reduction in the proportion of the cost of the department to the revenue assessed. The number of survey schools remained unchanged but there was a slight reduction in the number of their pupils. The results of examinations were only fair. Training of apprentice surveyors and of probationary Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was carried out on the prescribed lines.

Transfers of land.

10. In the matter of transfers of land there is a sharp distinction between the two divisions of the Province. In Upper Burma land is only to a very limited extent an article of commerce and the only form of transfer at all common is the usufructuary mortgage. It is therefore from the statistics of Lower Burma alone that any useful inferences can be drawn. The leading features of the report of the previous year are reproduced, that is, a further decrease in the area sold, a very substantial increase in the area placed under non-usufructuary mortgage, an increase in the average price per acre of land sold and a decrease in the average amount advanced per acre of land mortgaged. The proportion of land under mortgage rose in the area to which the statistics relate. On the other hand there was a considerable increase in the area of land redeemed from mortgage. The statistics are not easy to interpret, but one not improbable conclusion is that the contraction of credit during the past two years has compelled the cultivator to mortgage his land as security for loans which he requires for working expenses and which he formerly obtained on note of hand.

Waste lands.

11. In accordance with the policy of recent years leases or grants of land for ordinary rice cultivation were granted only in special cases where conferment of title was advisable, and were practically confined to Kyaukpyu District and the special lease areas in Insein and Hanthawaddy Districts. Leases for rubber cultivation were issued in several districts but for no large area in any one case. Some leases were issued on a new canal distributary in Minbu and land was leased on special terms for a dairy farm in Myitkyina.

12. The extent to which the occupied area of the Province is divided between peasant proprietors and landlords, whether absentee or resident, is one of the principal points of interest in each annual revenue report. Here as in other cases only the statistics relating to Lower Burma are of much importance, as the area in the occupation of non-agriculturists in Upper Burma is very small. The figures for the year of report do not differ greatly from those of the previous year. There are seven districts in which the proportion of land in the occupation of non-agriculturists varies from 43 to 21 per cent. All of them are districts within easy reach of Rangoon and the figures simply prove that land is far and away the most popular investment with the trading and professional classes of that city. There was a considerable increase both in the number of tenants and in the number of holdings of land let to tenants. Rents are mostly paid in produce and, as the harvest prices of crops were better, the money value of the average rent per acre was higher than in the previous year.

(3) Protection.

13. One bill was passed into law by the Provincial Legislative Council during the year. The Burma Medical Act provides for the registration of all medical practitioners in Burma and their subjection to the disciplinary control of a medical council of nine members, five elected by registered practitioners and four appointed by the Local Government. Four General Acts of 1915 and nine General Acts of 1916 affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council, and five Ordinances were made and promulgated by the Governor-General. The Arakan Hill District Laws Regulation, 1916, to declare and amend the law applicable in the Hill District of Arakan, was enacted during the year. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, the Indian Explosives Act, 1884, and the Indian Petroleum Act, 1899, were extended to the whole or parts of the Shan States.

14. The sanctioned strength of the Civil Police remained practically unaltered but a feature of the year was the improvement in recruiting and consequent reduction of the difference between sanctioned and actual strength, a result for which lack of employment and poverty were chiefly responsible. An increase of over a lakh and a quarter of rupees in the cost of the force was due to the increase in the actual strength and the appointment of officers whose engagement was sanctioned in the previous year. The conduct of officers and men was good; an increase in the number of punishments was purely nominal, the result of a change in the system of record, and was balanced by an increase in the number of rewards and of special promotions for good service, and by a most satisfactory decrease in the number of offences by the police against the public. Decreases were recorded in the number of desertions, dismissals, discharges without pension or gratuity and resignations. Progress was made in the construction of new police stations and the provision of sufficient accommodation for the men, but work was impeded by financial stringency and much remains to be done. The statistics show that the volume of crime was considerably larger than in the previous year. The causes assigned are unfavourable rains and poor harvests in Upper Burma, disturbance of markets and low prices throughout the Province and a general sense of unrest due to the war. Violent crimes of all classes save culpable homicide and house-

breaking increased in number. The increase in the number of dacoities was confined to Lower Burma and was largely accounted for by the operation in two districts of organised gangs which have since been broken up. Despite a very serious increase in the number of cases of theft reported, the aggregate value of the property stolen was less, the increase being thus principally in the number of petty thefts committed under the pressure of poverty. The success of the police in dealing with crime was, measured in statistics, in no respect greatly different from that obtained in the previous year. The annual report contains the usual detailed descriptions of particular crimes, descriptions valuable as illustrations of popular mentality in the Province. The exceeding readiness to take human life for the smallest material advantage is unpleasantly prominent. More pleasing is the story of how a Karen and his wife, both aged about eighty, living in an isolated hut in the jungle, kept at bay a gang of six dacoits armed with a gun until assistance arrived and the dacoits were driven off empty-handed. The special measures, begun in the previous year, with the object of maintaining a strict control over all firearms in the Province and of removing them from the possession of all bad and doubtful characters were continued with success. The work of the finger print bureau was continued and its utility further demonstrated. Additional police forces—sanctioned in 1912 for a period of five years—continued to be employed in the Tharrawaddy and Pegu Districts. Similar forces for the Hanthawaddy and Pegu Districts were sanctioned from the end of 1914 and the beginning of 1915 and were raised and trained during the year.

The magnificent spirit displayed by the readiness of the men of the military police in 1914 to volunteer for active service was continued during the following year. In 1914 the only classes that actually left for the war were Gurkhas and Garhwalis; in 1915 twenty-one officers and twelve hundred and eighty-four rank and file of other classes, Sikhs, Punjabi-Mussalmans, Rajputs, Hindustani-Mussalmans, Jats, Dogras and Brahmans were organised in drafts of from one hundred to five hundred strong, put through a short course of training and sent off to reinforce Indian regiments on service. Nearly three thousand more were waiting in readiness to go at the close of the year. Very gratifying reports of the conduct of the volunteers were received from the officers commanding the regiments to which they were attached. The departure of so many members of the force and the closing of certain recruiting areas rendered it difficult to maintain the full sanctioned strength and necessitated some changes in the caste composition of the battalions. Natives of the Province were enlisted in greater numbers than in former years and a company of Kachins drawn from the Bhamo and Myitkyina Battalions was attached to the 1st Battalion of the 10th Gurkha Rifles stationed at Maymyo. A rising of the Kachin tribes in the Myitkyina District which began on the last day of the year 1914 was suppressed and appropriate punishment inflicted by columns of military police. The country traversed during the operations was most of it covered by dense jungle and the police columns employed displayed great spirit and tenacity in wearing down what was in many cases an obstinate resistance.

The precautions rendered necessary by the war continued to impose heavy additional duties on the Rangoon Town Police during the year. Difficulties in obtaining Indian recruits of a good stamp rather increased than otherwise. The efficiency and even to some extent the health of the force suffered from the strain

of continuous overwork. The results obtained in dealing with crime were on the whole good and the variations from the statistics of the previous year were not great.

15. There were continued during the year two processes, one that of breaking up the charges of circle headmen into independent village-tracts the effect of which is to increase the number of village headmen, and the other the amalgamation of village-tracts which are too small to provide their headmen with independent status or adequate remuneration, which causes a decrease in the total number of headmen. The result was that there were slightly fewer headmen in the Province at the end of the year than at its beginning. Good progress was made in the work of demarcating the boundaries of village-tracts and supplying headmen with reliable maps of the areas under their jurisdiction. The number of headmen exercising judicial powers substantially increased. A further substantial decrease, the second in succession, took place in the total amount of fines inflicted by headmen. The revenue work of village headmen was in most cases admirably performed and a great improvement in promptness of revenue collection was reported from several districts. Relations with the police continued to be good and large sums were paid as rewards for assistance in the prevention and detection of crime and the arrest of offenders. Instances of plucky resistance by villagers against attacks by dacoits were reported. There was a slight increase in the number of headmen punished but a substantial decrease in the total amount of collective fines imposed on the inhabitants of villages. In the Sagaing Division a beginning was made with working a scheme for the maintenance and improvement of village roads by headmen with assistance from the District Funds.

Village Administration.

16. The decrease in the number of true offences against the provisions of the Indian Penal Code which was one of the encouraging features of the Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice for the year 1914, was unfortunately not maintained during the following year. Substantial increases in the number of this class of offences were recorded in both divisions of the Province, more especially under the head of offences against property, for which the economic conditions caused by the war are probably partially responsible. There was little variation in the number of offences against the person in Lower Burma, but in Upper Burma the number of cases of murder and of grievous hurt increased. The greater part of the increase in the number of offences reported was however contributed by the head "offences under special and local laws" and it was considered that the administration of those laws, particularly the Gambling, Village and Forest Acts, required closer supervision than it had received in the past. There was an increase in the percentage of convictions to the total number of persons tried both in Sessions Courts and before Magistrates. The average duration of cases tried by Magistrates increased by one day in Lower Burma and remained stationary in Upper Burma, but complaints of unreasonable delay in the disposal of cases by certain classes of magistrates were not wanting. In Sessions Courts there was a continued fall in duration in Lower Burma and no change in Upper Burma. Throughout the Province the activity in the administration of the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which was initiated by the outbreak of war in 1914, continued throughout the following year, and was reflected

Criminal Justice.

in the figures of such cases in the reports. The necessity for care to confine the working of these sections within legitimate limits has been impressed on all magistrates. Complaints were again made of the excessive number of sentences of imprisonment for short terms and of fines in excess of the means of the delinquents to pay, imposed by magistrates. There was a substantial increase in the number of first offenders released on probation under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure but the number of boys sent to Reformatory Schools was considerably less than in former years. In Lower Burma there was a slight increase, in Upper Burma a considerable decrease, in the number of complaints to magistrates summarily dismissed. Honorary Magistrates continued to perform efficiently work of a most important nature and the question of an increase in the number of benches is under consideration. In Lower Burma the percentage of interference on appeal decreased while in Upper Burma it increased. There was a slight increase in the duration of appeals in both Lower and Upper Burma.

Prisons.

17. No cessation of the progressive increase in the jail population of the Province took place during the year, the total at the beginning, which was described as a record, being exceeded by over six hundred at the end of the year. The daily average number of prisoners in confinement was the highest recorded and was considerably in excess of the number which the jails were designed to accommodate. Practically every jail in the Province was overcrowded and measures for relief were under consideration. Extensions of jails at Mandalay and Henzada were completed and at Insein were in progress. There was a considerable increase in the total number of offences by prisoners against jail regulations but the number of serious offences, such as are dealt with by a Magistrate, was less. The gross expenditure and the gross and net cost of each prisoner to the State were all less than in 1914. The earnings of prisoners were on the whole less, so that the decrease in cost must be the result of the fall in prices of food stuffs purchased. The health of prisoners was fairly satisfactory though ratios per mille of admission to hospital, daily average sick and deaths were higher than in any year since 1911. Cholera appeared in six jails but the total number of cases was only thirteen, all of which proved fatal. A large proportion of the deaths occurred among prisoners addicted to the drug habit. The results of the working of the prison for juvenile convicts at Meiktila were encouraging. The manual training of youthful prisoners was continued in all central jails and introduced into the district jail at Akyab.

Civil Justice.

18. The most striking feature of the Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice during the year was the effect on the course of litigation produced by the war. Certain tendencies, only just noticeable in 1914, became with the lapse of time more and more pronounced and by the close of 1915 it was possible to formulate with precision certain conclusions. In both divisions of the Province there was a large increase in the number of suits instituted before the Courts, but this increase was in Lower Burma confined to suits for money and movable property and mortgage suits, and in Upper Burma, where the ordinary commercial type of mortgage is almost unknown, to suits of the former class alone. There were striking increases in the number of decrees passed *ex-parte* or on confession, the number of contested cases being actually less than in the previous

year. The number of suits relating to immovable property and the number of appeal preferred against decrees both shewed a marked decrease. The phenomena above stated are the natural results of the contraction of credit facilities which followed the outbreak of the war and of the unsatisfactory harvest prices of the principal crops. The money-lending classes were compelled to make frequent use of the machinery of the courts for the collection of their dues, while a larger proportion of debtors than usual did not take the trouble to deny the justice of the claims against them, or to tempt fortune in an appellate court. Suits relating to immovable property and, in Upper Burma, suits for the redemption of usufructuary mortgages, being essentially speculative transactions, diminished in number with the diminution in the aggregate of ready money available. In the duration of suits and the results of appeals there were no variations calling for remark. In the Chief Court of Lower Burma the services of an additional judge, and in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma of an additional Judicial Commissioner, were necessary during the year. In both courts there was a perceptible decrease in the volume of work and a reduction in the number of cases left undisposed of at the close of the year. There was an increase in the number of persons arrested in execution of decrees of civil courts, and the working of the Provincial Insolvency Act was again the subject of unfavourable comment.

19. The number of registration offices remained unaltered during the year and changes in regulations and in the extension of the application of the law were few and unimportant. Very striking increases took place in the numbers of deeds of mortgage of immovable property and of deeds of sale of movable property which were presented for registration. The features of the year were a slight decrease both in numbers and value of deeds of sale of immovable property and a very large increase in number but without any corresponding increase in aggregate value of deeds of mortgage of similar property. Financial stringency combined with low prices of unhusked rice apparently compelled the raising of money on mortgage on an extensive scale. The revenue derived from registration increased substantially and the percentage of expenditure to income fell.

20. Of the hundred and fourteen joint stock companies registered at the beginning of the year no fewer than fourteen ceased to do business before its close. Six new companies were registered during the year but of the total capital of seventy nine lakhs of rupees, seventy-five lakhs were represented by one company. Of the total subscribed capital of nearly fifty lakhs of rupees of the fourteen companies which ceased to operate, forty-one lakhs belonged to one company. Thirteen companies, established outside British India, filed their papers during the year.

21. The ordinary income of the Rangoon Municipality increased by over half a lakh of rupees but ordinary expenditure increased by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and exceeded the receipts by over a lakh of rupees. It was found impossible to raise any loans, and advances from revenue to pay for works normally chargeable to loan account reduced the closing balance to a very low figure and rendered it

necessary to obtain the sanction of the Local Government to an overdraft of not more than five lakhs of rupees from the Bank of Bengal. A large number of new buildings were assessed to municipal taxation. The question of a new Municipal Act for Rangoon was under consideration throughout the year. An officer was deputed to Bombay by the Local Government to study on the spot the working of the system of municipal administration in that city, and his report was published after the close of the year. Additions were made to the equipment of the fire brigade and a testimonial to the improvement in its efficiency may be found in the fact that the total losses by fire were the lowest on record for the past ten years. The hope of carrying to completion an ambitious scheme for the improvement of the water supply had to be abandoned in the face of financial difficulties, but one important item, the laying of a new 42-inch steel main, was completed. The question of the revision of the contract for street lighting between the municipal committee and the Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply Co., Ltd., remained in abeyance. Extensions were made in the area equipped with water and sewage connections, and old and worn-out sections of water and sewage mains were in several places renewed. A new municipal market was opened in East Rangoon to take the place of an old and insanitary bazaar which was closed. An agreement was reached on the long-standing question of the terms on which the Strand Market and the adjoining foreshore should be made over by the municipality to the Port Commissioners of Rangoon, but financial exigencies compelled the indefinite postponement of the date of the actual transfer. Another programme whose execution was rendered impossible by the continuance of the war was that of municipal road improvement. The impossibility of procuring asphalt or granite setts compelled the committee to renew the surface of many streets with ordinary metal. A general election of municipal commissioners in November 1915 excited considerable interest. The birth rate remained nearly constant, but there was a remarkable improvement in the death rate, which fell to a figure lower than any recorded for the preceding six years. An improvement took place in the rate of infantile mortality. There was a striking reduction in the number of cases of plague, cholera was again unimportant as a source of mortality, but small-pox attained almost epidemic proportions at the close of the year and there was a striking rise in the number of vaccinations. Attention was directed to the effects on the municipal sinking fund of the depreciation in the value of Government securities.

Minor municipalities.

22. The number of minor municipalities remained the same. The amount raised by taxation in them increased by over twenty-five thousand rupees. A few new imposts were levied. Public health was on the whole not satisfactory and there were serious epidemics of plague and cholera in many of the large towns. A satisfactory feature was the increased popularity of inoculation as a protection against plague. Sporadic cases of small-pox were reported in many towns but the disease never attained epidemic proportions. Further large allotments from Imperial Funds at the disposal of the Local Government for urban sanitary improvements were again made to various municipalities, and allowed of a continued activity on sanitary schemes, water-works, drainage, conservancy, and hospitals. Work on the construction of markets had to be curtailed on account of the high price of materials which were also difficult to procure. A disastrous fire in Pakòkku caused the destruction of property to the value of seventy lakhs of

rupees. The number of notified areas increased by one owing to the inclusion of Myitngè, the site of the new carriage and waggon building workshops of the Burma Railways in the Mandalay District. Here again grants from the Local Government enabled various schemes for sanitary improvement to be carried out.

23. The total strength of the troops forming the garrison of the Province **Military.** was 7,747 officers and men of whom 2,676 were Europeans. No important military works were undertaken. The number of volunteers was not quite so large as in the previous year but still showed a very great increase over the figures normal before the outbreak of war. Changes in organisation were few and of slight importance.

24. A further reduction took place in the revenue derived from coast-light **Marine** dues and a further increase in the expenditure on the maintenance of light-houses and light-ships. The Government of India sanctioned the increase of the rate of coast-light dues from one anna and one pie to one anna and three pies per ton of burden with effect from 1st May 1916. Work at the Alguada Reef continued and it was hoped to complete the operations in another working season. Despite the frequent absence of the station ship on military duty reliefs, stores and provisions were duly supplied to all light stations, the health of light-keepers and the crews of light-ships was good, and the efficiency of the service was perfectly maintained. The Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon who budgetted for an excess of expenditure over receipts succeeded, by the curtailment of expenditure and the receipt of an income in excess of anticipations, in realising a surplus of five and a half lakhs of rupees at the close of the year. Income was practically the same as in the previous year while expenditure was reduced by a lakh and a half. The trade of the port was adversely affected by the conditions created by the war but the predominant position of Rangoon in the maritime trade of the Province was fully maintained. The experience of the working of the river training wall during the year was wholly satisfactory, the average sinkage along the top having been only five inches. In the embayment behind the wall the total accumulation of silt and sand was estimated at twenty-two million tons. The services of the Chairman of the Port Commissioners and of several members of the staff were placed at the disposal of the Government of India for duty in connection with port administration and river conservancy in Mesopotamia.

25. There was no recovery from the serious fall in the total tonnage of ships **Commercial Marine** entering and clearing from the ports of the Province which had to be recorded in the previous year. The figures of number of vessels were inflated by the inclusion of the largely increased number of sailing ships and native craft which have been tempted into activity by the partial eclipse of their formidable competitors, but a decline of about 400,000 tons in the aggregate of entrances and clearances shows the real position clearly enough. In the principal port, Rangoon, the total net registered tonnage of vessels entering the port was 9.48 per cent. less than in 1914-15 in which year a decline of 17.99 per cent. from the total of the previous year was recorded. The total for the year of report was lower than any for the previous ten years. In the coasting trade as well as the foreign trade the decline, as indicated by the figures, was serious. Of the vessels that entered

the ports of the Province during the year 77.20 per cent. flew British colours as against 77.49 per cent. in the previous year. Japan headed the list of foreign countries sending ships to the Province, followed by Norway and Holland. The demand for shipping was insistent throughout the year and far in excess of the supply, with the result that freights soared to heights previously undreamt of.

(4) Production and Distribution.

Agriculture.

26. Lack of funds rendered it impossible to carry into effect the increase of the superior staff of the Agricultural Department which had been sanctioned in the previous year. In order to supply a link between the department and the ordinary cultivator a beginning was made with a scheme for the appointment of district agriculturists and the establishment of district seed and demonstration farms, and by the end of the year twelve district agriculturists were at work, others were under training, and five farms had been acquired. The district agriculturist, working under the deputy director with the district farm as his headquarters, is intended to work for the extension in his district of the use of improved seeds from the Government experimental stations and the introduction of new implements, and to act as a medium for conveying to the department information on local agricultural conditions. Subjects of considerable interest and importance were discussed at the biennial Agricultural and Co-operative Conference held at Mandalay in August 1915 and attended by over a thousand delegates. Rice is now and probably always will be the most important crop in the Province, and it is only fitting that the study of this crop, its soils and environment, and the development of pure strains and improved varieties, should be a permanent feature of the work at the department's experimental stations. The stage of distribution of seed of improved varieties in bulk has now been reached. It is however part of the work of the department to endeavour by the discovery of suitable and remunerative alternatives to counteract the disadvantages of an exclusive dependence on one staple, and at its various stations experiments were conducted with cotton, sessamum, sugar-cane, wheat, peas, beans and tobacco. The most promising results were obtained with wheat, cotton and sugar cane. The experimental garden at Myitkyina was given up but experimental stations at Padu in Sagaing, Hopin in Myitkyina, Bugyi in Shwebo, Tatkôn in Yamethin and Pwinbyu in Minbu Districts and Yawnghwe in the Southern Shan States were maintained in various stages of incompleteness of equipment, in addition to the principal farms at Mandalay in Upper and Hmawbi in Lower Burma.

Stock and cattle disease.

27. The year was a good one for live stock and for the fifth year in succession there was a decrease in the reported number of deaths from contagious disease, the total being the lowest on record and just over a fifth of the average mortality of the ten previous years. Rinderpest, the chief scourge, was, at least in a serious form, practically confined to Akyab and the districts bordering on the Shan States, China and Siam, and there is reason to hope that effective control of the trade in imported cattle will lead to the reduction to insignificant dimensions of the mortality from this disease. The Veterinary School at Insein continued to do good work in training assistants and the attached hospital in dealing with sick animals sent for treatment. The numbers of villages visited and of animals treated by veterinary assistants were the highest on record.

28. The season in Lower Burma was favourable and the harvest on the whole good, though unseasonable rains in November and December, accompanied by unusually cold winds, did some damage to the ripening rice crop, and in some districts compelled a revision downwards of a very optimistic final forecast of outturn. In Upper Burma the rains were unevenly distributed and the crops irregular, but fair late rains saved the situation in the worst districts. The rate of expansion in the occupied area of the Province was again slower than in the previous year. The unfavourable season in Upper Burma caused an increase in the area left fallow, but the area over which crops failed was less than in the previous year. The area under rice, millet, early sessamun, groundnuts, cotton and tobacco decreased while increases were recorded under maize, late sessamun, beans, and chillies. There was practically no increase in the area planted with rubber. The season was favourable for irrigation and there was a substantial increase in the area irrigated both from Government and private works.

Weather
and crops.

29. The yield of rice in the principal rice growing districts of Lower Burma was estimated to be 95 per cent. of the normal as compared with 81 per cent. the previous year. The exportable surplus was reckoned to be 300,000 tons more. In all districts the prices realized at harvest were better than in 1915, despite the disorganisation caused in the export market by customs restrictions and the uncertainty of the supply of shipping. The market for cotton recovered from the collapse of the previous year, whose effects were however still perceptible in the reduction of the area devoted to this crop. The outturn of groundnuts was about the same as in the previous year despite a reduction in area, and prices improved. A big rise in the price of chillies was caused by the stoppage of the regular imports from Madras. There was a striking advance in the quantity of rubber exported from the Province.

Outturn
and price.

30. Owing to the unfavourable economic conditions of the previous year it had been found necessary to suspend the repayment of very considerable sums which had been borrowed by cultivators as agricultural advances, and the collection of the amounts so suspended was successfully accomplished during the year of report. Advances were made even more freely than in previous years, the amount collected was large and the amount of which payment was suspended and the amount overdue at the close of the year were also not inconsiderable. Operations under the Land Improvement Loans Act are in this Province on a very humble scale and little interest is taken in loans for this purpose save in some districts where the construction of small embankments and minor irrigation works is usual.

Agricultural
loans.

31. The year witnessed a considerable expansion of the co-operative credit movement although operations were confined to districts with societies already in existence. The recommendations of the Imperial Committee on Co-operation were adopted and put in practice without difficulty. Detailed instructions were issued with reference to the control of societies, apportioning to each controlling agency its sphere of activity and responsibility. The rules under the Act and the model by-laws for each class of society were revised and republished. The recommendations of the biennial Provincial Conference held at Mandalay in

Co-opera-
tion.

August 1915 were, as far as possible, carried into effect. The working of the Agricultural Credit Societies was fair and that of the unions, upon which large additional burdens were imposed by a new system of finance, the remodelling of by-laws and in five districts by the formation of Cattle Insurance Societies, surpassed expectations. Owing to the necessity for making provision for the depreciation of Government paper and other securities caused by the war the working of the Upper Burma Central Co-operative Bank, Limited, for the year resulted in a loss of some nine thousand rupees, but there was no difficulty in obtaining deposits, repayments by societies were larger than ever before, and the expansion of the activities of the Bank suffered no check. Credit Societies were formed among the employees of the larger Government Offices in Rangoon. Cattle Insurance Societies were established in large numbers in five districts and the central cattle re-insurance society began operations with a considerable measure of success. The four colonies on waste land established under the auspices of the Co-operative Credit Department continued, despite difficulties to make substantial progress.

Horticulture.

32. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma in Rangoon continued its work during the year under slightly discouraging circumstances. There was a further decrease in the membership but the revenue account for the year showed a balance of profit. The annual flower show was temporarily abandoned owing to the war.

Forests.

33. The fact that neither civil nor forest officers were available for the work severely curtailed the area settled as reserved forest in comparison with that of the immediately preceding years. Progress was made in the work of survey and boundary demarcation of reserves already in existence. One working-plan for three forest reserves in the Ruby Mines District was sanctioned and others are in various stages of preparation but the area of forest reserve unprovided with any plan of management remains large. There was an increase in the number of forest offences. The area in which measures were taken for protection of the forests from fire was further reduced. Financial stringency led to a heavy reduction in the expenditure on buildings, roads and paths in the reserves. The war has led to severe depression in the timber trade. The number of teak trees girdled has fallen because of the falling behind of the work of extraction. At the sales of Government timber at the Rangoon Depot the average price realized per ton was less than half of the average of 1913-14. The quantity of teak and of other reserved timbers extracted by purchasers recovered slightly from the very low level to which it had fallen in 1914-15 but there was a still further reduction in the amount of unreserved timber taken from the forests. An extraordinary demand for cutch caused a substantial increase in the revenue derived from minor forest produce.

Mines and quarries.

34. The demand for wolfram became extremely keen on account of its use in the manufacture of munitions and special measures were adopted for the enhancement of the output from the mines in the Tavoy District. The results of these measures were not fully evident in the statistics of the year of report. The yield of petroleum again increased and its value in still greater proportion. The ruby trade which was almost paralysed by the outbreak of war recovered

slightly on account of a fair demand for stones in the Indian market; little or no business was done in Europe. The most promising mining enterprise was perhaps the lead and silver mine of the Burma Mines Company at Namtu in the Northern Shan States. The wealth of this region was first demonstrated by the heaps of slag and tailings—rich in lead—left behind by Chinese miners who had worked for silver. After several years of labour at development the existence of very large bodies of valuable ore has been proved and the erection of machinery for its treatment is proceeding apace. The number of applications for mining concessions on which orders were passed was less than in the previous year but the number awaiting orders at the close of the year was greater. As in most years the search of the applicants was for petroleum in the dry zone or for minerals in the southern districts of Tenasserim.

35. There was little development of manufacturing industry and at the end of the year there were few signs of any change from the position of former years—an indigenous population predominantly agricultural and the dependence for labour of all factories on the immigrant Indian population. The only new industry recorded ceased to exist before the end of the year. The only large industries were rice-milling, saw-milling, petroleum refining and transport. There are annual fluctuations in the number of women and children employed in factories, but few signs of any permanent increase. Improvement was reported in the cleanliness and general care of the fabrics of factories, but permanent improvement of general sanitary conditions is very difficult on account of the lowly nature of the sites of the majority along the banks of tidal creeks. Progress was made in the fencing of machinery. The health of operatives was generally fair. There was an increase in the numbers of both serious and minor accidents and in the number of prosecutions for offences under the Factories Act.

Manufacture and factories.

36. The effects of the war continued to be felt in the maritime trade of the Province; its total value was appreciably less than in 1914-15, which had experienced a decline of nearly 25 per cent. below the figures of the previous year. A comparison of the war months of 1914-15 with the corresponding months of the year of report shows that the value of the private trade of Rangoon with all ports slightly improved. The suspension of the regular coasting steamer services led to a very heavy fall in the value of the coastal trade. The foreign trade in the principal export, rice, despite a good demand was hampered by difficulty in obtaining shipping, by heavy freights and by restrictions on business rendered necessary by the war. Over half of the total exports went to India from which there was a good demand. The timber trade was seriously affected. Shipments declined both in quantity and value, and shipping difficulties and diminished foreign demand caused a steady fall in prices. On the other hand exports of mineral oils and their products continued on a very large scale, the oil to India for lighting purposes, and the products to the United Kingdom for the manufacture of munitions. Other articles which were in great demand owing to their use in connection with the war were hides and skins, of which the exports, though smaller in quantity, were of much greater value, catch, the exports of which were the highest recorded, pig lead, the quantity of which exported increased by

Maritime trade.

67 and the value by 108 per cent., and wolfram, the value of the exports of which also more than doubled. Imports of treasure fell to a very low figure and the trade balance in favour of the Province was thirteen and a half crores of rupees. The share in the trade which fell to the United Kingdom continued to expand, decrease in imports being more than set off by a considerable increase in exports. In the import trade the most noticeable features were the very great increases in the value of goods imported from Japan and the United States which took the place lost by Germany. The share in the total trade of the Province which passes through Rangoon continued to increase during the year; it amounted to well over four-fifths.

Transfron-
tier trade.

37. There was a heavy decline in the total value of the transfrontier trade. Imports continued to increase slightly, but the effect of this increase was swept away by a fall of twenty-eight lakhs of rupees in the aggregate value of the exports. There was an increase in the imports from Western China due principally to the rise in the price of silver, a large quantity of which found its way to Bhamo and thence to the Bombay silver market. In the case of the Northern Shan States the rapid development of the silver and lead mines at Namtu by the Burma Mines Company, Limited, led to large increases in both the export and the import trade. In unadministered Kachin territory, the Southern Shan States, Siam and Karenni large decreases were recorded. Part of the trade which formerly reached Siam through Moulmein is reported now to be done from Bangkok.

Public
Works—
Roads and
Buildings.

38. The effects of the war were visible in the reduction by fifteen lakhs of rupees of the expenditure of the roads and buildings branch of the Public Works Department on a comparison with the previous year. The balance, about eleven and a quarter lakhs, of the special grant of fifty lakhs made by the Government of India, was expended on improvements to communications. Among the numerous urgent problems raised by the sudden demand for large supplies of wolfram created by the war not the least important was the necessity for extensive improvements to the roads in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, on which much money was spent and in which enormous improvements were effected during the year. In the Bhamo and Myitkyina Districts the work of improving the frontier roads was continued. In connection with the whole question of communications in Burma the most important event of the year was the appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor of an Advisory Committee to consider and advise the Local Government upon the numerous related problems, such as the relative importance of through communications by trunk roads and the construction of feeder roads subordinate to the railway, the best methods of railway extension, and the action required in view of the progressive deterioration by silting up of many of the navigable creeks of the Irrawaddy Delta. The new customs house and new telegraph office in Rangoon were nearly completed at the close of the year. Good progress was made with the construction of the necessary buildings at Mawleik, the new headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District. The amount expended on public improvements and sanitary works was about one lakh of rupees more than in the previous year and was spread over numerous local works of town improvement, construction and repair of markets, and water-supply to towns. The expenditure on reclamation and the equipment of reclaimed areas in Rangoon was about three lakhs of rupees, the same amount as in the previous year.

39. No new lines of railway were under construction or opened to traffic. The survey for a line of railway to connect Burma and India by what is known as the coast route through Chittagong and Akyab was completed and the report is under consideration. It was decided that, of the alternative routes, that through Manipur should be definitely excluded from further consideration, while the survey of that through the Hukong valley should be postponed. A survey for an extension of the Southern Shan States Railway from the present terminus at Aungban for about eighteen miles to Heho was completed. Various other projects for railway construction were under consideration. Only two accidents involving loss of life took place and there were no serious interruptions to traffic from floods. The statistics of traffic and revenue are eloquent on the adverse effects of the war. The only redeeming feature is a slight increase in the number of passengers carried. The net revenue which fell by nearly fifteen lakhs of rupees in the previous year has diminished by a further eight lakhs and the percentage earned on the capital outlay has fallen still lower than before.

Railways
and
trams.

40. For the three major irrigation works of the Province which are in operation the year was prosperous. The area irrigated by them increased slightly, while there was a substantial increase in receipts and a very considerable diminution of working expenses. The net revenue thus increased from three to ten lakhs of rupees and the average rate of interest earned on capital outlay from 1'31 to 3'70 per cent. It must however be borne in mind that these improved results are in part due to the collection in the year of report of revenue due on account of the crop of the previous year. Good progress was made in the construction of the Ye-u Canal. The working of the minor irrigation systems for which capital accounts are not kept shewed a slight improvement over that of the previous year. The rainfall was variable. In Mandalay District, where it was over the average, damage was caused by floods; in Shwebo, Kyaukse and Minbu it was sufficient and large increases of revenue were realized; in Meiktila and Yamèthin the rains were bad and revenue decreased considerably. The revenue derived from embankments was slightly less than in the previous year.

Irrigation
and naviga-
tion works.

The working of the navigation canals yielded a small profit instead of a loss as in the previous year. The Sittang-Kyaikto Canal was breached by the erosion of the Sittang River and abandoned. Traffic continued to be impeded by the growth of the water hyacinth weed. Work continued on the project for the improvement of the Twante Canal and the total expenditure at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 68 lakhs.

(5) Finance.

41. The disappointing working of the Provincial Settlement which regulates the financial relations of the Imperial and Provincial Governments was mitigated by the grant of a fixed recurring assignment of 15'11 lakhs of rupees from Imperial to Provincial and by the guarantee, to take effect from the first financial year after the close of the war, of a fixed revenue annually increasing by eight lakhs, for a short term of years.

Provincial
Financial
Settlement.

42. The figures of gross revenue and expenditure may in some ways be interpreted as evidence of a recovery from the earliest effects of the war. The

Gross
revenue and
expenditure.

total receipts classified as Imperial and Provincial, which in 1914-15 had fallen by over ninety-six lakhs of rupees to Rs. 9,07'20 lakhs, increased by over twelve lakhs to Rs. 9,19'56 lakhs, of which, under the terms of the Settlement, Rs. 3,65'24 lakhs were credited to Imperial Funds and Rs. 5,54'32 lakhs to Provincial Funds. A reduction of over thirty-seven lakhs of rupees was made in the combined expenditure, the total falling from Rs. 6,73'87 lakhs to Rs. 6,36'45 lakhs. Expenditure from Imperial Funds was reduced by five lakhs and that from Provincial Funds by thirty-two lakhs of rupees. The gross income of district funds and municipal funds decreased by about two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees in each case, and considerable inroads were made on reserves, since gross district fund expenditure increased by over eight and three-quarter lakhs and municipal expenditure by over three lakhs of rupees. The receipts of other local funds, for which in the previous year a decrease of Rs. 46'00 lakhs was recorded, fell by a further sum of Rs. 22'43 lakhs, which was however more than counterbalanced by a decrease amounting to Rs. 51'13 lakhs in expenditure.

Land Revenue. 43. Gross receipts under the head "Land Revenue" for the year ending the 31st March 1916 were Rs. 4,64'18 lakhs, an increase of over eighteen lakhs of rupees over the figures of the previous year. Under the adjustment provided by the Provincial Settlement, Rs. 1,72'53 lakhs of this are credited to Imperial and Rs. 2,91'65 lakhs to Provincial Funds, the increase being Rs. 6'50 lakhs and Rs. 11'61 lakhs respectively. All heads contributed to this increase except fishery revenue which diminished by nearly four-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. Miscellaneous land revenue recovered amply from its set-back of four-and-a-half lakhs in 1914-15, the total increase being close on ten lakhs, towards which petroleum contributed eight and three-quarter lakhs. Ordinary land revenue increased by nearly six lakhs, capitation tax by about half a lakh and house tax by about a quarter of a lakh.

Customs. 44. The profound dislocation in maritime trade which has been produced by the war is reflected in the figures of customs revenue which, in addition to the decrease of Rs. 65'65 lakhs recorded in the previous year, fell by a further sum of Rs. 1'32 lakh. An increase in receipts from imports was more than counterbalanced by a larger decrease in the receipts from exports. A slight reduction was effected in expenditure and the net revenue was Rs. 1,13'16 lakhs as against Rs. 1,14'42 lakhs in the previous year.

Salt. 45. No change in the rates of duty levied on salt manufacture was made. The restriction of salt imports caused by the war acted as a stimulant to the local production and the year witnessed an enormous increase in the output of the Province. The proportion of Burma-made salt to the total consumption of the Province rose from twenty-two to thirty-two per cent. The quantity of foreign salt imported diminished by 38 per cent. and the amount of duty collected by nearly four and a half lakhs of rupees. Imports from Germany and the Red Sea port of Salif entirely ceased. The principal source of fresh supplies was Spain. To meet a threatened exhaustion of stocks a quantity of salt on which duty had already been paid was imported at one period of the year from Calcutta. Imports of salted fish were interfered with by the lack of shipping facilities and fell to the

lowest figure on record. The total revenue derived from salt and salt fish was less than in the previous year by over three and a half lakhs of rupees.

46. There was a fall of over seven and three-quarter lakhs of rupees in the net revenue derived from Excise on a comparison with the figures of the previous year. The yield from opium increased very slightly, but the effects of the losses suffered by the liquor trade on account of the outbreak of war in the middle of the previous year were visible in an all-round reduction of the prices realised at the auction sales of licenses for the sale of liquor in April 1915. There was a slight decrease in the total quantity of opium issued to licensed shops. The quantity of contraband and smuggled opium seized was much less than in the previous year. Imports by sea from India were restricted by the irregularity of shipping connections and a well-planned scheme for the utilisation of the parcels post for the introduction of opium into Rangoon from Calcutta was brought to light. A combination of circumstances, first destruction of growing crops of poppies by Chinese troops, then the declaration of independence and the opening of free trade in opium combined with poor crops, led to an enormous demand for opium from Yunnan and very high prices. Nearly the whole of the surplus product of opium from the Shan States was therefore diverted to Yunnan. Little was smuggled into Burma, and hill peoples who had hitherto supplied their requirements from this source were forced to make purchases from the licensed shops. The increased value of hill opium led to a considerable extension of the area of illicit cultivation of the poppy in Myitkyina District. There was a slight recovery in the quantity of spirits imported into Burma after the very heavy fall of the previous year, but figures were still much below what was formerly regarded as normal. The statistics of the fees realised by the sale of licenses for the vend of the various classes of liquors exhibited a uniform tale of considerable reductions from the figures of the previous year. Of the balance of the Excise revenue which remained uncollected at the end of 1914-15 only a little over two per cent. was realised and the remainder had to be written off. A promising start was made with the teaching of temperance as a subject in the schools of the Province. There was a decrease in the number of offences reported of which drunkenness was a cause of contributory but doubt is thrown on the reliability of the figures. There was a very great reduction in the quantity of cocaine seized; supplies are practically cut off and what is obtainable is usually adulterated with other and less harmful drugs. There were increases in the number of convictions for offences in connection with morphia and in the quantity of the drug seized.

47. Nearly half of the amount by which the receipts from stamps in 1914-15 fell short of the receipts of the previous year was recovered in the year of report. There were increases in the receipts under both the Court Fees Act and the Stamp Act. The increase in the former naturally followed from the increase in the number of civil suits filed during the year, and in the case of the latter the increase in the number of deeds of sale and mortgage presented for registration during the year implied an increased use of non-judicial stamps. The net receipts from stamps were over thirty-four lakhs of rupees.

48. The tax on incomes yielded twenty-four and a half lakhs of rupees or over half a lakh less than in the previous year. There were slight decreases in the

amounts collected on account of salaries paid by Government and paid by local authorities, and an increase to the highest figure yet reached of the collections on salaries paid by companies or private employers. There was a decrease of eleven in the number of companies assessed and collections from this source fell by over seven per cent. There was a decrease in the number of assesseses other than companies and the amount collected from those assessed was over five per cent. less. In Rangoon the drop from this source was over ten per cent. The tax was collected without difficulty and the balance outstanding at the close of the year was less than a third of the similar balance at the end of 1914-15.

**Provincial
revenue and
finance.**

49. The Provincial receipts for the year increased by Rs. 4.12 lakhs to Rs. 5,54.32 lakhs despite a reduction by Rs. 6.13 lakhs in the amount assigned from Imperial Funds. An increase of over eleven and a half lakhs of rupees from Land Revenue raised the receipts from this source to the level which they occupied before the war. A number of increases of moderate amounts under other heads of revenue raised the total increase to Rs. 15.67 lakhs. There fell to be set against this however a total decrease of Rs. 11.55 lakhs under other heads, of which the most important was the reduction in the contribution from Imperial Funds above noted, and the next a fall of nearly four lakhs of rupees in receipts from Excise. The total of Provincial expenditure was reduced by Rs. 32.26 lakhs from Rs. 5,96.32 lakhs to Rs. 5,64.05 lakhs. The expenditure on public works was reduced by Rs. 27.40 lakhs and the expenditure on the Putao District and the North-East Frontier by Rs. 6.37 lakhs. Other directions in which retrenchments were effected in expenditure were on medical relief, Rs. 5.26 lakhs, and education, Rs. 1.22 lakh.

Forests.

50. The receipts of the Forest Department in the financial accounts for the year ending 31st March 1916 shew a decrease of Rs. 8,477, but in the departmental report covering the year ending the 30th June 1916 an increase of Rs. 6.17 lakhs. Even with the latter figures the revenue was far from having recovered from the effects of the outbreak of war and the timber market remained disorganised. Expenditure rose by Rs. 2.06 lakhs to Rs. 48.36 lakhs and the net revenue was Rs. 48.13 lakhs.

Local Funds.

51. The aggregate receipts of the District Cess Funds in Lower Burma increased by over half a lakh of rupees to nearly thirty-five and a half lakhs owing to an increase in the amount derived from the cess on land revenue. The aggregate expenditure of the funds rose from thirty-six and a quarter to thirty-nine lakhs principally on account of increased expenditure on public works. The aggregate income of the District Funds in Upper Burma was nominally about three lakhs less than in the previous year but the decrease was due to a contribution from Provincial Funds of over four lakhs for road improvement in 1914-15. This contribution was spent in the year of report and its existence accounts for a large nominal increase in the expenditure on public works. All the District Cess and District Funds were reported to be solvent at the end of the year. Of the seven Cantonment Funds only two, those of Rangoon and Mandalay, are self-supporting. The others are only able to shew a closing balance by means of grants-in-aid from Government. Difficulties in connection with the Moulmein Port

Fund, reported in the previous year, were not yet surmounted at the close of the year of report. The Rangoon Pilot Fund continued to work at a loss. With these exceptions the position of the Port and Pilot Funds of the Province was reported to be satisfactory. The Steam-boiler Inspection Fund holds Government securities to the face value of a lakh and a quarter of rupees in addition to a closing balance of nearly eighty thousand rupees.

52. The impossibility of raising money by loan has seriously affected the finance and accounts of the Rangoon Municipality. It was found necessary to make advances from revenue account to pay for works for which in normal times a loan would have been raised. Excluding from the gross receipts all such items as opening balances and receipts from loans or grants, the ordinary income of the year was Rs. 44·19 lakhs or Rs. 66,000 more than in 1914-15, and after the exclusion of all disbursements on capital account the ordinary expenditure was Rs. 45·27 lakhs or a lakh and a quarter in excess of that of 1914-15. Owing to the advances made for capital expenditure the closing balance of the municipal fund at the end of the year fell to just over a lakh of rupees. The increase of receipts was spread very evenly over all the heads of municipal revenue. The increases in expenditure were due to the purchase of a fire engine and equipment and to various improvements in sanitation and in public markets. No loan was raised during the year but the Local Government sanctioned the acceptance by the municipality of an overdraft not exceeding five lakhs of rupees from the Bank of Bengal. The balance at the credit of the Town Lands Reclamation Fund which at the beginning of the year was Rs. 3·82 lakhs fell to Rs. 2·31 lakhs at its close. The aggregate income of the other municipalities, exclusive of debt accounts and opening balances, was two and three-quarter lakhs of rupees less than in the previous year while ordinary expenditure increased by nearly two and a half lakhs. No loans were granted during the year and the amount due by the municipalities to Government decreased from Rs. 10·32 lakhs to Rs. 9·62 lakhs.

Municipal
Income.

53. The average active currency note circulation for the year was Rs. 4,89·24 lakhs, being more than that of the previous year by seventy lakhs of rupees. The year 1914-15 was, as a result of the outbreak of war, the first year in which a break occurred in the uninterrupted increase of the circulation of currency notes, and the ground then lost was more than recovered in the succeeding year. The proportion of notes of the ten-rupee denomination in the total currency again increased and the proportion of the 10-rupee and 100-rupee notes to the total value was over 94 per cent.

Note circula-
tion.

(6) Vital Statistics and Medical Services.

54. The area under registration remained unchanged. The birth-rate for the Province was 35·13 per mille, a figure not much removed from 35·40 per mille the rate of the previous year, but comparing favourably with 33·70 per mille the average of the preceding five years. The death-rate increased from 24·13 to 27·99 per mille and the natural rate of increase fell from 11 to under 8 per mille. The urban birth-rate was, especially in Lower Burma, very much lower than the rural birth-rate. Both urban and rural death-rates were substantially higher than in the

Births and
Deaths.

previous year. The rate of infantile mortality per mille of births which in 1914 fell from the previous year's figure of 221·40 to 216·36 rose again in 1915 to 219·35. The high general death-rate was caused by a severe epidemic of cholera which visited numerous districts in both divisions of the Province.

Plague.

55. Plague was much less widespread than in 1914. It is mainly prevalent in towns; of the 3,711 deaths from this cause recorded only 929 took place in rural areas. The plague death-rate for the whole Province was 0·47 per mille—in 1914 it was 0·76—but the urban death-rate was 3·38 per mille and the rural only 0·11 per mille. The use of inoculation as a prophylactic against the disease is becoming much more common, especially in towns which have suffered severely from epidemics in the past.

Medical relief.

56. There was an increase of four in the number of hospitals and dispensaries open at the end of the year over that at the beginning. Three travelling dispensaries were at work for the first time. There was again a substantial increase in the total number of patients treated. The percentage of Burmese patients to the total number increased from 52·3 to 54·2 and a steady increase in the amount of medical relief afforded to the indigenous population was apparent. The proportion of the total number of patients treated who died increased slightly from 5·9 to 6·4 per cent. The Burma Pasteur Institute was open for the last eight months of the year and in that period 146 patients underwent a full course of anti-rabic treatment. Medical expenditure increased from Rs. 19·83 lakhs to Rs. 20·74 lakhs. There was no increase in the cadre of the Indian Medical Service or in the number of civil surgeons. The Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, had a prosperous year. There was a further increase in the number of persons confined in the lunatic asylums at Rangoon and Minbu on the last day of the year as compared with the number on the last day of 1914 and an increase also in the daily average strength during the year. The death-rate among the inmates also increased.

Sanitation.

57. A divisional sanitary board met on two occasions, once to consider a water-supply scheme and the second time to discuss questions connected with the lay-out, construction and equipment of the new towns which spring into existence in the vicinity of railway stations. The recurring grant of six lakhs of rupees made by the Government of India, augmented by unspent balances of the previous year, was expended on schemes for the furtherance of urban sanitation. Tubewells were sunk in various towns and projects for water-supply and the construction of markets in others were in various stages of preparation. Municipal and local bodies expended on sanitary works a sum of Rs. 57 lakhs out of a total income of Rs. 196 lakhs.

Vaccination.

58. The number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated during the year was but little different from that of the previous year. The number of persons per thousand of the population protected by vaccination fell from 33·02 to 32·7. There was a slight increase in expenditure. New laboratory buildings were occupied at the Vaccine Depot, Meiktila, on the 1st April 1915. There was a slight fall in the outturn of lymph. Experiments made in storing lymph were successful.

(7) Instruction.

59. In spite of the war and its effects there was an increase in the number of pupils in all stages of instruction. The rate of progress of recent years was not maintained, principally on account of the general curtailment of expenditure, a curtailment which bore with special severity on the Education Department. The present period of comparative quietude is being utilised for the making in advance preparations for a future wide extension of the sphere of educational administration. It was decided to press forward the passing into law of the Bill for the establishment of a University in Burma and to proceed with the early formation of the University from the material already available in the buildings, staff and organization of the Rangoon College and the Baptist College, while making provision for the expansion of the University to the dimensions originally contemplated as soon as funds for the purpose might be available. The Bill has been submitted to the Government of India, and a site for the University has been selected and funds provided for its purchase. There was a considerable increase both in the number of vernacular secondary schools and in the number of pupils attending them, but an analysis of the figures shews that eighty-eight per cent. of the pupils are in the primary stage, ten per cent. in the middle standards and only a hundred and thirty or less than one per cent. in the high stage. Apart from the profession of teaching there are at present but few outlets for the students leaving from the middle and high standards of vernacular schools. It is hoped to provide machinery for the transformation of such students into the skilled agriculturists, surveyors, engineers, foresters, medical and veterinary practitioners, craftsmen and artisans who are so urgently needed for the development of the Province. Another problem in connection with vernacular secondary schools is the necessity for raising the efficiency of the teaching given in them, the percentage of students presented who pass their examinations being at present noticeably low. This defect is common to both vernacular and Anglo-vernacular schools but is most prominent in the former. The decline in the number of Anglo-vernacular primary schools was due to the fact that such schools are constantly being raised in status to middle schools and the primary education continues to be imparted in their primary departments. The question whether the curriculum of studies in primary schools should continue to be the same as the curriculum of the primary departments of middle and high schools or should be modified to suit the peculiar requirements of the average pupils of primary schools, was under consideration. The scheme of elementary training classes for teachers in the lower standards of vernacular primary schools attained an encouraging measure of success. The whole question of the supply of teachers including qualifications, training and emoluments was under consideration. Serious difficulties continued to be experienced in connection with technical education. Little success was attained in the weaving, school gardening or manual training classes. There is little demand for technical instruction and education is popularly regarded as including nothing but the training necessary for a clerical career or Government service; the natural result is that the number of pupils was meagre. In marked contrast to the results obtained in other directions was the success of the Engineering School, Insein. The prevalence of co-education vitiates all calculations and inferences regarding female education based on the statistics of girls' schools as such.

Literature and Press. 60. The year was apparently not propitious for the publication of new books, the number of which fell to a figure lower than any recorded for the previous five years. Three novels in English, one of dubious originality, were about the only new feature noticeable. As in previous years publications in the Burmese language, and dealing with one or other of the innumerable ramifications of religion, formed the bulk of the output. Descriptions of Germany and Turkey and histories of the war, one of them published in parts, were published in Burmese. Most of the English books were of the educational or religious order, manuals, text-books, catechisms and other works of that class. There was a considerable reduction in the number of printing presses in the Province, probably in consequence of the stricter administration of the law. Eleven newspapers were discontinued and two appeared for the first time and the number of periodicals published, exclusive of those issued from Government presses, remained unaltered.

Arts and Sciences. 61. The art industries remained in the shadow of the depression caused by the war. Some steps were taken to effect that organisation in which apparently lies the best hope for their permanent improvement. One group of lacquer workers formed themselves into a co-operative credit society. The weaving school at Amarapura extended the scope of its operations and increased the number of its pupils. The systematic grant of scholarships to art pupils inaugurated in the previous year was continued. A master wood carver was engaged at the Government School of Engineering, Insein, for the training of pupils in that art. The annual art exhibition was held in January with a smaller number of exhibits than usual.

(8) Archæology.

62. The preparation of materials for a monograph on the terra-cotta plaques found at and near the Petleik Pagoda at Pagan was continued to the stage at which the writing of the monograph can be begun. The decipherment and translation of Talaing inscriptions on 400 plaques at the Ananda temple at Pagan were completed. The provincial list of ancient remains in Burma was published. Inscriptions on the Myazedi pillar threw light on the language of the ancient people of Burma known as the Pyu as to which information had hitherto been very scanty. A chronological list was compiled of all inscriptions found in Burma dated from the eleventh till the fourteenth century.



PART II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

NOTE.—The departmental reports and other references on which this *Report on the Administration of Burma* is based, are noted at the beginning of each chapter. The departmental reports do not all cover the same period. The Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, the Police, Prisons, the Registration Department, the Salt Revenue, the Measures adopted for the Extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes, Lunatic Asylums, the Reports of the Chemical Examiner and the Bacteriologist, the Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration deal with events which took place within the calendar year 1915; the Shan States, Chin Hills and North-Eastern Frontier Reports, the Land Revenue, Land Records, and Forest Administration Reports, the Season and Crop Report, the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act and the Report of the Department of Agriculture are concerned with the agricultural year from the 1st July 1915 to the close of June 1916. All other reports cover the twelve months of the official or financial year that ended on 31st March 1916.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

REFERENCES—

Report on the Administration of the Shan and Karenni States for the year ended the 30th June 1916.
 Report on the Administration of the Chin Hills for the year ended the 30th June 1916.
 Report on the Administration of the North-Eastern Frontier for the year ended the 30th June 1916.
 Season and Crop Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1916.
 Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1916.

PHYSICAL.

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

POLITICAL.

Historical Summary.

For information on the foregoing subjects, a reference should be made to paragraphs 1 to 18 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Form of Administration.

For information on this subject a reference should be made to paragraphs 19 to 38 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 1 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Character of Land Tenures: System of Survey and Settlement.

For information on this subject a reference should be made to paragraphs 39 to 55 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

CHAP. I.—
PHYSICAL
AND
POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY.

For information on this subject a reference should be made to paragraphs 56 to 68 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12 and to paragraph 2 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1914-15.

Details of the last Census: Tribes and Languages.

For information on this subject a reference should be made to paragraphs 69 to 76 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Changes in the Administration.

The
Lieutenant-
Governor.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson, M.A., LL.D., KT., K.C.S.I., I.C.S., was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma from the beginning of the year till 28th October 1915 when he was succeeded by the Hon'ble Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., who held the appointment during the remainder of the year.

Administra-
tive territo-
rial changes.

2. With effect from the 15th May 1915 the Myedè Subdivision of the Thayetmyo District which had formerly consisted of two townships, Allanmyo and Thanbula, was divided into the two townships of Allanmyo and Sinbaungbwè with headquarters at Allanmyo and Sinbaungbwè respectively. Five village-tracts were transferred from the Minhla to the Letpadan Township of the Tharrawaddy District on 25th May 1915. From 1st March 1916 the Bassein Subdivision of Bassein District was divided into two townships, known respectively as East Bassein and West Bassein, the headquarters of both being in Bassein. The Myitkyina District which was formerly composed of three subdivisions, Myitkyina, Mogaung, and Kamaing was with effect from 1st March 1916 re-arranged as one subdivision, Myitkyina, with three townships, Myitkyina, Mogaung and Kamaing.

Additions to
and changes
in the Admini-
strative
Staff.

3. An increase of one in each of the second and third grades of the Subordinate Civil Service was made during the year in consequence of the territorial changes in the Bassein and Myitkyina Districts described in the foregoing paragraph.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

(i) Shan and Karenni States

[Southern Shan States: 38 States, area 36,254 square miles, population 837,574, tribute Rs. 2,71,500; Karenni: five States, area 4,280 square miles, population 63,628, tribute Rs. 5,350; Northern Shan States: five States, area 16,594 square miles, population 480,390, tribute Rs. 1,54,500; Mong Mit: area 3,563 square miles, population 53,214, tribute Rs. 20,000; Hsawnghsup (Thaungthut): area 579 square miles, population 7,724, tribute Rs. 400; Singkaling Khānti (Zigūn Kanti): area 983 square miles, population 2,560, tribute Rs. 100; Khānti Lōng (Kanti-gyā) or Bhor Khānti: area 374 square miles, population (approximate) 6,661, tribute Rs. 2,500 (approximate).]

The
Southern
Shan States.

4. The economic conditions which the war has created in the Southern Shan States were reflected in the fall in the value of trade between the States and Burma. There was a large reduction in the number of cattle sent down to the plains and a rise in the price of goods brought up, against which could be set off an unusually good trade in potatoes owing to the cessation of the usual imports from India. The Southern Shan States Railway was open throughout the year and proved its value as a boon to trade and a stimulus to cultivation. Progress was made in laying out Kalaw and equipping it as a hill

station. In February a rising took place against the ruler of the State of Mōng Hsu and his son the heir-apparent. The rebels were quickly dispersed by contingents furnished by the neighbouring Chiefs and order was finally restored by the arrival of military police from Loilem and the Northern Shan States. The administration was generally satisfactory and in some instances distinctly creditable. One Chief received the K.S.M. and one the A.T.M. decoration for services in crushing a dangerous movement on the frontier in the preceding year. The British side of the border was entirely peaceful. Alarms caused by the arrival in Kēngtūng State of unusually large numbers of muleteers proved unfounded, the men being peaceful traders and departing quietly. The Chinese-Shan border States remained quiet though the destruction of the opium crop by the Chinese authorities aroused bitter resentment. In French Indo-China it was found necessary to place the Laos province under martial law. The Chief of a State on the Mekong openly revolted and two expeditions of local forces were sent against him. The State was re-occupied, but the Chief escaped to Chinese territory. The number of cases of cognizable crime reported was 289 as against 227 in 1914-15. The increase was due to better reporting and better recording. Fourteen cases were struck off as false, 83 were mistaken, 46 were transferred to State Courts and 15 were pending at the close of the year. There were 131 true cases dealt with as against 107 in the previous year. Of these 67 cases were prosecuted to conviction, 3 resulted in discharge or acquittal, in 12 cases investigation was refused, 8 were compounded and 41 were undetected. Of the 137 persons arrested 90 were convicted. The work of the State police was generally fair though in Yawnghwe the number of undetected cattle thefts was high. The number of true criminal cases reported was 1,195, classified as, violent crimes 27, cattle theft 196, ordinary theft 293 and other crime 62. Violent crime increased by 2, ordinary theft by 22 and other crimes by 65 cases while there were 8 fewer cattle thefts. Twenty of the violent crimes were murders attempts to murder or culpable homicide, one was robbery with murder, five robberies and one assembly to commit dacoity. Two of the murders were committed by lunatics. As usual the number of cases of cattle theft was large though the figures show an improvement on those of the previous year. Yawnghwe was the worst State and a gang of six men operating in Mōng Nai were traced to Yawnghwe, arrested and convicted. There were 66 civil suits pending at the beginning of the year, 738 suits were filed during the year and 765 suits disposed of leaving a balance of 39 suits pending at the close of the year. The total value of the 738 suits was Rs. 1,08,318 as compared with 761 suits valued at Rs. 1,48,424 in 1914-15. Over 69 per cent. of the suits filed were under Rs. 100 in value. A steady increase in the number of cases in Yawnghwe is attributed to the naturally litigious character of the Intha population of that State.

The rainfall though below the average was timely and well distributed with the result that a good rice crop was reaped in all States and a bumper crop in some. Mōng Nai and the western part of Kēngtūng were practically the only places where there was failure. The area under wheat increased and the crop was good. Cattle were fairly healthy, but there were bad outbreaks of rinderpest in several places causing serious losses. There was no change in the area of reserved forests. The proposed Sinhe reserve in Yawnghwe was abandoned and the reservation of the Taungla and Kalaw areas in Hsamōngkham was postponed for further investigation. Forest revenue for the year was Rs. 71,173 and expenditure Rs. 1,04,345. Fifty-three cases of forest offences involving 119 persons were dealt with and Rs. 324 was collected as compensation. The year was a bad one for the smaller timber traders, who cannot afford to retain stocks in expectation of a rise in prices, and some of them were forced to sell their elephants. The number of applications for prospecting licenses received was 15 and 2 were pending from the previous year. Ten licenses were issued, two applications were rejected, one withdrawn and four pending at the close of the year. Most applications were connected with wolfram in an area near the Panlaung river in Yengan State. Four mining leases are in force and one application for another for lead-mining is pending. About ten thousand viss of lead were won and disposed of at high prices.

Of public works executed by Government the hospital at Bampôn was completed and many new bridges were built on the Taunggyi cart road. A ward for Shan patients in Loilem Hospital built at the cost of the *Sawbwa* of Lai Kha, the Kalaw water-supply scheme and the large scale survey of the notified area of Kalaw were in progress. The total expenditure by the Chiefs on public works was Rs. 4.10 lakhs, of which Rs. 2.75 lakhs were derived from revenue and Rs. 1.35 lakh from remissions of tribute. In the Myelat, a congeries of small States on the borders of Burma, a beginning was made with a scheme for connecting each State with the railway by two main roads, one running north and one south from the line and a few branch roads, but the small size, limited financial resources and indifferent official honesty of the individual States presented difficulties, in spite of which however progress was made. In the remainder of the States the principal expenditure took place on the construction of new, and the repair of existing, cart roads. Bazaars were built in Lai Kha, Mông Kung and Mông Nai and something was done for town improvement in Mông Nai and Mawkmai.

Except in a few places the year was a good one for the cultivator despite his failure to sell his cattle in Burma and losses by rinderpest. In the Western Subdivision an improvement in general well being followed the opening of the railway. The only class to suffer by the abnormal conditions in the outside world were the timber traders. The aggregate revenue collected by the States was Rs. 12.02 lakhs as compared with Rs. 11.02 lakhs in 1914-15. The total of the closing balances was Rs. .83 lakh. The improvement in revenue was not confined to any one portion of the States but evenly distributed. There was an improvement in the revenue administration everywhere and a welcome absence of any financial scandals. The number of patients treated at the hospitals and dispensaries under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon, Taunggyi, was 43,585 outdoor and 1,409 indoor as against 45,913 and 1,443 respectively in the previous year. There was an increase in the attendance at the Bampôn Civil Hospital, at the *Sawbwa's* hospital at Yawnghwe and at the itinerant dispensary in the Myelat but a falling off elsewhere. There was an increased attendance at all the institutions under the care of the Civil Surgeon, Loimwe, from 10,346 outdoor and 524 indoor patients to 11,625 outdoor and 639 indoor patients. The railway hospital at Kalaw treated 7,249 outdoor and 114 indoor patients and the American Baptist Mission Hospital at Mông Nai 4,689 outdoor and 14 indoor patients. In the cis-Salween States under the Civil Surgeon, Taunggyi, 15,862 persons were vaccinated—14,887 successfully. Two deputy inspectors of schools continued at work during the year. Two pupils qualified as secondary and five as elementary teachers. A scheme was prepared for the establishment of a Government vernacular primary school with a training class for elementary teachers attached, in order to provide for what is most wanted, the supply of teachers for the extension of elementary education. The number of boys at the school for the sons of Shan Chiefs increased to 84—the highest number on record—and the general health and conduct were good.

5. The administration of the Karenni States was continued on the same lines as in previous years. Defalcations in forest revenue and corruption in other branches of revenue administration were brought to light in Kantarawadi, the largest of the States, resulting in the removal of the chief revenue official, two clerks and the head judicial clerk. The prosperity of the people was seriously affected by the fall in the price of teak, their sole export. The quantity of timber sold was greater than in the previous year, but sales were only effected from dire necessity and prices were very poor. The wealth of the community is reported to have seriously diminished. Relations with Siamese frontier officials were cordial and assistance was freely given when asked for. The strength of the military police garrison at Loikaw post was considerably increased in connection with the strict watch maintained over the Siamese frontier in order to prevent the ingress of undesirable persons, but reduced to normal at the close of the year. There was only one case of violent crime, a murder by a lunatic. The number of cattle thefts was about the same as in the previous year, 31 as against 32, but ordinary thefts rose from 25 to 42 and other crimes from 35 to 69, probably as the result of the deterioration in the economic condition of the people caused by the state of

the timber trade. A serious recrudescence of an old trouble, elephant theft, took place. Thirteen elephants were stolen from the Karenni States, ten of which were recovered. The Bombay Burma Trading Corporation reported the theft of three elephants from their forests at Mainglōngyi in Siam and two were stolen from the Salween District. There was an increase in the number of civil suits owing to the efforts of capitalists to recover loans made by them to timber workers. Crops were poor in two circles of Kantarawadi State and good elsewhere, but all the States depend to an enormous extent on imported rice for their subsistence. At the Mawchi Mines 11,500 tons of ore were crushed and yielded 368 tons of concentrates of about equal amounts of tin and wolfram. Difficulties were experienced in maintaining the European staff at adequate strength and the problem of transporting the concentrates to Rangoon has not yet been solved satisfactorily, neither of the existing routes being passable in the rains. In Kantarawadi State, Rs. 28,079 was spent on public works, Rs. 23,079 from revenue and Rs. 5,000 from remission of tribute. Four miles of cart road were constructed and improvements made in Loikaw town. The total revenue of the year of the five Karenni States increased from Rs. 1.28 lakh in 1914-15 to Rs. 1.72 lakh. The increase was solely in Kantarawadi, the revenue of all the smaller States being less than in the previous year. The increase in Kantarawadi was principally due to the detection of fraud in previous years and the recovery of arrears and collection of the full revenue due. The year closed with a balance in hand of Rs. 52,740, of which Rs. 15,000 was on deposit in the Bank of Bengal as a reserve for emergencies.

6. Hkun Hsang Tōn Hung, *Sawbwa* of North Hsenwi, died at Hsenwi on 4th April 1916. He had latterly taken no part in the administration of his State and had devoted himself entirely to a religious society to which he contributed large sums of money. The administration of the State after his death remained in the hands of the principal officials pending the settlement of the question of the succession. Sao Tōn Hsang, *Sawbwa* of Manglūn, died at Takut on the 30th March. This old Chief had become almost childish, and his wayward temper, combined with the fact that his word was absolute law to his own people, was a source of anxiety. His son and heir Sao Som assumed charge of the State pending his recognition by the Local Government. The progress of the war roused little interest among the Shans generally. Among the Kachins there was a recurrence of the uneasiness which had been shown at the beginning of the war and which manifested itself by an increase in violent crime. In the open season extra work was found for the Kachins on roads and the uneasiness soon passed away. The *Sawbwas* turned out their men and incurred considerable expense in guarding the roads and ferries leading into their States in order to intercept any bad characters coming from Siam. A meeting of the authorities of the Bhamo District and the Northern Shan States with the authorities of Yunnan took place as usual in January at Nawnngma and, thanks to the unexpected energy of the leading Chinese official present, proved an unqualified success, forty-one cases on the Northern Shan States file being disposed of. Attempts to destroy the opium crop led to serious collision between Chinese troops and villagers in the Chinese Shan States across the frontier but with the declaration of independence of Yunnan the campaign against opium came to an end and incidents connected with the opium trade were responsible for most of the frontier troubles of the rest of the year. The failure of a Kokang trader to fulfil a contract for the sale of opium led to an incursion of armed Chinamen who terrorised the bazaar, killed one Chinese subject and wounded another, and only left when news arrived of the approach of a column of military police. Affairs were quiet on the East Manglūn border and in the unadministered Wa country.

The strength of the battalion of military police remained unchanged and the usual escorts were furnished for the tours of civil officers. A column proceeded on special service to put a stop to the troubles in Mōng Hsu described in paragraph 4 and another to Kokang on the occasion of the abovementioned disturbances. The sanctioned strength of the civil police was maintained and the conduct and discipline of the force improved. The total number of cases reported was 306, of which 102 ended in conviction, 2 in discharge or acquittal, 81 were classified as

false or mistaken and 72 remained pending. The number of violent crimes increased from 5 to 11, of which 2 were robberies—one classified as false—and the rest murders or less serious offences against the person. The number of cattle-thefts reported was 35, of which 17 were classified as false or mistaken. The number of offences reported to the State Police of Hsipaw decreased from 320 to 290 and the value of property stolen from Rs. 23,775 to Rs. 8,102. There were ten violent crimes, the worst of which was the murder of three Indians sleeping in a hut in Hsum Hsai sub-State. Crime in Tawngpeng was very light. In South Hsenwi, there was a marked decrease in the crime reported to the State Police. Several instances of good work in the arrest of criminals by village officials and police were reported. The number of offences which came before the courts was 974; the number of persons apprehended increased by 315 to 1,810, of whom 1,159 were convicted. Forty-three violent crimes were reported, North Hsenwi heading the list as usual with 17, chiefly murders. One civil suit was filed in the Court of the Superintendent; the number filed in the courts of the Assistant Superintendents was less but the value increased.

The early and middle rains were abundant and well distributed, but the latter rains practically failed. The rice crop was good in all States and exceptionally good in South Hsenwi. During the rains of 1915, there was a shortage of rice, which reached very high prices. The year's tea crop in Hsipaw and Kokang was unfavourably affected by weather conditions, but the output from Tawngpeng was up to the average though prices ruled low. As in the Southern Shan States, the potato crop was good and realised very high prices. Cotton, tobacco and sugarcane did well, but the opium crop was very poor and prices ruled abnormally high owing to the demand from China. The proposal of the Forest Settlement Officer to amalgamate the Namtu and Nam Kung Reserves near the premises of the Burma Mines Company, Limited, was accepted and the Panghai reserve with an area of 75 square miles was notified. The Burma Mines Company, Limited, in spite of difficulties caused by the war has made very considerable progress and is rapidly developing its valuable property. The total tonnage of charge smelted was 77,195 tons, of which 39,200 tons were metalliferous material. In the refinery 9,920 tons of refined lead and 86,15 tons of anti-oxidant lead were produced and shipped. Improvements to the railway continued and additional rolling-stock was procured. An electric plant was installed and brought nearly to the stage of operation. The Company's settlement at Namtu continued to expand and a number of new residential and other buildings were erected.

The expenditure on public works in Hsipaw State fell from Rs. 2,79 lakhs in 1914-15 to Rs. 1,68 lakh in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining an adequate staff for supervision of works. The most important works in progress were the Ta Tungang bridge and improvements in Hsipaw town. The ferry over the Namtu river at Hsipaw was equipped with reinforced concrete masts. The Local Government sanctioned a scheme for the permanent appointment of a State engineer with a staff of subordinates seconded from the Government Public Works Department for all minor works and repairs in the State. In Tawngpeng State also the lack of establishment severely limited the amount of work accomplished, only Rs. 25,554 being spent out of a sum of Rs. 1,3 lakh deposited with the Public Works Department. Most of the money was spent on road construction and repair and minor works. In the other States much useful work was done in the repair of roads and the erection of permanent bridges. An epidemic of plague which broke out in Hsipaw in March 1915 lingered on till November and broke out again in March 1916. Considerable loss was caused by disturbance to trade, but the deaths were not numerous and the disease did not spread to any other State. In the States generally the excellent harvest and the absence of any serious losses from cattle disease made for prosperity and the year was remarkable for the large number of pagoda festivals celebrated. The revenue of all the States was larger than that of the previous year and all, save Manglun, closed the year with a substantial balance.

There was no change in the number of hospitals and dispensaries. The number of outdoor patients increased by 1,115 to 39,338, while there was a decrease by 646 in the number of indoor patients treated. Outbreaks of small-

pox in September and May were reported in the vicinity of Namkham. During the year 13 new schools were brought on the register and four abolished. There was an improvement in attendance of 152 to 1,788, of whom 568 were girls. At a conference at Lashio certain decisions were reached for the training and supply of teachers, the increase of the inspectorial staff and the improvement of education generally.

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7. In Mōng Mit, the year was one of peace and progress. Excluding a loan of Rs. 5,000 from Government on account of agricultural advances the revenue of the year was Rs. 1,71,816 as compared with Rs. 1,70,698 (which included a contribution of Rs. 9,000 from Government) in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,74,757 and the closing balance Rs. 74,778. The rainfall was moderate but badly distributed and the harvest indifferent. The timber trade continued to be stagnant. The volume of crime was almost the same as in the previous year. Attention is directed in the report to the extraordinary prevalence of gambling and the fact that the timber camps of the Bombay Burma Corporation, Limited, situated in an area entirely unprotected by police, swarm with bad characters from three districts. There was no increase in civil litigation. A sum of Rs. 24,074 was spent on public works. In the Kodaung Hill Tracts of the State the year passed peacefully though the rains were poor, the hill rice crop was spoiled by rain and unsaleable timber lay rotting in the jungle. The amount of Kachin tribute collected was more than in any previous year. The settlement of village boundaries continued and was nearly completed. The Kachin company of military police was completed. The two pending transfrontier cases were disposed of by the Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo at the annual meeting with Chinese officials. There are two very petty Shan States on the Chindwin river under the charge of the Deputy Commissioner of the Upper Chindwin District. In Hsawnghsup the crops were good and there were no frontier incidents. The riverine villages suffered from a bad outbreak of cholera. In Dingkaling K. anti the posting of a military police-force at the chief village during the open season restored the confidence of the Chief and his people who were very apprehensive of Kachin raids, and ensured the absence of frontier incidents.

Other Shan
States.

(ii) The Chin Hills.

[The Chin Hills proper, area approximately 8,000 square miles, population 119,556; the Pakōkku Hill Tracts, area approximately 2,200 square miles, population 17,125; Hill District of Arakan, area 1,700 square miles, population 22,134; and tracts in the Upper Chindwin, Akyab and Kyaukp̄pyu Districts.]

8. In the Chin Hills proper the year was uneventful and the behaviour of the inhabitants excellent, serious crime being practically non-existent. Experiments with the object of improving the cultivation of sugar-cane, oranges and cotton were continued. The ordinary staple crops were good, and the wheat crop was more successful than in the previous year. The improvement of village roads continued, a water-supply scheme at Haka was completed and a recreation ground at Falam in course of construction. Some deaths were caused by two local outbreaks of cholera which however did not spread. It was reported that more frequent intercourse with the plains had resulted in an increase of malaria among the Chins. The health and conduct of the Chin Hills Battalion of Military Police were good. In the Pakōkku Hill Tracts also the year was marked by peace and prosperity, only four offences under the Indian Penal Code being reported. In the Hill District of Arakan four minor raids, in which twelve persons in all were carried off, were made from unadministered territory. All the captives were recovered and the raids had no political significance, being made with the object of enforcing private claims. The tribes on the borders of the Akyab and Kyaukp̄pyu Districts gave no trouble. The unadministered territory between the Chin Hills and Arakan was the scene of a blood-thirsty raid by Shandus on a hamlet of Kamis,

apparently in revenge for the slaughter of the chief of Sabaung and many of his men by Kamis ten years ago. A minor affair in the same unadministered area was the capture by Satawms of five inhabitants of Sate village and the murder of one of them, probably as a result of a territorial dispute. The Government took no action in regard to these affairs which were confined to unadministered territory. The border of the Pakökku Hill Tracts was violated by a raid in which three persons were carried off by Chins from unadministered territory. This raid was punished by the immediate despatch of a small force of civil and military police, the arrest and deportation of the principal offenders, and the infliction of a fine on their village. The captives were released. The Superintendent of the Pakökku Hill Tracts held a durbar in which he successfully settled all outstanding disputes between tribesmen on both sides of the administrative border. The proposal to take under administration the Sonra tract adjoining the Upper Chindwin District was held in abeyance and British Officers were unable to enter the tract to enforce order. Peace was nevertheless on the whole well preserved. The principal chief of the tract shewed himself well disposed and it was anticipated that the friendly relations established would prove of value when settled administration was finally introduced.

(iii) *The Kachin Hills.*

[*The Putao District and tracts in the Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha Districts.*]

9. The peace of the frontier districts was undisturbed and the year comparatively uneventful. Two of the leaders in the rebellion of the previous year in Myitkyina District were arrested and sentenced, one to death and the other to transportation for life. Only one leader of importance was at large when the year closed. The leader of the outbreak in Putao District, an irreconcilable who led an attack on Myitkyina as far back as 1892, was also arrested. The work of road-making by the Public Works Department was in abeyance but a considerable amount of improvement in communications was effected by the exertions of the civil officers in the various districts. In Putao District the civil and military police officers devoted as much time as possible to touring in their charges, several tracts hitherto unexplored were traversed and friendly relations established with the headmen and people. In the Putao District there were two cases of violent crime, in Myitkyina eight, in Bhamo seven and in Katha none; most of the cases reported were murders and none presented any features of unusual interest. Out of 71 criminal cases before the courts in Putao 64 were disposed of. A Burman youth was found guilty of pretending to be a public servant and collecting tribute from Kachin villages. In Myitkyina 79 cases were instituted as compared with 103 the previous year and 22 were pending at the close of the year. In Bhamo of 68 cases 63 were disposed of and in Katha 32 out of 40. In the former the number of cases remained small while in the latter it was higher than usual. In Putao an inter-village blood-feud which had been in progress for twenty-five years and responsible for an annual tale of murders was settled. In the same district an attempt was made to burn down a house as an item in the progress of a blood-feud said to be 180 years old. There was a decrease from the very high figures of the previous year in the number of civil suits instituted in Bhamo District but none of them either there or in other districts was of any special interest. There were no important variations in the amount of tribute collected. It was reported that the use of opium was becoming more common among the Kachins of the Katha District. A report on the forests in Putao District was prepared and the climate said to be favourable for the growth of rubber. Proceedings in connection with the constitution of a reserved forest were completed in Myitkyina. In the same district experiments were made with tea cultivation and an enquiry into the possibility of reviving the extinct trade in rubber was ordered. In Putao the existence of considerable deposits of hæmatite ore and of a local manufacture of iron was verified; old workings of silver with considerable deposits of lead tailings were discovered; and reports were received

of rich auriferous deposits in several of the rivers. Comparatively advanced methods of washing were said to be in use and the use of mercury for the separation of the precious metal not to be unknown. In Myitkyina the output of jade-stone was 117,548 viss valued at Rs. 1'46 lakh as compared with 104,086 viss valued at Rs. 1'91 lakh the previous year. In the Putao District the work of issuing appointment orders to headmen was continued and four Chinese appointment orders were discovered and confiscated. In Myitkyina one headman was dismissed and sentenced to imprisonment for assaulting and torturing a Chinaman. The demarcation of village boundaries made progress throughout all districts. There was one boundary dispute in Putao, three in Myitkyina, four in Bhamo and two in Katha. Relations with tribes across the frontier were good and several important chiefs visited civil officers in the Putao District. It was by the goodwill of a trans-border chief that the outlawed leader of last year's rebellion in that district already referred to was arrested and handed over. There was only one case of collision between Kachins from opposite sides of the border. In Myitkyina there were no raids of any kind. Walawpum Gam a chief in the Hukawng Valley who was arrested and deported in the previous year for complicity in the Myitkyina rising was allowed to return to his village. No Chinese officials or soldiers crossed the frontier into Putao District and the only Chinamen met were traders whose attitude gave no cause for suspicion. Reports have been received of steps taken by the Chinese authorities to bring the Upper Salween Valley under control. The annual meeting of the authorities of Myitkyina District with Chinese frontier officials took place at a place called Simapa in China and passed off with great success, a satisfactory settlement being arrived at in all cases in which the parties were present. Some account of the conference between Chinese authorities and the officials of Bhamo District and the Northern Shan States which took place at Nawngma has already been given in paragraph 6 of this Report. Of Bhamo District cases 50 were taken up and settled and only 17 were left pending of which 5 were quite new. Relations were friendly and the success of the meeting very marked. The Chinese *Taoyin* showed his goodwill by arresting and making over a Shan-Burman outlaw who had flourished for years on cattle-lifting from the Bhamo District. The peace of the border was little disturbed by the declaration of independence by the province of Yunnan. Steps were taken to prevent any revolutionaries or bad characters from entering China by any of the routes from British territory and caravan traffic proceeded without interruption.

Condition of the People.

10. In Lower Burma the rains were abundant and on the whole favourable. A certain amount of damage was caused by flood in some districts of the Pegu Division which are liable to an annual visitation from that calamity, and by the breach by high tides of embankments erected in the Arakan Division to protect rice-fields from the sea. Three days of unseasonable rain accompanied by cold northerly winds in December did a considerable amount of damage to the rice crops which were partly reaped and partly ripe for harvest at the time. In Upper Burma the character of the rains and the condition of the crops varied considerably from district to district. In the northern districts of the Mandalay Division the season was on the whole favourable. In the dry zone proper the general characteristics were heavy rains in the beginning of the season followed by a prolonged drought in the middle, while some districts did, and some did not, receive fairly plentiful showers in September and October. An abnormally high rise of the Irrawaddy River in August caused much damage to crops grown on islands and on lowlying lands along the banks. In the areas protected by major irrigation works the yield was on the whole satisfactory but smaller tanks suffered from breach of bunds at one time and a lack of water at another with the result that the crops which depended on irrigation from this source were on the whole poor. Prices of staples showed a general recovery from the dislocation caused in the previous year by the outbreak of the war. In the autumn of 1915 the operations of

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speculators in rice forced the price of unhusked rice to a very high level and the holders of stocks from the previous harvest realised handsome profits. After harvest prices naturally fell considerably but the harvest price was in most districts much higher than in 1915 and approximated to the normal. The price of wheat was slightly above normal, that of sessamum steady, that of groundnut nearly normal. A great improvement was manifested in the price of cotton which had suffered most severely by the change of conditions caused by the war though normal figures have not yet been attained. As a result of the drop of the previous year a great reduction in the area planted with this crop took place. A considerable reduction in the quantity of chillies imported from Madras due to the scarcity of shipping caused a big enhancement in the price of the local product, the chief centre of the cultivation of which is in the Meikila and Kyaukse Districts. As a result of good crops and better prices the condition of the agricultural population of the Lower Province has improved and may be considered generally satisfactory. An increased immigration from the districts of the dry zone provided a sufficiency of labour for agricultural operations despite the diminution of the number of Indian labourers available. Two poor seasons in succession have not been without effect on the population of the dry zone districts but there has in no case been actual disaster and the power of resistance has surpassed expectation. Work has been done on the canals, at catch boiling and at improvement of village tanks, reserves of live stock have been realised, and resort has been had to the time-honoured remedy of emigration to Lower Burma. Since the opening of the Mön Canals in the Minbu District the tenants of older irrigated lands have been able to secure a great improvement in the terms on which they cultivate. Labour for rubber plantations and mining continues in insufficient supply and the Local Government imported a large number of Chinese from the Straits Settlements for work in the wolfram mines of the Tavoy District. The health of the people generally was not so good as in the previous year. A severe epidemic of cholera raged throughout many districts of Upper and Lower Burma, plague caused many deaths in the towns and there was an increase in the death-rate.

CHAPTER II.

Administration of the Land.

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Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.

Realization of the Revenue.

II. Exclusive of the amounts to be credited to cess and irrigation, the aggregate land revenue demand for the year was Rs. 294·21 lakhs as compared with Rs. 291·41 lakhs in 1914-15. The introduction of enhanced rates of assessment in the Bassein and Toungoo Districts more than accounted for the whole of the increase of Rs. 2·80 lakhs. In Lower Burma conditions were not much more favourable than those of the previous year. In Upper Burma the rains opened well, but in most parts of the dry zone there was serious deficiency later, while an abnormal rise of the Irrawaddy in July caused much damage in the districts on its banks. In the Arakan Division there was some extension of cultivation in the Akyab and Sandoway Districts, although damage from flooding on riverside and coastal lands in the former district reduced the corresponding increase in demand. In Kyauhpju a considerable area was abandoned on account of difficulties experienced the previous year. There was an increase in the demand from the whole division of about Rs. 7,000. In the Pegu Division the annual floods in the Insein and Hanthawaddy Districts caused rather more damage than usual and, despite a small increase in the assessed area, the demand was less. In Pegu District revision of the rents due under waste land grants and extension of cultivation produced a small increase. There was some extension also in Tharawaddy and Prome, but in the latter district where the early rains were poor, increased fallow assessments produced a small decline in the demand. The demand for the whole division was Rs. 86·13 lakhs as compared with Rs. 86·18 lakhs in 1914-15. In the Irrawaddy Division the demand from the Bassein District increased by Rs. 2·15 lakhs owing to the introduction of new settlement rates and recalculation of areas. In the rest of the division the demand was practically the same as in the previous year. There was a small general extension of cultivation, but the consequent increases in the demand in the Henzada and Myaungmya Districts were counterbalanced by decreases in Maubin and Pyapôn, where rather more damage than usual was done by floods, and where a larger area than usual was left fallow owing to the difficulty in obtaining loans for working expenses. In the Toungoo District of the Tenasserim Division some previously cultivated land was abandoned, and other land remained unassessed on account of crop destruction by floods, but the introduction of revised settlement rates raised the total demand from the district by Rs. 2·11 lakhs. Amherst and Thatôn suffered much less than usual from floods and few areas were exempted completely from assessment. There was a rise of Rs. 89,424 in the demand from the two districts. There were small increases also in Tavoy and Mergui. In the Magwe Division the season was good for rice cultivation in Thayemyo but the rains too heavy for upland crops. In Minbu and Magwe early rains were irregular and early rice crop poor, but irrigated areas in Minbu did well, and in Magwe the main rice crop was the best for several years. In Pakôkku the season was poor, but not so poor as that of 1914-15. There was an increase of Rs. 43,908 in the demand from the division as a whole. The total demand from Mandalay Division was larger by Rs. 28,327 than in 1914-15. The rains were favourable in all districts and the only damage done to crops was by an unusually high rise of the Irrawaddy in August. The dry zone districts of the Sagaing Division all suffered from

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remissions
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standings.

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PHYSICAL
AND
POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY.

speculators in rice forced the price of unhusked rice to a very high level and the holders of stocks from the previous harvest realised handsome profits. After harvest prices naturally fell considerably but the harvest price was in most districts much higher than in 1915 and approximated to the normal. The price of wheat was slightly above normal, that of sessamum steady, that of groundnut nearly normal. A great improvement was manifested in the price of cotton which had suffered most severely by the change of conditions caused by the war though normal figures have not yet been attained. As a result of the drop of the previous year a great reduction in the area planted with this crop took place. A considerable reduction in the quantity of chillies imported from Madras due to the scarcity of shipping caused a big enhancement in the price of the local product, the chief centre of the cultivation of which is in the Meiktila and Kyaukse Districts. As a result of good crops and better prices the condition of the agricultural population of the Lower Province has improved and may be considered generally satisfactory. An increased immigration from the districts of the dry zone provided a sufficiency of labour for agricultural operations despite the diminution of the number of Indian labourers available. Two poor seasons in succession have not been without effect on the population of the dry zone districts but there has in no case been actual disaster and the power of resistance has surpassed expectation. Work has been done on the canals, at catch boiling and at improvement of village tanks, reserves of live stock have been realised, and resort has been had to the time-honoured remedy of emigration to Lower Burma. Since the opening of the Môn Canals in the Minbu District the tenants of older irrigated lands have been able to secure a great improvement in the terms on which they cultivate. Labour for rubber plantations and mining continues in insufficient supply and the Local Government imported a large number of Chinese from the Straits Settlements for work in the wolfram mines of the Tavoy District. The health of the people generally was not so good as in the previous year. A severe epidemic of cholera raged throughout many districts of Upper and Lower Burma, plague caused many deaths in the towns and there was an increase in the death-rate.

CHAPTER II.

Administration of the Land.

REFERENCES:—

- Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Burma during the year ended the 30th June 1916.
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Realization of the Revenue.

II. Exclusive of the amounts to be credited to cess and irrigation, the aggregate land revenue demand for the year was Rs. 294.21 lakhs as compared with Rs. 291.41 lakhs in 1914-15. The introduction of enhanced rates of assessment in the Bassein and Toungoo Districts more than accounted for the whole of the increase of Rs. 2.80 lakhs. In Lower Burma conditions were not much more favourable than those of the previous year. In Upper Burma the rains opened well, but in most parts of the dry zone there was serious deficiency later, while an abnormal rise of the Irrawaddy in July caused much damage in the districts on its banks. In the Arakan Division there was some extension of cultivation in the Akyab and Sandoway Districts, although damage from flooding on riverside and coastal lands in the former district reduced the corresponding increase in demand. In Kyaukpyu a considerable area was abandoned on account of difficulties experienced the previous year. There was an increase in the demand from the whole division of about Rs. 7,000. In the Pegu Division the annual floods in the Insein and Hanthawaddy Districts caused rather more damage than usual and, despite a small increase in the assessed area, the demand was less. In Pegu District revision of the rents due under waste land grants and extension of cultivation produced a small increase. There was some extension also in Tharrawaddy and Frome, but in the latter district where the early rains were poor, increased fallow assessments produced a small decline in the demand. The demand for the whole division was Rs. 86.13 lakhs as compared with Rs. 86.18 lakhs in 1914-15. In the Irrawaddy Division the demand from the Bassein District increased by Rs. 2.15 lakhs owing to the introduction of new settlement rates and recalculation of areas. In the rest of the division the demand was practically the same as in the previous year. There was a small general extension of cultivation, but the consequent increases in the demand in the Henzada and Myaungmya Districts were counterbalanced by decreases in Marabin and Pyawôn, where rather more damage than usual was done by floods, and where a larger area than usual was left fallow owing to the difficulty in obtaining loans for working expenses. In the Toungoo District of the Tenasserim Division some previously cultivated land was abandoned, and other land remained unassessed on account of crop destruction by floods, but the introduction of revised settlement rates raised the total demand from the district by Rs. 2.11 lakhs. Amherst and Thatôn suffered much less than usual from floods and few areas were exempted completely from assessment. There was a rise of Rs. 89,424 in the demand from the two districts. There were small increases also in Tavoy and Mergui. In the Magwe Division the season was good for rice cultivation in Thayermyo but the rains too heavy for upland crops. In Minbu and Magwe early rains were irregular and early rice crop poor, but irrigated areas in Minbu did well, and in Magwe the main rice crop was the best for several years. In Pakôkku the season was poor, but not so poor as that of 1914-15. There was an increase of Rs. 43,908 in the demand from the division as a whole. The total demand from Mandalay Division was larger by Rs. 28,327 than in 1914-15. The rains were favourable in all districts and the only damage done to crops was by an unusually high rise of the Irrawaddy in August. The dry zone districts of the Saguing Division all suffered from

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deficiency in the middle and late rains, with damage from floods in addition in the riverine tracts of Sagaing. The previous year was poor but this year's demand fell by a further sum of Rs. 86,892. Conditions in the Upper Chindwin District were distinctly better than in 1914-15 and the demand was Rs. 25 lakh higher. In the Meiktila Division the aggregate demand fell by Rs. 2.59 lakhs. All four districts contributed to the decrease. In Meiktila the demand was 44 per cent. less. There was an almost complete failure of the middle and late rains, and widespread failure of crops was met by a general reduction of assessments over the greater part of the district. In Yamèthin abnormal floods in the Pyinmana Subdivision were added to shortage of rain in the dry zone. Myingyan suffered similarly from lack of rain in the later part of the season and from floods due to the unusual rise of the Irrawaddy. In Kyaukse the season was better than in 1914-15, but the land revenue demand was smaller owing to the reduced share of the consolidated land revenue and irrigation rate credited to the former head.

The total amount of current land revenue remitted was Rs. 5 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7.85 lakhs in the previous year. The principal reason for remissions was the destruction of crops by floods in the Hanthawaddy, Insein and Ma-ubin Districts. In the first two districts damage was greater than in the previous year but the total remissions in Ma-ubin were reduced by more than half from Rs. 2.80 lakhs to Rs. 1.23 lakhs. Amherst and Thaton, in which districts over a lakh of rupees was remitted in 1914-15 suffered little damage, and remissions were reduced to below Rs. 6,000. In Upper Burma, with the exception of Rs. 28,647 remitted in Yamèthin owing to the failure of crops from deficient or untimely rainfall, agricultural calamities accounted for no large remissions of revenue. The failure of harvests in Meiktila and other dry zone districts was dealt with by non-assessment or by general reduction of assessments. The amount of revenue remitted as irrecoverable in Lower Burma was Rs. 72,162 as against Rs. 63,158 in 1914-15. In those districts where the harvest was least successful a good deal of temporarily occupied land was abandoned after the removal of such crop as it produced and the cultivators disappeared before the revenue could be recovered. The amount remitted on account of erroneous assessment was Rs. 19,097 as against Rs. 25,339 in the previous year.

The total collections of current land revenue were larger by nearly Rs. 5.75 lakhs than those of 1914-15. The amount outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 48,243 as against Rs. 48,843 at the end of the previous year. The difficulties which began in 1914-15, owing to the low price of unhusked rice and the restriction of credit facilities, were not so serious in the year of report, but were not wholly absent.

12. The amount of revenue for the realization of which application was made for the issue of process was Rs. 14.77 lakhs, an abnormally high figure, but less by Rs. 3.81 lakhs than that for the previous year. The amount realized was Rs. 12.46 lakhs or 84.4 per cent. as compared with 79 per cent. in 1914-15. Warrants of arrest increased by 1.912, the number of persons arrested rose from 2,347 to 2,372 and the number committed to jail from 41 to 307. Although the number of warrants of attachment of property was rather smaller than in 1914-15 the number of sales of property rose from 2,806 to 3,487. The number of persons arrested and the number committed to prison were disproportionately large in the Bassein District.

Surveys.

13. Topographical survey operations were continued by No. 10 Party of the Survey of India which surveyed 1,705 square miles in Upper Burma on the 1-inch, 2-inch and half-inch scales in the Myitkyina and Katha Districts and in the unadministered territory between the Mali Hka and N'mai Hka rivers lying to the north of the Myitkyina District. The party also surveyed 1,152 square miles on the 1-inch scale in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts of Lower Burma. Triangulation was carried out in the Putao District of Upper Burma from Laza to Putao

Revenue proceedings and coercive processes.

Surveys by Imperial Agency.

with a view to the detail survey being extended next cold weather. The programme of No. 11 Party originally only consisted of the detail survey on 4-inch and 2-inch scales of 406 square miles of reserved forests adjoining Maymyo but in January urgent surveys of wolfram-tracts in Tavoy and Mergui Districts were suddenly added to the programme and the party by working into July managed to complete 1,359 square miles in these districts on the 1-inch scale, also the advance triangulation of 580 square miles. A detachment of No. 15 (Survey) Party was employed in the Akyab and Kyaukpyu Districts of the Arakan Division, Lower Burma, in revising the southern connection of the Manipur Meridional Series of season 1901-02. The revision, which necessitated the taking of observations at four principal stations, was completed and two Astronomical latitudes and two Azimuths were also observed. Tidal operations were continued by No. 16 (Survey) Party at the ports of Rangoon and Moulmein.

The tidal observatories were inspected and the tide-gauges were cleaned, adjusted and left in good working order. The Magnetic Observatory at Toungoo was visited by No. 18 (Survey) Party for taking magnetic observations for the comparison of instruments.

14. During the year special staffs were employed for the conduct of demarcation and survey operations in connection with wolfram mining in the Thatôn and Tavoy Districts and an oil-bearing area in the Thayetmyo District. In Thatôn, in the hills east of the railway between Thatôn and Martaban an area of 23.51 square miles was demarcated into 14 blocks by stout wooden posts bearing the initials of the licensees and protected by stone cairns, at a cost of Rs. 832. No geographical connections were attempted. In Tavoy District operations begun in the previous year were renewed under the charge of a new officer and successfully completed. The work extended over 1,500 square miles of very hilly and heavily wooded country and consisted in the boundary survey of 25 scattered mining leases with a total area of 26,220 acres. The accuracy of the survey was assured by geographical connections to trigonometrical stations of the Survey of India at 18 different points on the boundaries of concessions. The concession plans drawn to the scale of 8 inches to the mile were completed and printed. The total expenditure was Rs. 27,364. In Thayetmyo District an officer was placed on special duty for the survey and demarcation of a newly discovered oil-field in the vicinity of Minhla. A geographically connected traverse survey on the scale of 16 inches to the mile was made of the area which was subsequently divided into 46 blocks demarcated by 61 pillars of reinforced concrete protected by stone cairns. The cost of the survey and demarcation was Rs. 4,765. Revision surveys by special agency were carried out in the Bassein, Myaungmya and Pyapôn Districts under the supervision of an officer on special duty and in Prome and Sagaing of the Superintendent of Land Records. The area re-surveyed in the first three districts was 485 square miles, of which 193,657 acres were occupied. Numerous *kwinis* which were too large for administrative purposes were subdivided into smaller units. The total cost of the operations was Rs. 59,099. In Sagaing District an area of a little over 100 square miles, of which 51,667 acres were occupied, was re-surveyed at a cost of Rs. 11,165. In Prome 23 *kwinis* of unwieldy size with a total occupied area of 24,929 acres were subdivided into 55 smaller units by a small special staff at a cost of Rs. 858. The recess work of the field extension surveys executed in the previous year in the Myaungmya, Henzada and Hanthawaddy Districts was completed and the maps, where necessary, printed.

15. The mapping and area work of the previous year's town surveys in the districts of Bassein, Toungoo, Yamèthin, Meiktila and Kyaukse was completed in the recess. Proposed surveys in the Yamèthin, Kyaukse and Upper Chindwin Districts had to be postponed as funds were not available. In Rangoon Town 2,761 acres were re-surveyed. The reduction and final preparation of the maps of the fisheries surveyed during the previous year in the Myaungmya District were completed and the maps printed. Surveys of lands, a grant of which has been applied for, were conducted in four districts of Lower Burma only. In

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surveys.

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surveys and
surveys of
leased areas.

Mergui a large number of surveys remained to be carried out in consequence of the failure of applicants to demarcate the lands they wanted. In Tavoy 15 out of 55 applications were pending at the close of the year for the same reason. In Amherst there was a large decrease in the number of applications due to hopes of a rapid development of the citronella industry being disappointed. In Kyaukpyu a surveyor was appointed to each township and 502 acres were surveyed. The fees realized were generally more than the cost of survey.

Settlements.

16. With effect from 1st November 1915 No. 6 Settlement Party, which had completed the work allotted to it, was disbanded and at the close of the year five parties were at work. Operations were carried on in nine districts over an area of 12,971 square miles, of which 4,170,000 acres were occupied. In four districts, comprising a gross area under settlement of 3,735 square miles and an occupied area of 1,455,000 acres, field work had finished before 1st July 1915 and settlement work was confined to the compilation of statistics and report. In Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Prome, Magwe and Sagaing Districts soil classification and connected operations were completed over a gross area of 3,157 square miles comprising an occupied area of 797,000 acres. The third settlements of the Henzada and Tharrawaddy Districts and of the Pegu and part of the Thanatpin Townships of the Pegu District were completed and reports submitted during the year; the settlement operations in Sandoway District were completed, but the submission of the report was delayed till the completion of the work in Kyaukpyu. The settlement of the Akyab District was begun in 1913, of the Kyaukpyu and Prome Districts in 1914 and of the Magwe and Sagaing Districts in 1915.

17. The only new settlement sanctioned during the year was that of Henzada District. The expiring land revenue demand was Rs. 14.09 lakhs per year and the demand sanctioned by the present settlement is Rs. 18.27 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 4.18 lakhs or 29.64 per cent. Owing to the application of intermediate rates, and to the fact that in the Myanaung Subdivision the new rates do not come into force till July 1917, the immediate enhancement will be much less. The total expenditure on the settlement parties at work was Rs. 4.02 lakhs. The cost of operations in settlements actually completed was Rs. 100 per square mile of total area or about 5 annas per occupied acre.

Land Records.

18. There was a decrease of 181 square miles in the rural area under supplementary survey. There was no change in the area in the majority of districts. In Bassein the revision settlement of 1913-15, including three new circles, was introduced. In Henzada an increase resulted from extension surveys by the local staff in a compact block of cultivation formerly outside supplementary survey. In Myaungmya a tract which was re-surveyed by a special party in 1914-15 was brought under supplementary survey. These increases were in areas where the ratio of expenditure to assessments justifies the supplementary survey work. An apparent decrease in Mandalay District was due to the fact that when Mandalay District and Town charges were formed, a correct adjustment of the rural areas in the town and district charges was not made. The decrease in Yamèthin District was due to the introduction of fixed assessments over an area of 262 square miles and the exclusion of forest reserve areas. The Land Records Department was responsible for the assessment of land revenue and cess in rural areas amounting to Rs. 331.56 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 3.42 lakhs during the year. The urban area under supplementary survey decreased by one square mile. Variations took place in only a few districts. The decrease in Henzada was due to the fact that Zalun, Daunggyi and Aingthabyu ceased to be towns under the Act. The total land revenue and rent and land rates, derived from this source amounted to nearly

Rs. 1. lakhs, an increase of Rs. 40,582. Of this increase Rs. 23,019 was contributed by Rangoon, resulting mainly from the issue of new leases and the assessment of encroachments of which about 250 were detected and reported during the year. In Akyab the town maps were found to be out of date and assessments were made on measurements of the actual area occupied carried out on the ground and recorded in a field book.

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19. The total cost of supplementary survey was Rs. 15.49 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 4,506 on the figures recorded in 1914-15. This increase was mainly due to greater expenditure on supervision though there was a slight increase in the cost of the subordinate field staff. There was a reduction of Rs. 5,358 in the expenditure on contingencies and supplies. The question of the reduction of the expenditure on binding charges has been carefully considered, suggestions of possibilities of saving have been adopted and in all districts binding is now done on economical lines and at reasonable cost. The cost of the department was 4.42 per cent. of the revenue assessed, that is 0.3 per cent. less than the figures of the previous year. The decrease was the more satisfactory as during the four previous years there had been a progressive decline amounting to 75 per cent. The effect of the season was shown in the reduced cost throughout the Tenasserim Division. In Meiktila District large fallow areas and remissions almost doubled the percentage of cost. Expenses tended to rise throughout the Upper Burma districts where the rains were poor.

Cost of sup-
plementary
survey.

20. The number of pupils on the rolls of the 18 Government Survey Schools in the Province at the close of the year was 244 or seven fewer than on the corresponding date of the previous year. Forty-six per cent. of the pupils paid no fees. The educational qualifications of those admitted to the schools were good. The number of stipends of the monthly value of Rs. 10 each allotted and held was 140 and the total expenditure on them Rs. 15,586. At the examination in April 1916 the candidates from Government Survey Schools who obtained passes in surveying, arithmetic and revenue numbered respectively 99, 108 and 174, or 43, 51 and 80 per cent. of the total number presented in each of these subjects. The condition of several schools, chiefly in Lower Burma, was reported to be unsatisfactory. During the year there were 322 apprentice surveyors under training. The prescribed examinations were held in the majority of districts where apprentices had qualified. Some 169 candidates appeared and 116 qualified and received certificates while those who failed were sent back for further training. Thirty-two apprentices were removed from the district list. Some 202 surveyors joined the staff from the schools but service in some districts was unpopular while in others there was an excess of men. There were 124 permanent appointments to the staff of surveyors holding certificates of competency. The annual preliminary training of the subordinate staff in field work was carried out in most districts. Two probationary Assistant Superintendents appointed at the end of 1914 completed their survey course and received certificates of qualification. Of the three appointed in 1913 two were examined in land records work and one received a certificate of qualification; an extension of the period of training was granted to the third. Two probationers were appointed and began their training in survey during the year.

Training of
Officers.

21. The statistics relating to transfers of land were collected during the year of report over 17,272,840 acres of occupied land, as compared with an area of 17,244,735 acres over which similar statistics were collected in 1914-15. The area sold decreased by 64,000 acres from 494,000 to 430,000 acres, and the area mortgaged increased by 138,000 acres from 519,000 to 657,000 acres. The total area held under non-usufructuary mortgage at the close of the year increased by 398,000 acres from 1,720,000 to 2,118,000 acres. As compared with the area to which the statistics relate, the area transferred by sale represents 2.5 per cent. of the total area, as against 2.9 per cent. in the previous year; the area mortgaged represents 3.8 per cent. of the total area, as compared with 3 per cent. in 1914-15. There is a steady increase in the area of land under

Transfers of
land.

non-usufructuary mortgage. The percentages of the past three years are 8·3, 10 and 12·3, a rise of almost four per cent. in two years. In sales the rate per acre rose from Rs. 60 to Rs. 62 while in mortgages it fell from Rs. 45 to Rs. 41. The area of land redeemed rose from 189,000 acres in the previous year to 231,000 acres. The conditions in Lower and Upper Burma differ so widely that a more correct view is obtained if the figures for each of these areas are examined separately. In Lower Burma the area sold represents 4·2 per cent. of the area to which the statistics relate, and the area mortgaged represents 7·0 per cent; the corresponding figures in the previous year were 4·8 and 5·4 per cent. respectively. The total area under non-usufructuary mortgage in Lower Burma was 22·2 per cent. of the area to which the statistics relate, as compared with 18 per cent. in the previous year. The sales in Upper Burma are insignificant and as a non-usufructuary mortgage is in much less favour than a usufructuary mortgage, the returns do not permit of any definite conclusion. Sales of over 25,000 acres of land took place in each of the following districts, Pyapôn, Pegu, Hanthawaddy, Bassein, Myaungmya, Thatôn and Akyab. Sales of over 5,000 acres were reported from four districts of Upper Burma, Mandalay, Kyauksè, Yamèthin and Shwebo. Non-usufructuary mortgages of over 25,000 acres took place in eleven districts, Pyapôn, with 87,629 acres, followed by Tharrawaddy, Pegu, Hanthawaddy, Myaungmya, Ma-ubin, Thatôn, Insein, Bassein, Akyab and Henzada. In Upper Burma, Mandalay alone reported the mortgage of more than 2,000 acres. The average price of land sold was higher than in the previous year and the difference showed a considerable range in different districts but the general rate of increase was from four to six rupees per acre. An exceptional rise of Rs. 28 in the case of Insein was due to the inclusion in the figures of statistics of sales of suburban land in the vicinity of Rangoon intended for conversion into building sites. In Thatôn, Prome, Ma-ubin and Henzada there was a fall in the prices realised. Price depends on the fertility of the land and the market value of unhusked rice. In the year of report the crop was better and the harvest price on the whole higher than in 1914 and this explains the improvement in values shown by the statistics. The mortgage value appears to be less subject to variation than the sale value. Fourteen out of the 16 main rice producing districts show a decline of from Re. 1 per acre in Akyab to Rs. 13 per acre in Thatôn District; the usual fall runs in these districts from Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 per acre. A marked rise in the mortgage value of land in Tavoy and Mergui Districts was probably due to the steady increase of population caused by the mines, but local conditions are peculiar and any inferences perforce uncertain. Prices and mortgage values in Upper Burma shew much greater variations than in Lower Burma, owing to the great local differences in fertility and variations in the crops raised; but as in Lower Burma prices tend to rise. The area placed under non-usufructuary mortgage was less than 8,000 acres in the whole of Upper Burma and no conclusion can be drawn from statistics having reference to an area so small.

Waste Lands.

Grants and
leases for
cultivation.

22. The area of land granted or leased for cultivation decreased by 1,813 acres from 7,642 to 5,829 acres. Leases for rubber cultivation were issued in the districts of Insein, Thatôn, Amherst, Tavoy and Mergui. No large area was leased in any one case. Grants for ordinary rice cultivation were issued only in special circumstances rendering the conferment of title desirable; and their number was small, except in Kyaukpyu. Even there the total was very little more than half that granted in 1914-15. In Sandoway a lease of 197 acres was given for the reclamation of a mangrove swamp. Leases continued to be issued for new occupation in the special lease areas of Hanthawaddy and Insein, but owing to the recent curtailment of these areas the number was comparatively small. In Minbu several leases were given of small areas of land irrigated by a new distributary of the Man Canal. In Myitkyina an area of 199 acres was leased on special terms for a dairy farm.

23. The area granted for the erection of religious edifices decreased by 28 acres from 207 to 179 acres. The total area granted free of revenue for public purposes was 39 acres, as against 66 acres in 1914-15. Grants were made for schools in Meiktila and Yamèthin Districts and the remainder was made up of areas of a few acres in each case granted for burial grounds, and of small areas for the construction of rest-houses, tanks and wells. Only 384 acres were granted or leased as an appanage of the office of headman ("thugyi-sa" land) as against 590 acres in 1914-15. The allotments were generally small. The addition to the total value of assignments of land revenue was Rs. 802, or Rs. 177 less than in the previous year. There were no specially large assignments. The figures correspond generally to the areas newly granted as "thugyi-sa" land in Upper Burma and as granted free of revenue for religious and public purposes, but from several districts the exemption from revenue of land used for unremunerative public purposes, as distinct from the grant of Government land free of revenue, was reported. The total value of the assignments of land revenue at the end of the year was Rs. 57,652 as against Rs. 56,848 at the end of 1914-15.

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Revenue-free grants
of land and
assignments
of land
revenue.

Government Estates and Wards' Estates.

24. The character of the land tenures in Burma is explained in paragraph 39 *et seq.* of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12. Apart from Government lands of the kind therein described there are no Government estates in the special sense of particular cultivated areas managed by Government after the fashion of a private landlord. There are no wards' estates.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

25. The area occupied by agriculturists was 14,747,699 acres, an increase of 111,653 acres over the area so held in the previous year. The adoption of the surveyor's charge as the unit for the classification of resident and non-resident non-agriculturists has in many districts so altered the returns that comparison of the figures of resident and non-resident non-agriculturists with those of previous years would serve no useful purpose. Comparison is only possible between the areas in the hands of landlords and peasant proprietors respectively. The total area in the hands of people who let their land was 2,525,141 acres as compared with 2,512,677 acres in the previous year, an increase of 12,464 acres, about one-tenth of the increase in the area held by agriculturists. Agriculturists occupied 85.38 per cent. of the area covered by the statistics and non-agriculturists 14.61 per cent. practically the same proportions as in 1914-15. The figures quoted above relate to the whole Province. The statistics for Lower Burma shew the agriculturist there in a much less favourable position. In Lower Burma, including Thayetnayo District, agriculturists occupied 7,331,080 acres or 78.8 per cent. and non-agriculturists 1,973,852 acres or 21.2 per cent. of the total area. The proportion of land held by non-agriculturists was highest in the districts of Hantawaddy, Pyapôn, Insein, Ma-ubin, Pegu, Toungoo and Myaungmya, ranging from 43 per cent. in the first to 21 per cent. in the lastnamed. In Upper Burma the area owned by resident non-agriculturists was only 57,393 acres short of the area owned by non-resident non-agriculturists. Landlords held only about 7 per cent. of the occupied area. The districts in which the largest areas were so held were Lower Chindwin, Minbu, Mandalay, Yamèthin and Kyauksè, in which rice is largely grown and irrigation practised and in which capital is attracted by the certainty of return.

Area held
by agricul-
turists.

26. The area let at full rents was 3,153,615 acres, an increase of nearly 20,000 acres over the total of the previous year. Assuming that all the land held by non-agriculturists was let 628,474 acres were let by owners classed as agriculturists. The average rent paid per acre increased from Rs. 10.32 to Rs. 12.29 and the total increase for the Province was Rs. 63.98 lakhs, from Rs. 3,23.69

Tenancies.

CHAP. II.
ADMINISTRATION OF
THE LANDS.

lakhs to Rs. 3,87.67 lakhs. The reasons for the increase were that the season was favourable in the chief rent-paying areas and landlords had not to give a rebate as in 1914-15, and that harvest prices were better. Landlords received the full rents agreed on and these were, on a cash basis, more valuable. Although the tenants paid more produce rent, they could do so without inconvenience, owing to the improvement in the value of the produce of their lands. Prices for unhusked rice were very steady throughout the year and holders were in a position to realize without any serious loss. In only three districts in Upper Burma, Yamèthin, Mandalay and Minbu, did the total payments of rent exceed a lakh of rupees. There was an increase of about two thousand, from 25,103 to 27,152, in the number of tenants who had rented their land continuously for five years or more, and of nearly four thousand, from 165,790 to 169,718, who had rented their holdings continuously for less than that period. The number of holdings which had been let continuously for five years or over increased from 68,038 to 73,948 and the number let continuously for less than five years was 111,873 as compared with 111,915 in the previous year. Opinions differ as to whether an increase of land revenue after a revised settlement has been followed by a raising of rents. From Minbu District it is reported that landlords in the Man area now realise that rack-renting is impossible, and that large areas formerly left fallow as the parties could not come to terms were recently let on reasonable and acceptable terms.

CHAPTER III. PROTECTION

REFERENCES :—

- Report on the Police Administration of Burma for the year 1915.
Report on the Rangoon Town Police for the year 1915.
Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration in Burma for the year 1915.
Report on the Measures adopted for the Extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes in Burma for the year 1915.
Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burma for the year 1915.
Report on the Prison Administration of Burma for the year 1915.
Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Burma for the year 1915.
Note on the Working of the Registration Department in Burma for the year 1915.
Report on the Working of the Indian Companies Act in Burma for the year 1915-16.
Report on the Working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1915-16.
Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipalities in Burma during the year 1915-16.
Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma (Buildings and Roads Branch), excluding Irrigation, for the year 1915-16.
Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon for the year 1915-16.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1915-16, Part III, Shipping.
Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1915-16.
Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
Annual Statement of Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes I, III, and IV.
Report on Government Steamers, Vessels and Launches in Burma for the year 1915-16.

Legislative Authority

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

Course of Legislation.

27. The Burma Medical Bill referred to in last year's report passed into law as Act No. I of 1915 during the present year. Two Bills were also introduced into Council during the year, *vis.*, the Burma Prohibition of Inoculation and Licensing of Vaccinators Amendment Bill, 1915, and the Burma Ferries Amendment Bill, 1915, but these Bills did not become law until after the close of the year of report.

Work of
Legislative
Council.

The Burma Medical Act (No. I of 1915) was enacted with two objects. The first is to provide for the registration of duly qualified medical practitioners and the second is to subject practitioners so registered to the disciplinary control of a Medical Council. The registration of practitioners will enable the public to ascertain who are duly qualified in their district, and will afford some protection to the medical profession against persons who are not duly qualified. The Medical Council is to consist of nine members, five to be elected by the registered practitioners resident in Burma and four, including the President, to be nominated by the Local Government. The Council will have full control over the Registrar to be appointed and an appeal lies to it from any decision of the Registrar with regard to refusal to register an applicant. The Council also have power to strike off the register a person who has been convicted of a cognizable offence or who

CHAP. III.— has been found guilty by the Council of infamous conduct in any professional respect. But an appeal from the decision of the Council is allowed to the Local Government. The qualifications necessary for registration are laid down in the Schedule to the Act and the Local Government on the report of the Medical Council is given power by section 15 to alter the Schedule as occasion may arise.

General Acts affecting Burma.

28. The undermentioned General Acts affecting Burma were passed by the Governor-General in Council during the year :—

General Acts of 1915.

- XI.—The Repealing and Amending Act, 1915.
- XII.—The Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1915.
- XIV.—The Enemy Trading Act, 1915.
- XV.—The Inland Steam-vessels (Amendment) Act, 1915.

General Acts of 1916.

- I.—The Indian Trusts (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- II.—The Defence of India (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- III.—The Foreigners' (Trial by Court-martial) Act, 1916.
- IV.—The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- V.—The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- VI.—The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- VII.—The Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916.
- VIII.—The Presidency Banks (Amendment) Act, 1916.
- IX.—The Indian Paper Currency (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1916.

Ordinances of the Governor-General.

The undermentioned Ordinances affecting Burma were made and promulgated by the Governor-General under section 72 of the Government of India Act, 1915

Ordinances of 1915.

- II.—The Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Ordinance, 1915.
- III.—The Defence of India Ordinance, 1915.

Ordinances of 1916.

- I.—The Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Ordinance, 1916.
- II.—The Dutiable Goods and Salt Ordinance, 1916.
- III.—The Foreigners' (Trial by Court-martial) Ordinance, 1916.

All these Acts and Ordinances came fully into force during the year with the exception of the Indian Income-tax (Amendment), Act, 1915, which, though it received the assent of the Governor-General on the 8th March 1916, came into operation on the 1st of April 1916, *i.e.*, just after the close of the year. Sections 3 to 11 of the Defence of India (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 1915, referred to in the Report of the preceding year, have been brought into operation during the year of report in four districts of the Province of Burma, namely, Rangoon Town, Amherst, Yamethin and Mandalay.

Regulations affecting Burma.

29. Only one Regulation affecting Burma, namely, the Arakan Hill District Laws Regulation, 1916, was enacted during the year. This Regulation was made to declare and amend the law applicable in the Hill District of Arakan.

30. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, was extended to all the Shan States, the Indian Explosives Act, 1884, was extended to the Northern Shan States, and the Indian Petroleum Act, 1899, was extended to the Northern Shan States and the States of Hsamonghkam and Yawnghwe in the Southern Shan States.

CHAP. III.—
PROVISION.
Extension of
Enactments
to Shan
States.

Police.

31. Excluding gazetted officers the sanctioned strength of the civil police in Burma, not including the Rangoon Town Police, was 1,363 officers and 14,357 men. The actual strength was 1,315 officers and 13,606 men leaving a deficiency of 48 officers and 751 men. In the previous year the shortage amounted to 39 officers and 1,090 men. There was a net increase of the permanent establishment during the year of a sub-inspectors, 6 head constables and 29 constables. Owing to want of work and poverty there was less difficulty in obtaining recruits and in many districts the margin between the sanctioned and the actual police strength was appreciably diminished. A recruiting party was sent out during the year in the Mandalay District, but opinions as to the success of its operations vary. The shortage of officers was due to the fact that out of a total sanctioned strength of 95 officers at the Provincial Police Training School there were on the rolls at the close of the year only 47. The cost of the police payable from Imperial and Provincial funds increased from Rs. 60.62 lakhs in 1914 to Rs. 62 lakhs in 1915. This increased expenditure of Rs. 1.38 lakh was caused by the approximation of the actual to the sanctioned strength, by the appointment during 1915 of the additional officers sanctioned in the previous year and by the grant of an allowance to Indian constables and head constables whose staple diet consists of wheat products. The cost of the police paid from other than Imperial or Provincial funds was Rs. 1.87 lakh as compared with Rs. 1.73 lakh in 1914. The increase was caused by the payment in 1915 of certain arrears due on account of rent of quarters of the railway police and by the payment of travelling allowance on a new scale. The cost of the additional police employed under section 15 of the Police Act was Rs. 3.01 lakhs. The increase of Rs. 1.42 lakh was due to the employment of additional police in Pegu and Hanthawaddy Districts and the quartering of a punitive police force in Shwebo District.

Civil Police :
strength, re-
cruitment
and cost.

32. The number of officers and men who were dismissed or removed was 17 and 452 respectively as against 17 and 496 in 1914. Of these 12 officers and 225 men were dismissed after being convicted of a criminal offence. The number of officers and men punished departmentally rose from 218 and 1,275 in 1914 to 281 and 1,729 in 1915. The increase was in part accounted for by the fact that what is known as the "black mark" system of punishment was in more general operation and that every "black mark" awarded was reckoned as a major punishment. The number of special promotions for good work was 46 as against 27 in the previous year; of these 14 were granted in Myaungmya and 6 in Mandalay Districts. The rewards granted increased by 555. Out of 2,856 officers and men rewarded, 1,457 were rewarded departmentally for good work. Three cases of violence to persons involving four constables, one of wrongful confinement, one of wrongful confinement with violence in which six constables were concerned, and four of wrongful behaviour to persons not involving violence, were proved against the police during the year. In the last four cases nine police-officers were concerned. In all cases the offenders were suitably punished. The King's Police Medal was awarded to five members of the Burma Police during the year. The number of desertions fell from 236 to 156, the number of resignations without pension from 1,111 to 987 and the number of dismissals and discharges from 808 to 664. The number of literate subordinate officers and men was 12,860 or 86 per cent. of the actual strength of 14,921. The number of constables other than recruits who went through a course of training was 1,840, of whom 94 per cent. qualified. The number of recruits under training was 2,182, of whom 1,253 appeared for examination and 1,176 passed. The number of casualties before the completion of the course of training was 363 and 14

Conduct,
education,
and train-
ing.

CRIM. III.—
PROSEC.
1902.

recruits were discharged for failure to pass the examination. In many districts training depôts were open for six months only and only recruits were trained, as it was found impossible to spare constables from their regular duties for the purpose. Officers to the number of 1,180 went through a course of revolver practice and 8,379 men and 1,299 recruits were put through the annual course of musketry in which the figure of merit attained was 65. No Assistant Superintendents of Police were in the Provincial Police Training School at the close of the year, the three under instruction at the beginning having been posted to duty before the completion of their course and the one recruited during the year being posted for training to the headquarters of a district. Two cadet inspectors, 44 cadet sub-inspectors and 6 cadet sub-inspectors of excise entered the school and 41 cadet sub-inspectors appeared for the final examination all of whom were found to be qualified.

Buildings.

33. The grant for buildings in the police budget was Rs. 1'95 lakh and in the Public Works Department budget Rs. 4'33 lakhs, but the latter was reduced and projects estimated to cost only Rs. 3'74 lakhs were actually undertaken. Seven police-stations and a number of quarters were completed by the Public Works Department. Funds were transferred from the police budget to the Public Works Department for the construction of four more police-stations. A combined police-station and quarter-guard at Mawleik in the Upper Chindwin District was under construction from a separate allotment. On minor works approximately Rs. 25,000 was spent. Expenditure on the improvement and extension of existing lock-ups was only incurred at six places where work was already in progress and for which allotments aggregating Rs. 67,841 had been sanctioned. Experiments were made with two separate types of latrines. A type plan of police cottages was adopted and quarters for 23 head constables and 131 constables on this pattern were under construction at the close of the year. Expenditure on petty construction and repairs and on the erection of temporary quarters was limited as far as possible and little was done beyond the repair of existing quarters. It was reported that better accommodation for the men was wanted everywhere and that much remained to be done.

Crime and
the working
of the police.

34. There was a substantial increase in the amount of crime reported during the year, which was stated to be due to the unfavourable nature of the season and poor crops in Upper Burma, and to the indirect results of the war throughout the Province. Money-lenders called in their loans and refused all further advances. The rice market was poor, as a result of the closing of certain foreign markets and of the scarcity of tonnage. The war itself was responsible for a certain amount of popular unrest not without its effect on criminal statistics. The number of true cases reported increased by 3,956 from 41,111 to 45,067. The number of offences against the State was about the same, and the increase by 151 to 5,178 in the number of serious offences against the person was not serious. There were 37 more murders and 59 more cases under the hurt sections than in the previous year. In the class of serious offences against person and property or against property only there was an increase of 775 cases, of which 598 were under the house-breaking sections—from 5,214 to 5,989. The number of minor offences against property reported was 18,258, an increase of 2,276 over the figures of 15,982; ordinary thefts increased in number from 9,916 to 11,942. There was also an increase in the number of cases of nuisance and of offences under special and local laws. The districts in which the most important increases in the number of serious offences against person and property or against property only occurred were Insein with an increase of 36, Tharrawaddy of 223, Prome of 115, Thatôn of 31, Amherst of 31, Tavoy of 104, Henzada of 76, Ma-uhin of 44 and Thayetmyo of 22. Corresponding figures for the number of minor offences against property were Insein 121, Tharrawaddy 576, Prome 362, Thatôn 267, Mandalay 98, Henzada 83, Ma-uhin 104, Myaungmya 135, Pyawôn 92, Thayetmyo 90 and Pakòkkù 126. In Bassein there was an increase in all classes of crime save that of minor offences against property, there being a substantial reduction in the number of cattle thefts. The number of murder cases increased

from 437 to 474, of attempts at murder from 74 to 89, of dacoity and preparation and assembly for dacoity from 128 to 196, of robberies from 473 to 492, while the number of culpable homicides fell from 97 to 93 and the number of those cases of housebreaking which are classified as violent crime remained stationary at 87. The aggregate number of violent crimes reported during the year was 1,431 as compared with 1,296 in 1914, an increase of 135. The most notable decreases in Lower Burma were in Pegu 27, Hanthawaddy 26, Toungoo 21, Myaungmya 20, and in Upper Burma 7 in Lower Chindwin. There was an increase in nearly every other district, the most serious being in Tharrawaddy from 75 to 113. Other districts in which noticeable increases occurred were Insein 20, Henzada 20, Amherst 22, Tavoy 17, Akyab 15, Thayetmyo 15 and Mandalay 13. The number of cases in which firearms were used increased from 88 to 150, of which 54 were cases of dacoity or robbery. In a very large number of cases the weapons used were of local manufacture and the powder was got from the heads of matches or from Chinese crackers. Of these 150 cases many were committed by one or two gangs of criminals in Amherst and by one gang in Bassein District. The number of murders committed in Bassein rose from 15 to 30 and in Akyab from 16 to 26. In Henzada there were 11 fewer cases than in 1914. The districts from each of which 30 or more murder cases were reported were Tharrawaddy, Pegu, Prome, Insein, Henzada and Bassein. The number of murders committed by robbers and dacoits was 25 as compared with 28 in 1914. Various motives and causes such as sudden quarrels, drink, gambling, revenge and jealousy were assigned for the other murders. The increase of 68 in the number of cases of dacoity and preparation or assembly for dacoity was practically confined to Lower Burma where there were 175 cases as against 109 in 1914. There were reductions of three cases in Hanthawaddy and 5 in Pegu, but in Amherst the number rose from 2 to 16, in Bassein from 24 to 37, in Henzada from 9 to 18 and in Insein from 5 to 12. The number of robbery cases decreased in Hanthawaddy by 11, in Pegu by 23, in Bassein by 18, and in Myaungmya by 10, while there were increases in Kyaukpyu of 11, in Tharrawaddy of 24, in Henzada of 19, in Amherst of 17 and in Pakòkku of 7. The number of true cases of cattle theft increased by 207 from 2,801 to 3,008 which is the average number for the previous five years. The system of stealing cattle in order to hold them to ransom has extended considerably of recent years and has now established a firm hold in most districts. Many such cases are not reported to the police at all, and such reports as are received are usually made after the money has been paid and the cattle returned. The report calls attention to the widespread popular carelessness which turns herds of cattle loose into the jungle and leaves them for days or weeks without supervision of any sort, as a potent cause of the prevalence of cattle-theft in the Province. The increase in the number of cases of ordinary theft was contributed to by every district save Yamòthin, Upper Chindwin, Lower Chindwin, Mergui, Magwe and Sandoway. Despite the increase in the number of cases the aggregate value of property stolen decreased by Rs. 11,171. The number of cases finally dealt with by the police, excluding the cases proved to be "false" or "mistaken" and excluding cases pending at the close of the year was 38,854 or 3,438 more than in 1914. Of these, 25,583 or 66 per cent. resulted in conviction, as compared with 67 per cent. in 1914. Excluding nuisance cases, cases under special and local laws, cases compounded, cases in which investigation was refused and cases in which the accused died, 26,178 true cases were dealt with, of which 14,639 or 56 per cent. ended in conviction, 3,225 in acquittal and 8,294 remained undetected; the results are exactly the same as in 1914. The number of persons finally dealt with was 56,858, of whom 53,452 were tried and 33,785 were convicted. In 1,784 cases investigation was refused. Of murder cases reported only 15 per cent. in Amherst and Thaton and 17 per cent. in Bassein ended in conviction; in Tharrawaddy there were seven convictions out of 32 cases. In Pakòkku out of nine cases reported eight were sent for trial and all convicted; detection was good in Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Myaungmya, Minbu and Mandalay. Out of 89 true cases of attempted murder 80 were tried and 65 convicted. Of 107 persons sent for trial 76 were convicted. Ninety-three true cases of culpable homicide were dealt with, 86 were tried and

78 convicted. Out of 131 persons tried 90 were convicted. As in 1914, 39 per cent. of the cases of dacoity dealt with were convicted but the proportion of convictions to cases tried was higher. In Amherst and Bassein Districts several organized gangs of dacoits were broken up. Results were poor in Prome, Thaton, Tharrawaddy, Henzada and Pegu Districts. Of robbery cases classified as true 46 per cent., the same as in 1914, ended in conviction. Of the 87 true housebreaking cases under sections 458—460, Indian Penal Code, convictions were obtained in 35 cases as against 23 in 1914, while 42 persons were convicted out of 96 dealt with and 85 tried. Of other cases of housebreaking and house-trespass 35 per cent. ended in conviction, and out of 2,078 persons dealt with and 1,965 prosecuted, 1,246 were convicted. The value of property stolen in cognizable cases was Rs. 17.35 lakhs, of which Rs. 4.69 lakhs or 27 per cent. was recovered, in non-cognizable cases Rs. 11,553 of which Rs. 2,176 or 19 per cent. was recovered. In 1914 the value was Rs. 17.12 lakhs, of which Rs. 5.16 lakhs or 30 per cent. was recovered.

35. A very daring robbery with murder was committed in Mandalay Town. Three men, one of whom was a med with a revolver, entered a house and shot one of the inmates through the chest. They then bolted with some gold bangles. A hue and cry was raised and one of the men was captured at once. The remaining two, one of whom still held the revolver, were traced to a certain house where they were suspected to be hiding in the roof. Head Constable Daim Khan, climbing on to the roof, saw the two men crouching in the gutter. One of them fired at him, but Daim Khan caught him by the hair and after a struggle both men fell to the ground, a distance of twenty feet. Though severely injured and almost unconscious the head constable clung to his prisoner till assistance came. The third man was eventually rested and all three were convicted, two being sentenced to death.

In Tharrawaddy a small Karen boy was kidnapped and held to ransom; the amount demanded was paid but the boy was not returned and, on search being made, his body was found horribly mutilated in the jungle. In Prome a Chin was kidnapped and Rs. 700 demanded for his release. This amount was deposited in the place named, but nevertheless the man was murdered; presumably the abductors were afraid of being traced. In Bassein a boy of eleven years of age was murdered, the motive being, it was said, revenge against his father. In Henzada two well-known bad characters were murdered, probably by the villagers who were tired of their depredations, and in the same district one thief quarrelled with another over the distribution of stolen property and killed him. In Myaungmya a woman was murdered by poison in order to enable her husband to get possession of her property. In Toungoo District villagers surrounded the house of a man wanted for theft and kidnapping and killed him, but not before several of the attacking party had been hurt and one killed. In Thaton a man was murdered by a Karen because a debt of ten rupees had not been paid. In the Lower Chindwin District a little girl of seven was supposed to have been murdered for the sake of about ten rupees worth of jewellery. In a village in Hanthawaddy District eight men armed with two revolvers were attacked while committing dacoity by villagers armed with *dahs* and spears under the leadership of a Burman revenue surveyor and beaten off, leaving two of their number dead behind them. In Insein District a Chinaman a med with a spear succeeded in defending himself against the attack of ten dacoits with a gun until assistance arrived and the dacoits were driven off without any booty. In Bassein District a large band of dacoits was attacked by villagers, five of whom were severely wounded, but the dacoits were driven off without plunder. This gang was responsible for fourteen violent crimes. Karen military police were drafted into the district and the pursuit of the gang was kept up during the rains. Vigorous action was also taken under the Village Act and in the end all but two of the dacoits were either shot or arrested. An extraordinarily brave fight was made in Ma-ubin District. Six dacoits armed with a shot gun attacked an isolated house occupied by an old Karen and his wife, both of whom were aged about eighty. The only entrance to the house, which was built on piles, was by a bamboo ladder at the

Case 111—
Prome
1902.

Important
incidents.

top of which the old man stood keeping the dacoits at bay with a spear while his wife threw billets of wood at them. Shots were fired but the old couple were not wounded. The villagers attracted by the shots began to collect, and the dacoits decamped after setting fire to the house.

Case 111-
Prosecution.

36. Prosecutions under the excise laws increased by 370 and of the total of 5,874 the number instituted by the police was 1,693 or practically the same as in 1914. Of 5,651 cases tried, 5,045 or 89 per cent. resulted in conviction. Seven thousand one hundred and four persons were arrested, 6,976 were tried and 5,515 convicted. The results were rather better than in 1914. Several large seizures of ganja and cocaine were made. Cocaine smuggling was prevalent in all the districts of the Pegu and Irrawaddy Divisions but there was a marked reduction both in the number of cases and in the amounts of this drug seized, probably on account of the shortage of supplies and huge increase in the price of the drug. There was a decrease of 94 to 2,230 true cases under the opium laws. The number of cases sent up for trial was 2,176, of which 2,108 or 97 per cent. resulted in conviction. The number of persons dealt with was 2,911, of whom 2,807 were tried and 2,255 or 80 per cent. of the number tried were convicted. The results were good in practically all districts. Opium was again imported in large quantities into Akyab by steamer and into the Upper Chindwin across the hills from Manipur. Large seizures were made in Akyab (6,317 tolas), Northern Shan States (6,116 tolas), Insein (5,212 tolas), Amherst (4,880 tolas) and Bhamo (4,582 tolas). There were 266 prosecutions under section 3 of the Burma Opium Law Amendment Act and 202 were successful. Seizures of morphia were reported in three districts, 11,843 grains in Insein, 123 grains in Pegu and 7,815 grains in Henzada. The number of cases dealt with under the Gambling Act increased from 3,675 in 1914 to 3,770. Out of 3,697 cases tried convictions were obtained in 2,673. Of 29,243 persons dealt with 27,870 were tried and 14,421 or 49 per cent. of those dealt with were convicted. The close connection between gambling and serious crimes was frequently dwelt on in the reports. Complaints were also made of the sympathy of village headmen with gambling and their reluctance to take active measures for its suppression. Under section 17 of the Gambling Act 157 cases were taken up and 129 or 82 per cent. were successful. The number of prosecutions during 1914 was 88. There was an increase from 75 to 112 in the number of firearms seized and from 78 to 113 in the number surrendered. The number of revolvers stolen and not recovered rose from 65 to 71 and of guns from 33 to 37. In the Ruby Mines District a seizure was made of dynamite, detonators and fuse which had in all probability been stolen. Complaints were received of the lack of control exercised over weapons and ammunition issued to employees of timber and other firms working in the districts. More stringent proof of title to exemption from the provisions of the Arms Act was required than was formerly the case and several applications for registration of arms were rejected. For offences under the Arms Act 609 cases with 819 accused were instituted and 664 persons were convicted. The majority of cases were for going armed with swords and daggers. The number of licensed arms fell from 2,599 to 2,444.

Offences
under special
Acts.

37. There was an increase of 778 true cases of non-cognizable crime during the year, 38,364 cases being dealt with as compared with 37,586 in 1914. There was a decrease in all classes save cases under special and local laws and maintenance cases. Convictions were obtained in 27,547 cases or 72 per cent. of the total number of cases dealt with. The number of persons who appeared before the courts was 76,196, the number discharged without trial 776 and the number convicted 41,693.

Non-cognizable
crime.

38. Proceedings under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure were taken against 2,295 persons, of whom 1,886 or 82 per cent. were placed on security. In Myaungmya the number of cases fell by 149, in Pegu by 107, Yamethin by 82 and there was much less action apparent in Prome, Akyab

Preventive
sections,
surveillance,
and identification.

CHAP. III.—
PUNITIVE
POLICE.

and Sagaing. The decrease was attributed to the satisfactory result of the action taken in the previous year. Many cases were instituted in the Henzada, Bassein and Thaton Districts, in the last named of which proceedings were instituted against 299 persons, of whom 190 were placed on security. At the end of 1914, 10,566 names were on the surveillance registers and there were 154 registered conditionally released prisoners. During 1915, 3,611 names were added to the surveillance registers (including 53 names erroneously omitted in 1914) and the names of 29 men conditionally released. The number that returned to honest livelihood during the year was 2,375, and 1,369 criminals emigrated or died, leaving 10,491 on the registers. The number of conditionally released prisoners on the registers at the end of the year was 125. Of the aggregate of 10,616, 8,409 were under surveillance, 1,494 were in jail and 713 had been lost sight of. In certain districts arrangements were made for village headmen to report at once to the police the movements of surveillance criminals. The corrected total of the number of proclaimed and absconding offenders at the end of 1914 is 5,448. In the course of the year 1915 the number proclaimed was 1,983. Of those proclaimed prior to 1915 the number arrested was 666, and of those proclaimed in the year 705. Some 786 names were cancelled owing to various reasons and the number of absconders at large at the end of 1915 was 5,274.

The number of prisoners with previous convictions identified by the police before sentence was 4,481, of whom 1,444 had three or more previous convictions. Two were identified in jail after sentence had been passed. During the year 14,818 finger-print slips were accepted for record, and of these 10,364 were placed in the search almirah and 4,454 in the jail almirah. The total number on record at the end of the year was 155,931. Nine inspectors, 37 sub-inspectors and one head constable were trained in elementary finger-print work. The number of slips received for search during the year was 8,842, of which 2,209 were traced with previous convictions. Forty-seven were slips of surveillance criminals and 46 of absconders. The finger-print slips of all criminals whose whereabouts are unknown, and of all absconders for whom finger-print slips are on record, are flagged, and as soon as these criminals are traced by the Bureau, information is sent to the district concerned. Out of 2,209 traced slips 1,358 belonged to criminals of districts other than the district in which they were arrested and information of their arrest was at once sent to their home districts. The finger-print slips of 1,255 recruits and 289 railway employees were received and 39 of these were traced as having previous convictions. Expert evidence was given in 133 criminal and 32 civil cases and in two departmental enquiries. Expert information was given in writing in 153 cases, of which 142 were criminal, 5 civil, 4 departmental and 2 private. Two cases of forgery were reported in which signatures had been forged to obtain agricultural advances. In both cases finger-print experts were called to prove that the impressions on the documents were those of the persons accused of forgery. In both cases convictions were obtained.

Punitive
Police.

39. Additional police forces numbering 302 officers and men continued to be employed during the year in the Prome and Tharrawaddy Districts. These forces have now been in existence for three of the five years for which they were originally sanctioned and the question of their retention or disbandment will shortly come under consideration. An additional police force of 188 officers and men sanctioned with effect from 1st November 1914 in the Hanthawaddy District was enrolled and trained during 1915. In Pegu District an additional force of 143 of all ranks was sanctioned with effect from 2nd January 1915, and eleven additional police-stations were notified in April 1915. The men for these stations were not all fully trained by the close of the year. A punitive police force of one sub-inspector and 5 constables was stationed for one year from 1st April 1915 at Nyaungbindaw village in the Shwebo District. Additional police numbering 1 head constable and 3 constables sanctioned for two years from 19th February 1914 were maintained during the year in Gyo village, Sagaing District. The force of 22 sub-inspectors employed for two years from 1st March 1913 in the Henzada District was disbanded on the 28th February 1915.

40. The sanctioned strength of the railway police remained unaltered at 435. The discipline of this force was on the whole good though the actual number of punishments increased to 80, of which 41 were under the "black mark" system. Only 4 men were removed or dismissed as compared with 23 in 1914. Eleven officers and 34 men were rewarded as compared with 5 officers and 24 men in 1914. Sixty-six recruits attended the depot, of whom 59 passed out; the number attending for recurrent training was 53, of whom 51 passed. It was found impossible for financial reasons to proceed with the construction of new quarters and 66 officers and men were at the end of the year without quarters. Excluding cases in which investigation was refused and 12 cases compounded, 1,381 true cases were finally dealt with, an increase of 152 in the year. Of these 930 were convicted, 83 acquitted and 368 were undetected. The number of persons finally dealt with was 1,575, of whom 75 per cent. were convicted. Most of the crime committed on the railway falls in the classes of minor offences against property and nuisances and offences against special and local laws. The increase in the former was 112, of which 94 were ordinary thefts. The results of the action taken were not so good in theft cases as in cases under special laws. In house-breakings and ordinary thefts property valued at Rs. 26,160 was stolen, of which 21 per cent. was recovered, a rather better result than in 1914. Under the Excise Act 78 cases were dealt with in 70 of which convictions were obtained; of 89 true cases under the Opium Act, 85 resulted in conviction. Seizures were made of 19,756 grains of cocaine, 16,316 tolas of ganja, 13,659 tolas of opium, and 3,096 grains of morphia. There were 17 true cases under the Arms Act, including 4 cases in which firearms were seized, and in 16 cases convictions resulted. There were 2 cases of murder, 1 of culpable homicide, 5 of robbery and 2 of house-breaking committed and in one case of murder and 2 cases of robbery convictions were obtained. The number of criminals under surveillance on the registers of the railway police was 363 but the actual watching of these men is necessarily principally in the hands of the district police. At the end of 1914 the number of persons shown as absconding was 89 and during the year 15 others were proclaimed. Nine were arrested, 8 names were expunged and the number unaccounted for at the close of the year was 87. Fifteen village headmen, 30 railway employees and 48 villagers were rewarded during the year.

CHAP. III.
PROSECUTION.
Railway
Police.

41. The actual number of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men serving in the military police at the close of the year was 16,070 or 364 less than the sanctioned strength of the force. Owing to the departure to take part in the war of large numbers of Sikhs and Mahomedans, and the stoppage of further recruiting among these classes, certain changes in the caste composition of the battalions became necessary, Sikhs and Mahomedans being to some extent replaced by men of other Indian castes and by recruits from within the Province. A depot was formed in the Indian Infantry barracks at Meiktila for the training of volunteers prior to their despatch on active service. A composite company of Kachins from the Bhamo and Myitkyina Battalions was attached to the 1st Battalion of the 10th Gurkha Rifles thus releasing a company of Gurkhas for active service. A half company of Haka Chins was raised and added to the existing half company of Siyin Chins in the Chin Hills Battalion. Three temporary outposts were stationed in the Kamaing and Mogaung Hill Tracts of the Myitkyina District to maintain order. A force of 128 mounted infantry and 484 foot drawn from various battalions was employed on patrol duty along the Siamese frontier and endured considerable hardships during the rains. The total cost of the force, which in 1914 was Rs. 61.31 lakhs, was reduced to Rs. 59.88 lakhs principally by the depletion of numbers caused by the departure on service of volunteers. The year was unhealthy and the number of men who were granted sick leave and the number of admissions to hospital rose from 555 and 15,259 respectively in 1914 to 947 and 17,603. Putao, a newly established district headquarters and military police post, was notably unhealthy. Other causes assigned for the high rate of sickness are, the presence in the force of a large proportion of elderly men waiting for pension, on one hand and of unacclimatized recruits on the other, stoppage of furlough, overwork and constant exposure to malarial infection. At the beginning of the

Military
Police.

year the services of the military police were required for the suppression of a rising in the Kachin Hills in Myitkyina District. The failure of the garrison of Kamaing Post to dislodge the Kachins from a strongly entrenched position was magnified by rumour into a great rebel success and the rising spread throughout the whole of the Kamaing and Mogaung Tracts. Two strong columns of military police were formed with bases at Kamaing and Mogaung to operate against the Kachins. Both columns were strongly opposed in very thick jungle but hustled and fought the enemy so continuously and successfully that opposition soon died away. A mixed column of 10th Gurkha Rifles and military police marched from Kamaing tract into the Hukong valley and burned without opposition a village implicated in the rising. A small similar mixed column cleared the Jade Mines tract of all disorderly elements. A third column accompanied by a Civil Officer, visited the Mông country and inflicted punishment for its share in the rebellion. The number of reinforcements of military police despatched to deal with the rising was 4 British officers and 557 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men. One British officer was wounded and of other ranks nine were killed, three died of wounds and five were wounded. The Indian Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to eight Indian officers and men for good work during the operations. During 1914 only Gurkha and Garhwali volunteers were allowed to proceed on active service from the military police but in 1915, in response to offers of service led by the Bhamo Battalion which volunteered *en masse*, men of other classes were accepted, and one contingent after another, varying from 100 to 300 strong, was prepared and despatched to the front. The total contributions to the overseas expeditionary forces were 21 officers and 1,284 rank and file with 20 signallers and there were nine short of 3,000 volunteers waiting to go at the end of the year. The contingents sent out were composed of 712 Sikhs, 354 Punjabi Mussalmans, 86 Gurkhas (936 went in 1914), 2 Garhwalis (312 went in 1914), 57 Rajputs, 42 Hindustani Mussalmans, 31 Jats, 30 Dogras and 11 Brahmins. The casualties at the war reported up till the end of the year were 102 killed, 21 died of wounds, 22 died of disease, 33 missing and 355 wounded. The restriction of the recruiting area in India caused by the requirements of the regular forces during the war made it difficult to secure the number necessary to fill gaps in the force. In India, 1,766 recruits were enlisted and in Burma 467 men of indigenous races. The mounted infantry were maintained at full strength and 53 volunteers for active service were sent to Indian Cavalry regiments. The number of remounts purchased was 209 and the number of casualties 127, one less than in 1914. The number of desertions increased from 79 to 136, most of them among Kachins, Karens and Gurkhas. The resignations amounted to 67 as against 427 in 1914, the decrease being due to the fact that men are not allowed to take their discharge during the war. The percentage of punishments to strength was 1.85 in the case of Indian officers and 8.81 in the case of rank and file, the corresponding figures for 1914 being 1.93 and 8. Forty-two Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men received rewards, titles and decorations. Difficulties were experienced in replacing worn-out arms and equipment.

Rangoon
Town Police.

42. The special force of plague police consisting of two officers and 19 men was on 1st January 1915 amalgamated with the Rangoon Town Police and four constables to provide reserves were added to it. The number of officers was increased by 2 inspectors, 3 sub-inspectors and 10 European sergeants. The sanctioned strength of the force at the close of the year, including the Port Trust and the Hackney Carriage Police, was 99 officers and 1,246 men: the actual strength was 98 officers and 1,200 men. There was difficulty in obtaining Indian recruits and the class obtained was in many respects undesirable, but Burman recruits of a good stamp were readily obtainable. The shortage of strength has rendered it impossible to carry out the rules with respect to recurrent training and only 29 men went through the course. Time-expired soldiers being unobtainable, the European Sergeants were enlisted from the domiciled European population and are favourably reported on. The total cost of the force increased from Rs. 6,19,184 in 1914 to Rs. 6,70,374 in 1915 owing to the increase in the number of officers, the increase of contingent expenditure and the grant of

conveyance and ration allowances to certain officers and constables. There were 28 dismissals, 14 removals and 3 discharges during the year as compared with 22 dismissals, 21 removals and 1 discharge in 1914. Ten of the dismissals followed on conviction by a magistrate. Six officers and 139 men were punished departmentally as against 9 officers and 162 men in the previous year. Severe measures were adopted in order to restore the discipline of the Cantonment Police Station and were successful. The number of deaths fell from 21 in 1914 to 12, but the health of the force was unsatisfactory, the rate of admission to hospital rising from 18 to 30 per cent. Extra work arising from the war and aggravated by the shortage in strength, and unsatisfactory housing accommodation, were responsible for this increase. Seven officers and 109 men resigned during the year, an increase of 5 officers and a decrease of 23 men on a comparison with the figures of the previous year. Of the 7 officers who resigned, 6 were European sergeants who obtained more remunerative employment elsewhere. Over one hundred constables applied for permission to enlist in the military police drafts which left Burma to reinforce regiments on active service but it was impossible to grant more than ten of the applications. A good number of others however resigned their positions in the police and enlisted in India regiments stationed in Burma. The number of offences under the Indian Penal Code reported during the year was two less than in 1914, the figures being 1,206 and 1,208. There was an increase of 1,804 in the number of the less important offences under special and local laws. The number of true cases of dacoity increased from two to six and in only one of these was a conviction obtained. There were 17 cases of robbery as compared with 13 in 1914. The measure of success attained in dealing with these was satisfactory, the offenders being convicted in 13 cases. At the outbreak of war in 1914 military police patrols were posted throughout the town to the profound discouragement of any spirit of enterprise among the criminal classes. The unavoidable removal of these patrols in 1915 was partly responsible for the recrudescence of crime reported. Other causes assigned are the absence of all lighting in the back drainage spaces in the urban area and the lack of roads and street lighting in the suburbs. The number of cases in the class of serious offences against the person increased from 143 to 156. Of 13 cases of murder 3 ended in conviction, 4 in discharge and 6 were undetected. In this class of cases as a whole convictions were obtained in 51 per cent. of the cases reported as compared with 57 per cent. in 1914. There was an increase of 7 in the class of serious offences against property and person or against property only, the figures being 90 in 1914 and 97 in 1915 and the percentage of cases in which convictions were obtained fell from 59 to 55. Of offences classified as minor offences against property the number reported was 772 as compared with 773 in 1914 and the percentage of true cases which ended in the conviction of the offenders was the same in both years, 74. The total value of property stolen in 1915 was Rs. 1,70,245, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 1,19,326. The value of the property recovered was Rs. 55,038 or 32 per cent. of the value of that stolen, as compared with Rs. 45,491 or 38 per cent. in 1914. Under the Excise Act 763 cases were instituted and 676 cases or 89 per cent. ended in conviction, as against 903 cases of which 843 or 93 per cent. ended in conviction in 1914. Under the Opium Act the numbers of cases and convictions were 668 and 593 or 89 per cent., the figures of the previous year being 455 and 428 or 94 per cent. Fourteen cases, in all of which convictions were obtained, were instituted under the Arms Act as compared with 21 cases and 19 convictions in 1914. The absorption of the police in other duties has interfered with continued rigorous action under this Act. Renewed complaints were received during the year of thefts from rice bags by the crews of cargo boats conveying the rice to steamers loading in the harbour, a class of crime exceedingly difficult to detect. Exceedingly onerous duties arising from the war have fallen to be discharged by the police. Surveillance over all suspicious characters has become more stringent, all steamers arriving in the harbour have been met and their passengers examined, and arrangements have been made for the arrest and internment under the Foreigners Ordinance of all persons who came within the scope of that Enactment. The deportation of certain residents of the town to Kyaukpyu nipped in the bud numerous

CHAP. III.
Protec-
tion.

undesirable intrigues and the unrest caused by them, and was generally approved by public opinion.

Village
Adminis-
tration.

43. During the year 1915 the number of headmen in Burma fell from 17,397 to 17,258. The policy of gradually breaking up charges of circle headmen was maintained with a resulting decrease of 36 in their number; but while the corresponding reduction in the number of subordinate headmen was 350, the increase in the number of independent headmen was 247 only. The difference was due to the amalgamation, as opportunities occurred, of village-tracts too small for independent charges. Many of the village-tracts as originally formed did not provide adequate status or remuneration for their headmen. Over the greater part of Burma the limits of village-tracts are well defined and maps of their charges have been supplied to headmen. In most of the areas in which boundaries had not been precise hitherto, progress was made in definition and demarcation. The work was completed in the plains of the Toungoo District, in the Ruby Mines District and in the Mingin and Kalewa Subdivisions of the Upper Chindwin District; and there was marked progress in the Shwegu Subdivision of the Bhamo District. In Tavoy definition and demarcation await the supply of one inch survey maps. In the Yamèthin District forest reserves and unsurveyed areas, which were not previously subject to the jurisdiction of any headman, were included in village-tracts. The number of headmen exercising special criminal powers increased from 1,507 to 1,580 and the number exercising special civil powers from 1,774 to 1,802. The total value of the fines inflicted by headmen decreased by nearly Rs. 18,000 from Rs. 1,59,330 to Rs. 1,41,578, an amount which is substantial in view of the decrease of Rs. 20,000 which took place the previous year. The main cause of the decrease was the reluctance of headmen to inflict fines on persons who, on account of scarcity of money resulting from the war and, in certain localities, from deficient harvests, were unable to pay them. The decrease was not, however, general; in the Prome District the amount of fines was double the figure of the previous year, and was a maximum for the Province. The orders of headmen were confirmed in 96 per cent. of the cases examined. The total number of headmen's cases revised by district officers fell from 32,042 to 30,887. The revenue work of headmen was, as usual, well done; and their success in collecting revenue promptly was the more notable in view of the abnormal conditions of the year. The collection of capitation-tax gave trouble in the Bassein District and in the riverine areas of the Tharrawaddy District. In Bassein and Pegu Districts a number of headmen were punished for fraud, and in the Shwebo District for dilatoriness and untrustworthiness in revenue matters. A great improvement in the promptitude of collections has in recent years taken place in the Yamèthin District. Certain headmen in the Sagaing District were appointed Fishery Officers under sections 15 to 18 of the Burma Fisheries Act and on the whole discharged their duties satisfactorily. Some general improvement in the excise work of headmen took place, partly as a result of the prompt payment of liberal rewards. In the Thaton, Amherst, Pyapon, Yamèthin and Minbu Districts headmen were instrumental in procuring numerous convictions of offences against the Opium and Excise Acts. In the Tharrawaddy and Yamèthin Districts good work was done under the supervision of headmen on minor irrigation systems. Numerous rewards were earned by headmen during the year for assistance in the detection and arrest of offenders, and are evidence of the excellent relations which exist between them and the Police. Little progress was made in the improvement of village sanitation. An epidemic of cholera in Upper Burma produced a general cleansing in the infected areas, and some progress was made in inducing villagers to pen their herds of cattle outside the village fence. Unsatisfactory sanitary conditions are in many cases due to the restricted area of village sites. The number of headmen rewarded during the year was 1,691, an increase of 109 over the figures for 1914, but the number dismissed increased from 271 to 288, the number suspended from 75 to 81 and the number fined from 358 to 430. Dismissals and removals were most numerous in the Akyab, Bassein and Shwebo Districts. The number of fines imposed collectively on the inhabitants of village-tracts was almost the same as in 1914, but there was a

substantial reduction in the total value of the fines from Rs. 72,771 to Rs. 50,460, which was probably due to the reluctance of district officers to burden the people during a period of financial stringency. Numerous instances of resistance by villagers to robbers and dacoits occurred, conspicuous among them being attacks by villagers on dacoits armed with firearms in the Hanthawaddy and Meiktila Districts. Notable decreases in the application of the Track Law took place in the Tharrawaddy and Yamèthin Districts. In the Sagaing Division a beginning was made with the working out of a scheme for the maintenance and improvement of village roads. Headmen were supplied with maps of their village-tracts accompanied by a schedule of the village-roads which the inhabitants were expected to keep in order and a statement of the work to be done on each. Assistance is given from the District Fund for the construction of bridges and embankments in bad soil. The scheme promises well and action on similar lines was taken in the Yamèthin, Kyaukse and Meiktila Districts.

44. The total number of persons killed by wild animals during the year fell, by 1 from 67 to 66. No district shewed a greater variation than 6 in the direction either of increase or decrease. The mortality from snake bite again rose substantially, the figures for 1914 and 1915 being respectively 1,312 and 1,558. Five districts reported an increase of 36 deaths or more: In some cases no explanation was attempted and such explanations as were forthcoming were not in all cases lucid or convincing. In Tharrawaddy the scale of rewards for the destruction of snakes was declared to be too low; in Magwe on the other hand where, under the stimulation of a reward of eight annas per head, the number of snakes destroyed in recent years has been enormous, the annual mortality from snake bite rose from 104 to 155. A suggestion has been made that the increased activity in the destruction of snakes is responsible for the increase in the number of persons killed by their bite. Sir Lauder Brunton's lancets continued to be distributed in the majority of districts. Many cures, both to human beings and to animals, were reported, but as usual it was impossible to be certain that the snake in question was really venomous. No case in which this was verified beyond a doubt was brought to the notice of Government, but there could be little doubt that some of the cases treated were caused by the bite of a poisonous snake. Belief in the efficacy of these lancets gained ground, though not rapidly or universally, it being reported from one township that headmen had little trust in them and that no case of their successful use had occurred. The number of cattle killed by wild animals was 9,595 or 186 more than in the previous year. The largest individual variation, of which no explanation was given, was in the Pakòkku District, where the number killed was 561 less than in 1914. Other large decreases were reported in Katha and Shwebo but the accuracy of the figures in the former case was dubious. Increases in the number killed took place in the Mandalay District of 377, in the Chin Hills of 244, in the Akyab District of 171 and in the Sagaing District of 106. The number of cattle killed by snake bite was 6,610 as compared with 7,007 in 1914. Increases of 254 were reported from Tharrawaddy and of 168 from Thayetmyo. Thaton, Pegu and Pyapon exhibited the most marked decreases. Among wild animals tigers and panthers were, as usual, the most destructive agents and accounted, roughly, for five and four thousand deaths respectively. Panthers were confined almost entirely to Upper Burma. The number of wild animals destroyed increased by 1,335 to 6,352. A rise of nearly 900 in the Akyab District was accounted for by the fact that wild pig, of which 877 were destroyed, were not included in the returns of the previous year. Better supervision over the payment of rewards accounted for a decrease of 105 in the total reported from the Katha District. The number of snakes destroyed fell from 44,299 to 34,757 but the figures are not trustworthy. In Insein District the number reported killed in 1914 was 29,045, in 1915 it was 1. The payment of rewards stopped with the result that reports of killing snakes ceased to be made. A similar cause induced a reduction in Tharrawaddy from 3,089 to 2. In Magwe as a result of the payment of rewards the number of snakes killed rose from 4,439 to 25,280. The rewards ceased to be paid from November 1915. The

Wild
animals
and snakes.

**Cases Hill-
Forest
1914.** total number of gun licenses in force for the protection of crops and the destruction of wild animals declined from 7,661 to 7,530. The principal decrease was in Bhamo District among licenses held under the Kachin Hill Tracts Regulation.

Criminal Justice.

General.

45. The administration of Criminal Justice is in Lower Burma under the control of the Chief Court, and in Upper Burma of the Judicial Commissioner. The Chief Court consists of five Judges, and the appointment of a temporary Additional Judge was continued during the year 1915. The judiciary in Lower Burma consisted of 75 European Judges and Magistrates, 269 Native Magistrates and 38 Benches of Honorary Magistrates; in Upper Burma of 80 European Judges and Magistrates, 143 Native Magistrates and 13 Benches of Honorary Magistrates. As a temporary measure an Additional District Magistrate was appointed in the Amherst and Tavoy Districts. In order to dispose of an accumulation of arrears an Additional Magistrate exercising special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was appointed for a short time in the districts of Prome and Thaton. The appointments of Special Power Magistrate and third Additional Magistrate at Bassein were made permanent while that of Additional Magistrate at Kyaiklat was abolished. A temporary Additional Magistrate was employed during the year in Myaungmya, and from 25th February in Nyaunglebin Subdivision of Pegu District. There was no alteration of the jurisdiction of Courts of Sessions. An Additional Sessions Judge was employed in the Tharrawaddy Division for nine months, in each of the Tenasserim and Bassein Divisions for one-and-a-half months, and in Ma-ubin for half-a-month. One additional first class Magistrate was appointed in Mandalay Town to relieve the Subdivisional Magistrates. In order to assist the District Magistrates of Mandalay, Pakokku and Shwebo three officers stationed in these districts were invested with special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Notifications were issued appointing the District Magistrates of Katha, Bhamo, Ruby Mines, Myitkyina and Putao, Additional Sessions Judges of the Mandalay Division to try such cases as should be transferred to them by the Sessions Judge. At each of the towns of Salin, Minbu, Taungdwingyi and Yenangyaung a Bench of Honorary Magistrates was constituted.

Cases.

46. In Lower Burma the number of cases reported rose by 3,308 from 82,508 to 85,816, and the number of cases classified as true by 2,918 from 66,107 to 69,025. There were 38,127 cases under the Indian Penal Code reported and 26,260 returned as true as against 36,002 reported and 24,497 returned as true in 1914. Under Special and Local Laws the cases reported numbered 47,689 and the cases returned as true 42,765 as against 46,506 and 41,610 respectively in 1914. All but a small fraction of the increase of 1,763 in the number of offences under the Indian Penal Code was due to offences against property. Cases of ordinary theft and of receiving stolen property increased by 1,175, of cattle theft by 44, of housebreaking and lurking house trespass by 357, of robbery by 19 and of dacoity by 75. The number of true dacoity cases reported reached the high total of 201. Three hundred and sixty-three cases of robbery were reported as against 316 in 1914, but only 238 were classified as true as against 219 in 1914. In most offences relating to the body there were slight increases. There were four fewer murder cases classified as true than in 1914 but there were 11 more attempts at murder and 5 more cases of culpable homicide. Grievous hurt cases increased by 18, simple hurt by 103. There was an increase of 53 in the number of cases relating to false evidence and offences against public justice. The increase of 1,155 in the number of true cases under Special and Local Laws was nearly altogether caused by increased activity in prosecutions under the Rangoon Police and Port Acts. Under the Excise Act there was a decrease of two cases, more than accounted for by a drop from 849 to 700 in the numbers reported from Rangoon Town, and under the Opium Act an increase of 221 cases, of which Rangoon was responsible for 208. True cases under the Forest Act rose by

203 to 768, nearly half of the increase being in Henzada District. Under the Gambling Act there was a fall from 1,898 cases to 1,872. In Upper Burma the number of offences reported was 28,971 an increase by 2,110 over the figures of 1914. The increase of cases was accounted for almost entirely by the increase in the number of cases under Local and Special Laws, to which increase the number of prosecutions for offences against the Municipal Act in Mandalay, 1,102 more than in 1914, materially contributed. An indifferent agricultural season and scarcity of money led to an increase in the number of cases of cattle theft by 61, and of ordinary theft and receiving stolen property by 265. The number of dacoities rose from 24 to 32 and the number of robberies fell from 66 to 58. There was apparently no organised violent crime and the robberies and dacoities reported were not of serious importance. The number of cases of murder increased from 86 to 188, and there was an increase of 5 and 3 respectively in the number of cases of attempted murder and culpable homicide. Cases of simple hurt fell from 2,283 to 2,054. In Lower Burma the percentage of true to reported cases was 80.43 as against 80.12 in 1914, and in Upper Burma 81 as against 85.14. The number of complaints summarily dismissed increased in Lower Burma from 3,571 to 3,593, but in Upper Burma fell from 1,167 to 1,051.

47. In Lower Burma there were 83,240 cases brought to trial during the year as against 80,145 in 1914. Of these 35,794 were under the Indian Penal Code and 47,446 under Special and Local Laws. At the end of the year there were 3,679 persons still awaiting the disposal of their cases under the Indian Penal Code and 3,262 persons under Special and Local Laws as against 3,070 and 1,489 at the end of 1914. The proportion of persons awaiting trial at the end of the year to those brought to trial during the year increased greatly. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 658; in 1914 it was 660. In Rangoon the Honorary Magistrates disposed of 20,251 cases affecting 31,555 persons as compared with 18,830 cases affecting 28,881 persons in 1914. The percentage of cases tried summarily to the total tried fell from 47.49 to 43.07. The number of persons whose cases were disposed of by magistrates increased from 127,609 in 1914 to 132,462 in 1915. The number convicted, committed to sessions or whose cases were remitted to higher authority for sentence was 86,279 or 65.13 per cent. of the total; corresponding figures for 1914 were 79,309 and 62.15 per cent. The year was marked by an increase in the stringency with which the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure were put into operation. The number of persons proceeded against with a view to their being bound over to keep the peace rose from 141 to 163, and the number proceeded against with a view to their being bound down to good behaviour from 1,992 to 2,044. The number of persons actually bound over to keep the peace was 125 as against 104 in 1914, and the number bound down to good behaviour 1,528 as against 1,509. The percentage of successful proceedings was 79.36 as against 76.47. Applications for maintenance under section 488 of the Code of Criminal Procedure rose from 1,523 to 1,768. There were 600 cases committed to sessions during the year as compared with 551 in 1914. The percentage of convictions which in 1914 was 58.47 rose to 58.99 in 1915. In the Bassein Division an increase from 45 to 66.6 per cent. was attributed to the very unusual circumstance that a number of accused pleaded guilty to charges of dacoity. The number of cases referred to Sessions Courts under section 123 of the Code of Criminal Procedure increased from 37 in 1914 to 63. The percentage of cases in which the order of the magistrate was confirmed was 59.7 as compared with 64.6. The number of cases committed to the Chief Court was 45 involving 72 persons as against 47 involving 73 persons in 1914. Forty-seven cases involving 73 persons were disposed of and of these 73 persons 31 were discharged or acquitted and 42 were convicted. The percentage of convictions was 57.53 as compared with 53.66 in 1914. The average duration of cases in all courts rose from 13 to 14 days. The average duration in Courts of Sessions fell from 56.95 to 47.76 days, the most marked improvement taking place in the Bassein Division from 89.91 to 46.66 days. The number of witnesses examined again increased, being 339,110 as compared with 302,994 in 1914.

Criminal
Justice
1915.

Disposal of
cases.

Chap. III.—
Part II—
1915.

In Upper Burma the number of cases disposed of by magistrates increased from 25,472 in 1914 to 27,267 in 1915 of which 9,799 or 1,890 more than in the previous year were tried summarily. District Magistrates disposed of 399 cases or 196 less than in 1914. The percentage of convictions in trials by District Magistrates under their special powers was 62.46 as compared with 66.73 in 1914. The number of persons who were under trial before magistrates was 50,056 or 2,204 more than in 1914, and the percentage of the number convicted to the number tried 61.76 as compared with 61.81 in the preceding year. The number of persons whose cases were compounded was 3,425, a decrease of 162 on a comparison with 1914. Benches of Honorary Magistrates disposed of 6,870 cases involving 7,923 persons as compared with 5,284 cases and 5,858 persons in 1914, an increase partly due to the constitution of four new benches. The number of persons committed for trial to Courts of Sessions was 248, an increase of 54 over the numbers of the previous year. The cases relating to 236 persons were disposed of during the year as compared with 177 persons in 1914. The percentage of convictions in Courts of Sessions was 77.97 or 6.22 higher than in 1914. Prosecutions were instituted under sections 106 and 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against 120 persons and under sections 109 and 110 against 734 persons during the year, the corresponding figures for 1914 being 78 and 790. Security to keep the peace was demanded from 100 persons and to be of good behaviour from 546 persons as compared with 70 and 610 persons respectively. The cases of 10 persons as against 12 in 1914 were referred to Courts of Sessions under section 123 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The orders of Subordinate Magistrates were confirmed in all these cases. The percentage of success in cases to keep the peace was 83.33 and in cases for good behaviour 78.56 as compared with 92.11 and 81.88 in 1914. The number of applications for maintenance under section 488 of the Code of Criminal Procedure rose from 1,547 to 1,633. The average duration of all cases was 11 days the same as in 1914.

Punish-
ments.

48. In Lower Burma the total number of persons punished in Magistrates' Courts was 82,085 or 6,316 more than in 1914. Of the total increase 4,449 took place in Rangoon Town. The number of persons whose death sentences were referred to the Chief Court for confirmation was 111 as compared with 86 in 1914. The death sentence was confirmed in 57 cases as against 63 in the previous year. In 23 cases the sentence was reduced and in 21 reversed, the corresponding figures for 1914 being 8 and 9. One man was sentenced to death by the Chief Court sitting as a Court of Sessions as against 2 in 1914. In Courts of Sessions the number of persons sentenced to transportation rose from 266 to 317 and the number sentenced to rigorous imprisonment fell from 180 to 133. Nearly five-sixths of the increase in the number of punishments was due to the increase in the number of sentences of fine without imprisonment from 56,645 to 61,660. In Rangoon the number of such sentences increased by 4,857. The fines were mostly inflicted as punishment for offences under Special and Local Laws. The number of persons transported rose by 78 to 499, of persons rigorously imprisoned by 408 to 14,333, and of persons simply imprisoned by 258 to 3,523. The number of persons sentenced to solitary confinement combined with rigorous imprisonment fell from 926 in 1914 to 754. The number of sentences of whipping, most of them for offences against property, increased from 1,460 to 1,700. The aggregate amount of fines imposed was Rs. 5.84 lakhs as against Rs. 5.81 lakhs in 1914 and the amount realised Rs. 4.84 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5.21 lakhs in 1914. The amount paid as compensation under section 545 of the Code of Criminal Procedure increased by Rs. 148 to Rs. 32,025. The number of persons who were ordered under section 230 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to pay compensation for bringing frivolous or vexatious complaints which was 84 in 1914 fell to 66 in 1915. There was a satisfactory increase from 813 to 1,148 in the number of persons released on security under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Only 9 boys were sent to the Reformatory School as compared with 23 in 1914. In Upper Burma 28,606 persons were judicially punished during 1915, an increase over the figures of the previous year.

of 1,138. Of the punishments awarded 83.15 per cent. were of fine without imprisonment and 11.64 per cent. of rigorous imprisonment without solitary confinement, or about the same proportion as in 1914. The number of sentences of rigorous imprisonment combined with solitary confinement increased from 149 to 167 and of whipping alone from 488 to 562, while whipping in addition to other punishment was awarded in 31 cases as against 36. There was a decline in the aggregate amounts of fines imposed and realised from Rs. 3.09 lakhs and Rs. 2.71 lakhs to Rs. 2.69 lakhs and Rs. 2.34 lakhs respectively. The amount of compensation awarded under sections 250 and 545 of the Code of Criminal Procedure declined from Rs. 2,268 and Rs. 21,930 to Rs. 1,794 and Rs. 20,995 respectively. The number of persons who were dealt with under the provisions of section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which was 366 in 1914 was 388 in 1915. Four boys were sent to Reformatory Schools as compared with 8 in the previous year.

49. The year was marked by a general increase in the number of appeals preferred by convicted persons in Lower Burma, the total rising from 8,053 to 9,218. The increase amounted to 450 in the Courts of District or Senior Magistrates, to 541 in Sessions Courts and to 174 in the Chief Court. The number of appeals not disposed of at the close of the year was 399; at the end of 1914 it was 494. The Local Government preferred five appeals against acquittals involving eight persons as compared with seven involving 12 persons in 1914. The acquittals of six persons were reversed and of two confirmed. Of all the sentences which came under the review of Appellate Courts during the year the percentage wholly confirmed was 69.37 and the percentage wholly reversed 15.89, the corresponding percentages for 1914 being 68.74 and 16.9. In the Chief Court the percentage of confirmations decreased from 74.78 to 71.27 but the percentage of complete reversals remained much the same, 13.27 as against 13.44. The average duration for all courts was 25 days, an increase of one over the figure for 1914. In Upper Burma there was a slight decrease in the number of appeals preferred from 2,718 to 2,706. While the number declined in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner and in the Courts of District Magistrates from 267 and 1,290 to 252 and 1,125 respectively, it rose in Sessions Courts from 1,161 to 1,329. The appeals of 2,647 persons were disposed of during the year and the number left pending at the end of the year which was 94 in 1914 fell to 59. The percentage of cases in which the order of the lower court was confirmed on appeal was 59.05 as compared with 62.46 in the previous year. The average duration was 19 or two days more than in 1914. In the Courts of District Magistrates there was an increase from 12 to 16 days and in Sessions Courts a decrease from 16 to 12 days.

50. In Lower Burma District Magistrates had before them on revision 5,584 cases affecting 10,604 persons as against 5,307 cases affecting 8,854 persons in 1914. Further enquiry was ordered in regard to 193 persons as against 112 and the cases of 193 persons were reported to the Chief Court as against 111. The number of persons whose cases came before Sessions Judges on revision was 3,838 as against 4,126. They ordered further enquiry with regard to 46 persons as compared with 53 in 1914, and referred to the Chief Court the cases of 196 as compared with 223. The Chief Court had before it on revision the cases of 1,777 persons as compared with 1,901 in 1914. It confirmed the orders of the lower court in the cases of 954 persons as against 1,105, enhanced the sentence in 23 cases as against 30, reduced it in 74 as against 65, and reversed it in 196 as against 282.

Including 108 cases that were pending from the previous year the total number of cases that came before District Magistrates in Upper Burma on revision was 4,375 or 456 more than in 1914. The number called for under the Criminal Justice Regulation increased from 2,032 to 2,600, but the number otherwise called for declined from 1,887 to 1,775. In the former class of cases the percentage of the total in which the orders of subordinate magistrates were confirmed

Cour. III—
Punish-
ment.

was 94'92 and in the latter 95'04. In Sessions Courts the percentage of confirmations was 98'02 as compared with 97'31 in 1914. The number of cases which came before the Judicial Commissioner on revision, including cases pending from 1914, was 1,158 involving 2,051 persons as compared with 1,177 cases and 2,197 persons in 1914. All cases but two were disposed of. In 84'23 per cent. of the number of persons whose cases were disposed of the decisions of the lower courts were not disturbed; the corresponding percentage in 1914 was 89'40. It was necessary to interfere in revision in numerous cases with illegal or unsuitable sentences passed on juvenile offenders.

Prisons.

Accommo-
dation.

51. During the year there was accommodation for 16,113 males in the prisons of the Province, as compared with 15,698 males in the previous year; that for females was reduced from 324 to 320. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes was 17,475 or 1,042 in excess of the total accommodation available. Taking into account the convict population alone (16,250) the capacity (14,809) fell short of requirements by 1,441. As in recent years, there was overcrowding in the convict population of nearly all the jails of the Province, especially in Lower Burma, and, at some four jails, even the accommodation for prisoners under trial was found to be insufficient. The congestion among convicts having assumed somewhat disquieting proportions, certain schemes are under consideration for obtaining relief, e.g. by the release of certain classes of prisoners who, from the state of their health, the period passed in jail, their conduct, etc., may be deemed to be deserving of clemency. It is also being considered if it is not possible to employ bodies of prisoners on public works, such as road-making, etc. The extensions to existing jails, so as to provide additional accommodation for convicts at Henzada and Mandalay, were completed during the latter part of the year, but, as the additional accommodation made available was not finally determined before the close of the year, it was not officially taken into account, though it was utilized to relieve overcrowding both at Henzada and Mandalay. The work of extending the Insein Central Jail, so as to provide additional accommodation for 896 convicts, is in progress. The number of prisoners employed on unremunerative labour was 81 or one in excess of the previous year.

Prisoners.

52. At the commencement of the year the jail population was 17,654. 43,700 were admitted and 43,069 were discharged from all causes, leaving the number in confinement at the close of the year at 18,285, the corresponding figures for the year 1914 being 16,595, 38,948, 37,889 and 17,654. The daily average strength of all classes rose from 16,652 to 17,475, the highest figure yet reached in the annals of the Jail Department of Burma; the increase was general viz., convicts 541, under-trial prisoners 205, and civil prisoners 76. The number of juveniles, under 16 year of age, admitted into jail was 102 (97 boys and 5 girls) compared with 128 (122 boys and 6 girls), in the previous year; and 302 juveniles, against 332 in 1914, were sent to the jail to be whipped. There was a slight decline (27'63 to 27'03) in the percentage of re-convicted prisoners. As in the previous year, Henzada (46'84) heads the list of jails returning a high percentage of re-convictions; Bhamo was lowest with 8'49, while it was nil at Meiktila. Of the 44 juveniles (41 males and 3 females) under fifteen years admitted during 1915, 6 males had been previously convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 57 (53 males and 4 females, with 7 males previously convicted). Twelve of the 41 male juveniles were transferred to the Reformatory School at Insein. As compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 30, 34, and 18, respectively, in sentences of simple imprisonment, rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement and rigorous imprisonment with whipping, while sentences of rigorous imprisonment increased by 1,767. The identification of habitual prisoners was effected, before conviction, in 5,542 cases, and in jails in 46 cases.

53. The total number of recorded offences, including offences dealt with by Criminal Courts, was 31,694, or 5,166 more than in 1914. All classes of offences show an increase except those dealt with by Criminal Courts, which fell from 25 to 18, and those relating to prohibited articles, dealt with by Superintendents of Jails, by the award of major punishments, which declined from 901 to 675. Penal diet was awarded in 2,427 cases against 1,917 in the previous year, 1,810 in 1913 and 3,031 in 1912. Assaults of a serious nature, which ended fatally, numbered only 1, against 4 in the previous year. The number of whippings was 73, compared with 86 in the previous year. The number of escapes was 8—four from inside and 4 from outside the jail—compared with 2 in the previous year. Of the former, 5 were re-captured during the year. Though habitual convicts formed only 42.26 per cent. of the daily average convict population, they received 59.96 per cent. of the total punishments. Convict officers have, on the whole, worked satisfactorily.

CHAP. III.—
PROSECUTION,
Discipline.

54. The total expenditure was Rs. 11,55,248, against Rs. 11,59,475 in the previous year, thus showing a decrease of Rs. 4,227. The gross cost per prisoner was Rs. 66-1-9, against Rs. 69-10-1 in 1914. The net cost per prisoner fell from Rs. 57-8-0 to Rs. 53-1-0. The value of vegetables raised in the jail gardens rose from Rs. 1,03,336 to Rs. 1,04,909, but that of the farm produce fell from Rs. 33,641 to Rs. 20,366. The saving to Government arising from the employment of prison labour on jail works and repairs was Rs. 22,703, as compared with Rs. 30,624 in 1914. The value of convict labour supplied to the Jail Branch Press is estimated at Rs. 55,950, or Rs. 518 less than in the previous year. No credit for this amount is taken in the jail accounts.

Financial.

55. The ratios, per mille, of admissions to hospital (291.33), daily average sick (15.85) and deaths (20.09) are the highest on record since 1911, except for the fact that, in that year, the ratio, per mille, of admissions to hospital was 307.35 and the following year the ratio, per mille, of deaths was 20.69. As in the previous year, the general health of the prisoners may be regarded as fairly satisfactory. Six different jails accounted for 13 cases of cholera, all of which proved fatal. At two jails, Ma-ubin and Taungdwingyi, there were no deaths. Among the central jails, Myingyan again headed the death rate with 27.68 per mille, and among the district jails Katha with 59.52 per mille. Akyab (49.49), Bhamo (42.45), Mogok (34.81), Kyaukpyu (33.47) and Katha (25.77) returned the highest percentage of opium consumers admitted to jail. Of the 351 deaths, 40 were of persons addicted to the drug habit, the drug in most cases being opium or morphine. The abuse of morphine and cocaine was very prevalent among the admissions to the Rangoon Jail; while the same was found at Henzada in a lesser degree.

Vital

56. The Juvenile Jail at Meiktila continued to be worked on the "Borstal system." The number of boys admitted was 102 and the daily average for the year was 110, against 128 and 119, respectively, in 1914. The training in the various trades continued to be carried out on the principles followed since the opening of this jail in 1909. The conduct of the boys was, on the whole, very good; three, who were likely to have had an evil influence on the other boys, were transferred to adult jails, the number so transferred in 1914 being 3. Grants of tools were made to 18 boys on release to enable them to carry on their trades. As regards other boys released, new suits of clothes were given to three and a money grant of 5 rupees to one. These grants are not made indiscriminately, but only to boys of good character who are considered likely to use them to gain an honest livelihood. The enquiries made in connection with the five sets of tools presented in 1914 show that in 3 cases the tools are being used for the purpose intended, in 1 case the ex-prisoner died and the tools are not traceable; while in the remaining case the tools were recalled as it was found that they were not being used. Good work continued to be done in the Vernacular School where the boys were taught up to the VII standard. The greatest number attending school on any one day was 112, compared with

Miscellaneous.

Case III.—
Practi-
tion.

115 in 1914 and 104 in 1913. It is compulsory for every prisoner to attend school. The Director of Public Instruction, Burma, and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Meiktila, visited the juvenile school during the year, and both of them spoke well of the work done. The ethical welfare of the boys is seen to by a Buddhist monk who visited the jail 54 times during the year; it is reported of him that he appears to exercise a great influence, for good, over the inmates of the juvenile jail. Besides preaching, he had personal interviews with refractory prisoners and persuaded them to adopt a better mode of life, with, it is believed, good results. All the central jails and the Toungoo district jail continued the scheme of manual training for youthful prisoners. The Akyab district jail introduced the scheme during the year. As mentioned in previous reports, the idea of the scheme is to instruct young convicts in handicrafts that will be helpful to them in earning their livelihood on release from jail. To assist them further in the matter, trained prisoners, who are found deserving of encouragement and are likely to follow the trades they are taught in jail, are presented with a set of tools, on release. The annual examination of the juvenile school in the Rangoon Jail was held on the 15th January 1916 by the Deputy Inspector of Schools who remarked that "on the whole, the work done is creditable, and the teacher seems intelligent and hardworking." As far as practicable with the structural arrangements obtaining in the several jails of this Province, habitual prisoners were kept separate from casual prisoners. Five thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight convicts were released under the remission rules, compared with 5,622 in the previous year. Of those coming under the remission system, none failed to gain remission, against one in 1914. The number of convicts awarded special remission for being free of punishment for a period of 12 months was 2,654, compared with 2,781 in 1914.

Civil Justice.

Courts.

57. The administration of Civil Justice is in Lower Burma under the control of the Chief Court, composed of five Judges, and in Upper Burma under the control of the Judicial Commissioner. Throughout the year 1915 as in previous years a sixth Additional Judge was appointed to the Chief Court as a temporary measure and an Additional Judge sat in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner. The judiciary in Lower Burma consisted of 36 Europeans and 146 Native Judges, and in Upper Burma of 55 European and 137 Native Judges. There were no changes in the constitution or jurisdiction of civil courts during the year. The total receipts of the courts were Rs. 26.56 lakhs as compared with Rs. 25.41 lakhs in 1914 an increase of Rs. 1.55 lakh.

Suits.

58. The number of suits instituted during the year in Lower Burma was 51,208 as compared with 44,154 in 1914. This increase of 7,054 brings the number of institutions back to a level slightly higher than the average of the years 1909-12. In the Chief Court of Lower Burma 342 suits were instituted as against 399 in 1914, and in the Court of Small Causes of Rangoon, which in 1914 reported an abnormal increase in the number of suits instituted, there was a fall from 9,566 to 9,348. The general increase was due chiefly to an increase in the number of suits for money or moveable property, and was divided fairly equally among all districts except Kyaukpyu. The increase in such suits was, in Township Courts from 23,763 to 29,653, in Subdivisional Courts from 880 to 1,382 and in District Courts from 420 to 585. In Courts outside Rangoon the number of suits for immoveable property fell from 1,497 to 1,097 and in the Chief Court of Lower Burma from 85 to 51. Mortgage suits increased in Township Courts from 915 to 1,323, in Subdivisional Courts from 316 to 367 and in District Courts from 129 to 182, the Akyab, Prome, Myaungmya, and Toungoo Districts being chiefly responsible for the increase. The aggregate value of suits instituted was Rs. 1,90.63 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 14.39 lakhs over 1914 and the highest figure recorded since 1909. In the Chief Court there was an increase of Rs. 9 lakhs which, however was due to the institution of one suit valued at Rs. 25 lakhs, in the Court of Small Causes of Rangoon an increase of Rs. 1.25 lakh, in

Subdivisional Courts an increase of Rs. 2 lakhs and in Township Courts an increase of Rs. 10.50 lakhs; the value of suits filed in District Courts decreased by nearly Rs. 9 lakhs for which the District Court of Amherst was responsible. In all courts except Subdivisional Courts there was a considerable decrease in the number of suits filed, the value of which could not be estimated in money. The number of suits disposed of was 51,338 as against 45,311 in 1914. Despite this increase the number of contested cases fell from 12,033, or 26.5 per cent., to 11,945, or 23.2 per cent. There was a small actual increase in the number of contested cases in which judgment was given for the plaintiff, but a fall from 4,001 to 3,557 in the number of contested cases in which the defendant was successful, the plaintiffs' percentage of success being 70.2 as against 67 in each of the two preceding years. The number of suits decreed on confession rose from 8,850 or 19.5 per cent. to 12,858 or 25.04 per cent. and the number decreed *ex-parte* from 11,718, or 25.8 per cent., to 13,367, or 26.03 per cent. There was an increase in the number of cases which were left pending at the close of the year from 5,156 to 5,643. Of these 5,643 as many as 2,339 had been pending for more than three months. The average duration of contested cases fell from 88 days to 77, and of uncontested from 48 to 45, as the result of the decrease in the percentage of contested cases. In District Courts the duration of contested cases increased from 222 to 241 days and that of uncontested cases remained unchanged at 123 days. In contested cases the average durations decreased in Subdivisional Courts from 173 to 154, in Township Courts from 67 to 63, and in the Court of Small Causes of Rangoon from 98 to 84. In Upper Burma the number of suits brought before the courts, which was 19,588 in 1914, increased to 21,188 in 1915, the same number as in 1911. As in Lower Burma the increase was chiefly in suits for money or moveable property from 17,315 to 19,410, while suits for immoveable property and mortgage suits showed a considerable decrease. The principal increases were recorded in the Magwe, Yamèthin, Pakòkku, Myingyan, Lower Chindwin, and Mandalay Districts and were offset by substantial decreases in Bhamo and Myitkyina. The number of suits relating to immoveable property was 567 as compared with 744 in 1914. The only mortgage suits which came before the courts related to usufructuary mortgages of land and their number fell from 734 to 479. The number of matrimonial suits fell from 487 to 451 and those not falling under any specified class from 234 to 181. The aggregate value of suits filed was Rs. 35.26 lakhs as compared with Rs. 29.24 lakhs in 1914. Towards this increase the district of Magwe, where the title to oilwell sites of high value is a frequent subject of litigation, contributed Rs. 3.32 lakhs, and Mandalay, where a number of inheritance suits of high value were filed in the district court, Rs. 1.78 lakh. The number of cases before the courts for disposal was 23,231 as compared with 21,631 cases in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of was 20,911 and the number pending at the close of the year 2,320 as compared with 1,963 in 1914. The number of cases decreed on confession increased from 4,896 to 6,278 and the number decreed *ex-parte* from 2,614 to 2,937 and as a result the percentage of the total number of cases which were contested fell from 26.47 to 23.28. The average duration of contested and uncontested cases were 77 and 40 days, the corresponding figures in 1914 being 73 and 44 days.

In Lower Burma the number of miscellaneous cases for disposal rose from 5,508 to 6,778 and the number pending at the close of the year was 825 as against 710. In Upper Burma 2,075 cases were before the courts for disposal of which 1,732 were decided as compared with 1,396 cases in 1914; the number of cases pending at the close of the year was 343 as compared with 312. The number of applications for execution of decrees before the courts in Lower Burma increased from 33,182 in 1914 to 38,176 in 1915, but the number pending at the close of the year only increased by 252 from 5,272 to 5,524. The total amount realised in execution was Rs. 20.81 lakhs, about Rs. 8 lakhs less than in 1914, a decrease more than accounted for by a fall in the amount realised in the Chief Court of Lower Burma of Rs. 9.25 lakhs to Rs. 6.53 lakhs. In Upper Burma the number of execution applications before the courts was 12,381 as against 11,469 in 1914. The amount realised increased from Rs. 6.03 lakhs to Rs. 6.12

CHAP. III.—
PROTEC-
TION.

lakhs. The number of judgment-debtors arrested increased from 1,609 to 1,824 in Lower Burma and decreased from 1,274 to 1,209 in Upper Burma; in Lower Burma the number sentenced to imprisonment increased from 526 to 659 and in Upper Burma from 108 to 114. In Lower Burma there was a noticeable increase in the number of cases in which property both moveable and immoveable was sold in execution of decrees; the sales of moveable property rose from 675 to 1,080 and of immoveable from 966 to 1,468. Another notable increase took place in the number of applications under the Provincial Insolvency Act, the number of cases for disposal in Lower Burma being 663 as compared with 390 in the previous year, and in Upper Burma 299 as compared with 260. In Lower Burma 186 applications were dismissed and in Upper Burma 75. In Lower Burma the number of receivers appointed and the amount realised from the estates of insolvents both increased, but there was nevertheless a consensus of opinion that the Act requires drastic amendment before it can be considered suitable to the circumstances of the Province.

Appeals.

59. The number of appeals before the courts in Lower Burma during the year was 3,707 as compared with 4,294 in 1914. The number of appeals for disposal by District Courts against decrees of Township Courts, which was 1,829 in 1914, fell to 1,617 in 1915. Eighty appeals were dismissed summarily without the issue of notice to the respondent. The average duration of appeals in District Courts fell from 63 to 54 days. The percentage of cases in which the decree of the Township Court was confirmed was 62·6 as against 61·4, in which the decree was modified 8·1 as against 6·6, in which the decree was reversed 26·2 as against 29·9, and in which the case was remanded 3·2 as against 2·1. In Divisional Courts the number of appeals preferred during the year was 436; in 1914 there were 557. In these courts the average duration of appeals fell from 117 to 114 days. The percentage of confirmations was 63·3 as against 60·2, of modifications 11 as against 12·1, of reversals 22·7 as against 23·6 and of remands 3 as against 4·1. The number of miscellaneous appeals before all courts was 309 the same as in 1914. At the end of the year the number pending was 56 as compared with 61 at the end of the previous year. The percentage of cases in which the order of the lower court was confirmed was 67·59, nearly the same as in 1914.

In Upper Burma the aggregate number of appeals before the courts was 3,089 as compared with 3,549 in 1914. In District Courts the number of appeals fell from 2,060 to 1,773 of which 317 remained undisposed of at the close of the year. In Divisional Courts there were 24 appeals for disposal as against 25 in the previous year and 21 were disposed of. In District Courts the average duration of appeals was 70 days, the same as in 1914, in Divisional Courts the average duration increased from 80 to 85 days.

The Chief
Court of
Lower
Burma.

60. The number of suits instituted in the Chief Court during the year was 342 or 57 less than in 1914. Suits for moveable property fell from 173 to 165 and for immoveable from 85 to 51. Mortgage suits rose by 8 to 53. The aggregate value was Rs. 66·87 lakhs as compared with Rs. 57·83 lakhs in 1914. But for one suit, estimated at Rs. 25 lakhs, there would have been a decrease in aggregate value of Rs. 16 lakhs. The number of suits disposed of was 383 as against 486 in 1914 and the number pending at the close of the year was 260 as against 301. Of the suits disposed of, 184 or 48·04 per cent. were contested, as against 45·27 per cent. in 1914. The average duration of contested and uncontested cases was 343 and 216 days respectively, the corresponding figures for 1914 being 361 and 230 days. Plaintiffs were successful in 75·5 per cent. of the contested cases decided in 1915, but in only 68·18 per cent. of those decided in 1914. The number of sales of immoveable property in execution of decrees was 37 as against 33 in 1914, but the total amount realized fell from Rs. 15·73 lakhs to Rs. 6·53 lakhs. In 1914 an exceptionally large amount of over seven lakhs of rupees was realized in one execution proceeding. Under the Insolvency Act 243 cases were disposed of and 110 remained pending at the close of the year, the corresponding figures for 1914 being 165 and 103. Discharges were granted to 145 debtors and in 83 cases applications for discharge were dismissed or

adjudication orders annulled. The number of regular appeals instituted in the Chief Court, which in 1914 was 495, fell in 1915 to 399, of which 110 were against original decrees and 289 against appellate decrees. This decrease was the natural result of the decrease in the number of suits instituted on the original side of the Chief Court and in the number of appeals preferred to District and Divisional Courts. The number of appeals disposed of rose from 479 in 1914 to 619 in 1915 and the number of appeals pending from original and appellate decrees fell from 176 and 366 to 110 and 212 respectively. The average duration of first appeals fell from 563 to 390 days and that of second appeals rose from 302 to 347 days. The decrees of lower courts and of the original side of the Chief Court, taken together, were confirmed in 64.13 per cent., revised in 25.52 per cent., modified in 5.97 per cent., and remanded in 4.36 per cent., of the total number of appeals disposed of; in 1914 the percentage of confirmations was 70.77. The number of cases before the Chief Court in revision was 291 of which 229 were disposed of and 62 pending at the close of the year; in 1914 of 329 revision cases before the Court 239 were disposed of and 90 left pending. Six appeals to the Privy Council were pending at the close of 1914; in 1915 eight applications were made for permission to appeal of which four were granted. One case was decided during the year 1915.

Case III—
Provision

61. The Judicial Commissioner had before him an aggregate of 845 appeals 433 of which were unfinished cases of the previous year. Five hundred of these were disposed of and a pending list of 345 appeals left at the close of the year. The previous year's figures were 999, 566 and 433, respectively. The share of the Additional Judge in the volume of disposals was 48 per cent. or 240 cases. The percentage of confirmation was 63.80 or 2.85 larger than in the preceding year and the average duration 328 days or 15 days higher than in 1914. Including 175 cases left undecided at the close of the previous year 447 cases came before the Judicial Commissioner on revision as compared with 465 in 1914. Of this number 280 cases or 10 fewer than in the previous year were disposed of and 167 left pending at the close of the year. The percentage of confirmations was 70.71 as compared with 77.59 in 1914. The average duration was 251 days or 21 fewer than in the previous year. About 41 per cent. or 115 cases were disposed of by the Additional Judge. The number of miscellaneous appeals and applications was 260 of which 47 had been pending from 1914, as compared with 230 and 35 cases respectively in the previous year. The number of cases disposed of was 213 as compared with 183 in 1914, and the number left pending 47.

The Court of
the Judicial
Commissioner,
Upper
Burma.

62. Fourteen persons were admitted as Advocates of the Chief Court, Lower Burma, during the year, two as first grade pleaders, seven as second grade pleaders and eleven as third grade pleaders. Nineteen first grade, 112 second grade and 45 third grade pleaders renewed their certificates during the year. The revision of the rules for the admission of Advocates was under consideration during the year. The rules for the admission of pleaders were amended so as to give the Honourable Judges more discretion with regard to the admission of candidates who passed a pleadership examination at a time when the educational qualifications required of candidates for admission were not so high as at the time of their application for admission. The number of Advocates' cases dealt with by the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma was 113 as compared with 132 in 1914. There was an increase of one case in the number for promotion and admission and of five miscellaneous cases, but a decrease of nine cases for renewal of licenses, ten for substitution and addition of districts in licenses, two of reports of deaths, and four of complaints of misconduct. Court-house accommodation in Lower Burma was again reported to be defective.

General.

Registration.

63. Revised instructions were issued regarding the preparation and submission of the triennial report and of the intermediate annual notes on the administration

General.

Case III—
Part II
7105.

of the Registration Department, and minor changes were made in the forms of the statements consequent upon the extension of the Indian Registration Act, 1908, to Upper Burma. The Indian Registration Act, 1908, and the Registration of Deeds Rules, 1913, were extended to 20 villages in the Myitkyina District with effect from the 1st January 1916. Registration of Deeds Rules 43, 49 and 50 were amended in order to conform with the provisions of section 52 (1) (a) of the Act. The provisions of the last paragraph of section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, were extended to the town of Mandalay. Minor amendments were made in Directions 34 and 57. Owing to the formation of the Sinbaungwe Township in place of the Thanbula Township in the Thayetmyo District a registration office was opened at Sinbaungwe, the office at Thanbula being abolished.

Deeds
registered.

64. The number of compulsorily registrable documents affecting immovable property registered during the year was 72,233 as compared with 65,631 in the previous year, but the total value fell from Rs. 834.48 lakhs to Rs. 812.84 lakhs. There was a slight increase in value in Lower Burma which was more than counter-balanced by decreases of 26 and 11 lakhs respectively in the Minbu and Magwe Districts of Upper Burma. Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards fell from 28,552 to 25,521 or by 10.6 per cent. and their value from Rs. 366.17 lakhs to Rs. 341.35 lakhs or by 6.8 per cent. There were marked fluctuations in many districts of Lower Burma, increases being recorded in Rangoon Town, Mergui, Hanthawaddy, and Myaungmya and decreases in Thaton, Akyab, Pyapon, Prome and Henzada. A decrease of Rs. 18.75 lakhs in value of the instruments registered in Minbu is due to the fact that a single document of abnormally large value was registered in 1914. Instruments of mortgage increased from 33,226 in 1914 to 43,409 or by 30.4 per cent. while the aggregate value decreased by Rs. 53 lakhs from Rs. 410.47 lakhs to Rs. 357.42 lakhs. The decrease in the value is largely due to the fact that a mortgage of Rs. 47½ lakhs was registered in 1914. A large increase in the number of transactions accompanied by a considerable decrease in the average value took place in most districts. Explanations given were, the low harvest price of unhusked rice, the fall in the value of land, and the desire of money-lenders to secure loans by mortgages of land. In Bassein, Myaungmya and Pyapon a decrease in the number of mortgage transactions was caused by the refusal of chetty money-lenders to advance money on any security whatever. Generally speaking the same conditions prevailed in Upper Burma as in Lower Burma. The total number of registrations in Book IV increased from 6,171 in 1914 to 8,160 or by 32.2 per cent. and the aggregate value from Rs. 47.71 lakhs to Rs. 65.11 lakhs or by 36.5 per cent. Under the head "Instruments of sale, etc. of movable property" there were increases of 1,175 (72.5 per cent.) in number, and Rs. 10.37 lakhs (75 per cent.) in value, and under the head "Obligations for the payment of money" similar increases of 261 (12.2 per cent.) in number and Rs. 8.1 lakhs (63.8 per cent.) in aggregate value. The increases are attributed mainly to the depressed harvest market for unhusked rice combined with the high price of rice in the rains which led to forced sales by the poorer classes.

Income and
expenditure.

65. Income derived from registration rose by Rs. 10,742 to Rs. 2,44,707 in correspondence with the net increase in the number of registered documents. Expenditure increased by Rs. 1,834 to Rs. 1,15,086 and amounted to 47 per cent. of the income from registration as compared with 48.4 per cent. in 1914.

Joint Stock Companies.

66. The number of joint stock companies limited by capital divided into shares at work in the Province declined from 114 at the beginning of the year to 106 at its close. The total authorised capital fell from Rs. 9,49.52 to Rs. 9,17.47 lakhs, subscribed capital from Rs. 6,24.24 lakhs to Rs. 5,72.21 lakhs, and paid-up capital from Rs. 5,77.61 lakhs to Rs. 5,38.08 lakhs. Six new joint stock companies, limited by shares, were registered during the year with a total authorized capital of Rs. 79 lakhs, Rs. 75 lakhs of which were however

represented by a single issue, Messrs. Macgregor & Co., Ltd. Eighteen companies increased their capital during the year; of these, two companies increased their authorized, subscribed, and paid-up capital, one company increased its subscribed capital, eight companies increased their paid-up capital, and seven companies increased both their subscribed and paid-up capital. The total increase of paid-up capital was Rs. 11.92 lakhs only. Seven companies reduced their capital during the year; of these, four companies reduced their subscribed capital, two companies reduced their paid-up capital and one company reduced both its subscribed and paid-up capital. The total reduction of paid-up capital was Rs. 2.25 lakhs. Fourteen companies having an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 1,11.85 lakhs, subscribed capital of Rs. 50.33 lakhs, and paid-up capital of Rs. 49.19 lakhs wound up their business during the year. One company, the Burma Investments, Limited, accounted for more than Rs. 41 lakhs of the last figure. One Association, limited by guarantee, was registered during the year, raising the total number to 11. Thirteen companies, established outside British India, filed their papers under section 277 of the Act during the year, bringing the total number of companies registered to 129. The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 3,773 as against Rs. 5,848 in the previous year. The cost of the separate establishment amounted to Rs. 864.

Local Boards Administration.

67. There are no Local Boards in Burma. The District Funds in Upper Burma and the District Cess Funds in Lower Burma are administered by the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts to which they belong. Some account of their receipts and expenditure is given in Chapter V of this Report.

Municipal Administration.

68. The ordinary income of the Rangoon Municipality for the year was Rs. 44.19 lakhs as compared with Rs. 43.52 lakhs in the previous year. The incidence of taxation was Rs. 11-11-9 per head of population as compared with Rs. 11-7-11 in 1914-15 and the incidence of income Rs. 15-8-2 as against Rs. 15-4-5. No change was made in the number or rates of municipal taxes. The regular revision of assessments on buildings and lands was suspended in consequence of the continuance of the war. Revisions were made of the valuation of four mills or factories and of 293 other buildings whose owners filed objections to the existing valuation. The number of new buildings assessed to municipal taxation, including two rice mills in Dalla, was 1,577, situated chiefly in the West Theinbyu and Tamwe Circles where many houses were pulled down or burnt in the previous year and re-building was active. The Burma Railway Company, Limited, appealed to the Commissioner of the Pegu Division against the valuation of their property and the rates at which it was assessed to municipal taxation but, with the exception that scavenging-tax and water-tax were directed to be assessed at half rates only on uncovered land and land covered by rails only, the orders of the Municipal President were confirmed. The quarterly collection of the tax on private vehicles having proved expensive and inconvenient, proposals for its collection once a year only were submitted to the Local Government for sanction. The financial position of the municipality is dealt with in Chapter V of this Report.

The total value of property destroyed by fire during the year was estimated at about Rs. 1½ lakhs, the lowest figure for ten years, and it is assumed that the increased efficiency of the fire brigade must have materially contributed to this gratifying result. Two new motor Hatfield pumps were added to the equipment. All the brigade appliances are now motor driven. Three new experimental "half watt" electric lamps of 500 candle power each were erected and 4 arc lamps were replaced by similar lights. In East Rangoon 73 lamps were converted from high to low tension. The number of oil street lamps was increased by 22 to 779. It was found impossible owing to lack of funds to carry out all contemplated improvements to the water-supply of the town, but a new 42-inch steel main was

laid from Yegu pumping station to the service reservoir on Pagoda Hill. A scheme for the supply of water to Kemmendine from tube wells was considered to be too expensive and its revision was ordered. A number of new works in connection with the town water and sewerage system were completed, including the laying of a new water main and a new sealed sewage main in Strand Road, the extension of the water and sewage system to the area north of the maidan and the alteration and removal of private manholes in back drainage spaces. In East Rangoon an old and insanitary municipal market was closed and replaced by a new and well equipped building on a fresh site. An agreement was arrived at between the municipal committee and the Port Commissioners of Rangoon for the transfer to the latter of the Strand Market and the foreshore thereto adjoining, but action to carry it out was postponed indefinitely. It was found impossible owing to the scarcity of tonnage to obtain the materials necessary to carry out the programme of road improvement by means of asphalt paving and the laying of granite setts which had been arranged. Only two short lengths of roadway were laid with asphalt but a considerable number of roads were re-metalled and experiments were made with various materials for obtaining a durable hard surface. The expenditure on roads amounted to Rs. 9·23 lakhs. In connection with the preparation of a new Municipal Act an officer was deputed to Bombay to study the working of the system of municipal administration in that city and his report was published after the close of the year. By-laws for the regulation of the sanitary condition of dairies and places where milch cattle are kept and for the regulation of the sale of milk were under consideration by the committee and the Sanitary Commissioner, and were submitted for sanction to the Local Government. A re-constitution of the standing sub-committees and a re-distribution of the subjects dealt with among them was effected, and amendments were made in various other by-laws. A general election of members of the committee was held in November 1915 and aroused considerable interest. The number of births registered during the year was 5,791 as compared with 5,693 in the previous year, but the birth rate per thousand of the estimated population remained practically unaltered at 18·63. The rate varied from 32·76 in the Lanmadaw Circle to 9·9 in the Cantonment. The number of deaths, which in 1914 was 9,770, fell to 8,515, and the death rate on the estimated population fell from 31·86 to 27·40, a lower figure than any recorded in the previous five years. The number of infants dying before completing one year of life was 1,597. The resulting rate of infantile mortality, 275·77, though an improvement on 294·22 the figure for 1914, was still in excess of the rate for 1913 which was 269·06. There were 590 cases of plague with 571 deaths as compared with 1,669 cases and 1,586 deaths in 1914. Deaths from cholera numbered 99 as against 37 in 1914. Small-pox was much more prevalent than in the previous year, the number of cases and deaths increasing from 75 and 13 respectively to 318 and 94. The plague staff killed 429,465 rats during the year. Owing to the prevalence of small-pox the number of vaccinations increased very largely and, the supply prepared in the Municipal Depot proving insufficient, it was found necessary to purchase lymph from the Government Depot at Meiktila.

69. The number of minor municipalities was 44, as in the previous year. There was no alteration in any of their boundaries. The amount raised by taxation increased from Rs. 17·62 lakhs to Rs. 17·88 lakhs and the average incidence of taxation from Rs. 2-8-10 to Rs. 2-9-5. The incidence of income fell from Rs. 7-1-2 to Rs. 6-10-9. The following fresh taxes were imposed, latrine and scavenging taxes at Kyaiklat, a tax on motor-vehicles at Tavoy, a tax on vehicles at Minbu and Mandalay, a lighting tax at Salin, and a water tax at Mònywa. The financial position of the municipalities is dealt with in Chapter V of this Report. The general health of the inhabitants during the year was far from satisfactory. Twenty-seven municipalities reported an increase and fourteen a decrease in mortality, the increase in most cases being the result of plague or cholera epidemics. Mandalay suffered most severely from plague but there were also serious outbreaks at Prome, Bassein, Henzada and Myingyan, while in some of the smaller towns, such as Thônzè, Ngathaingyaung, Pyapòn and

Shwegyin, the plague mortality was above the normal. Inoculation as a prophylactic against plague continued to increase in popularity; in Sagaing the proportion of the population which adopted this measure of protection reached 85.37 per cent. and in Bassein, Henzada, Mandalay and Mõnywa, the numbers were also large. Though the largest number of deaths from cholera took place in Prome, Pakõkku, Mandalay and Mõnywa, the disease appeared in 31 out of the 44 municipalities in the Province. Sporadic cases of small-pox occurred in many municipalities but there were no serious outbreaks. The two recurring grants of Rs. 6 lakhs for urban sanitary improvements, together with refunds of unutilized grants of previous years amounting to Rs. 1.35 lakh, were fully allotted to municipalities and notified areas. The schemes for the execution of which these grants were made are dealt with in Chapter VI of this Report. There was an increase from Rs. 2.50 lakhs to Rs. 2.70 lakhs in expenditure on public safety. A disastrous fire took place at Pakõkku where buildings of an estimated value of Rs. 8 lakhs and property of an estimated value of Rs. 62 lakhs were destroyed. A smaller fire in Akyab destroyed 46 houses estimated to be worth Rs. 57,000. The aggregate expenditure on water-supply by the municipalities was Rs. 4.31 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4.14 lakhs in the previous year. The construction of a reservoir for the supply of water to Pegu was approaching completion. A scheme for a water-supply to Ma-ubin, towards the cost of which the Local Government contributed Rs. 1.03 lakh, was expected to be in operation the following year. Work on a similar scheme for Kyaiklat was completed. Experimental tube wells sunk at Pakõkku, Myingyan and Gyobingauk proved failures; of two at Shwebo one was a failure and the other partially successful. Total expenditure on drainage rose from Rs. 1.06 lakh in the previous year to Rs. 1.30 lakh. Work was continued on the extension of the drainage system of Prome. At Toungoo a grant of Rs. 59,142 from the Local Government was expended on the construction of masonry drains. Considerable progress was made in carrying out the scheme for the surface drainage of Akyab. In Syriam the preparation of the surface by levelling and reclamation for the construction of streets and drains was continued. Reclamation of low-lying lands by means of sand and silt dredged from a tidal creek was carried out in Pyapõn and schemes for reclamation by similar methods in several other towns were under consideration. The Municipal Committee of Mandalay spent Rs. 25,002 on the construction of masonry drains. Expenditure on conservancy was Rs. 8.16 lakhs as against Rs. 8.14 lakhs in 1914-15. The largest increase in expenditure was in Bassein and was due to additions to the conservancy staff and the construction of new buildings. In Akyab measures were taken to enforce the reconstruction of insanitary latrines in the area of the town exclusively occupied by masonry buildings. Experiments were made in various towns with latrines made on the aerobic filter system with varying results. The employment of sanitary inspectors by Municipal Committees became nearly general. Expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries amounted to Rs. 6.08 lakhs as compared with Rs. 8.31 lakhs in the previous year. The decrease was caused by the stoppage of all expensive building or other original works. New hospitals were completed at Yandoon and Yamethin and good progress was made with the new building at Tourgoo. On markets and slaughter-houses the amount expended was Rs. 4.98 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4.36 lakhs in 1914-15. New slaughter-houses, markets and store-rooms were constructed at Akyab, Sandoway, Paungdõ and Mandalay and land was purchased for the extension of the bazaar at Wakema. The work of construction of new, or repair of existing, buildings of this character was curtailed on account of the high price of, and the difficulty in obtaining, the necessary materials. Expenditure under the head of public works increased from Rs. 7.55 lakhs to Rs. 8.92 lakhs. The chief features were larger expenditure on roads in some of the municipalities in the Arakan, Tenasserim, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and in Myingyan, and on buildings in the Arakan and Irrawaddy Divisions. Expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 1.94 lakh to Rs. 2.14 lakhs. The accounts of all the municipalities save six were audited. Embezzlements were discovered in Bassein, Mandalay, Thayetmyo and Shwegyin and were in all cases rendered possible by non-observance of rules for the collection of taxes and other municipal dues, or

In the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles the formation of two new sections, one attached to "A" Company with headquarters at Toungoo and one attached to "N" Company with headquarters at Kanaungto, was sanctioned during the year.

Marine.

73. On the improvements to the landings, etc., at the Alguada Reef Light-house there was an expenditure of Rs. 54,143. It is anticipated that the whole work will be finally completed by the close of next season. A second revised estimate of Rs. 2.47 lakhs is under consideration. The erection of new fittings for the China Bakir Light-house could not be undertaken for want of an adequate service of steam-tenders and lighters. The improvements to the Reef Island Light-house were completed. A Kirkaldy distilling plant for the supply of fresh water for work at light-houses was obtained at a cost of Rs. 6,090. The plant was erected at Alguada Reef and worked satisfactorily for nearly two months. On conclusion of the season's work it was dismantled and stored for future use. The only change made in the equipment of the light-houses was the installation of a 55 millimetre single mantle incandescent lamp at Reef Island, where the original fixed white light, burning kerosene oil, was replaced by an occulting white light, burning paraffin oil. The light-ships "Danidaw" stationed at the Baragua Flats, the "Kalagauk" stationed at the Krishna Shoal, and the "Kemmendine" stationed at the Spit, were brought in turn to Rangoon for annual overhaul being replaced during absence by the relief vessel the "Martaban." The unattended Wigham's patent light on the west end of Zallataung Island ceased to be exhibited from June 1915. The R.I.M.S. "Mayo" was the station vessel during the year and carried out all reliefs in connection with light-houses and light-ships, also conveying provisions and stores and men and materials for the Public Works Department. The "Mayo" was frequently absent from the station performing services required by the Government of India in the Military Department. There were no deaths at any of the light stations and the health of the light-keepers, both European and Indian, and of the crews of the light-ships, was good. The total expenditure on light-houses and light-ships increased from Rs. 2.01 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 2.66 lakhs. With effect from 1st May 1916 the rate at which coast-light dues are leviable under the Burma Coast-lights Act was raised from one anna and one pie to one anna and three pies per ton of burden. The receipts in 1915-16 from coast-light dues were Rs. 3.36 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3.68 lakhs in the previous year.

74. The curtailment of expenditure and the excess of receipts over anticipations resulted in the realisation of a surplus at the end of the year of Rs. 5.53 lakhs in the revenue accounts of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon in place of the deficit anticipated in the Budget. The receipts Rs. 45.38 lakhs were only six hundred rupees less than those of 1914-15. The expenditure, excluding contributions to reserve funds, was Rs. 39.85 lakhs as compared with Rs. 41.30 lakhs in 1914-15. At the close of the year the capital debt of the Port was Rs. 2,98.62 lakhs against which securities which cost Rs. 44.43 lakhs were held in the sinking fund. Expenditure on capital account fell to half a lakh of rupees and an attempt to raise a loan of seven lakhs to repay advances made from revenue account was unsuccessful. On the 31st March 1916 nearly thirty lakhs of rupees stood at the credit of the three reserve funds, the revenue reserve fund, the fire and marine insurance fund and the depreciation and replacement fund. The customs returns shew that 83.61 per cent. of the foreign and coasting trade of the Province passed through Rangoon. Of the imports 55.2 per cent. were landed on the Commissioners' premises and 44.8 per cent. were landed on private premises or discharged into inland vessels to be river-borne. Of the exports only 15.7 per cent. were shipped from the Commissioners' premises. The inland river-borne trade over the Commissioners' properties increased from 663,097 tons in 1914-15 to 717,655 tons. The revenue of the traffic department fell by Rs. 1,387 to Rs. 22.78 lakhs and the expenditure from Rs. 9.53 lakhs to

Rs. 8.75 lakhs. The total expenditure of the engineering department was Rs. 5.23 lakhs, no new work of any magnitude was undertaken, the usual maintenance and repair works and minor works were carried out efficiently and economically. The prices for work done were slightly higher all round than those of the previous year and the cost of stores and materials of European manufacture was constantly rising. The average sinkage along the top of the river training wall since its completion has been 5 inches only, the maximum being $8\frac{1}{2}$ and the minimum $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Periodical soundings proved that the apron was still performing its allotted functions by settling as scour proceeded. A careful watch for signs of abnormal scour was maintained and a large stock of stone kept in reserve for use in any emergency. The total accumulation of silt and sand in the embayment behind the wall was estimated at twenty-two million tons. Towards the end of the year it became necessary to dredge the approaches to the Kanaungto creek which shewed signs of silting up. The survey of the lower harbour was completed and the report, with tables and diagrams, printed. Excluding Government vessels 1,091 steamers with a total net registered tonnage of 2,173,539 entered the port, a decrease of 241,571 tons as compared with the previous year, and 1,099 steamers with a total net registered tonnage of 2,195,226 left the port. The receipts of the Port Department increased from Rs. 7.79 lakhs to Rs. 7.85 lakhs. The expenditure fell from Rs. 6.12 lakhs to Rs. 4.75 lakhs, principally owing to the transfer of expenditure under dredging, which in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1.02 lakh, from this head to River conservancy, under which there was an increase from Rs. .86 lakh to Rs. 2.15 lakhs. A signal station with a telephone was opened at Syriam to facilitate communication between vessels below the Hastings and Rangoon and proved of great use. Dredging operations on the Hastings shoal were successful and a channel with an average depth of 14 feet at low water was maintained during the dry weather months. New surveys of the river bed of the harbour and of the river from Kemmendinge to Liffey Reach and from Kyauktan to Elephant Point were completed. Eight members of the staff proceeded on active service. The services of Sir George C. Buchanan, Kt., C.I.E., Chairman of the Port Commissioners, and of Mr. E. C. Niven, Executive Engineer, River Conservancy, were placed at the disposal of the Government of India in connection with port administration and river conservancy in Mesopotamia. A survey party of 41 men with full equipment was also despatched. Questions under consideration during the year included the construction of new warehouses for the storage of salt and the provision of temporary accommodation for emigrants leaving the port. A redistribution of the cost of the Port Police between the Local Government and the Port Commissioners was sanctioned. Rules were promulgated for the control of motor and other launches plying on the river and the passenger boat rules were amended. The storm signals as revised by the Government of India were brought into use on the 1st January 1916. A long length of the river bank opposite the fixed moorings at Syriam fell into the river and the removal of one of the fixed moorings became necessary.

75. The Rangoon Pilot Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 43,254, the receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 3,07,377 and the payments to Rs. 3,36,751 leaving a closing balance of Rs. 1,380. The usual annual contribution of Rs. 21,000 to the vessels' depreciation fund was not paid and that fund only increased from Rs. 1.97 lakh to Rs. 2.04 lakhs. The gross pilotage fees increased from Rs. 3.03 lakhs to Rs. 3.07 lakhs and the payments to pilots from Rs. 2.25 lakhs to Rs. 2.26 lakhs. The pilot service was well maintained without any serious delays to shipping. Four cases of delay in all were reported, one for three hours forty minutes, one for three hours, one for fifty minutes and one for forty minutes. It was decided to postpone till after the war consideration of the new consolidated Rangoon Port Bill in which provision is made for the regulation of the Pilot Service.

76. Excluding the Rangoon Port Trust there are six ports in the Province, Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Bassein, Moulmein, Mergui and Tavoy, in which Port Funds

are maintained. The total receipts and expenditure of these funds were Rs. 4.03 lakhs and Rs. 4.24 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4.23 lakhs and Rs. 4.85 lakhs respectively in the previous year. The decrease in receipts in the case of Tavoy was accounted for by the fact that the previous year's receipts were swollen by a loan from the Local Government. Expenditure exceeded receipts in the Port Funds of Akyab, Mergui, Tavoy and Kyaukpyu which closed with smaller balances than in 1914-15. The position of the Moulmein Port Fund, despite an increase of about Rs. 6,000 in the amount of its closing balance, remained unsatisfactory inasmuch as the repayments of instalments of principal and interest of loans which fell due in April 1915 and April 1916 could not be made and were postponed till April 1917. The means of meeting the liabilities of this fund and placing its finances on a sound basis are under consideration. The postponement of the repayment of the first instalment of the loan of Rs. 65,000 from the Local Government to the Port Fund of Tavoy for one year was sanctioned. At the end of the year the Moulmein Port Fund owed the Local Government Rs. 70,813 and the Tavoy Port Fund owed Rs. 69,631.

Outside Rangoon there are pilot funds at Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. These funds derive their income from pilotage fees and the expenditure consists of cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payments to pilots. The aggregate receipts of the three pilot funds increased by Rs. 16,213 to Rs. 1.13 lakh and the aggregate closing balances from Rs. 15,895 to Rs. 17,126. Port Officers appointed by Government and assisted by advisory boards continued to manage the ports of Akyab, Bassein and Moulmein. The administration of the ports of Kyaukpyu, Tavoy and Mergui is in the hands of the Deputy Commissioners. These ports have no pilot funds.

77. The effects of the war on the maritime trade of the Province continued. The number of vessels entering ports in Burma increased from 3,766 in 1914-15 to 4,571 but their aggregate tonnage fell from 3,355,534 tons to 2,917,515 tons. The number of ships clearing increased in the same way from 3,505 to 4,244 but the tonnage decreased from 3,325,296 tons to 2,949,902 tons. The total number of entries of vessels engaged in the foreign trade was 421 with an average tonnage of 2,244 tons as compared with 391 vessels with an average tonnage of 2,345 tons in the previous year. The clearances were 460 vessels with an average tonnage of 1,995 tons as against 457 vessels with an average tonnage of 2,312 tons. The entries into Rangoon from foreign ports were 312 vessels with a tonnage of 808,966 tons as against 263 with a tonnage of 775,819 tons, and the clearances 297 with a tonnage of 756,850 tons as against 313 with a tonnage of 909,897 tons. The number of sailing ships clearing from the port, which in 1914-15 was one of 172 tons burden, increased to 5 with a total tonnage of 8,348 tons. In the coasting trade the number of entries of sailing craft increased from 1,509 in 1914-15 to 2,674 in the year of report, and the tonnage from 51,254 tons to 77,835 tons. The number of sailing craft cleared increased in the same period from 1,230 to 2,289 and the tonnage from 44,415 tons to 70,669 tons. There was a further considerable decline in the number of both entrances and clearances of steamers engaged in the coasting trade. In the year of report 1,476 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 1,895,063 tons entered, and 1,195 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 1,961,496 tons cleared, as against 1,866 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 2,387,387 tons entering and 1,809 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 2,224,347 tons clearing in the previous year. Of the vessels engaged in the coasting trade 782 steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 1,371,434 tons entered Rangoon as against 966 with an aggregate tonnage of 1,634,419 tons in 1914-15, and 799 steamers with a tonnage of 1,427,808 tons cleared, as against 911 with a tonnage of 1,484,802 tons in 1914-15, while 112 sailing ships with a tonnage of 7,916 tons entered as against 100 with a tonnage of 7,938 tons, and 118 with a tonnage of 8,521 cleared, as against 96 with a tonnage of 7,646 tons in the previous year. The total net registered tonnage of vessels entering the port was 9.48 per cent. less than in 1914-15 and was the lowest recorded for the previous ten years.

Commercial
maritime
shipping.

Of the 491 steam and sailing vessels that entered the ports of the Province from foreign ports during the year, 325 or 77.20 per cent. flew British colours. Of the 95 vessels flying foreign colours 40 were Japanese, 32 Norwegian, 19 Dutch, 3 Swedish and 2 Chinese. In the previous year of the 391 vessels entering, 303 or 77.49 per cent. flew British colours, and of the 88 flying foreign colours 29 were Japanese, 28 Norwegian and 8 Dutch. The proportion of the total number of the ships flying foreign colours contributed by each country has thus not materially altered during the year. In the coasting trade 1,271 vessels, as against 1,283 in the previous year, flew British colours, and 75 as against 86 flew foreign colours. The number of native craft was 2,000 as against 1,024. In the foreign trade of Rangoon 223 vessels entered under British colours as against 138, and 49 under foreign colours as against 75 in 1914-15. Of the latter 37 were Japanese as against 29, 32 Norwegian as against 23, 18 Dutch as against 8 and 2 Chinese against none, in the previous year. In the coasting trade of Rangoon 807 British vessels, including 109 native craft, and 87 foreign vessels, entered, as against 973 British, including 97 native craft, and 93 foreign vessels, in the previous year. The foreign comprised 54 Japanese as against 36, 29 Dutch as against 28, 2 Norwegian as against 13, 1 Swedish as against none and 1 Dutch as in the previous year.

The freight market in Rangoon continued almost without interruption to rise throughout the year. Owing mainly to the requisitioning by Government of steamers for transport purposes rates ruled abnormally high. At the close of the year 1914-15 the rate of freight from Rangoon to the United Kingdom reached what was then considered the abnormal level of 80 shillings per ton. The rate rose steadily and in February reached the level of 170 to 175 shillings per ton, falling at the close of the year to 150 shillings owing to the release by Government of several transports for single voyages with rice cargoes. At the end of the year there was a slight tendency towards lower rates but everything depended on the requirements of Government for tonnage in connection with the war.

78. During the year there were 13 accidents to shipping in the port of Rangoon as compared with 12 in the previous year. Of the 13 accidents reported 12 occurred while a vessel was in charge of a pilot or assistant harbour-master. In only three cases was a judicial enquiry held under the British Burma Pilots Act, and in all it was held that the accident was due to an error of judgment on the part of the pilot. On two occasions steamers came into collision with the pilot vessel at anchor. In no case did any serious damage result from an accident. A special court of enquiry was constituted under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act in connection with a collision between the S.S. "Bumiba" and a cargo-boat in the Tavoy River, and on 15th April regulations were issued to minimise the possibility of similar accidents. The S.S. "Pinegrove," bound for Rangoon with a cargo of salt, grounded on Ras-al-Ara Point in the Gulf of Aden on 12th June 1915, but got off without damage to ship or cargo. The S.S. "Chindwin" while on a voyage from Liverpool to Rangoon went aground on Jebel Zukar island in the Red Sea on 28th June 1915 and remained aground till 4th July when she was refloated and proceeded on her voyage. The case was reported to the Board of Trade, London, for enquiry. The S.S. "Hok Canton" went aground when leaving the port of Mergui on the 10th September 1915 but got off undamaged and proceeded on her voyage. No enquiry was held.

79. The Royal Indian Marine vessel "Sladen" was stationed throughout the year in Rangoon as examination ship; the "Bhamo" carried by river about 2,300 troops and followers, besides women and children, convicts, transport animals, ammunition and 2,153 tons of stores. The total earnings rose from Rs. 1,002 lakhs to Rs. 2,19 lakhs, principally on account of the hire of the "Sladen." Five steam-launches, six motor-launches, two barges and one cargo-boat were added to the Government flotilla, and at the close of the year there were in Upper and Lower Burma 167 Government vessels consisting of 94 steam-launches, 3 steam-barges, 1 steam-cutter, 16 motor-launches, 13 house-boats, 13 flats, 7 barges, 1 water-boat, 1 rock-smasher, 1 pony-boat, 4 light-ships, 6 dredgers, 2 buoy-

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casualties.

Government
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launches.

vessels, 2 mooring-boats and 3 cargo-boats. Four steam-launches and one buoy-vessel were employed during part of the year on patrol service off the coast of Burma and in inland waters in Bengal. Five steam-launches, one steam-outter and one dredger were requisitioned by the Government of India for service in Mesopotamia. The total earnings of Government vessels for the year amounted to Rs. 6.52 lakhs as against Rs. 5.59 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 93,328. The Police, Telegraph, Customs and other boats in various districts were in good condition and fully employed; one boat of the Telegraph Department was condemned and replaced and one was lost in a cyclone. Eleven launches and four flats were docked at the patent slip in Mandalay, and the Burma Government steamer "Buccaneer" was hauled up for a complete refit. The slipway was cleared of 45,000 cubic feet of silt deposit. The wood and coal depôts continued to supply requirements and the arrangements carried out by the Forest Department, for the supply of wood fuel were satisfactory. The value of the stores received in the store godowns at Mandalay, Bassein and Rangoon was Rs. 98,097 and the value of stores issued Rs. 1.31 lakh. The outturn of work at the Marine Workshop, Mandalay, was valued at Rs. 66,093 as against Rs. 1,01,339 in the previous year. The decrease of Rs. 35,246 was due to a decrease in the amount of the work done for other departments and in the demand for sawn timber. The cost of repairs to vessels and of work carried out in the Government Workshop, Rangoon, was Rs. 3,00,043 as compared with Rs. 2,00,251 in 1914-15. The increase of Rs. 99,252 was caused by repairs to some privately-owned launches employed on military duty, by repairs to His Majesty's ships patrolling in the Bay of Bengal, and work done in connection with the defence of Rangoon.

80. The suction dredger "Cormorant" was kept at work dredging on the Hastings shoal at the lower end of the harbour of Rangoon during the whole of the year. In the Hastings channel and the Dunneedaw Reach she lifted 1,576,000 tons at a working cost of one anna per ton. The result was eminently successful as all through the dry weather months a channel averaging 14 feet at low water was maintained across the Hastings shoal. Two moorings in the inner harbour had to be disused for long and deep ships owing to the extension of the Kamakasi shoal. The dredger "Hastings" was put to work to deepen this portion of the harbour but without much effect. Complete new surveys of the bed of Rangoon harbour and from Kemmendine to Liffey Reach and from Kyauktan to Elephant Point were taken in hand and completed. The area was re-coast-lined, all shore details put in and corrected up to date, and the sheets newly plotted. The lower harbour survey was completed and the report, with tables and diagrams, printed. Harbour works included the reconstruction of a jetty for the port of Bassein on a new site, and the construction of a jetty at Andrew Bay in Sandoway District estimated to cost Rs. 62,232. The erection of a landing stage at Thayetkha in the same district was in progress and materials were obtained for the construction of a landing stage at Pauktaw and the improvement of the landing stage at Ponnagyun in Akyab District.

Chart, III—
Patrol-
vessels.Harbour
works and
surveys.



CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

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Agriculture.

81. The occupied area of the Province is now 18,229,162 acres. The rate of expansion during 1915-16 again shewed a decrease as compared with the previous year, the area taken up in the year for agricultural, residential and industrial purposes being only 113,000 acres as compared with 178,000 acres in 1914-15. This expansion is less than one half of that recorded in 1913-14. The total area fallowed was 4,139,666 acres of which 3,344,036 acres were contributed by the three dry zone divisions, Magwe, Meiktila and Sagaing. The provincial total shows an increase of 261,641 acres on the figures of the previous year, the percentage of the occupied area which was fallowed being 22.7 as against 21.4. The increase is due to the indifferent agricultural season and the high floods along the Irrawaddy. The area actually cultivated during the year was 14,089,496 acres, a decrease of 148,434 acres on a comparison with the figures of 1914-15. The area on which crops matured was 13,193,966 acres as compared with 13,199,359 acres in 1914-15, a decrease of 5,393 acres. The gross area cropped, inclusive of areas which failed, was 14,662,444 acres, a decrease of 130,718 acres as compared with 1914-15, but approximating closely to the figures of 1913-14. The total area twice cropped was 572,948 acres, an increase of nearly 18,000 acres over the figures for 1914-15. This increase was mainly in districts of the dry zone and was due to the system of catch-crops followed there. The net occupied area, owing to the increase in twice cropped area, shows a greater decrease than the gross cropped area.

Occupied and cultivated areas.

All the principal Lower Burma districts in which rice is the main crop, with the exception of Toungoo, contributed in fairly equal proportions to a total increase of 80,761 acres in the occupied area of these districts. Throughout Lower Burma generally there was a decrease in the rate of expansion for which three main causes were responsible. The supply of suitable land is decreasing; pioneer work requires capital and the money market was unfavourable; the prices realised in 1914-15 by the cultivator were comparatively poor and the amount of savings available for bringing new land under cultivation consequently less. The fallowed area was considerably larger in the majority of districts, Henzada, Thuton, Amherst and Pegu being the only districts in which it decreased. The season was favourable in these districts and the inference from the figures is that speculative cultivation received a check, as the result probably of the low prices realised by the crop of the previous year and of general financial stringency. On a comparison with the previous year the area in Lower Burma which failed to mature was less by 110,081 acres. In Upper Burma the occupied area was 41,027 acres in excess of that of 1914-15, the rate of expansion being less than usual. The area fallowed increased by 187,264 acres, the increase being contributed to by all the districts save Mandalay and Katha, shewing very clearly the untimely nature and uneven distribution of the rainfall. Uncropped areas were particularly extensive in Meiktila, Myingyan, Shwebo and Magwe. Owing to the nature of the season there was less speculative cultivation than usual and only soils of the better class were put under the plough. As a result the area over which crops failed to mature was 28,831 acres less than in 1914-15.

The area under rice was 10,404,119 acres, a decrease of 117,622 acres on a comparison with 1914-15. The decrease took place chiefly in the Meiktila and Sagaing Divisions where the season for winter rice was unfavourable. The area under wheat increased from 29,221 acres in 1914-15 to 41,224 acres in the year of report. The area under red millet declined from 483,463 to 452,158 acres while that under white millet increased from 172,162 to 183,869 acres. These two cereals have in recent years become less popular with the cultivators of uplands in the dry zone. The area cropped with maize increased from 158,483 to 167,189 acres and that cropped with little millet (*la*) from 80,354 to 92,999 acres. The excessive early rains account for a decrease of about 16,000 acres, in the area devoted to early sessamum, from 874,270 to 857,836 acres, while the favourable character of the late rains is reflected in an increase from 336,471 to 343,423 acres in the area under late sessamum. Prices for groundnuts in 1914-15 were poor and the area fell from 273,316 to 261,764 acres. Excluding the Goa bean which is not a bean strictly speaking the area cropped with beans of all varieties was 615,470 acres, an increase of 92,799 acres as compared with the previous year. Prices for cotton in 1914-15 were extremely low and the area under this crop shrank from 291,113 to 187,312 acres, a decrease of nearly 104,000 acres. There was a decrease of 10,000 acres under tobacco, from 88,511 to 78,564 acres, beans, maize and chillies being substituted. There was practically no expansion in rubber cultivation. Gardens do not keep pace with the general increase in the cultivated area of the Province.

82. The estimated area irrigable in the Province is 1,633,331 acres of which the greater part is situated in the dry zone. The sources of irrigation are two, Major Works and Minor Works, the latter mostly tanks. In the former the rainfall is of secondary importance, unless a breach is caused; in the latter rainfall is all-important for filling the tanks and maintaining the water in them at a level sufficient to ensure a sufficient supply to mature the crop. The area actually irrigated from all sources was 1,159,077 acres or 26,029 acres more than in 1914-15. There was an increase of 14,224 acres in the area irrigated from Government canals, to which all the systems of importance except the Shwebo Canal contributed. There was also an increase of 11,339 acres in the area irrigated from private canals. In Magwe owing to favourable conditions the area irrigated from private canals increased from 47,137 to 63,341 acres. In many of the dry zone districts the rainfall was insufficient to fill or maintain the water level in the tanks, and the area irrigated from Government and private tanks fell by about

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Area irrigated.

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24,000 and 15,000 acres respectively. Most of this decrease took place in Meiktila and Yamethin, the two districts most dependent on this form of irrigation. Under the head "Other Sources" the area irrigated from which increased from 229,433 to 267,227 acres are comprised various forms of irrigation such as the irrigation of spring rice by lift in the Mandalay and Thaton Districts, the planting up of fisheries as the water recedes in Bassein and Katha and petty canals taking off from restricted catchment areas and supplementing the rainfall. The increase of 37,794 acres under this head was due partly to the enterprise of some village headmen in the Shwebo District who tapped streams and irrigated 14,600 acres, and partly to the fact that revised classification in the recent settlement in Toungoo has added 24,000 acres to the area classified as irrigated in that district.

The Agricultural Department :
General.

83. There was no change in the superior staff of the Agricultural Department during the year and lack of funds rendered it impossible to fill the appointment of third deputy director sanctioned during the previous year. The educational work of the department in the year of report was mainly devoted to the practical training of its subordinate staff. Three district agriculturists completed their course and five more were under training. In twelve districts a district agriculturist has been appointed, paid from District or District Cess Funds, but working under the orders of the deputy director of the circle in which his district is situated, and as a rule directing his energies to the popularisation and distribution of the improved seed produced on the experimental stations, the demonstration of improved implements suited to local conditions, and the general study of the agriculture of the district and supply of information to the deputy director to enable him to advise on the introduction of new crops or the adoption of improved methods. It was decided that the most satisfactory method of seed distribution was by the establishment of district seed and demonstration farms, each varying from 15 to 28 acres in area, managed by the district agriculturist and serving as his general depot and demonstration centre. The use by cultivators of seeds which have proved successful on the district farms will be encouraged through the agency of co-operative credit societies or of selected cultivators. At the end of the year five district farms had been established. In the southern circle 110 tons of seeds were distributed from Hmawbi and the Yodashe seed farm. In the northern and southern circles the total value of the implements sold by the department was Rs. 3,701 and Rs. 3,440 respectively. The universal increase of prices caused by the war has restricted the development of this branch of activity. No agricultural shows were held during the year. District agricultural and co-operative associations were formed in several districts and are expected to be of much help in the cause of improvement. Two bulletins and two cultivators' leaflets were published. The Provincial Agricultural and Co-operative Conference was held at Mandalay in August 1915 under the patronage of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor who took the chair at the opening meeting. Nearly a thousand delegates were present from all parts of the Province and several subjects of great importance to local agriculture were discussed.

Agricultural
experiment
and research.

84. The main experimental station of the northern circle is at Mandalay and is chiefly devoted to work on irrigated rice. There are two subordinate stations at Padu in Sagaing and Hopin in Myitkyina District. A sub-overseer is in charge at Hopin; at Padu there is no trained resident staff. Hopin is of importance in connection with the colonization of waste land lying to the north of it and the discovery of profitable crops to take the place of rice. Padu is mainly devoted to open season cultivation with wheat and gram, work in the monsoon being confined to a small area of upland where various crop rotations are being tried. In the southern circle experimental work on the varieties of rice grown in Lower Burma is concentrated at Hmawbi in the Insein District which is now equipped with permanent buildings. Work on dry crops is carried on at the Tatkon station in Yamethin District where only temporary buildings have been put up and considerable improvements are required. It is proposed to transfer a small station at Pwinbyu to the District Fund of Minbu to be maintained as a

district seed farm. The work of clearing the jungle and laying out plots for an experimental station at Yawnghwe in the Southern Shan States was in progress. The Myitkyina experimental garden was closed. At the Falam garden orange trees from the Shan States did well and preparations were made for putting down young orange plants from Aijal in Assam. A number of samples of improved strains of unhusked rice from Mandalay, sent to the Burma Chamber of Commerce for opinion, were pronounced to be greatly superior to the best unhusked rice of the same variety obtainable at the mills. The types of rice hitherto dealt with on the experimental farms have been chiefly those suitable for the European market. Work has now begun on the finer long grained varieties of rice suitable for the Indian market and pure lines of many of these have been made. A number of interesting agricultural and manurial experiments were carried out at Mandalay and Hmawbi, the general results of which tend to prove that the use of artificial manures and oilcakes in rice cultivation will not pay. Bone meal proved profitable on certain classes of soil and if a sufficient supply at a reasonable price were available it should prove very popular with the cultivators of worn out soils in certain tracts of Lower Burma. The advantages of thinly sown nurseries and double planting in rice cultivation were again demonstrated by experiment. Experimental work on cotton is mainly conducted at the Tatkôn station. Of the single plant selections made here in 1914 four strains are being propagated on a field scale this year, while seed has also been sent to the district farms at Taungtha in Myingyan and Allanmyo in Thayetmyo District. These strains have been selected mainly for ginning percentage and the best of them shows 39 per cent. of lint or a gain of between 5 and 6 per cent. over the unselected crop which usually varies from 31 to 33 per cent. The strain will undergo continuous selection at Tatkôn in order to maintain the high ginning percentage. The late upland cotton of Prome and Thayetmyo Districts, the best cotton in Burma, has a normal ginning percentage of 38; a plant with a percentage of 45 has been isolated and its seed carefully stored and it is hoped to establish the strain. During the year 145 single plant cultures of sessamum were made at Tatkôn and are this year sown out in plots of ten feet by ten in order to see how far they breed true and to make further selections from them.

A scheme is under preparation for the classification of the varieties of sessamum in the Province. Six new varieties of groundnut have been imported and are being tested against the indigenous kinds on the seed farms of the Myingyan, Pakökku and Thayetmyo Districts. An interesting experiment with this crop was made at Hopin where, with a rainfall of 79.72 inches, two plots of sandy soil produced at the rate of 2,296 lb. and 3,155 lb. per acre respectively of good nuts. Work on castor cultivation was undertaken at Tatkôn and Padu. A field scale trial of several varieties at the former station showed one variety of large seeded castor to be much superior in yielding power to the others. The crop was troublesome to work, its picking had to go on through the hot weather and any considerable expansion of its cultivation is not to be expected. The yield of sugar-cane tried on ordinary paddy land at Hmawbi was unsatisfactory but the experiments are being continued. In the Môn Canals area in the Minbu District experiments with sugar-cane have attracted the attention of local cultivators and about 72 acres are now under the crop. Conditions are favourable, the soil being good and the supply of water from irrigation abundant. There are indications that sugar-cane may prove the most suitable crop to replace rice in the intermediate tract lying between the wet and the dry zones where unirrigated rice is proving unreliable. Work on wheat was undertaken at Padu, Yawnghwe and Hopin. At Padu selection work on *durum* wheats progressed but at least another year's work is required before selections for distribution can be made. At Yawnghwe selection of bread wheats suitable for the Shan States was begun. At Hopin the problem was to discover the best time and method of cultivation with a view to the encouragement of this crop in place of rice in the Myitkyina portion of the Namyin valley. Some advance was made and ultimate success seems probable. Trials of pigeon pea were continued at Mandalay, Tatkôn, Padu, Bugyi and Hopin. The best outturn was 990 lb. per acre obtained at Tatkôn from a large white seeded variety from the United Provinces. The cultivation

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of this crop is extending in the Yamèthin and Shwebo Districts. Experiments with the Madagascar bean are continued but results hitherto obtained leave its suitability to the conditions of the Province very doubtful. Several varieties of tobacco were grown under irrigation on the garden land at Hmawbi and samples of the product were favourably reported on. Further experiment is however required before the best method of curing the leaf can be decided on. The enquiry conducted by the Imperial Mycologist into the "black thread" disease of rubber was completed and the results published in a departmental bulletin.

In the chemical branch of the department 877 analyses were completed exclusive of analyses connected with the milk supply of Mandalay, soil humus determination and prussic acid determination. The examination of typical rice soils by pot culture tests and chemical analysis was continued, 12 soils being examined and 280 pot cultures made. An enquiry was begun into the nature and source of the acidity in certain soils which had been noted as producing a very irregular growth of rice and its effect on the crop. Work on the determination of soil humus and on field culture of rice was continued.

Veterinary
Department
Staff and
Veterinary
School.

85. Excluding superior officers the staff of the veterinary department during the year consisted of 14 inspectors and 150 veterinary assistants as compared with 14 inspectors and 141 assistants in 1914-15. The total cost of the department was Rs. 2.76 lakhs as against Rs. 2.53 lakhs in the previous year; of the total Rs. 2.05 lakhs were paid from provincial and Rs. .71 lakh from local funds. The number of pupils receiving instruction in the Veterinary School at Insein was 50 at the beginning of the year and 59 at its close. The conduct of the students and the examination record were again satisfactory. Three veterinary assistants were trained in a post graduate class in order to qualify them for appointment as inspectors. The number of animals treated at the hospital was 1,866, of which 1,550 were out-patients and 316 in-patients, the average daily attendance rising from 22.5 to 29.03. In the laboratory 5,405 specimens were examined, of which 2,049 were submitted by veterinary assistants and others in the Province. A tube well was sunk and a sufficient supply of water will be available when the necessary pipes have been laid. The construction of a laboratory has been postponed.

Cattle
disease.

86. The Province enjoyed a remarkable freedom from contagious diseases of cattle and the number of deaths reported, 7,210 compared with 10,115 in 1914-15, was the lowest on record and just over a fifth of the average mortality of the previous ten years. The number of deaths from rinderpest fell from 5,698 to 3,589 and from foot-and-mouth disease from 2,699 to 1,782. In only three districts, Amherst, Toungoo and Yamèthin did the number of deaths from rinderpest exceed five hundred. In Amherst the disease was confined to the border township of Kawkareik and was almost certainly imported from Siam, cattle from which arrive worn out by the journey and extremely susceptible to the disease. In Toungoo the disease was present in several townships simultaneously and 663 cattle in all died. More than half the total number of deaths from rinderpest in Upper Burma occurred in the Yamèthin District, 554 out of 1,082. In Akyab District there were 394 deaths principally in the Maungdaw Township. In the trans-Salween portion of the Southern Shan States a severe epidemic of rinderpest caused an estimated loss of about 1,800 animals. In the Northern Shan States 647 deaths among buffaloes and oxen from the same cause were reported. The only districts from which over a hundred deaths from foot-and-mouth disease were reported were Bassein with 364, Myaungmya with 262, Thayetmyo with 162 and Pakòkku with 147. Anthrax accounted for 1,839 deaths in all as compared with 1,718 in 1914-15; the districts reporting more than a hundred deaths from this cause were Akyab 678, Myaungmya 204 and Shwebo 116. Anti-rinderpest serum inoculation was employed in three districts and the number of animals treated was 6,814; in 1914-15 operations were carried out in eight districts on 9,649 animals. The number of deaths among inoculated cattle fell from 182 to 29. The number of animals treated by the department for contagious diseases during the year was 50,725 and for non-contagious diseases

44,036, figures which compare with 32,364 and 39,588 in 1914-15. The number of deaths reported from non-contagious diseases was in Lower Burma 60,801 and in Upper Burma 18,561. The persistency with which the most serious outbreaks of rinderpest occur in frontier districts has led to the consideration of special measures for watching the importation of cattle in the hope that in this way protection may be afforded to the herds of the interior of the Province. The necessity for segregation in case of an outbreak of contagious disease is generally recognized and with few exceptions the rules are voluntarily carried out by the people. Difficulty was experienced in controlling the trade in the hides of animals which had died of contagious diseases such as anthrax.

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DISTRIBUTION.

87. The year was generally favourable for live-stock. There was a slight decline, from 1,189,158 (revised figures) to 1,170,200 in the number of calves of oxen and from 298,545 (revised figures) to 293,062 in the number of buffalo calves. This decrease took place principally in districts of Upper Burma and was greatest in the Meiktila Division where the season was particularly unfavourable. Among oxen there was little variation in the number of cows and of bulls and bullocks, the figures for 1915-16 being 1,524,556 and 2,053,166 and for the previous year 1,537,596 and 2,052,333. The number of buffalo cows increased from 408,091 to 412,941 and of male buffaloes from 379,856 to 380,387. Among horses there were 16,122 foals, 41,981 mares, 36,715 geldings and 3,956 stallions as compared with 15,104 foals, 38,366 mares, 37,424 geldings and 4,177 stallions in 1914-15. Sheep increased in number from 34,201 to 36,985. Goats are mainly owned by the Indian population and the numbers remain fairly constant, 195,876 as against 195,601. For the second year in succession an enumeration was made of the number of pigs in the Province and the total was found to be 335,399 as compared with 336,490 in 1914-15.

88. Exclusive of advances to co-operative societies, the agricultural advances made amounted to just under Rs. 13 lakhs; there was outstanding at the beginning of the year Rs. 12.48 lakhs, making the total amount on loan Rs. 25.47 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 4.92 lakhs over the figures of the previous year. The amount due for collection, including arrears, was Rs. 15.37 lakhs and the amount collected Rs. 11.52 lakhs. Of the balance Rs. 7.12 was remitted, the payment of Rs. 1.52 lakh was suspended and a sum of Rs. 2.63 lakhs was overdue. On the whole loans were more easily recovered than in the previous year. Though the amount to be collected was nearly four lakhs of rupees greater the amount of which payment was suspended was less. There was a slight increase in the sum remitted and an increase of nearly a lakh in the amount overdue when the accounts were closed. The balance outstanding was Rs. 13.94 lakhs. The decrease by over Rs. 20,000 in the amount of which payment was suspended was more noteworthy because in 1915-16 considerable sums had to be collected of which payment had been suspended in the previous year and these were apparently cleared off. There were as in the previous year six districts in which amounts so suspended exceeded Rs. 10,000. In Kyaukpyu, Tharrawaddy, Thaton, Amherst, Pakokku, and Yamethin Districts the amount of agricultural advances classed as overdue exceeded Rs. 10,000, but considerable payments were made in most of these districts shortly after the close of the financial year. Suspension of payment was granted in all cases in which good reasons for it were put forward. The usual grounds of application were an indifferent season, poor prices and difficulty in borrowing. Loans in the majority of instances were productively expended in the purchase of plough-cattle and seed and cases of misappropriation were few. The advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act during the year were Rs. 5,400; the outstandings were Rs. 37,788; the total sum advanced was Rs. 43,188. The amount due for collection was Rs. 16,564 of which Rs. 11,104 were collected, the payment of Rs. 2,206 suspended, and Rs. 2,543 overdue. The total interest collected during the year in the Province was Rs. 1.28 lakh of which Rs. 65,234 were due to the Government of India as interest charges at 3½ per cent. Deducting in addition the Rs. 7.12 remitted the net profit to the Local Government was Rs. 62,395.

Agricultural
loans.

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FLOODS,
TIERS AND
DISTRICTS—
1920.

Protection
from Floods.

89. Embankments constructed for the protection of cultivation are maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department. The principal works lie along the course of the Irrawaddy river in Lower Burma, but works on a smaller scale have also been constructed along the banks of the Sittang river. For the main works on the Irrawaddy river both capital and revenue accounts are kept, but the works on the Sittang river and the Ma-ubin Embankment in the Ma-ubin District have revenue accounts only. The capital outlay on embankments for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept was Rs. 4,303, raising the total capital outlay to Rs. 40.31 lakhs. Receipts increased from Rs. 14.57 lakhs to Rs. 14.90 lakhs and working expenses from Rs. 2.0 lakhs to Rs. 2.21 lakhs, profits thus rising from Rs. 12.57 lakhs to Rs. 12.68 lakhs and representing a return of 31.47 per cent. on the capital outlay as against a return of 31.23 per cent. in the previous year. The area protected decreased from 499,621 acres to 496,105 acres. The embankments for which only revenue accounts are kept show a decrease in the area protected from 197,815 acres to 197,321 acres; revenue receipts were Rs. 6.64 lakhs and working expenses Rs. 1.75 lakh leaving a profit of Rs. 4.89 lakhs as against a profit of Rs. 5.45 lakhs in the previous year. The work of raising the low portions of the Pagaing Embankment in the Pegu District was completed for Rs. 5,249 and the metalling of the centre with laterite was in progress. The construction of an embankment for a reservoir at Moyingyi was continued and about three-quarters of the work completed. On the Sittang Embankment work was continued raising low portions, metalling, and constructing a retirement, but work was slow on account of ill-health among the labourers. On the extension of the Myanaung section of the Irrawaddy River Embankment from Ingauk to Naukmi a sum of Rs. 3,208 was spent, raising the total expenditure to Rs. 72,014, and work was completed with the exception of the last three miles, the desirability of constructing which is under consideration. The work of surveying and levelling the Yandoon Island was continued and practically completed with a total expenditure of Rs. 14,768. The surveys required in connection with a scheme for the drainage of the Pyuntaza plain in Pegu District were continued, and a protective bund was built round the town of Peinzalok in the same district. Special repairs on the Irrawaddy and Ma-ubin Island Embankments were carried out where required.

Weather and Crops.

Character of
the season.

90. The year commenced with a promise of abundant rain, and on the whole this promise was maintained for the areas of the wet zone, except for a few short breaks in the monsoon, the effect of which on the crops was immaterial. In the dry zone the rains were disappointing. The early rains were in some cases excessive, and the cultivators found difficulty in preparing a suitable tilth for the sowing of early sessamum and cotton. The middle rains in the upland areas were poor, and the situation in some of the dry zone districts was, towards the end of the season, precarious, but late showers saved the crops of late sessamum, and improved the yield from riverine crops. The late abnormal showers in November which were accompanied by strong northerly winds, caused in the areas in which the rice crop had been reaped considerable damage to the quality of the grain. Reports as to the effect of these storms on standing crops were somewhat conflicting; but there is little doubt that the absence of sunshine and the cold then experienced retarded ripening and increased the percentage of light grain. A bumper crop was confidently expected but forecasts had to be modified when the yield was tested on the threshing floor. The rise of the Irrawaddy river at Katha and Sagaing was the highest on record, and considerable areas under rice were destroyed; but cultivators were in a position later to reap some advantage by growing pulse and riverine crops on the areas enriched by the deposit of silt. Floods from the Sittang river also destroyed the crops on a large area early in the season, but it was found possible to resow the submerged area when the flood water receded.

91. Although the final forecast of the amount of the rice crop was in several districts revised in the direction of reduction after consideration of reports received from cultivators and others, the total yield of the Province was considerably greater than in the previous year. In three districts, Akyab, Pegu and Mandalay, the yield per acre was in excess of the normal, and, in the principal rice-growing districts of Lower Burma as a whole, the crop was reckoned at 95 per cent. of the normal, a figure which compares well with 81 in the previous year. The exportable surplus of rice was estimated at 2,800,000 tons. The price of unhusked rice in Rangoon in the autumn of 1915 was forced up to Rs. 200 per 100 baskets owing to speculation in white rice. Those who stored unhusked rice had a successful year. Before the new crop had come upon the market prices had fallen below normal, but had to be raised in order to induce sales. In all districts better prices were realized at harvest than in 1914-15. The foreign market was disorganised through restrictions in exports, the closing of markets and the uncertainty of freights.

The total yield of cleaned cotton was about 4,800 tons as compared with over 8,000 tons in the previous year. The decrease was the result of the diminution of the area devoted to the crop. The yield per acre was on the whole better than in the previous year probably because only good cotton lands were placed under this crop. The prices obtained were much better than in the previous year, in Sagaing District being more than doubled, but were still below normal in all but one of the districts in which the crop is of importance. There were considerable variations in the district outturns of ground-nuts; those of Pakokku and Magwe being better, and those of Sagaing and the Lower Chindwin, where, however, the crop is of secondary importance, being worse, than in the previous year. In Myingyan the outturn though less than that of 1914-15 was still above normal. The net result was that though less land was planted with ground-nuts than the year before the crop was slightly larger. Prices at harvest were better than in 1915, being normal in Magwe, under normal in Pakokku and over normal in Myingyan. Despite the increase in the area sown the crop of wheat was no larger than in the year previous and prices were slightly above normal. The total yield of sessamum was short of that of the previous year by 10,000 tons; the price despite local variations was on the whole steady, a natural result of the absence of any foreign demand. The yield of white and red millet was less than in 1914-15 and the price improved. The total export of rubber from the Province during the year ended 31st March 1916 was 1,285,984 lb. an increase of 298,502 lb. over the figures for 1914-15. In Meiktila and Kyaukse, the chief chilly-growing and exporting districts, there was a big rise in prices due to the failure of imports from Madras owing to the absence of shipping.

Co-operation.

92. Considerable expansion took place but was confined to those districts in which societies were already in existence. Instructions were issued explaining in detail the system of control of the co-operative movement. The machinery of control was divided into two sections, administration and audit. The registrar or joint-registrar is at the head of both sections but in the administrative there are interposed between him and the primary societies the assistant registrars and unions of societies, the latter working partly through paid supervisors. The actual work of audit is done by two sets of auditors, one paid by the societies and one, the junior assistant registrars, employed and paid by Government. Each of the former is expected to audit the accounts of a hundred societies in a year; each of the latter is in charge of two hundred societies whose accounts he is expected to audit once in two years. The effect of the reorganization is to increase the share in control of unions and central banks. Supervisors are engaged by unions and placed in charge of about fifty societies each, their duties being to teach the principles of co-operation and account-keeping and to see audit orders carried out. The staff was increased by the appointment of two assistant and five junior assistant registrars, and a scheme for training each year

Grain, Cotton,
Rice and
Sisal
Growth
and prices.

Administra-
tion; Co-
operative
Rural
Societies.

Class IV.—
Production and
Distribution.

a reserve of junior assistant registrars was sanctioned. The close inter-connection between the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments was emphasised by the transfer to Maymyo, which has since 1905 been the headquarters of the superior staff of the co-operative movement, of the headquarters of the Director of Agriculture. A revised set of rules under the Act was issued in February 1916 and the model bye-laws of practically all classes of societies were revised and have been adopted in their revised form by the societies concerned. Practically all the recommendations of the Committee on Co-operation were adopted without difficulty. Agricultural credit societies numbered 1,685 at the close of the year as compared with 1,252 a year earlier and their membership increased in the same period from 30,130 to 36,494. Eight hundred of the societies are of the Luzzati type in which shares are subscribed in instalments. Credit during the year was somewhat easier than in 1914-15. Expansion occurred for the most part in the Lower Chindwin, Pakokku, Sagaing, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Pegu, Prome and Tharrawaddy Districts. With a very few exceptions agricultural credit societies worked well. It is more and more clear that the one thing necessary is understanding; most of the faults found are due to ignorance and inefficiency. The sanctions provided by the power of the union to bring pressure and of the Registrar to cancel are effective and prevent serious lapses. The number of societies cancelled during the year was 25 and the progress of liquidations was satisfactory. The total working capital of these societies increased from Rs. 41.52 to Rs. 53.36 lakhs, the share capital from Rs. 7.00 lakhs to Rs. 8.66 lakhs, and the reserve fund from Rs. 4.40 lakhs to Rs. 6.35 lakhs. Loans and deposits from individuals increased from Rs. 89 lakh to Rs. 1.10 lakh and the profit on the year's working was Rs. 2.56 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2.13 lakhs in 1914-15. The relation of reserve funds to total loans and deposits held was Rs. 8.91 lakhs to Rs. 38.35 lakhs.

There are four colonies which have been formed for bringing land under cultivation under the auspices of the Co-operative Department. The oldest of these is in the area irrigated by the Mōn Canals in the Minbu District which in the year of report completed its fourth year of existence. Though there is no doubt of the ultimate success of the colony the co-operative credit societies through which cultivators were financed were, principally from lack of continuous control, badly managed and there was a failure to repay both Government advances and loans taken from Central Banks. At Kadōnbaw in Hanthawaddy District leases of a disforested reserve were issued to 13 Co-operative Credit Societies and loans granted which before harvest reached a total of upwards of Rs. 500 per member. The amount realised by the sale of the surplus of the year's crop was Rs. 90,415 or about Rs. 155 per member. Further Government loans were issued and at the end of June 1916 the average indebtedness of each member on this account was about Rs. 716 to be repaid in eight equal annual instalments. Near Ela in Yamethin District four villages were formed of persons who had been dispossessed of lands and houses by the formation of an elephant grazing reserve. Government advances were issued and the prospects of some of the societies are encouraging but others may require to be reorganised. The village of Hopin in the Myittha District is surrounded by a very large area of fertile and uncultivated land. Societies were originally formed here among settlers who were already in the hands of money-lenders. Difficulties were experienced in setting the members of these on their feet and the department has undertaken measures for the systematic colonisation of the area, financing the colonists, and working with the Agricultural Department for the establishment of other staple crops in addition to rice.

Unions and
Central
Banks.

93. The number of unions has increased from 112 in the previous year to 189 and the number of affiliated societies from 1,121 to 1,602. The number of individual members of affiliated societies is now 34,123 and their aggregate working capital Rs. 46 lakhs. The unions employed 26 inspectors for the supervision of the work of societies. The union in Burma is becoming more and more the mainspring of the movement. Unions responded well to the very heavy work entailed by the introduction of a new system of finance, the remodelling

of union and affiliated society bye-laws, and in five districts by the formation of affiliated cattle insurance societies. The new financing system laid down that Credit Banks regard punctual repayment as one of the main criteria of credit worthiness. It also gave unions the power of reducing estimated repayments of affiliated societies for good cause shown, and of bringing pressure to bear on societies inclined to unpunctuality. The success of their efforts in the latter direction was proved by the unusually high proportion of repayments during the year. There was a considerable expansion in the business of the Upper Burma Central Co-operative Bank, Limited. The paid up share capital increased from Rs. 2'04 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 2'28 lakhs, loans to banks and societies from Rs. 11'25 lakhs to Rs. 21'47 lakhs and repayments of loans and deposits from Rs. 3'06 lakhs to Rs. 12'06 lakhs. The total of loans due from banks and societies was Rs. 27'89 lakhs as against Rs. 22'13 lakhs. Loans and deposits from individuals with the bank expanded from Rs. 28'34 lakhs to Rs. 51'07 lakhs. Owing to the depreciation of its holding of Government paper and other securities the bank wrote down their value by Rs. 53,500 and for this reason the year's working resulted in a loss of Rs. 9,020. The Co-operative Credit Societies have agreed to pay for a period of one year from 1st April 1916 a commission of one per cent. on all loans from the bank, the proceeds to be credited to the bank's reserve fund. The bank is the centre of the fluid resources of the whole movement and throughout the year it kept at least the amount considered to be necessary by the Committee on Co-operation. The management was satisfactory and, owing probably to the improvement effected by the new financing system, repayments by affiliated societies were better than in any year since its formation. The three District Central Banks, at Pakokku, Sagu-Salin (Minbu District) and Pegu have intimate connections with the Provincial Bank and serve to collect a certain amount of local money which the Provincial Bank would not obtain. Their aggregate working capital increased from Rs. 4'88 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 7'52 lakhs, the paid up share capital from Rs. 71 lakh to Rs. 1'07 lakh, but loans and deposits from individuals received during the year fell away from Rs. 2'11 lakhs to Rs. 1'47 lakh. Loans made during the year were Rs. 5'03 lakhs as against Rs. 2'92 lakhs, repayments of loans received Rs. 2'19 lakhs as against Rs. 1'45 lakh while the amount of loans due increased from Rs. 4'99 lakhs to Rs. 7'60 lakhs. The Pegu Bank was dissolved in November 1915 and re-constituted.

Chap. IV—
Progress
1915-16
During
1916.

94. The number of non-agricultural credit societies increased from 43 to 46. The increase took place in Rangoon where credit societies for employees were formed in the larger Government offices. Four societies were wound up, one with a view to reconstruction and the rest as they were stagnant. The Toungoo and Nyaunglebin Urban Societies were the most successful of the Town Banks. The Nyaunglebin Society has devised a scheme for the collection of small savings in the town which produces an average of Rs. 700 per month. The unwieldy Bawgabala Society at Mandalay was wound up and a number of societies restricted in each case to a particular trade are being formed in its place. The Amarapura Weavers' Society was unable to dispose of fabrics and was wound up.

Other
Societies.

The principal statistics with reference to cattle insurance societies are as follows. There are 305 such societies situated in the districts of Shwobo, Sagaing, Mandalay, Kyaukse and Meiktila, with an aggregate membership of 5,045. The amount of risk insured against on 30th June 1916 was Rs. 287 lakhs, premia collected during the year Rs. 9,737, number of animals insured on 30th June 7,929 and the number lost during the year 75. The amount of claims paid was Rs. 685, cost of management Rs. 219, and funds in hand at the close of the year Rs. 10,671. Of the total risk Rs. 1'13 lakh was re-insured with the central cattle re-insurance society. The movement is only beginning, the number of societies in the previous year being only 63. The central cattle re-insurance society is composed of the 305 ordinary insurance societies as members and of honorary individual members. The societies may re-insure with it half of the risks assumed by them. Its premium income during the year was Rs. 4,022, it paid Rs. 247 in claims and management expenses amounted to

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Rs. 148. At the close of the year a sum of Rs. 3,626 was in hand and it was not necessary to draw on the Government guarantee loan. The present rate of premium, 5 per cent., was imposed as an experiment and experience may prove that it is too high. The Pakòkku Wholesale Society was engaged in collecting capital. Credit and sale societies sold rice, dhall and wheat and one society supplied a Municipality with road-metal. Negotiations with the Burma Chamber of Commerce for the reduction of the capacity of the standard basket from nine to eight gallons and for the alteration of the present system of purchase of unhusked rice by measurement with an allowance for weight to a system of purchase by weight only, led to no result.

Horticulture.

Horticultural
Societies.

95. There are two Agri-Horticultural Societies in the Province; the Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma with headquarters and gardens in Rangoon, and the Tenasserim Agri-Horticultural Society with headquarters in Moulmein. The membership of the former society fell from 268 to 223, a decrease of 45. The revenue amount during 1915 shewed a profit of Rs. 380 as compared with a loss of Rs. 909 in the previous year. Receipts rose from Rs. 35,827 to Rs. 39,552 and expenditure from Rs. 36,736 to Rs. 39,172. In spite of the war the sale of plants, flowers and seeds increased and the stocks of trees and plants were well maintained. On account of the war no show was held during the year.

The Tenasserim Agri-Horticultural Society, as in the previous year, published no report, and held no annual show.

Forests.

Forest re-
serves, in-
cluded for
timber, conser-
vation, demar-
cation, survey and
working-
plans.

96. At the beginning of the year the aggregate area of forest reserves in Burma was 18,072,843 acres to which were added by reservation, recomputation of areas and revision of boundaries 219,156 acres and from which fell to be deducted by disforestation, recomputation of areas and revision of boundaries 9,572 acres, leaving at the close of the year an aggregate area of 18,282,427 acres or 28,566 square miles of which 1,232 square miles were subject to the practice of shifting cultivation. At the beginning of the year the estimated area of unclassified forest was 73,041,132 acres, the gains and losses were 69,267 and 307,003 acres respectively, and the area at the close of the year 72,803,396 acres or 113,755 square miles, of which the estimated area without tree growth was 11,906 square miles. Owing to the lack of available civil and forest officers the area settled as reserved forest fell from 891 to 336 square miles. Owing to the abandonment of the reservation of certain tracts the aggregate area awaiting constitution as reserved forest by settlement fell from 1,035 square miles at the end of 1914-15 to 772 square miles. The length of forest reserve boundaries demarcated for the first time was 259 miles as against 723 miles in the previous year and the length repaired 2,488 miles as against 2,369. The average cost of first demarcation rose from Rs. 12.9 to Rs. 15.5 per mile, the rates varying from Rs. 31.7 in the Pegu Circle to Rs. 6.9 in the Southern Circle. The average cost of repairs fell from Rs. 7.8 to Rs. 6.7 per mile, being again highest in the Pegu and lowest in the Southern Circles. On clearing or repairing interior boundaries a sum of Rs. 1,831 was spent. No. 11 Party of the Survey of India executed on the scale of one inch to the mile a detailed survey of the whole of one, and parts of two, reserves in the Tavoy and Mergui Districts, and a similar survey on a scale of two inches to the mile of five reserves in the Mandalay Division and part of one reserve in the Meiktila Division. The total area of forest reserve surveyed by this Party was 413.4 square miles. No. 10 Party surveyed on the scale of two inches to the mile three reserves with a total area of 175 square miles in the Myikkyina Division and two reserves, area 46.7 square miles, in the Mansi Division. A working-plan for three reserves with a total area of 101 square miles in the Ruby Mines District was sanctioned by the Local Government.

Other working-plans were in various stages of preparation. There were 7,377 square miles of forest reserve and 24,966 square miles of unclassified forest worked under rough schemes and 11,622 square miles of reserve and 88,040 square miles of unclassified forests for which no schemes of management had been prepared.

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Distribution

97. The number of forest offences reported which in 1914-15 was 5,026 increased to 5,667. The increase was to some extent possibly due to the more careful supervision of the forests, but the principal cause was the depletion of accessible unclassified forests which induced villagers to supply their wants by theft from forest reserves. There was a marked increase in the number of cases of illicit grazing, due to the efforts made to put a stop to this practice in the Northern Circle and in the Mandalay Division. Forest Officers compounded 4,212 cases involving 5,835 persons and prosecutions were instituted in 1,090 cases involving 2,097 persons. The number of cases in which a conviction was secured was 887, or 87 per cent., involving 1,728 persons, or 82.4 per cent. Fines aggregating Rs. 36,853 were paid by lessees and purchase contractors for breaches of agreements. In the Insein Division three purchase contracts were cancelled for the same reason. Protection against fire was attempted over an area of 1,715,336 acres and successful over 1,582,507 acres or 92.3 per cent. of the area attempted. A further area of 481,074 acres was excluded from protection, some permanently on the ground that the forest would rarely burn even if not protected, and some temporarily on account of the flowering of bamboos. The average cost of protection was Rs. 4.3 per square mile attempted and Rs. 46 per square mile saved. Of the area of reserved forest 78.05 per cent. is closed to all animals throughout the year, 15.38 per cent. is open to all animals for part of the year and 4.73 per cent. open to all animals throughout the year. In unclassified forests there is no control over grazing. The number of cattle impounded was 4,303 as against an average of 3,648 for the three preceding years. Damage to forests from the elephants of lessees was reported from the Upper Chindwin and Mansi Divisions and from the ravages of wild animals in numerous districts. In Arakan a cyclone did much damage in North Akyab and the Hill Tracts. The Mansi Division suffered from hail-storms which practically defoliated the teak in the Mode Reserve. The usual reports were made of damage by insects, epiphytes, parasites and weeds.

Protection
of forests.

98. The expenditure on new roads and paths decreased by Rs. 54,507, from Rs. 79,570 to Rs. 25,063 and expenditure on repairs by Rs. 9,344, from Rs. 65,242 to Rs. 55,898. In addition to these amounts certain small grants were received from District Funds and forest lessees and expended by the Forest Department. The expenditure on new buildings was Rs. 46,793 as compared with Rs. 89,869 in the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 43,076, and on repairs Rs. 52,190 as compared with Rs. 68,615, a decrease of Rs. 16,425. The expenditure on new miscellaneous works which in 1914-15 was Rs. 10,915 fell to Rs. 6,477, and on repairs was Rs. 12,545 as against Rs. 10,186. Lessees of forests reported that they had incurred an aggregate expenditure of Rs. 1,09,128 on communications and buildings. Extensive operations were carried out in the Katha Division in order to induce and establish the natural reproduction of teak. Twenty-one acres were added to the area of regular teak plantations at a cost of Rs. 136 and 30 acres excluded as having failed. In the Arakan Division steps are being taken to plant teak, which does not occur naturally, on an extensive scale. It has been proved that teak will grow well and good results are anticipated as experience is gained. An area of 585 acres was added to the area of teak plantations on shifting hill cultivation (*taungya*) and 8 acres gained by recomputation after survey. One hundred acres were lost by recomputation and 98 written off as failures. The cost of fresh plantations was Rs. 8,442 and of maintenance Rs. 17,947.

Improvement
of forests.

99. Nearly all the reserved forests in the Province, so far as they are exploited, are worked under the "Selection" system. Teak trees are selected

Exploitation
of timber.

CHAP. IV—
PRODUCE
EXTRACTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

and girdled and trees of other species selected and marked by officers of the Forest Department and only trees so girdled or marked may be felled and removed by purchasers. In unclassified forests also teak trees are selected and girdled by the Forest Department. Some descriptions of minor forest produce may be collected free or under a free permit. In such cases the royalty may be levied as an export duty, as in the case of cutch and lac; or on the arrival of the produce at a revenue station, as in the case of bamboos cut from unclassified forests in Upper Burma. In other cases a prepaid license is issued. The royalty may be proportionate to the amount of produce which the licensee may collect, as in the case of bamboos and grass; or the licensee may be permitted, for a fixed sum, to collect as much as he can in a given time, as in the case of wood-oil. In other cases license-books, each license being for a fixed amount of produce, are sold at a discount to "Revenue Collectors" who are permitted to retail the licenses at their face value. In other cases the right to collect a given produce, or to collect royalty at fixed rates on a given produce, over a fixed area, is sold to a monopolist.

The number of teak trees girdled fell from 205,371 in the previous year to 195,902 owing to the suspension of operations in several divisions where extraction had fallen into arrears. Departmental extraction of teak on a large scale is practically confined to the forests on the Pegu Yoma range of hills. The total quantity of teak extracted by the Department was 65,347 tons as compared with 51,880 tons in the previous year. In the Rangoon Depot the quantity of teak sold increased from 7,283 tons in the previous year to 15,642 tons, the majority of the logs being of inferior quality. The average price realised per ton was Rs. 50-6-3 as against Rs. 71-2-1 in the previous year and Rs. 101-9-8 in 1913-14. The fall was partly due to the inferior quality of the timber offered, but in the main to lack of demand caused by the conditions resulting from the war. The quantity of teak extracted by purchasers was 249,892 tons as compared with an output of 243,107 tons from this source in the previous year. The quantity of reserved timber extracted by purchasers was 74,255 tons as against 70,139 tons in 1914-15, of unreserved timbers, 161,235 tons as against 172,480 tons and of fuel 535,393 tons as against 409,950 tons. The quantity of timber extracted under free grants again decreased from 17,807 tons to 14,915 tons. The estimated value of minor forest produce extracted by purchasers increased from Rs. 4-23 lakhs in 1914-15 to Rs. 5-87 lakhs and the revenue actually realised thereon from Rs. 4-21 lakhs to Rs. 6-11 lakhs. The rise was due solely to the increased demand for cutch, the export duty collected on which rose from Rs. 94,119 to Rs. 2,29,842.

The expenditure by forest lessees on mechanical appliances for the extraction of timber increased from Rs. 7,133 in the previous year to Rs. 1,14,570. Messrs. Steel Bros. & Co., Ltd., purchased a caterpillar tractor for use in their forests in Katha and other firms spent considerable sums on the construction of light railways and sliders.

Finance.

100. The financial results are noticed in Chapter V in the section entitled "Revenue and Finance other than Imperial".

Mines and Quarries.

The Indian
Mines Act.

101. No new mines were reported during the year but several workings were started in the Tavoy District which should, in the opinion of the District Magistrate, have been registered and for the registration of which steps have been taken. On the other hand, in the same district, consequent on the increase in the demand for wolfram, the existing mines were more assiduously worked, notably in the last quarter of the year. The Burma Ruby Mines Company also increased its activities slightly in response to an improvement in the demand for rubies in the Indian market. Numerous inspections of mines by the Government Geologist on Mines Duty, the Deputy Commissioner and the Mines Assistant, Tavoy, led to a considerable improvement in all branches of mining administration in that district. These activities more than counterbalanced the absence of inspections by medical officers. In other places inspections by district officers were made as usual. The

CLASS IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

in July 1915. The total estimated value of the outturn during the year 1915 was Rs. 5'45 lakhs as compared with Rs. 6'37 lakhs in 1914. The outturn in carats fell from 304,048 to 251,449. The royalties collected from native miners fell from Rs. 1'82 lakh in 1914 to Rs. '56 lakh, but prospects are better now than in the days immediately succeeding the outbreak of the war. There were practically no sales in Europe but the demand in India and in Mogok was fair.

Other
minerals.

106. At the present time the most important of the other minerals produced in the Province is wolfr m. The mines in the principal source of supply, the Tavoy District, are under the Indian Mines Act, 1901. Prior to the outbreak of the present war the sole market for wolfram was Germany and its closure had disastrous results on the industry. In the latter part of 1914 work on many mines had entirely ceased and the production of all had been severely curtailed. In 1915 the demand for wolfram revived owing to its importance in the manufacture of munitions and energetic measures were taken to enhance the supply in every way possible. Labour was imported, roads were made to the mines as rapidly as could be, and the district staff was largely increased. The full effect of these measures was not experienced in 1915 but the output of the mines under the Act, which in 1914 was 1,579 tons valued at Rs. 16'57 lakhs, increased to 2,037 tons valued at Rs. 26'93 lakhs. From mines not under the Mines Act the total output was 343 tons valued at Rs. 6'83 lakhs. The provincial total of wolfram for the year was therefore 2,380 tons of a value of Rs. 33'76 lakhs compared with 2,190 tons of a value of Rs. 24'99 lakhs in 1914. Of the mines not under the Mines Act those in the Thaton District produced 49 tons, in Tavoy 61 tons, in Mergui 232 tons, while from the Southern Shan States 31 tons of tinstone and wolfram ore were produced.

Of other metals the output of tin fell from 136 tons to 131 tons. In Tavoy production fell from 38 to 2 tons and Mergui with 128 tons is responsible for practically the whole production of the Province. From Mergui also came 86 tons of tin ore, the same amount as in the previous year. The most striking development of the year is due to the operations of the Burma Mines Company, Limited, at Namtu in the Northern Shan States. In 1914 the production of their mines was 24,901 tons of lead slag valued at Rs. 6'01 lakhs and 8,769 tons of silver lead ore valued at Rs. 2'36 lakhs. In 1915 the returns were 32,387 tons lead slag from which were produced 11,702 tons lead valued at Rs. 12'52 lakhs and 185,570 ounces of silver valued at Rs. 3'04 lakhs; 4,027 tons of silver lead ore from which were produced 1,59 tons lead valued at Rs. 1'64 lakh and 98,225 ounces of silver valued at Rs. 1'28 lakh; 5,620 tons gossan flux which produced 288 tons lead valued at Rs. '31 lakh and 21,060 ounces of silver valued at Rs. '35 lakh. Other products of the same mine were 875 tons of copper ore valued at Rs. '35 lakh and 87 tons of zinc ore valued at Rs. 2,610. In the Myitkyina District the output of jade was 3,672 cwt. as compared with 3,764 cwt. in the previous year and the value dropped from Rs. 2'05 lakhs to Rs. 1'90 lakh.

Quarry
stones and
clay.

107. The value of granite extracted rose from Rs. 1'27 lakh in 1914 to Rs. 1'60 lakh in 1915. Considerably more than half the total quantity for the Province was raised from the quarries in the Thaton District which have in recent years become the principal source of supply of road metal. For the requirements of the Public Works Department large quantities of laterite, limestone and gravel were as in previous years extracted from numerous areas scattered throughout the Province.

Receipts
from mines
and quarries.

108. The receipts from fees, rents and royalties on petroleum, rubies, jade and amber increased by nearly 29 per cent., from Rs. 30'18 lakhs to Rs. 38'91 lakhs. Receipts from petroleum in Magwe increased by Rs. 6'73 lakhs to Rs. 25'61 lakhs and in Myingyan by Rs. 1'50 lakh to Rs. 11'07 lakhs. The increase in Magwe was due in part to increased production but in considerable measure to the fact that Rs. 1'70 lakh collected in 1914-15 was not brought to account until the year of report. Continued progress by the Burma Oil Company and the British Burma Petroleum Company in the Singu oil-field,

Lower Burma Chamber of Mines was re-constituted as the Tavoy Chamber of Mines. A strong committee was formed which, as including all the principal mine owners, is expected to exercise considerable and useful authority. Fever was the only disease generally prevalent. In the Kyaukse District the remedial measures adopted were jungle-clearing in the vicinity of the mines and the employment of an increased medical staff. No noteworthy change in the general rate of wages paid took place during the year save in the Tavoy District where the payment of high wages was one of the methods adopted to stimulate the output of wolfram. Imported Chinese received Re. 1-12-0 per day; other labourers were paid on the "tribute" system under which the mine owner purchases from the labourer at a fixed price all the ore produced by the latter. Nine fatal accidents occurred during the year, seven of which were in the Tavoy District. Nearly all the deaths were caused by falls of earth; in no case was the responsibility laid on the neglect or failure to take due precautions of the mine owner. There were no prosecutions under the Act during the year.

Dist. IV
Prospect-
tion and
Distric-
tion.

102. During the year 1915 the number of applications for prospecting licenses on which orders were passed was 293. Of these 147 were granted, 100 rejected and 46 withdrawn. In 1914 the number dealt with was 344 of which 179 were granted, 125 rejected and 40 withdrawn. Of 17 applications for mining leases 3 were granted, 10 refused and 4 withdrawn; in 1914 the number of cases dealt with was 12. At the end of the year 157 applications for prospecting licenses and 35 applications for mining leases were pending; on the corresponding date of 1914 the figures were 95 and 37. As in previous years the majority of applications were concerned with the exploitation of the mineral wealth of the two southern districts of the Tenasserim Division. The search for petroleum in the Magwe Division accounts for the second place in the number of applications. Of the three mining leases issued two were for petroleum in the Minbu District and one for lead and silver in the Southern Shan States.

New conces-
sions.

103. The output of petroleum which in 1914 amounted to 254½ million gallons valued at Rs. 141.46 lakhs rose in 1915 to 282½ million gallons valued at Rs. 185.97 lakhs. There are in the Province seven petroleum producing districts Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Thayetmyo, Magwe, Myingyan, Pakokku and Minbu. The aggregate production of the first three was only about 61,000 gallons. Of the others the most important is Magwe with an output of over 198½ million gallons valued at Rs. 1,14.79 lakhs, a notable recovery from the yield of the previous year of 175 million gallons. The Yenangyang field continued to flourish and increase its yield in the teeth of all prophecies of approaching exhaustion. In Myingyan the output which was 73½ million gallons in 1914 was 77 million gallons in 1915, an example of the steady increase in the production of the Singu field. In Pakokku the yield fell from 4½ millions to just over 4 million gallons; the Yenangyat field is slowly approaching the stage of exhaustion. In Minbu the yield which fell to 1½ million gallons in 1914 recovered to over 2½ millions, though the prospects of the industry in that district are not yet absolutely assured. Progress in the Thayetmyo District is slow and the yield of 25,920 gallons show that oil winning there is still in the experimental stage.

Petroleum.

104. The production of gold in the Province is small. It amounted during the year to 3,182.58 ounces valued at Rs. 1.85 lakh of which 3,106.83 ounces valued at Rs. 1.79 lakh were won in the Myitkyina District. The Burma Gold Dredging Company, Limited, operating in the bed of the Irrawaddy River in this district produced 2,819.25 ounces as against 2,631 ounces in the previous year. Though gold-washing is carried on in a few other districts, the amount of gold won is insignificant, the largest amount being 50.25 ounces declared by the Upper Chindwin District.

Gold

105. The Burma Ruby Mines Company, Limited, continued their operations during the year in the country round Mogok. No new mine was opened but night work at one of the existing mines which had stopped in 1914 was revived

Rubies.

which has been transferred to the Magwe District since the close of the year, accounted for the increase in Myingyan. There was a further decrease of Rs. 12,262 in Pakòkku to Rs. 59,525. In Myitkyina, the revenue derived from licenses to collect royalty on jade-stone increased by 77 per cent. from Rs. 27,190 to Rs. 48,200 on account of an increase in the license fees, while in the Ruby Mines District there was a rise of 21½ per cent. from Rs. 37,700 to Rs. 80,680 in royalties on precious stones, indicating a partial recovery of the trade in rubies. "Other minerals" produced Rs. 2.43 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 99,634 or over 69 per cent., the Tenasserim Division being responsible for Rs. 98,126, i.e. practically the whole of the increase. The Tavoy receipts more than doubled from Rs. 79,841 to Rs. 1,59,836 owing to the urgent demand for wolfram for munition purposes which commenced about June 1915. Production rose from 1,644 to 2,346 tons. As the rate of royalty was raised in January from Rs. 30 to Rs. 45 a ton the amount collected increased by Rs. 66,652 or 126 per cent. With an increase in the number of prospecting licenses issued, average fees in this district correspondingly increased by Rs. 12,451 or nearly 47 per cent. In Mergui and Thaton the revival of the wolfram industry similarly led to increases of Rs. 10,013 (44½ per cent.) and Rs. 7,991 (151 per cent.) respectively, the increase in Thaton being mainly due to the great demand for prospecting licenses in the Paung Township. Owing to the grant of large areas under prospecting licenses in Katha and Kyaukse receipts from these districts increased by Rs. 2,206 and Rs. 2,111, respectively. In Myaungmya a revival of the market for lime attracted back a number of manufacturers who had turned their attention to agriculture in the previous year.

CHAS. IV.—
FAC-
TORIES AND
DURABLE
GOODS.

Manufactures.

109. The bulk of the indigenous population is agricultural, and manufacturing industries draw their supplies of labour mainly from Indian immigrants. The numbers of persons supported by the various industries of the Province are given in the Census Report of 1911. The only new industry started was a soap factory in a suburb of Rangoon which ceased working before the end of the year and failed to submit any return to the Inspector of Factories. There was a considerable increase in the number of mills which undertook the operation of boiling unhusked rice, an industry which came into prominence as the result of the difficulties caused by lack of shipping in the export of rice to Europe. Numerous advantages are claimed for the process and its future development promises to be of considerable interest. The principal industries continued to be rice-milling, saw-milling, petroleum refining and transport. Of these the rice-milling industry accounted for more than half of the factories registered and for nearly half of the total number of operatives employed; while the four industries between them claimed over two-thirds of the total number of operatives. Indigenous industries such as the manufacture of cigars, pots, mats, umbrellas, *ngapi*, shoes and carts present no unusual features and do not fall within the purview of the Factories Act.

Principal
Industries.

110. The number of registered factories at the end of 1915 was 280 of which 19 were not working, an increase of 30 over the figures of 1914. The total number of persons employed was 66,352 of whom 3,601 were women and 617 children; in 1914 the figures were 64,601, of whom 4,049 were women and 850 children. The general rate of wages paid to operatives was much the same as in the previous year except in the case of turners who received advances of Rs. 10 per month from some firms. The advance is probably only temporary and due to the demand for the services of such operatives for the manufacture of munitions. Girls employed in spreading boiled rice were paid four annas a day or in some cases a little more. The number of women and children employed in factories fluctuates from year to year but there are no signs of any permanent increase. In Rangoon children are employed to collect sawdust in saw-mills, as tally boys in rice-mills, and in various capacities in oil refineries. In Hanthawaddy they work in the match and oil factories and in Upper Burma they pick

Factories.

over the cotton in the compounds of the cotton ginning mills; they are only rarely employed on the gins themselves. Sanitary conditions in factories were on the whole satisfactory during the dry season, but in the rains compounds were often wet and partially flooded, a state of affairs exceedingly difficult to prevent or find a remedy for. A steady improvement was noticeable in the way factories were kept. Saw-mills and rice-mills are dirty businesses at best and can never be anything else, but a good deal in the way of lime washing and other things was done to keep up a certain standard of cleanliness. The prevention of the impregnation of the atmosphere of rice-mills with dust is a difficult problem of which a solution not ruinously expensive has yet to be found. Complaints were made of bad work by municipal sweepers in the conservancy of factory latrines. The water supply of factories was as a rule adequate in quantity but water for drinking had often to be brought from some distance and was of indifferent quality. In certain parts of the Prome and Tharrawaddy Districts where factories are numerous the experiment of sinking artesian wells has failed and the problem of the provision of a satisfactory water-supply is of much difficulty. The general health of the operatives was good. Despite the enormous number of rats harboured in every rice-mill the number of operatives who died of plague was not large. No complaints were received of workmen being incapacitated on account of hookworm disease. Further progress was made during the year with the fencing of machinery; means of escape in case of fire were on the whole adequate. The number of persons who lost their lives from accidents in factories was 22 as compared with 9 in 1914. The number of serious accidents increased from 75 to 121 and the number of minor accidents from 280 to 316. The number of prosecutions and of convictions for offences under the Factories Act was 14 as compared with 12 in 1914. Of 461 factories actually working 375 were visited by the Inspector of Factories during the year. The absence of the usual shipping facilities rendered it impossible to visit districts whose sole means of communication with Rangoon is by sea.

Trade.

III. The total value of the sea borne trade of Burma was Rs. 57,39,38 lakhs, a decline of Rs. 1,54,31 lakhs or 2.6 per cent. on a comparison with the previous year. Excluding the provincial trade there was a decline of 2.1 per cent.; but the prevailing influences were most strongly felt in the foreign trade which declined by 4.8 per cent. If however the months April to July, which in 1914-15 were not war months, be omitted, in the remaining months the total value of the private trade of Rangoon with all ports (foreign and coasting) was Rs. 30, 5 lakhs in 1915-16 as against Rs. 28,50 lakhs in the previous year. This improvement was a remarkable example of the recovery of confidence in the Province, because the low price of unhusked rice must have reacted unfavourably on the general purchasing power; while the effects of the war bore with ever increasing weight on the export trade. Of these effects the most serious was the scarcity of shipping with its result, an enormous increase in rates of freight. Markets in enemy countries remained closed, while trade with neutrals and in some cases even with allied countries and British possessions was subject to increasingly severe restrictions. Imports from Japan rose to Rs. 111 lakhs in value, nearly twice the total of the previous year, more by a few lakhs than the figure for either of the two years before the war, and appreciably more than in any other previous year. The percentage of the total year's trade secured by Japan was 10.4 while the largest share previously recorded was 7.9 per cent. in 1912-13. Exports to Japan on the other hand, which in 1914-15 had dropped heavily to Rs. 30 lakhs from an average in the three preceding years of Rs. 222 lakhs, again declined to Rs. 27.5 lakhs. Imports from the United States, principally motor cars and iron and steel goods, increased very largely.

In the external trade of the Province (merchandise and Government stores) the excess in the value of exports over imports was Rs. 13.5 crores as against Rs. 15 crores in the previous year. Against this must be set off the

phenomenally low imports of treasure, the net figure (after deducting re-exports) being Rs. 36 lakhs as against one crore of rupees in 1914-15. Imports of silver overland from Western China were of abnormal dimensions, over Rs. 65 lakhs. Apparently, however, practically the whole of this was despatched by parcel post to the silver market in Bombay and hence it was not recorded in the trade of the Province by the Customs Department. The value of the gold imported into the Province which was Rs. 78.12 lakhs in 1913-14 fell to Rs. 15.11 lakhs in 1914-15 and to Rs. 2.07 lakhs in the year of report. Practically the only imports were bullion and coin other than sovereigns from Hongkong. No gold came from India and there were no imports or exports of sovereigns on Government account. Imports of rupees from India rose considerably but were still far below the figures normal before the war.

Case 17—
Province
Trade and
Revenue
Section.

The total gross customs revenue for the year was Rs. 1,33.17 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,38.99 lakhs in 1914-15. The corresponding figures for net revenue are Rs. 1,30.79 lakhs and Rs. 1,36.31 lakhs. In 1913-14 the last complete year before the war the gross revenue was Rs. 2,03.21 lakhs and the net revenue Rs. 2,00.66 lakhs. In the year of report the gross import duty (excluding salt duty) rose by Rs. 3.76 lakhs or 6 per cent. Liquors contributed Rs. 21.17 lakhs, an increase of Rs. .92 lakh. Cotton goods advanced by Rs. 1.13 lakh to Rs. 9.45 lakhs, and tobacco by Rs. .91 lakh to Rs. 7.89 lakhs. The duty derived from sugar rose by Rs. 1.14 lakh to Rs. 3.16 lakhs and from silk goods by Rs. .93 lakh to Rs. 2.72 lakhs. Salt duty declined by Rs. 4.17 lakhs or 21.8 per cent. A further decline was recorded under export duty, the total collection being Rs. 51.59 lakhs as compared with Rs. 57.01 lakhs, a decline of Rs. 5.42 lakhs or 9.5 per cent. The gross revenue collections at Rangoon aggregated Rs. 1,21.74 lakhs as against Rs. 1,23.8 lakhs, a fall of Rs. 2.06 lakhs or 1.7 per cent.; an additional sum of Rs. 6.97 lakhs was realised at Rangoon on account of rice shipped at Bassein and Moulmein. The net revenue collected at Rangoon dropped by Rs. 1.81 lakh to Rs. 1,19.60 lakhs. The gross revenue collections at the subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 11.43 lakhs as against Rs. 15.19 lakhs, a fall of Rs. 3.76 lakhs or 24.8 per cent. Of this sum Rs. 10.21 lakhs were collected as export duty on rice. The gross duty collections at the various outports were as follows:—Bassein Rs. 7.86 lakhs, Akyab Rs. 1.76 lakh, Moulmein Rs. 1.16 lakh, Tavoy Rs. .48 lakh, Mergui Rs. .13 lakh, and Victoria Point Rs. .04 lakh.

112. The total value of all articles, excluding treasure, imported from foreign countries into Rangoon, was Rs. 10,64.07 lakhs as against Rs. 10,34.19 lakhs in the previous year, and from India into Rangoon Rs. 7,71.33 lakhs as against Rs. 6,69.38 lakhs. Exports from Rangoon to foreign countries, again excluding treasure, were valued at Rs. 12,05.56 lakhs as against Rs. 12,87.51 lakhs, and to India at Rs. 13,96.14 lakhs as compared with Rs. 14,46.11 lakhs. Of the foreign trade Rangoon took 88.43 per cent. as compared with 86.80 per cent. in 1914-15 and 82.72 per cent. in 1913-14. The share of Rangoon in the Indian and Provincial trades was much the same as in the previous year, 83.74 and 43.64 per cent. compared with 83.20 and 44.32 per cent. respectively in 1914-15.

Rangoon
trade: total
figures.

113. Imports under *textiles*—cotton increased in value from Rs. 3,56.29 lakhs to Rs. 4,16.45 lakhs. This trade showed an appreciable recovery, and though the total figures were far short of those for the two years of over-trading before the war, they were back to the level of the year 1910-11. The excessive stocks in hand when war broke out were considerably reduced during the year 1914-15, which to some extent explains the subsequent improvement. The recovery took place principally during the three months January—March 1916, the importation during the corresponding period of 1915 having been abnormally small. The total figure represents 22 per cent. of the aggregate value of private merchandise imported into the Province. Trade was good on the whole, and stocks at the close of the year were generally light, except perhaps in white piece-goods. An outstanding feature of the year was the difficulty experienced by merchants in

Rangoon
trade: foreign im-
ports.

Case IV
 Imports
 Customs
 Revenue

obtaining supplies of coloured goods, on account of the shortage and greatly enhanced price of dye-stuffs. Imports of *textiles—silk* increased in value from Rs. 36.93 lakhs in 1914-15 to Rs. 52.47 lakhs in the year of report, but even this latter figure compares badly with Rs. 86.32 lakhs in 1913-14 and Rs. 1,01.68 lakhs in 1912-13. The silk trade is a very fair index of the prosperity of the Burmese population, and the low price of unhusked rice during the year is reflected in these figures. The trade in wool has been completely dislocated by the war with its phenomenal demand for woollen clothing and equipment for troops in Europe. The total value of imports under this head fell from Rs. 30.18 lakhs to Rs. 8.45 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 21.73 lakhs or 72 per cent. Prices ruled high. The total value under the head *Metals and ores* increased from Rs. 1,19.86 lakhs to Rs. 1,35.85 lakhs. The growing difficulty of obtaining supplies caused by the great demands made by the Ministry of Munitions on all kinds of metals has affected Burma not so much by cutting off supplies as by making her pay a very heavy price. The decline in imports was 4 per cent. by weight, but the value of this reduced quantity was 13 per cent. higher than the value of the previous year. The decline in importations of brass and copper was very heavy. The total value of imports under the head *Hardware* was Rs. 25.63 lakhs, a fall of Rs. 4.57 lakhs or 15 per cent. on comparison with the figures for 1914-15. The United Kingdom's contribution was Rs. 16.42 lakhs as against Rs. 19.55 lakhs, the United States of America following with Rs. 6.41 lakhs as against Rs. 3.57 lakhs. Enamelled ironware was formerly principally supplied by Germany and Austria-Hungary; it is now arriving from Japan, her contribution being Rs. 1.48 lakh as against Rs. .13 lakh in the previous year. Agricultural implements, buckets, domestic hardware, metal lamps and parts, safes and strong boxes and miscellaneous articles under "other sorts" were supplied mainly by the United Kingdom. Implements and tools came chiefly from the United States of America, consignments being valued at Rs. 3.80 lakhs as against Rs. 1.35 lakh. The total value of *provisions and oilmanstoves* imported fell by Rs. 1.98 lakh to Rs. 57.58 lakhs but, owing to increased prices, this figure does not adequately express the decrease in quantity. The war has caused an all round rise in prices of imported provisions and this, combined with decreased purchasing power and with shipping difficulties, led to a decrease in importation. The total value of the imports of *fish (excluding canned fish)* was Rs. 50.70 lakhs in 1914-15 and fell to Rs. 48.14 lakhs in the year of report. Foreign imports, mainly from the Straits Settlements, showed an appreciable decline, probably owing to the lack of regular steamship connection. The coasting trade, however, showed little change, except in distribution by provinces. Madras and Bengal each improved their contributions, while Bombay and Sind were less; this again was due to the interruption of shipping. The quantity of *salt* imported fell from 68,983 to 59,378 tons but its value increased from Rs. 14.38 lakhs to Rs. 25.39 lakhs. At one period of the year, in September, a famine seemed imminent but several cargoes arrived just in time to ease the situation. About half the imports came from Spain. The quantity of *sugar* imported was 463,947 cwt. valued at Rs. 71.83 lakhs; in 1914-15 the quantity was 402,923 cwt. and the value Rs. 44.88 lakhs. This marked recovery in imports was due to the easier position of the Java trade after the British Committee had obtained all its requirements. Imports of sugar from India declined from 26,483 cwt. to 12,969 cwt. The quantity of *liquors* imported rose from 972,682 gallons in 1914-15 to 983,138 gallons and the value from Rs. 30.84 lakhs to Rs. 33.68 lakhs. The quantity of beer imported was less but the value greater by 9.8 per cent. Imports of *spirits* increased by 13.6 per cent. in quantity and 9.6 per cent. in value. The trade in *tobacco* showed a marked recovery. Foreign imports rose by 150,797 lbs. and Rs. 4.66 lakhs to 651,897 lbs. valued at Rs. 18.92 lakhs, and the coasting trade increased by 3,626,874 lbs. and Rs. 6.20 lakhs to 14,902,862 lbs. with a value of Rs. 38.92 lakhs. The number of motor-cars imported was 206 as compared with 157 in 1914-15 and the value increased from Rs. 5.12 lakhs to Rs. 7.44 lakhs. Of the total 256 cars came from America. Among the articles classified as miscellaneous there were decreases in *arms, ammunition and military stores, sulphuric acid, coal, cullery, cycles, earthenware and porcelain, paper and pasteboard, soap*

and betelnuts and increases in building and engineering materials, sulphur, fruits and vegetables, matches, and jute manufactures.

114. Of exports from Rangoon to foreign countries 57·16 per cent. and of exports to India 33·62 per cent. consisted of rice, *husked and unhusked*. The total value of this commodity exported was Rs. 14,59·99 lakhs as compared with Rs. 15,82·22 lakhs in 1914-15. Over half of this quantity was exported to India whence there was a good demand owing to scarcity in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and Madras. In the foreign trade, despite a good demand, business was difficult and uncertain on account of the enormous advance in freights, the scarcity of steamers and the risk of their being requisitioned, and the restrictions imposed in order to prevent supplies or trading profits reaching enemy countries. The average charter rate for rice to Europe for the four years preceding the war was 25s. 10d. per ton, in February—March 1916 the rate paid was 175s. a ton. In spite of high freights foreign exports of *rice-bran* improved. Shipments from Rangoon were 176,319 tons, an increase of 7,043 tons over the figures of the previous year. The trade in *teakwood* has been badly hit by the war. In 1914-15 the total exports from Rangoon were 107,130 cubic tons valued at Rs. 1,51·84 lakhs; in 1915-16 the figures were 101,202 cubic tons and Rs. 1,38·48 lakhs. The demand from the United Kingdom and elsewhere declined owing to the suspension of private ship-building and railway carriage construction, while exports to foreign countries were subject to severe restrictions. The reduced demand led to a fairly steady fall in prices. The decline in foreign business was only partially set off by an increase of 5,841 cubic tons in the quantity exported to India. *In and pyinkado* are the main items under the heading *Wood—other timber*. Exports from Rangoon and Moulmein to foreign countries and India declined by 13,193 cubic tons and Rs. 13·10 lakhs to 27,074 cubic tons valued at Rs. 16·54 lakhs. The bulk went to Bengal and Bombay. The exports of *mineral oils* again broke previous records, rising from 143,845,144 gallons valued at Rs. 4,60·94 lakhs in 1914-15 to 147,001,406 gallons valued at Rs. 4,68·56 lakhs in 1915-16, an increase of 2·2 per cent. in volume and 1·6 per cent. in value. Exports of kerosene oil to India, the principal market for this product, were slightly larger than in the previous year; more than half went to Bengal. Notwithstanding the restrictions placed on the export of *paraffin wax* the total shipments during the year were almost as great as during the previous year when the highest figure was recorded. They aggregated 344,951 cwt. valued at Rs. 77·05 lakhs as against 354,288 cwt. valued at Rs. 78·27 lakhs. The United Kingdom was the largest customer with 124,363 cwt. valued at Rs. 28·29 lakhs as against 94,303 cwt. with a value of Rs. 21·41 lakhs. The increase was due to the use of the article in the manufacture of munitions. Despite the existence of restrictions similar to those in force in the case of paraffin wax exports of candles were on a satisfactory scale, totalling 6,152,065 lbs. valued at Rs. 17·28 lakhs as against 7,838,221 lbs. with a value of Rs. 22·04 lakhs in 1914-15. The United Kingdom was the best customer, her takings being 1,447,629 lbs. valued at Rs. 4·07 lakhs, as against 513,766 lbs. with a value of Rs. 1·44 lakh; the figures are the highest on record. Shipments to China on the other hand were only 307,349 lbs. valued at Rs. 7·84 lakh, a decline of 2,507,717 lbs. and Rs. 7·08 lakhs. The trade in *hides and skins* showed a decrease in quantity from 90,831 to 89,465 cwt. or 1·5 per cent. though the number of pieces increased, while in value there was a rise from Rs. 52·36 lakhs to Rs. 56·54 lakhs or 8·6 per cent. Prices ruled high on account of the pressing demands of the leather trade owing to the war. The quantity of *cotton (raw)* exported, which in 1914-15 was 235,003 cwt. valued at Rs. 67·80 lakhs, fell in 1915-16 to 141,603 cwt. valued at Rs. 41·01 lakhs. Owing to the poor prices realised by the crop of 1914-15 the area cultivated with this crop was reduced by about 30 per cent. and weather conditions were not favourable for securing a full yield. The foreign export trade in *cotton seed* is apparently extinct, no shipments having been made during the year. Exports to India were only 6,677 cwt. as compared with 40,070 cwt. in 1914-15 and 93,532 cwt. in 1913-14. The war has had serious effects on the trade in *groundnuts*. Exports to Hongkong, which in 1913-14 took 538,254 cwt. and in 1914-15, 37,993 cwt.,

CHAP. IV.—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Rangoon
trade:
foreign
ports

CHAP. IV—
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

completely ceased owing to high freights and scarcity of shipping. Exports to India were practically *nil*. Groundnut oil to the extent of 77,388 gallons valued at Rs. 1.14 lakh was exported to foreign countries, being 75,548 gallons and Rs. 1.10 lakh more than the previous year's figures and the highest yet recorded. Almost all went to the United Kingdom. No oil was exported to India. Exports of groundnut oilcake to foreign countries declined by 65,391 cwt. and Rs. 1.29 lakh to 776,482 cwt. valued at Rs. 22.09 lakhs; all went to the United Kingdom. Exports of *beans* to foreign countries were 34,184 tons valued at Rs. 39.45 lakhs, an increase of 2,762 tons in quantity and Rs. 11.61 lakhs in value; to India the exports were 16,970 tons valued at Rs. 14.70 lakhs as compared with 12,126 tons valued at Rs. 11.38 lakhs in the previous year. Shipments of rubber aggregated 1,285,984 lbs. valued at Rs. 30.69 lakhs, an increase of 298,592 lbs. and Rs. 10.54 lakhs over the figures of the previous year. Owing to its being in great demand as a tanning material the exports of *catch* surpassed all previous records. The total shipments were 170,517 cwt. valued at Rs. 30.65 lakhs as compared with 86,951 cwt. valued at Rs. 16.79 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of 96 per cent. in volume and 83 per cent. in value. Exports of *lac* to foreign countries fell from 836 cwt. valued at Rs. .16 lakh to 93 cwt. with a value of Rs. .04 lakh. The exports to India were 19,344 cwt. valued at Rs. 2.95 lakhs as against 2,962 cwt. worth Rs. .70 lakh in 1914-15. *Pig lead* was in keen demand, supplies at the mines were larger, and the result was an increase in the quantity exported from 6,499 tons to 10,846 tons and in the value from Rs. 17.22 lakhs to Rs. 35.84 lakhs, an increase of 67 per cent. in volume and 108 per cent. in value. *Wolftram* is another product for which the war has created an exceptional demand. Exports in 1915-16 were 2,629 tons with a value of Rs. 53.10 lakhs as compared with 1,916 tons and Rs. 26.37 lakhs in 1914-15. The outbreak of war nearly put a stop to the trade in zinc ore, exports of which fell from 4,887 tons valued at Rs. 3.42 lakhs in 1914-15 to 87 tons valued at Rs. .05 lakh. The quantity of *jadestone* exported was 4,381 cwt., the highest on record. The value, however, was only Rs. 5.47 lakhs or Rs. 2.76 lakhs less than the value of the 4,194 cwt. exported in 1914-15.

Rangoon
trade :
British
share.

115. The increase of the share of the United Kingdom and the British Empire in the trade of the Province which began in 1914-15 continued in the following year. In the total trade the percentage of the United Kingdom rose from 43.98 to 47.33; a decline from 58.46 to 54.40 per cent. in imports being balanced by an increase from 32.41 to 41.12 in exports. The percentage of the total imports which came from the British Empire fell from 68.12 to 63.63, but the exports to the British Empire which in 1914-15 were 66.50 in 1915-16 were 71.92 per cent. of the whole. Of the total trade 63.04 per cent. was with the British Empire as compared with 67.22 per cent. in the previous year. Trade with Germany and Austria-Hungary which in 1913-14 was 9.64 and 1.9 per cent. of the total respectively has disappeared. The most noteworthy increases are in the share of Japan from 3.85 to 6.07 per cent. of the total and of the United States from 3.55 to 5.57 per cent. A further increase from 4.23 to 5.13 per cent. took place in the share of Java. While exports to Japan fell from 2.33 to 2.27 per cent. of the whole, imports from that country showed a remarkable increase from 5.74 to 10.39 per cent. In the case of the United States also the increase was wholly in imports, from 6.09 to 10.45 per cent., exports falling from 1.52 to 1.28 per cent. It is evident that the place of Germany and Austria-Hungary as importers into the Province is being largely taken by Japan and the United States. After the British Empire the leading places in the trade of Burma are now held by Japan, the United States and Java.

Rangoon :
coasting
trade.

116. The value of the coasting trade of Rangoon which in 1914-15 was Rs. 1,85.99 lakhs fell to Rs. 1,38.89 lakhs during 1915-16, a decrease of Rs. 47.09 lakhs. Imports were valued at Rs. 43.59 lakhs as compared with Rs. 55.37 lakhs and exports at Rs. 95.30 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,30.61 lakhs. Far the greatest part of this decrease was due to the stoppage of regular steamer traffic between Rangoon and Moulmein. The trade was mainly between Rangoon and the Tenasserim ports.

117. The percentage of the total foreign and coasting trade of the Province which fell to Rangoon was 83.61 as compared with 82.02 in the previous year. Of the remaining 16.39 per cent. Moulmein took 4.24 per cent., Akyab 4.05, Bassein 5.05, Tavoy 1.71, Mergui 1.16, Kyaukpyu .06, Victoria Point .05 and Sandoway .07. The decline in the shares of Akyab and Moulmein was due to the withdrawal of steamer services. The coasting trade figures of Akyab showed an increase on account of improved supervision over country boats. The exports of teak from Moulmein increased from 29,867 to 33,705 cubic tons and their value from Rs. 37.58 lakhs to Rs. 41.43 lakhs. The gross revenue collections at the subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 11.43 lakhs as against Rs. 15.19 lakhs, showing a fall of Rs. 3.76 lakhs or 24.8 per cent. Of this sum Rs. 10.21 lakhs represented export duty on rice. The gross duty collections at the various ports were as follows: Bassein Rs. 7.86 lakhs, Akyab Rs. 1.76 lakh, Moulmein Rs. 1.16 lakh, Tavoy Rs. .48 lakh, Mergui Rs. .13 lakh, and Victoria Point Rs. .04 lakh. A new Combined Port Fund and Customs Office at Tavoy was approaching completion at the end of the year.

CHAP. IV.
PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Subordinate
ports.

118. The total value of the trade of Burma with transfrontier countries, which in 1914-15 was Rs. 7,67.61 lakhs, was in 1915-16 Rs. 7,46.31 lakhs. The value of imports increased from Rs. 3,90.55 lakhs to Rs. 3,96.32 lakhs but the exports which in the former year were valued at Rs. 3,77.05 lakhs fell in the latter to a value of Rs. 3,49.99 lakhs. The value of the trade in merchandise, treasure, and timber represents respectively 75.22 and 3 per cent. of the total trade of the Province. There was a considerable decline in the trade with all the frontier states except Western China and the Northern Shan States, and the aggregate trade of the Province consequently fell by Rs. 21 lakhs or 2.77 per cent. The decrease was due to the unfavourable economic conditions which prevailed throughout the year.

Trans-
frontier
trade :
total trade.

119. The trade between Western China and Bhamo, constituted a record, amounting to Rs. 1,35.51 lakhs, or an increase of 3.58 per cent. as compared with the value of the trade in the preceding year. A larger expansion would have resulted but the uncertain political outlook in Yunnan caused a contraction in the trade during the last quarter of the period. The commandeering of mules by the military authorities at Tengyueh for the transport of troops to Yunnan-fu caused a lack of transport facilities and the corresponding increase in freight rates militated against normal trade during that period. The import trade shewed an expansion of Rs. 15.22 lakhs or 20.82 per cent., the increase being mainly due to larger imports of silver the value of which rose from Rs. 53.75 lakhs to Rs. 69.05 lakhs. It is said that purchases of silk in Ssüchuan were paid for by exporting treasure to Burma whence remittances to Ssüchuan were made by drafts on foreign banks in Hongkong and Shanghai. The heavy rise in the price of silver at the end of 1915 was possibly another cause for the inflated value of the silver imports, and this probably stimulated Chinese merchants in Burma to import a larger quantity of raw silk from Ssüchuan, the value exceeding that of the previous year by Rs. 88,075. The trade in hides fell by Rs. 47,456 probably owing to the closure of European markets and also to lack of tonnage. This fall was, however, in a measure counteracted by a rise of Rs. 44,106 in the value of ornament imported, owing no doubt to the cessation of competition due to the difficulty in getting foreign dyes and paints from Europe. The value of exports on the other hand shows a heavy fall of Rs. 10.51 lakhs or 18.22 per cent., raw cotton accounting for a decrease of Rs. 3.86 lakhs and Indian twist and yarn of Rs. 4.22 lakhs. The decline was apparently due to the heavy exports in the last quarter of the preceding year which led to over-stocking of markets. The difficulty in obtaining aniline dyes was another cause. The trade in cotton piece-goods also shows a decrease of Rs. 1.47 lakh owing to restricted imports from Europe as a result of the war.

Western
China.

120. The trade with unadministered Kachin country declined in imports from Rs. 6.32 lakhs to Rs. 5.25 lakhs and in exports from Rs. 8.02 lakhs to Rs. 6.56 lakhs. The value of the trade carried on during the previous

Unadminis-
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Kachin
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tion.

year was abnormally high. The imports from the Northern Shan States increased by Rs. 19.85 lakhs or 13.60 per cent. to Rs. 1,65.71 lakhs and the exports by Rs. 15.28 lakhs or 10.09 per cent. to Rs. 1,66.68 lakhs. In both cases the increase was chiefly in the rail-borne trade due to the rapid development of their property by the Burma Mines Company at Namtu. The value of copper and lead imported from the mines rose by Rs. 2.80 lakhs and Rs. 11.82 lakhs respectively. There was also an increase in the value of iron (Rs. 3.35 lakhs) and railway materials (Rs. 5.01 lakhs) returned to Burma. On the other hand a falling off of Rs. 5.88 lakhs occurred under other metals as shipments of ore to Europe for smelting practically ceased. Of indigenous products of the States, apart from metals, potatoes, gums, iac, sessamum, spices, black tea, and teak showed an increase. Husked rice, hides, and pickled tea however decreased in value. As regards exports the largest increase was under coal and coke for the use of the Burma Mines Company, which rose from Rs. 3.34 lakhs to Rs. 10.94 lakhs. The trade in twist and yarn, the principal through trade with China, was stagnant and Indian twist declined by Rs. 92,681. The increase in cotton piece-goods was in the Kēngtūng trade. The value of husked rice and iron exported expanded by Rs. 2.53 lakhs and Rs. 4.60 lakhs respectively. An increase under silk is noticed yearly as the standard of living rises. But the trade of the States apart from that caused by the Burma Mines, suffered from the rise in prices caused by the war. German and Austrian cloth was still selling at Namkham, but Japanese miscellaneous articles were gradually replacing those of German and Austrian make in the local bazaars.

The
Southern
Shan States.

121. Unlike the Northern Shan States the value of both import and export trade in the Southern Shan States declined by Rs. 2.85 lakhs and Rs. 12.51 lakhs to Rs. 74.94 lakhs and Rs. 92.55 lakhs respectively. This is accounted for by the unfavourable trade conditions occasioned by the war. The principal fall was in the cattle trade which recorded a decrease of Rs. 10.77 lakhs; this is attributed to a decline in the purchasing power of agriculturists. The trade in raw hides declined by about half a lakh in value partly as a result of the internment of aliens who largely managed this trade. On the other hand owing to the curing of leather in the States the imports of manufactured leather therefrom increased by Rs. 3.36 lakhs. The over-production of potatoes in the preceding year and the low prices obtained for the crop resulted in restricted cultivation. Nevertheless there was a small increase in the value of potatoes exported to Burma. The restricted imports of potatoes from India during the year owing to the shortage of tonnage and high freight rates, it is said, combined to make the local crop more valuable. The value of *Thanatpet* advanced by Rs. 4.15 lakhs, the increase being attributed to a larger demand for cigar wrappers and to fair prices being obtained for the crop; much of the increase was in the rail-borne trade. In exports to the States, the principal decline was in cotton, silk, and woollen piece-goods which fell respectively by Rs. 3.42, Rs. 6.19 and Rs. 3.20 lakhs in value. The only noticeable increase in exports was under iron and railway materials due to completion of the construction of the Southern Shan States railway. As a result of the heavy decrease in the import of cattle the export of silver to these States fell by Rs. 7.41 lakhs. This was the first full year of rail trade since the opening of the Thazi-Aungban railway and it is interesting to note that of the total trade of Rs. 1,67.49 lakhs the railway accounted for Rs. 93.94 lakhs or 56 per cent. The railway has drawn away much of the trade formerly carried on by the routes near the line.

Siam and
Karenni.

122. The effects of the war caused a decrease in the quantities imported of almost all commodities from Northern Siam. The total value of such imports fell from Rs. 39.61 lakhs to Rs. 25.15 lakhs the largest decreases being in cattle (Rs. 6 lakhs) and teak (Rs. 5 lakhs); the value of elephants increased by half a lakh. The value of exports to Northern Siam was Rs. 23.85 lakhs as compared with Rs. 31.11 lakhs in 1914-15, the principal decreases being under the heads of cotton twist and yarn, piece-goods, and silver. There was a slight advance in raw silk and manufactured leather. The decrease in exports was also partly

due to the improved railway and other communications in Siam, which enabled some of the Siamese frontier districts to obtain their supplies through Bangkok instead of through Moulmein. Imports from Southern Siam fell from Rs. 20.40 lakhs to Rs. 14.01 lakhs and exports to Southern Siam from Rs. 12.52 lakhs to Rs. 6.44 lakhs in value, decreases of 31 and 48 per cent respectively. The value of cattle imported declined by Rs. 3 lakhs and of elephants by about Rs. 1½ lakhs probably on account of the general situation caused by the war; and consequently silver in cash, mostly exported for the purchase of cattle and elephants, declined by Rs. 5.52 lakhs. Imports from Karenni were valued at Rs. 22.89 lakhs and exports to Karenni at Rs. 6.69 lakhs in 1915-16. The corresponding figures for 1914-15 were Rs. 27.41 lakhs and Rs. 11.01 lakhs. The import trade in cattle and teak and the export of silver dropped. The value of wolfram imported from Karenni increased from Rs. 1.68 lakh in 1914-15 to Rs. 3.54 lakhs.

Public Works.

123. No administrative changes took place in the Public Works Department during the year. The total expenditure on buildings and roads was Rs. 1,41.07 lakhs out of grants aggregating Rs. 1,49.50 lakhs. Owing to the financial stringency caused by the war the Government of India were obliged to withhold permission to expenditure from the unexpended balances of the various non-recurring educational grants. Funds to the extent of Rs. 1.31 lakh were provided from savings in the Provincial budget for the completion of educational works in progress. Type plans for high schools remained under revision by the consulting architect to the Local Government.

(i) Roads and Buildings.

124. The total length of metalled roads outside Municipal boundaries in the Province was at the close of the year 1,937.55 miles and of unmetalled roads 10,734.03. Of this 5.43 miles of metalled road and 1,760.12 miles of unmetalled road were maintained by local authorities and the remainder by the Public Works Department. The last instalment of the grant of Rs. 50 lakhs made by the Government of India, amounting to Rs. 11.30 lakhs, was expended on improvements to communications. The total expenditure on communications, which in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 63.18 lakhs, was Rs. 54.74 lakhs, of which Rs. 21.30 lakhs were spent on original works and Rs. 33.44 lakhs on repairs. Considerable progress was made in the construction of the roads necessary for the development of wolfram mining in Tavoy and Mergui Districts. In order to facilitate the equipment of the Province with an organised system of roads a standing advisory committee was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, in order to advise Government regarding the main lines of policy to be followed in the maintenance and development of communications, whether by road, rail or river, throughout the Province, and to consider the relative merits of the various schemes prepared with this end in view. It will examine the question of the relative urgency of the provision of main trunk roads for through communication or of the construction of new feeder roads to the railway, and will discuss the action to be taken in view of the gradual silting up of many of the creeks in the delta of the Irrawaddy, and advise whether to maintain the water-ways by means of dredging, or to accept their progressive deterioration as inevitable and supplement them by roads and railways. In the Tavoy District an expenditure of Rs. 49,100, bringing the total up to Rs. 1,29,080 was incurred on improvements to the Pagayè-Myitta road. The bridge over the Paukaing stream on the Tavoy-Pandaw-Sinbyubin road was completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,01,854. Work was in progress on bridge renewals on the Tavoy-Pagayè and Pagayè-Myitta roads. The replacement of worn out timber bridges by structures of more permanent materials was in progress in many districts. Improvements on the frontier roads in the Bhamo and Myitkyina Districts were still in progress and the routine of road maintenance, and improvement was carried on throughout the Province.

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TION AND
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Buildings :
Imperial and
Provincial.

125. The expenditure on Civil Imperial works during the year was Rs. 7.38 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7.45 lakhs in the previous year. The new Customs-house and the new telegraph office at Rangoon were practically completed. At Maymyo a 30 kilowatt wireless telegraph station was nearly completed and at Akyab a general post office was well in hand. The expenditure on Civil Provincial buildings, which in the previous year was Rs. 33.34 lakhs, amounted to Rs. 20.92 lakhs of which Rs. 13.34 lakhs was incurred for original works and Rs. 7.58 lakhs for repairs. The sum of Rs. 1.04 lakh was expended on the extension to the Jail at Insein. Steel construction had to be abandoned as it was impossible to obtain rolled steel joists. Considerable progress was made with the erection of the buildings at Mawlaik which has been selected as the new headquarters of the Upper Chindwin District. The work of building new police-stations and quarters for the civil police was in progress or completed in fifteen districts. Work was also proceeding on numerous schools, court-houses, jails and hospitals throughout the Province.

Miscellaneous public
improvements and
sanitary
works.

126. A sum of Rs. 4.08 lakhs, of which Rs. 2.28 lakhs was for original works, was expended on public improvements as compared with Rs. 3.10 lakhs in the previous year. The clearing of the sites for the new civil buildings at Mawlaik was in progress at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 20,000, and measures were taken for the protection from erosion of the left bank of the Chindwin River at that place at an estimated cost of Rs. 65,084. In Pyapôn District the reclamation and levelling of the site of Kyaiklat town were completed and work was in progress on raising the level of the town and civil station of Pyapôn and the protection of the foreshore at Bogale. In the port of Bassein one of the jetties was reconstructed on a new site; in the district one screw-pile jetty was completed and on another work was begun. In Sandoway work was started on the construction of a jetty at Andrew Bay estimated to cost Rs. 65,232. The work of re-erection and improvement of bazaars was undertaken in fifteen districts. The following is a summary of the work done in providing water supplies to towns: a start was made with the Ma-ubin scheme estimated to cost Rs. 1.03 lakh, the Kyaiklat scheme was completed at a cost of Rs. 65,094, materials were collected for the extension of the Minbu water-works, work on the Yanèthin and Pyawbwè schemes was stopped, on the Kalaw scheme the expenditure was Rs. 1.26 lakh for the year, the Mòaywa scheme was completed at a total cost of Rs. 1.17 lakh, and in Bhamo a tube well sunk to a depth of 370 feet produced enough water to justify the preparation of an estimate for the supply of water to the town from this source. In Rangoon the expenditure incurred on reclamation and equipment of reclaimed areas was in round figures Rs. 3.00 lakhs of which Rs. 32,306 was for work done for private persons. A drainage scheme at Paungdè was completed; on the Teungoo drainage scheme the expenditure was Rs. 51,424, about 70 per cent. of the work being completed. Work on the reclamation of the swamps within the embankment at Kyaukpyu was continued. Of the five blocks into which the scheme is divided one has been entirely and three partly filled in, the fifth being untouched. In Akyab Town the drainage of one area was nearly finished and of another about half was completed; the total cost of the scheme at the end of the year was Rs. 65,571. The Maymyo surface drainage scheme was completed at a cost of Rs. 86,562.

(ii) *Railways and Tramways.*

Railways:
construction
and surveys.

127. The railways of the Province are worked by the Burma Railways Company, Limited. No additions were made to the length of open line during the year and it remained at 1,598.46 miles. No lines were under construction during the year. The survey of the coast route of the proposed railway line to connect India and Burma was completed and the report and estimates are under consideration. It was decided that the Manipur route for the same connection should be definitely abandoned and that the survey for a line through the Hukong Valley should be postponed. The Railway Board decided that the Southern Shan States Railway should be extended from the present terminus at Aungban

to Heho, a distance of about 18 miles, and that a survey of the extension should be made by the Burma Railways Company. This was completed and the report is under consideration. A formal application was received during the year for permission to construct a branch line from Kyangin to Petye in the Henzada District on the terms sanctioned by the Government of India for the construction of branch lines and was referred to the Railway Board for orders. No further steps were taken for the construction of branch lines in the Tenasserim Division. A proposal for the formation of a new company to take over and complete the construction of the tramway from Buthidaung to Maungdaw in the Akyab District on a joint guarantee from Imperial, Provincial and District Cess Funds was under consideration.

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PROSECUTION AND
DISTRAINT.

128. An engine, running into a bundle of gunny bags accidentally dropped on the line in Letpadan station, was derailed and this caused eleven goods waggons of various kinds to be telescoped and three to be derailed, in addition to considerable damage to the permanent way and interlocking gear. The total damage was estimated at Rs. 13,000. Through the overturning of an engine which ran into a buffalo between Mogaung and Taungni stations two firemen and a driver lost their lives. The cost of repairing damage caused was estimated at Rs. 9,550. Another fireman was killed by the derailment of an engine near Meiktila caused by the incorrect setting of catch points. The Southern Shan States Branch was closed from the 13th till the 17th May 1915 owing to landslips in cuttings and breaches in the vicinity of Payangazu station. On the 16th May numerous breaches in the line were caused by floods between Thityabin and Kotaungbo stations in the Katha District and through communication was interrupted till the 19th May. Other breaches by flood causing short interruptions of traffic occurred on the Lashio Branch, on the Mōnywa Branch, between Mohnyin and Namma stations in Katha District, near Hopin in Myitkyina District, and for a second time on the Mōnywa Branch in September and on the Southern Shan States Branch in November.

Corruption
and
accidents.

129. The number of passengers carried during the year was 27,738,360 as compared with 27,045,123 in 1914-15. The gross earnings were Rs. 2,20,82 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2,33,86 lakhs and gross working expenses fell from Rs. 1,34,09 lakhs to Rs. 1,29,65 lakhs. The net profit for the year fell from Rs. 99,77 lakhs to Rs. 91,17 lakhs. On the main line, the property of the Burma Railways Company, Limited, the capital outlay during the year was Rs. 8,68 lakhs thus raising the total expenditure since the commencement of operations to Rs. 17,80,02 lakhs. The mileage remained at 1,341,85 the same as in the previous year but the train mileage run diminished from 5,218,680 to 4,767,702. Net earnings decreased from Rs. 24,60 lakhs to Rs. 84,33 lakhs, or by Rs. 10,27 lakhs. Gross earnings were Rs. 16,71 lakhs less at Rs. 1,99,86 lakhs and working expenses Rs. 6,44 lakhs less at Rs. 1,15,52 lakhs. The percentage of expenses to earnings was 57.80 as against 56.32 in the previous year and the percentage of net receipts on capital outlay fell from 5.32 to 4.80. The capital account of the Pegu-Moulmein Railway was reduced by Rs. 5,873 and now stands at Rs. 1,55,24 lakhs; on the Henzada-Kyangin Railway a similar reduction of Rs. 24,104 left the capital account at the end of the year Rs. 65,01 lakhs. The capital outlay on the open line of the Southern Shan States Railway was Rs. 3,22 lakhs thus raising the total expenditure from the commencement of operations to Rs. 1,55,88 lakhs. The train mileage on the Pegu-Moulmein line was 365,827 as against 411,855 but gross earnings increased from Rs. 20,38 lakhs to Rs. 24,63 lakhs while working expenses remained the same at Rs. 8,94 lakhs. The percentage of expenses to earnings fell from 66.83 to 61.09 and the percentage of net receipts to capital outlay rose from 2.86 to 3.67. The train mileage of the Henzada-Kyangin Railway increased from 88,826 to 107,073 but its gross earnings fell from Rs. 3,05 to Rs. 2,94 lakhs and working expenses from Rs. 2,37 lakhs to Rs. 2,01 lakhs. The percentage of expenses to earnings fell from 77.88 to 68.47 and the percentage of net receipts to capital outlay rose from 1.03 to 1.42. The mean mileage worked on the Southern Shan States Railway increased

Traffic and
earnings.

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PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

from 35·63 miles to 69·68 miles and the train mileage from 35,618 to 111,404. Gross earnings were Rs. 3·39 lakhs and working expenses Rs. 3·18 lakhs, the corresponding figures for the previous year being Rs. 87,016 and Rs. 81,017. The percentage of expenses to earnings was 93·68 as against 93·10 and the net receipts on capital outlay '14 as compared with '04 per cent.

Tramways.

130. The total number of passengers carried by the Rangoon Tramways during the year was 10,811,406, or 76,823 fewer than in the previous year. The running mileage was computed at 1,446,512 as against 1,460,288 in 1914-15. The total receipts were Rs. 8,61,301 as compared with Rs. 8,66,615. The Burma Electric Tramways and Lighting Company, Limited, at Mandalay carried 2,559,101 passengers with a total mileage run of 502,507 as compared with 2,570,051 passengers and a mileage run of 488,317 in the previous year. The receipts were Rs. 2·03 lakhs as against Rs. 2·05 lakhs. Work on the extension to the terminus of the Mandalay-Madaya light railway was begun and a further extension of time for the completion of the line was granted.

(iii) Canals.

Navigation
canals.

131. The Pegu-Sittang Canal in the Pegu District and the Sittang-Kyaikto Canal in the Thaton District are the only canals in the Province maintained out of canal dues and used solely for navigation. In the Pegu-Sittang Canal a suction dredger continued working in the shallow sections between miles 33 and 34. The soil is hard and, the dredger being of the type used for the removal of soft silt, the result was poor though some good was effected. Work was stopped in December 1915. The canal was blocked occasionally with the floating hyacinth weed (*Eichhornia crassipes*) with consequent delay to traffic. An attempt to prevent the weed from coming into the canal from the Thanatpin swamp by the construction of a protective fence of barbed wire attached to floating bamboos proved unsuccessful. Petty repairs were carried out on the Minywa and Kyaikpadaing sluices to stop small leaks. The Abya sluice showed signs of dangerous leakage. Dams were built across the approach and discharge channels, the water pumped out and the foundations opened up for inspection which revealed eight faulty bays. Proposals for thorough repairs are now under consideration. The maintenance charges of this canal were Rs. 72,289 as compared with Rs. 98,693 in the previous year. The gross receipts were Rs. 1·67 lakh and working expenses Rs. 1·39 lakh, showing a profit of Rs. 28,204 instead of a loss of Rs. 7,399 as in the year before. The Sittang-Kyaikto Canal was breached by the erosion of the Sittang River on the 7th November 1915. Two cross bunds were constructed to prevent the river water entering and causing further damage to the surrounding country. At the end of March 1916 the breach in the bank was 758 feet wide. The canal was abandoned and the lock gates closed on 14th January 1915. Maintenance charges were only Rs. 4,710 as against Rs. 25,090 in the previous year. Kyaikkatha and Mukamu bridges over the canal were closed to cart traffic as they were in a dangerous condition. The total expenditure on navigation works during the year was Rs. 1·44 lakh and the receipts Rs. 1·67 lakh leaving a net revenue of Rs. 22,572. On the scheme for the improvement of the Twante Canal, the chief water-way for cargo boats and launches between the Rangoon River and the China Bakir River the expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 8·89 lakhs bringing the total outlay to the end of the year to Rs. 68·73 lakhs. The sum of Rs. 4·64 lakhs was spent on excavation, Rs. 1·19 lakh on the provision of a new terminal pontoon for one dredger and Rs. 49 lakh on laterite pitching on the foreshore of the Kanaungto Creek. About 6½ miles of the canal were widened and deepened of which 2 miles were in the new cut at Sakkyi. The Shwetachaung Canal is used partly for irrigation and partly for navigation, serving the local traffic between Mandalay and Madaya. A heavy flood in September did considerable damage to the right bank of its feeder channel. The total outlay incurred in necessary repairs and ordinary maintenance was Rs. 3,200.

Irrigation.

132. There are four works classed as major irrigation works—the Mandalay Canal, the Shwebo Canal, the Mōn Canals and the Ye-u Canal. The total area irrigated increased from 274,604 acres to 277,792 acres; revenue receipts rose from Rs. 13.33 lakhs to Rs. 16.59 lakhs; working expenses fell from Rs. 9.94 lakhs to Rs. 6.46 lakhs; the net revenue increased from Rs. 3.39 lakhs to Rs. 10.13 lakhs, representing a profit of 370 per cent. on a capital outlay of Rs. 2,73.62 lakhs as against a profit of 131 per cent. on a capital outlay of Rs. 2,58.96 lakhs in 1914-15. The total area irrigated from the Mandalay Canal was 60,451 acres as against 59,720 acres in the previous year. The reconstruction of the headworks, severely damaged by a flood in the previous year, was not complete and the full capacity of the canal for irrigation could not therefore be utilised. The high level pipes from the main canal did better than in 1914-15. In the previous year the working of the canal had resulted in a loss of Rs. 1.04 lakh; in the year of report gross revenue amounted to Rs. 3.55 lakhs as against Rs. 3.66 lakhs, but working expenses were reduced from Rs. 4.70 lakhs to Rs. 1.50 lakh and a net revenue was left of Rs. 2.05 lakhs. The poor results of the previous year were due to the heavy expenditure required to make good flood damage. The area irrigated from the Shwebo Canal was 165,287 acres as compared with 161,739 acres and 170,850 acres in 1914-15 and 1913-14 respectively. The reason why the figures of 1913-14 were not reached was that less land was taken up on speculation by migratory cultivators with whom the preceding season had not been prosperous. Gross revenue was Rs. 8.15 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7.58 lakhs, working expenses Rs. 2.86 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3.05 lakhs and net revenue Rs. 5.29 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4.53 lakhs. This is equivalent to a profit of 9.01 per cent. on a capital outlay to the end of the year of Rs. 58.72 lakhs. The area irrigated by the Mōn Canals was 52,054 acres as against 53,145 acres in 1914-15. The decrease was due almost entirely to damage caused by floods in the Irrawaddy. The revenue assessment for the year was Rs. 3.35 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3.15 lakhs in the previous year but the actual gross receipts were Rs. 4.89 lakhs as against Rs. 2.09 lakhs owing to the fact that large arrears of revenue due on account of the previous year were collected in the year of report. Another consequence of such extensive arrear collections is that while in 1914-15 the figures show a loss on the working of the canals of Rs. 10,232, in the present year there is a net revenue of Rs. 2.79 lakhs. This confusion of the collections of two years' revenue makes it impossible to draw any useful conclusion as to the rate of profit earned on capital expenditure. The Ye-u Canal is still under construction. The expenditure on it during the year was Rs. 4.30 lakhs and the total expenditure till the end of the year Rs. 31.73 lakhs.

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PRODUCTION AND
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Major
irrigation
works.

133. The rainfall was above the average in Mandalay District and the only damage caused to minor irrigation works was by flood. In Kyaukse the irrigation season was wholly favourable, no damage being caused by flood and the supply of water in the rivers invariably sufficient. In Meiktila the middle rains failed and the early and late rains came at the wrong time to be of any use for purposes of irrigation. Crops in the irrigated tracts were consequently very poor. In Yamethin also the rains were unfavourable. No capital accounts are kept for minor irrigation works. The area irrigated from them rose from 298,507 acres in 1914-15 to 299,218 acres. Receipts amounted to Rs. 12.52 lakhs as against Rs. 11.42 lakhs in the previous year. Working expenses rose from Rs. 6.58 lakhs to Rs. 6.83 lakhs, leaving a net revenue of Rs. 5.69 lakhs as against a net revenue of Rs. 4.84 lakhs in the previous year. A few of these minor irrigation works may be noticed. The area irrigated by the Shwetachaung Canal in Mandalay District was 14,866 acres as against 14,792 acres in 1914-15. Damage was done by two heavy floods in the Irrawaddy and remissions thereby necessitated reduced the revenue demand from Rs. 72,749 to Rs. 67,807. In Shwebo District the area benefited by the Mōn Canal rose from 9,427 to 12,645 acres and by minor works from 1,117 to 11,567 acres. The season was favourable. The large increase in

Minor
irrigation
works.

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the area under minor works is due to the inclusion of tracts not previously incorporated in the statistics. The revenue increased from Rs. 8,716 to Rs. 32,668. The area under irrigation in Kyaukse District increased from 136,178 to 142,362 acres and the revenue from Rs. 6.23 lakhs to Rs. 7.04 lakhs owing to the favourable nature of the season and the efficient working of the canals. In Meiktila District the area irrigated from the Meiktila lake fell from 32,474 to 24,492 acres, from the Nyaungyan-Minhla tank from 22,721 to 16,969 acres, and from minor irrigation works from 23,529 to 6,271 acres. The middle rains failed and those works which were incapable of holding up a supply failed entirely. Irrigation revenue fell from Rs. 1.79 lakh to Rs. 1.18 lakh; heavy remissions were granted on account of crop failures. In Yamethin District the total area irrigated from the Kyaukse tank and from minor irrigation works fell from 25,286 to 22,999 acres and the revenue from Rs. 56,456 to Rs. 51,114 owing to the insufficient rains. In Minbu District the area irrigated from the Man Canal was 15,580 as compared with 15,086 acres, from the Salin Canals 23,148 as compared with 10,455 acres and from minor irrigation works 662 as compared with 1,129 acres. The increase in the Man area was due to the favourable nature of the season and the opening of a new distributary. The Salin Canals were in excellent working order throughout the season and were fortunate in having a plentiful supply of water. Some of the tanks did not fill owing to failure of rain in their catchment area. The total revenue credited to irrigation in the district increased from Rs. 1.19 lakh to Rs. 1.99 lakh. The aggregate maintenance charges for minor irrigation works in Upper Burma were Rs. 2.34 lakhs as against Rs. 2.39 lakhs in 1914-15.

The total area protected by embankments was 693,426 acres as against 697,436 acres in the previous year. Gross receipts amounted to Rs. 21.54 lakhs and working expenses to Rs. 3.97 lakhs, leaving net receipts of Rs. 17.57 lakhs as against Rs. 18.03 lakhs.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

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Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes II and IV.

Provincial Settlement.

134. The receipts and expenditure of the Province other than those pertaining to local authorities are divided between the Imperial and Provincial Governments according to the terms of what is known as the Provincial Settlement. The existing Provincial Settlement was drawn up in 1907, and its terms were subsequently modified in 1911, with a view to converting large fixed assignments which the Province then received from Imperial revenues into shares of growing revenue. The modifications were summarised in the General Administration Report of Burma for the year 1911-12, while the Provincial Settlement of 1907 itself will be found fully described in the General Administration Report for the year 1907-08. An additional recurring assignment from Imperial to Provincial Revenues of Rs. 15·11 lakhs was sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1915 in recognition of the fact that the Provincial Settlement has proved less favourable to the Province than was anticipated.

Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

135. The gross receipts of the Province for the year of report amounted to Rs. 11,42·23 lakhs as against Rs. 11,57·34 lakhs in the previous year, and the expenditure to Rs. 8,75·93 lakhs as against Rs. 9,52·62 lakhs, receipts thus showing a decrease of Rs. 15·11 lakhs and expenditure a decrease of Rs. 76·69 lakhs. Receipts classed as Imperial increased by Rs. 8·24 lakhs from Rs. 3,56·99 lakhs to Rs. 3,65·24 lakhs, and receipts classed as Provincial by Rs. 4·12 lakhs from Rs. 5,50·21 lakhs to Rs. 5,54·32 lakhs. Receipts of District Funds fell from Rs. 47·36 lakhs to Rs. 44·78 lakhs and receipts of Municipal Funds from

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Rs. 1,04'00 lakhs to Rs. 1,01'54 lakhs. The decrease in expenditure was fairly general. Imperial expenditure decreased by Rs. 5'16 lakhs from Rs. 77'56 lakhs to Rs. 72'40 lakhs, and Provincial expenditure by Rs. 32'26 lakhs from Rs. 5,96'32 lakhs to Rs. 5,64'05 lakhs. Expenditure from District Funds increased from Rs. 44'26 lakhs to Rs. 53'12 lakhs and from Municipal Funds from Rs. 1,09'28 lakhs to Rs. 1,12'29 lakhs. The receipts and expenditure from other funds were Rs. 76'35 lakhs and Rs. 74'06 lakhs as compared with Rs. 98'78 lakhs and Rs. 1,25'20 lakhs in the previous year.

These figures include the transactions of the Rangoon and Moulmein Municipalities, the Rangoon Port Trust and the Rangoon Pilot Fund, though they do not bank with Government.

(a) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[In this section are discussed sources of Revenue or Expenditure which are partly, as well as those which are wholly, Imperial.]

Total
Imperial
figures :
notable
variations.

136. A gross increase of Rs. 16'67 lakhs in Imperial receipts occurred under seven heads of revenue, and a gross decrease of Rs. 8'42 lakhs under six heads, leaving a net increase of Rs. 8'24 lakhs for the year. The receipts under the head "Land Revenue" exceeded those of the former year by Rs. 6'50 lakhs as a result of the introduction of revised settlement rates in some districts and a general improvement in collections which diminished the amount of arrears outstanding at the close of the financial year. An increase of Rs. 2'76 lakhs under the head "Irrigation Major Works—Direct Receipts" was due to the collection of arrears due on account of previous years. Under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial" there is an increase of Rs. 6'13 lakhs, principally due to the reduction of the contribution from Imperial Funds for the constitution of the new frontier district Putao and the occupation of Hpimaw. The heads of revenue under which the largest decreases of revenue occurred were "Salt" Rs. 2'65 lakhs, "Excise" Rs. 3'91 lakhs, and Customs Rs. 1'32 lakh, all of them caused by the depression in trade and restriction of imports which have resulted from the war. In expenditure a gross decrease of Rs. 6'38 lakhs under some heads was partly offset by a gross increase of Rs. 1'22 lakh under other heads, the net decrease being Rs. 5'16 lakhs. The principal decreases fell under the head "Irrigation Major Works" Rs. 2'98 lakhs, and "Capital Expenditure on Irrigation Works" Rs. 2'54 lakhs. The former was due to the reduction of expenditure on the Mandalay Canal consequent on the completion of the special repairs rendered necessary by flood damage in 1914, and the latter to a reduction in the expenditure on canals under construction.

Land Revenue.

Land
revenue
receipts.

137. The gross receipts under "Land Revenue" for the financial year ending the 31st March 1916 were Rs. 4,64'18 lakhs as against Rs. 4,46'07 lakhs in the previous year. Under the terms of the Provincial Settlement by which three-eighths of the receipts under this head are allotted to Imperial and five-eighths to Provincial Funds, Rs. 1,72'53 lakhs were credited to Imperial and Rs. 2,91'65 lakhs to Provincial Funds as against Rs. 1,66'03 lakhs and Rs. 2,80'04 lakhs respectively in 1914-15, thus shewing increases of Rs. 6'50 lakhs and Rs. 11'61 lakhs respectively. Expenditure under Land Revenue which is wholly debitable to Provincial Funds was Rs. 70'94 lakhs as compared with Rs. 68'15 lakhs in the previous year. Land Revenue proper of which the collections during the year amounted to Rs. 2,88'72 lakhs or nearly Rs. 5½ lakhs more than in 1914-15 is dealt with in Chapter II of this Report. Some items of miscellaneous revenue are also included under the head "Land Revenue." The capitation-tax in Lower Burma yielded Rs. 56'69 lakhs as against Rs. 56'26 lakhs. The number of persons

assessed was 1,409,333 as against 1,393,251, an increase of some 16,000, and the demand rose by Rs. 43,954. As compared with the year immediately preceding the outbreak of war, the number of assessees was smaller by close on 13,000, while the demand was Rs. 29,959 larger. These figures, implying a decided alteration in proportions of single men and married couples in Lower Burma, appear to indicate a continued restriction, owing to the shortage of passenger steamers between Burma and India and other conditions produced by the war, of the temporary immigration of floating population, which consists mainly of single men. The unfavourable conditions of the agricultural season of 1914-15 put such difficulties in the way of collection of capitation-tax in the following financial year that the amount remitted was abnormally large. The amount collected as land-rate in lieu of capitation-tax was Rs. 92,941 or Rs. 3,927 more than in 1914-15. Henzada contributed Rs. 3,806 of this increase. There were no other variations of importance. Receipts from the *thathameda-tax* in Upper Burma increased by Rs. 25,657 to Rs. 39.48 lakhs, the number of households assessed rising by 12,584 to 875,535. The demand was higher by Rs. 41,612. Speaking generally conditions were similar to those of the previous year, and there was again comparatively little movement of population to Lower Burma. The amount remitted was Rs. 71,308 as compared with Rs. 57,817 in the previous year. The destruction by fire of a large part of Pakokku Town necessitated considerable remissions. In Mandalay a decrease in the number of households assessed and an increase in the amount remitted were ascribed to the prevalence of plague and cholera. There was a decrease in the amount collected in the Ruby Mines District where the state of the ruby market again rendered some reduction of rates necessary. A decrease in Meiktila District was caused by the removal of a large number of former assessees owing to the completion of the construction of the Southern Shan States Railway. Receipts under the head of fishery revenue decreased from Rs. 34.96 lakhs to Rs. 30.47 lakhs or by Rs. 4.49 lakhs. Although the demand for 1914-15 had been unprecedentedly high, following two successful seasons, the year itself had been unprofitable for the fishermen and had involved a good deal of loss, especially in Lower Burma, on account of the failure of markets. This seriously discouraged bidding at the auction sales of the leases for the year of report, and accounted for the bulk of the decline in the demand; receipts from net licenses were also smaller. Remissions were heavier, but there was less difficulty in the collection of lease rents. Collections under the head "Miscellaneous Land Revenue" increased by nearly ten lakhs of rupees from Rs. 36.59 lakhs to Rs. 46.57 lakhs. The enhancement was almost entirely in respect of minerals, petroleum and rubies accounting for an increase of eight and three-quarter lakhs and other minerals for an increase of one lakh. Rents of town lands not credited to local funds increased by Rs. 30,902 to Rs. 2.63 lakhs owing to the issue of new leases and the enhancement of rents. The receipts from fees, rents and royalties on minerals other than petroleum, rubies, jade or amber increased by Rs. 99,634 or over 69 per cent. to Rs. 2.43 lakhs on account of the increased production and rise in price of wolfram. Of the large increase of Rs. 6.73 lakhs in petroleum royalties in Magwe District Rs. 1.70 lakh was collected but not brought to account in the previous year. In the Ruby Mines District an increase of Rs. 42,980 or 114 per cent. in royalties on precious stones indicated a partial recovery in the trade in rubies from the state of collapse which followed the outbreak of war.

Canal (Navigation and Irrigation) Revenue.

138. The concluding paragraphs of Chapter IV deal with the canals and irrigation works of the Province and the revenue obtained from them during the year of report. Receipts and expenditure on Major Irrigation Works—including the works now in progress on the Twante Canal which is only used for navigation—are wholly Imperial. Those of the other works referred to in the paragraphs above mentioned are wholly Provincial.

Sources of Imperial Revenue other than the Land.

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AND
FINANCE,
Customs.

139. Both receipts and expenditure under the head "Customs" are classified as Imperial. Receipts under this head do not include the import duty on salt which is classified under the head "Salt." The total receipts for the year under the head Customs fell by Rs. 1'32 lakh from Rs. 1,20'78 lakhs to Rs. 1,19'47 lakhs. The receipts from imports increased by Rs. 3'76 lakhs, from Rs. 62'88 lakhs to Rs. 66'64 lakhs, but this gain was more than counterbalanced by a fall of Rs. 5'42 lakhs in the receipts from exports, from Rs. 57'01 lakhs to Rs. 51'59 lakhs. The causes of these variations have been discussed in the paragraphs dealing with trade. The total expenditure on Customs fell slightly from Rs. 6'36 lakhs to Rs. 6'31 lakhs, leaving a net revenue of Rs. 1,13'16 lakhs as against a net revenue of Rs. 1,14'42 lakhs the previous year.

Opium.

140. There is no expenditure under the Imperial Accounts head "Opium" in Burma, and receipts include only the payments made by the Government of Burma to the Government of India for the purchase of opium. All other receipts and expenditure in connection with opium are included under the head "Excise" which will be discussed later. Owing to an increase in the quantity of opium issued to licensed shops a larger quantity was purchased by the Government of Burma, and the receipts under the head "Opium" increased in consequence from Rs. 3'50 lakhs to Rs. 3'66 lakhs.

Salt—
General.

141. No change in the law or rate of duty took place during the year. In accordance with orders received from the Government of India duty on salt of local manufacture was levied at the rate in force on the date on which the salt was actually delivered to traders. The cost of the salt establishment which in 1914 was Rs. 47,924 was reduced to Rs. 46,066 in 1915 on account of reduction of establishment in one district. The proportion of cost to revenue in the seven districts under the system of direct taxation on issues fell from 12'86 to 9'81 per cent., principally as a consequence of the increase in the revenue collected.

Supplies of
Salt.

142. The output of salt in the seven districts under the system of direct taxation was 718,405 maunds as compared with 542,463 maunds in 1914; in the other districts under the system of composition duty the estimated output for the year was 57,996 maunds as against an estimated output of 47,411 maunds in 1914. The number of licenses in the districts under direct taxation increased from 232 to 252, there being an increase in all districts except Hanthawaddy and Amherst in each of which the numbers of licenses fell by one, though in each district the output largely increased. In the districts where the system of composition duty is in force the number of licenses rose from 726 to 812, and the number of cauldrons from 687 to 986 while pots fell from 146 to 131. Of the eleven districts five showed increases, three decreases, and three remained stationary. The decreases were small. The total number of licenses of both classes thus increased from 958 to 1,063, the increase being entirely due to the great rise in the price of salt during the year. The quantity of Burma-made salt issued from bond during the year rose from 492,243 to 628,313 maunds, and, including the output in the districts under the system of composition duty, the proportion of Burma-made salt to the total amount of salt consumed increased from 21.8 to 31.8 per cent. The duty levied on Burma-made salt was Rs. 4'91 lakhs as against Rs. 3'93 lakhs in the previous year. Imports of foreign salt decreased by 895,944 maunds or 38 per cent. from 2,358,468 maunds in 1914, which was a record, to 1,462,524 in 1915. The amount of duty realised fell from Rs. 19'18 lakhs to Rs. 14'70 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 4'48 lakhs. Imports from the United Kingdom fell from 281,636 to 239,126 maunds; imports from Germany entirely ceased. There was a remarkable increase, from 8,979 to 265,574 maunds in the quantity imported from Indian ports. Of this total, however, only 44,000 maunds was Indian (Madras) salt, the remainder being imported. Imports from the Turkish Red Sea port Salif which amounted to 498,938 maunds in 1914 entirely ceased. The principal source of fresh supplies was Spain the imports from

which increased from 343,136 to 550,079 maunds. Towards the end of the year the falling off of imports caused the stocks of salt to be greatly reduced, and to prevent their complete exhaustion, steps were taken to restrict deliveries from bond. The available stocks became insufficient to meet the demand which was artificially inflated through uneasiness in the market, and the shortage coupled with the high price led to large importations of foreign duty-paid salt from Calcutta. A quantity of Madras country salt was also imported, but owing to the coarseness of the grain was unable to find a market. The quantity in bond at the end of the year was 302,955 maunds as compared with 629,380 maunds at the end of 1914. The imports of salted fish fell from 169,003 maunds by 20 per cent. to 135,334 maunds, the lowest figure on record. Nearly the whole decrease occurred in the wet variety and was due to the increase in freights and to a better demand in the Straits Settlements, where higher prices were obtainable. The total revenue derived from salt and salt fish during the year was Rs. 20.10 lakhs as compared with Rs. 23.72 lakhs in 1914.

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143. The gross revenue derived from excise fell from Rs. 92.39 lakhs to Rs. 84.72 lakhs and the net revenue from Rs. 77.18 lakhs to Rs. 69.39 lakhs. The losses of the liquor trade in the previous year and the anticipation that trade would continue to be bad caused a heavy fall in the prices obtained for license fees at the auctions in April. Revenue from liquor fell by Rs. 7.68 lakhs or 14.3 per cent from Rs. 53.78 lakhs to Rs. 46.10 lakhs. The gross revenue derived from opium increased slightly from Rs. 36.93 lakhs to Rs. 37.53 lakhs, a decrease in the receipts from license fees being more than balanced by an increase in the revenue derived from duty. The total expenditure on the conjoint Excise and Salt establishments rose by less than 1 per cent. from Rs. 15.21 lakhs to Rs. 15.33 lakhs. A decreased expenditure under contingencies was due partly to the exercise of greater economy in making rewards and partly to the decrease in cocaine smuggling leading to a decrease in the amount of rewards paid for the seizure of cocaine.

Excise—
General.

144. The increase, Rs. 70,730, in the amount of revenue derived from duty paid on opium is nearly balanced by a decline of Rs. 59,482 in the sale proceeds of confiscated opium, from Rs. 1.68 lakh to Rs. 1.09 lakh. The net profits of licensees rose by Rs. 5,778 to Rs. 3.21 lakhs while license fees decreased by Rs. 10,158 to Rs. 93,590. The total quantity of opium issued to shops was very little less than in the previous year, 43,347 as against 43,391 seers. Excise opium increased by 918 seers and confiscated opium decreased by 962 seers. The largest increase in consumption took place in Tavoy District and was due to the influx of Chinese to work in the wolfram mines. The exceptionally high price of opium in Yunnan caused large increases in the quantities sold at the licensed shops in the northern districts of Kadau, Bhamo and Myitkyina. Considerable reductions in consumption occurred in the districts of Pegu, Thaton, Amherst, Thayetmyo, Bassein, Ruby Mines and Upper Chindwin, for which the causes ascribed were reduction of allowances, decline of trade and scarcity of money. The total amount of contraband opium seized at the four principal sea-ports, Rangoon, Akyab, Moulmein and Bassein, was less than half the quantity of the preceding year, 63,107 as against 128,422 tolas. The irregularity of shipping connections between Burma and India tended to restrict smuggling. Smuggling on an extensive scale by means of parcels sent through the post office came to light and measures for its more effective prevention were under discussion. The price of opium in Yunnan was high enough to attract thither the whole surplus of the crop grown in the Shan States and little opium from that source reached Burma. The hawking for resale of opium purchased from licensed shops has considerably diminished. The numbers of arrests and convictions for offences against the Opium Act were 2,925 and 2,411 respectively as compared with 2,887 and 2,398 in 1914-15. The percentage of convictions to arrests was 82.43 as against 83.06. The total quantity of opium seized fell by 37.6 per cent. from 2,370 seers to 1,478. As a consequence of the high price of hill opium the

Opium.

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 РАУЕНОН
 АНД
 ФИНАНСА.

Excise—
 Liquors.

number of persons convicted of illicit poppy cultivation in Myitkyina District increased from 2 in the previous year to 38.

145. The quantity of spirits imported into Burma increased by 26,609 gallons to 247,688 gallons, a figure which however still falls considerably short of the 290,200 gallons imported in 1913-14. Whisky retained its place at the head of the list of this class of imports, though the quantity imported fell to 82,000 gallons, closely followed by brandy, the imports of which rose by 11,181 gallons to 81,825 gallons. Imports of ale, beer and porter fell by a further 11,797 gallons to 719,821 gallons. The value of potable spirits imported increased by Rs. 1.37 lakh and that of other potable liquors by Rs. 1.26 lakh. The total increase was Rs. 2.62 lakhs over the figures of the previous year, which were Rs. 18.78 lakhs less than those of 1912-14. The number of wholesale licenses for the sale of foreign liquor fell by 1 to 68, and the number of retail licenses rose slightly by 5 to 146. License fees for the sale of imported liquor fell by Rs. 2.15 lakhs from Rs. 10.38 lakhs to Rs. 8.23 lakhs. The issues of fermented malt liquor from the only brewery in the Province were 150,986 gallons as compared with 164,676 gallons in 1914-15 and the duty realised fell from Rs. 30,887 to Rs. 30,222. The duty on beer was raised on 1st March 1916 from 3 to 4½ annas per gallon so that the decrease in duty was much smaller than the decrease in issues. Foreign spirit was manufactured during the year in distilleries in Mandalay, Toungoo and Moulmein. Clearances from bond decreased from 18,602 to 12,003 gallons and despite an increase of the rate of duty from Rs. 9-6-0 to Rs. 11-4-0 per gallon from 1st March 1916, the total realised fell from Rs. 2.15 lakhs to Rs. 1.54 lakh. The number of wholesale licenses for the sale of locally manufactured foreign spirit fell from 5 to 4 and of retail licenses from 11 to 5. License fees fell by nearly a half to Rs. 6,811. The contract distillery system was extended to the Myaungmya District where two shops were sanctioned. New contracts for the Arakan and Tenasserim Divisions were entered into with revised rates of duty. The total issues were 72,193 as against 82,193 gallons the previous year, but owing to the revision of contracts the fall in duty realised was not proportionate, being only from Rs. 3.21 lakhs to Rs. 3.18 lakhs. The number of licenses increased by two to 144, but license fees decreased from Rs. 3.28 lakhs to Rs. 2.49 lakhs; receipts in outstill areas declined from Rs. 27,366 to Rs. 18,656. The revenue from fees for licenses to sell *tari* fell by Rs. 1.56 lakh to Rs. 7.08 lakhs owing to scarcity of money due to the war. The fall was less marked in Upper than in Lower Burma. The number of licenses for the sale of country fermented liquors other than *tari* fell by 6 to 370 and the aggregate of license fees by Rs. 2.31 lakhs to Rs. 2.38 lakhs. Thabein, Amherst, Myitkyina, Ruby Mines and Shwebo Districts showed increases. At the end of 1914-15 a sum of Rs. 94,355 was shown as a realizable balance of unpaid Excise revenue. Of this only Rs. 2,081 was collected and the balance Rs. 92,274 remitted. This, added to the sum of Rs. 13,354 remitted during the year, raised the amount written off as irrecoverable to the high figure of Rs. 1,05,628. The Education Department issued the syllabus on temperance published by the English Board of Education and an alternative syllabus drawn up by the Lord Bishop of Rangoon, and invited the attention of the Managers of all European and Anglo-Vernacular Schools to the orders of the Government of India that lessons on temperance should be imparted. All schools, with few exceptions, gave attention to the subject. Some arranged for special instruction, some treated it as part of religious or moral instruction and some connected it with lessons on hygiene.

For offences relating to country spirit there were 2,219 arrests and 1,738 convictions as compared with 1,453 arrests and 1,178 convictions in 1914-15. Convictions in respect to country fermented liquor of all classes rose from 2,903 to 3,520, the increase being under all heads except that of the unlicensed sale of other country fermented liquor. In Rangoon a large still was seized in a three-storeyed house in the centre of the town, rented by a Chinese confederacy and entirely devoted to the manufacture of spirit. The number of cases reported by

magistrates in which intoxicating liquor was the cause of or contributory to crime fell from 281 to 231.

146. The quantity of ganja seized during the year was 1,586 seers as against 1,202 seers the previous year. Imports by sea probably diminished on account of the decrease of shipping facilities, and most of the diminished quantity of the drug seized in Rangoon was reported to be grown in the Province. An increase in the quantity seized took place in Amherst, most of it being imported from Siam. The number of persons arrested and convicted for offences in connection with ganja decreased.

Cocaine licenses fell by 3 to 37. Convictions fell by 417 to 902, of which 41 were for unlicensed sale and the rest for illicit possession. The amount seized fell by a hundredweight to 23 pounds avoirdupois. The drug is now difficult to procure owing to the stoppage of German supplies, and what is procurable is said to be adulterated with antipyrin, antifebrin, quinine and other drugs of similar appearance. Licenses for the sale of morphia increased by one to 49. Convictions increased by 77 to 308 as a result principally of increases in Rangoon and Insein. Seizures increased by four pounds to nearly 20 pounds avoirdupois. There were two convictions for illicit possession in Thaton and one for unlicensed sale in Thayetmyo where there were none last year, but it does not appear that the use of the drug has spread.

147. The gross receipts under the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act together increased by nearly Rs. 87,000 from Rs. 34.28 lakhs to Rs. 35.14 lakhs, thus showing a recovery of not quite half the amount by which the total of 1914-15, the first year of the war, fell below that of the preceding year. Sales under each Act contributed equally to the total increase. The total charges fell from Rs. 1.27 lakh to Rs. 1.04 lakh owing to smaller refunds. The price of paddy in the early part of the harvest season was low and, in spite of a generally favourable season, cultivators found difficulty in repaying loans. Receipts from the sale of Court-fee stamps were thus larger than those of the previous year in practically all the important rice-growing districts, particularly in Lower Burma. The total receipts in Rangoon which had risen considerably in the first year of the war, fell by over a lakh to a figure lower than those of the two years preceding the war. The net result was an increase of Rs. 44,230—from Rs. 20.14 lakhs to Rs. 20.58 lakhs—in the total for the whole Province. The receipts from the sale of impressed non-judicial stamps and impressed non-judicial labels taken together (since these are generally used for similar classes of transactions) showed an increase of Rs. 73,471 above the abnormally low figures, Rs. 10.52 lakhs, of the previous year. There was some recovery of business from the depressed conditions of the first year of the war; and the effect of this recovery on the stamp revenue was assisted by the fact that the experience of that year induced greater caution on the part of money-lenders, with a disinclination to advance money on oral contracts and simple promissory notes, and a marked preference for documentary mortgages. The difficulties of debtor cultivators also led to the surrender of land to creditors by deed of sale. All the important districts of Lower Burma, except Thaton and Amherst, contributed to the increase. In Upper Burma the conditions were very similar to those of the previous year, and continued stagnation of business was reported from many districts. In Rangoon the value of foreign bill stamps sold increased from Rs. 25,232 to Rs. 30,004 and of share transfer stamps from Rs. 6,994 to Rs. 11,003, but the figures were still well below those of the years preceding the outbreak of war. The use of *hundis* or inland bills of exchange continued to decline, receipts under this head falling from Rs. 26,987 to Rs. 22,444. Fewer forms also were stamped with one and two-anna impressions for cheques, receipts, agreements and broker's notes. There were no large sums paid as duty and penalty or as composition duty, such as had swollen the total of "Miscellaneous Receipts" in the two preceding years. The total number of stamp vendors was increased by 60 to 2,509. The amount of discount allowed to vendors increased from Rs. 44,155 to Rs. 46,792, the bulk of the increase being in respect of the sale of non-judicial stamps. The number of cases of unstamped or insufficiently stamped

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Stamps.

documents dealt with by courts increased by 20 to 949, an increase roughly proportionate to the increase in the sale of non-judicial stamps. The number of cases dealt with by Collectors on impoundment or adjudication was 360 as compared with 455 in 1914-15, a decrease of 20 per cent. There were no cases in which very large sums were recovered as duty or penalty on adjudication or impoundment. One or two such cases have usually produced the bulk of the total recoveries under this head, and the fall in this total from Rs. 41,320 to Rs. 5,991 must be regarded as accidental. The number of persons brought to trial for offences against the Stamp Act during the year was 44 the same as in 1914-15. The cases against 6 of these were unfinished at the close of the year, 34 were convicted and 4 acquitted. The number of reports made to Collectors regarding the valuation of estates in connection with applications for probate or letters-of-administration was 409 as compared with 447 in 1914-15, and the number of cases in which enquiries were held fell from 377 to 346. The total of deficit court-fees required, which in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 4,017, was in 1915-16 only Rs. 3,068.

Charges on account of discount and establishment for the sale of stamps increased from Rs. 57,391 to Rs. 61,259. The cost of stamps supplied from the central depot was Rs. 6,606 as against Rs. 6,847. The total net receipts under both acts were Rs. 34'11 lakhs as compared with Rs. 33'01 lakhs in 1914-15.

148. Receipts and expenditure under the head "Assessed taxes" are credited and debited respectively in equal shares to Imperial and Provincial Funds. The Income-tax Act is applicable to the whole of Burma, but was completely operative only in Lower Burma and in Mandalay Town. It was not extended to new areas during the year. The method of assessment and the agencies employed remained unchanged. No changes were made in the Act and the Rules. Slight changes were made in two Directions in accordance with orders of the Government of India and one form was amended. The net yield of this tax for the year was Rs. 24'52 lakhs as compared with Rs. 25'08 lakhs in 1914-15, a decrease of over half a lakh of rupees. The net collections of income-tax in Rangoon were Rs. 14'52 lakhs; the figures for the previous year were Rs. 14'93 lakhs.

The number of assessees paying income-tax on "salaries, pensions and gratuities paid by Government" increased from 5,566 to 5,865 or by 5'4 per cent. while the amount of tax collected from them fell from Rs. 4,03,210 to Rs. 4,03,051. Under the sub-head "Salaries" there was an increase of 279 to 3,059 in the number of assessees with incomes of less than Rs. 2,000 per annum and a decrease of 5 in the number with incomes over that sum. The total collections of the tax on "interest on securities" was Rs. 33,063 as compared with Rs. 31,766 in 1914-15. Securities of the Government of India held in the Province increased by 24½ lakhs, while securities of local authorities fell by 8½ lakhs owing to the part repayment of the Rangoon municipal loans of 1887 and 1893. The number of assessees to the tax under the head "salaries, pensions and gratuities paid by local authorities" and the total amount of tax paid by them were practically the same as in the previous year, the figures being, 1914-15 assessees 1,054, tax Rs. 49,248, 1915-16 assessees 1,046, tax Rs. 48,613. The number of persons who paid income-tax on "salaries, etc. paid by companies and other private employers," was 5,584 as against 5,868 in the preceding year, a decrease of 4 per cent., while on the other hand the total amount paid by them increased from Rs. 3,68,063 to Rs. 3,83,776 or by 4 per cent. to the highest total yet recorded. The decrease of 159 assessees in Rangoon Town was partly due to the fact that many joined the army and their places either were not filled or were filled by persons not assessable to the tax. The decrease in Tavoy from 164 to 56 assessees arose from the situation in the wolfram industry after the outbreak of war in 1914 when many companies ceased to work altogether and others reduced their staffs. The recrudescence of the industry began late in 1915 and had not time to take effect before the close of the income-tax year. The tax was collected by employers in the case of 69'8 per cent. of the assessees. The number of companies assessed to income-tax fell from 75 to 64 and the amount collected from Rs. 6,89,526 to Rs. 6,38,612 or 7'4 per cent. As a rule companies declared smaller profits than in the previous

year owing to the effects of the war. The Burma Railways Company, Limited, paid Rs. 45,724 as against Rs. 58,582. In Rangoon where 98·5 per cent. of the yield under this head is paid 162 companies were brought on the register. Of these 51 were exempted on production of certificates of payment of the tax in India, 52 declared that they had no assessable income and 7 objected successfully to assessment. The number of assesseees under the head "Tax on other sources of income" fell from 14,796 to 14,124 or 4·5 per cent. and the amount collected from Rs. 9,66,135 to Rs. 9,14,335 or 5·4 per cent. In Rangoon where the number assessed fell by 26 only, the amount collected fell by Rs. 44,864 or 10·2 per cent. Excluding Rangoon Town the number of assesseees fell by 646 (5·7 per cent.) though the amount collected was only Rs. 6,936 (1·3 per cent.) less than in 1914-15. Revision of assessments by Collectors and Commissioners reduced the original demand of Rs. 11,79,626 payable by 10,381 assesseees to Rs. 9,45,838 payable by 14,720 assesseees or 20 and 10 per cent. respectively. Expenditure increased from Rs. 51,147 to Rs. 53,425 and amounted to 2·18 per cent. of the total amount collected. Refunds fell by Rs. 9,889 to Rs. 26,157 of which Rangoon Town was responsible for Rs. 20,078. The outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 20,216 as compared with Rs. 64,013 in 1914-15. The tax was collected without difficulty. In Rangoon Town alone coercive processes issued to any extent and the number fell from 380 to 143.

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(b) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

Provincial Receipts and Expenditure.

149. The Provincial receipts amounted to Rs. 5,54·32 lakhs as against Rs. 5,50·21 lakhs in 1914-15. The net increase of Rs. 4·12 lakhs resulted from a gross increase of Rs. 15·67 lakhs under some heads of revenue, partly counter-balanced by a gross decrease of Rs. 11·55 lakhs under other heads. The net increase is the result of a partial recovery from the effects of the war. Receipts under the head "Land Revenue" increased by Rs. 11·60 lakhs from Rs. 2,80·04 lakhs to Rs. 2,91·65 lakhs, under "Minor Works and Navigation" by Rs. 1·21 lakh from Rs. 13·03 lakhs to Rs. 14·24 lakhs, under "Miscellaneous" by Rs. 96,280 from Rs. 74,187 to Rs. 1·79 lakh, under "Stamps" by Rs. 43,436 from Rs. 17·14 lakhs to Rs. 17·58 lakhs, under "Interest" by Rs. 40,438 from Rs. 1·31 lakh to Rs. 1·71 lakh, and under "Civil Works—Public Works" by Rs. 30,772 from Rs. 3·19 lakhs to Rs. 3·50 lakhs. On the other hand, receipts under "Excise" fell by Rs. 3·91 lakhs from Rs. 44·47 lakhs to Rs. 40·56 lakhs and there was a decrease of Rs. 6·13 lakhs, from Rs. 51·33 lakhs to Rs. 45·20 lakhs, in the amount transferred from Imperial to Provincial Funds. While receipts under "Land Revenue" more than recovered the fall of 1914-15 and returned to the level of 1913-14 the "Forest" receipts which in 1914-15 were below the level of the previous year by Rs. 18·64 lakhs, in 1915-16 fell by a further Rs. 8,477. Other heads under which substantial decreases were recorded were "Income Tax" Rs. 35,357 from Rs. 12·73 lakhs to Rs. 12·38 lakhs, "Law and Justice—Courts of Law" Rs. 17,912 from Rs. 6·51 lakhs to Rs. 6·33 lakhs, "Police" Rs. 64,916 from Rs. 6·45 lakhs to Rs. 5·80 lakhs, "Ports and Pilotage" Rs. 22,694 from Rs. 4·22 lakhs to Rs. 3·99 lakhs. Taking into consideration the decrease in the amount of the contribution from Imperial Funds by Rs. 6·13 lakhs the real improvement in Provincial receipts over the figures of the previous year amounted to Rs. 10·24 lakhs.

Provincial
receipts.

150. The Provincial expenditure for the year fell from Rs. 5,96·32 lakhs to Rs. 5,64·05 lakhs. There was a gross decrease of Rs. 41·62 lakhs under certain heads and a gross increase of Rs. 9·36 lakhs under other heads, the net decrease being Rs. 32·26 lakhs. A substantial decrease was effected under the head "Political" of Rs. 6·37 lakhs, from Rs. 18·26 lakhs to Rs. 11·89 lakhs, and was due to the curtailment of expenditure on the Putao District and the North-Eastern Frontier. A reduction by Rs. 5·26 lakhs, from Rs. 32·15 lakhs to Rs. 26·89 lakhs,

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under the head "Medical" was caused by the reduction of contributions for sanitary purposes, the reduction of expenditure on plague, and the reduction of salaries paid owing to the reversion of commissioned officers of the Indian Medical Service to Military duty. As is usual however in times of financial stringency the largest economy was effected by retrenchment of expenditure on public works. The expenditure under the head "Civil Works—Public Works" fell from Rs. 1,10.18 lakhs to Rs. 82.78 lakhs, a reduction of Rs. 27.40 lakhs. Under "Education" a saving of Rs. 1.22 lakh was effected, the expenditure being reduced from Rs. 31.67 lakhs to Rs. 30.45 lakhs, principally by curtailing the amounts of Grants-in-Aid. Expenditure under the head "Land Revenue" increased by Rs. 2.79 lakhs from Rs. 68.15 lakhs to Rs. 70.94 lakhs, and under "Forests" by Rs. 2.06 lakhs from Rs. 46.80 lakhs to Rs. 48.86 lakhs. The only other head under which expenditure increased by more than a lakh of rupees was "Police" the expenditure on which was Rs. 1,37.06 lakhs as against Rs. 1,34.75 lakhs in 1914-15, an increase of Rs. 2.31 lakhs.

Forests.

151. The Forest Department Report deals with the year ending on the 30th June 1916 and the figures of revenue and expenditure given in it therefore differ from those compiled in the Finance Department. The gross revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 96.64 lakhs, as against Rs. 90.47 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 6.17 lakhs. Revenue from timber extracted by Government agency increased by Rs. 1.89 lakh to Rs. 14.57 lakhs. The revenue derived from produce extracted by consumers increased from Rs. 70.90 lakhs in 1914-15 to Rs. 75.15 lakhs. The receipts from drift and confiscated timber were higher by Rs. 32,240 at Rs. 2.01 lakhs while the duty on foreign timber and other produce realised only Rs. 1.16 lakh or Rs. 1.02 lakh less than in the previous year. The import duty levied at Moulmein on timber imported from Siam, Karenni and the Shan States is technically payable on the arrival of the timber at the revenue station, but the timber is exempt from seizure in default of payment for two years. In view of the prevailing bad market importers have refrained from passing imported timber. The duty is also levied *ad valorem* and the fall in the value of timber has had a further effect. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 47.62 lakhs as compared with Rs. 48.08 lakhs in 1914-15. The expenditure on the extension and constitution of forests increased by Rs. 19,994 while on "improvements" and "extraction of timber by Government agency" the amount spent decreased by Rs. 1.80 lakh and Rs. 32,485 respectively. The expenditure on establishment increased by Rs. 1.46 lakh to Rs. 25.87 lakhs. The estimated value of timber and produce at the sale depôts of the Department increased during the year by Rs. 11.56 lakhs.

Local Funds.

District Cess
Funds.

152. A District Cess Fund is maintained by every district in Lower Burma. No change occurred in the number of such funds during the year. The aggregate receipts of all the funds were Rs. 35.44 lakhs as compared with Rs. 34.83 lakhs in 1914-15 an increase of Rs. .61 lakh. This was mainly due to an increase of Rs. 1.89 lakh under the head Provincial Rates, partly counterbalanced by decreases of Rs. .42 lakh under Police, Rs. .46 lakhs under Education and Rs. .35 lakh under Miscellaneous. The increase under Provincial Rates resulted from an improvement of ordinary Land Revenue. The increases occurred mainly in the Hanthawaddy, Insein, Pegu, Bassein, Ma-ubin, Amherst, Toungoo and Thaton Districts. Smaller receipts from slaughter-house license fees and sale proceeds of unclaimed cattle chiefly accounted for the fall under Police. The decrease under Education was due to smaller contributions made during the year from Provincial Funds towards expenditure on local education. Smaller receipts from bazaar stall rents and from the sale of ferry licenses mainly accounted for the decreases under the heads Miscellaneous and Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers, respectively. The aggregate expenditure of the funds rose from Rs. 36.28 lakhs in 1914-15 to Rs. 39.04 lakhs. This increase of Rs. 2.75 lakhs occurred

under Provincial Rates, Rs. '39 lakh, Medical, Rs. '33 lakh, Agriculture, Rs. '10 lakh, Minor Works—In charge of Public Works Officers, Rs. '17 lakh, and Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers, Rs. 2'50 lakhs, partly counterbalanced by decreases under Education, Rs. '36 lakh, and Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers, Rs. '27 lakh. Larger outlay on commission for the collection of Cess in the Hanthawaddy, Insein, Pegu, Tharrawaddy, Bassein, Ma-ubin, Pyapōn and Amherst Districts mainly contributed to the increase in expenditure under Provincial Rates. The increase under the head Medical was the result of larger grants to hospitals and dispensaries, partly counterbalanced by smaller expenditure on European medicines and instruments, travelling allowance of vaccinators and assistants, and plague charges. Larger expenditure in the Bassein, Myaungmya and Toungoo Districts mainly accounted for the increase under Minor Works and Navigation. The increase in expenditure under the head Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers, occurred in all districts except Pegu, Pyapōn, Toungoo, Thatōn and Tavoy. The decrease under the head Education was due to the fact that no grant was paid towards the building of Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools during the year as against a grant of Rs. '38 lakh in Pyapōn in 1914-15, and also to smaller expenditure on the maintenance and payment of fixed grants to Vernacular Primary Schools. The decrease under the head Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers, was due mainly to smaller expenditure on Miscellaneous Public Improvements and on the payment for land taken up for public purposes. Only one Fund, the Ma-ubin District Cess Fund, temporarily overdraw the balance at its credit in the months of December 1915 and January and February 1916. All funds were solvent on 31st March 1916. The aggregate closing balance of all the funds on 31st March 1916 was Rs. 25'52 lakhs as compared with Rs. 29'11 lakhs on the 31st March 1915.

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153. Each district in Upper Burma maintains a District Fund. These funds are not endowed as in Lower Burma with a Cess on land revenue but derive their income from various sources such as bazaar rents, slaughter-house licenses, ferries and contributions from Provincial Funds. The aggregate receipts during 1915-16 of all these funds were Rs. 9'34 lakhs a sum which compares with Rs. 12'53 lakhs in the previous year. The decrease occurred under the heads Police Rs. '33 lakh, Miscellaneous, Rs. '28 lakh, and Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers, Rs. 3'22 lakhs. This last item is due to the fact that in 1914-15 a contribution of Rs. 4'41 lakhs was paid from Provincial Funds to the District Funds for expenditure on roads in 1915-16. This also accounts for the increase of Rs. 5'40 lakhs in expenditure under the head Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers. An increase of Rs. '71 lakh in the receipts under the head Agriculture was due to contributions made from Provincial Funds on account of Veterinary charges. The same contributions account for the increase in expenditure under Agriculture. The aggregate expenditure of the District Funds was Rs. 14'08 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7'98 lakhs in 1914-15. This increase of Rs. 6'10 lakhs was chiefly under the heads Agriculture and Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers and has been explained above. All funds were solvent on 31st March 1916. The aggregate closing balance of all the funds on 31st March 1916 was Rs. 5'18 lakhs as compared with Rs. 9'93 lakhs a year previously.

District
Funds.

154. Other local funds consist of the Cantonment, Town, Port, Pilot, Rangoon Police Reward, Steam-boiler Inspection and Educational Syndicate Funds. The number of Cantonment Funds was seven as in the previous year. Their aggregate opening balance was Rs. 46,631 and the aggregate closing balance on 31st March 1916 Rs. 58,078. The total receipts excluding debt accounts and Government loans amounted to Rs. 1'95 lakh and the total expenditure to Rs. 1'84 lakh. The corresponding figures for 1914-15 were Rs. 1'80 lakh and Rs. 2'79 lakhs respectively so that there was an increase of Rs. 14,890 in receipts and a decrease of Rs. 95,128 in expenditure during the year of report. The increase in receipts was chiefly due to Grants-in-aid which amount to Rs. 32,358 as against Rs. 14,794. The decrease in expenditure took place in Rangoon and Mandalay. In Rangoon receipts fell from Rs. 87,628 to Rs. 84,781 and expenditure from

Other
Funds.

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Rs. 89,965 to Rs. 74,716. The expenditure figures for 1914-15 however excluded Rs. 50,000 as instalment of repayment of a loan. In Mandalay receipts increased from Rs. 56,928 to Rs. 58,438 as the result of an increase in the grant received from the Military Department and expenditure fell from Rs. 91,125 to Rs. 62,509 in consequence of less money being spent on public works. The receipts and expenditure of the Meiktila Cantonment Fund were Rs. 6,560 and Rs. 6,300 as against Rs. 6,879 and Rs. 5,939 in 1914-15. In Shwebo receipts and expenditure were in 1914-15 Rs. 4,077 and Rs. 5,203 and in 1915-16 Rs. 5,945 and Rs. 6,077. The income of the Thayetmyo Cantonment Fund fell from Rs. 7,794 to Rs. 6,559 and the expenditure rose from Rs. 6,233 to Rs. 7,477. In Maymyo owing to an increase in the Grant-in-aid from Rs. 700 to Rs. 16,654 the income of the Fund increased by Rs. 15,689 to Rs. 23,313 and the expenditure was Rs. 17,090 as compared with Rs. 18,087 in 1914-15. In Bhamo receipts and expenditure were Rs. 9,347 and Rs. 9,197 respectively as compared with Rs. 9,122 and Rs. 9,358. Only the Rangoon and Mandalay Cantonment Funds were self-supporting: the others were only able to show any closing balance through the receipt of Grants-in-aid from Government.

The number of Town Funds was 19 as in the previous year. The aggregate income of these funds decreased by Rs. '86 lakh to Rs. 8'39 lakhs and their aggregate expenditure by Rs. '16 lakh to Rs. 9'21 lakhs. The decrease in income was principally due to the reduction or absence of contributions from the Local Government. In six towns there was an aggregate decrease of expenditure by Rs. 1'30 lakh and in seven others an aggregate increase of Rs. 1'25 lakh to which the principal contributors were Yenangyaung and Maymyo. In 13 towns the expenditure of the year exceeded the income. The aggregate closing balances which at the end of 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 4'31 lakhs were on 31st March 1916 reduced to Rs. 3'49 lakhs. In six towns there were large closing balances accumulated in order to pay for expensive improvements such as water-supply, drainage and roads. The funds appeared solvent.

Excluding the Rangoon Port Trust there were six Port Funds. The total receipts and expenditure were Rs. 4'03 lakhs and Rs. 4'24 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4'23 lakhs and Rs. 4'83 lakhs respectively in the previous year. The decrease in receipts in the case of Tavoy was accounted for by the fact that the previous year's receipts were swollen by a loan from the Local Government. Expenditure exceeded receipts in the Port Funds of Akyab, Mergui, Tavoy and Kyaukpyu which closed with smaller balances than in 1914-15. The position of the Moulmein Port Fund despite an increase of about Rs. 6,000 in the amount of its closing balance remained unsatisfactory inasmuch as repayments of instalments of principal and interest of loans which fell due in April 1915 and April 1916 could not be made and were postponed till April 1917. The means of meeting the liabilities of this fund and placing its finances on a sound basis are under consideration. The postponement of the repayment of the first instalment of the loan of Rs. 65,000 from the Local Government by the Port Fund of Tavoy for one year was sanctioned. At the end of the year the Moulmein Port Fund owed the Local Government Rs. 70,813 and the Tavoy Port Fund owed Rs. 69,631. There are four Pilot Funds in Burma, of which the receipts are principally derived from pilotage fees and the expenditure consists of cost of maintenance of pilot vessels and payments to pilots. The income and expenditure of the Rangoon Pilot Fund were Rs. 3'15 lakhs and Rs. 3'41 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3'34 lakhs and Rs. 3'55 lakhs in 1914-15. The closing balance was reduced from Rs. 44,067 to Rs. 17,865. Measures for the improvement of the financial position of this Fund are under consideration. The aggregate receipts of the Akyab, Moulmein and Bassein Pilot Funds increased by Rs. 16,213 to Rs. 1'13 lakh and the aggregate closing balances from Rs. 15,895 to Rs. 17,126.

The balance at the credit of the Rangoon Police Reward Fund sank to four rupees at the end of the year. The receipts and expenditure of the Steam-boiler Inspection Fund during the year were Rs. 93,081 and Rs. 71,226 respectively as compared with Rs. 84,047 and Rs. 1,32,676 in 1914-15. The average receipts of the last three years have been in excess of the average expenditure by Rs. 23,531. The Fund holds 3½ per cent. Government securities to the face

value of Rs. 1.25 lakh in addition to a closing balance of Rs. 79,718. The total income of the Educational Syndicate Fund was Rs. 56,187 and its expenditure was Rs. 52,772. The fund closed with a balance of Rs. 19,301, an increase over the figure of the previous year of Rs. 3,415.

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ROAD AND EDUCATION CASSES.

155. In Lower Burma contributions to education and local public works are made by the District Cess Funds which have been discussed in paragraph 152. No special cesses for these purposes are levied in the Province.

Municipal Revenues.

156. Including the opening balance of Rs. 9.64 lakhs the gross receipts of the Rangoon Municipality for the year amounted to Rs. 58.22 lakhs as compared with Rs. 64.18 lakhs in the previous year. Excluding the opening balance the total receipts of the year were Rs. 48.58 lakhs or Rs. 86,198 in excess of those of the previous year. Excluding the opening balance and loans, deposits, advances and realizations from the sale of securities in the sinking fund, the ordinary income amounted to Rs. 44.19 lakhs as against Rs. 43.53 lakhs in the previous year. Large advances were made from revenue to pay for works for which loans had been sanctioned but not raised, and the closing balance was in consequence reduced to Rs. 1.06 lakh. The gross expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 57.17 lakhs and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 2.63 lakhs. Excluding payments for works which would ordinarily have been paid for from loans and the amount in suspense account, the ordinary expenditure for the year was Rs. 45.27 lakhs as compared with Rs. 43.08 lakhs in 1914-15. The expenditure under the head of capital was Rs. 1.18 lakh as compared with Rs. 5.41 lakhs in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 6.61 lakhs was advanced on account of works which will eventually be paid for from loans and will be refunded when the loans are raised.

Rangoon
Municipality.

The income derived from rates and taxes increased by Rs. .68 lakh from Rs. 32.75 lakhs to Rs. 33.43 lakhs. The increase was due to the assessment to municipal taxation of new buildings and to the imposition of a tax on privately owned vehicles. The increase in the amount realized under special Acts from Rs. 17,584 to Rs. 34,118 was due to the fact that a whole year's hackney carriage license fees were credited instead of the fees for only five months as in the previous year and to the fees for licenses for taxi-cabs. The revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation increased from Rs. 9.27 lakhs to Rs. 9.51 lakhs. This increase of Rs. 24,000 was chiefly derived from an increase in the conservancy receipts of Rs. 2,200 derived from the sale of manure and an increase of Rs. 12,500 in the license fees for hand-carts, due to a change in the method of collection, half the license fees for 1914-15 in addition to the whole of the fees for 1915-16 being credited in the latter year. Other items contributing to the increase were pawnshop license fees Rs. 9,000, fines under municipal and other Acts Rs. 5,800 and interest on sinking fund investments Rs. 8,000. On the other hand there was a decrease of Rs. 12,800 under the head of "water fund receipts" caused by the falling off in the receipts from water supplied for non-domestic purposes and to shipping. The chief items of increase of expenditure were Rs. 59,598 under "public safety" for the purchase of a fire engine and escape, Rs. 27,217 under "conservancy" for improvements to bullock depots and purchase of new conservancy carts, Rs. 25,671 under "sanitation" due to larger expenditure on paving back-drainage spaces, Rs. 22,640 under "markets and slaughter-houses" caused by increases in establishment and repairs, Rs. 1.16 lakh under "public works" due to larger expenditure on re-metalling roads, deferred payments for asphalt paving laid in previous years and the cost of a new steam-launch and Rs. 14,312 under "payments to sinking fund." There were decreases amounting to Rs. 1.40 lakh

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consisting of Rs. 61,000 spent on the new municipal office and charged off to revenue account and of Rs. 79,000 under "water and drainage works" resulting from savings in coal consumption and less expenditure on improvements.

Excluding loans aggregating Rs. 60½ lakhs raised for the Town Lands Reclamation Fund the loans outstanding on 1st April 1915 amounted to Rs. 1,32'88 lakhs. The annual instalment of Rs. 57,500 towards the repayment of the 1887 loan of Rs. 23 lakhs was paid and the outstanding liabilities at the close of the year were Rs. 1,32,30,500. The face value of the securities in the sinking fund was Rs. 30'42 lakhs. Certain deficiencies in the sinking fund, caused by the abnormal depreciation of 3½ per cent. Government securities on account of the war, were brought to the notice of the municipal committee, which applied to the Local Government for sanction to postpone their adjustment till 1920. No loan has been raised in the open market since 1912 and the Local Government has sanctioned an overdraft not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs from the Bank of Bengal to the municipal committee. The loan charges for the year were Rs. 10'03 lakhs, of which Rs. 5'75 lakh was repayment, Rs. 5'87 lakhs interest, Rs. 3'50 lakhs sinking fund and Rs. 8,947 management charges.

The loans raised for reclamation purposes outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 60½ lakhs against securities in the sinking fund of the face value of Rs. 10'21 lakhs. The fund opened with a credit balance of Rs. 3'82 lakhs on the 1st April 1915, of which Rs. 41,163, the unexpended balance of the amount advanced during the previous year for works, was in the hands of the Deputy Accountant-General, Public Works Accounts, Burma. The receipts for the year were Rs. 5'83 lakhs and the expenditure Rs. 7'36 lakhs. Included in the receipts was a special item of Rs. 33,529 on account of the transfer to the municipality of Government Promissory notes erroneously purchased for the 16 lakhs loan of 1902, and a sum of Rs. 22,982 adjusted on account of stores purchased in previous years. The fund closed with a credit balance of Rs. 2'31 lakhs which includes an unexpended balance of Rs. 91,619 in the hands of the Deputy Accountant-General from advances made for works during the year.

Other muni-
cipalities.

157. Exclusive of debt accounts amounting to Rs. 1'83 lakh and of opening balances amounting to Rs. 19'80 lakhs, the total income of the municipalities in the Province, omitting Rangoon, was Rs. 46'11 lakhs as compared with Rs. 48'86 lakhs in the previous year. The ordinary expenditure was Rs. 48'34 lakhs as against Rs. 45'90 lakhs in the preceding year, and the aggregate of the closing balances Rs. 16'03 lakhs as against Rs. 19'53 lakhs. There was a reduction from Rs. 81,318 to Rs. 37,502 in the amount of arrears of revenue uncollected at the close of the year, the largest amounts being at Mandalay and Toungoo. Municipal rates and taxes produced Rs. 17'88 lakhs as compared with Rs. 17'62 lakhs in the preceding year. The large decrease of Rs. 34,592 at Akyab was due to a change in the period of collection, and the increase of Rs. 32,580 at Toungoo to more complete collection of the current year's taxes and the inclusion of arrears collected on account of previous years. Realizations under special Acts produced Rs. 54,829 as compared with Rs. 45,819 in the previous year. Moulmein was responsible for an increase of Rs. 6,230 chiefly on account of fees for hackney carriage licenses which owing to a strike were not taken out in 1914-15. The total revenue from other sources amounted to Rs. 18'96 lakhs as compared with Rs. 19'61 lakhs in the previous year. The income under this head increased in 13 municipalities, more especially in Insein, Patheingyi, Bassein and Shwebo. In Shwebo the increase, being due to the inclusion in the accounts of advance collections on account of the following year, was merely apparent. In Bassein the increase was also unreal as it was due to the collection of arrears due in the previous year. Decreases were reported in the following cases, Pegu Rs. 13,527, Kyaiklat Rs. 11,272, Toungoo Rs. 10,134, Gyobingauk Rs. 6,984, Moulmein Rs. 6,560, Henzada Rs. 6,444 and numerous smaller amounts in other municipalities. The receipts under this head consist chiefly of fees and revenue from markets and slaughter-houses and the decrease was caused by the trade depression resulting from the war. The aggregate total of grants and contributions fell from Rs. 10'51 lakhs to Rs. 8'14 lakhs and consisted mainly of the two

recurring grants of Rs. 6 lakhs for urban sanitary improvement and refunds of unutilized grants of former years amounting to Rs. 1.35 lakh.

On the expenditure side general administration and collection charges amounted to Rs. 5.32 lakhs as compared with Rs. 3.88 lakhs in the previous year. The increase at Syriam was due to the refund to a ferry licensee of an advance collection of Rs. 9,656 on his surrender of his license. In Pyapōna grant of Rs. 63,032 made by the Local Government for the construction of a new bazaar but not utilized was refunded, and a grant of Rs. 73,040 to the municipality of Moulmein for a sewage disposal scheme was refunded for the same reason. The increase at Taungdwingyi was due to the building of a new municipal office and at Shwebo to the refund of an overpayment. Under the head of public safety the municipal committee of Mandalay incurred increased expenditure amounting to Rs. 8,695 as improvements to the Fire Brigade staff and equipment. In Akyab an increase of Rs. 5,654 was due mainly to the purchase of lamp-posts and the employment of more lamp-lighters. The total expenditure under the head of public safety rose from Rs. 2.60 lakhs to Rs. 2.70 lakhs. Variations under other heads of expenditure were: Water-works Rs. 4.31 lakhs as against Rs. 4.14 lakhs, Drainage Rs. 1.30 lakh as against Rs. 1.06 lakh, Conservancy Rs. 8.16 lakhs as against Rs. 8.14 lakhs, charges on account of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors Rs. 88,951 as against Rs. 50,000, Hospitals and Dispensaries Rs. 6.08 lakhs as against Rs. 8.31 lakhs, Markets and Slaughter-houses Rs. 4.98 lakhs as against Rs. 4.36 lakhs, Public Works Rs. 8.92 lakhs as against Rs. 7.55 lakhs, and Public Instruction Rs. 2.14 lakhs as against Rs. 1.94 lakh. The liabilities on account of interest declined from Rs. 1.26 lakh to Rs. 1.14 lakh. No loans were granted during the year.

Other Funds.

158. There are four educational endowment funds, namely, the Jardine, the Maung Uhn Ghine, the Renoung, and the Coplestone Funds. These funds do not bank with Government and their accounts do not therefore appear in the Government Books. The accounts of the Official Assignee are similarly excluded.

Paper Currency.

159. The total or gross circulation of currency notes in 1915-16 stood at an average of Rs. 5.37 lakhs as against Rs. 4.94 lakhs in 1914-15 and Rs. 5.27 lakhs in 1913-14. On 30th April 1915 the gross circulation was Rs. 5.22 lakhs. It fell to a minimum of Rs. 4.45 lakhs on 16th December 1915 and rose to a maximum of Rs. 7.13 lakhs on 24th February 1916, the sudden rise in the circulation in February being due to the payment of telegraphic transfers from India in currency notes. In 1913-14 the average gross circulation of currency notes was Rs. 5.27 lakhs, the maximum circulation Rs. 7.89 lakhs on 5th March 1914 and the minimum Rs. 4.07 lakhs on 2nd December 1913, in 1914-15 the average was Rs. 4.94 lakhs, the maximum Rs. 6.07 lakhs on 11th March 1915 and the minimum Rs. 4.21 lakhs on 27th August 1914. There is no reserve treasury in Burma and to determine the active or net circulation, the value of notes of the Rs. 10,000 denomination has been excluded from the gross circulation. For the year 1915-16 the average of the net or active circulation on the last day of each month was Rs. 4,82.24 lakhs, the similar average for 1914-15 being Rs. 4,12.00 lakhs. The increase in the gross circulation over that of the previous year was thus Rs. 43 lakhs and in the active circulation Rs. 70 lakhs. The difference of Rs. 27 lakhs in the two figures represents the decrease in the circulation of Rs. 10,000 notes which depends mainly on the requirements of the local banks. Such notes are stocked by the banks and during the busy season are tendered at the currency office and exchanged for coin or notes of smaller values. That the adverse effect of the war in Europe on the note circulation has passed away is shown by the fact that the net circulation, which after increasing steadily every

year from 1906-07 suddenly fell in 1914-15 by Rs. 59·62 lakhs, increased in the year of report by Rs. 70·24 lakhs. Of the total value of notes in circulation on 31st March 1916 notes of the Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 denominations formed 94·27 per cent. As in the previous year the circulation of the 10-rupee note was greater than that of the 100-rupee note in value and supplied nearly 60 per cent. of the total volume of currency. The proportion of the 100-rupee note decreased by 3·41 per cent.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

REFERENCES—

- Report on the Sanitary Administration of Burma for the year 1915.
Notes and Statistics on Hospitals and Dispensaries in Burma for the year 1915.
Report on the working of the Government Medical School, Rangoon, for the year 1915-16.
Note on the Lunatic Asylums in Burma for the year 1915.
Notes and Statistics on Vaccination in Burma for the year 1915-16.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume III.

Births and Deaths.

160. No change was effected during the year in the system in force for the registration of births and deaths. The total registration area and the population on which births and deaths are calculated therefore remained the same as in the previous year. For purposes of sanitary administration, Thayetmyo District, which was hitherto included in Lower Burma, has during the year been brought under Upper Burma. The total registration area and census population for 1911 for Lower Burma have been reduced by 4,750 square miles and 248,275 persons (area and population of Thayetmyo District) which have been added to the figures for Upper Burma.

Area under
registration
and total
population.

161. The number of registered births exceeded registered deaths in Lower Burma by 50,735 and in Upper Burma by 19,666 showing a total increase of 7 per mille of the whole population of the Province. The total of registered births in 1915 was 349,250 of which 177,575 were males and 168,675 females, the proportion of males born to every 100 females being 105. The birth-rate for the Province was 35.13, and for Lower and Upper Burma respectively, 33.39 and 38.01. The corresponding ratios for 1914 were 35.40, 34.70, and 36.69, and the previous 5 years' mean 33.70, 32.69, and 35.36. The rural birth-rates for the Province were 36.24, for Lower Burma 34.85, and for Upper Burma 38.43. The urban birth-rates were, Provincial 26.29, Lower Burma 23.32, and Upper Burma 33.50. In Lower Burma Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Tharrawaddy, Prome and Bassein Districts recorded lower birth-rates than the mean of the previous 5 years, while in Upper Burma Thayetmyo is the only district returning a similar low birth-rate. The total of registered deaths for the Province in 1915 was 275,849. Of these 234,365 occurred in rural areas, and 41,484 in towns. The provincial death-rate was 27.99 against 24.13 in 1914 and 24.99 in 1913, and the previous 5 years' mean of 25.81. The rural death-rate was 26.76, and the urban death-rate 37.76. Both were in excess of the previous 5 years' mean. The death-rates for Lower and Upper Burma respectively were 25.12 and 32.72, for rural areas 24.03 and 31.07, and for urban areas 32.62 and 50.24. The high general mortality was largely due to a severe epidemic of cholera which affected many districts of both Lower and Upper Burma, producing a district death-rate from this cause of 4.90 per mille in Mergui, 4.66 in Mandalay, 3.65 in Lower Chindwin, 3.54 in Sagaing, and 3.33 in Tharrawaddy Districts. Deaths from all causes except small-pox and plague were in excess of the previous year's mortality. In seven districts in Lower Burma (Sandoway, Rangoon, Hanthawaddy, Pyapön, Bassein, Amherst and Thatön) the death-rate was below the mean of the previous 5 years and in Upper Burma Thayetmyo had a similar low death-rate. Out of 39 towns in Lower Burma 19 towns had death-rates below the previous 5 years' mean and this was the case also in Upper Burma for 6 out of 20 towns. The provincial rate of infant mortality per mille of births in 1915 was 219.35

Number of
births and
deaths.

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as against 216·36 in 1914 and 221·40 in 1913. The Upper Burma rate was heavier than that of Lower Burma. The provincial urban infantile death-rate is rather less than 50 per cent. in excess of the rural rate, that of Lower Burma rather more than 50 per cent. in excess of the Lower Burma rural rate, and that of Upper Burma between 50 and 60 per cent. in excess of the Upper Burma rural rate. The work performed through the agency of the Society for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, Mandalay, appears to have materially reduced the total infant mortality among the families attended. Useful work is being performed by the Rangoon Society, and a Society on similar lines has been inaugurated at Moulmein. Sagaing is performing equally valuable work through the agency of a special maternity ward under a Committee of officials and citizens.

Cause of
death

162. The registered mortality from different causes in 1915 is compared below with the figures for 1914 :

	1915.	1914.
Cholera	17,597	2,073
Small-pox	217	258
Plague	4,640	7,483
Fevers	84,240	76,127
Dysentery and Diarrhœa	11,586	8,111
Respiratory Diseases	8,529	7,969
Suicide	199	170
Wounding or accident	1,778	1,704
Snakebite or killed by wild beasts	2,052	1,647
Rabies	27	17
All other causes	144,984	132,264
Total	275,849	237,828

There has been an increase in 1915 of 38,021 deaths over the figures of 1914, chiefly due to heavy mortality from cholera, fever, dysentery and diarrhœa. Plague in Burma is mainly prevalent in towns, and its incidence in rural areas is as a rule so relatively unimportant that the progress of the epidemic is best discussed with special reference to urban mortality. Thus the total of plague deaths in towns of Burma during 1915 was 3,711 with a death-rate of 3·38 per mille, while there were only 929 deaths in rural areas, giving a death-rate of 0·11 per mille; the plague death-rate for the whole Province being 0·47 per mille, and total deaths 4,640. The previous five years' mean plague death-rate was 0·60. At Sagaing in anticipation of serious mortality from plague no less than 9,500 persons out of a total census population of 10,937 living within municipal limits were inoculated with plague prophylactic in the short space of one month, and although rats continued to die all over the town plague among the human population was reduced to narrow limits. In other plague-infected areas the importance of anti-plague inoculation has received full recognition by the authorities. In Mandalay city 8,144 inoculations were performed, 6,771 of these in the last three months of 1915. In rural areas of Mandalay District 7,760 inoculations were performed during the year. The total inoculations for the year were 39,980, of which 9,609 were performed in Lower Burma and 30,381 in Upper Burma. The number of rats destroyed in 1915, as reported, was 477,250, of which 24,103 were killed in Upper Burma and 429,465 in Rangoon.

Fevers.—Mortality under this head was greater in Upper than in Lower Burma, the respective death-rates in rural areas for the two sections of the Province being 9·47 and 8·87 respectively. There is evidence that malarial fever was more prevalent and destructive to life in many districts in 1915 than in the previous year. High fever death-rates were returned for Akyab (14·28), Sandoway (11·43), Tharrawaddy (14·68), Prome (13·52), Mandalay (17·48), Shwebo (12·79), Yamethin (12·07), Kyauksè (12·38), Minbu (11·51), all of which were in excess of the previous year's record, some, especially those of Tharrawaddy, Mandalay and Kyauksè very much so. In Akyab, Tharrawaddy, and Prome Districts the wide prevalence of cholera probably accounted for a considerable number of deaths really due to that cause being returned under "fever," and this may have been the case in Mandalay and some other districts also. The high rates of

fever mortality in the irrigated districts, Shwebo, Mandalay, Kyaukse and Minbu attracted attention and enquiries are being made with a view to reduce death-rate from this cause.

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SERVICES
Quinine.

163. The number of packets of quinine-sulphate tablets (each packet containing 400 grains of the drug), sold or freely distributed during 1915, was 72,367, against 55,258 in 1914. The packets of 5-grain tablets totalled 56,471½ and of one-grain tablets 15,895½. Free distribution was made to the extent of 215,600 grains, equivalent to 839 packets. The outturn of quinine tablets by the Rangoon Central Jail Quinine Department) was greatly in excess of the previous year, 4,180,170 five-grain and 5,283,950 one-grain tablets being issued, against 2,842,160 five-grain and 5,334,000 one-grain in 1914. The quinine value of both sizes of the tablets produced was checked by frequent analyses. The proper proportion of quinine sulphate as designated for each sample of the tablets was found to be maintained with close exactitude.

Emigration and Immigration.

164. The total of immigrants into Burma through the ports of Akyab, Kyauk-pyu, Moulmein, Rangoon, Tavoy and Mergui, was 338,890, an increase of 70,474 and the total of emigrants from these ports 249,076 an increase of 102,791, on the previous year. The excess population by immigration over emigration was 89,814 or 32,317 less than in 1914. No record of immigrants or emigrants was maintained at Bassein port.

Medical Relief.

165. Six new institutions were opened and two closed during the year 1915. The results of work done by three travelling dispensaries were included for the first time in the hospital statistics of the year. At the end of the year there were 279 hospitals and dispensaries affording medical relief.

Hospitals
and dispensar-
ies.

166. The total number of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries aggregated 1,791,792 as against 1,666,202 in 1914. The chief diseases treated in the order of prevalence were:—

Attendance
and treat-
ment.

- " All other Diseases of the Digestive System,"
- " Malaria."
- " Other Diseases of the Skin," " Ulcers "
- " All Diseases of the Respiratory System" except Pneumonia and Tubercle of the lungs,"
- " Injuries (General and Local),"
- " Diseases of the eye," and
- " Dyspepsia."

There were 787 cases of cholera, 248 cases of plague and 338 cases of small-pox treated at the hospitals during 1915 as against 117, 640 and 179 cases respectively in the preceding year. Four thousand two hundred and forty-eight deaths occurred during the year among in-door patients. The mortality was 6.4 per cent. of the total treated in 1915 as against 5.9 per cent. in 1914. The daily average attendance among out-door patients has increased from 8,523 in 1914 to 9,025 in the year of report. The ratio percentage of total treated in the case of the Burmese community has increased from 52.3 in 1914 to 54.2 in 1915, thus showing a steady progress in the medical relief afforded to the indigenous population. The death-rate among the patients operated on was 0.51 in the year of report as against 0.61 in 1914. The Burma Pasteur Institute, Rangoon, was opened for treatment in May 1915 and 146 patients underwent a full course of anti-rabic treatment during the eight months of the year of report. The " Discrimination Scheme," introduced in the paying rooms of the Rangoon General Hospital from the 1st September 1914, has worked satisfactorily.

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SERVICES.
General.

167. The total expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries during the year of report amounted to Rs. 20,73,852 against Rs. 19,83,469 in 1914 showing an increase of Rs. 90,383 over that of the previous year. There was no addition either to the cadre of the I.M.S. or to the number of Civil Surgeons. The cadre of Civil Assistant Surgeons was increased by one and the number of appointments sanctioned for Sub-Assistant Surgeons was 378 including a reserve of 75. The cadre was 19 short at the close of the year 1915. Under the "Results System Midwife Scheme" 8 midwives qualified and ten others are under training. The scheme by which 5 Burmese and Karen women are entertained annually for a two-years' course in sick-nursing at the General Hospital, Rangoon, was brought into force on the 1st July 1915. The number of students taught in the Burma Government Medical School, Rangoon, during the year of report is 75, *viz.* 42 Burmese, 4 Chinese, 25 Indians and 4 Anglo-Indians; seven of these are females. Five passed the final qualifying examination in 1915. The general education of the new admissions during the year has been satisfactory. During the year of report the School received from Mr. A. K. A. S. Jamal, C.I.E., a generous donation of Rs. 1,000, the interest on which is to be devoted to the purchase of a gold medal to be presented annually to the student who heads the list at the final examination.

Lunatic
Asylums.

168. The population of the Rangoon and Minbu Lunatic Asylums on the last day of the year was 641 against 587 in 1914 and the daily average strength has also increased from 575.78 in 1914 to 623.18 during the year of report. The total percentage of mortality to the daily average strength of the two asylums rose from 6.08 in 1914 to 8.50 in 1915. The total amount spent for the upkeep of the two asylums in 1915 was Rs. 1,69,194 against Rs. 1,60,905 in 1914. In Rangoon the average cost of diet per head has increased from Rs. 81 in 1914 to Rs. 86 in the year of report, while the average cost per head of average strength has decreased from Rs. 214 in 1914 to Rs. 204 in 1915. In Minbu the average cost of diet was Rs. 46 against Rs. 52 in the previous year. The cost per head of average strength has also shown a decrease from Rs. 127 to Rs. 124 in 1915. The Manufacturing Department yielded a net profit of Rs. 16,517 against Rs. 13,889 in the previous year.

Sanitation.

Principal
works and
expenditure.

169. Two Divisional Sanitary Board Meetings were held during 1915, one under the Commissioner, Pegu Division, at Minhla on the 7th September to consider a water-supply scheme and the other under the Commissioner, Irrawaddy Division, at Bassein. An informal meeting was held on the 9th June at Maymyo regarding the purifying of the Maymyo water-supply.

At the Bassein meeting proposals were considered for—

- (1) the selection of a new site for Lemyethna town;
- (2) the new municipal food-stuff bazaar at Bassein;
- (3) the lay-out of Athok, Zavathla and Yegyí "railway towns" and the construction of fish, meat and pork bazaars in the three towns.

Certain general rules to be observed in the lay-out of towns were agreed upon. The recurring sanitary grant of Rs. 6,00,000 by the Imperial Government for 1915-16, augmented by refunds amounting to Rs. 1,35,524 from Moulmein Municipality and from other local bodies, was distributed during the financial year for the furtherance of urban sanitation. Tube-wells were sunk at Nattalin, Yenangyaung, Myingyan, Pyinmana, Bhamo and Bassein. The water at Myingyan was brackish and unusable while that at Yenangyaung was inadequate. At Zigôn, Gyobingauk, Yamòthin and Wakèma no water was found. Projects for the water-supply of Ma-ubin, Letpadan, Meiktila, Pakòkku and Minhla were completed and are awaiting sanction. Plans and estimates for the construction of public markets at Thòngwa, Sandoway, Shwegvin and Thònzè were also prepared, but owing to the heavy rise in the price of imported building materials, market construction has almost everywhere been suspended. All the Military Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons attached to the Sanitary Department having reverted to military duty

the work of the department had to be carried on by the Sanitary Commissioner in most branches throughout the year practically without qualified assistants. The total expenditure of the various Municipal and Local Funds on sanitary works during 1915 was Rs. 57,51,320 out of a total income of Rs. 1,96,05,306 as against an expenditure of Rs. 56,52,187 and an income of Rs. 1,91,25,924 in 1913-14; of this total expenditure Rs. 20,49,437 was spent on water-supply, Rs. 7,09,068 on drainage, Rs. 16,95,854 on conservancy and Rs. 12,96,961 on other sanitary works.

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SERVICES.

Vaccination.

170. The total number of Native Superintendents of Vaccination on the cadre of the department during the year was 41 as compared with 44 (revised figures) in 1914-15. In addition 22 Sub-Assistant Surgeons received allowances varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 for supervising vaccination work in certain Municipalities and notified areas. Three appointments of Native Superintendent of Vaccination were abolished, one in Moulmein Town and two in the Northern Shan States. The staff of vaccinators increased from 280 to 297. The new appointments created were two in the Northern Shan States, one each in Akyab, Thongwa, Ngathainggyaung, Moulmein and Tavoy Municipalities, and one in Mergui District. Fourteen appointments of Registrar—vaccinators in the Rangoon Municipality have this year been included in the vaccination staff, the original three vaccinators' appointments having been abolished. Two vaccinators' appointments respectively in Thaton and Kyaikto Municipalities were abolished. Fifteen district vaccinators were departmentally punished by either removal or dismissal.

Number of
posts.

171. The total number of persons vaccinated during the year by special staff, i.e. Town and District public vaccinators, amounted to 459,047 as compared with 459,122 in 1914-15, a decrease of 75. In addition to this 4,477 persons were vaccinated at dispensaries, 9,729 by private agencies, and 6,175 in jails, making up a total of 499,428 persons. Primary operations amounted to 385,399 or 11,065 less than in 1914-15. The total of re-vaccinations was 74,446, an increase of 10,334. Successful primary operations totalled 362,492 and successful re-vaccinations 34,466. The former showed a deficit of 2,979 and the latter of 118. All districts in Arakan Division together show a deficit of 1,680 primary successes. Sandoway District alone had no deficit. In Pegu Division there was an increase of 2,922, attributable to Prome District (1,363), Pegu District (916), Rangoon Municipality (641) and Hanthawaddy District (268). In the two remaining districts the deficiency was almost nominal, that in Tharawaddy being only 22, and in Insein 244. Irrawaddy Division returned an increase of 5,469 shared between Pyapön (2,158), Ma-ubin (1,252), Henzada (1,218) and Myaungmya (691). The increase in Pyapön District amounts to 68 per cent. of last year's total. Four out of six districts in Tenasserim Division shared in the increase of 2,447 successful primary operations, Amherst District (1,310), Tavoy (972), Mergui (791) and Thaton (683). Toungoo and Salween Districts returned a decrease of 1,214 and 95 primary successful operations respectively. Mandalay Division shows a deficit of 5,139 successful primary operations. The district which recorded the largest decrease in this division was Katha (3,843) followed by Myinkyin District (1,049), Mandalay District (379) and Bhamo (22). Only the Ruby Mines District shows an increase of 154. In Sagaing Division, Shwebo and Lower Chindwin Districts returned an increase of 2,264 and 1,128 respectively, while there was a deficit in Sagaing District of 1,029 and in the Upper Chindwin District of 66; the net increase being 2,279 in the whole division. Pakokku District alone in the Magwe Division shows an increase of 2,016 operations; the three remaining districts return an aggregate decrease of 2,823 to which Thayetmyo contributed 1,061, Magwe 992, and Minbu 770. A deficit in successful primary operations aggregating 2,054 was recorded for Meiktila Division; this was shared by Yamethin (1,450), Myingyan (783) and Kyaukse (5) Districts. Meiktila District alone shows an increase of 184. From the Northern Shan States and

Number of
operations.

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and
National
Services.

Chin Hills 728 and 761 successful primary operations, respectively, were reported in excess of the previous year's figures; but in the Southern Shan States there was a decrease of 7,923 successful operations. In the year of report every district in the Province shows a decline in the number of re-vaccinations except the Rangoon Town District which returned a large increase of 7,537 successful re-vaccinations and Yamethin District which returns an increase of 1,480—in both instances the prevalence of small-pox being the direct cause of rise in the number of operations. The percentage of successful operations in which the results were known was 97.14 in primary and 57.18 in re-vaccination as compared with 94.93 and 60.46 respectively in 1914-15. The protection afforded by vaccination per 1,000 of population was 32.7. The total survivors of births in 57 towns during the year was 19,398 and the number of infants vaccinated 20,951, an excess of 1,553 over the total survivor. This excess is mainly to be explained by neglect to register births and by the inclusion in the total of visitors to the towns. In 57 towns 31,973 primary successful operations at all ages were reported, an increase of 468 over the returns of 1914-15. Out of a total of 394,791 persons primarily vaccinated by all the agencies, Civil Surgeons and other superior inspecting officers verified 46,676 or 11.82 per cent. Native Superintendents of Vaccination verified 193,786 or 49.09 per cent. against 69,530 or 17.22 per cent. verified by the Civil Surgeons and 221,030 or 54.68 per cent. by Native Superintendents of Vaccination in the previous year. Of the total persons subjected to primary vaccination 60.91 per cent. were verified. The falling off in the verification work performed by the Civil Surgeons and other superior inspecting officers may partly be due to the absence on military duty of one Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and many of the more experienced Civil Surgeons, during the year. The decrease in the verification work of the Native Superintendents of Vaccination is partly accounted for by the diminution in the strength of Native Superintendent Staff. The total number of persons vaccinated in all the dispensaries was 4,477, an increase of 1,393 on the previous year's record. Of this increase 1,145 were primary and 248 re-vaccinations. The total operations in jails numbered 26,175 against 26,475 in 1914-15. The percentage of success was primary 70.67 and re-vaccination 62.17.

General.

172. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,20,475 being Rs. 14,206 in excess of the expenditure for 1914-15. This excess expenditure is due to the increases under Establishment (Rs. 8,270), Travelling Allowance (Rs. 883) and Contingencies (Rs. 5,052). Of this increase Rs. 11,753 was borne by Provincial Funds. The excess under Establishment and Travelling Allowance is accounted for by the increase in the staff of vaccinators and the grant of increments of salary to all grades. That under Contingencies was due to an increase under this head of expenditure in the Vaccine Depot, Meiktila, of Rs. 5,455-6-4. The average cost of each successful operation for the Province was Re. 0-9-1, an increase of 8 pies per case. The district which returned the lowest cost per successful vaccination is Myingyan (Re. 0-4-6). An exceptionally high average cost was returned by Northern Arakan (Rs. 2-0-2), Northern Shan States (Re. 1-14-9), Ruby Mines (Re 1-7-6) and Southern Shan States (Re. 1-3-7).

Vaccine
Depot,
Meiktila.

173. The new Laboratory buildings were occupied on 1st April 1915. The old laboratory is used as a lecture room for students under training. The outturn of glycerinated lymph was 748,720 doses against 776,432 in 1914-15. The total number of doses issued to vaccinators and others was 722,314 which is less than in either of the two preceding years. Experiments were made in storing lymph in the refrigerator for four months, at the end of which period the samples gave excellent results when inoculated into calves. Sixteen Native Superintendents of Vaccination and forty vaccinators underwent training during the year. All of the latter and eight only of the former passed out at the end of their course. Four Native Superintendents of Vaccination passed after further training.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

REFERENCES --

Report on Public Instruction in Burma for the year 1915-16.
Statistical Abstract for British India, Volumes IV and V.

General System of Public Instruction.

See paragraphs 253 to 280 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Education.

174. Among the more important or interesting events of the year may be mentioned a conference for the improvement of Kachin education and the initiation of a scheme for revision of Kachin grants and the preparation of Kachin textbooks, the revision of the reformatory regulations, the administrative separation of the Government Normal School from the Government High School, Rangoon, the revival of the commercial examination, the publication of a revised (the 7th) edition of the Burma Education Code and of two volumes of "Departmental Circulars and Instructions," the issue of revised rules for Government High Schools and Hostels, sanction to the appointment of a lecturer in Persian at the Government College and the issue of revised regulations for Normal schools and teachers' examinations. Among important matters that have come under consideration are the use of the cinematograph for visual instruction, a scheme for an employment bureau for students leaving school or college, the removal of disorderly houses from the vicinity of educational institutions, the improvement and extension of the Provincial scholarship scheme, the revision of type plans for school buildings, the courses in domestic economy and hygiene for girls, the utilization of the St. John Ambulance Association for instruction in "first aid" and kindred subjects in Anglo-Vernacular and European schools. On some of these subjects decisions were reached but others are still under consideration. Lectures on the war were given regularly in Anglo-Vernacular and European schools and, in addition to other literature, copies of the Bryce report on German atrocities in Belgium were distributed to the heads of these institutions.

Educational measures and events.

The bill and statutes for the University of Burma were completely redrafted and in their new form were approved by the Educational Syndicate as were proposals for the early establishment of the University on the lines indicated in an "interim" scheme to be adopted until the removal of the existing financial stringency and the possibility of executing larger measures. There was a serious "strike" among the boys attending the Government High School, Rangoon. Inquiry into the causes revealed a grave lack of discipline and almost entire absence of any realization of responsibility on the part of some of the senior pupils. The strikers employed violence and intimidation in public thoroughfares which entailed repression by the police. The ring-leaders were expelled and debarred from admission to other schools and colleges and to public examinations. Other participants were punished according to their several degrees of guilt.

175. In spite of the war and its effects the numbers under instruction increased, and not in one stage only but in all. The number of schools of all kinds including private was 26,375 with an attendance of 563,154 pupils of whom 117,273 were females, as against 25,766 schools with an attendance of 550,500 pupils of whom 112,852 were females in 1914-15. The percentage of male scholars to the male population of school-going age was 48.07 and of female scholars to the female population 13.18 as against 47.19 and 12.66 in the previous year. Of the total number of schools 9,075 were public with an attendance of 377,005 pupils and 17,300 were private with 186,149 pupils. The total increase in the number of pupils attending all "public" institutions (*i.e.*, all

Number of schools and scholars and expenditure.

maintained by either Government or other public authority or aided or recognized by Government) was 15,851. On the other hand "private" institutions (*i.e.*, schools neither maintained by Government or other public authority nor aided or recognized) diminished by 3,197 pupils and 119 institutions. In view however of the utter unreliability of the statistics adduced for these schools, little, if any, importance should be attached to this apparent falling off. In comparison with recent years the rate of progress perceptibly declined. Thus for the year 1914-15 a gain of 37,069 pupils was recorded; whereas for 1915-16 the increment does not reach half that figure. Analysis of the statistics reveals further symptoms of retardation. In 1915-16 the average number of pupils in a Secondary institution was 92 as against 96 in 1914-15, in an Upper Primary School 41 as against 43 and in a Lower Primary School 26 against 27. The net total increase in the category of Lower Primary education is indeed remarkably small. The numbers attending colleges increased considerably and those attending special schools in a very slight degree. The total percentages of increase for both public and private institutions and pupils therein were 2 and 2 against 6 and 9 respectively in the previous year. The quantitative diminution in the general rate of progress was most marked in the lowest and least in the highest educational categories. This result as regards the former was due not merely to the general effects of the war but also to the exhaustion of special stimuli previously operative, an exhaustion due partly to want of funds and partly to natural causes inherent in the material and machinery concerned.

The total expenditure on education during the year was Rs. 65.14 lakhs as against Rs. 69.35 lakhs in 1914-15. There was thus a decrease of nearly Rs. 4.21 lakhs. Funds were provided from the following sources:—

Rupees 27.04 lakhs (including Imperial grants amounting to Rs. 6,23,467) from Provincial Funds, Rs. 6.39 lakhs from local funds, Rs. 4.78 lakhs from municipal funds, Rs. 20.32 lakhs from school fees, and Rs. 6.58 lakhs from subscriptions and endowments (private sources). The average expenditure per head of population fell from Re. 0-9-1 to Re. 0-8-6. The average cost of educating each pupil fell in Arts Colleges from Rs. 332.3 to Rs. 304.4, in Secondary schools from Rs. 23.04 to Rs. 22.9, in Upper Primary schools from Rs. 6.1 to Rs. 5.2. Taking all classes of pupils together, the average cost of education per pupil was Rs. 11.7 as against Rs. 12 in 1914-15.

Primary
education.

176. The term "primary school" includes all European, Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Schools teaching up to the fourth standard. It also includes for certain purposes the primary departments (Standards I to IV) of secondary schools. The number of public primary schools for boys and girls rose from 6,769 to 7,347, both boys' and girls' schools increasing. The attendance in these schools rose from 239,194 to 247,330. Vernacular primary schools for boys have increased in all areas except the Chin Hills, the total gain being 468 new schools and 6,241 additional scholars. The largest increase is in Meiktila Division. Government owns 8 upper primary vernacular schools with 743 pupils and one lower primary with 43. District Cess Funds support 4 upper primary schools with 186 pupils. The rest are aided schools belonging to private bodies or managers. In primary Anglo-Vernacular schools there has been an apparent falling off. The losses are however accounted for by promotion of schools to the middle grade.

The number of monastic schools registered by the Education Department is 3,418 containing 102,098 pupils (of whom 7,241 are girls) an average of nearly 30 pupils per school. By far the highest figures for both schools and pupils belong to the Meiktila Circle where the good work done by the special deputies is proving more enduring than elsewhere. The figure for girls is surprising. The largest number of girls returned as attending these schools is from the Irrawaddy Circle, where it reaches 3,022, Tenasserim and Pegu showing each about half that figure. On the other hand in Mandalay and Meiktila the figures for girls are much smaller and in Arakan smallest of all. If these figures can be accepted as reliable they point to a very important change of feeling on the part of both the

Buddhist public and the monastic order, and one which may have far-reaching effects. A further enquiry into the facts and figures, however, is desirable and will be instituted. The expenditure on primary schools for boys was Rs. 23'21 lakhs as compared with Rs. 23'89 lakhs in 1914-15. This expenditure (which includes the cost of primary departments of boys' secondary schools and covers also girls in such departments as well as in boys' primary schools) was met as follows:—From Provincial funds Rs. 5,82,905, district cess funds Rs. 4,83,466, municipal funds Rs. 2,45,193, fees and other sources Rs. 10,09,967. The total cost of primary education for boys and girls was approximately Rs. 27'7 lakhs. In 1914-15 it was Rs. 27'9 lakhs.

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VII.—
ISSUE-
TION.

177. The term "secondary education" connotes European (and Anglo-Indian), Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular education above the primary stage. But in this paragraph it is customary to deal with only the second and third of these categories and that too in respect of boys' schools only. It should however be clearly understood that the statistics for both Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular secondary schools for boys cover not only the primary departments attached to such schools but also any girls who may be in attendance. The number of Anglo-Vernacular secondary schools for boys rose from 119 to 128 and the attendance from 25,920 to 26,344. Of the pupils attending these schools 7 per cent. were in the high stage, 37 in the middle, 34 in the upper primary and 20 in the lower primary. The number of Vernacular secondary schools for boys rose by 96, from 957 to 1,053 and the attendance from 75,904 to 80,570. There was an increase of 7 schools and 1,247 pupils in the Vernacular High school stage. The percentages of attendance in the various stages of Vernacular Schools were: 2 in the high school stage, 10 in the middle, 20 in the upper primary and 68 in the lower primary. In view of possible developments in educational administration in the future it is worth remarking that out of 1:8 Anglo-Vernacular secondary schools for boys, 33 with 7,749 pupils belong to Government; four only, with 517 pupils, are supported by municipal or district cess funds; the rest are aided schools under private management belonging to missionary or other non-official bodies. Of the 23 Vernacular High schools three belong to Government and 20 to aided managers. In regard to "middle" schools, whether Anglo-Vernacular or Vernacular, it may be noted that theoretically they are all potential high schools, but that it is not always necessary or even desirable to develop vernacular middle into high schools. Anglo-Vernacular middle schools stand on a rather different footing. So long as a pass by the Anglo-Vernacular seventh standard examination is accepted by Government as a qualification for the lower grades of Government service, these schools will tend to be regarded as ends in themselves.

Secondary
education.

Examination results for 1915-16 were not very flattering to the work of the schools regarded generally. In the seventh standard Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular schools the percentage of passes has dropped from 46'3 to 40'8, in the matriculation from 56'3 to 43'7, and in the high school final from 45'6 to 44'2. The number of presentations in each case increased, 216 candidates out of 4 passed the Anglo-Vernacular high school final, 234 out of 535 the Calcutta University matriculation, 1,199 out of 2,412 the Anglo-Vernacular seventh standard examination and 728 out of 2,307 the Vernacular seventh standard examination. The expenditure on secondary education rose from Rs. 27'03 lakhs to Rs. 28'39 lakhs. Provincial funds provided Rs. 9,08,855, district cess funds Rs. 2,52,100, municipal funds Rs. 3,47,403, fees Rs. 11,75,868 and private sources Rs. 1,54,967.

178. The number on the rolls of the two colleges on the 31st March 1916 was 645, at the Government College 567 and at the Baptist College 78. Burmans were in the majority, the remainder being fairly equally distributed between Mahomedans, Hindus, Native Christians, Anglo-Indians and "others." At the Government College 56 were presented for the B.A. and 32 passed, one gaining first division "honours" in Pāli, being the only B.A. candidate in the University in the first division in Pāli. In English 5 gained second division "honours." For the B.Sc. 11 were presented, 6 passing. For the I.A. 50 only out of 145 passed.

Collegiate
education.

The Baptist College enrolled 17 students for the B.A. and 71 for the I.A. (including 5 girls) but the total dwindled to 78 in all by 31st March, an increase however of 11 on the corresponding figure for 1914-15. Out of 6 presented for the B.A. 5 passed, and 10 out of 22 in the I.A. The College was granted affiliation in Honours in English. The Law class attached to the College began with 16 students of whom 12 endured to the end. The lecturer in charge noted that the standard of education among Law students has risen considerably in recent years; both in knowledge and generally the type of young men who are studying for the second grade Pleaders' Examination seems to be improving. Outside the two colleges a certain number of students are permitted to appear "privately" for the Calcutta University examinations. During the year 1 Burman thus passed the M.A., 2 students the B.A., and 15 the I.A. The majority of these were attached to the Government Normal School, Rangoon, as normal students or teachers under training. The passes in the University Examinations in the two Colleges were as follows:—37 in the B.A. Examination, 6 in the B.Sc., 60 in the I.A., and 23 in the I.Sc. At the Medical College, Calcutta, 11 male and 3 female students from Burma held Burma Scholarships. At institutions in Madras 28 (including 3 girls) attended the course for Hospital Assistants at Royapuram, 5 that at Vizagapatam and 18 that at Tanjore. At the Government Medical School, Rangoon, the year started with 44 students on the roll and ended with 70, the large majority being Burmese and 7 being females. Under the Dufferin fund 34 females received instruction in midwifery. At the Veterinary School, Insein, the year began with 50 and ended with 59 pupils. At the Forest School, Pyinmana, on the 31st March 1916 there were 28 students most being Burman Buddhists. The Patamabyan Examinations of the year were the first held under the revised rules. Out of 1,589 candidates 412 passed as against 352 out of 1,273 in 1914-15. The total presented included 18 "nuns" and 11 laymen, of whom respectively but 4 and 5 passed. The expenditure on collegiate education rose from Rs. 1,95 lakh to Rs. 2,03 lakhs. It was met as follows:—From Provincial funds Rs. 1,04,209, fees Rs. 59,207 and private sources Rs. 40,231.

Technical
education.

179. The agencies through which technical education was afforded were the same as in the previous year, namely the Government School of Engineering, Insein, the technical class attached to the railway workshops, Insein, the Government reformatory school, Insein, the Government survey schools, the King Edward Memorial School, Akyab, the American Baptist Mission Bghai-Karen School, Toungoo, and certain "commercial" schools in Rangoon. European and Anglo-Indian apprentices, for whom stipends are provided by Government, are taken at a number of engineering and other workshops belonging to important corporations or firms connected with technical work, e.g., the Burma Railways, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Port Commissioners, Rangoon, the Rangoon Electric Tramways and Supply Company, Limited, Dalla Dockyards, Burma Chemical Industries, Messrs. Bulloch Bros. Two more "commercial" Schools in Rangoon have been added to the register without aid. The number of pupils returned as receiving "technical" instruction of one kind or another is 690 as against 606 in 1914-15: nearly half of this total, however, consisted of pupils in attendance at the four registered "commercial" schools, in which such subjects as shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping and commercial correspondence are taught. In Mandalay Circle weaving is still a popular subject. The manual training classes for "hand and eye" work attached to various Vernacular schools have not flourished so well as could be desired. The difficulty of providing and maintaining an adequate yet not excessive supply of properly trained teachers is great; budget complications have impeded and delayed the supply of necessary materials; the continued ill-health of the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Slöjd and Drawing has much hampered inspection; and lastly Inspectors have not yet succeeded in impressing on Deputy Inspectors their joint responsibility for the supervision of these classes. It was reported from several quarters that without the stimulus of monthly stipends it is difficult to get pupils to undergo a training in purely technical schools. A proposal for an employment bureau was under the consideration of the Education Department, the Educational Syndicate and the Director

of Agriculture. The Engineering School, Insein, had a successful year. There were 80 candidates for admission to the engineering classes, of whom 39 were selected: for the first time in the history of this school the recruitment of Burmans was in excess of the demand. The classes opened with 73 and closed with 55 pupils: the wastage, which seems excessive was due to the fact that many entrants were not prepared to take their work seriously enough. Third year students were engaged practically on a Public Works Department drainage survey scheme in the Amherst District. In addition to the engineering classes there is a "telegraph school" with two six-monthly courses, to which 85 students were admitted, 59 passing, 28 of the latter being Burmans. The apprentice class numbered 5: when their training is completed these youths will prove useful teachers in local technical schools or classes. Wood-carving was taught to four pupils by a master wood carver located on the premises. A similar arrangement was sanctioned for bronze workers.

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INSTRUCTION.

180. The number of normal schools remains unchanged, *vis.* twelve, 8 for men and 4 for women. Four of those for men however are "co-educational", *i.e.* admit female students also, one of them being the Government Normal School, Rangoon. The number under training in the normal schools was 677, five more than last year. But in the schools for men the total was 514 as against 529 in 1914-15: on the other hand in schools for women the total was 163 against 143 in the previous year. Anglo-Vernacular normal students numbered 279 of whom 121 were women: Vernacular Normal students numbered 107 women and 291 men. There are no separate courses or certificates for European or Anglo-Indian teachers. The latter may however qualify under certain special conditions set forth in the code for European schools, but otherwise must fall into line with Anglo-Vernacular teachers and share the same normal institutions. It is too early however yet to pass judgment on the working of the new regulations which came into force in June 1915. They certainly set a higher standard of requirement in respect of initial qualifications. The literary and theoretical work is undoubtedly on a fairly high level, but it remains to be seen whether the practical training is as sufficient and efficient as is necessary. To prevent undue hardship to Burmese girls certain concessions have been made but in time these will become unnecessary; the successes recently obtained at the Morton Lane and Kemmendine schools show that Burmese girls can under proper tuition reach the requisite standard. The elementary training classes for Vernacular teachers continued to thrive. There are now 201 elementary teachers receiving Government pay posted out among Vernacular schools. In addition there are others without regular Government pay who after passing out have obtained employment and are aided when funds allow. The expenditure on normal schools rose from Rs. 1,83,592 to Rs. 1,95,053. Provincial funds provided Rs. 1,85,400 and the balance came from private sources.

Training
schools.

181. The number of schools increased from 30 to 32, that of pupils from 4,204 to 4,487, a much larger increase than in the previous year. The number of pupils in the secondary stage rose from 1,485 to 1,583. In addition to Europeans and Anglo-Indians in European schools must be reckoned the Anglo-Indians in Anglo-Vernacular schools who number 425. European schools receive Asiatics, and in increasing numbers: the total number of non-European pupils in such schools is now 723. One school in Rangoon is for the Jewish community. No important changes were made in curricula during the year and no striking innovations were attempted by managers. Cooking was taught at four schools. The difficulty was to find competent teachers, especially as the subject is not yet properly organized in the normal schools. All girls' schools taught needle work. Drill was done in all schools except one. Gymnastics were taken in 6 boys' schools. Science was still conspicuous by its absence. For the B.A. 1 male and 2 female students appeared and all passed. For the I.A. out of 4 male and 10 female candidates, 2 men and 10 women passed. In the European High School Examination 40 passed (16 boys and 24 girls) out of 96 candidates, apart from 7 non-Europeans. The total expenditure on European Education fell from

European
schools.

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INSTRUC-
TION.

Rs. 9'08 lakhs to Rs. 4'70 lakhs. Provincial funds provided Rs. 2,24,343 as against Rs. 4,75,169 in the previous year, and the remainder came from municipal funds, fees and other sources. The large decrease was due to a large reduction in building grants which were curtailed owing to financial stringency.

Education of
Mahomed-
ans and
special
classes.

182. The total number of Mahomedans in public or private institutions increased from 20,810 to 22,519. Of these 14,827 were in public institutions; or in other words, in Burma the number of Mahomedans attending registered schools constituted not quite 4 per cent. of the whole attendance for the Province. The number of Mahomedan Anglo-Vernacular schools remained the same, 4, the attendance at which increased by 16 only. The balance of Mahomedan Anglo-Vernacular pupils attend Anglo-Burmese schools. Mahomedan Vernacular schools numbered 167 with 7,517 pupils against 143 schools and 6,545 pupils in 1914-15. These figures are exclusive of private elementary Koran schools, the number of which has declined by 9, though pupils have increased by 209 and now nearly equal the total in public Mahomedan Vernacular schools. The number of Mahomedan girls under instruction increased from 2,823 to 3,154 in public and from 1,721 to 1,878 in private institutions. Examination results show that the passes were as follows:—B.A. 1, I.A. 4, I.Sc. 1, Matriculation 13, Anglo-Vernacular High School Final 9. It should be explained that the term "special classes" in Burma covers a congeries of various races and tribes ranging in the scale of culture from the hardy representatives of a frank and almost untamed barbarism (*e.g.*, Chins, Lawas, Kachins) to the inheritors of ancient and historic civilizations like the Chinese and Talaings. But it does not cover what in India are known as "depressed classes," unless certain elements in the immigrant Indian population are to be included in this category. In Burma in fact there are no "depressed classes" native to the country, if we exclude the small and rapidly dwindling band of unfortunates formerly styled, "pagoda slaves" and such communities as grave-diggers and professional beggars; and even they are not "untouchables" in the Indian sense. The total number of pupils belonging to "special classes" under instruction in public schools was 70,628 or 3,982 more than last year. Of this total 54,367 attended special schools; and of this last figure 5,630 were in Anglo-Vernacular schools. Government maintains seven schools with 593 pupils; the rest are aided institutions. The figure for private schools was 16,970 a rise of 791. In Anglo-Vernacular special schools Karens were the most numerous, but the Tamils and Telugus ran them close. Talaings attend Anglo-Burmese schools and for English education are not distinguished in the returns from Burmans. In the Vernacular sphere also most of them attend Burmese schools, but some 4,600 are returned as in special schools. Karen Vernacular pupils in special schools far exceed all others. There was an extraordinary increase among the Taungthins who now have 24 schools with 783 scholars against 11 with 198 in the previous year. A striking improvement was also recorded for the Inthas for whom 75 schools and 1,815 pupils are now returned instead of 22 and 786. A slight decline was reported for Chins, Shans and Palaungs. These special schools follow in the main the curriculum and regulations laid down for ordinary 'A' or 'B' Vernacular schools, but special arrangements are made in regard to the use of the Vernacular and Burmese and the adoption of non-Burmese Vernacular text-books.

Female
education.

183. The total number of girls reported as "under instruction" was 117,273 which represents a percentage of 13'18 of the female school-going population. Of this total 113,301 attended 'public' institutions, a rise of 4,770 on the figure of 1914-15. Four-fifths of these pupils however were in the Lower Primary stage only. Owing to the prevalence of 'co-education' 73'78 per cent. of girls in 'public' institutions are to be found in boys' schools, and in girls' schools over one-third of the pupils are boys. Another outstanding feature of female education in Burma is the fact that with the exception of seven Vernacular girls' schools (five secondary and two primary) belonging to Government and conducted directly by the department, no institution for girls is owned, managed or conducted by any public local authority or body. Apart from the seven Government schools

all other girls' schools belong to aided managers. Public control over all these institutions, Government and aided alike, is exercised purely by and through the Education Department. In the European and Anglo-Vernacular spheres in nearly all cases managers are members of or represent Christian missionary bodies. In the Vernacular field missionary enterprise, for somewhat obscure but intelligible reasons, is less conspicuous, and the majority of schools belong to Buddhist or other non-Christian managers. The indigenous system of elementary education provided by the monasteries has until quite recently not touched girls. Such progress in female education as has been achieved by Burma has been due to the agencies indicated above. To certain of the Government schools visiting committees, composed of local officials and notables are attached: the functions of these bodies are limited to visitation, comment and suggestion.

The number of girls under Anglo-Vernacular instruction (exclusive of girls in European schools) was 4,128. No important changes were introduced in either the Anglo-Vernacular or Vernacular curriculum. As the result of the difficulties connected with the hygiene and domestic economy courses, after the close of the year, a strong committee of ladies was brought together with instructions to frame a revised course of instruction in these subjects on a practical basis and with direct reference to Burmese home conditions. In good Anglo-Vernacular schools really effective training in this direction is already given. In examinations 2 girls appeared for the B.A. and 16 for the I.A. and of these 2 and 13 respectively passed. The American Baptist Mission schools at Morton Lane, Moulmein and Kam-mendine presented 6 and 4 pupils respectively for the Anglo-Vernacular High School Final and 5 and 3 passed. Out of 18 girls appearing for the Matriculation 10 passed. In the Middle School Anglo-Vernacular Scholarship examination 4 girls gained scholarships. The total expenditure on Female Education rose from Rs. 5.44 lakhs to Rs. 6.12 lakhs.

184. The Reformatory, Insein, sheltered an average of 102 boys as against 103 in 1914-15: of these 67 are Burmans, 16 Indians and the rest of Chinese and mixed parentage. The crafts taught are agriculture, carpentry, tin-smithing and shoe-making. The gradual abolition of the "cage cubicle" system of dormitories was decided upon and a start was made in March 1916. Changes in the rules were approved by the Local Government with a view to placing the institution more directly under the Director of Public Instruction and the Education Department, without however dispensing with the valuable services of the Committee of Visitors.

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VII.—
INSTRUC-
TION.

Reformatory
School,
Insein.

Literature and the Press.

185. The number of books published fell from 302 in 1914 to 275, the lowest figure recorded during the preceding five years. Of the total, 147 were in the Burmese language, and the subject of 142 was religion. Works on history increased in number and consisted almost entirely of works in Burmese on the great war, two histories of which are being published in parts. Works classified under the head "Drama" increased from 3 in number to 11, of which 9 were in Burmese and 2 in Gujerati. One of the Burmese specimens was reported to the police as obscene and suppressed. Of the two Gujerati dramas one was a love-story and one described the evil of ill-treating menial servants. The seven Burmese works of fiction were all love-stories written in conversational style, but devoid of literary merit and rarely reaching more than one edition. There were three novels in English, one of which appears to be a republication of a well-known 'curious' work of the eighteenth century, the open sale of which in the United Kingdom has long been prohibited. The most important of the publications under the head of "Language" was a revised edition of Judson's Burmese-English Dictionary formerly revised by Stevenson. The works classified as "Miscellaneous" in English were few. A work by Colonel Castor, I.M.S., on "The care of Mothers and Infants" was perhaps the most important. Noteworthy among the works in Burmese under the same category were accounts of the military, commercial and educational systems of the German Empire and of

Publications
registered.

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INSTRUC-
TION.

Turkey in connection with the war. Kin Maung Gyi's "How to become rich" and Maung Kyaw's "The Way to health" are apparently intended to teach Burmans that unless they unite and adopt the business methods of the West they cannot expect to prosper in trade. U Okgantha's "Po-u-daung Thamaing" narrates the legend connected with the hill known as Po-u-daung opposite the town of Prome. Of the three English works classified under the head of "Religion" two are on Christianity and the third deals with "Reforms that the Burmese Buddhist Church needs." In this essay the author puts forward theories regarding an ideal church of Buddha and gives advice on the formation of character. Of the 142 works on religion 68 were in Burmese and 21 in Pali, the latter being nearly all commentaries on the Buddhist scriptures. Most of those in Burmese are essays on such subjects as the birth stories of Gautama Buddha, the Buddhist scriptures, sermons, prayer, meditation and charity.

Presses,
newspapers
and
periodicals.

186. Excluding the Government presses there were 154 presses in the Province as compared with 168 in the previous year. In Rangoon seven presses were closed and five new presses were established. Four presses were closed in Tha rawaddy District and two in each of the Amherst and Ma-ubin Districts. Other districts in each of which one press was closed were Insein, Hanthawaddy, Prome, Bassein and Thayetmyo. One press was closed in the Thaton District and another established. One new press was set up in Kyaukse. All these presses were very humble affairs, worked by hand and adapted only for the printing of leaflets and similar matter. The number of newspapers published fell from 58 to 49. In Rangoon five ceased publication and one new venture was launched; in Moulmein three and in Mandalay one of the local papers came to an end. Of the daily newspapers three were in English, three in Burmese, one in Anglo-Burmese, one in Chinese and two in Tamil. Of the total number of newspapers, daily and other, nineteen were in English, twelve in Burmese, five in Anglo-Burmese, one in Chinese, one in Gujerati, two in Kachin, one in Pwo-Karen, five in Sgaw-Karen, two in Tamil and one in Urdu. Of the periodicals other than those published at Government presses thirteen were in English, ten in Burmese, two in Anglo-Burmese, one in Pwo-Karen and two in Sgaw-Karen.

Literary Societies.

See paragraph 294 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Rangoon
societies.

187. No new societies were formed during the year and existing societies presented no new points of interest. The membership of the Rangoon literary society was 140, the same as in the previous year. Visitors to the library and reading room of the Rangoon Teachers' Association numbered 8,284 as against 7,995. The Bernard Free Library was visited by 7,648 persons; it contains 10,246 books and 4,902 manuscripts.

Arts and Sciences.

188. The condition of the art industries of the Province is practically unchanged from last year. Times are bad and will probably continue to be bad for some while. The first industries to be hit in periods of financial stress are the art industries and they are the last to recover. At the same time the organisation of these industries would aid greatly in their recovery and much remains to be done in this direction. Co-operation has this year extended to the lacquer workers; one group having formed a society, and the effect of this on their trade will be a matter of considerable interest. The Saunders Weaving Institute at Amarapura has extended its scope; students attend from all parts of the Province and the benefits derived from the instruction given are already apparent.

The chief event of the year was the Annual Art Exhibition which was held in January 1916. Owing to the small number of orders given to the craftsmen before the exhibition the exhibits were not so numerous as in previous years.

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INSTRUC-
TION.

The regular system of art scholarships inaugurated last year was continued. To facilitate the supervision of the work of the scholars sanction was given to the entertainment of a master woodcarver at the headquarters of the Provincial Art Officer,—the Government School of Engineering, Insein—and the wood carving apprentices are trained there under the master craftsman. He does not receive pay but works for himself and is aided in getting work. The young apprentices are given a small amount of training in the Engineering shops thus helping them to become better joiners without which progress in their craft is improbable. The future of wood carving lies in internal decoration instead of external work as formerly and in its new venue accurate joinery is essential. Sanction was accorded to the entertainment of a master bronze worker on a similar basis.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

REFERENCE :

Report of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Burma, for the year 1915-16.

189. The programme of work of the Archæological Department for the year comprised ten items ; satisfactory progress was made in all save two involving excavation which, for reasons beyond the control of the department, could not be undertaken. The preparation of materials for a monograph on the terra-cotta plaques found at and near the Petleik Pagoda at Pagan was continued, and photographs which had become defective through lack of time were replaced. Only four plaques are now wanting to complete the whole collection of 550 Jatakas, and the writing of the monograph is ready to be begun. Mr. Duroiselle completed the decipherment and translation of the Talaing inscriptions on the 400 plaques at the Ananda Temple at Pagan which illustrate the last ten great Jatakas, and in the course of this work he made a useful collection of 3,000 Talaing words not included in existing vocabularies. Further materials were obtained for the compilation of a history of Architecture at Pagan and more light has been thrown on the influence on it of Cambodian, Chalukyan and Dravidian styles of architecture. Progress was made with the translation of the first volume of the "Inscriptions collected in Upper Burma, 1900" and of the "Inscriptions collected by King Bodawpaya, Upper Burma, and now placed near the Patodawgyi Pagoda, Amarapura." A chronological list of all inscriptions found in Burma has been compiled for the period from the end of the eleventh, to the first quarter of the fourteenth, century, and the remainder of the list is nearly finished. The transliteration and translation, with notes, of the Burmese portion of the inscription on the Myazedi Pagoda at Pagan is the first of a series of epigraphs which it is proposed to publish in Burma under the designation of *Epigraphia Birmanica* ; and for this purpose a scheme of transliteration has been prepared. The preparation of a Provincial List of ancient remains in Burma, a work involving much time and trouble, has been completed by the publication of the list. The funds available for works of preservation and restoration were curtailed owing to the financial stringency, but it was found possible to continue the repairs to the east Petleik Pagoda at Pagan and to conserve the Sarabha gate, the only remnant of the circuit wall of Pagan built in the ninth century. Perhaps the most interesting archæological event of the year was the discovery at the Paya-thôn-zu and Nandamañña temples, situated at Min-nan-thu village, a few miles north-east of Pagan, of frescoes of Tantric character which afford evidence of the existence there of the Mahayanist or northern school of Buddhism prior to the introduction of the southern school or Hinayanism which followed upon the conquest of Thatôn by Anorata in 1057 A. D. This discovery seems to necessitate some modification of the hitherto accepted view that the development of Burmese civilisation dates from that epoch and is based upon Talaing learning and culture. Its significance is enhanced by linguistic considerations which go to indicate that fundamental terms relating to Buddhism have not reached the Burmese language through the medium of Talaing, but rather suggest the existence, at a period anterior to Talaing influence, of a Sanskrit Canon derived from China. It is also noteworthy from the same point of view that Sanskrit forms predominate over Pâli in the Burmese inscription on the Myazedi pillar, which dates from 1112 A. D. This pillar is the earliest lithic record yet discovered in Burma and the inscriptions on it, besides furnishing chronological evidence of great historical value, have led to the practical rediscovery, through the labours of Mr. C. O. Blagden, of the language of the Pyu ; a race which at one time must have exercised a powerful influence in central and southern Burma, though its representatives at the present day have not yet been traced. Further information concerning this remarkable people may be anticipated if it is found possible to decipher the inscriptions discovered at Hmawza in the Prome District, or to establish their affinity with existing races by means of linguistic research.

The sum expended on archæological works during the year was Rs. 14,852 as compared with Rs. 33,033 in 1914-15. The cost of the archæological survey was Rs. 33,939 an increase of Rs. 1,654 over the figures for the previous year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REFERENCES—

Reports of the Chemical Examiner and the Bacteriologist to the Government of Burma for the year 1915.

Statistical Abstract for British India, Volume IV.

Report on the working of the office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma, for the year ending the 31st March 1916.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See paragraphs 297 to 300 of the *Report on the Administration of the Government of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Ecclesiastical.

190. During the year of report with the exception of special services held in connexion with the war there is no event of importance to record.

Stationery.

191. The bulk of the paper used for official purposes continued to be supplied by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, Calcutta, from the Indian Mills. The cost of stationery supplied to General Departments and Presses in Burma during the year amounted to Rs. 72,697 and Rs. 2,16,625 respectively, shewing decreases of Rs. 1,847 and Rs. 5,677 under General Departments and Government Presses respectively, as compared with the previous year.

Offices of the Chemical Examiner and the Bacteriologist to the Government of Burma.

192. During the year of report only 23,834 examinations were conducted in the General Analytical Department against 30,671 in the previous year. This is attributed to the falling off in the number of cocaine samples examined. Under orders of Government the Director of the Pasteur Institute, Burma, Rangoon, has been appointed Government Bacteriologist, thereby relieving the Chemical Examiner of Bacteriological work. Though the total number of water samples examined has fallen slightly from 378 in 1914 to 367 in the year of report, Municipalities have taken much interest in respect to the chemical purity or otherwise of their water supplies. In the Bacteriological Department a decrease of 314 in the number of articles examined was noticed.

Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Burma.

193. The Government Presses in the Province are three in number, *vis.*, the Central Press and the Jail Branch Press, both in Rangoon, and the Maymyo Branch Press. The work which is carried out at these Presses is chiefly printing for Government Departments and has been noticed in Chapter VII *supra*, in the section entitled "Literature and the Press." The receipts amounted to Rs. 47,260 in the year of report against Rs. 47,333 in the previous year and

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the expenditure to Rs. 3,75,057 against Rs. 4,08,314. Printing work to the value of Rs. 1,787 was given out to private presses during the year. The value of outturn of work from the Central Press was Rs. 3,11,567, from the Jail Branch Press Rs. 86,292, and from the Maymyo Branch Press Rs. 14,928, in all Rs. 4,12,787. The corresponding total for 1914-15 was Rs. 4,33,519. The value of dead stock at the three Presses, exclusive of lands and buildings, is estimated at Rs. 5,55,474, against Rs. 6,52,172 in the year previous. The total sales, excluding G zettes, at the Government Book Depot and by the authorized agents amounted to Rs. 19,494, while the additions to stock were valued at Rs. 73,508 against Rs. 15,080 and Rs. 83,873 respectively in the year previous. Acts and publications to the value of Rs. 51,801 were supplied gratis against Rs. 43,580 during the previous year.