

---

---

**PART II.**

---

**DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.**

---

---

tory of the province. Among other grave kinds of violent crime the comparative figures for the two years were—

	Number of cases in	
	1882.	1883.
Murder by robbers and dacoits ... ..	18	22
Robbery with hurt ... ..	64	74
Housebreaking with grievous hurt ... ..	16	20
Dacoities ... ..	88	93
Robberies ... ..	205	208

Henzada, Pegu, and Prome were the worst districts for violent crime; and on the Thayetmyo frontier there was much trouble with dacoits by reason of the unrest that prevailed across the border. The use of dangerous weapons and the infliction of serious injury were frequent features in the dacoities and robberies of the year; so also was the failure of the people attacked to use their guns and weapons in self-defence. On the 12th March 1884 one of these robber gangs from across the border was overtaken by the police shortly after the commission of one dacoity and on the way (about midnight) to commit another dacoity. The gang consisted of eight men, armed with seven guns and five pistols besides swords and spears. Both police and dacoits fired; two of the gang were killed and two wounded: none of the police were hurt. Owing to the darkness and the thick jungle the rest of the gang escaped, but a good deal of stolen property was recovered. Three or four of the gang were proclaimed offenders who were "wanted" for other crimes. The police on this occasion were led by a Burman Magistrate and a Burman Inspector. Some days previously two policemen and two villagers had encountered this same gang, with the result that one policeman was wounded, but the dacoits were unhurt. With the exception of certain disgraceful cases in Rangoon Town at the beginning of the year 1883, the police have on the whole shown courage in their encounters with armed dacoits.

24. There was increase in the number of thefts and also in the number of cattle-thefts. There was increased activity in enforcing the preventive provisions of the law against bad characters. The number of persons brought before the Courts for bad livelihood was 1,458, of whom 936 were called upon to furnish security for good behaviour, or sent to prison in default. The corresponding numbers in the preceding year were 802 and 517 respectively. As showing that the surveillance and punishment of habitual criminals are objects of police care, it may be stated that the percentage of habituals who received enhanced sentences of more than one year in consequence of their previous convictions was 45·24 in the year 1883 as compared with 32·61 in the previous year. The proportion borne by habitual criminals to all the prisoners sent to jail during the year was 13·42 per cent. The number of cases against the excise laws increased from 1,173 in the year 1882 to 1,425 in the year 1883, and there was slight improvement in the proportion, 71 per cent., of convictions obtained. There was a decrease of 5 per cent. in number of prosecutions for public and local nuisances.

25. There was distinct improvement in the success with which criminals were detected and brought to justice. Some part of the results of police action may be seen from the following table:—

	Cases investigated, excluding false cases.		Number of convictions.		Percentage of convictions to cases.	
	1882.	1883.	1882.	1883.	1882.	1883.
Murder ... ..	148	147	41	49	27·7	33·33
Dacoity ... ..	91	107	21	30	23·08	28·05
Robbery ... ..	211	219	77	95	36·49	43·38
Housebreaking ... ..	987	1,284	331	397	34·26	32·17
Cattle-theft ... ..	986	1,145	314	313	31·7	27·25
Ordinary theft ... ..	10,121	10,558	3,691	3,868	35·88	36·68

The improvement is marked in the case of the more serious crimes of murder, robbery, and dacoity. Several gangs of dacoits were broken up during the year in the Rangoon, Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Shwegyin, and Henzada districts. The outlawed leaders of these gangs had, on some few occasions, to be shot by the police when they resisted capture, or could not be taken alive.

26. Ninety-four prisoners escaped from police custody as compared with 84 in the previous year. Of these 59 were recaptured against 37 in the year 1882. A serious outbreak at the Kyaikto police station and an unusual case of rescue in Thayetmyo were the only noteworthy escapes. The rest were of ordinary character.

#### *Criminal Justice.*

27. The number of cases returned as true increased from 30,145 in 1882 to 33,784 in the year of report. These figures include non-cognizable cases and also cases taken direct to Court without the intervention of the police. Of these cases 28,820, or 85·3 per cent., were brought to trial. This proportion is almost exactly the same as the corresponding proportion in the previous year. In the works of the Courts there was a marked increase in 1883. The number of original cases disposed of increased from 26,230 to 29,838 and of persons under trial from 41,630 to 46,739. Of the total number of persons under trial 17,870, or 38·2 per cent., were acquitted or discharged and 27,399, or 58·6 per cent., convicted. These figures are a very slight improvement on those of the previous year. If the number of persons released on appeal and revision be reckoned, the proportion of acquittals is raised to nearly 40 per cent.

28. The Magistrates' Courts disposed of the great bulk of the criminal work of the year, 29,211 cases falling to their share as compared with 25,801 in 1882. Of these District Magistrates disposed of 2,632, or 9 per cent. of the total number; Honorary Magistrates of 2,925, or 10 per cent.; and subordinate stipendiary Magistrates of 23,180, or more than 79 per cent. The work of the District Magistrates increased, particularly in Rangoon, where the Deputy Commissioner disposed of 465 cases as compared with 16 cases in the previous year. Of 4,020 persons under trial before District Courts 2,327, or 57·9 per cent., were convicted as compared with 1,592, or 54·76 per cent., in 1882. The proportion of persons convicted by the subordinate stipendiary Magistrates was 59 per cent., a proportion almost identical with the corresponding proportion in the previous year. The number of persons convicted on summary trial increased from 7,294 in 1882 to 7,540 in the past year.

29. Exclusive of cases tried by the Recorder of Rangoon and the Judge of Moulmein, the number of cases disposed of by Sessions Judges was 307 in the past year as compared with 154 in 1882; and the number of persons under trial increased from 299 to 494. Of persons committed for trial 399, or 60·36 per cent., were convicted and 213, or 32·22 per cent., acquitted. The proportion of persons acquitted to persons actually tried varied from 13·8 per cent. in Arakan to 41·4 per cent. in Pegu. Including cases referred by District Magistrates for confirmation, 597 cases were disposed of as compared with 403 in the previous year. Of 906 persons tried by all Sessions Courts, including persons whose cases were referred, 679, or 74·9 per cent., were convicted. The number of cases disposed of by the Recorder of Rangoon sitting as a Sessions Judge was less than in 1882. Except in Rangoon and Moulmein, sessions cases were tried with the aid of assessors. In 179, or 58·8 per cent., of the cases so tried the Judge agreed with the assessors.

30. Six persons were tried by the Recorder as a High Court and 38 cases were referred to the Special Court and to the Judicial Commissioner for confirmation of capital sentences. The work of the superior Courts as Courts of reference was heavier than in the previous year.

31. There was an increase of 17 per cent. in the number of witnesses examined during the year under review as compared with the number in the previous year. The total number amounted to 100,067 as compared with 85,614 in 1882. The average duration of cases in the Magistrates' Courts outside of the town of Rangoon was somewhat longer than in 1882. The number of persons remaining under trial at the close of the year (564) was less than the number at the close of 1882.

32. The following table gives the number of sentences passed by the Courts and the proportion of the various kinds of punishments to the total number of persons convicted during the past two years:—

	NUMBER OF SENTENCES.		PERCENTAGE.	
	1882.	1883.	1882.	1883.
Death ... ..	25	39	·1	·14
Transportation ... ..	45	202	·18	·73
Rigorous imprisonment ... ..	7,082	8,936	28·61	32·61
Simple imprisonment ... ..	205	395	·82	1·4
Forfeiture of property ... ..	11	8	·05	·01
Fine ... ..	17,349	18,976	62·83	67·6
Whipping... ..	788	860	8·17	8·06

In 1882 the Courts of Session outside of Rangoon sentenced 83 persons to transportation for life and one to transportation for a term of years. In 1883 the same Courts sentenced 74 persons to transportation for life and 45 to transportation for a term. The number of sentences of transportation passed by the Recorder of Rangoon increased from 11 to 35. In the whole province, including Rangoon, the number of sentences of imprisonment for periods exceeding seven years was 82 in the year under review as compared with 25 in the previous year. Sentences of imprisonment for terms exceeding two and not exceeding seven years constituted 8·54 per cent. of the total number of sentences of imprisonment as compared with 7·16 per cent. in 1882, while the proportion of sentences of imprisonment for short periods fell from 92·49 per cent. to 91·13 per cent.

The amount of fines imposed increased from £28,568 in 1882 to £29,288 in the past year. The average amount of each fine was about 31 shillings as compared with about 27 shillings in 1882. The amount realized increased from £17,627 to £19,836; but the proportion of the amount realized to the amount imposed fell from 74·79 per cent. to 67·8 per cent.

33. There was a considerable increase in the number of prosecutions under the sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure which deal with the prevention of crime, the number being 759 in 1882 and 1,491 in 1883. The greater number of these were cases in which persons were called upon to give security for good behaviour. Of 1,618 persons called upon to show cause why they should not furnish security for their good behaviour, 1,085, or 68·97 per cent., were finally ordered to give security. In 1882 the number was 505 and the proportion 62·2 per cent.

34. The number of appellants increased from 1,596, or 6·53 per cent. of the total number of persons convicted, in 1882 to 2,693, or 9·82 per cent., in the past year. In 782 cases the appeals were more or less successful. The proportion of successful appeals to the total number presented fell from 30·76 per cent. in 1882 to 27·18 per cent. in the year under review. The proportion of successful appeals to District Magistrates was 45·84 per cent., a slightly lower proportion than in 1882. Of appeals to Sessions Courts, 23·16 per cent. were successful as compared with 26·07 per cent. in the previous year, and of appeals to the High Courts 14·58 per cent. succeeded as compared with 17·97 per cent. in 1882.

35. Besides capital sentences referred for confirmation, six cases were referred to the Special Court by the Judicial Commissioner and one by the Recorder. Sitting as

a High Court in the exercise of revisional jurisdiction, the Judicial Commissioner disposed of the cases of 1,281 persons as compared with 826 in the previous year. In 806 cases, or 23·88 per cent., the order of the Lower Court was reversed or modified. The number and proportion are both noticeably lower than in 1882. In 48 cases the sentence was enhanced. In 1882 the number of sentences enhanced on appeal or revision was 31.

#### *Jails.*

36. The number of prisoners in jail at the beginning of the year 1883 was 4,851; at the end of the year the number had risen to 6,247. The daily average of jail inmates was 5,824 as compared with 4,415 in the year 1882. The daily average strength of prisoners came to 1·87 per mille of the total population of the province, as contrasted with a proportion of ·89 per mille in other provinces of India during the year 1882. Jail space is now available for 6,910 prisoners of different kinds: still there was overcrowding in some of the jails for a part of the year. Owing to the turbulent character of Burmese prisoners the authorities at the Port Blair convict settlement are unwilling to receive more than a limited number of life or long-term Burmans. Arrangements have been made for sending a small number of transportation prisoners to central jails in India. The obligation to retain in the province the greater number of prisoners sentenced to transportation adds to the difficulties of jail administration in Burma. For instance, in the year 1883 Bengal sent to Port Blair 571 convicts, or 4·1 per cent. of the average jail population. Burma was allowed to send away only 71 convicts to Port Blair and 36 to Bengal, or 107 in all, equal to barely 2 per cent. on the average jail population of the year. To provide against overcrowding, a new jail has been begun at certain limestone quarries on the Ataran river, a few miles from Moulmein.

37. There was a large increase in the number of escapes from jail custody. During the year 32 prisoners escaped of whom 17 were recaptured, as against seven escapes during the preceding year. Most of these escapes were due to the increased employment of extramural gangs. In some cases the escapes were due to neglect of clear orders on the part of the jail staff. Since extramural employment of prisoners on a large scale ceased, escapes have again become rare.

38. Corporal punishment was inflicted on 581 prisoners, or on about 3·4 per cent. of the total number of convicts passing through the jails during the year. Jail punishments of other kinds were inflicted upon 8,352 prisoners. The system of marks, carrying claim to some remission for good conduct and industry in jail, was introduced during the year. And 271 convicts released in 1883 had earned some remission under the good conduct rules. The maximum remission gainable by a first class prisoner warder is ten days in a month. No prisoner can become a first class warder without uniform good conduct in lower grades for a long time. Practically no prisoner, even if uniformly industrious and well-behaved, could earn a remission of one-fifth of his sentence; and the average remission earned will probably never reach 15 days in the year. The mark system is now understood by the prisoners themselves, and they evince anxiety to obtain and keep marks.

39. The orders of the Government of India issued in 1882 have caused a great change in the employment of prisoners. Machinery was removed; forbidden industries were stopped; and attempts were made to employ prisoners on public works. But the prisoners escaped or got ill, when a few were employed for a time on the Tunte canal and in the Okpo coalfield. Outdoor employment, except in gardens and on roads near small lockups, was stopped. A certain number of prisoners did work in jail for private employers. Others were employed in jail buildings, and treble the usual number were employed on shot-drill or other infructuous labour. The earnings, which used in former years materially to reduce the net cost of a Burmese prisoner, decreased seriously; and in default of outdoor labour great difficulty was found in providing employment for prisoners. Request has been

preferred for permission to re-open miscellaneous manufactures in the chief jails of this province, in which there is great dearth of labour, as it is wasteful to keep some thousands of able-bodied men at shot-drill.

40. The jail death-rate of the year was 29·11 per mille on the daily average strength as compared with 26·95 per mille in the preceding year. There were serious outbreaks of cholera

*Health of prisoners.*

at Akyab and Kyaukpynu, where the death-rates were respectively 169 and 182 per mille of average strength. In three jails, namely, Toungoo, Shwegyin, and Sando-way, with a total average strength of 297 prisoners, there were no deaths. The largest proportion of deaths occurs among newcomers: for instance, the death-rate among prisoners who had been less than six months in jail was 57 per mille; among those who had been from six to 12 months in jail it was 25 per mille; and among prisoners over a year in jail it was 18 per mille. The food ration for short-term prisoners was increased during the year. The diet was on the whole sufficient, for three-fourths of the prisoners weighed on release were found to have gained weight, while one-fourth had lost weight while in jail.

41. Twenty-two boys were detained in the Paungdè Reformatory, where they are employed in farming and gardening and are brought under education. The reformatory is managed by a committee of visitors, and promises to be successful. Arrangements are made to watch the boys after their release from the reformatory; but the institution is still young and only two boys have yet been released, one of whom is doing well. Out of 80 boys sentenced to imprisonment during the year, 26 had terms under one month, and 27 more had terms from one to six months. There were during the whole year several boys in the Rangoon and Thayetmyo Jails who might with advantage have been transferred to the reformatory, if only there had been accommodation for them. The reformatory has now been enlarged so as to receive 50 boys and will accommodate 35 or 40 more when the alterations now in progress are finished.

*Juvenile reformatory.*

42. Owing to the large number of prisoners the cost of the jails rose from £33,142 in the year 1882 to £37,112 in the year 1883. But the average total cost per head fell from £7-10-1½ to £6-19-5. The estimated net earnings of the prisoners amounted to £17,279. Of this sum £7,858 represents the value of printing and lithographic work done for public departments; and prisoners employed on jail buildings earned on the average 5½d. per labouring day; those on extramural works earned net 2½d. per labouring day. The average net cost of each prisoner, when all deductions are made for the estimated value of their work, was £3-14-6 per annum.

*Cost of prisoners.*

43. The number and character of the Civil Courts were the same as in the previous year. The total number of original civil suits instituted in the province has, during the last 10 years, varied between 30,000 and 34,000; in the year 1883 the total was 32,957. Twenty-three per cent. of the suits were for money due on "contracts in writing," and 15 per cent. for money due on "goods sold." Three per cent., or 955 suits, were for "immoveable property." For "dissolution of marriage" 661 suits, and "for enforcement of matrimonial rights" 155 suits were instituted. This large number of cases relating to marriage is due to the freedom with which divorce is allowed under Burmese law as interpreted in British Courts for many years past. The total value of property under litigation was £352,270 as compared with £426,898 in the previous year; and the average value of each suit fell from £13-10-0 to £10-18-0. As in the previous year, 80 per cent. of the suits were less than £10 in value. The decrease of £75,000 in aggregate value is due mainly to an unusually heavy suit valued at £62,500, having been instituted in the Akyab Court during the year 1882.

*Civil Justice.*

44. Except in the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon, the business of the year was disposed of during the year; the cases pending at the end of the year were 1,146 as compared with 965 at the end of 1882. An Additional Recorder, appointed temporarily after the close

*Disposal of civil suits.*

at the end of 1882. An Additional Recorder, appointed temporarily after the close

of the year, has cleared off the arrears of the Recorder's Court. The more important statistics showing how civil cases were decided are as follows:—

		Per cent.
Proportion of cases	(decided without trial ... ..)	25
	(in which judgment was confessed ... ..)	14
	(decreed <i>ex-parte</i> ... ..)	16
	(contested ... ..)	89
	(contested cases in which plaintiff was successful ... ..)	67
		Days.
Duration of contested cases in	(District Courts ... ..)	82
	(Small Cause Courts ... ..)	17
	(Other Subordinate Courts ... ..)	24

One-fourth of all the suits in the province were decided by Courts of Small Causes.

45. In 8,568 cases was application made for execution of decree; in 54 per cent. of these cases full or partial satisfaction was obtained. The number of persons imprisoned in default of payment of decrees was 529 as compared with 486 in the year 1882. The number of sales of immoveable property in execution of decree fell from 527 in the year 1882 to 448 in the past year.

46. The number of regular appeals was 1,797 as compared with 1,786 in the year 1882. The proportion of appeals in which the decision of the lower Court was either reversed or modified was 38 per cent., which is the same proportion as in the year 1882. Appeals were promptly decided, the duration being—

In District Courts, 80 days as compared with 80 days in 1882.  
In the Judicial Commissioner's Court, 82 days as compared with 115 days in 1882.

47. In the Courts outside the jurisdiction of the Recorder of Rangoon careful returns have for the past two years been kept of the several items in the costs of litigation. The more notable statistics in these returns may be shown for the province thus:—

By—	Proportion borne to the total value of the subject-matter of the case.	
	1882. Per cent.	1883. Per cent.
Total costs in original suits ... ..	14.6	15.25
Total court-fees other than process-fees in original suits ... ..	6.9	8.4
Process-fees in original suits ... ..	2.1	2.8
Advocates' fees in original suits ... ..	8.8	4.2
Diet-money to witnesses in original suits ... ..	1.3	1.5
<hr/>		
Total costs in appeals ... ..	20.8	17.6
Total court-fees other than process-fees in appeals... ..	7.5	7.1
Advocates' fees in appeals ... ..	9.6	7.8
<hr/>		
Total costs in execution of decree ... ..	1.8	3.5
Total court-fees other than process-fees in original suits ... ..	0.5	1.5

The receipts from process-fees were £9,740, of which £7,055 was spent on process-serving, and a surplus of £2,685 is held available to pay for witness-sheds, law libraries, law text-books in Burmese, Court furniture, and other conveniences of the law Courts.

48. Much attention has been given by the Judicial Commissioner, by Divisional Commissioners, and by District Officers to inspecting and supervising the work of the subordinate Courts. The general quality of these Courts and of the justice they do is improving. Burmese translations of all Acts applicable to Burma have been furnished to all Courts and Court officials, and Burmese text-books are being prepared. The establishment of a Chief Court at Rangoon is still under discussion, as has been the case for the past five years. Law lectures were delivered at Rangoon by barristers selected by the Educational Syndicate, and the law students were fairly numerous. At the recent examination of candidates for license as advocates only one candidate, a Karen, gained a first class diploma, and two residents of Akyab and Moulmein gained second class diplomas.

#### Registration.

49. The total number of registrars' offices was raised during the year of report from 18 to 19 and of sub-registrars' offices from 56 to 62. There was an increase of 151, or

Work of the Department.

1·88 per cent., in the total number of documents registered during the year, the numbers being 8,025 in 1882-83 and 8,176 in the period under review. Last year the increase was 1,181 documents, or 17 per cent. In Arakan and Irrawaddy there was a noticeable decrease, while in Pegu the increase was only 7·68 per cent. and in Tenasserim 5·14 per cent. As in previous years, a very large proportion of the business of the registration offices (nearly 40 per cent.) was transacted at the four chief seaports. The number of compulsory registrations increased by 5·53 per cent., from 6,237 in 1882 to 6,582 in the past year. Optional registrations decreased from 1,754 to 1,567. In the number of optional registrations affecting immovable property there was an increase, and in the number of similar registrations affecting movable property there was a decrease. The number of powers-of-attorney authenticated increased from 788 to 828. The number of refusals to register was 56 as compared with 60 in the previous year. Against orders of refusal to register only one appeal was presented. The appeal was unsuccessful. There were no prosecutions under the Act during the year. The aggregate value of the immovable property affected by documents registered in the course of the year was £1,025,717 as compared with £640,789 in 1882-83. The increase, £384,928, or 60 per cent., is chiefly due to the high value of property affected by registration in Rangoon, where the increase amounted to more than £280,000 and to a less degree to registration in Akyab and Moulmein. The value of the movable property affected by registration was £228,452 as compared with £234,373 in 1882-83. The average value of the immovable property affected by each document registered was £145. Deeds of sale, of which there were 2,984, and mortgage deeds, of which there were 3,113, again constituted the bulk (86 per cent.) of the documents affecting immovable property. The financial results of the year were favourable. The total receipts amounted to £1,975 as compared with £1,775 in the previous year. The expenditure increased from £994 to £1,035.

#### Municipal Administration.

50. By the extension of the Municipal Act to the town of Pegu the number of municipalities in the province was increased from seven to eight during the year of report. The number of towns whose affairs are administered by committees exercising powers similar to those of duly constituted municipal committees was reduced by the same cause to 23. The affairs of the eight municipal towns were administered by 126 commissioners, of whom 73 were appointed by election. Except in the case of Prome and Pegu, the majority of the members of each of the committees are chosen by the townspeople. Ninety non-officials and 36 officials, and 73 Asiatics and 48 Europeans, occupied seats on the several committees. The total municipal income of the year amounted to £248,216, and the total expenditure to £229,085.

51. The following table shows in a combined form the financial position of the several municipalities at the beginning and end of the year under report as compared with the corresponding figures in the previous year:—

Town.	Opening balance.		Income.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1882-83.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Rangoon .. ..	36,847	1,698	109,180	160,802	154,324	140,713	1,698	21,783
Moulmein .. ..	3,381	1,394	12,306	12,952	15,293	14,453	1,394	894
Akyab .. ..	1,740	2,655	12,404	11,634	11,459	11,363	2,655	2,937
Prome .. ..	3,440	5,654	12,263	20,226	10,359	27,541	5,494	6,119
Bassain .. ..	4,121	3,331	12,879	12,146	12,729	14,702	3,331	1,775
Toungoo .. ..	773	154	7,880	6,475	8,449	7,924	154	705
Honzada .. ..	4,949	2,002	7,739	6,725	10,586	7,873	2,002	1,444
Pegu .. ..	3,329	4,068	3,445	5,266	3,217	5,028	4,068	4,296
Total .. ..	49,140	20,811	179,057	348,216	207,386	229,085	20,811	30,942

The gross municipal income increased by 38·62 per cent., the increase being common to all municipalities except Akyab and Henzada. The increase is chiefly due to the large receipts from the loans raised by the Rangoon and Prome committees. The expenditure increased by 10·46 per cent., chiefly owing to a large increase of expenditure at Prome. The financial position of each municipality is satisfactory with the exception of Moulmein, which has for some time past lived beyond its income and which has recently been in such serious financial straits that an advance of provincial money was sought and granted in order to relieve the municipal property from attachment by the Civil Court.

52. The receipts under the several heads during the past two years were as follows:—

Head of Receipt.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.
Taxes on houses and lands ... ..	29,125	31,223
Taxes on vehicles ... ..	4,620	4,788
Tolls on ferries ... ..	3,200	3,000
Conservancy-tax ... ..	7,944	8,609
Lighting-rate ... ..	5,909	6,335
Water-rate ... ..	1,298	3,951
<b>Total Income from Taxation</b> ...	<b>53,096</b>	<b>61,995</b>
Fines ... ..	1,190	2,313
Miscellaneous ... ..	25,548	46,748
Grants from provincial and local funds ... ..	77,789	70,273
Debt accounts ... ..	12,484	69,867
<b>Total Income</b> ...	<b>179,087</b>	<b>248,216</b>

The grants from provincial and local funds consist mainly of sums derived from fees for liquor licenses and from the sale and rent of town lands, and certain special grants made to the committees in consideration of the increased responsibilities laid upon them in 1882.

The incidence of municipal taxation per head of population was 8s. 10½d. as compared with 8s. 3½d. in the previous year. The rates of taxation remained unaltered. Proposals to reduce the lighting-rate in Rangoon and to levy a lighting-rate in Henzada were made, but were not adopted.

53. The expenditure of the year amounted to £229,085 as compared with £207,386 in the previous year. The following table shows the expenditure on the principal major heads and the percentage of each on the total outlay:—

Head of Expenditure.	1882-83.		1883-84.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.
	£.		£.	
General establishment ... ..	11,473	5·5	11,861	5·1
Public safety (including street-lighting, fire-engines, &c.) ... ..	6,848	3·3	8,377	3·7
Public health (including conservancy, water-supply, hospitals, vaccination, &c.) ... ..	120,397	53·1	97,378	42·4
Public instruction ... ..	18,496	8·5	16,913	7·3
Public convenience (including road-making) ... ..	24,880	10·8	43,651	19·1
Debt account ... ..	17,029	8·2	48,366	21·1
Contributions to local or provincial funds ... ..	123	·1	142	·1
Miscellaneous ... ..	3,183	1·5	2,697	1·2

54. The ordinary receipts of the Rangoon Municipality exclusive of loans and value of stock, amounted to £107,370 as compared with £97,208 in the previous year. At the

close of the year the liabilities of the Municipality amounted to about £140,000. The expenditure on education was £7,804 as compared with £5,196 in the previous year. And that on hospitals and vaccination increased from £7,277 in 1882-83 to £8,938 in the year of report. The day and night conservancy arrangements of the town were carried out as before. The year was marked by the completion of the waterworks scheme, and since November last water from the reservoir has been abundantly supplied to most parts of the town. The report of the Chemical Examiner shows that the water is of excellent quality. Besides a sum of £20,680 spent on the completion of the waterworks, £33,280 were expended on miscellaneous public works, of which the most important were the repair and improvement of roads and minor drainage works.

55. The Moulmein Committee expended on education £1,838 and on hospitals and vaccination £1,599. A sum of £3,004 was spent on repairs to roads, and £555 on street-watering, matters to which the Committee devoted much attention. Some efforts were made to improve the conservancy of the town. The Committee effected some reduction of the cost of administration, and the expenditure under this head fell from £1,557 in 1882-83 to £1,414.

56. At Akyab the expenditure on education amounted to £1,557, or £155 more than the sum spent in 1882-83. A sum of £1,456 was spent on the maintenance of medical institutions and £52 on vaccination. During the year the Vaccination Act was extended to the municipality, and rules framed under it have since been sanctioned. Some expenditure was incurred on the maintenance of roads and on the construction and repair of masonry drains, but no large public works were undertaken.

57. The income of the Promo Municipality in the past year amounted to £28,225, including £16,193 drawn as part of a loan of £20,000 which was sanctioned by the Government of India to enable the Committee to proceed with the drainage, waterworks, and embankment schemes. The expenditure during the year was £27,541. Of this sum all, except £8,849, was devoted to the works above mentioned, which were pushed on with vigour. The main drainage and embankment works were completed and the waterworks were well advanced at the close of the year. The Committee have devoted much attention to the sanitary state of their town, and the improvement is very marked.

58. During the year improvements were effected in the conservancy arrangements of the town of Bassein, the expenditure on education increased by over £600, and there was a considerable increase in the amount spent on the maintenance of hospitals. The arrangements for lighting the town and for watering the streets were also improved. Since the close of the year a high school has been established. A scheme for a water-supply and a project for a complete system of drainage were under consideration during the year. Some minor drainage works were carried out. But the water-supply scheme has not yet been fully considered. A professional survey of the town, begun in the previous year, was carried out in the year of report at a total cost of £1,867.

59. Nearly half the expenditure (£3,559) at Toungoo was devoted to public works, among which the most important were the repair of roads and the construction of drains: small sums were expended on street-lighting and on night conservancy. A sum of £378 expended upon the protection of the river bank has been erroneously debited to water-supply. The outlay on education increased from £1,049 in 1882-83 to £1,467 in the year of report, and the expenditure on hospitals and vaccination from £781 to £844.

60. The only noticeable decrease in expenditure at Henzada was under the head of public works. In 1882-83 the expenditure under this head amounted to £8,801, while in the year of report it was only £3,981. The outlay on masonry drains, which in 1882-83 amounted to £6,805, was in the past year only £1,000. The expenditure on education amounted to £1,000 as compared with £774 in the previous year.

close of the year the liabilities of the Municipality amounted to about £140,000. The expenditure on education was £7,304 as compared with £5,196 in the previous year. And that on hospitals and vaccination increased from £7,277 in 1882-83 to £8,938 in the year of report. The day and night conservancy arrangements of the town were carried out as before. The year was marked by the completion of the waterworks scheme, and since November last water from the reservoir has been abundantly supplied to most parts of the town. The report of the Chemical Examiner shows that the water is of excellent quality. Besides a sum of £20,680 spent on the completion of the waterworks, £38,280 were expended on miscellaneous public works, of which the most important were the repair and improvement of roads and minor drainage works.

55. The Moulmein Committee expended on education £1,888 and on hospitals and vaccination £1,599. A sum of £3,004 was spent on repairs to roads, and £555 on street-watering, matters to which the Committee devoted much attention. Some efforts were made to improve the conservancy of the town. The Committee effected some reduction of the cost of administration, and the expenditure under this head fell from £1,557 in 1882-83 to £1,414.

56. At Akyab the expenditure on education amounted to £1,557, or £155 more than the sum spent in 1882-83. A sum of £1,456 was spent on the maintenance of medical institutions and £52 on vaccination. During the year the Vaccination Act was extended to the municipality, and rules framed under it have since been sanctioned. Some expenditure was incurred on the maintenance of roads and on the construction and repair of masonry drains, but no large public works were undertaken.

57. The income of the Prome Municipality in the past year amounted to £28,225, including £16,183 drawn as part of a loan of £20,000 which was sanctioned by the Government of India to enable the Committee to proceed with the drainage, waterworks, and embankment schemes. The expenditure during the year was £27,541. Of this sum all, except £8,849, was devoted to the works above mentioned, which were pushed on with vigour. The main drainage and embankment works were completed and the waterworks were well advanced at the close of the year. The Committee have devoted much attention to the sanitary state of their town, and the improvement is very marked.

58. During the year improvements were effected in the conservancy arrangements of the town of Bassein, the expenditure on education increased by over £600, and there was a considerable increase in the amount spent on the maintenance of hospitals. The arrangements for lighting the town and for watering the streets were also improved. Since the close of the year a high school has been established. A scheme for a water-supply and a project for a complete system of drainage were under consideration during the year. Some minor drainage works were carried out. But the water-supply scheme has not yet been fully considered. A professional survey of the town, begun in the previous year, was carried out in the year of report at a total cost of £1,867.

59. Nearly half the expenditure (£3,559) at Toungoo was devoted to public works, among which the most important were the repair of roads and the construction of drains: small sums were expended on street-lighting and on night conservancy. A sum of £378 expended upon the protection of the river bank has been erroneously debited to water-supply. The outlay on education increased from £1,049 in 1882-83 to £1,467 in the year of report, and the expenditure on hospitals and vaccination from £781 to £844.

60. The only noticeable decrease in expenditure at Henzada was under the head of public works. In 1882-83 the expenditure under this head amounted to £8,801, while in the year of report it was only £3,981. The outlay on masonry drains, which in 1882-83 amounted to £6,805, was in the past year only £1,000. The expenditure on education amounted to £1,000 as compared with £774 in the previous year.

## I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

[ *Note.*—In the Administration Report for 1882-83 the following subjects have been treated in a permanent form for reference :—

	Pages.
Physical features of the country, area, climate, and chief staples ...	3-5
Historical summary ... ..	5-6
Form of administration ... ..	6-8
Character of land tenures, system of survey settlement ...	8-11
Civil divisions of British territory ... ..	11-12
Details of last census ... ..	13-14
Legislative authority ... ..	23
General system of public instruction ... ..	144-147
Literary societies ... ..	153
Ecclesiastical jurisdiction ... ..	157

In accordance with the orders of the Government of India, these chapters are not reproduced in this report.]

### *Changes in the Administration.*

MR. C. E. BERNARD, C.S.I., went on leave in February 1883, and Mr. C. H. T. CROSTHWAITTE acted as Chief Commissioner till after the close of the calendar year.

2. In January 1883 the Hanthawaddy district was divided into the two districts of Hanthawaddy and Pegu. Besides this no administrative changes of any importance were effected during the year.
- Administrative changes.

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

3. The negotiations between the British and Burmese Government, which began at Simla in 1882 were concluded in the course of the year of report. The treaty which was proposed by the Burmese Court was rejected by the Government of India. With this exception scarcely any event of importance connected with the relations between the two countries occurred during the year. The frontier of the Thayetmyo and Toungoo districts was disturbed by dacoits, but in many cases the Burmese local officers showed a genuine desire to co-operate with the British authorities in maintaining order. Such requisitions as were made for the extradition of offenders who had sought asylum in Burmese territory were more promptly complied with than has been customary. Operations against the Shans, who have now for some years been in revolt against the King's authority, were continued. Disquieting rumours were current regarding the intentions of the Myingun Prince who, having escaped from English custody towards the close of 1882, took refuge in Chandernagore and, later, in Pondicherry. But no overt attempt was made by him to disturb the peace of the Kingdom of Ava.

Regarding the relations between Upper Burma and other Foreign Powers, the only event of any consequence which occurred during the year was the despatch of a mission to Europe. The declared object of the mission was not of a diplomatic nature; but it is understood that the envoys, who have made a long stay in Paris, have been negotiating a commercial treaty between France and Burma. The final result of the negotiations is not yet known.

4. Friendly relations were maintained with Siam and other States bordering on the province. The negotiations for a new treaty concerning Chiengmai and the adjacent provinces, which have long been pending, were at last brought to a close and a new treaty was concluded between the British and Siamese Governments. The treaty covers the same ground as that of 1874. It provides for the extradition of offenders and for the safety of British subjects in the Chiengmai States and of Siamese subjects in Burma. For the better protection of the interests of British subjects in these parts provision is made in the treaty for the establishment of a British Vice-Consulate at Chiengmai. The Vice-Consul has judicial powers in respect of British subjects. Mr. E. B. Gould, the first Vice-Consul, arrived at Chiengmai soon after the close of the year of report.

Relations with Siam.

61. The town of Pegu was constituted a municipality at the close of the year 1883. The bulk of its income is derived from bazaar-stall rents and contributions from provincial funds. The receipts of the past year were largely increased by the realization of £1,423 on account of premiums paid for leases of town lands. The Committee have shown a commendable interest in the subject of education and, with the assistance of a grant from provincial funds, they are preparing to raise the status of the municipal school and to provide a suitable school-house. The greatest part of the expenditure (£3,820) was incurred on account of public works.

62. Besides the committees constituted under the Act of 1874, committees appointed in 1882 administered the affairs of 23 other towns. Since the close of the year of report a town committee has been constituted at Ramree in the Kyaukpyu district. The members of the committees are the leading official and non-official residents of the several towns, appointed by the Chief Commissioner on the nomination of the Commissioners of divisions. In many cases all the members are Burmese. The town committees enjoy powers almost identical with those conferred on committees constituted under the Municipal Act. The chief points of difference are that the town committees have no power to levy taxes or to frame byelaws, and that they are to some extent subject to the control of the Deputy Commissioner and of the Commissioner.

63. The 23 town funds opened the year with an aggregate balance of £31,112. Their total income amounted to £34,689, and their expenditure to £45,461. Most of the income of the town funds is derived from bazaar rents, municipal taxes, receipts from liquor licenses, and in some cases special grants from provincial funds. A sum of £3,831 was spent in conservancy, the highest charges under this head having been incurred at Paungdè, Shwedaung, Yandoon, and Tavoy. The expenditure on public works amounted to £23,793.

64. The gross expenditure of the several town committees upon education, excluding sums spent on buildings, amounted to £7,924. Commendable interest in educational progress was displayed by the committee at Sandoway, where a boarding department was opened during the year; at Kyaukpyu, where a new school-house was built; at Shwedaung, where a girls' school was built at a cost of £338, and the strength of the establishment of the boys' school was increased; at Ngathainggyaung, where the strength of the school establishment was increased; at Lemyethna, where a new school-house was erected; at Paungdè, and at Yandoon. The Allanmyo Committee propose to build a new school-house and to open an Anglo-vernacular school in their town. The expenditure on vaccination amounted to £482, or £257 less than the estimate of 1882. Other expenditure on hospitals and medical establishments aggregated £3,726 as compared with £2,480, the estimated amount.

#### *Military.*

65. The total number of troops stationed in the province at the beginning of 1883 was 5,569 men, of whom 2,462 were Europeans and 3,107 Natives. Rangoon was garrisoned for the greater portion of the year by the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, 11th Madras Native Infantry, and the 4th Battery of the 1st Brigade Royal Artillery. The infantry were relieved towards the close of the year by the 2nd Battalion of the Somersetshire Light Infantry and the 5th Madras Native Infantry. A company of Madras Sappers and Miners was also stationed at Rangoon for the greater part of the year. At Thayetmyo the garrison consisted of the headquarters and a wing of the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment, the 6th and 7th Batteries, 1st Brigade Royal Artillery, and the 23rd Regiment of Madras Native Infantry. Toungoo was occupied by a wing of the 2nd Bedfordshire regiment, the 9th Battery, 1st Brigade Royal Artillery, and during March 1883 by the H. company of the Madras Sappers and Miners, who then moved to Rangoon. The headquarters and a wing of the 2nd Madras Native Infantry were stationed at

Moulmein until February 1884, when they were relieved by the 9th Regiment Madras Native Infantry. According to the returns the total number of troops of all arms in the province on the 31st March 1884 was 4,925 men, 1,679 being European and 3,246 Native troops. The actual net charges incurred on account of troops quartered in Burma during 1883-84 are returned at £274,475.

66. The Volunteer Corps in the province during the year consisted of the Rangoon Volunteer Rifle Corps with a company at Akyab and a company at Bassein, the Rangoon Volunteer Artillery Corps, the Burma State Railway Corps with headquarters at Rangoon, and outlying companies at Prome and Toungoo, and the Moulmein Volunteer Rifle Corps. The Akyab company of the Rangoon Rifles was formerly a corps in itself, but the numbers fell off through resignations and other causes, and it was decided during the year to reduce the corps to the status of a company and to attach it to the Rangoon Volunteer Rifle Corps. Affiliated to the last named are three companies of cadets. There is also a company of cadets at Akyab, and two are about to be raised at Moulmein. Sanction has also been given to the formation of a company of volunteers at Tavoy to be attached to the Moulmein corps. The nominal strength of the entire volunteer force at the close of the year was 602 men (of whom 517 were "efficient") and 209 cadets. The capitulation-grants earned amounted to £1,472. The reports of the inspecting officers on the efficiency of these corps for the year were for the most part highly satisfactory and creditable to the members. This was especially so in the case of the Volunteer Artillery. For administrative purposes a half-company of volunteers, formed at Port Blair and styled the South Andaman Volunteer Rifle Corps, has been attached to the Rangoon Corps.

---

#### *Marine.*

67. Her Majesty's Indian Marine steamers *Enterprise* and *Irrawaddy* were stationed at Rangoon throughout the year on general administrative duty. It has recently been decided to reduce the establishment of the *Irrawaddy* and to attach her to the *Enterprise* as a tender.

Her Majesty's men-of-war *Arab* and *Briton* visited Rangoon and the Burma coast in January and February 1884. The United States vessel-of-war *Juniata* put in at Rangoon in August 1883.

---

#### IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

##### *Agriculture.*

68. In this chapter the subjects which the Government of India require to be treated in Agricultural Reports will be briefly mentioned in the prescribed order.

69. The only village records in Burma are the circle records in the hands of thugyis, or prepared by thugyis for record in the Deputy Commissioners' offices. Very much has to be done before every revenue circle is properly provided with a thugyi's office and cases for the safe custody of records. Where the supplementary survey is established, we are certain of obtaining and maintaining an accurate record, based upon the cadastral maps, of all changes and extensions of cultivation. The cadastral areas of kwins (villages) and of neighbouring fields prevent the supplementary survey maps from going far wrong; and the thorough inspection and testing by competent surveyors secures the detection of minor errors. Where we have no supplementary survey, the thugyis' records must often be inaccurate. Until the cadastral survey, followed by supplementary survey, has been extended to all the ten surplus rice districts, it will not be possible to report that matters are thoroughly satisfactory in Burma under this head. Improvement is being gradually secured, even in unsurveyed districts, by strict adherence to the rule which requires newly-appointed thugyis to possess certificates of ability to survey. The survey classes for thugyi cadets and others are effecting good, but the leaven of these classes has not yet spread into the smaller or less cultivated districts.

70. Happily famine does not occur in Burma, which annually exports about half its total yield of rice. There are no tracts where the revenue is recognized to be precarious. Famine and precarious revenue. The rules for remitting revenue on lands spoilt by floods or drought, and the rules allowing payment of the fallow-rate (3*d.* an acre, or about one-fourteenth of the usual revenue rate) to be paid on untilled fields, provide amply and liberally for cases of loss of crop and for cases where land is, for one reason or another, left uncultivated.

71. There is one fodder reserve near Rangoon, which was taken up and is kept for the use of the Commissariat Department. For the pasturage of village cattle grazing-grounds are being set apart in all districts to which the survey and settlement has extended. The business of demarcating these grazing-grounds is not completed in any district, and the selection of grazing-grounds is still going on. Next year complete figures will be furnished of the grazing-grounds selected and of those demarcated up to date. In the unsettled districts the grazing-ground question has been less systematically pursued; but there the available grazing in unreserved forests and savannas is extensive, and therefore the matter is less pressing. In the small forest reserves, which abut on or are in the middle of rice plains, grazing is allowed to neighbouring villages on easy terms.

72. In other sections of this report is given a full notice of the existing means of communication by river, railway, canal, road, and sea. Extension of communications.

73. Except in the Thayetmyo and Prome districts, and in a few valleys among the hills, the efforts of the people and of the Government are directed rather to keeping water off than to bringing it on to the land. Already about £350,000 have been spent on embankments designed to keep river-floods off rice-plains. Embankment works are still being prosecuted in the Bassein, Thongwa, and Shwegyin districts. In Bassein the design is to extend the Ngawun embankment some miles to the south and reclaim a tract which, according to the Revenue Officer's estimate, will

yield yearly £8,200 of land revenue within a few years after reclamation. The work will cost about £20,000. The tract to be reclaimed used to be the richest part of the Bassein district, before the Ngawun branch of the Irrawaddy assumed its present size. In Shwegyin the object is to safeguard the plains traversed by the new railway from the spill-water of the Sittang river. With the embankment will have to be combined a careful treatment of the drainage from the Yoma hills, from which the waters at present spread themselves over the plain without defined channels. When these works are finished, the lands on both sides of the Toungoo Railway ought soon to be turned into rice-plains, just as have been the wastes of Tharrawaddy within the last eight years. Care is being taken to keep a due proportion of forest reserve in this tract for the use of the rice-growing population of the future.

In parts of Prome and Thayetmyo dams for holding up water to irrigate small areas of rice-land are occasionally made by the people themselves, or by the Government. One of these dams, that had cost about £600 and irrigated 1,200 acres, burst this season and will shortly be repaired. Most of the schemes that are brought forward cost more than 80s. per acre commanded, if the work is done by Government Engineers; and no scheme that costs more than this figure is likely to be financially safe.

74. The chief Government farm is at Kyauktan, near Rangoon, where the Assistant Director of Agriculture has his headquarters. A small patch of experimental cultivation near Rangoon is managed by the Chemical Examiner, who is making careful experiments with different kinds of manure and dressing. There is also a farm attached to the Reformatory at Paungdè, and a small tobacco farm has been established at Ma-ubin in order to popularize tobacco-culture among the cultivators of the Thongwa district. On the Paungdè farm, partly in consequence of the character of the soil and partly because the supply of labour was insufficient, little success has as yet been attained.

75. The experiments this year with *wheat* have confirmed last year's deductions, namely, that wheat can be grown, but that its yield is uncertain and rarely heavy. It will not pay to grow wheat on land that can produce rice, but it may pay occasionally to grow wheat with tobacco, oilseeds, and such like crops on the alluvial lands (*churs*) left dry when the great rivers fall in November. No further way has been made with *jute*; and all the *jute* grown this (1884) autumn from Burma seed has been stunted and nearly worthless. The best hope for naturalizing and popularizing *jute*-culture in Burma is through the agency of Christian Karen villagers. The Rev. Dr. Vinton, American Missionary to the Karens, took this season, at the public expense, a small party of Karens to the *jute* districts of Bengal. They successfully learnt the processes for growing, steeping, and manufacturing *jute*; and Dr. Vinton is sanguine that next season the Karens will be able to grow *jute* at a profit. It remains to be seen how far this anticipation will be realized.

76. The people of Burma—men, women, and children—all smoke tobacco; the soil and climate are suited to the production of tobacco; and yet £890,000 worth of tobacco are imported annually into Burma, about two-thirds of the total import coming from Bengal and one-third from Madras. The extension of tobacco-culture and the adoption of improved methods of drying and curing tobacco have been among the chief aims of the Agricultural Department during the past year. Mr. Cabaniss, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, has himself grown and cured tobacco both in Virginia and in India. He has journeyed twice through the parts of Burma which now grow tobacco; he has distributed Virginia seed to cultivators, and has instructed them in the American system of drying the leaf. Briefly the difference between the two systems is this. The Burman cultivator dries his tobacco-leaf in the sun, and the process takes a few days only; under the American system the leaf is dried under cover, and the process takes as many weeks as the Burman process takes days. But the difference in price between sun-dried and shade-dried tobacco is that the latter fetches in Burma £7-10-0 per hundred viss, while the former fetches only £2-10-0 per

hundred viss (865lbs.). A limited number of old tobacco-growers on the banks of the Ngawun and the Irrawaddy have, under Mr. Cabaniss' instruction, taken to the American system of drying. But the greatest extension of tobacco-culture has radiated from the Kyauktan farm, to which Burmese cultivators have come for seed, for seedlings, and for instruction in shade-drying and in curing from villages distant one, two, and three days' journey. Last season, within a small section of country round the Kyauktan farm, about 90 cultivators grew smaller or larger patches of tobacco, who had never grown tobacco in their lives before. Most of them made a good thing of it and got good prices for their leaf. Moreover they found that tobacco employed them just at a time when there was not much work in the rice-fields. It is expected that this season the breadth of tobacco in the country near Kyauktan will be doubled or trebled. In order to show how much better a price tobacco dried and cured on the American system fetches than Burman tobacco, a public sale of all the tobacco produced on the Kyauktan and Ma-ubin Government farms has been held in Rangoon. Forty-eight parcels of about 50lbs. each were sold, realizing an average rate of 1s. 8½d. per viss (865lbs.) as against 6d. per viss, the prevailing rate for ordinary Burma tobacco. The Kyauktan parcels ranged from 10½d. to 2s. 6d. per viss; and the Ma-ubin parcels from 1s. to 2s. It is hoped that the results of these sales will satisfy the Burman cultivators of the superior value of shade-dried leaf. Hereafter, when the improved system of drying and curing becomes more general, it will be possible for the Agricultural Department to arrange periodical sales of well-prepared tobacco in the Rangoon market. But the Burman cultivator at present is not quite satisfied about the new system of preparing tobacco, which occupies and keeps him out of his money some months longer than the indigenous system.

The tobacco farm at Ma-ubin, though successful so far as growth and preparation of leaf went, has not yet had much effect on the cultivators of surrounding circles in Thongwa. But the farm is being carried on again this season. The tobacco on the banks of the Kaladan was not a success. The tobacco therefrom proved too light and deficient in strength for the Rangoon market. The people of the Upper Kaladan valley entirely decline to approve or adopt the American and the Coconada systems of drying and curing. The tobacco farm in that quarter has been closed.

77. In experimental gardens at Mergui and Sandoway, near Toungoo, near Tavoy, and on the Kyaukpanaung hill, tea, coffee, cocoa, black-pepper, nutmeg, cinchona, and potatoes have all been tried. All these things will grow fairly well; in time perhaps some of them may become staple products of the province; but as yet none of them have been commercially successful, except perhaps potatoes, which are now being grown for the local market by Karens on the Toungoo hills. Mr. Petley, of the same region, is the only European planter who has stuck to planting work in Burma for several years together. His coffee, his tea, and his cinchona yields this year have covered the cost expended on their production.

Though Burma imports yearly many lakhs of rupees worth of sugar, and though sugarcane will grow without irrigation, there are only a few thousand acres under cane. Attempts are being made to promote the extension of this valuable product in the Bilin valley, where it is mainly followed, by improving the communications, by giving to sugar-cultivators advances, repayable with interest within the year, and by distributing improved cane-crushing mills. As yet the Behea mill has not been adopted by the Shan and Burman cultivators; but a member of Messrs. Mylne and Fox's Firm is coming from Shahabad this season to visit Bilin and to advise upon the best mode of promoting the sugar industry there.

78. The only implements, introduced by the Agricultural Department, that have yet found acceptance with the people are the Watt plough and the Kaiser plough; the former is preferred. These ploughs enable the rice-cultivators to break up their land several weeks earlier than they can do it with the ordinary Burman plough. Reaping-machines, rice-hulling machines, and all other ploughs or harrows that

Other new staples.

Agricultural implements, &c.

have been tried have been disapproved by the cultivators. Threshing and winnowing machines, worked by man-power, have for some time been used by a few cultivators round Rangoon; but a really handy, economical rice threshing and winnowing machine, that shall at the same time bruise the straw so as to make it fit for fodder, has yet to be found.

79. The buffaloes and plough-cattle of Burma are of finer stamp and are generally in better condition than the same animals in most parts of India. This may be partly due to the Burmans—after the fashion of most Buddhists—abstaining from milk, and partly to the good fodder which is abundant during a great part of the year. Nothing has yet been done to introduce improved bulls; and the sires of all the oxen born in Burma are usually young steers of three years old before they are turned into plough-bullocks. Buffalo sires are often kept entire to a much riper age. The herds of British Burma are reinforced yearly by large importations from the kingdom of Ava. In parts of the Bassein, Tharrawaddy, and Amherst districts cattle-disease in a very fatal form prevailed during the year. Passed pupils of the Rangoon veterinary school were deputed to these tracts and were able to save many valuable animals. Forty-four Burman and Karen pupils have obtained certificates at the school; and 29 of these certificated men are posted as cow-doctors at different places in the interior. The good effect of the school will only be felt gradually, as the cultivators learn from the certificated pupils to keep their cattle better. Cattle-disease of a very virulent type prevailed in Ava; and the number of hides brought down by steamer last May was 100 per cent. above the number in the corresponding month of 1883. There was a fear lest the imported cattle should bring the disease into British territory. But on enquiry it appeared that cattle-disease was not nearly so rife on the frontier as it was in the interior districts mentioned above; the Ava authorities had oftentimes tried to prevent exportation of cattle into British territory; and expostulations had been made regarding such attempts. On the whole it seemed that any embargo or quarantine enforced on cattle-importations from Ava would do more harm than good; and so the cattle trade has gone on without apparent injury to the herds in British territory. The question whether, either by supplying sires or by instituting cattle shows, anything should be done to improve the plough-cattle of the province has recently been raised by the Commissioner of Pegu, who advises that cattle-breeding is more important to the people of Burma than pony-breeding.

80. The supply of ponies for Burma has in past years come mainly from the Shan States, subject to or in rebellion against the King of Ava. For some years past Arab stallions have been stationed in the drier districts of the Pegu division for the service of pony mares. The progeny of these sires is now coming into the market and commands high prices. From £20 to £30 has been repeatedly given for colts or fillies got by Government stallions under one year. Consequently the people, especially near the towns where stallions are kept, are buying and keeping mares to an extent unknown before. Every Government stallion has quite as much employment as he can properly undertake; and there is work for more as soon as they can be afforded. The breeding of mules for military purposes has not yet been tried; Burma pony mares are rather small to produce mules of the size required; and when enquiry was made as to the possibility of mule-breeding, it was found that in some districts donkeys were quite unknown.

81. In other paragraphs of this Report are given the chief agricultural and fiscal statistics of the year. But in this section it may be well to mention that the total cultivated area of British Burma is estimated at 4,146,821, as follows:—

	Acres.
Total area assessed and cultivated	8,768,558
Total area assessed and left fallow	197,708
Cultivated area not assessed, or not fully assessed at present	180,000
Grand Total	<u>4,146,821</u>

Of this total 3,662,303 acres are under rice. Thus the land and cultivating power of Burma are devoted to a single staple to an extent unknown in other parts of the Empire. The average yield of rice in the husk (paddy) per acre is computed at 32 baskets (1,600lbs.) per acre. The selling price of paddy in the villages last season averaged about £7 per hundred baskets, so that the average value of the yield of an acre of rice was £2-5-0. The average\* land revenue rate per acre is about 8s. 8d. per acre; thus the land revenue demand comes to about one-twelfth of the value of the total rice-yield. On garden-lands the proportion of the land revenue to the value of the gross produce is much smaller.

82. It may be well to note briefly some of the chief statistics of the rice trade. The total yield of the rice-lands of British Burma in an average year is about 2,615,980 tons of paddy, equal to 1,935,788 tons of cargo rice. The requirements of the province are, approximately, as follows:—

	Tons of cargo rice.
Food for 4,334,000 people at one ton of cargo rice to five persons	... 867,000
Seedgrain at 50lbs. paddy per acre on 3,662,303 acres=61,747 tons of paddy, equal to	... 60,000
Food for elephants and cattle, about 30,000 tons of paddy, equal, in round numbers, to	... 20,000
Total consumption of province (about)	... 947,000

If this calculation is approximately correct, there should be in ordinary years about 988,000 tons of cargo rice available for export, on the assumption that stocks remain generally at about the same figure. The total exports by sea and by river have been for the past seven years, as returned by Messrs. Bulloch Brothers:—

EXPORTS OF CARGO RICE FROM BRITISH BURMA IN  
TONS TO

Year.	Europe and America.	India, China, and Straits.	Upper Burma.	Total.
1878	... 552,898	236,566	53,323	842,787
1879	... 609,233	193,056	41,837	844,126
1880	... 684,070	165,771	5,677	855,518
1881	... 754,467	164,714	5,243	924,424
1882	... 801,639	236,227	39,764	1,079,630
1883	... 754,414	156,890	37,840	948,644
1884	(Estimate for two months and actuals for ten months) 640,000	118,000	96,000	854,000

Thus, although the area under rice increases by nearly 100,000 acres a year, the rice exports of the present year have fallen to the figure which Burma exports had reached five years ago, and are about 21 per cent. below the total exports of 1882. This reduction is mainly due to the drought of October and the storms of November 1883, whereby the crop was seriously damaged in some of the chief rice districts. The people of Burma are as a rule well enough off to keep ample supplies of food for home-consumption even in a year of short crops. About half the whole crop is exported in an average year; if the crop of the surplus districts is short (for example) 10 per cent., then the exportable surplus may be 20 per cent. short, and the home-consumption will not be appreciably diminished. Again, if the crop is 10 per cent. above the average, the exportable surplus might be nearly 20 per cent. larger than usual, because the home-consumption will remain the same. Now that the rice exports from Burma have fallen by over 100,000 tons two years running, merchants and millowners are naturally becoming anxious lest the producing and exporting power of Burma should be permanently falling off. As yet there is not sufficient reason to believe that a permanent diminution in the producing power of the country has occurred; but, until the provincial rice exports again reach nearly 1,100,000 tons in a single year, anxiety on this point cannot entirely cease.

\* The highest revenue rate per acre, except in the rich garden-lands round Rangoon, is 6s. per acre. The total land revenue demand is £690,474, and the total assessed area of cultivated land is 3,768,553 acres. This gives an all-round average rate of £18s. or 8s. 8d. per acre.

Moulmein until February 1884, when they were relieved by the 9th Regiment Madras Native Infantry. According to the returns the total number of troops of all arms in the province on the 31st March 1884 was 4,925 men, 1,679 being European and 3,246 Native troops. The actual net charges incurred on account of troops quartered in Burma during 1883-84 are returned at £274,475.

66. The Volunteer Corps in the province during the year consisted of the Rangoon Volunteer Rifle Corps with a company at Akyab and a company at Bassein, the Rangoon Volunteer Artillery Corps, the Burma State Railway Corps with headquarters at Rangoon, and outlying companies at Prome and Toungoo, and the Moulmein Volunteer Rifle Corps. The Akyab company of the Rangoon Rifles was formerly a corps in itself, but the numbers fell off through resignations and other causes, and it was decided during the year to reduce the corps to the status of a company and to attach it to the Rangoon Volunteer Rifle Corps. Affiliated to the last named are three companies of cadets. There is also a company of cadets at Akyab, and two are about to be raised at Moulmein. Sanction has also been given to the formation of a company of volunteers at Tavoy to be attached to the Moulmein corps. The nominal strength of the entire volunteer force at the close of the year was 602 men (of whom 517 were "efficient") and 209 cadets. The capitation-grants earned amounted to £1,472. The reports of the inspecting officers on the efficiency of these corps for the year were for the most part highly satisfactory and creditable to the members. This was especially so in the case of the Volunteer Artillery. For administrative purposes a half-company of volunteers, formed at Port Blair and styled the South Andaman Volunteer Rifle Corps, has been attached to the Rangoon Corps.

---

*Marine.*

67. Her Majesty's Indian Marine steamers *Enterprise* and *Irrawaddy* were stationed at Rangoon throughout the year on general administrative duty. It has recently been decided to reduce the establishment of the *Irrawaddy* and to attach her to the *Enterprise* as a tender.

Her Majesty's men-of-war *Arab* and *Briton* visited Rangoon and the Burma coast in January and February 1884. The United States vessel-of-war *Juniata* put in at Rangoon in August 1883.

---

#### IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

##### *Agriculture.*

68. In this chapter the subjects which the Government of India require to be treated in Agricultural Reports will be briefly mentioned in the prescribed order.

69. The only village records in Burma are the circle records in the hands of thugyis, or prepared by thugyis for record in the Deputy Commissioners' offices. Very much has to

##### *Village records.*

be done before every revenue circle is properly provided with a thugyi's office and cases for the safe custody of records. Where the supplementary survey is established, we are certain of obtaining and maintaining an accurate record, based upon the cadastral maps, of all changes and extensions of cultivation. The cadastral areas of kwins (villages) and of neighbouring fields prevent the supplementary survey maps from going far wrong; and the thorough inspection and testing by competent surveyors secures the detection of minor errors. Where we have no supplementary survey, the thugyis' records must often be inaccurate. Until the cadastral survey, followed by supplementary survey, has been extended to all the ten surplus rice districts, it will not be possible to report that matters are thoroughly satisfactory in Burma under this head. Improvement is being gradually secured, even in unsurveyed districts, by strict adherence to the rule which requires newly-appointed thugyis to possess certificates of ability to survey. The survey classes for thugyi cadets and others are effecting good, but the leaven of these classes has not yet spread into the smaller or less cultivated districts.

70. Happily famine does not occur in Burma, which annually exports about half its total yield of rice. There are no tracts where the revenue is recognized to be precarious.

##### *Famine and precarious revenues.*

The rules for remitting revenue on lands spoilt by floods or drought, and the rules allowing payment of the fallow-rate (8*d.* an acre, or about one-fourteenth of the usual revenue rate) to be paid on untilled fields, provide amply and liberally for cases of loss of crop and for cases where land is, for one reason or another, left uncultivated.

71. There is one fodder reserve near Rangoon, which was taken up and is kept for the use of the Commissariat Department.

##### *Fodder reserves and arboriculture.*

For the pasturage of village cattle grazing-grounds are being set apart in all districts to which the survey and settlement has extended. The business of demarcating these grazing-grounds is not completed in any district, and the selection of grazing-grounds is still going on. Next year complete figures will be furnished of the grazing-grounds selected and of those demarcated up to date. In the unsettled districts the grazing-ground question has been less systematically pursued; but there the available grazing in unreserved forests and savannahs is extensive, and therefore the matter is less pressing. In the small forest reserves, which abut on or are in the middle of rice plains, grazing is allowed to neighbouring villages on easy terms.

72. In other sections of this report is given a full notice of the existing means of communication by river, railway, canal, road, and sea.

##### *Extension of communications.*

73. Except in the Thayetmyo and Prome districts, and in a few valleys among the hills, the efforts of the people and of the Government are directed rather to keeping water off

##### *Irrigation.*

than to bringing it on to the land. Already about £350,000 have been spent on embankments designed to keep river-floods off rice-plains. Embankment works are still being prosecuted in the Bassein, Thongwa, and Shwegyin districts. In Bassein the design is to extend the Ngawun embankment some miles to the south and reclaim a tract which, according to the Revenue Officer's estimate, will

yield yearly £8,200 of land revenue within a few years after reclamation. The work will cost about £20,000. The tract to be reclaimed used to be the richest part of the Bassein district, before the Ngawun branch of the Irrawaddy assumed its present size. In Shwegyin the object is to safeguard the plains traversed by the new railway from the spill-water of the Sittang river. With the embankment will have to be combined a careful treatment of the drainage from the Yoma hills, from which the waters at present spread themselves over the plain without defined channels. When these works are finished, the lands on both sides of the Toungoo Railway ought soon to be turned into rice-plains, just as have been the wastes of Tharrawaddy within the last eight years. Care is being taken to keep a due proportion of forest reserve in this tract for the use of the rice-growing population of the future.

In parts of Prome and Thayetmyo dams for holding up water to irrigate small areas of rice-land are occasionally made by the people themselves, or by the Government. One of these dams, that had cost about £600 and irrigated 1,200 acres, burst this season and will shortly be repaired. Most of the schemes that are brought forward cost more than 30s. per acre commanded, if the work is done by Government Engineers; and no scheme that costs more than this figure is likely to be financially safe.

74. The chief Government farm is at Kyauktan, near Rangoon, where the Assistant Director of Agriculture has his headquarters. A small patch of experimental cultivation near Rangoon is managed by the Chemical Examiner, who is making careful experiments with different kinds of manure and dressing. There is also a farm attached to the Reformatory at Paungdè, and a small tobacco farm has been established at Ma-nbin in order to popularize tobacco-culture among the cultivators of the Thongwa district. On the Paungdè farm, partly in consequence of the character of the soil and partly because the supply of labour was insufficient, little success has as yet been attained.

75. The experiments this year with *wheat* have confirmed last year's deductions, namely, that wheat can be grown, but that its yield is uncertain and rarely heavy. It will not pay to grow wheat on land that can produce rice, but it may pay occasionally to grow wheat with tobacco, oilseeds, and such like crops on the alluvial lands (*churs*) left dry when the great rivers fall in November. No further way has been made with *jute*; and all the *jute* grown this (1884) autumn from Burma seed has been stunted and nearly worthless. The best hope for naturalizing and popularizing *jute*-culture in Burma is through the agency of Christian Karen villagers. The Rev. Dr. Vinton, American Missionary to the Karens, took this season, at the public expense, a small party of Karens to the *jute* districts of Bengal. They successfully learnt the processes for growing, steeping, and manufacturing *jute*; and Dr. Vinton is sanguine that next season the Karens will be able to grow *jute* at a profit. It remains to be seen how far this anticipation will be realized.

76. The people of Burma—men, women, and children—all smoke tobacco; the soil and climate are suited to the production of tobacco; and yet £390,000 worth of tobacco are imported annually into Burma, about two-thirds of the total import coming from Bengal and one-third from Madras. The extension of tobacco-culture and the adoption of improved methods of drying and curing tobacco have been among the chief aims of the Agricultural Department during the past year. Mr. Cabaniss, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, has himself grown and cured tobacco both in Virginia and in India. He has journeyed twice through the parts of Burma which now grow tobacco; he has distributed Virginia seed to cultivators, and has instructed them in the American system of drying the leaf. Briefly the difference between the two systems is this. The Burman cultivator dries his tobacco-leaf in the sun, and the process takes a few days only; under the American system the leaf is dried under cover, and the process takes as many weeks as the Burman process takes days. But the difference in price between sun-dried and shade-dried tobacco is that the latter fetches in Burma £7-10-0 per hundred viss, while the former fetches only £2-10-0 per

## II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

### Surveys, Settlements, and Waste Lands.

#### SURVEYS.

5. Three Cadastral Survey parties and one Topographical Survey party were at work in the province during the year. The Topographical party were engaged in mapping the forest reserves in order to facilitate the preparation of proper working plans of the State reserved forests. The work of this party cost £39 per square mile for a total outturn of 263 square miles. The outturn and cost of the Cadastral parties were as follows:—

Districts in which party worked.	TOTAL AREA CADASTRALLY SURVEYED.		Total cultivated area included in foregoing.	FIELDS CADASTRALLY SURVEYED.		Cost				Average total cost per acre, being column 10 divided by column 2.
	Square miles.	Acres.		Number.	Average area.	Of cadastral work.	Of advance survey.	Of revision survey.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Acres.		Acres.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.
Hanthawaddy and Pegu ...	555	374,334	96,622	247,512	0.25	10,600	4,504	2,139	16,943	0 10 1/2
Bassein and Housada ...	752	495,139	300,930	722,510	0.41	12,005	5,120	3,222	19,227	0 9 1/2
Prome and Akyab ...	406	250,288	209,713	642,551	0.32	3,234	5,464	1,912	10,610	1 2 1/2
Total for 1883-84 ...	1,713	1,119,761	597,265	1,612,573	0.37	31,469	14,818	6,273	52,560	0 11 1/2
Similar Total for 1882-83 ...	2,022	1,297,583	702,730	2,093,248	0.33	51,983	6,673	3,622	62,278	0 11 1/2

The outturn of work is less than and the cost per acre is about the same as in the preceding year. Some cost and some break of work were caused by the transfer of the Prome party to Akyab in the course of the year. The cost of the revision survey this year has been very heavy. The object of this revision work is to correct the cadastral records and maps up to the actual year of settlement. But the expense has proved so great that for the future it is proposed to require from cadastral parties revision work only for tracts or kwins (village areas) where alteration in holdings and extension of cultivation are known to be specially large.

6. The cadastral survey of the cultivated tracts

General progress of the Survey. is now complete in five out of the 10 surplus rice districts, namely,—

Hanthawaddy.  
Pegu.

Tharrawaddy.  
Prome.

Bassein.

The cadastral survey will be finished next season in Hensada, and it is progressing in Akyab. Owing to the great reduction in provincial funds, there is at present no apparent hope of the cadastral survey being carried into the three remaining surplus rice districts, namely,—

Thongwa.

Amherst.

Shwegyin.

Besides cadastral work the survey parties mapped 163 square miles of jungle country on the scale of two inches to the mile at a cost of £4 per square mile, and they prepared a map of a small detached tract of six square miles at a cost of £19 per square mile.

hundred viss (365lbs.). A limited number of old tobacco-growers on the bank of the Ngawun and the Irrawaddy have, under Mr. Cabanis' instruction, taken to the American system of drying. But the greatest extension of tobacco-culture has radiated from the Kyauktan farm, to which Burmese cultivators have come for seed, for seedlings, and for instruction in shade-drying and in curing from villages distant one, two, and three days' journey. Last season, within a small section of country round the Kyauktan farm, about 90 cultivators grew smaller or larger patches of tobacco, who had never grown tobacco in their lives before. Most of them made a good thing of it and got good prices for their leaf. Moreover they found that tobacco employed them just at a time when there was not much work in the rice-fields. It is expected that this season the breadth of tobacco in the country near Kyauktan will be doubled or trebled. In order to show how much better a price tobacco dried and cured on the American system fetches than Burman tobacco, a public sale of all the tobacco produced on the Kyauktan and Ma-ubin Government farms has been held in Rangoon. Forty-eight parcels of about 50lbs. each were sold, realizing an average rate of 1s. 8½d. per viss (8.65lbs.) as against 6d. per viss, the prevailing rate for ordinary Burma tobacco. The Kyauktan parcels ranged from 10½d. to 2s. 6d. per viss; and the Ma-ubin parcels from 1s. to 2s. It is hoped that the results of these sales will satisfy the Burman cultivators of the superior value of shade-dried leaf. Hereafter, when the improved system of drying and curing becomes more general, it will be possible for the Agricultural Department to arrange periodical sales of well-prepared tobacco in the Rangoon market. But the Burman cultivator at present is not quite satisfied about the new system of preparing tobacco, which occupies and keeps him out of his money some months longer than the indigenous system.

The tobacco farm at Ma-ubin, though successful so far as growth and preparation of leaf went, has not yet had much effect on the cultivators of surrounding circles in Thongwa. But the farm is being carried on again this season. The tobacco on the banks of the Kaladan was not a success. The tobacco therefrom proved too light and deficient in strength for the Rangoon market. The people of the Upper Kaladan valley entirely decline to approve or adopt the American and the Coconada systems of drying and curing. The tobacco farm in that quarter has been closed.

77. In experimental gardens at Mergui and Sandoway, near Toungoo, near Tavoy, and on the Kyaukpandaung hill, tea, coffee, cocoa, black-pepper, nutmeg, cinchona, and potatoes have all been tried. All these things will grow fairly well; in time perhaps some of them may become staple products of the province; but as yet none of them have been commercially successful, except perhaps potatoes, which are now being grown for the local market by Karens on the Toungoo hills. Mr. Petley, of the same region, is the only European planter who has stuck to planting work in Burma for several years together. His coffee, his tea, and his cinchona yields this year have covered the cost expended on their production.

Though Burma imports yearly many lakhs of rupees worth of sugar, and though sugarcane will grow without irrigation, there are only a few thousand acres under cane. Attempts are being made to promote the extension of this valuable product in the Bilin valley, where it is mainly followed, by improving the communications, by giving to sugar-cultivators advances, repayable with interest within the year, and by distributing improved cane-crushing mills. As yet the Behea mill has not been adopted by the Shan and Burman cultivators; but a member of Messrs. Mylne and Fox's Firm is coming from Shahabad this season to visit Bilin and to advise upon the best mode of promoting the sugar industry there.

78. The only implements, introduced by the Agricultural Department, that have yet found acceptance with the people are the Watt plough and the Kaiser plough; the former is preferred. These ploughs enable the rice-cultivators to break up their land several weeks earlier than they can do it with the ordinary Burman plough. Reaping-machines, rice-hulling machines, and all other ploughs or harrows that

yield yearly £8,200 of land revenue within a few years after reclamation. The work will cost about £20,000. The tract to be reclaimed used to be the richest part of the Bassein district, before the Ngawun branch of the Irrawaddy assumed its present size. In Shwegyin the object is to safeguard the plains traversed by the new railway from the spill-water of the Sittang river. With the embankment will have to be combined a careful treatment of the drainage from the Yoma hills, from which the waters at present spread themselves over the plain without defined channels. When these works are finished, the lands on both sides of the Toungoo Railway ought soon to be turned into rice-plains, just as have been the wastes of Tharrawaddy within the last eight years. Care is being taken to keep a due proportion of forest reserve in this tract for the use of the rice-growing population of the future.

In parts of Prome and Thayetmyo dams for holding up water to irrigate small areas of rice-land are occasionally made by the people themselves, or by the Government. One of these dams, that had cost about £600 and irrigated 1,200 acres, burst this season and will shortly be repaired. Most of the schemes that are brought forward cost more than 30s. per acre commanded, if the work is done by Government Engineers; and no scheme that costs more than this figure is likely to be financially safe.

74. The chief Government farm is at Kyauktan, near Rangoon, where the Assistant Director of Agriculture has his headquarters. A small patch of experimental cultivation near Rangoon is managed by the Chemical Examiner, who is making careful experiments with different kinds of manure and dressing. There is also a farm attached to the Reformatory at Paungdè, and a small tobacco farm has been established at Ma-ubin in order to popularize tobacco-culture among the cultivators of the Thongwa district. On the Paungdè farm, partly in consequence of the character of the soil and partly because the supply of labour was insufficient, little success has as yet been attained.

75. The experiments this year with *wheat* have confirmed last year's deductions, namely, that wheat can be grown, but that its yield is uncertain and rarely heavy. It will not pay to grow wheat on land that can produce rice, but it may pay occasionally to grow wheat with tobacco, oilseeds, and such like crops on the alluvial lands (*churs*) left dry when the great rivers fall in November. No further way has been made with *jute*; and all the *jute* grown this (1884) autumn from Burma seed has been stunted and nearly worthless. The best hope for naturalizing and popularizing *jute*-culture in Burma is through the agency of Christian Karen villagers. The Rev. Dr. Vinton, American Missionary to the Karens, took this season, at the public expense, a small party of Karens to the *jute* districts of Bengal. They successfully learnt the processes for growing, steeping, and manufacturing *jute*; and Dr. Vinton is sanguine that next season the Karens will be able to grow *jute* at a profit. It remains to be seen how far this anticipation will be realized.

76. The people of Burma—men, women, and children—all smoke tobacco; the soil and climate are suited to the production of tobacco; and yet £390,000 worth of tobacco are imported annually into Burma, about two-thirds of the total import coming from Bengal and one-third from Madras. The extension of tobacco-culture and the adoption of improved methods of drying and curing tobacco have been among the chief aims of the Agricultural Department during the past year. Mr. Cabaniss, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, has himself grown and cured tobacco both in Virginia and in India. He has journeyed twice through the parts of Burma which now grow tobacco; he has distributed Virginia seed to cultivators, and has instructed them in the American system of drying the leaf. Briefly the difference between the two systems is this. The Burman cultivator dries his tobacco-leaf in the sun, and the process takes a few days only; under the American system the leaf is dried under cover, and the process takes as many weeks as the Burman process takes days. But the difference in price between sun-dried and shade-dried tobacco is that the latter fetches in Burma £7-10-0 per hundred viss, while the former fetches only £2-10-0 per

hundred viss (865lbs.). A limited number of old tobacco-growers on the banks of the Ngawun and the Irrawaddy have, under Mr. Cabaniss' instruction, taken to the American system of drying. But the greatest extension of tobacco-culture has radiated from the Kyauktan farm, to which Burmese cultivators have come for seed, for seedlings, and for instruction in shade-drying and in curing from villages distant one, two, and three days' journey. Last season, within a small section of country round the Kyauktan farm, about 90 cultivators grew smaller or larger patches of tobacco, who had never grown tobacco in their lives before. Most of them made a good thing of it and got good prices for their leaf. Moreover they found that tobacco employed them just at a time when there was not much work in the rice-fields. It is expected that this season the breadth of tobacco in the country near Kyauktan will be doubled or trebled. In order to show how much better a price tobacco dried and cured on the American system fetches than Burman tobacco, a public sale of all the tobacco produced on the Kyauktan and Ma-ubin Government farms has been held in Rangoon. Forty-eight parcels of about 50lbs. each were sold, realizing an average rate of 1s. 8½d. per viss (865lbs.) as against 6d. per viss, the prevailing rate for ordinary Burma tobacco. The Kyauktan parcels ranged from 10½d. to 2s. 6d. per viss; and the Ma-ubin parcels from 1s. to 2s. It is hoped that the results of these sales will satisfy the Burman cultivators of the superior value of shade-dried leaf. Hereafter, when the improved system of drying and curing becomes more general, it will be possible for the Agricultural Department to arrange periodical sales of well-prepared tobacco in the Rangoon market. But the Burman cultivator at present is not quite satisfied about the new system of preparing tobacco, which occupies and keeps him out of his money some months longer than the indigenous system.

The tobacco farm at Ma-ubin, though successful so far as growth and preparation of leaf went, has not yet had much effect on the cultivators of surrounding circles in Thongwa. But the farm is being carried on again this season. The tobacco on the banks of the Kaladan was not a success. The tobacco therefrom proved too light and deficient in strength for the Rangoon market. The people of the Upper Kaladan valley entirely decline to approve or adopt the American and the Coconada systems of drying and curing. The tobacco farm in that quarter has been closed.

77. In experimental gardens at Mergui and Sandoway, near Toungoo, near Tavoy, and on the Kyaukpandaung hill, tea, coffee, cocoa, black-pepper, nutmeg, cinchona, and potatoes have all been tried. All these things will grow fairly well; in time perhaps some of them may become staple products of the province; but as yet none of them have been commercially successful, except perhaps potatoes, which are now being grown for the local market by Karens on the Toungoo hills. Mr. Petley, of the same region, is the only European planter who has stuck to planting work in Burma for several years together. His coffee, his tea, and his cinchona yields this year have covered the cost expended on their production.

Though Burma imports yearly many lakhs of rupees worth of sugar, and though sugarcane will grow without irrigation, there are only a few thousand acres under cane. Attempts are being made to promote the extension of this valuable product in the Bilin valley, where it is mainly followed, by improving the communications, by giving to sugar-cultivators advances, repayable with interest within the year, and by distributing improved cane-crushing mills. As yet the Behea mill has not been adopted by the Shan and Burman cultivators; but a member of Messrs. Mylne and Fox's Firm is coming from Shahabad this season to visit Bilin and to advise upon the best mode of promoting the sugar industry there.

78. The only implements, introduced by the Agricultural Department, that have yet found acceptance with the people are the Watt plough and the Kaiser plough; the former is preferred. These ploughs enable the rice-cultivators to break up their land several weeks earlier than they can do it with the ordinary Burman plough. Reaping-machines, rice-hulling machines, and all other ploughs or harrows that

have been tried have been disapproved by the cultivators. Threshing and winnowing machines, worked by man-power, have for some time been used by a few cultivators round Rangoon; but a really handy, economical rice threshing and winnowing machine, that shall at the same time bruise the straw so as to make it fit for fodder, has yet to be found.

79. The buffaloes and plough-cattle of Burma are of finer stamp and are generally in better condition than the same animals in most parts of India. This may be partly due to the Burmans—after the fashion of most Buddhists—abstaining from milk, and partly to the good fodder which is abundant during a great part of the year. Nothing has yet been done to introduce improved bulls; and the sires of all the oxen born in Burma are usually young steers of three years old before they are turned into plough-bullocks. Buffalo sires are often kept entire to a much riper age. The herds of British Burma are reinforced yearly by large importations from the kingdom of Ava. In parts of the Bassein, Tharrawaddy, and Amherst districts cattle-disease in a very fatal form prevailed during the year. Passed pupils of the Rangoon veterinary school were deputed to these tracts and were able to save many valuable animals. Forty-four Burman and Karen pupils have obtained certificates at the school; and 29 of these certificated men are posted as cow-doctors at different places in the interior. The good effect of the school will only be felt gradually, as the cultivators learn from the certificated pupils to keep their cattle better. Cattle-disease of a very virulent type prevailed in Ava; and the number of hides brought down by steamer last May was 100 per cent. above the number in the corresponding month of 1883. There was a fear lest the imported cattle should bring the disease into British territory. But on enquiry it appeared that cattle-disease was not nearly so rife on the frontier as it was in the interior districts mentioned above; the Ava authorities had oftentimes tried to prevent exportation of cattle into British territory; and exostulations had been made regarding such attempts. On the whole it seemed that any embargo or quarantine enforced on cattle-importations from Ava would do more harm than good; and so the cattle trade has gone on without apparent injury to the herds in British territory. The question whether, either by supplying sires or by instituting cattle shows, anything should be done to improve the plough-cattle of the province has recently been raised by the Commissioner of Pegu, who advises that cattle-breeding is more important to the people of Burma than pony-breeding.

80. The supply of ponies for Burma has in past years come mainly from the Shan States, subject to or in rebellion against the King of Ava. For some years past Arab stallions have been stationed in the drier districts of the Pegu division for the service of pony mares. The progeny of these sires is now coming into the market and commands high prices. From £20 to £30 has been repeatedly given for colts or fillies got by Government stallions under one year. Consequently the people, especially near the towns where stallions are kept, are buying and keeping mares to an extent unknown before. Every Government stallion has quite as much employment as he can properly undertake; and there is work for more as soon as they can be afforded. The breeding of mules for military purposes has not yet been tried; Burma pony mares are rather small to produce mules of the size required; and when enquiry was made as to the possibility of mule-breeding, it was found that in some districts donkeys were quite unknown.

81. In other paragraphs of this Report are given the chief agricultural and fiscal statistics of the year. But in this section it may be well to mention that the total cultivated area of British Burma is estimated at 4,146,321, as follows:—

	Acres.
Total area assessed and cultivated	8,768,553
Total area assessed and left fallow	197,768
Cultivated area not assessed, or not fully assessed at present	180,000
Grand Total	<u>4,146,321</u>

Of this total 3,662,808 acres are under rice. Thus the land and cultivating power of Burma are devoted to a single staple to an extent unknown in other parts of the Empire. The average yield of rice in the husk (paddy) per acre is computed at 32 baskets (1,600lbs.) per acre. The selling price of paddy in the villages last season averaged about £7 per hundred baskets, so that the average value of the yield of an acre of rice was £2-5-0. The average\* land revenue rate per acre is about 3s. 8d. per acre; thus the land revenue demand comes to about one-twelfth of the value of the total rice-yield. On garden-lands the proportion of the land revenue to the value of the gross produce is much smaller.

82. It may be well to note briefly some of the chief statistics of the rice trade. The total yield of the rice-lands of British Burma in an average year is about 2,615,930 tons of paddy, equal to 1,935,788 tons of cargo rice. The requirements of the province are, approximately, as follows:—

	Tons of cargo rice.
Food for 4,384,000 people at one ton of cargo rice to five persons	867,000
Seedgrain at 50lbs. paddy per acre on 3,662,808 acres=81,747 tons of paddy, equal to	60,000
Food for elephants and cattle, about 30,000 tons of paddy, equal, in round numbers, to	90,000
Total consumption of province (about)	947,000

If this calculation is approximately correct, there should be in ordinary years about 988,000 tons of cargo rice available for export, on the assumption that stocks remain generally at about the same figure. The total exports by sea and by river have been for the past seven years, as returned by Messrs. Bulloch Brothers:—

EXPORTS OF CARGO RICE FROM BRITISH BURMA IN  
TONS TO

Year.	Europe and America.	India, China, and Straits.	Upper Burma.	Total.
1878	552,898	236,566	53,323	842,787
1879	609,233	193,056	41,837	844,126
1880	684,070	165,771	5,677	855,518
1881	754,467	164,714	5,243	924,424
1882	801,639	238,227	39,764	1,079,630
1883	754,414	156,390	37,840	948,644
1884	(Estimate for two months and actuals for ten months). 640,000	118,000	96,000	854,000

Thus, although the area under rice increases by nearly 100,000 acres a year, the rice exports of the present year have fallen to the figure which Burma exports had reached five years ago, and are about 21 per cent. below the total exports of 1882. This reduction is mainly due to the drought of October and the storms of November 1883, whereby the crop was seriously damaged in some of the chief rice districts. The people of Burma are as a rule well enough off to keep ample supplies of food for home-consumption even in a year of short crops. About half the whole crop is exported in an average year; if the crop of the surplus districts is short (for example) 10 per cent., then the exportable surplus may be 20 per cent. short, and the home-consumption will not be appreciably diminished. Again, if the crop is 10 per cent. above the average, the exportable surplus might be nearly 20 per cent. larger than usual, because the home-consumption will remain the same. Now that the rice exports from Burma have fallen by over 100,000 tons two years running, merchants and millowners are naturally becoming anxious lest the producing and exporting power of Burma should be permanently falling off. As yet there is not sufficient reason to believe that a permanent diminution in the producing power of the country has occurred; but, until the provincial rice exports again reach nearly 1,100,000 tons in a single year, anxiety on this point cannot entirely cease.

\* The highest revenue rate per acre, except in the rich garden-lands round Rangoon, is 6s. per acre. The total land revenue demand is £690,474, and the total assessed area of cultivated land is 3,768,553 acres. This gives an all-round average rate of £1-13s. or 3s. 8d. per acre.

83. So far the markets of the world have been able to take all the rice Burma can export, and other sources of supply are not as yet injuring Burma trade. The chief other countries of rice-supply are—

*Bengal*, with a yearly export of nearly 500,000 tons, the amount of which shows a tendency to decrease rather than increase, and of which less than 150,000 tons goes to Europe;

*Saigaon*, with a yearly export of 514,000 tons, which has increased 75 per cent. during the last 12 years. From Saigaon in 1884 about 110,000 tons of rice have gone to Europe as compared with an average of 2,000 tons during the previous three years;

*Bangkok*, with a yearly export of about 200,000 tons, which has increased 27 per cent. during the last 12 years. In the years 1879 and 1880 an average of 50,000 tons of rice went to Europe. Since 1880 Bangkok sent no rice to Europe until the present year, when it has sent a moderate quantity, of which precise figures are not yet available.

The Saigaon and Bangkok rice fetches in Europe 25 per cent. less than Burma rice. Even in 1882, the year of Burma's largest exports, the rice mill-owners and their constituents in Europe or elsewhere were ready to take every pound of rice that came to market. At the average price of the present year (7 shillings per cwt. f. o. b.) the export duty of 4½d. per maund adds 6·6 per cent. to the price of the milled cargo rice. At present the rice merchants of Burma are not pressing for the abolition of the rice duty. Freight to Europe are now from 20 to 35 shillings lower than they were in 1881-82; and 20 shillings saved on freight enables the millowner to pay from 12 to 15 per cent. more for the paddy he may buy. It is best for traders, and for producers too in the long run, that prices should be moderate and should leave a fair margin of profit for miller and exporter. During the past two years prices of paddy have ruled at rates that left small (and sometimes no) margin of profit for shippers, save at smaller ports like Akyab and Bassein, where paddy prices were kept down by a combination among export houses.

#### Weather and Crops.

84. The rainfall of 1883 in some districts was below the average, and in other districts its distribution was fitful and unfavourable. For the ten chief rice-producing districts the rainfall of the seasons of 1883, as compared with the mean rainfall of those seasons in former years, was as follows:—

#### Rainfall in Inches.

	JANUARY TO MAY.		JUNE TO SEPTEMBER.		OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.		TOTAL.	
	1883.	Mean.	1883.	Mean.	1883.	Mean.	1883.	Mean.
Akyab ...	19·11	14·85	151·91	166·50	16·44	16·66	187·46	198·01
Hanthawaddy ...	11·70	18·91	59·52	74·65	11·12	12·01	82·34	100·57
Pegu ...	18·51	10·35	101·10	112·67	18·73	14·45	128·34	187·47
Tinawaddy ...	6·97	12·09	81·40	76·68	16·30	9·30	106·27	98·07
Prome ...	6·32	7·08	34·58	38·67	12·80	7·22	53·48	52·97
Thongwa ...	9·62	10·40	65·77	71·78	12·25	10·12	94·64	93·25
Bassein ...	5·97	10·12	76·77	79·72	22·52	11·59	106·82	101·44
Honnada ...	5·27	7·47	71·46	82·91	10·10	6·67	88·66	77·25
Amherst ...	16·31	22·67	145·98	166·22	8·99	9·99	166·28	190·08
Shwegyin ...	16·71	15·01	112·94	116·20	9·03	18·02	139·66	144·23

The rainy season began early and was favourable during June, July, and August. In the latter half of September the rain was below the average in some districts; and on the higher lands the crops suffered. In the last two weeks of October the rainfall was deficient all round. In the third week of November, which is usually a bright week, suitable for the ripening grain, came a cyclone and

a heavy downpour, reaching to 14.89 inches in the Bassein district, as compared with an average of less than quarter of an inch during the same week in the previous year. The storm-waves driven up by the cyclone did harm to crops on the seafaces of Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Bassein, Hanthawaddy, and Amherst; unusual floods and the heavy rain injured the rice-fields over considerable areas inland. Notwithstanding these local disasters the rice looked well over the greater part of the country; it was known that the area of cultivation had extended; and a good crop was expected. But after the harvest the grain threshed out very light; and the injury from sea waves and inland floods proved greater than had been supposed. Thus the total yield of the crop of January 1884 was decidedly short. Prices at the seaports, however, ruled high; the high prices in great measure compensated the cultivators for the short yield; and they met their revenue and other liabilities without difficulty. The exportable produce of rice for 1884 fell short by more than 220,000 tons of the surplus actually exported from the bumper crop of January 1882.

#### Horticulture.

85. The funds of the Agri-Horticultural Society and of the Phayre Museum at Rangoon are in a satisfactory condition. Both institutions are managed by a council independent of the Government; but they receive small annual grants from provincial funds, and from the Rangoon Municipality, as Burmans and other Natives do not evince a desire to become members of the Society or to further its objects. The Society has during the year kept the grounds and gardens in a satisfactory state; it has added largely to the buildings and animals of the zoological branch; it has built and is stocking a commodious library, of which a large gift of valuable books from Sir Arthur Phayre is the nucleus; and it has prepared a large hall on the groundfloor for the Economic Museum. To the cost of the additional buildings the Government and the Municipality both contributed. Among the other transactions of the Society during the year may be noted—

the usual distribution of imported seeds to members and to market-gardens;

the holding of a vegetable and flower show at Rangoon;

the distribution of seeds and seedlings of Liberian and Arakan coffee, besides many other fruits, shrubs, and flowers;

the procuring and distribution of potato and maize seed;

the raising of mulberry, ceara, mahogany, thea, divi-divi, *musa textilis*, besides roses and many other ornamental shrubs and plants.

The increase of paying visitors to the Phayre Museum and zoological collection, from 190,934 in the year 1882 to 212,808 in the year 1883, shows that the popularity of the institution continues. Besides the above number of visitors who pay an admission fee of one pice per head, Buddhist monks (*pôngyis*) and children are admitted free.

86. The attempt to establish coffee plantations on the hills south of Tavoy has failed. Either the rainfall (220 inches) is too heavy, or the soil is not favourable, or the summer (January to April) is too dry, or the right people did not come. One planter is still persevering near Tavoy, but his success is not yet assured. Mr. Petley and the Catholic missionaries have succeeded with coffee, tea, cinchona, and potatoes in the Toungoo hills. Mr. Petley had an outturn of 8,000lbs. of coffee, 800lbs. of tea, and 700lbs. of cinchona bark. All were good of their kind and realized a fair price. Karens of the Toungoo hills have learnt how to grow potatoes, and have obtained seed from Mr. Petley; they now grow potatoes for the Toungoo demand, but the potatoes are of small size. The only tea garden in Arakan, that on the Mountjoy estate, has about 150 acres under tea. The bushes were allowed to remain unplucked last season.

87. The cultivation of oranges, plantains, pineapples, mangosteens, dorians, and other tropical fruits has received much impetus from the demand created by railways and steamers which carry produce to different markets. In the country near Moulmein, where

Fruit culture.

oranges chiefly flourish, orange-groves are spreading rapidly. The weekly steam packet from Moulmein brings over large cargoes of these fruits, which find their way to inland markets by railway. In consequence of the spread of good vegetable seeds by the agency of the Agri-Horticultural Society, fine tomatoes, shaddocks, and many other improved vegetables and fruits are now to be found at most of the market towns in the Pegu province.

#### Forests.

88. Two-hundred and forty-five and a half square miles of new reserves were formed during the year, and at its close the reserved area amounted to 8,846½ square miles exclusive of 412 miles set apart for the use of Karen taungya-cutters as shown below:—

					AREA IN SQUARE MILES.		
					Forest Area.	Karen areas.	Total.
Tenasserim circle	...	...	...	...	707½*	12	719½
Pegu circle	...	...	...	...	2,689†	400	3,089
Total					3,846½	412	3,758½

In the Pegu circle proposals were in a more or less advanced state for the reservation of about 1,000 square miles, of which some 18 square miles consist of catch reserves in the Prome district. In the Thayetmyo district it is now proposed to create village catch forests, and areas are being selected for the purpose. The west side of the Henzada district, where it touches on Arakan, was examined during the year by the Divisional Officer with a view to the selection of teak reserves.

89. The length of boundaries of reserved forests demarcated in the Pegu circle to 31st March 1884 was 1,596 miles, and 228 miles still remained to be marked off on the spot. A sum of £509 was expended in the erection of new and the repairing of old boundary marks. In Tenasserim circle £144 were expended. During the year the boundaries of the Mintha reserve were finally demarcated at a cost of 18s. 2d. per mile. The length of boundary so demarcated was 65 miles, in which are included 14 miles of boundary line of area set apart for Karens.

90. The forest survey work of the season was started on the 8th December 1883 and lasted to 16th May 1884, when the rains set in and stopped it. The operations of the detail survey were carried on in the Thônzè, Kôn Bilin, Kadin Bilin, Mòkka, and Minhla reserves, all of which, except a small portion of the Minhla reserve, were completely surveyed on the 4-inch scale. The total work done was 221 miles of reserve on the 4-inch scale, besides 52 miles on the 2-inch scale, of unreserved forest. The total cost of several processes of survey on the 4-inch scale appears to be £32, and on the 2-inch scale £17-10-0 per square mile. The total outlay of £10,385 divided by the total outturn of 277 miles completely surveyed gives an average cost of £37-10-0 per square mile. The cost of survey in 1883-84 was swelled by an item of £600 for the purchase of elephants.

91. By the Working Plans Division were collected all the data required for a working plan of the Thônzè reserve (108.9 square miles). A complete valuation of the forest was made with the result that the quantity of mature teak was found to have been over-estimated by the linear survey system formerly employed. The rate of growth of a number of teak trees was tested by Pressler's growth-gauge, and it was found that a diameter of two feet was attained on the average in 106 years in moist and in 188 years in dry forest. The cost of preparing the working plan amounted to

\* Includes 20 square miles added to area of West Mèpalè reserve after survey.

† Includes 89 square miles added to area of Thônzè reserve after survey.

£14 per square mile, but it is hoped that in future the work will proceed more rapidly and will cost only about half that sum. Last year the health of the establishment was very bad.

92. The number of prosecutions for forest offences has considerably increased. In the Tenasserim circle a series of serious timber thefts came to light, and special agency has since been employed, at the urgent request of timber importers, to keep down this kind of crime. In the Pegu circle a large number of petty offences were compounded for money payments as allowed by law.

93. In Tenasserim the arrangements for the protection of reserves against fire were successful in the case of 64,020 acres out of an area of 78,452 acres of which the protection was attempted. The outlay involved was £311. The dry season was unusually prolonged and many fires occurred.

Better results attended the fire-protection measures in the Pegu circle. Out of 104,755 acres, the protection of which was attempted, 102,984 acres, or 98 per cent. of the whole, were successfully protected at a cost of £1,086, or an average of 2½d. per acre. Numerous fires occurred however. Some of them were trifling, and in the case of others the fire was promptly suppressed. The only really serious disaster happened to the Chaungzauk reserve, in which three fires occurred and 200 acres of plantation were injured in addition to other damage.

94. No expenditure was incurred during the year on the three small teak plantations in the Ataran and Salween divisions; their area remains as before at 23 acres, and it is not intended to enlarge them. Fifty acres were added to the area of the Magayi plantation at a cost of £81; of these 30 acres cleared and planted by Shans succeeded admirably, the work costing on an average £1-6-2 per acre. The other 20 acres were cleared partly by the steam tree-feller and partly by coolie labour, but only about 16 acres were planted; of these about 10 acres were found at the beginning of 1884 to be fully stocked with teak plants. The cost of the work was very high however, averaging £4-4-4½ per acre; this high rate was apparently due to the use of the tree-feller. The regular teak plantations in the Pegu circle now cover an area of 3,612 acres, apart from taungya plantations.

95. Greater progress was made in the Tenasserim circle than in the year before with the cultivation of teak by the taungya system. The area planted during the year was 158 acres, of which 130 acres are fully and the remainder partially stocked with plants, at an average cost of £1-5-8½ per acre. This is a little higher than the cost of the work in the year before. The taungya teak plantations in Tenasserim now cover 1,547 acres, of which 908 are fully and 639 imperfectly stocked with young teak. In the Pegu circle 959 acres were added to the area of taungya teak plantations at an average cost of 19s. 9½d. per acre. The greatest success seems to have been met with in Tharrawaddy. The total area in the circle is now returned as 4,463 acres.

96. Besides the cultivation of purely teak taungya plantations, about 81 acres were planted up with cutch by the same system in the Chaungzauk reserve, Prome division, besides the 162 acres of teak already alluded to. The cost of this particular operation, which was successful, was only 10s. 5½d. per acre, or little more than half the average cost of the general teak taungya-cultivation in the circle for the year. Satisfactory results also attended the planting of 124½ acres with cutch in two of the Tharrawaddy reserves. The cost in this case was 16s. 1½d. an acre.

The total area planted up on the taungya system during the year was thus 1,164 acres, or nearly the average amount of 1,200 acres which Mr. Brandis recommended should be attempted annually. In 1881-82, 635 acres and in 1882-83, 808 acres were planted.

97. Teak-girdling operations in the Tenasserim circle were suspended throughout the year. Some hundreds of trees of other kinds were girdled, principally *pyinma*, and the girdling of teak has since been resumed. In Pegu 16,305 teak trees were girdled,

also a large number of pyinma trees, and some trees of other varieties. Of the teak trees girdled 6,700 were standing inside reserves.

98. The forest revenue of the year amounted to £250,928 compared with £250,889 in 1882-83. In the Pegu circle there was an increase in revenue of £22,490, while in Tenasserim there was a decrease of £11,952. The receipts under each head for the two years are shown in the following table:—

	1882-83. £.	1883-84. £.	Increase or decrease. £.
From timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency ... ..	202,291	196,753	- 5,538
Timber ... ..	16,627	20,800	+ 4,173
From timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers. (Firewood and charcoal ... ..)	270	123	- 147
(Bamboos ... ..)	604	452	- 152
(Grazing and fodder grass ... ..)	17	16	- 1
(Other minor produce ... ..)	8,018	8,911	+ 893
Confiscated, drift, and waif wood ... ..	12,822	16,657	+ 3,835
Duty on foreign timber and other foreign produce... ..	6,987	4,022	- 2,965
Miscellaneous ... ..	2,708	3,194	+ 486
Total ... ..	250,889	250,928	+ 39

The expenditure of the year compared with that of 1882-83 was as follows:—

	1882-83. £.	1883-84. £.
(A) Conservancy and works ... ..	97,375	93,971
(B) Establishment ... ..	25,521	27,811
	122,896	121,782

The net revenue of the respective years was—

	1882-83	1883-84
1882-83 ... ..	127,494	
1883-84 ... ..		129,145

There was (amongst other reduced expenditure) a large saving in the estimated expenditure in Tenasserim on account of the short receipts of timber from the Government forests. A decrease also occurred under the same head in Pegu, but this was merely due to a quantity of the timber brought to depôt not having been paid for when the year closed. There was nothing special or unusual in the expenditure under other heads.

99. The following statement shows the quantity of timber, both teak and other sorts, brought out from British forests during the year:—

	Teak.	Other kinds.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
By Government agency... ..	34,404	5,587	39,941
By purchasers and under trade permits ... ..	2,507	66,048	68,555
Under free permits ... ..	887	572	909
By leaseholders ... ..	3,200	1,252	4,452
Total ... ..	40,448	73,409	113,857
Outturn of 1882-83 ... ..	48,826	50,171	98,497
Increase in 1883-84 ... ..	7,878	23,238	15,360
Decrease in 1883-84 ... ..			

These figures show a decrease of 7,878 tons of teak on the quantity brought out in 1882-83, due partly to diminished yield from the Tenasserim forests and partly to the neaping of a large number of logs on the Pegu side, where the rainfall was deficient at an important crisis of the floating season. The failure to extract so much teak has caused a serious loss of revenue; for the neaped logs, when brought to market in 1894-95, will fetch 40 per cent. less than they would have fetched last year before the fall in prices. The increase in the quantity of "Other kinds" of timber removed by purchasers and under trade permits was a consequence of the high rates ruling for teak.

## SETTLEMENTS.

7. In the Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Bassein, and Tharrawaddy districts settlement work is practically finished; it will soon be ended in the open tracts of Prome; there are two

Seasons' work left in Henzada, and the settlement has just been begun in Akyab. Up to the present time (November 1884) revised assessments have been sanctioned for tracts that used to pay £238,985 of land revenue, and the increase of revenue as yet realized has been £9,328, or 3.9 per cent. This increase is considerably short of what had been at one time anticipated; but in some tracts a summary enhancement of 25 per cent. all round had been made on the land revenue one year before the settlement began, and the maximum rates sanctioned at the settlement are not yet levied. The total expenditure on survey and settlement work from February 1879, when the operations began, up to the end of March 1884 has been as follows:—

					£.
Cadastral survey	...	...	...	...	232,718
Settlement	...	...	...	...	114,889
Total					<u>347,607</u>

The cost of completing the work for the open tracts of the ten surplus rice districts would probably raise the total cost to £600,000, or about one year's land revenue of the districts surveyed and settled. In the settled districts large areas of hilly country, of woodland, of swamp, of savannah, and of tidal forest, have been or will be omitted from the cadastral survey. They will have to be mapped by some less costly method of survey hereafter, in order to complete the geographical material of the province.

8. The revised assessments, sanctioned in 1884 and taking effect from the

Sanctioned assessments of 1st July of the present year, gave the following fiscal results:—

	Old land revenue.	Revised assessments		Increase or decrease.
		At maximum rates.	At rates now to be levied.	
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Hanthawaddy	28,842	25,867	28,808	+ 460
Pegu	17,483	20,380	17,831	+ 343
Tharrawaddy	17,106	23,404	23,404	+ 6,298
Bassein	11,704	12,019	11,552	- 152
Total	<u>69,635</u>	<u>81,670</u>	<u>76,595</u>	<u>+ 6,960</u>

The new rates are to stand for 15 years, except in one tract of Bassein, where floods prevail and where an embankment is to be made. In this exceptional tract a reduced rate has been sanctioned for five years in the hope that before that time the embankment will be finished and the tract will recover. The total cultivated area as disclosed by the survey and settlement exceeds the area returned by the thugyis in the year next preceding the settlement by—

15 per cent. in Hanthawaddy and Pegu.  
35 per cent. in Bassein.  
80 per cent. in Tharrawaddy.

9. The percentage of cultivated land held by under-tenants of the cultivators is as follows:—

Sub-tenants.	Percentage of paddy land held by sub-tenants.	Average incidence of land revenue per acre.		Average incidence of payments made by sub-tenants per acre.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Hanthawaddy and Pegu	17	4	0	7	8
Bassein	11	8	2½	6	7½
Tharrawaddy	7	2	9	8	8½

A good deal of the land returned as held by tenants is occupied by relatives of the owners, and in such cases the tenant merely pays the revenue. The ordinary rule of the country is for the tenant to pay the revenue and cesses, and further to pay the landholder 10 per cent. of the gross produce by way of rent; this rent payment, so calculated, may be valued at about two-thirds of the revenue. Thus

*Mines and Quarries.*

100. The earth-oil industry in the Kyaukpyu district has not made much progress during the year. The Boronga Company have invested in the business more largely than any one else; they have steam machinery for sinking wells and pumping oil; they have a large refinery, capable of refining and tinning many thousands of gallons per week; they have a staff of eight or ten English and Canadian artificers besides Indian and Chinese labourers.

101. During the past year this Company sank eight new wells ranging from 500 to 610 feet in depth; they have now 24 wells, of which the deepest is over 1,200 feet deep. At present they pump nine wells at a time, but with additional gear they could pump many more with the same engine. In May and June 1883 one of the Company's new wells was yielding largely, and there seemed hope of financial success for the undertaking. But the yield of the well soon fell, and the amount of crude oil pumped during the whole year by the Company from 10 wells did not exceed 234,300 gallons. Of this the Company refined 65,450 gallons and sold the rest in the crude state. The gross yield of the Company's sales was about £6,000. Their markets were Calcutta, Rangoon, Akyab, and Moulmein. The Company's refined oil sold at 9s. per case in Kyaukpyu, at the same time that a case of Devoo's American oil was quoted in Calcutta at 10s. 6d. per case. The price of crude oil at Kyaukpyu ranged during the year from 1s. to 8s. per maund of 11 gallons. The lower prices of 1s. to 4s. ruled while the wells were being pumped, and the price was 8s. when most of the wells were idle.

102. Another Company, named the Arakan Company, started during the year with steam machinery. They sunk seven wells, the deepest of which was 400 feet. Five of these wells have been pumped, yielding a total output of 107,800 gallons, all of which was sold on the spot in the crude state. This Company have a staff of three Canadians besides Indians. A smaller Company, called the "Petrolia Company," obtained a prospecting license and sank 10 wells, some of them to a depth of 450 and 500 feet. Unfortunately all these holes have turned out dry and have yielded no oil. The example and the processes of Canadian experts have had an effect on the Native oil-winners. These people hold rights in old wells which have been worked fitfully for many years past. They do not use steam apparatus; but with windlasses, sheers, and locally-made boring tools they have put down holes of 250 and 350 feet deep. The deepest hole sunk by a Native was 350 feet and turned out dry. One Arakanese worker got a total output of 24,090 gallons at an outlay of £76 for the year; another got 20,075 gallons at a total outlay of £84 for the year, of which £10 were spent in boring an old well down to 165 feet without striking oil. The Arakanese workers put down their wells and manage their proceedings much more economically than the English Companies. The total output of the whole field, including the Boronga Company's wells, was 404,325 gallons. The unhealthiness of the site of the refinery is a great drawback to the Boronga Company's work. As yet no one in the Kyaukpyu field has discovered oil-bearing strata of the type of the good American or of the Caspian field, and so far the business of oil-winning on a large scale has not been a success.

103. The imports of crude oil from Upper Burma during the year were 968,210 gallons. Most of this was taken by the Rangoon refinery, which produced 640,000 gallons of refined oil during the year. The Upper Burma oil is much thicker and darker coloured than the Arakan oils. The chief oil sources in Upper Burma are at Yenanchaung, visited by the Government Chemical Examiner in May last, who reported—

"The oil-wells of Yenanchaung are situated on the banks of the creek that flows into the Irrawaddy at that place. There are two groups, the smaller about two miles east of the town, the other about three miles north-east. The country is a tableland intersected by ravines, the beds of torrents flowing into the creek. The surface is covered with gravel and blocks of fossil wood. Below is a great thickness of a friable sandstone, below this again a blue shale alternating with beds of sand. It is in the sand that the oil is found. The wells are sunk indifferently on the sides of the ravines and on the tops of the hills. The strata appear to dip generally towards the west with many folds and contor-

tions, and the ravines run in a westerly direction. Hence a well at the head of a ravine, on the top of the hill, may reach the oil-bearing stratum as soon as one at the bottom. We saw a well being dug at the top of the hill. They had reached a depth of 135 feet. They were cutting through a hard blue shale full of cracks filled up with sand. The sand was wet with oil, but not enough to drain out. Another well, about 50 yards off in the ravine, was 225 feet deep. It was 40 years old, oil had been reached at 160 feet, and it had been gradually deepened to its present depth as the stratum of shale had been exhausted of oil. We saw some fragments of rock that had just been brought up. It was this same hard blue shale with cracks filled up with sand that we had seen at the other well. Going down the ravine I found a stratum of this oil-bearing rock cropping up but apparently higher than that into which the wells were sunk. This was the only well we saw at work, the others were stopped for the day. It gave 60 gallons daily and might give more were there means of carrying away the oil. The oil is raised in earthen pots shaped like a gourd holding about four gallons; from these it is decanted into larger pots of the same shape holding about six gallons. Ten or twelve of these make a cartload estimated at 60 gallons. The work of raising the oil was performed by a labourer and his wife, who were paid 1 shilling per diem, 6 pence each. They work in connection with a carter, who is paid 2 shillings for himself and pair of bullocks making one trip a day to the river shore, whence the oil is carried in bulk in boats to the steamers. The capacity of the boats is said to be about 25 tons of oil.

"The method of raising the oil is very rude. Two forked branches set upright carry a horizontal beam bearing a roller over which passes the rope. The labourer takes the end of the rope and runs downhill with it and holds it while his companion runs down with another length, and so on. While the last length of rope is being drawn out, one of the men is waiting at the mouth of the pit to exchange the full pot for an empty one.

"It is impossible to say what the real maximum yield may be. Many of the wells are not worked; some of them are exhausted. We found that there were 130 cartloads brought from the great wells, and this represented the accumulation of five days. Dr. Oldham, thirty years ago, was told that the yield was 150 carts daily. If the wells are worked to their utmost now, unless Dr. Oldham was misinformed, the productiveness has greatly fallen off.

"We were told that two wells had been sunk at a point to the south-west of the smaller wells on the other side of the watershed, that oil had been obtained but it was mixed with water, and the wells had been abandoned. I think it very probable that oil-bearing strata may be found all over that strange barren tableland of which Yenanebung is the centre. There is a smaller oil district further up the river on the west bank opposite Pagan, but the oil is light like the Arakan oil. This is also the case with the oil found at Yaw in the Chindwin district. It is obtained there from surface springs but cannot be exported for want of roads. The rock formation seems to be much more recent than that in which we find the petroleum of Yenantaung in the Myanaung district and the coal of Okpo. The imports of kerosine oil from America fell from 2,530,534 gallons in 1882-83 to 1,205,160 gallons in the year 1883-84. The reduction was probably due partly to over-supply in the previous year and partly to the stringency of the new Petroleum Act, rather than to the output of local oils. The Petroleum Act is now less stringently worked, and imports of American petroleum are now brisker again."

104 During the year the exploration of the coal-fields near Okpo in the

Coal-mining.

Henzada district was undertaken by Government. The works were carried on by convicts. The experiment was abandoned on account of the unhealthiness of the locality. Until the country shall have been opened out and further facilities for carriage provided, there is no prospect of the coal in Henzada being profitably worked. Near Thayemyo operations for the extraction of coal are being carried on by private enterprise. As yet no quantities of coal have been obtained, but experiments have shown that the quality of the outturn is good. A mining lease has been granted to the promoter who is sanguine of success.

105. A lease of a tract of hill country at Titawle in the Salween district

Lead-mining.

(Tenasserim) has been granted for the purpose of lead-mining. That lead exists in considerable quantities has been ascertained. The only drawbacks are the cost of labour and the difficulty and expense of providing carriage. A trustworthy forecast of the prospects of the enterprise cannot yet be made.

#### Manufactures.

106. The past year has been a busy one with the art-workmen of Burma,

Measures for the encouragement of Art-industries.

for not only had examples of the chief arts to be got ready for the Calcutta Exhibition, but the many orders received there have had to be carried out.

The local Government decided to use the opportunity afforded when collecting for the exhibition to develop a scheme for fostering the art-industries of the province, and the following measures have been taken or are proposed.

In Burma, owing to the absence of caste, the son does not as a rule take up the handicraft of the father, and dexterity in a particular trade is not handed down the generations as it is in India. There are also no patterns of form nor details of ornament obligatory on the Burman, and he does what is most pleasant or most easy to himself. It would be dangerous to establish a regular school of art; the result might be a sameness of style and an ultimate loss of originality, and the chances are that the art would turn into a manufacture.

It has been thought better to adapt the principle of patron and artist to the conditions of modern times, and fortunately there are no private interests in the way for there are no art-dealers in Burma. The best work in Europe, the best work in Japan, the best work in India has been done for wealthy patrons, and it has been found that there are many people in India and in England willing and even anxious to employ the few good workmen of Burma without much restriction as to price and time. Orders for nearly £2,000 of work have come in on these terms since the Exhibition and every month brings in fresh ones.

It is necessary to watch over the artist and keep the standard at least at its original excellence, and to effect this local exhibitions are held every six months at which the articles ordered in India compete for money prizes. The workmen are jealous of their reputation and strive their utmost to better their places on the graded lists of honour. The Burmese public, too, are interested, and correspondence has appeared in the Native papers on the subject of the awards.

This feeling of interest, both of the artist and the public, appears likely to become permanent, and it is hoped that some day the artists themselves will take up the work now being done under Government and will incorporate themselves into a society or guild which will protect their art and their prices from the wholesale dealer, who has ruined so many art-industries by ordering hundreds of cheap and mean imitations of the beautiful and patiently worked out masterpieces of former days.

But before the Burmans can form such a society it will be necessary for them to have amongst them men who can appreciate what is beautiful in their own work and who will have strength of character to raise the standards of artistic excellence; and it is also desirable that the headmen of guilds should be able to correspond in English. It is proposed to educate the artists to this by offering free art-scholarships to boys who have passed the middle standard in English. In this the principal municipalities will probably help, and we may soon hope to have paid apprentices working with each master workman of position. Another means of education has been adopted, namely, to send picked workmen to exhibitions where they may see what is beautiful in the arts of other countries and learn to appreciate the value of their own quaint productions. To further this object a copy of the *Indian Art Journal* is given to every medallist in Burma together with a criticism in Burmese of each object illustrated. The men are beginning to understand that the value of their work depends on its Burmese characteristics, and will not attempt to copy or in any way imitate the designs of India.

107. All the industries described in last year's report were represented at the exhibition and many workmen won medals; notably the silversmiths with two gold and two silver medals, the jewellers with a gold and two bronze medals, and the wood-carvers with one gold, two silver, and a bronze medal. The gorgeous decoration of the Burma court, together with the quaint, and in some instances beautiful, exhibits attracted much notice both from the public and the art-critics. The latter were most struck with the delicacy of the filigree jewellery in ruddy gold, and with the luxuriant foliage of the wood-carving. They were astonished at the way in which the Burman artists employed in decorating drew sweeping scrolls of foliage and with their taste in adapting ornament to its position. The

public appeared to be most impressed with the quaint characteristics of our art and were especially pleased with the *kalagas*, or cloth hangings, stretched round the court as a frieze. The Burmese artists who were taken to the exhibition learnt most from the Japan court and from the clay figures from Lucknow. They seemed unable to appreciate the beautiful colour harmonies of Indian fabrics. The total value of the articles exhibited was £5,500. The articles made expressly for the exhibition cost £750 and were to the order of the Government of Bengal, the local Administration, and the Rangoon Municipality. The other exhibits were either loans from the people of Burma (Moulmein sending the most valuable) or things sent for sale. The cost of freight, insurance, and decoration came to about £500.

### Commercial Marine.

108. The following table shows the total number and tonnage of vessels engaged in the foreign trade of this province during each of the past six official years:—

Year	Vessels.	Tons.
1878-79	1,282	906,766
1879-80	1,382	1,177,933
1880-81	1,507	1,293,031
1881-82	1,768	1,492,584
1882-83	1,799	1,573,830
1883-84	1,345	1,231,790

It will be seen that in 1883-84 there was a large decrease in the shipping employed in this branch of the trade, due in a great measure to depression in the rice trade, a short crop in Pegu, and diminished shipments of rice. The number and tonnage formed 25·25 per cent. and 45·98 per cent. respectively of the total number and tonnage employed in the entire provincial trade (both foreign and coasting).

109. The subjoined statement gives particulars of the vessels which entered and cleared at each port of the province from and to foreign countries during the official year 1883-84:—

Ports.	ENTERED						CLEARED						
	With cargoes.		In ballast.		Total.		With cargoes.		In ballast.		Total.		
	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	
Rangoon	Steam	119	107,899	59	76,421	171	184,316	175	196,713	...	...	175	196,713
	Sailing	81	84,874	98	80,910	179	165,484	189	154,377	1	786	170	155,063
Akyab	Steam	...	...	99	35,602	99	35,602	81	37,517	...	...	81	37,517
	Sailing	3	2,284	53	47,995	56	49,470	54	56,211	...	...	64	56,211
Bassein	Steam	...	...	25	21,547	25	21,547	31	40,375	...	...	31	40,375
	Sailing	4	5,117	40	41,499	44	44,616	46	47,408	1	871	47	48,279
Mergui	Steam	18	7,142	1	194	19	7,336	18	6,797	...	...	16	6,797
	Sailing	13	744	...	...	13	744	15	837	...	...	15	837
Moulmein	Steam	48	36,621	20	26,625	68	63,246	59	58,791	...	...	59	58,791
	Sailing	4	711	93	19,577	97	20,288	11	22,082	...	...	31	22,082
Tavoy	Steam	12	5,357	3	741	14	6,098	9	4,082	3	1,054	11	5,086
	Sailing	20	2,349	3	193	23	2,474	26	2,837	...	...	26	2,837
Total	Steam	198	157,009	136	171,490	321	328,499	328	334,225	2	1,054	321	335,279
	Sailing	180	96,872	216	189,304	346	285,176	331	282,179	2	1,057	333	284,236

110. To the gross tonnage above recorded the percentage proportion contributed by each port is given below, the percentages of 1882-83 being also noted for comparison:—

Port	1882-83.		1883-84.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rangoon	...	...	58·25	56·14
Akyab	...	...	11·58	14·52
Bassein	...	...	18·25	18·88
Moulmein	...	...	14·67	13·88
Mergui	...	...	1·04	1·28
Tavoy	...	...	1·21	1·80

111. From the statement given below it will be observed that there was a decrease in both steamers and sailing vessels during the year of review, but that while the former declined in comparison with the previous year in number 14·89 per cent. and in tonnage 11·75 per cent., the latter fell off 32·79 per cent. and

Decline in traffic by steamers and sailing-vessels.

30·87 per cent. respectively, thus showing to what a great extent sailing-vessels are being replaced by steamers :—

	Steamers.		Sailing vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1877-78 ... ..	428	261,178	919	658,994
1878-79 ... ..	523	370,263	760	536,503
1879-80 ... ..	697	608,801	685	574,132
1880-81 ... ..	746	657,506	761	635,525
1881-82 ... ..	918	840,880	850	651,704
1882-83 ... ..	759	752,186	1,040	821,642
1883-84 ... ..	646	663,778	699	568,013

111a. The United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements continue to absorb the bulk of this tonnage as will be seen from the accompanying table, which shows the proportion of the tonnage engaged in the direct trade with each principal foreign country :—

	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ... ..	47·62	42·83	34·26	32·05
France ... ..	·44	...	·46	...
Germany ... ..	1·54	1·10	1·29	1·44
Holland ... ..	·17	·11	·32	...
Italy ... ..	·81	·10	·48	·61
Mauritius ... ..	·21	·06	·99	·73
Central and South America ... ..	1·23	1·27	3·96	4·99
Ceylon ... ..	2·44	2·52	4·11	4·89
Siam ... ..	·17	·21	·29	·27
Straits Settlements ... ..	25·36	29·95	29·95	28·17
Australia ... ..	·10	...	3·12	2·45
Other countries ... ..	20·41	22·35	20·82	24·40
Total ... ..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

112. From the following statement of the steam traffic *via* the Suez Canal to and from this province during each of the last four years it will be seen that there was a fair increase in the year of report :—

	1880-81.		1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.	
	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.
	Entered ... ..	41	51,942	79	94,796	47	64,563	47
Cleared ... ..	157	184,178	159	186,784	154	189,485	167	219,519
Total ... ..	198	236,120	238	281,580	201	254,048	214	288,231

The gross tonnage shown above for 1883-84 formed 42·67 per cent. of the total steam tonnage engaged in the foreign trade in that year. The entries and clearances by this route recorded at each provincial port during the past two years are given below :—

Ports.	1882-83.				1883-84.			
	Entries.		Clearances.		Entries.		Clearances.	
	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.
Bangoon ... ..	36	50,030	68	85,486	39	52,853	90	121,861
Akyab ... ..	6	7,181	43	51,586	8	4,111	29	35,701
Bassein ... ..	4	5,857	26	33,077	4	5,470	31	40,873
Moulmein ... ..	1	1,495	17	18,786	1	1,268	17	21,562

113. The nationalities of the vessels employed in the foreign trade during each of the past four official years and the proportions in which these nationalities contributed to the gross foreign tonnage are given below :—

Nationalities of vessels engaged in the foreign trade.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
British and British Indian (including Native craft)...	79.88	74.83	62.66	68.57
Italian ...	6.43	10.98	11.88	11.61
German ...	6.89	6.50	12.61	9.29
Norwegian ...	3.10	4.59	6.60	5.11
American ...	3.86	.58	.49	.07
French ...	.73	.87	.86	1.84
Swedish ...	.25	.49	1.27	1.20
Russian ...	.14	.59	.80	.84
Dutch ...	.09	.21	.41	.20
Danish ...	...	.17	.22	.10
All others ...	.14	.70	1.14	1.67

Except in two or three instances, the falling off in tonnage is shared by each of the nationalities given in the table.

114. The number of vessels and their tonnage employed in the coasting trade of this province during the past official year formed 74.75 per cent. and 54.02 per cent. of the totals engaged in the entire provincial trade. The following are the figures for the past five years :—

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1879-80 ...	4,194	1,462,060
1880-81 ...	3,951	1,288,125
1881-82 ...	3,622	1,146,914
1882-83 ...	3,967	1,423,919
1883-84 ...	3,981	1,447,855

In this branch of the shipping also the figures for the past two years only are comparable for reasons assigned in paragraphs 229 and 237 of the Report for 1882-83. From the statement furnished above it will be seen that during the year of report there was an increase of fourteen vessels and in tonnage 23,436, the coasting trade having improved during that year.

115. The following table gives separately the figures for steamers and sailing-vessels (distinguishing Native craft) for each of the past six years :—

	Steamers.		Sailing-vessels.		Native craft.	
	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.	V.	Tons.
	1878-79 ...	1,706	921,868	858	371,753	1,892
1879-80 ...	1,834	1,177,840	477	227,064	1,833	57,756
1880-81 ...	1,692	1,010,819	372	169,595	1,837	57,721
1881-82 ...	1,688	978,593	319	110,151	1,815	58,165
1882-83 ...	2,056	1,269,739	238	101,020	1,623	53,160
1883-84 ...	2,068	1,307,025	298	86,896	1,620	53,484

Of the gross tonnage employed in the trade coastwise, steamers represented 90.31 per cent., sailing-vessels 6.00 per cent., and Native craft 3.69 per cent. The proportions in 1882-83 were steamers, 89.17 per cent.; sailing-vessels, 7.10 per cent.; and Native craft, 3.73 per cent.

116. The figures in the following table denote the extent to which the several ports of the province participated in the total coasting tonnage recorded during each of the last three official years :—

Share of each port in the gross coasting tonnage.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bangkok ...	40.02	49.56	49.49
Akyab ...	16.66	12.28	12.55
Bassein ...	4.43	2.75	3.16
Kyaukpyu ...	6.86	7.70	7.59
Mergui ...	2.83	2.94	2.88
Moulmein ...	25.02	20.08	19.32
Tavoy ...	4.29	4.74	5.01

117. Of the nationalities of vessels employed in this trade, British and British Indian bottoms represented in the year of report 95.61 per cent. of the total tonnage, Native craft 3.69 per cent., and foreign and foreign Indian .70 per cent., while the percentage proportions in the year immediately preceding were 95.03, 3.73, and 1.24 respectively.

118. Only two small vessels, with an aggregate burthen of 161 tons, were built at Rangoon and Moulmein during the year under review. In the previous year seven, with a total tonnage of 285, were constructed at Rangoon, Moulmein, and Tavoy. The facilities for trade afforded by steamers is evidently interfering with the coasting traffic by small Native craft, which ply only in the north-east monsoon. Six vessels of 748 tons were first registered in the ports of the province in 1883-84 against eight of 1,000 tons in the year immediately preceding.

119. The ocean mail services were the same as those of the preceding year. Communication with Calcutta, Madras, and the Straits was maintained by the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company and with Port Blair by those of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company. The service was in both cases performed with regularity and gave general satisfaction. The mail contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company came to an end on the 30th April 1884. A new contract has been entered into between the Imperial Government and the Company, which provides for a new and smaller programme of services for Burma. The rate of speed of the steamers between Calcutta and Rangoon has been raised from 8 knots to 10 knots an hour. A separate local service has been arranged for the Arakan ports and another for the Tavoy and Mergui coasts of the Tenasserim division. For each of these the local Government will pay a moderate subsidy to the British India Steam Navigation Company. The river steamers in Arakan ran throughout the year. The traffic was not sufficiently remunerative to cover all expenses, but the steamers have done much good in improving the means of communication with Akyab. The steam-launch services organized in the Amherst district in the preceding year were maintained satisfactorily, and for a moderate addition to the subsidy a line of launches now runs twice a week on the Ataran and Gyaing rivers.

120. In addition to the seven lighthouses already existing and the light shown from the *Colombo* at the Krishna shoal, a fixed bright dioptric light of the 5th order was exhibited for the first time on the 16th July 1883 from the new lighthouse on Reef island at the mouth of the Tavoy river. This light stands for the present on a temporary platform about 19 feet high and 306 feet above high-water mark. It will shortly be replaced by a masonry or concrete structure some 28 feet high. The light is visible from the navigable approaches of the Tavoy river over an arc of 180 degrees from north through west to south for a distance of 12 miles. It is in charge of four lightkeepers. A new lightvessel having been built for service at the Krishna shoal, it is proposed to utilize the *Colombo* (at present doing duty at the shoal) near the Spit buoy at the mouth of the Rangoon river as a lightvessel to enable steamers to move up and down the river at night. This service will cost about £50 a month, payable from provincial funds.

121. The supervision of the lighthouses was throughout the year effective and satisfactory. No accidents or disasters occurred during the year, and beyond a little sickness at the Alguada Reef lighthouse and fever at Reef island the lighthouse establishments enjoyed good health. Some weeks after the end of the year the Oyster Reef screw-pile lighthouse, with all hands, was lost in a cyclone.

122. Periodical visits were made at short intervals throughout the year to the various lighthouses by the steamer *Enterprise*, and in February 1884 each lighthouse was carefully examined and thorough repairs carried out where they were required.

123. The whole of the lighthouses in the province, both coast and port, are now maintained from provincial funds. The receipts during the year on account of light dues amounted to £17,298 compared with £19,798 in 1882-83. The decrease is most marked at Rangoon, where the receipts fell from £10,971 to £8,491. There was also a small decrease at Moulmein and Bassein. In the maintenance of the various lights and the lightvessel *Colombo*, £14,837 were expended. In this sum are included £1,735 on account of the construction of the Reef Island

lighthouse, Tavoy river, and also a sum of £2,450 paid towards the cost of building the new lightvessel for the Krishna shoal. The ordinary charges were thus £10,652 against £9,989 in 1882-83.

124. The year was singularly free from shipping casualties. The only serious accident was the wreck of the Austrian barque *Erminia J.* in the harbour of Akyab. The loss of this vessel was due to rashness and incompetence on the part of the master of the vessel. Numerous slight grounding and trifling harbour collisions occurred at Rangoon, but in no case was a pilot punished. At Bassein and Moulmein several cases occurred of vessels grounding slightly. These cases were unimportant and no damage resulted.

Wrecks and casualties.

125. A port fund is maintained at each of the ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Bassein, Akyab, Kyaukpyu, Tavoy, and Mergui. The most important is that at Rangoon, which is controlled by a body of Commissioners. The fund had an income during the year of £69,810 compared with £76,689 in 1882-83, and on the maintenance and improvement of the port £75,525 were spent as compared with £75,167 in that year. The income of the year was adversely affected in several ways. Fewer vessels entered the port than in 1882-83. This reduced the receipts from port dues and the fees for the services of harbour-masters. Port light dues on account of the China Buckeer and Eastern Grove lights were also abolished. The principal works and improvements carried out during the year consisted of the extension of two wharves by 48 feet each, the erection of various godowns, the making of roads, reclamation of the river bank and construction of a river wall. On these objects £18,478 were expended during the year. The fund is entirely free from debt and has carried out many works from current revenue. As this practice tends to keep port charges at a level which may bear hardly on the present generation, the Port Commissioners have agreed to raise by loans the funds needed for various important works which they propose undertaking for the benefit of the port. The aggregate income of the other six ports was £14,780, or £1,183 less than 1882-83. Of this decrease £352 are due to the discontinuance from 1st April 1883 of the port light due of 1½d. charged formerly at Akyab on account of the Savage Island lighthouse, the maintenance of which now falls on provincial funds. The receipts from port dues at Moulmein also fell off by £718, owing to a decrease in the trade of the port during the year. The expenditure from these six port funds in 1883-84 came to £17,558 against £34,274 in 1882-83. At Akyab £2,512 were paid towards the cost of the new iron pier which is now nearly completed, and £1,549 were paid towards the cost of the steam-lighter *Dolphin*, built in Calcutta for the use of the port. To meet the outlay incurred on the new pier and the cost of additions to the bazaar pier, a loan of £8,000 had to be granted by Government to the port fund, to be repaid from the earnings of future years. £720 were contributed to the Akyab Municipality and £144 towards the maintenance of the general hospital.

Port funds.

126. During the year numerous surveys were made of different parts of the Rangoon river by the Deputy Port Officer, special attention being given to the Chokey Point lumps. Charts of the survey made of these last in June 1883 were printed and distributed widely amongst pilots and others interested. A tidal post was also placed on Chokey Point to indicate the state of the tide to pilots in charge of passing vessels, and leading marks and beacons were erected during the year at several points where the navigation is difficult. The river channel buoys were personally overhauled by the Deputy Port Officer, and three extra buoys were laid during the year to mark the boundaries of the western channel, the middle bank and the Syriam flat in the Pegu river. No marine surveys were undertaken either at Bassein or Moulmein. The river buoys at Bassein were all inspected and two new ones laid on the ridge shoal. The Lady Clifford channel in the Moulmein river improved considerably during the year. Tidal observations were recorded throughout the year at Rangoon. The observatory worked satisfactorily. The tidal observatory which formerly stood at Elephant Point was replaced on

Marine surveys and tidal observatories.

a better site in January 1884. It is in charge of a trained clerk under the supervision of the telegraph master at the station. The tidal observatories at Moulmein and Amherst also worked well during the year.

127. At Rangoon 17 European and one Native pilots were in the service at the beginning of the year. Two of the Europeans were dismissed and one died during the year. Of two additional Europeans admitted during the year one subsequently resigned. At Bassein there were seven Europeans and two Native pilots. At Moulmein eight European and eight Native pilots were employed. Two of the former left the service during the year. At Akyab there were five European pilots as in the preceding year. The pilotage work of the year was free from any serious accidents and the behaviour of the pilots as a body was generally satisfactory. The Burma Pilots Act did not come into force until 1st September 1884. Much discussion of the proposed rules under the Act for Rangoon was found necessary, but they have now been settled and brought into force. Rules for the other ports are at present under consideration.

### Trade.

#### I.—SEABORNE TRADE.

128. The value of this branch of the trade for 1883-84 was but little less than that for 1882-83, the decrease in the private traffic having been but £9,458, notwithstanding that the exports of rice between the 1st April 1883 and the 31st March 1884 were 220,499 tons less than in the 12 months preceding, and that the transactions on account of Government fell off to the extent of £139,583. The following statement contains the figures under the major heads for the last two years:—

Description of trade.	1882-83.			1883-84.				
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.		
PRIVATE.	Foreign ...	Imports...	3,723,048	49,844	3,772,887	3,807,498	34,444	3,841,942
		Exports...	7,082,614	6,911	7,089,525	6,573,499	2,698	6,576,187
	Coasting ...	Imports...	3,066,591	2,408,969	5,475,560	3,505,953	1,360,830	5,466,783
		Exports...	1,804,557	714,470	2,519,027	2,146,817	760,861	2,907,678
	Total ...		15,626,805	3,175,194	18,801,999	16,033,707	2,758,833	18,792,540
	GOVERNMENT.	Foreign ...	Imports...	180,580	...	180,580	117,262	...
Exports...			45	...	45	81	...	81
Coasting ...		Imports...	168,850	85,300	204,350	134,478	46,450	180,928
		Exports...	44,112	92,807	136,919	36,351	47,189	88,990
Total ...			393,687	128,706	521,794	288,622	93,589	393,211
GRAND TOTAL ...			16,019,892	3,308,901	19,323,793	16,322,329	2,852,422	19,174,751

129. It will be observed that in *Merchandise* the only head under which there was a decrease in comparison with 1882-83 is that of foreign exports. This was of course due to the diminished shipments of rice. The increase in exports coastwise made up, however, more than three-fourths of the falling-off in the foreign trade. In imports

there was a slight increase in the foreign trade and a decided improvement in the coasting branch. But the markets were overstocked and were in a depressed state during most of the year. The transactions in specie were on a more limited scale; but the decrease is not so great as might have been expected from the large falling-off in the shipments of rice. Prices for paddy ruled high throughout the year and the demand for specie was therefore great.

130. In consequence of smaller imports of military stores, liquors, and manufactured iron for building purposes from England, the value of the foreign trade decreased very considerably. There was also a decrease in the trade coastwise,—in imports owing to diminished receipts of opium and metals from Indian ports, in exports to more limited transactions between the provincial ports. The transfers of Government specie were almost entirely confined to the province, there having been no large shipments to Calcutta as in previous years.

Government transactions.

131. The following statement shows the private trade with countries beyond the limits of this province during each of the past seven official years:—

Years.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.			Difference.
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
1877-78...	4,340,748	2,414,900	6,755,738	6,556,145	348,052	6,902,227	146,489
1878-79...	5,809,088	1,621,150	6,930,183	7,058,618	561,881	7,619,994	689,808
1879-80...	5,813,216	1,708,425	7,111,641	7,035,157	1,014,194	8,049,351	937,710
1880-81...	6,801,764	1,824,803	7,626,567	7,702,907	680,618	8,383,525	756,958
1881-82...	5,705,280	959,388	6,664,663	7,407,408	711,608	8,118,916	1,454,253
1882-83...	6,069,488	2,143,697	8,233,180	8,181,104	899,707	8,580,511	847,681
1883-84...	6,525,595	1,731,794	8,247,389	7,992,189	371,962	8,364,101	116,712
Total...	39,585,124	11,984,243	51,569,366	51,983,473	4,085,452	56,018,925	4,449,559

On the transactions in merchandise the difference in favour of the province in the seven years is over £12,000,000, while the imports of treasure have exceeded the exports by nearly £8,000,000.

132. The percentages contributed by the several branches of the trade are given in the following statement for each of the past two official years:—

		MERCHANDISE.			TREASURE.			GRAND TOTAL.		
		Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1882-83	Foreign	19-81	37-40	57-21	26	04	80	20-07	37-44	57-51
	Coasting	16-20	9-60	25-90	12-79	3-80	16-59	29-09	13-40	42-49
	Total	36-11	47-00	83-11	13-05	3-84	16-89	49-16	50-84	100-00
1883-84	Foreign	20-26	34-98	55-24	18	02	30	20-44	35-00	55-44
	Coasting	18-66	11-42	30-08	10-43	4-05	14-48	29-09	15-47	44-56
	Total	38-92	46-40	85-32	10-61	4-07	14-68	49-53	50-47	100-00

133. The quantities and values of the more important articles imported on private account from all countries during the last two years will be found detailed in the statement given below.

Details of private import trade.

an ordinary Burmese tenant has to pay 66 per cent. above the revenue rate of the land he rents. On large grants, under the old waste-land rules, tenants are sometimes of long standing; and as yet the rents per acre paid by such tenants to grantees are lower than the total payments made by the sub-tenants of ordinary landholders.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY.

10. The Supplementary Survey starts with the cadastral maps and the settlement assessment-roll as its basis, and its business is to correct the cadastral maps and the assessment-rolls year by year, so as to present a faithful record of all changes or extensions of cultivations, of the revenue demandable year by year from each landholder, of the results of fluvial action or road operations. The Supplementary Survey, while going over the lands of every village in order to obtain these details, is able to collect and furnish accurate agricultural statistics of many kinds.

Without a Supplementary Survey the fiscal and other advantages of a Cadastral Survey would be lost after a few years. By means of the Supplementary Survey the Government will be able—without any further costly survey—to revise the land revenue assessments at the end of the 15 years for which the present settlements are sanctioned. The Supplementary Survey work is performed by the thugyis and their assistants under the supervision of a staff of paid Inspectors and Superintendents. Supplementary Survey was last year prosecuted in the four districts of Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Tharrawaddy, and Bassein. This year it will be extended to Henzada and Prome.

11. Twenty-six circles came under the Supplementary Survey in Hanthawaddy. The total increase in area disclosed by the Supplementary Survey was 11,731 acres, yielding an increase of £1,775 in revenue. Only 11 grazing-grounds were demarcated during the year. The cost of the Supplementary Survey was £1,684 during the year, besides the outlay by the thugyis. Boundary marks in the surveyed tracts have been examined; in many places the marks had been knocked down by cattle and have been put up again.

12. In the Pegu district 19 circles were under Supplementary Survey. Grazing-grounds have not yet been properly demarcated. The total cost of the Supplementary Survey was £1,433.

13. In the Tharrawaddy district 17½ circles came under Supplementary Survey. All boundary marks in the settled circles have been examined and where broken have been repaired. Out of 163 proposed grazing-grounds 94 have been finally sanctioned and demarcated.

14. In the Bassein district 34 circles have come under supplementary survey. The cost of the supplementary survey during the year was £1,330.

15. Among the miscellaneous statistics collected by the Supplementary Survey may be cited the following:—

	TENANT-OCCUPANCY.				Proportion of cultivated land that is held by sub-tenants.	TRANSFER OF LAND BY SALE.		Average selling price per acre.
	Number of tenants.	Average area of tenancy.	Incidence of rent, &c., per acre.	Incidence of land revenue only.		Number of cases.	Area in acres.	
Hanthawaddy	1,715	21	11·	6·	9·0	634	12,465	15·66
Pegu	915	23	10·	4·4	6·9	751	23,647	19·80
Tharrawaddy	1,238	24	9·6	4·2	7·6	581	8,712	20·4
Bassein	932	12	9·	5·4	4·1	401	5,352	8·5
		Acres.	s.	s.	Per cent.			s.

Articles.	Denominations.	1882-83.		1883-84.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£.		₹.
Apparel (including haberdashery) ...	Value	..	186,995	...	172,695
Candles of all sorts ...	lbs.	993,942	84,514	996,498	87,460
Canes and rattans ...	Cwt.	13,881	12,605	17,319	15,025
Coals ...	Tons	100,085	156,955	92,446	129,396
Cotton twist and yarn ...	lbs.	7,976,412	610,229	7,326,444	546,831
Cotton piece-goods (excluding handkerchiefs) ...	Yards	60,244,178	1,064,887	64,800,529	1,159,896
Cotton handkerchiefs, &c. ...	No.	3,927,718	60,095	3,876,300	51,931
Dyeing and colouring materials ...	Value	...	17,782	...	18,636
Earthenware and porcelain ...	"	...	78,518	...	94,217
Glass (including beads, &c.) ...	"	...	87,718	...	60,822
<b>Jute—</b>					
Manufactures of—					
Gunny-bags ...	No.	13,315,767	358,412	10,055,764	277,543
Leather and manufactures of ...	Value	...	24,096	...	23,440
<b>Liquors—</b>					
Ale, beer, and porter ...	Gallons	244,640	59,262	248,212	60,927
Spirits ...	"	248,796	166,929	187,877	87,163
Wines and liqueurs ...	"	83,650	29,671	29,657	24,109
Other sorts ...	"	984	346	344	121
Machinery and mill-work ...	Value	...	95,802	...	137,879
<b>Metals—</b>					
Brass ...	Cwt.	4,998	83,863	6,558	44,979
Copper ...	"	5,075	85,225	6,906	42,847
Iron ...	"	166,470	124,740	216,234	189,064
Steel ...	"	6,344	6,323	9,987	8,601
Tin ...	"	887	4,920	1,759	9,481
Zinc or spelter ...	"	3,108	5,355	8,250	11,953
Oils ...	Gallons	3,797,062	261,390	3,024,926	266,896
Provisions ...	Value	...	397,123	...	442,632
Salt ...	Tons	43,314	98,885	50,410	114,677
Seeds ...	Cwt.	98,079	71,501	232,701	170,056
Silk (raw) ...	lbs.	225,550	146,514	265,016	172,497
Silk piece-goods ...	Yards	5,841,321	623,636	6,208,338	666,995
Spices (betelnuts) ...	lbs.	25,344,732	275,761	22,875,349	308,780
Sugar ...	Cwt.	99,196	135,982	90,110	118,563
Tobacco ...	lbs.	19,072,882	898,231	21,129,570	389,384
Umbrellas ...	No.	925,788	40,395	1,131,798	49,024
<b>Wool—</b>					
Manufactures of—					
Piece-goods (excluding shawls) ...	Yards	1,601,597	241,334	1,057,212	264,601
All other articles ...	Value	...	1,015,321	...	1,146,881
<b>Total</b> ...	...	...	6,789,635	...	7,313,451

In comparison with the year immediately preceding there was a satisfactory increase on the aggregate of upwards of £520,000, there having been an enhanced trade in most of the articles enumerated. The only marked decreases were in coal, cotton twist and yarn, gunny-bags, spirits and wines, and sugar.

134. From the undernoted statement of the principal goods exported by private persons, it will be observed that while the shipments of cotton, cutch, and teak again increased largely, those of grain and pulse (chiefly rice) declined in a far greater proportion, causing a reduction in the total value of the trade of over £115,000, or 1.82 per cent., in comparison with 1882-83 :—

Articles.	Denomination.	1882-83.		1883-84.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£.		£.
Caoutchouc (raw) ...	Cwt.	881	11,606	1,000	13,486
Cotton (raw) ...	"	51,448	96,872	95,965	193,739
Drugs and medicines ...	Value	...	14,888	...	4,255
Fruits and vegetables ...	"	...	11,600	...	16,670
<b>Grain and pulse—</b>					
Gram ...	Cwt.	52,519	12,272	57,626	11,145
Rice in the husk (paddy) ...	"	230,621	82,107	185,766	19,680
Rice not in the husk ...	"	21,440,905	5,669,671	17,127,783	5,264,319
Wheat ...	"	26,180	7,755	1,424	655
Pulse ...	"	76,761	18,649	28,291	7,194
Other sorts (excluding flour) ...	"	811	123	627	312
<b>Gums and resins—</b>					
Cutch and gambier ...	Cwt.	278,241	358,357	325,123	376,205
Hides (raw) ...	Cwt. & No.	60,929—537,036	169,775	52,809—490,245	158,755
Horns ...	Cwt.	6,273	15,247	5,710	14,864
Ivory (unmanufactured) ...	lbs.	16,314	3,118	16,278	8,857
Jewellery (precious stones, &c.) ...	Value	...	980	...	405
Lac (all kinds) ...	Cwt.	4,426	9,022	4,451	7,785
<b>Metals—</b>					
Copper ...	Cwt.	858	1,917	408	1,034
Lead ...	"	690	819	1,504	1,600
Tin ...	"	661	3,167	1,459	8,241
Oils (mineral) ...	Galls.	734,011	35,097	602,198	39,550
Spices ...	lbs.	2,457,770	25,383	2,160,169	24,245
Stones (jade) ...	Cwt.	4,169	90,090	3,845	81,296
Tobacco ...	lbs.	1,911,730	41,546	2,182,487	39,596
<b>Wood—</b>					
Teak ...	C. Tons	150,416	1,806,867	158,074	1,586,189
Other timber ...	Tons	5,113	24,251	6,818	31,335
All other articles ...	Value	...	781,062	...	808,832
<b>Total Merchandise</b> ...			8,837,170		8,720,256

135. The aggregate value of the private trade in merchandise carried on with foreign countries declined to the extent of £374,720, or 3·48 per cent. in comparison with 1882-83. The falling off was altogether in the export branch, imports having increased £84,455, or 2·27 per cent. The following table exhibits the totals of each of the last two official years:—

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
1882-83	3,728,048	7,082,614	10,755,657
1883-84	3,807,498	6,673,439	10,380,937

From the fluctuations noted below it will be observed that the majority of the principal articles contributed to the increase in the import trade, and that, with the exception of cotton, there was a decrease under all heads of the export trade:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	£.	£.
Apparel ...	30,809	...
Building, &c., materials—cement ...	18,557	...
Coals ...	...	21,408
Cotton twist and yarn ...	...	101,720
Cotton piece-goods ...	6,221	...
Earthenware and porcelain ...	16,483	...
Fruits and vegetables ...	...	10,399
Glass and glassware ...	14,206	...
Hardware and cutlery ...	32,902	...
Liquors ...	...	24,804
Machinery and mill-work ...	32,830	...
Matches, lucifer and other ...	...	27,068
Metals ...	86,514	...

	Increase. £.	Decrease. £.
Oils ... ..	...	86,097
Railway plant, &c. ... ..	12,171	...
Salt ... ..	17,098	...
Silk, raw ... ..	23,558	...
Sugar ... ..	...	20,106
Toys and requisites for games ... ..	5,781	...
Umbrellas ... ..	7,852	...
Woolen piece-goods (excluding shawls) ... ..	...	9,054

Exports.

	Increase. £.	Decrease. £.
Cotton, raw ... ..	89,920	...
Grain and pulse—Rice husked and unhusked... ..	...	402,101
Hides, raw ... ..	...	14,265
Provisions ... ..	...	6,031
Stone—jade ... ..	...	8,794
Wood—teak ... ..	...	100,141
Rice-bran or rice-dust ... ..	...	15,886

136. The trade of the province with each of the principal foreign countries Trade with each foreign country, during the past two years has been as follows:—

Countries.	1882-83.			1883-84.			Increase on totals of the year 1882-83.	Decrease on totals of the year 1883-84.
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
United Kingdom ... ..	2,761,293	3,170,135	2,216,528	2,520,226	2,510,646	3,570,282	...	660,516
France ... ..	3,980	11,212	15,192	8,005	2,262	10,267	...	4,935
Germany ... ..	60,742	30,142	90,884	65,530	28,307	88,697	...	11,192
Holland ... ..	15,785	6,045	22,830	1,209	...	1,209	...	21,621
Italy ... ..	2,710	...	2,710	8,663	21,328	33,991	30,281	...
Spain ... ..	70	14,473	14,543	113	13,319	16,062	1,519	...
Cape of Good Hope ... ..	1,250	11,519	18,179	501	21,406	22,907	9,197	...
Mauritius ... ..	116	8,560	8,676	5	1,147	1,150	...	4,520
South America ... ..	323	133,042	133,365	8	261,264	261,272	67,907	...
Arabia ... ..	6,511	...	6,511	7,735	...	7,735	824	...
Ceylon ... ..	10,360	82,259	92,619	8,088	110,965	121,053	35,434	...
China ... ..	103	11,360	11,463	210	31,086	31,296	19,832	...
Siam ... ..	322	23,255	23,577	777	15,147	15,924	...	7,099
Straits Settlements ... ..	728,214	1,000,113	2,228,327	773,706	1,208,746	2,512,373	...	284,053
Sumatra ... ..	28	10,520	10,548	35	6,831	6,866	...	3,688
Australia ... ..	6,795	21,610	28,405	20,273	59	20,332	...	8,110
Other countries ... ..	199,749	1,573,076	1,806,725	62,700	2,200,605	2,373,503	676,770	...
Total ... ..	3,723,043	7,032,614	10,755,657	3,897,498	6,573,439	10,880,937	...	374,720

137. The proportion of the foreign trade of the province with Europe conveyed through the Suez Canal during the past two years is given in the following statement:—

	1882-83.		1883-84.	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Imports ... ..	2,611,650	2,711,861	...	...
Exports ... ..	1,842,275	2,713,185	...	...
Percentage of total foreign trade ... { Imports	70.2	71.2	...	...
... { Exports	26.2	41.8	...	...

These figures show a remarkable expansion of the traffic by this route during the year under review. A line of steamers—running monthly—has been established between London and Rangoon, which bring out a large quantity of the kind of goods formerly shipped in small sailing vessels, and steamers have still further taken the place of sailing vessels in the conveyance of rice to Europe (*vide* the figures in the margin), which may be partly due to the increasing trade

	Tons.
1870-80 ... ..	254,846
1880-81 ... ..	308,178
1881-82 ... ..	849,915
1882-83 ... ..	890,913
1883-84 ... ..	871,675

in white rice with ports in the Mediterranean. The proportion of the export trade of the last two years from the principal ports of the province which passed through the Canal is given below:—

	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.
Rangoon	914,085	1,536,385
Akyab	473,808	396,675
Bassein	303,186	482,684
Moulmein	151,737	297,485

188. No further alteration having been made in the import tariff since the 10th March 1882, the figures for the past two official years for free and dutiable goods will bear ready comparison. In the undernoted statement will be found the value of goods imported on private account from foreign countries during each of the past five years, the dutiable being distinguished from the free:—

	1879-80.		1880-81.		1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.	
	£.	Per cent.	£.	Per cent.	£.	Per cent.	£.	Per cent.	£.	Per cent.
Dutiable	2,307,388	77.41	2,971,730	75.29	2,459,018	74.48	263,458	7.08	263,573	6.67
Free	673,140	22.58	928,908	21.71	841,363	25.52	3,439,285	92.92	3,563,625	93.33
Total	2,979,528	100.00	3,795,638	100.00	3,300,381	100.00	3,723,043	100.00	3,907,498	100.00

The proportionate values of the principal articles imported in each of the last two official years are given below:—

	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton { Twist and yarn	9.98	7.04
{ Piece-goods	21.06	20.76
Silk piece-goods	11.89	11.70
Woolen piece-goods	4.89	4.05
Raw silk	3.77	4.30
Machinery	2.16	2.97
Metals	3.75	5.94
Coals	4.05	3.39
Salt	2.43	2.82
Oils	3.59	2.67
Provisions	5.64	4.60
Sugar	1.67	1.01
Liquors	4.43	3.69
All other articles	21.84	25.06

189. The value of the country produce trade receded in the year of report to the level of that recorded in 1880-81 and 1881-82, being £455,000 less than the total in the year immediately preceding, owing chiefly to smaller shipments of rice and teak. The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

	£.
1879-80	5,691,987
1880-81	6,540,509
1881-82	6,554,334
1882-83	7,006,718
1883-84	6,551,525

and were contributed by the several articles of country produce in the proportions given below:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rice	84.47	82.71	82.08	80.07	79.62
Teak	4.81	7.51	7.64	8.59	7.68
Cutch	3.24	4.28	2.58	3.08	3.94
Jadestones	.98	1.22	3.51	1.22	1.24
Hides and skins	1.00	.94	1.81	2.31	2.27
Cotton	2.61	.89	.16	1.10	2.56
Provisions	.44	.48	.75	.83	.47
Caoutchouc	.37	.40	.29	.16	.20
Rice-bran	.22	.38	.68	.87	.69
Grain and pulse, excluding rice	.17	.22	.94	.16	.18
Horns	.18	.17	.21	.20	.21
Other articles	1.41	.82	.62	1.08	.70

140. The shipments to foreign countries of rice in the husk (or paddy) and rice not in the husk have been as follows during the last two years :—

Ports.	1882-83.		1883-84.	
	Cwt.	£.	Cwt.	£.
<i>Paddy—</i>				
To United Kingdom ... ..	...	...	...	...
Malta ... ..	5	1	...	...
Egypt ... ..	80	16	...	...
Ceylon ... ..	80,011	11,408	26,568	3,616
Siam ... ..	99	10	1	...
Straits Settlements ... ..	1,454	153	1,686	281
Sumatra ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	81,649	11,583	28,255	3,897
<i>Rice, husked—</i>				
To United Kingdom ... ..	10,076,154	2,713,307	6,360,796	1,079,104
Austria ... ..	...	...	...	...
Denmark ... ..	25,188	6,297	...	...
France ... ..	43,337	11,163	2,000	800
Germany ... ..	120,942	29,859	28,802	8,641
Holland ... ..	24,000	6,000	...	...
Italy ... ..	...	...	80,000	24,398
Malta ... ..	2,732,442	675,108	3,312,851	964,788
Portugal ... ..	...	...	...	...
Russia ... ..	...	...	40,536	14,800
Spain ... ..	...	...	...	...
Cape of Good Hope ... ..	...	...	6,589	2,750
Egypt ... ..	2,734,282	722,516	3,444,985	1,054,709
Mauritius ... ..	1,987	525	...	...
Canada ... ..	43,594	13,851	...	...
South America ... ..	411,480	133,007	550,882	197,709
United States ... ..	45,000	15,642	...	...
Ceylon ... ..	200,654	55,053	278,006	89,031
China ... ..	2,009	660	...	...
Java ... ..	144,878	41,907	1,943	533
Siam ... ..	81,420	24,449	50,281	18,200
Straits Settlements ... ..	3,960,971	1,171,041	2,331,786	864,851
Sumatra ... ..	...	...	10,001	5,050
Victoria... ..	...	...	...	...
New Zealand ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	21,248,938	5,619,885	16,994,048	5,225,469
GRAND TOTAL ... ..	21,830,587	5,631,468	17,022,303	5,229,366

The comparatively limited shipments from Rangoon account for about four-fifths of the large decrease shown in the year under review as compared with 1882-83, the balance having been contributed in about equal proportions by Akyab, Bassein, and Moulmein. The crop of rice grown in Pegu in 1882 (exported in 1883) was decidedly short; the shipments from Rangoon between the 1st January and 31st March 1883 were about 10,000 tons in excess of the quantity exported during the same period in 1882; and the shipments in the first three months of 1884 were much less than those in the similar period of 1883. The following table of exports from the four principal ports during the calendar years enumerated will show more satisfactorily than the statistics of the official year the quantities available for shipment to places beyond the province from the crops of the year immediately preceding each :—

	1st January to 31st December.			
	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Akyab ... ..	183,138	133,391	169,850	178,975
Bassein ... ..	144,448	162,698	162,454	154,617
Moulmein ... ..	42,517	72,441	58,735	58,111
Rangoon ... ..	476,738	547,359	650,574	533,143

Of the total quantities exported during the last two official years the European markets took 688,499 tons against 817,851 tons; the Eastern markets 184,768 tons against 228,575 tons; the South American ports 27,519 tons against 20,574 tons; and other foreign marts 829 tons against 4,529 tons.

141. The subjoined statement shows the various kinds of husked grain sent away from each provincial port to foreign countries during the year of report together with the totals of the two years immediately preceding:—

Statistics of the various kinds of rice exported.

Ports whence exported.	DESCRIPTION OF RICE.				
	Cargo (including broken cargo).	White.	Broken white.	All other sorts.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Akyab ... ..	130,156	2,686	28	.....	132,870
Bassein ... ..	148,657	.....	.....	.....	148,657
Mergui ... ..	688	67	.....	.....	755
Moulmein ... ..	44,744	9,280	681	181	54,886
Tavoy ... ..	1,534	450	.....	9	1,993
Rangoon ... ..	388,980	144,008	20,156	1,497	554,591
GRAND TOTAL FOR 1883-84	670,709	156,491	20,815	1,687	849,702
GRAND TOTAL FOR { 1882-83 ...	824,502	220,861	16,985	649	1,062,447
{ 1881-82 ...	749,737	171,555	12,892	821	934,505

In the year under review the bulk of the shipments to Eastern ports and South America consisted of cleaned rice, and this quality is also being exported in annually increasing quantities to the Mediterranean.

142. The total quantity in tons of rice, husked and unhusked, exported to foreign countries from each port in British Burma, is shown in the under-noted statement:—

Total rice and paddy exports to foreign countries.

Ports whence exported.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Akyab ... ..	110,915	172,905	157,723	154,623	140,199
Bassein ... ..	145,274	154,336	167,298	164,040	148,657
Kyaukpya ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mergui ... ..	250	247	715	564	769
Moulmein ... ..	63,673	60,648	50,508	66,898	64,845
Sandoway ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tavoy ... ..	1,954	669	2,866	3,292	2,019
Total subordinate ports	331,636	386,705	394,612	389,407	346,489
Chief port, Rangoon	897,818	452,309	553,511	677,122	504,626
GRAND TOTAL	728,384	841,014	938,123	1,066,529	851,115

The value of the rice-bran or dust exported decreased from £61,157 in 1882-83 to £45,271 in 1883-84, the trade which had hitherto been monopolized by Chinese merchants for the Penang and Singapore markets having been during the year under review pretty equally divided between the United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements.

143. Although there was a large increase in the quantity of *cutch* shipped in 1883-84 as compared with the previous year, the value was but £258,010 against £255,270. More extensive supplies, both from Ava and the upper districts of Pegu, and larger shipments of the cheaper soft variety account for the low valuation.

Other exports.

The trade in *hides and skins* decreased in value from £162,187 in 1882-83 to £148,713 in 1883-84, owing to more limited supplies, the demand for both Europe and the Straits having been brisk.

The shipments of *teak* to foreign countries in 1882-83 were 58,277 tons valued at £603,876 and in 1883-84 44,368 tons of the value of £503,434, the decrease having been entirely in the trade with the United Kingdom.

	1879-80.		1880-81.		1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.	
	C. tons	£.	C. tons	£.	C. tons	£.	C. tons	£.	C. tons	£.
To United Kingdom	36,211	100,823	58,683	451,980	46,950	445,268	50,221	517,821	27,028	307,401
France	1,080	8,711	...	...	...	...	5	50	...	...
Germany	10	98	...	...	...	...	931	8,872	1,127	14,655
Holland	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	45	...	...
Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malta	...	...	8	73	200	2,700	...	...	...	...
Spain	...	...	...	...	72	719	25	250	81	398
Cape of Good Hope	660	6,302	...	...	1,667	14,380	1,685	14,479	1,180	13,949
Egypt	1,634	12,309	1,970	6,532	921	7,360	1,107	11,919	1,223	19,221
Manritius	...	...	55	440	141	1,400	215	2,212	8,294	26,583
South America	...	...	356	2,478	...	...	20	960	173	2,021
Arabia	...	...	3	27	...	...	3	30	43	320
Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japan	4,530	27,210	3,222	20,744	1,094	10,678	1,267	11,601	1,903	20,114
Maldives (except Minicoy)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,984	19,840
Siam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Straits Settlements	531	3,625	313	2,431	...	...	46	948	...	...
Sumatra	1,220	8,563	892	5,814	1,179	10,986	860	10,690	227	2,803
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,035	21,610	...	...
Total	37,476	273,967	64,568	480,841	55,519	500,800	58,277	603,876	44,368	503,434

144. The statistics for the year 1883-84 exhibit a marked improvement in the private trade of the province carried on coast-wise in comparison with the figures for the official year immediately preceding. The gross values of the trade under this head during the two years were £5,652,770 and £4,871,148, an increase in favour of the year under review of £781,622, which sum far exceeds the decline in the foreign trade in merchandise. Both imports and exports contributed to this large increase, the former to the extent of about four-sevenths, and the latter the balance. The transactions in goods of Indian origin show an increase of over £565,000 and those in foreign merchandise about £215,000. Particulars of this trade under the major heads during the past two official years are given in the following abstracts:—

## 1882-83.

	Bengal.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Provincial ports.	Indian ports not British.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Imports—</i>							
of Indian produce ..	1,352,442	63,014	34	416,798	277,675	10,410	2,120,878
" foreign merchandise	448,891	70,661	..	4,129	422,477	60	946,218
Total Imports ..	1,801,333	133,675	34	420,927	700,152	10,470	3,066,891
<i>Exports—</i>							
of Indian produce ..	541,020	367,023	..	193,059	240,219	5,527	1,346,848
" foreign merchandise	26,893	728	..	14,170	415,847	..	457,798
Total Exports ..	567,913	367,821	..	207,229	656,066	5,527	1,804,556

## 1883-84.

	Bengal.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Provincial ports.	Indian ports not British.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Imports—</i>							
of Indian produce ..	1,888,407	79,092	165	568,184	330,385	16,469	2,883,703
" foreign merchandise	534,258	125,681	..	5,791	457,471	70	1,123,251
Total Imports ..	1,922,645	204,773	165	573,975	787,856	16,539	3,505,953
<i>Exports—</i>							
of Indian produce ..	660,343	505,047	5,493	200,947	278,701	5,726	1,651,267
" foreign merchandise	186,188	845	..	4,109	454,416	2	495,660
Total Exports ..	846,531	505,892	5,493	205,056	723,117	5,728	2,146,817

## II.—INLAND TRADE.

145. The trade by river and land with countries beyond the province during the official year which ended on the 31st March last again improved to a satisfactory extent in comparison with that in the previous year as will be seen from the following statement :—

Years.						Imports.	Exports.	Total.
						£.	£.	£.
1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	2,544,488	1,894,257	4,438,740
1883-84	...	...	...	...	...	2,616,554	2,808,118	4,924,672

The increase in the value of imports is mainly due to the large shipments of cotton from Upper Burma to Rangoon. There were increases in ponies, cotton piece-goods (Indian), catch, hides, silk goods, spices, and timber also, but these were balanced by decreases in cattle, wheat, grain and pulse, provisions, jade-stone, til-seed, oils, and "other articles." The large increase in exports is made up by enhanced remittances of treasure to Upper Burma, Siam, and Karenni, and by a great increase in the value of the rice sent to Upper Burma, owing to high prices caused by the scarcity of food in that country and to a large proportion of cleaned grain having been shipped. The principal fluctuations in other articles of export were increases in cotton twist and yarn, earthenware and porcelain, metals, oils, spices, sugar, and woollen goods; and decreases in cotton piece-goods, liquors, provisions, silk and silk goods, and miscellaneous articles.

146. This trade was distributed over the several river and land routes according to the values stated in the following table :—

Routes.	Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
		£.	£.	£.
<i>River Routes.</i>				
Irrawaddy	1882-83	1,884,159	1,528,452	2,907,611
	1883-84	1,447,754	1,759,870	3,207,624
Sittang	1882-83	178,425	25,818	199,243
	1883-84	174,047	23,540	197,587
Salween	1882-83	773,026	.....	773,026
	1883-84	803,295	.....	803,295
<i>Land Routes.</i>				
Kyaukpnyu	1882-83	4,080	4,111	8,141
	1883-84	4,976	6,212	11,188
Thayetmyo	1882-83	52,240	8,251	60,491
	1883-84	42,019	6,625	55,644
Amherst	1882-83	25,748	18,080	43,768
	1883-84	29,076	12,587	41,663
Salween	1882-83	80,788	267,271	396,054
	1883-84	80,383	426,316	466,699
Tavoy	1882-83	885	94	979
	1883-84	1,500	110	1,610
Mergui	1882-83	.....	.....	.....
	1883-84	.....	800	800
Toungoo	1882-83	100,188	47,240	147,428
	1883-84	76,504	62,558	139,062

147. In the following three statements will be found the values for each of the last two years of the merchandise and treasure imported from and exported to each country with which the province has inland communication, together with the percentage proportion of the traffic under each head :—

Trade with the various countries and the percentage proportion contributed by each.

*Imports.*

From	1882-83.			1883-84.		
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Upper Burma ...	1,272,018	898,664	1,670,682	1,348,411	857,437	1,705,848
Siam ...	80,096	10,258	40,849	88,284	9,167	47,451
North Shan States ...	41,218	128	41,341	44,837	290	44,627
South Shan States ...	2,625	...	2,625	1,597	...	1,597
Karenni ...	549,988	4,115	554,053	607,915	7,628	615,543
Zimmè ...	224,173	1,260	225,433	199,953	1,535	201,488
Total ...	2,130,063	414,420	2,544,483	2,240,497	876,057	2,616,554

*Exports.*

To	1882-83.			1883-84.		
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Upper Burma ...	1,497,414	83,665	1,581,079	1,614,599	211,515	1,826,114
Siam ...	26,858	115,190	141,958	36,437	218,514	254,951
North Shan States ...	26,156	1,595	27,751	32,341	20	32,361
South Shan States ...	4,093	45	4,138	1,080	...	1,080
Karenni ...	23,294	111,745	135,039	16,749	174,033	190,787
Zimmè ...	3,781	511	4,292	2,825	...	2,825
Total ...	1,591,596	312,931	1,894,257	1,704,031	604,057	2,308,118

*Percentages.*

	1882-83.			1883-84.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
Upper Burma ...	65.66	83.47	73.26	65.19	79.11	71.71
Siam ...	1.59	7.49	4.11	1.81	11.04	6.14
North Shan States ...	1.63	1.46	1.55	1.71	1.40	1.56
South Shan States ...	.10	.22	.15	.06	.07	.07
Karenni ...	21.77	7.13	15.53	23.53	8.26	16.87
Zimmè ...	9.25	.23	6.40	7.70	.13	4.15

148. There was a very satisfactory increase in both the import and export

trade in merchandise with Siam and the North Shan States, and the exports of specie to the former country nearly doubled. The improvement in the Siam trade is attributed to more cattle having been brought into the Amherst district, and more precious stones into Tavoy, and to larger remittances by thitgaungs to carry on their work in the forests in Zimmè; while that in the North Shan traffic is due to greater imports of hides, horns, spices, ponies, and other articles, and to more extensive purchases of cotton and silk goods, and metals by the dealers proceeding to that

country. With the South Shan States, Karenni, and Zimmè there was a large falling-off in both branches of the trade in general merchandise owing to the disturbed state of the country beyond the Papun frontier. From Karenni, however, 15,500 tons more timber were imported in the year under review than in the previous year, and consequently there was a larger export of specie to that country.

149. *River routes.*—The trade on the Irrawaddy again improved to a satisfactory extent, the increase in the value of imports in 1883-84 over 1882-83 having amounted to £63,595, or 4.74 per cent., in the value of exports to £236,418, or 15.52 per cent., and in the aggregate to £300,013, or 10.32 per cent.

150. In the Sittang traffic there was a slight increase of £622, or .36 per cent., in the value of imports, and a falling-off of £2,278, or 8.82 per cent., in the value of exports.

151. The quantity of teak floated down the Salween to Moulmein still further increased, having been 140,338 tons against 131,714 tons, but there was not a proportionate increase in value, namely, £773,026 against £803,295, owing to the inferior quality of the logs.

152. The traffic on the Irrawaddy and Sittang is entirely with Upper Burma. The bulk of the trade on the former is carried by the fine steamers and flats belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited. Steamers, with flats attached as a rule, passed up 119 times during the year of report against 115 in the year immediately preceding, and passed down 116 times against 110 in 1882-83. There is also a large boat traffic as will be seen from the statement given below:—

				Up.		Down.	
				No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1882-83	...	...	...	5,767	54,179	5,487	50,929
1883-84	...	...	...	5,578	54,239	6,167	56,298
		Decrease in 1882-83	...	189	...	...	...
		Increase in 1882-83	...	...	60	680	5,364

153. The most important articles imported by these rivers are noted below. *Raw cotton* to the extent of 56,223 maunds valued at £76,367 was brought down in 1882-83, and 131,253 maunds valued at £150,585 in the year of report. This large increase is due to the disturbances beyond Bamaw, which rendered the land routes into Western China insecure and thus prevented the usual export in that direction. Chinese purchasers in Upper Burma consequently sent their stocks to Rangoon for shipment to China *via* the Straits.

The quantity of *cutch* imported increased from 138,814 maunds with a value of £105,118 in 1882-83 to 159,534 maunds valued at £115,405 in 1883-84, the market in Rangoon having been good.

The trade in *hides* was of the value of £62,843 in 1882-83 and £77,086 in 1883-84, the increase being due partly to an active demand in the Rangoon market for shipment to Europe and the Straits, and partly to the prevalence of cattle-disease in several districts of Upper Burma.

*Oils*, which consist chiefly of petroleum and gingelly, were imported to the value of £144,313 in 1882-83 and £141,007 in the year of report.

The value of the imports of *silk goods* manufactured in Mandalay, in 1882-83 was £63,338, and in 1883-84 £95,347 were brought down.

The imports of *unrefined sugar* were valued at £117,451 in 1882-83 and £113,208 in the year under review.

The returns show that not five per cent. of the subtenants have held their position for so long as five years. The fact that the number of subtenants in Bassein fell during the year from 1,269 to 932 gives support to the belief that after a very few years most subtenants are able to set up for themselves as independent landholders. The selling price of land, as shown above for Bassein, is extremely low; but it has to be remembered that the Supplementary Survey has hitherto worked in the poorer parts of Bassein. In the richer tracts, behind the Nga-thaingyaung embankment, where the Supplementary Survey will be at work this year, the selling price of rice-land is reported to be about £2 per acre.

#### WASTE LANDS.

16. It is only in the Akyab, Pegu, and Hanthawaddy districts that many grants exist under the old Waste-land Rules of 1839 and 1865. The settlement operations have decided pending questions connected with these grants in Hanthawaddy and Pegu; the greater part of these areas have been brought under cultivation, and they will soon be all under assessment. In the Akyab district the survey has brought to light discrepancies between the areas shown in the deeds and the areas actually occupied, as well as boundary disputes between grantees and neighbouring cultivators. Some of the grantees claim lands greatly in excess of the areas shown on the deeds of grant. Most of these difficulties will, it is hoped, be settled during the coming year.

17. With the grants to ordinary cultivators there is little difficulty or doubt. Exemption from revenue is allowed to grantees who take new land for terms ranging from one to 12 years. The area granted for cultivation under the ordinary rules has been during the past five years as follows:—

Division.	Acres granted in				
	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
Arakan ...	20,504	5,640	4,053	2,859	1,805
Pegu ...	31,530	17,411	29,321	10,170	21,794
Irrawaddy ...		21,110	12,121	9,675	16,758
Tenasserim...	6,259	8,612	8,837	5,767	6,610
Total ...	<u>58,298</u>	<u>52,778</u>	<u>61,332</u>	<u>28,471</u>	<u>46,967</u>

Timber, of which 48,632 tons with a stated value of £205,101 were floated down in 1882-83, and 39,867 tons valued at £232,046 in 1883-84 is another important article procured from Upper Burma. The large falling-off in quantity is attributed to a small rainfall and a consequent lowness of water in the creeks which retarded floating operations and the increase in value to the improved demand for teak during the greater portion of the year.

154. The exports of *cotton goods* during the past two years are shown in the statement below:—

Articles.		1882-83.		1883-84.	
			£.		£.
Cotton—					
Twist and yarn (European) ...	... Mds.	24,729	161,073	26,000	171,802
Piece-goods (European) ...	... „	48,418	295,133	46,825	286,818

Other principal articles of export are *rice*, of which 42,297 tons valued at £175,953 were exported in 1882-83, and 46,015 tons valued at £284,671 in 1883-84, the increase being due to scarcity beyond the frontier; *provisions*, chiefly ngapi and salted or dried fish, of which the values in the two years were £211,605 and £202,639 respectively; *salt*, the total quantity of which amounted to 472,165 maunds in the year of report (with a value of £35,450) against 486,429 maunds in that immediately preceding; *raw silk*, of which 2,336 maunds valued at £115,968 were sent to Upper Burma in 1882-83 and 1,780 maunds of the value of £94,710 in 1883-84; *silk piece-goods*, the trade in which decreased from £179,561 in 1882-83 to £157,322 in the year of report, the decrease being partly owing to prices generally having fallen and partly to the impoverished state of the people beyond the frontier; and *woollen piece-goods*, which were of the value of £33,141 and £50,285 in the two years respectively.

#### Public Works.

155. The total expenditure from all sources (except municipal funds) on public works in this province during the year 1883-84 amounted to £454,051, a sum slightly in excess of the expenditure of 1880-81 (£435,083) but less than that of the year 1882-83, which was £516,962, thus—

Head of charge.	Imperial.	Provincial.	LOCAL FUNDS.		Total provincial and local.	Total heads of charges.
			Incorporated.	Excluded.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1. Military ...	12,207	...	...	...	...	25,070
Original works	12,207	...	...	...	...	
Repairs ...	12,848	20	...	...	20	
2. Civil buildings	...	52,634	330	1,042	54,006	63,184
Original works	...	9,136	...	42	9,178	
Repairs ...	...	118,702	81,806	4,148	154,158	200,805*
3. Communica- tions—Land.	...	35,751	1,361	...	37,112	
Original works	...	19,388	249	...	19,636	22,129
Repairs ...	...	2,493	...	...	2,493	
4. Communica- tions—Water.	...	19,851	314	...	20,165	25,474
Original works	...	5,263	46	...	5,309	
Repairs ...	...	3,813	9,559	9,438	22,610	35,809
5. Miscellaneous public imprvmts.	...	1,480	170	1,349	2,999	
Original works	...	7,891	632	235	8,758	9,191
Repairs ...	433	66,705	7,480	2,827	77,012	81,599
6. Tools and plant	...	790	...	...	790	790
7. Establishment	4,587	...	...	...	...	
8. Profit and loss	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...	30,070	343,917	51,448	19,081	414,446	454,051

\* Note.—This total includes a sum of £9,535 not shown in the preceding column. That sum was paid during the year from provincial funds to certain municipalities on account of roads which used to be provincial, but which under the orders of the Government of India have been handed over to municipalities with an appropriate grant for their maintenance.

156. The total expenditure on imperial military works in the province for the year was £80,070 against a final grant of £80,120. This shows a lapse of £50 only, equivalent to 0.165 per cent. of the total grant.

This outlay was distributed among the several military stations thus :—

	£.
Rangoon ... ..	12,297
Thayetmyo ... ..	8,297
Toungoo ... ..	8,444
Moulmein ... ..	985
Camping-grounds, &c. ... ..	67
Total ... ..	80,070

157. Towards the close of the year work was begun on the new station hospital for European troops at Rangoon, roughly estimated to cost £22,000. The hospital is intended to accommodate 70 men, 6 women, and 6 children, and will be built in general accordance with type plans received from the Inspector-General of Military Works, modified to suit the site and the materials and workmanship obtainable in the province. A fine, airy site on the European infantry plateau has been selected and levelled and drained at a cost of £706 : in addition to which materials of the value of £2,711 were collected, and the quarters for medical subordinates commenced before the close of the year.

The system of regimental half-transport having been established in Burma towards the close of 1882-83, it became necessary to provide at Rangoon accommodation for 200 mules and 66 drivers attached to the European infantry regiment and 123 mules and 41 drivers attached to the Native infantry and sappers and miners before the rains of 1883 had set in. All these sheds are constructed of sound jungle timber, roofed in with ordinary pantiles ; they are 22 feet wide, including a 6-foot central passage, with mule-standings 8 feet by 5 feet on either side, coated with asphalt.

All urgent wants in connection with the regimental and departmental transport of the Rangoon garrison have now been met.

No works of improvement were carried out to the Pagoda fortifications. A project for arming Monkey Point battery with five 9-inch guns was sanctioned after the close of the year, and is now (December 1884) being vigorously prosecuted.

158. At Thayetmyo two sheds, similar in design to those described for Rangoon, each to accommodate 50 mules and 17 drivers attached to the wing of European infantry, were completed during the year at an outlay of £828, of which £788 were spent during the year. Similar sheds to accommodate 111 mules and 37 drivers attached to the Native infantry regiment were constructed and improved in the manner described above at a total outlay of £1,006. This completes all the accommodation required at this station for regimental half-transport.

159. The temporary accommodation which was hastily run up in 1881-82 on Thandaung hill, about 4,000 feet above sea-level and 23 miles from Toungoo, with the object of ascertaining whether the place would answer as a sanitarium for European troops during the hot weather, was further improved during the year at a total outlay of £388. The barracks having been occupied for two seasons, it was found that the bamboo floors were dirty and uncomfortable ; they were accordingly replaced by substantial jungle-wood boarded floors.

Sheds at Toungoo similar to those already described for 100 mules attached to the wing of European infantry and 111 mules of the Native infantry, were completed before the rainy season of 1883 ; they cost £784 and £919 respectively.

160. Over £7,000 were spent during the year for the Post and Telegraph Departments. Of this sum £4,200 were spent in completing the handsome building at Rangoon erected on the Strand as a combined post and telegraph

Rangoon Post and Telegraph  
office.

office, which is three stories high, has a ground area of 38,481 square feet, is constructed of iron pillars and framing with brick panels, and stands on a concrete basement, has a roof of Penang tiles and terrace, and cost £37,000. New post offices were constructed at Toungoo, Letpadan, Tunte, Paletwa, and Thaton.

161. The works, commenced in 1882-83, for adding to the accommodation for Government offices at Rangoon, were continued in the year under review. Room was provided for the Currency office and the offices of the Comptroller, Inspector-General of Prisons, and Inspector-General of Police, by adding a third story to the bonded warehouse. This was a brick building of two stories with a flat-terraced roof. On this has been placed a third story of brick walls with a corrugated iron roof: 8,084 square feet of office rooms and 2,480 square feet of veranda space have been thus provided at a total cost of £4,500, of which £2,600 were expended in 1883-84.

162. At Pegu, on the establishment of the new Pegu district, where no houses were available for officers' residences, quarters were first built for the Police Officers and Assistant Commissioner. In 1883-84 a house was built for the Deputy Commissioner of brick masonry in the lower floor and timber in the upper story, with a teak-shingled pent roof. The house is very well built and has cost £2,300.

Similarly at Mergui it was necessary to rebuild the Deputy Commissioner's residence. This building is of timber, but substantially built, and gives a fair amount of accommodation; it cost £1,000.

163. At Toungoo a combined office and residence for the Forest Officer have been built at a cost of £1,150 from funds provided by the Forest Department. The office is single-storied, 51 feet by 26 feet; the dwelling-house is two-storied: both are of timber, *pyingado* posts, *pyinma* boarding, and teak joinery.

164. On civil buildings for 'Law and justice' about £12,500 were spent in 1883-84. The largest expenditure was on the Promé courthouse, a single-storied brick building, on which a timber upper story has now been added at a cost of £2,600, of which half was spent in the year of report. The courthouse is now a fine, lofty building, containing offices for all the civil departments at Promé.

165. A similar plan was adopted at Tavoy, where the leaky, flat-terraced roof of the single-storied, brick courthouse was renewed and replaced by a floor and by an upper story of timber, with pent shingled roof. The building now provides rooms for all the public offices in Tavoy. The total cost of the work was £1,710, of which £1,450 were spent in the year of report.

166. The courthouse at Paungdè, commenced in 1882, was completed in October 1883, the total cost being £1,930. The original wooden structure was burned in 1881: the new structure is a single-storied brick building, well raised above the ground on a lofty plinth, in which are arched openings for ventilation, iron-grated at their ends. The roof is of timber with shingle covering; these, the floors, and all the joinery, are of teak.

167. At Pyuntaza a building to accommodate under one roof an Assistant Commissioner's Court, a Myoök's Court, and a police station was built at a cost of £1,084. It covers an area of 4,153 square feet at a rate of about 5s. 3d. per square foot. The cheap rate is due to the use of *pyingado* and *pyinma* for all posts, roof timbers, wall and floor boards, teak being used only for the shingles and for doors and windows.

168. Witness-sheds were built at Rangoon and Pegu. Good progress was made in supplying minor courthouses at out-stations: Buildings on the standard pattern for Myoöks' Courts combined with police stations were completed during the year at Hmawbi, Pagan-daung, Pyapón, Wakèma, Thayetkôn, Mindôn, Taungup, and Yedashè. The cost of these buildings varies from £650 to £1,050, according to locality and the nature of the timbers employed. Teak is far superior for all neat, close work:

and for doors and windows and probably for roof covering cannot be dispensed with: for posts and roof timbering however *pyingado* is equal, if not superior, to teak. The high cost of teak has hitherto prevented its use except in the most important buildings; but since the end of the year the price of teak has fallen 40 per cent., and this excellent timber will again be largely used by the Public Works Department.

Police posts are not invariably combined with courthouses for various reasons, as for instance when the latter are built where police posts already exist as instanced in the following cases. A Myoök's courthouse was built at Letpadan at a cost of £670; one commenced in 1882-83 at Rathedaung was finished for £520; and another at Maungdaw was completed with the exception of the roof, which was thatched as a temporary measure: a courthouse was commenced and nearly finished at Ye, £261 being spent during the year.

169. The new circuit-house at Akyab, almost finished in 1882-83, was completed in the year under review and cost altogether £1,178. The house lately purchased at Pegu for use as a circuit-house had improvements effected at a cost of £100.

Circuit-houses.

170. A large circuit-house was built at the Thandaung sanitarium at an elevation of 4,350 feet above the sea: £1,380 were spent on it. It is a double-storied, timber building intended for occupation by inspecting officers or other visitors and for the Commissioner and his Court when on sessions tour. This is the first building with any pretension to permanency yet erected at Thandaung, and the cost of conveyance of materials being very great, it was constructed as far as possible of timber procured on the spot, chiefly *thitya* and *thitka*. The roof is of corrugated iron: the carriage of this material from Toungoo alone cost £1-10-0 per square. The house contains three rooms 27' x 18', for circuit-room, reception-room, &c., five bed-rooms 18' x 18', and nine small rooms as storerooms. When the railway is opened to Toungoo, and the road metalled from Toungoo to Pathichaung, the carriage will be cheaper, and corrugated iron, felt boards, cement, and other building materials can be imported to Thandaung. Until this is the case the high cost of carriage will prevent permanent barracks or other buildings being erected at Thandaung.

Thandaung circuit-house.

171. About £1,800 were expended on police buildings during the year. This sum does not include outlay on works executed by Police Officers from funds in the police-grant.

Police.

172. About £15,000 were spent on jails, reformatory, &c., in the province during the year: of this sum the principal part was expended in Rangoon; nearly £8,400 on the Central Jail and £1,530 on the Lunatic Asylum.

Jails.

173. In the Rangoon Central Jail, during the past year, one ward was finished with its enclosure wall, railing, latrine, and bathing trough; and another was built up to the first floor: upper floor balconies with circular staircases of approach were added to five wards: a tank-house was built over the main well for the water-supply of the jail: and other minor additions and improvements were effected.

Rangoon Central Jail.

This jail, on which £45,000 have been spent, is approaching completion, and but a small grant has been given to it in the current year. There is yet, however, needed one more cellular ward and a few auxiliary buildings.

174. In the Rangoon Lunatic Asylum an upper story was added to the existing building. This provides 22 cells in two rows, each cell being 10 x 10 feet, with brick back and side walls; the front wall of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch planking and the veranda being enclosed by iron grating: the roof is pent and covered with teak shingles (cost, £1,279).

Rangoon Lunatic Asylum.

175. At *Thayetmyo* £1,500 were spent to provide a water-supply from the river, the water being raised by pumps and laid on by pipes to the jail, passing through a filter *en route*. The complete project, commenced in 1882-83, has cost £2,000. £750 were spent in re-roofing jail wards at *Akyab* and providing masonry saucer drains around the buildings: and a similar sum was spent on re-roofing wards at *Kyaukpyu*.

Thayetmyo Jail water-supply.

176. On the reformatory at *Paungde* £1,800 were spent. The nucleus of this building was an old "lockup" which was (in 1880-81) altered and adapted to serve as a reformatory for 20 boys. In January 1883 it was decided to enlarge the establishment and build a new ward for 26 boys. This is a brick building, with an open arcade on the ground floor and a series of "cubicles" above, in which the boys are solitarily confined at night. The roof covering is of corrugated iron on iron trusses, the floor of *thitya* planking.

*Paungde Reformatory.*

177. Very little provincial money was spent by the Public Works Department on ecclesiastical buildings during 1883-84. The principal work was the erection of a mortuary (at a cost of £813) at the entrance to the Rangoon cantonment cemetery, where a handsome iron gate under an archway is flanked by two rooms, used respectively as mortuary and office: these are of brick masonry, are floored with Minton tiles, and covered with a teak shingle roof. This cemetery has been largely increased in size (from three to seven acres): the enclosure wall (costing £720) was completed in the past year.

*Rangoon cemetery.*

178. At *Moulmein* £200 were spent on a new brick wall round the cemetery (complete project £677). Brickmaking plant was purchased and supplied to the Jail Department, by whom table-moulded bricks, superior to materials hitherto made in *Moulmein*, were turned out and used on the cemetery wall.

*Moulmein cemetery.*

179. A pretty wooden church, designed and built by Mr. Bagley, Executive Engineer of the *Irrawaddy Valley Railway*, was opened for service at *Insein* in July 1883; the cost (about £1,000) has been met from the church-land sale moneys, which are administered by the Bishop of Rangoon.

*Insein church.*

180. In anticipation of the opening of the railway to *Toungoo* next year, a traveller's bungalow is in course of erection at that station; it is to cost £1,018, and £980 were spent on it in the past year. It consists of one story raised high on piles: it will be possible to add to the accommodation by enclosing the ground floor and making a set of rooms as a lower story.

*Travellers' bungalow.*

181. Rest-houses were built at the frontier post of *Thabala* in the *Thayetmyo* district (cost £366), at *Pyete*, midway between *Kyaukpyu* and the *Minbyin* oil-wells (cost only £108, owing to use of *zeik*, *Albizia procera* for all the woodwork including roof shingles, except the posts, which are of *pyingado*), and at *Nyaungchidauk* at the foot of the *Yoma* on the *Paduang-Taungup* road (cost, £135, owing to use of *pyingado* only, cut in the forest immediately adjacent).

*Rest-houses.*

182. In the *Salween Hill Tracts* a dispensary was built at *Papun* by the Deputy Commissioner at a cost of £270: and at *Kyauktan* in the *Pegu* district a dispensary and hospital, for which £896 were given from incorporated local funds, was completed, £278 having been spent on it in the year. At *Allanmyo* £146 of excluded local funds were spent on materials for a hospital, which however was not commenced pending question of site. A dispensary was built for £410 (excluded local funds) at *Gyobingauk*. A small schoolhouse was built at *Lemyethna* at a cost of £226 from excluded local funds.

*Dispensaries and hospitals.*

183. The expenditure in the year under review on 'land communications' amounted to £200,805 as against £187,812 in the preceding year. Rather more than three-sevenths of the total budget grant was devoted to this class of works. Repairs cost nearly £37,500 in this year as against a trifle over £30,000 in the preceding.

*Communications.*

184. The *Prome* road traverses the *Hanthawaddy*, *Tharrawaddy*, and *Prome* districts, having right and left many feeder and 'loop' lines, connecting it and the railway with outlying villages. From *Prome* and the northern terminus of the *Irrawaddy Valley Railway* it is continued towards the frontier as the *Prome-Myedè* road through the *Thayetmyo* district. This trunk road, though embanked throughout, is not

*Rangoon-Prome road.*

yet complete, both metalling and bridges having yet to be supplied in parts. The section in the Hanthawaddy district, 70 miles in length from Rangoon to the Menin stream, five miles north of the Okkan railway station, is bridged and metalled. On this section there are seven short 'feeder' roads, aggregating in length 19 miles, each from 1½ to five miles long, to the stations or villages of Insein, Hlawga, Wanetchaung, Taikkyi, Palón. During 1883-84 only £678 were spent on original works on this section and its feeders, while £3,166 were expended on their maintenance. In the Tharrawaddy section the road is in a more backward condition, owing chiefly to the want of several large bridges, but much money was expended and good progress made last year. Of the main road there are 70½ miles in this district, from the Menin to the Kantha stream, with 238 timber bridges completed: four large iron bridges in hand, and one more yet to be commenced. During the past year £8,700 were spent on the metalling and timber bridges of this section, which were completed by the end of the year.

185. In connection with this 'Tharrawaddy' section of the Prome road there are three 'loop' lines, leaving it and returning to it after visiting several outlying villages, and six direct 'feeder' roads. Of these nine roads five aggregating 55½ miles are metalled and bridged, three roads aggregating 16½ miles are bridged but not yet metalled, and one road is only embanked. Good progress was made with all these roads on which £10,900 were spent in the year. Five large iron bridges on these roads were in progress: the girders were at site and a commencement was made in burning bricks for abutment and in getting in the foundation of three out of the five bridges. [Bilin, 120 feet span; Kantha, 120 feet; Minhla, 100 feet; Minbu, 100 feet; Gamôn, 90 feet.] £3,600 were spent during the year upon them. Over £22,500 were spent during the year on the main and loop roads and bridges, and good progress made. Nearly £15,000 have been allotted in this current year to complete these works: and it is hoped that a very small grant next year will ensure the whole length of 180 miles, from Rangoon to Prome, with all the loops and feeders, being complete with all bridges and metal. In connection with these feeder roads the work of making metalled roads in the "railway towns" of Minhla, Thônzè, Letpadan, Tharrawaddy, Okpo, and Sitkwin was continued, £930 of incorporated local funds having been spent on them during the year.

186. The Prome road after leaving Tharrawaddy enters the Prome district, and is 40 miles in length from the Kantha stream to Prome. On completing bridges and metalling on this line £1,335 were spent, and £3,000 on maintenance and repairs. This section is now bridged and metalled throughout. The continuation of this road northward towards the frontier is 47½ miles in length from Prome to Myedè, of which 15 miles are in the Prome district, the remainder in Thayetmyo. The first 6½ miles are metalled; from mile 6½ to 15 the ground is hard and gravelly, and does not need metalling. Only £660 were spent on the maintenance during the year of the 15 miles in the Prome district, and £1,440 in metal and repairs on the 32½ miles in the Thayetmyo district. The road is finished and in good order with the exception of one unbridged stream.

187. In the Prome district there are seven railway feeder lines leading into the trunk road: from the villages of Paukaung (20 miles), Hmattaing (7½), Wetpök (5½), Changangyi (5), Shwenattaung (4), Thègôn (1), Moza (2). £4,600 were spent on "original works" and £3,700 on "maintenance and repairs" on these roads in the past year, and these feeders are now all embanked and bridged and some metal has been laid, but a considerable amount of metalling has still to be done before they can be considered finished.

188. In the Thayetmyo district the only feeder to the main line is a road eastward from Yataung, opposite Thayetmyo, past Myohla to Shwebandaw, 26½ miles. This road is completed with the exception of a bridge over the Butlè stream in the 16th mile, which is too wide to be bridged except at a great expense. This road has in its turn a feeder northward 10 miles from Myohla to Thabala. On these 36½ miles

£1,230 were spent on new works and £1,948 on repairs during the year. These roads serve as district roads and for police purposes, but are no longer regarded as sections of a direct road eastward from Thayetmyo to Toungoo. They were projected as military roads to enable troops from Thayetmyo to operate rapidly eastward and intercept raiders from the Burmese frontier.

189. A road which may serve a similar purpose, and may be regarded as allied to this Irrawaddy trunk road and its feeders is the Thayetmyo-Mindon road, 45 miles westward to the foot of the Arakan Yoma: 15 miles of a 1st class bridged and metalled road were completed from Thayetmyo to Yahmit by the end of 1882-83: beyond this place the road is traced at cart gradients but only 10 feet wide. In the past year two miles of road, two wells, and a bungalow at Mindon were made; £1,870 were spent on new works and £1,502 on maintenance.

190. The second main line of road is more or less parallel to the railway up the Sittang Valley from Rangoon to Toungoo and thence to the frontier. From Rangoon northward as far as Taukkyan (22 miles) the Irrawaddy Valley road is followed: thence the so-called Rangoon-Toungoo road branches off and runs for 34 miles in a north-eastward direction to Pegu, where it crosses from the right to the left bank of the Pegu river, and continues closely another 25 miles parallel to the railway past the stations of Payagyi, Pyinbongyi to Kadot in the Shwegyin district. As far as Pegu this road has been finished with bridges and metal for some time: 34 miles with 84 bridges. Five miles of metal were renewed and the road maintained during the year at a cost of £3,700. In the next 25 miles, which are embanked and bridged throughout (to Kadot), 13 miles are now metalled, of which 11 were done in the year under review and metal was collected on the next six miles: £3,500 were spent in the new work and £1,708 on maintenance.

191. In this first (Pegu district) section of the road there are seven feeder roads, four only at present in contact with the road, three being feeders to the railway only. On the construction of these roads £6,102 were spent during the year and good progress made. Of these roads two aggregating 15 miles are completed, a third 11 miles long is nearly ready, and the rest are in different stages of progress. All these roads will be, when finished, of much value to the new railway lately open from Rangoon to Pyuntaza. North of Kadot the line, formerly selected for the trunk road towards Toungoo, has been abandoned; and a new series of continuous roads have been designed to meet the requirements of the railway. A line was traced through the most populous villages near the railway, 21½ miles long, from Kadot to Pyuntaza: £5,464 were spent on it and 19 miles of the earthen bank were completed, and materials collected for some of the bridges. The road will be pushed on this year, and a survey for the next length of 22 miles, Pyuntaza to Pemegon, will be made.

192. In the Shwegyin district only one feeder road has yet been made; from Nyaunglebin station a high embanked road, 4½ miles long with 1,160 running feet of bridging, leads to the Sittang river and embankment at Pazunmyaung. It was commenced in 1882-83, and £3,538 were spent in the year under review. It now requires only the metalling, for which the banks will be sufficiently set next spring. On the north of the Shwegyin district 10 miles of the old road to Toungoo are maintained but unmetalled. These lead into the Toungoo district across the *Kun* stream, whence 45 miles of the same old road lead into Toungoo. These 45 miles, with 510 feet of permanent and 2,800 feet of temporary bridging, are kept up as an embanked but unmetalled road. When the railway is open to Toungoo these routes will be completed and metalled to make a continuous line from Rangoon up the Sittang valley to Toungoo. A commencement was made in the past year on the 12 miles nearest to Toungoo, and £1,060 were spent in improving the bridging and collecting metal; and £800 were spent in repairs.

193. In the Toungoo district four feeder roads, aggregating 22½ miles, have been made or begun:—

- (1) Toungoo to Tantabin on Sittang river, 6½ miles, with 12 bridges and 355 culverts.
- (2) Oktwin to Aungban on Sittang river, 2 miles.
- (3) Kywekwe to Myoso on Sittang river, 2 miles.
- (4) Pyu to Okpyat on Sittang river, 12 miles, solid bank, no bridges.

One,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, is finished, bridged and metalled: progress of work has been postponed on these roads in favour of the feeder roads further south. £3,200 were spent in 1888-84 on new work and £240 on repairs.

194. A road is being made from Toungoo to Pathichaung at the foot of the

*Pathichaung road.*

Thandaung sanitarium hills: although it is separated from the main line of trunk road and from Toungoo cantonment by the Sittang river. This road is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length: £3,400 were spent on it in the year and very good progress was made: the embankments and cuttings were nearly completed: metal for eight miles was collected; and 680 feet of bridging were set up. A steep bridle-road of 10 miles in length leads up the hillside from Pathichaung to the sanitarium at Thandaung: it was originally laid out by the Forest Department to reach their cinchona plantations, but it is now maintained by the Public Works Department until a new cart-road on gentle gradients can be traced and made in lieu of it.

195. North of Toungoo the trunk road is continued to the frontier, under the name of the Toungoo to Frontier road, 42 miles long.

*Frontier road.*

The first  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of Toungoo are metalled: for the next  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles past Yedashe to the Swa stream the earthwork is complete: the last section of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the frontier follows an old cart-track which was cleared, here and there re-aligned, and otherwise improved during the year. £1,200 were spent on new work and £350 on repairs on these 42 miles. Progress on this road is deferred pending completion of roads further south.

196. Next in importance to this series of trunk and feeder roads in the Irrawaddy and Sittang valleys is the group of roads in the Henzada plain. From Henzada one road leads

*Henzada roads.*

for 85 miles westward and then northward through Engabo, Myogwin, and Ôkpo, to Mataungda. £8,240 were spent on this road during the year: effecting completion of all earthwork, of bridging as far as Myogwin (the Ôkpo section is a solid embankment to restrain the Ôkpo river floods): metal was collected from Henzada to Myogwin but not on the Ôkpo section. From Henzada another road leads  $45\frac{1}{2}$  miles south and south-west partly in Henzada and partly in Bassein districts, through Natmaw, Neikban, Myogôn, Kyônpyaw, Pandaw, to Ngathaingyaung on the Ngawûn river. £6,400 were spent during the year: chiefly on the section from Kyônpyaw to Myogôn on completing the earthwork and half the bridging: the other sections were completed.

A short 'junction' road between the two preceding has been made from Engabo to Neikban, six miles in length. £1,700 were spent on it during the year, and enabled all earthwork and bridging to be finished and all metal to be collected. From Neikban another branch road has been traced westward through Aingdu to Aingthabyu on the Ngawun. £1,700 were spent on this section from Aingdu to Aingthabyu, and all the earthwork and half the bridging were completed by the end of the year. £173 were also spent on a bridge (not yet completed) by which this road will be carried across the Daga river, which is 110 feet wide at this place. From Henzada a third road leads southward, eight miles past Duya and the Duga-in to Daunggyi on the Irrawaddy embankment. £900 (of incorporated local funds) were spent during the year in completing the earthwork and bridges of the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Henzada to Duya and in collecting some metal. Want of funds delays the completion of this road. From Pandaw on the Henzada-Ngathaingyaung road a road was begun during the year to lead due south to Athók, and £1,200 (incorporated local funds) were spent on it: the clearing of the line with all the bridging was completed: and the earthwork was commenced. All this network of roads would prove of great service to a railroad, if this be made, as proposed, from Henzada to Bassein: in this particular such a railway would have an advantage over the Irrawaddy and Sittang lines, where the construction of feeder roads is gradually following the opening of the lines to traffic, instead of having preceded the railway as would be the case in Henzada.

197. Further south two roads only have yet been made leading into Bassein:

*Bassein roads.*

a short line from Bassein south-eastward to Sanywe, and another northward called the "Kangyidank road," but made at present only as far as Myaunggyaung, near the mouth of the Daga river. On this £2,100 were spent in the year in collecting metal along the whole road and laying it on four miles: the earthwork and bridging having been done in 1882-83.

198. Some road-making was also done further east in the Irrawaddy delta in the Thóngwa district. On the left bank of the main river, opposite to Danubyu,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of solid embanked road had been commenced in 1882-83 from Sangin to Sagayi: £2,200 were spent in 1882-83, and the bank was completed;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the full width of 16 feet formation, the remaining only 10 feet wide. This road serves also as embankment. At Yandoon £1,087 (excluded local funds) were spent in metalling town roads. A large expenditure was incurred also from the Thóngwa district local funds on road-making: a road westward from Danubyu,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Pyingatha: £1,540 were spent on it in the year. Another road in continuation of the Henzada embankment, south of Danubyu, runs as a solid bank without bridges parallel to the right bank of the river, for 22 miles from Nyaunggyaung past Setkaw and Bawaingdaung to Pantanaw-Ywathit, opposite to Pantanaw: £6,500 were spent upon completing the earthwork, which serves as an embankment. It is of full road width, 16 feet surface, but is not metalled. In Ma-ubin Island, under protection of the new embankment, it has become feasible to make roads at a reasonable cost on low embankments: and surveys were made at a cost of £150 for a series of cross-roads to open out the interior, at present all forest and kaing grass. The first road of the series runs due west from Ma-ubin across the island to Yelègale on the opposite side and £1,000 (incorporated local funds) were spent on the earthwork and temporary bridges. Further south in this district £1,450 (incorporated local funds) were spent on roads in the villages of Kyaiklat and Dedayè and from Pyapòn, one mile, to Chaungdwin, with a bridge of 160 feet opening over the Chaungdwin creek (pyingado superstructure on iron screw-piles).

199. In the alluvial tracts in the south of the Hanthawaddy and Pegu districts a road is being made to serve the great rice-plains south-west of Rangoon. From Kanbè on the Tunte canal this road runs for 23 miles south to Angyi-Thóngwa, on the Bassein creek: it was begun in 1882, and in 1883-84 £3,800 were spent on completing the earthwork, finishing bridges on two miles, and collecting three-quarters of the metal. Since the end of the year the work has been pushed on, and the road will be open for cart traffic next rice season.

200. To the east of the Pegu river a road has been laid out from Bogyòk ferry three miles to the Syriam ridge; then adopting the country cart-track for two miles along the ridge to the Syriam pagoda, then from the eastern foot of the ridge across the level paddy-plain 28 miles to Kadònbaw. Work was begun in 1882, and in 1883-84 £1,600 (incorporated local funds) were spent on nearly completing the three miles of the Bogyòk and in the earthwork and bridging of the five miles from the foot of the ridge up to Thategwin on the Kadònbaw section: as far as funds are available, it is proposed to complete the road from Bogyòk only to Thategwin before continuing the road further. A company of Burmese traders have proposed to lay a railway on this road, or (if the gradients, &c., are not suitable for a railway) to make a new line in the same direction.

201. From the Irrawaddy valley, from the bank of the river opposite Prome, a road has been made 110 miles long over the Arakan Yoma to Taungup on the Sandoway coast. For 86 miles it is a bridle-road in the hills: laid out at carriage gradients, but not wide enough for cart traffic, though carts have traversed it: it is needed by the Telegraph Department to maintain their line. On this portion no expenditure, except for ordinary maintenance, is at present incurred. On the plains portion, however, £2,600 were spent in raising three miles above floods; in a new iron bridge over the Didòk stream (120 feet opening of one 60 feet and two 30 feet spans): and an iron suspension bridge 150 feet span over the Nyaunggaing stream. The road still requires raising in other miles in the plains: it is not metalled.

202. In Arakan not much was spent in the year: the Naaf-Myo road was continued and £3,350 were spent on it. The road is 15 miles long from Maungdaw on the Naaf to Buthidaung on the Myu, and is intended to facilitate coolie immigration and trade from Chittagong into Arakan. During the year all earthwork was completed, metal was laid

on  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and about half the required balance was collected; a 50-foot iron bridge was partly erected over the Magyi stream. There remained at the end of the year, besides the finishing of this bridge and of the metalling, the erection of a 100-foot span bridge over the Letwèdet, and of a 50-foot timber bridge over the Magyi. On the Mahamuni-Kyauktan road, seven miles long, £1,500 were spent in the year. The earthwork and bridges were finished and more than half the metal collected. An additional sum of £760 (incorporated local funds) were spent on an iron screw-pile over the Tharè stream on this road: it has 100 feet of waterway: it was completed within the year with the exception of part of the masonry abutments.

203. In Ramree island the principal work is the Pyete-Minbyin road,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles long: six miles of good water-communication connects Kyaukpyu with Pyete; thence this road leads to the oil-wells about Minbyin. £3,150 were spent in 1883-84 on this road: the earthwork was completed, nearly all metal collected, a jetty put up at Pyete, and the bridges (temporary, of *zeik* wood) all completed. At Kyaukpyu part of the embankment was metalled as an approach road to the oil refinery (£336): at Ramree the Doratha road to the proposed terminus for the steamers visiting the town was in hand: the earthwork and bridging finished, and metal all collected (£330): in Ramree town one bridge (Unzedi) was completed, £212, incorporated local funds, being spent in the year: and another (Thayègòn) on iron screw-piles was begun (£167, incorporated local funds, spent). At Cheduba the town bridge with piers of iron screw-piles and *pyingado* superstructure over 240 feet of waterway—which was begun in 1882-83 and all the iron then procured, costing £1,300—was continued and £122 spent on it: it was not however finished, the workmanship was bad, and considerable expenditure is needed this year to complete it properly.

204. In the Sandoway district the only expenditure on roads during the year was on the Kinmaw road, which is carried for five miles from Sandoway town to Kinmaw, from which point to the sea the Sandoway river is navigable at all times of the year. £950 were spent during the year, and the metalling was completed, the earthwork and bridging having been finished in the previous year.

205. In the Amherst district expenditure was incurred on the Martaban-Thatôn road, on which £3,570 were spent, allowing all the earthwork and bridging to be completed and metal collected for some miles. This road runs from Martaban, opposite Moulmein,  $38\frac{1}{2}$  miles northward to Thatôn: it has 43 timber and 16 iron bridges and 30 brick culverts. A continuation of this road northward, nine miles to Theinzeik, was made and all the earthwork completed, £300 being spent in the year: neither bridging nor metalling was commenced. From Thatôn a road eight miles long and 26 feet wide has also been made to Duyinzeik, on the Dôndami, the terminus of a steam-launch service from Moulmein. Only £770 were spent in the year, but this sufficed to complete the metalling, make a wharf at Duyinzeik, and let the road be opened for traffic. A railway of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet gauge is being laid by private enterprise on 10 feet width of the road. Some expenditure was incurred on two roads by which traders enter the Salween valley from the Shan States to the east: £1,050 on the Shwegôn-Hlaingbwè and £500 on the Kyôndaw-Kawkarèik road, which, as continued by the bridle-road made by the Forest Officer to Myawadi, leads to Siam. The work during the year was confined to raising embankments across the low swamps near Shwegôn and Kyôndaw. In the Salween Hill Tracts £1,900 were spent in continuing the road from Papun down the Yunzalin valley and £350 on the road from Papun to Dagwin.

206. In Tavoy £4,050 were spent on the Tavoy-Mergui road, of which the condition on the 31st March 1884 was as follows: Nineteen miles of road from Tavoy by Nyaukzin and Thayetchaung to Padaw, with a branch two miles long to Ananda wharf, metalled and opened to traffic, and completed with the exception of a few culverts. On this road the rebuilding of the *Pauktaing* bridge of 280 feet waterway and of the Shwegôn bridge was completed during the year. Beyond Padaw 38 miles of bridle-path six feet wide, but traced at carriage gradients and with temporary bridges,

### III.—PROTECTION.

#### Legislation.

18. The following Acts affecting British Burma were passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year 1883-84, namely,—

Course of legislation.

1883.

- VII.—Repeal of the British Burma Labour Law.
- VIII.—The Little Cocos and Preparis Island Laws Act.
- XII.—The British Burma Pilots Act.
- XVII.—The Native Passenger Ships Act.
- XIX.—The Land Improvement Loans Act.
- XXII.—The Rangoon Tramways Act.

1884.

- III.—The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Act.
- IV.—The Indian Explosives Act.
- VI.—The Inland Steam-vessels Act.
- VII.—The Indian Steam-ships Act.

19. Concerning the Acts applying solely to Burma, it may be mentioned that no action had been taken for several years under the Act, which was designed to regulate immigration into Burma from India under State control, were liable to hamper free immigration. So the obsolete law was repealed. The Little Cocos and Preparis islands were recently attached to British Burma. Nobody lives or, so far as we know, has ever lived on Preparis island; but a few coolies employed by the lessee of the Great Cocos island to collect coconuts lodge sometimes on the Cocos islands. So an Act was passed declaring what laws were applicable to those islands. The Burma Pilots Act was passed in order to place on a proper legal footing the rules and system under which pilots are employed at the four principal seaports of Burma. The Rangoon Tramways Act was passed to legalize the proceedings of the Municipality and their concessionaire in the matter of laying down tramways in the streets of Rangoon. Rules under the Explosives Act, the Inland Steam-vessels Act, and the Indian Steam-ships Act are under discussion. As yet no practical difficulty has occurred in working Act III of 1884, "The Criminal Procedure Amendment Act." In one case an engineer, arraigned before the Rangoon Magistrate for neglect, whereby a boiler exploded and caused two deaths, claimed trial by jury. He was committed to the Sessions and finally was acquitted.

20. Bills for the extension of local self-government in Burma; for the repression of gambling; for removing doubts concerning the jurisdiction of the Courts; and for regulating the Rangoon waterworks, were before the Legislature during the year. The waterworks were completed and opened in anticipation of the Act, which has since been passed. The early passing of the Burma Gaming Act was urgently wanted. There was a remarkable consensus of opinion among the very large number of Burmans who were consulted to the effect that the present excessive gambling was doing much harm and ought to be repressed. The Gaming Bill, which has since become law, is not nearly as stringent or as wide as the Straits Ordinance for checking gambling in Singapore. The Bill for extending local self-government has recently been enacted as the Burma Municipal Act, 1884. The Bill to amend the Courts Act was also passed early in the current year.

Another Bill of much importance was submitted to the Government of India soon after the close of the year of report. This is a Bill dealing with the difficult subject of town lands, which has long engaged the attention of the local Government. The draft enactment now before the Government of India provides for the taking of leases by squatters on town lands, and for the disposal of unoccupied or leased land in towns.

were made past Pyinbôngyi to Duketaung on the lower slopes of the Natye-daung.

207. From Tavoy work was also done on the Tavoy-Siam road on which £2,700 were spent in the year. For 6½ miles, Tavoy to Tabya, a cart-road is made. During the year 2½ more miles of cart-road and 30 miles of bridle-path six feet wide, on carriage gradients, with over 4,500 feet of temporary bridging, were opened. The line is through interminable, pathless forest, and in parts over mountain and rock: and the country is exceedingly unhealthy, so that the difficulties of work are great.

Work was done during the year, at the cost of £740, on a third line of road, that from Kamyaukin to Inzauk, seven miles, and Inzauk to the river, one mile, on the western side of the Tavoy estuary, which was opened to traffic, earthwork and bridging being all finished.

Summary of expenditure on roads. 208. The following table gives in a succinct form the progress made during the year in road-making:—

Division.	EXPENDITURE IN 1883-84.			Total mileage on 31st March 1884.	Miles of road embanked in 1883-84.	Miles of metalling done in 1883-84.	Number of bridges built in 1883-84.	Remarks.
	Original works.	Repairs.	Total.					
	£.	£.	£.					
Amherst ...	7,964	2,430	10,394	84-00	11-00	12-00	4	
Akyab ...	11,879	1,661	13,440	69-5	3-5	10-25	6	
Kyaukpju ...	6,893	820	6,718	...	...	...	...	
Civil Officers ...	23,710	1,815	80,025	187-75	122-25	23-5	97	
Henzada ...	15,824	6,861	21,685	150-48	26-11	6-83	22	
Bassein ...	10,143	7,511	17,654	225-59	3-25	15-78	11	
Pegu ...	5,505	6,480	11,985	183-62	...	5-00	8	
Prôme ...	9,180	160	9,840	23-37	21-21	25-88	7	
Rangoon ...	9,270	359	13,209	46-00	21-00	19-00	39	
Hanthawaddy ...	23,699	3,835	27,084	152-75	...	102-25	5	
Shwegyin ...	4,995	4,989	9,984	126-25	3-75	7-00	17	
Tavoy ...	13,339	20	13,359	82-80	40-00	9-40	6	
Tbarrawaddy ...	7,757	1,691	9,448	185-00	38-00	7-75	39	
Thayetmyo ...								
Thóngwa ...								
Toungoo ...								
Total ...	154,158	37,112	191,270	1,417-11	290-07	237-64	261	

209. More than half the whole sum devoted to water-communications was spent in the Pegu division; £5,800 being expended on the Abya escape and works necessitated by its failure: £3,060 in making a branch from the main Pegu canal eight miles to Pegu town: and £3,800 in the maintenance of and in other minor works in the main canal.

210. The Abya escape, with 20 openings of 10 feet each, constructed of the best materials and excellent workmanship, was finished at the beginning of the year but failed by subsidence of the foundations into hollows formed in the quicksands under the heavy pressure of floods, the waters standing at one time much higher on the canal side above the empty Abya creek, and then at another reversing the process, with the high head of the Sittang tides and floods pressing on the lower side above the canal waters. This work is a great loss to the canal, and until the money can be found for replacing it the control of the flood-level in the canal is to some extent lost, and care will have to be taken and money spent at the end of the rainy season to close the Abya opening in good time.

211. The Pegu Town Branch Canal, commenced in the previous year, was completed in 1883-84 at a total cost of £7,000. It is eight miles long with bottom width of 15 feet and

side slopes of  $\frac{1}{2}$ . This cut, besides serving as a canal, has acted usefully as a drain in reducing the water-level in Pegu town.

212. In the Hanthawaddy district the Tunte canal was opened on the 10th May 1883. £2,200 was spent last year in completing

Tunte canal.

this useful work, which is nearly eight miles long and provides a channel of 25 feet bottom width, and of average depth of 11 feet, and has cost, with sidings and other works, £19,700; by this new artificial cut at all times of the year boats can travel from the Rangoon river past Tunte and by the wide and deep Tunte river into the Irrawaddy river.

The experience of over a year seems to show that with occasional slight dredging the bed in the Tunte canal will not silt up; the bed having deepened considerably in some parts, and the silting in others, due previously to the falling in of the banks, having diminished in amount. If the experience of another year corroborates this opinion, it may hereafter be possible to widen the channel to allow of larger steamers plying between the Rangoon and Irrawaddy river by this short route.

213. In the Shwegyin district the improvement of the Pyuntaza stream, begun in 1882, was completed in the past year at

Pyuntaza stream improvements.

a total cost of £4,000, £1,800 having been spent in 1883-84. The two cuts are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, with 10 feet bottom width, the jungle being cleared to a width of 150 feet. They scoured considerably during the rains of 1883: but in the upper cut a bar kunker (an uncommon formation in Burma) was exposed and will have to be cut deeper to permit of the scour extending. These cuts serve the navigation between the Sittang river and Pyuntaza (which is now a station on an open line of railway): they aid also in the drainage of the country about that village, the floods now passing off much more quickly and the ground remaining inundated for much shorter periods.

214. In the Bassein district £1,500 were spent in widening, deepening, and clearing the Zè and Pebin streams to open a short

Clearing channels.

cut by inland creeks for country-boats from Bassein to Thigwin and the Panmawadi branch of the Irrawaddy. Another sum of £360 was spent in the Irrawaddy stream by Captain Pryce, who continued the work (on which he had expended £1,200 in 1882-83) of clearing the overhanging trees from the *Palu* creek, which is traversed by the steamers plying between Rangoon and Bassein.

A new length of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles of navigation cut was opened, at a cost of £311, between Kyaukami and Daungwin. This will considerably shorten the boat route between Thatôn and Bilin.

About one-seventeenth of the total budget allotment is devoted to this class of works; on which the expenditure, £25,474, in the year under review is almost the same as in the previous year, when it was £26,761.

215. During this year that important work, the Ma-ubin embankment, was completed at a total cost of £20,000, of which £4,500

Ma-ubin embankments.

were spent in the year 1883-84. This embankment encloses Ma-ubin island, which is 40 by 20 miles in extent, with 75 miles of embankment along the north, west, and east sides. This island is hollow, swampy, and jungle-covered in the interior; the embankment has lowered the water-level in the centre of the plain by more than 7 feet, it is now possible to make roads across it, and it will be cleared of swamp, jungle, grass and mosquitoes, and is being taken up for cultivation. It is anticipated that 250 square miles may eventually be reclaimed.

216. In the Thôngwa district another work of reclamation, or rather of protection, as yet however on a smaller scale, has been commenced around the Kyônpadaw township of the Shwelaung

Shwelaung embankments.

plains. It is proposed to construct 44 miles of light embankment around part of this tract which, hitherto fertile and populous, threatens to be ruined by inundations, a larger volume of the Irrawaddy waters having been lately deflected down the Shwelaung branch, and the water-levels of this very low deltaic country having been raised. Only £800 were spent on this work in 1883-84; short detached

lengths of bank having been thrown up; but this resulted in encouraging the cultivators to hold on to their lands and in checking emigration.

217. A much larger and more important work is the Sittang embankment, which was commenced in the year under review. With

Sittang embankment.

the progress of the new railway up this valley closer attention has been drawn to the necessity of reclaiming the swamps and tracts of flooded forest which lie between the eastern slopes of the Pegu Yoma and the Sittang river. This land is waterlogged with (1) the spill of the Sittang in flood; (2) the discharge of the Yoma or hill streams, which silting up as their slopes decrease and as they enter the forest and grass-obstructed plain, unite their devious currents in an inextricable network of shifting streams, pools, and swamps; and (3) the heavy rainfall over the forest-covered area itself, which finds no defined channels by which to be discharged into the lower reaches of the Sittang. The first part of the scheme of reclamation now taken in hand is to protect this tract from the spill of the Sittang. In this view surveys were made, levels taken, and estimates prepared for an embankment leading easterly for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the railway bank along the south, or right bank of the Aingdón (which is a Yoma stream spilling over its banks) to the Sittang river, and thence southerly down the right bank of the main river. The ultimate terminus of the embankment is not yet settled: but the lower it is taken, and the further south all the interior drainage is carried before being discharged into the Sittang, the more completely will the country be drained. The more completely this is effected, the less risk from floods will the new railway run; the easier and cheaper will be the construction of feeder roads across country, and the more cultivation will extend along the railway in country now wild and sparsely populated. During the year past £500 were spent on surveys: and £9,200 were spent on the actual work, which was begun only in November last. The 24 miles of embankment were finished from the mouth of the Aingdón in the north to Pazunmyaung, the river terminus of the cross-road from Nyaunglebin railway station. The work is still in hand, with a large budget allotment in the current year, to close the Aingdón embankment in the north, and carry the main embankment as far down as Shwegyin.

218. In the Pegu division the Pagaing *sluices* were finished at a total cost of £4,675, of which £1,750 were spent in the year under review. This set of 10 sluices, each 5 feet

Pagaing bund sluices.

wide, is self-acting, keeping out the northern floods when they would invade the protected Pegu plain, but letting the inundations on this plain flow away northward when the Pagaing stream is discharging freely into the Sittang north of Myitkyo. The sluices came into play in October 1883 and have acted admirably.

219. In the Prome district £2,100 were spent in 1883-84 on the embankments of the Kantha stream. Embankments have

Kantha stream training works.

been thrown up one on each bank for five miles above and 1,000 feet below the railway bridge: with the object of restraining the flood volume within a defined channel instead of letting it spill over the country, losing velocity, and silting up its bed. To ensure this effectually the embankments should be carried further towards the Myitmaka, into which this stream discharges. The work, however, as far as it has been carried, has done good in arresting the formation of silt, which was rapidly rising each year under the railway bridge nearer and nearer to the girders. The section now is no worse, if not better, than it was in January 1881. After this year's floods are over sections will be again taken.

A sum of £725 from incorporated local funds were spent in this district on an irrigation work, the Kyauksegyi weir, six miles from Padaung. An old Burman bund had existed here, but it was several times carried away and rebuilt. A new brickwork and concrete weir has now been built by the Executive Engineer; it is 40 feet in length and 12 feet high: much land is now irrigated from this weir; and the yearly land revenue on the reclaimed area is already close upon £200.

220. The establishment charges during the year amounted to £81,599:

Percentage of establishment charges.

out of a total expenditure of £444,516, of which £352,936 were spent on "works" proper. The percentage of establishment to the gross expenditure

was 18½; but to the "works" expenditure it was 22·53. This was a fair and reasonable percentage: but it was higher than in the three past years [in 1880-81, 18·28; 1881-82, 16·85; in 1882-83, 17·71]: and it would have been lower had not the works been checked and the budget grant reduced by £45,000 towards the close of the year. It must also be noted that no establishment charges were made against the municipal works of Prome and Henzada for which the services of the Public Works Department establishments were given gratis: had these been debited with a share of establishment, the percentage of establishment would be lower.

221. The first section of the Rangoon and Sittang Valley State Railway, between Rangoon and Pegu, was opened for traffic in February 1884. The line was open for goods traffic as far as Nyaunglebin, a station 92 miles from Rangoon. It is hoped that the railway will be opened to Toungoo in April next. On the Irrawaddy line the bulk of the expenditure incurred during the year was on account of the renewal of bridge-work and the provision of additional rolling-stock. The capital outlay during the year 1883 amounted to £418,847. Since the commencement of operations to the end of the past year the capital outlay on the two State Railways amounted to £2,197,769, the outlay on working expenses during the year amounted to £101,052, and the earnings amounted to £156,289. There was a satisfactory increase of 5·95 per cent. in the receipts from coaching traffic. The number of passengers who made use of the railway during the year was 18·66 per cent. greater than in the previous year. In goods traffic there was a falling of 8·29 per cent. This is due to the partial failure of the rice-crops along the line. There was a decrease of 18,809 tons of rice carried by the railway as compared with the quantity in 1882, the loss on which amounted to about £8,579.

#### Telegraphs.

222. Regarding telegraph extension, it may be noted that the line from Rangoon to Toungoo along the Sittang Valley Railway was completed during the year. A bamboo line was made from Prome to Shwedaung, and a line of the same description from Henzada to Okpo. The construction of the line from Tavoy to the Siamese frontier was carried on during the year, and in February 1884 through communication was opened between Bangkok and Tavoy. But, owing to sickness among the staff and the difficulty in keeping up communication between Tavoy and the frontier station at Pönsakè, it was found necessary to close the line during the wet season. Operations for re-opening the line under more favourable conditions are now being undertaken. The number of messages despatched during the year in the two divisions (Arakan and British Burma) was 154,828 as compared with 104,481 in the previous year.

#### Post Office.

223. The facilities for postal communication were increased during the year by the opening of 19 new post offices and 11 new letter-boxes, and by the addition to the postal staff of six village postmen and four letter-box postmen. There were, on 31st March 1884, 52 post offices, 76 letter-boxes, and 14 village and letter-box postmen under the imperial post. The number of covers of all sorts sent out from these offices for delivery during the year was 3,361,150, compared with 3,020,275 in 1882-83, or an increase of 11·2 per cent. Of the correspondence arising in the province 1·8 per cent. only had to be sent to the dead-letter office for disposal. The correspondence sent out for delivery by sub-post offices increased from 344,925 covers in 1882-83 to 604,812 covers in 1883-84, or 75·8 per cent. The correspondence through sub-offices has more than trebled since 1881-82. The value of the money orders issued from and paid by the Department during the year was £420,259, or £19,765 more than in 1882-83. For the first time returns of the value-payable articles posted were kept. Their value amounted to £6,298. The

number of Post Office Savings Bank accounts and the amount of the deposits doubled during the year, as shown by the following figures :—

	1st April 1883.	1st April 1884.	Increase.
Balance of accounts open ... ..	649	1,297	648
Balance of deposits on ... .. £	7,446	15,391	7,944

Imperial mails were carried during the year over 5,006 miles, or 275 miles more than in the previous year, and the various services, sea and river, worked satisfactorily.

224. The district post is maintained from the district cess ; as a temporary arrangement, one-tenth of the cess, or one per cent. on the land and fishery revenue, has been allotted for postal purposes. In 1881-82 the management of the district post was made over to the Deputy Postmaster-General, and since that date progress has been rapid. In place of the four post offices, 55 letter-boxes, two village postmen, and two letter-box postmen that constituted the entire district post establishment in 1881, there are now 96 post offices, 185 letter-boxes, and 50 village postmen, besides some 40 offices which have during the same period been taken over by the imperial post upon proving self-supporting. The number of miles of district post lines has increased from 1,953 to 2,664, and the number of articles posted from 20,044 to 83,447, excluding service-privileged covers, of which 71,771 were posted in 1883-84. The cost of the district post has during the same period increased from £1,541 to £5,643. Comparing the figures of 1883-84 with those of the previous year, we find that the amount of general correspondence despatched increased by 200 per cent. and the number of money orders by 51 per cent.

225. Much attention was given to diffusing postal knowledge among the inhabitants of the country during the year. A second edition of the postal abstract in the vernacular was issued, and is available to the public at all post-offices at the cost of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per copy. Vernacular notices recommending the savings bank and other postal business were widely circulated ; and arrangements have been made to provide note-paper for sale to the public at all the smaller post offices. A pamphlet entitled "The Post Office in British Burma" was prepared by the Deputy Postmaster-General. Editions in English and in the Vernacular of this little work were published during the year under the sanction, and at the cost, of the local Government. The Director of Public Instruction arranged to have the book used as an optional reading-book in the schools, and also undertook to distribute copies through the agency of his Department to the more important monastic schools throughout the province. The various Missions in British Burma agreed to take copies and use them in their educational institutions.

## V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

## 1.—Revenue.

226. The subjoined figures show the total actual receipts of the public treasury in British Burma during the last few years, thus—

Revenue receipts.

	Total actual receipts in British Burma under the heads of			Total. £.
	Imperial and provincial. £.	Local funds. £.	Municipal funds. £.	
1872-73 ...	1,416,298	129,472	Not separate.	1,545,770
1875-76 ...	1,787,954	121,027	95,882	2,004,818
1878-79 ...	2,019,277	90,405	108,891	2,218,578
1880-81 ...	2,259,597	239,463	184,960	2,684,020
1881-82 ...	2,548,880	251,591	196,488	2,996,959
1882-83 ...	2,599,154	306,917	175,498	3,080,569
1883-84 ...	2,611,469	265,778	249,950	3,127,197

The receipts of the past year, 1883-84, were swelled by a windfall of about £200,000 under "Land revenue," owing to the increased punctuality in collecting the revenue demand of the year, and they were reduced by a falling-off of £110,000 in the customs revenue as compared with 1882-83, owing to shortness of the crop and the unusual demand for rice in Upper Burma. The foregoing figures do not include the receipts of the Postal and Telegraph Departments in Burma; but they include the earnings of State railways. In the year 1882 about £100,000 of customs and forest duties were remitted. Notwithstanding this remission the total public revenues of Burma have increased 102 per cent. during the past 12 years.

227. The results of the last census showed that between the years 1872 and 1881 the population of Burma had increased at a rate "somewhat over 4 per cent. per annum."

Incidence of taxation.

Four years have nearly elapsed since the census; immigration has gone on freely; and the present population of British Burma is probably about 4,334,000 as compared with 3,736,771, the totals of the census in February 1881. Exclusive of the railway receipts (£168,400), which can hardly be reckoned as part of the public burdens, the people of British Burma pay—

to the imperial and provincial funds	...	11	8	} per head.
for municipal and local purposes	...	2	4½	
for all purposes				...13 7½ per head.

The total imperial and provincial receipts for all India including Burma, according to the revised estimates of 1883-84, are £70,569,900; excluding postal and telegraph receipts (£1,480,300) and railway receipts (£11,472,500), but including £9,483,200 of opium revenue paid mainly by the people of China, we make the total receipts for all India £57,617,100, which, on a population of 200 millions, gives an incidence of—

about	...	...	...	5	9	} per head
as compared with	...	...	...	11	8	

in British Burma. Owing to the fertility of the soil, the abundance of land, the bountiful rainfall, the good market for rice, and the excellent harbours in Burma, the general level of earnings and wages is three or four times higher than in India; and so the people of Burma, after paying double the Indian rate of taxation, are better off than their Indian fellow-subjects, and they spend on imported goods and luxuries six times as much per head as do their fellow-subjects in Continental India.\*

\* Note.—Exclusive of Government transactions, the private imports of merchandise into British Burma during the year 1883-84 were valued at £8,520,000, and the excess of private treasure imports over exports was £1,240,000. This gives a total of £7,280,000. British Burma exported to Ava and the countries beyond about £1,120,000 worth of imported goods, and the excess of treasure exported by land over treasure

228. The following statement shows for each division the total area under assessment and the revenue demand thereon during the past five years. As compared with the preceding year, there was in 1883-84 an increase of 176,797 acres under cultivation, a decrease of 18,450 acres in the assessed area left fallow, and an increase of £25,406 in the revenue demand of the year. The extension of cultivation is common to the four divisions; it is largest in Pegu and Irrawaddy; and it is very small in Tenasserim:—

Division.	Description of land.	1879-80.		1880-81.		1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.	
		Acres.	£.	Acres.	£.	Acres.	£.	Acres.	£.	Acres.	£.
Arakan	Cultivated land	514,249	88,890	524,000	91,725	523,446	98,803	550,889	98,509	554,465	103,090
	Fallow land	2,975	87	2,757	34	4,416	55	8,757	110	8,651	46
Pegu	Cultivated land	2,176,080	487,018	1,805,177	276,481	1,347,753	237,556	1,385,500	270,396	1,471,637	288,988
	Fallow land	67,442	718	23,089	289	56,665	707	95,925	1,199	98,527	1,323
Irrawaddy	Cultivated land	...	...	959,878	185,897	1,055,911	196,121	1,081,496	197,307	1,140,400	204,994
	Fallow land	...	...	16,150	202	26,457	331	44,882	561	29,226	865
Tenasserim	Cultivated land	587,445	90,444	618,886	102,250	626,218	104,596	595,871	98,696	602,161	99,898
	Fallow land	27,585	345	26,980	387	36,885	460	66,654	1,088	66,354	659
	Total	3,276,724	616,358	3,397,341	654,303	3,552,337	666,576	3,591,756	664,838	3,769,588	690,474
	Total Fallow land	88,002	1,100	68,986	862	124,988	1,553	216,218	2,708	197,768	2,473
	GRAND TOTAL CULTIVATED AND FALLOW LAND	3,364,726	617,458	3,466,327	655,665	3,676,610	668,129	3,807,974	667,541	3,966,351	692,946

imported was £230,000. Deducting £1,350,000 from the total of £7,860,000 we get £6,510,000, or about £1-10-0 a head, spent on imported goods and treasure by the people of British Burma within the year. The reports for the Indian Empire show that in the year 1882-83, exclusive of Burma, the total private imports of merchandise into India were valued at £48,480,000; and that the private treasure imports exceeded the exports by £12,470,000; thus making a total of £55,950,000. The inland trade report for 1881-82 shows that India, exclusive of Burma, exported across her land frontier about £100,000 of imported goods: no figures of treasure exported across the land frontier are given. Deducting £100,000 from the total of £55,950,000 we get £54,950,000, or about 4s. 8d. per head, spent on imported goods and treasure by the 240 millions of British and Feudatory India during the 12 months. The expenditure of £1-10-0 per head in Burma is thus about six times as high as the rate in India.

229. The cultivated revenue-paying land has been returned under three

Paddy-land and areas under other cultivation. main heads for the past five years, thus :—

	Division.	1879-80. Acres.	1880-81. Acres.	1881-82. Acres.	1882-83. Acres.	1883-84. Acres.
Paddy-land	Arakan ...	439,559	444,516	446,445	453,359	464,296
	Pegu ...	1,999,752	1,229,827	1,301,201	1,371,330	1,459,773
	Irrawaddy ...		861,729	956,031	923,841	1,036,330
	Tenasserim ...	491,709	514,201	531,881	531,701	533,004
	Total ...	2,931,029	3,060,238	3,235,508	3,350,231	3,492,303
Taungya-land (hill-gardens).	Arakan ...	52,452	26,850	25,595	25,144	26,402
	Pegu ...	53,560	10,531	12,530	15,010	13,790
	Irrawaddy ...		20,956	23,278	32,804	31,468
	Tenasserim ...	56,890	56,816	56,972	54,528	57,148
	Total ...	142,402	115,183	123,374	127,496	128,808
All other land	Arakan ...	55,213	56,271	54,821	59,643	67,408
	Pegu ...	179,160	87,908	90,586	95,065	96,501
	Irrawaddy ...		87,389	93,071	99,733	101,938
	Tenasserim ...	66,931	69,299	74,250	75,796	79,363
	Total ...	301,304	300,811	317,728	330,257	345,210
Total	Arakan ...	517,224	527,667	526,862	538,146	558,106
	Pegu ...	2,232,472	1,329,266	1,404,317	1,481,425	1,570,004
	Irrawaddy ...		970,028	1,082,378	1,126,378	1,169,636
	Tenasserim ...	615,030	640,316	663,053	662,025	668,515
	Total of prov- ince.	3,364,726	3,466,277	3,676,610	3,807,974	3,966,321

Paddy-land is thus more than 88 per cent. of the cultivated revenue-paying area, and the breadth under paddy increases by more than 100,000 acres a year. The number of taungyas or hill gardens, each of which is estimated to cover two acres, has not increased during the last five years. By reason of high prices, of improved communications, of increasing forest reserves, and of decreasing shyness, the Karens and other hill tribes are little by little being weaned from this wasteful kind of cultivation and are taking to settled agriculture. A yearly increasing number of Karen families are being engaged by the Forest Department to make teak plantations on their taungyas within forest reserves. On most taungyas rice is grown together with other crops, such as cotton or sessamum. So the rice-producing area exceeds by some 70,000 acres the total acreage returned as "paddy-land." Among "All other lands" fruit and vegetable gardens aggregate 232,428 acres. The fact that this kind of agriculture pays well, and that a ready market is found for all orchard and garden produce, goes to support the view that the people of British Burma are well off and live comfortably. The total area under sugarcane is returned at 9,894 acres, and under tobacco at 18,207. No tobacco is returned for Pegu, only 25 acres for Hanthawaddy, and only 179 for the whole of the Tenasserim division. Probably there is some mistake in these figures.

230. Special orders were issued and strenuous exertions were made by the District Officers to collect the land revenue, which falls due on the 15th February, more punctually than heretofore. As the crop was fairly good, except in Akyab and Bassein, and as the price of rice was high, prompt collections were made without difficulty, and within the year a much larger proportion of the gross demand was collected than in any previous year. The comparative figures for the past three years are as follows :—

	Land revenue.		
	1881-82. £.	1882-83. £.	1883-84. £.
Gross arrears and current demand ...	913,265	959,783	1,008,513
Remissions ...	16,845	9,382	11,569
Collections by end of year, or 31st March	605,240	629,237	679,790
Balance uncollected by end of year, or 31st March ...	291,180	321,164	317,154
Further remissions up to 30th June ...	12,724	1,923	1,120
Further collections up to 30th June ...	200,068	284,237	101,739
Final balance due and uncollected on 30th June ...	17,899	35,004	9,250

Much improvement in punctuality of collection is apparent in all districts. Tharrawaddy, which had a larger increase in the land revenue demand than any other district, closed the official year with a balance of only £10 out of a total demand of £42,228; Henzada with a balance of £846 out of a total demand of £59,849; and Shwegyin with a balance of £752 out of a total demand of £19,172 showed tolerably clear balance sheets.

231. In most parts of Burma the land revenue amounts to from one-twelfth to one-tenth of the value of the gross produce, and good markets are available directly the rice crop is harvested. The people, therefore, can easily pay the revenue; and punctuality in collection depends mainly on punctuality in making the demand and on good revenue administration. In Tharrawaddy, where the whole land revenue demand was practically collected within the year, no one was sent to jail, no property was sold, and only 15 warrants were issued for arrears of land revenue; in Shwegyin, where the results were also good, only 23 warrants were issued, and in only one case was movable property sold for arrears. The returns of coercive processes for arrears of land are as follows:—

Division.	Total number of all coercive processes.	Number of arrests made.	Number of defaulters actually sent to jail.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH	
				Movable property was sold.	Land was sold or resumed.
Arakan ...	1,038	69	8	18	67
Pegu ...	4,489	1,159	80	27	207
Irrawaddy ...	2,710	992	1	84	16
Tenasserim ...	1,240	232	...	19	22
Total ...	9,477	2,452	84	98	312

The total number of processes issued comes to 9,477 on £981,579 of land revenue collected, or 96 for every £10,000 collected.

232. The total remissions were £12,689 as compared with £11,304 in the previous year. The lands on which remissions were sought were in every case inspected by the Township Officers, and in many cases by the Subdivisional and District Officers.

233. The number of persons assessed to capitation-tax was 758,121 as compared with 745,646 in previous year and the total demand increased from £303,649 to £308,891. The increase in the demand is 1.7 per cent., or considerably less than the estimated annual increment to the population. Immigrants for the first five years after their arrival are exempt from this impost.

234. The total demand, remissions, and collections of capitation-tax for each division were as follows:—

	Current demand, with outstanding of previous year.	Remissions.	Collections up to the 31st March.	Further collections up to 30th June.	Balance still due on the 30th June.	
					£.	£.
Arakan ...	55,279	562	53,998	256	454	
Pegu ...	94,089	1,014	93,024	1	...	
Irrawaddy ...	105,300	1,104	103,959	101	136	
Tenasserim ...	56,819	689	56,101	24	5	
Total ...	311,428	3,369	307,082	382	595	
Totals of preceding year	312,365	3,472	306,709	1,481	703	

235. Except in Arakan, there seems to have been little difficulty in realizing the capitation-tax. In the districts of Arakan, where balances at the end of the year were largest, more and severer measures of coercion were adopted than elsewhere for the realization of this tax. Most of the imprisonments for default occurred in Akyab and Kyaukpyu. It is true that the capitation-tax is not an indigenous impost in Arakan as it is elsewhere in Burma; it may also be true that the Arakanese are more indolent than the Peguans; but, if the thugyis are taught to prepare their capitation-rolls carefully, and to collect the tax punctually, the revenue under this head should come in as smoothly in Arakan as elsewhere. It is not satisfactory to find 115 persons in the division sent to prison for periods averaging 29 days on account of arrears for the very petty sums due as capitation-tax.

236. The downward tendency of the fishery revenue during the past four years will be apparent from the following statement of fishery revenue demand:—

Fishery revenue.			1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	Increase or decrease.
Division.			£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Arakan	...	...	1,563	1,424	1,808	1,848	+40
Pegu	...	...	19,671	19,742	20,676	22,848	+2,172
Irrawaddy	...	...	104,789	97,919	89,367	84,288	-5,084
Tenasserim	...	...	18,999	13,847	14,525	13,332	-1,193
Total			140,002	131,932	125,776	121,761	-4,016

The decrease has occurred year after year in, and has practically been confined to, the Thongwa district, where, in the year 1880-81, the biddings at auctions of inland fisheries suddenly leaped up from £57,600 to £77,500. The rise was mainly due to reckless bidding at auction sales; and since 1880 many fishery lessees in the Thongwa district have been ruined. During the last two years reckless bidding has been discouraged, and arrangements have been made to lease many of the smaller inland fisheries to villagers of the neighbourhood. Where auctions are held, the Deputy Commissioner has frequently exercised his discretion by refusing speculative bids, or by stopping an auction altogether when biddings get reckless. In these ways, and also by altering the instalments so as to suit the circumstances of particular fisheries, the administration of this branch of the revenue is being gradually brought into a healthier condition. It is in the Thongwa district, which, even with its reduced demand, yields more than half the fishery revenue of the province, that these reforms assume special importance and require careful management. The spread of cultivation and the erection of embankments have to some extent reduced the inland waters available for fisheries in Thongwa. Outside the Thongwa district the fishery revenue has generally increased.

237. There was improvement in the punctuality of collection and in the smallness of remissions under this head of revenue. The reduction in remissions occurred mainly in the Irrawaddy division, where special attention had been paid to the fishery revenue. The figures for each division are—

	ARREARS STILL DUE ON THE					
	Remissions up to 30th June.		31st March		30th June	
	1882-83.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Arakan...	10	...	23	10	...	...
Pegu ...	91	828	8,228	3,223	1,045	517
Irrawaddy ...	2,502	811	1,679	2,722	811	...
Tenasserim ...	...	108	3,567	3,125	...	152
Total	2,608	1,247	8,497	9,080	1,856	669

Fewer coercive measures were necessary for the collection of the fishery revenue than in former years. Only 670 processes in all were issued; nine persons were sent to jail for default; and in four cases property was sold for the realization of arrears. The number of fishery defaulters sent to prison in the Irrawaddy division fell from 18 last year to seven in the year 1883-84.

Customs revenue.

238. Customs revenue is levied on three classes of goods only, namely,—

- import duty on wines, spirits, and liquors;
- import duty on arms and ammunition;
- export duty of three annas per maund on rice and paddy.

### III.—PROTECTION.

#### Legislation.

18. The following Acts affecting British Burma were passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year 1883-84, namely,—

Course of legislation.

1883.

- VII.—Repeal of the British Burma Labour Law.
- VIII.—The Little Cocos and Preparis Island Laws Act.
- XII.—The British Burma Pilots Act.
- XVII.—The Native Passenger Ships Act.
- XIX.—The Land Improvement Loans Act.
- XXII.—The Rangoon Tramways Act.

1884.

- III.—The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Act.
- IV.—The Indian Explosives Act.
- VI.—The Inland Steam-vessels Act.
- VII.—The Indian Steam-ships Act.

19. Concerning the Acts applying solely to Burma, it may be mentioned that no action had been taken for several years under the Acts applying to British Burma. Burma Labour Law of 1876. The provisions of that Act, which was designed to regulate immigration into Burma from India under State control, were liable to hamper free immigration. So the obsolete law was repealed. The Little Cocos and Preparis islands were recently attached to British Burma. Nobody lives or, so far as we know, has ever lived on Preparis island; but a few coolies employed by the lessee of the Great Cocos island to collect cocoanuts lodge sometimes on the Cocos islands. So an Act was passed declaring what laws were applicable to those islands. The Burma Pilots Act was passed in order to place on a proper legal footing the rules and system under which pilots are employed at the four principal seaports of Burma. The Rangoon Tramways Act was passed to legalize the proceedings of the Municipality and their concessionaire in the matter of laying down tramways in the streets of Rangoon. Rules under the Explosives Act, the Inland Steam-vessels Act, and the Indian Steam-ships Act are under discussion. As yet no practical difficulty has occurred in working Act III of 1884, "The Criminal Procedure Amendment Act." In one case an engineer, arraigned before the Rangoon Magistrate for neglect, whereby a boiler exploded and caused two deaths, claimed trial by jury. He was committed to the Sessions and finally was acquitted.

20. Bills for the extension of local self-government in Burma; for the repression of gambling; for removing doubts concerning the jurisdiction of the Courts; and for regulating the Rangoon waterworks, were before the Legislature during the year. The waterworks were completed and opened in anticipation of the Act, which has since been passed. The early passing of the Burma Gaming Act was urgently wanted. There was a remarkable consensus of opinion among the very large number of Burmans who were consulted to the effect that the present excessive gambling was doing much harm and ought to be repressed. The Gaming Bill, which has since become law, is not nearly as stringent or as wide as the Straits Ordinance for checking gambling in Singapore. The Bill for extending local self-government has recently been enacted as the Burma Municipal Act, 1884. The Bill to amend the Courts Act was also passed early in the current year.

Another Bill of much importance was submitted to the Government of India soon after the close of the year of report. This is a Bill dealing with the difficult subject of town lands, which has long engaged the attention of the local Government. The draft enactment now before the Government of India provides for the taking of leases by squatters on town lands, and for the disposal of unoccupied or leased land in towns.

Up till February 1882 import duty was payable on piece-goods and a large number of other imported articles. The net receipts for the past five years have been—

	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Import duties ...	157,149	141,066	152,179	82,613	62,827
Export duties ...	872,398	429,084	478,786	544,874	484,423
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>529,547</b>	<b>570,100</b>	<b>630,964</b>	<b>626,967</b>	<b>516,750</b>

The import duties are slightly below last year by reason of a reduction in the importation of brandy. The rice duties yielded nearly £110,000 less than in the previous year, in consequence of a falling-off of 215,414 tons in the exports of rice. The crop of January 1882 had been a bumper yield all round, and a brisk demand for the Straits, where prices ruled high during the autumn of 1882, exhausted Burma stocks. The crop of January 1883 in many parts of the province fell short of a full crop; and from Pegu especially the surplus available for export was much smaller than was expected, though prices were sufficiently high to attract all available supplies. The rice exports for the official year 1883-84 would include that part of the harvest of January 1883 which is exported in the months April to November and that part of the harvest of January 1884 which gets to market in February and the early days of March. The harvest of each of these years was somewhat below the average, and was considerably short of the bumper crop of January 1882. And so it happened that, though the breadth of land under rice increases on the average by more than 100,000 acres a year, the exportable surplus of 1883-84 fell far below that of 1882-83 and somewhat below that of 1881-82. The export of rice to Upper Burma was larger during the year 1883-84 than during either of the previous years; but this circumstance accounts for only a small part (barely 4,000 tons) of the falling off in the rice exports by sea as compared with the year 1882-83.

239. The salt-tax is levied in Burma at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}d.$  a maund as compared with 4s. a maund in India. By reason of the

Salt revenue.

cheapness of salt the people of Burma are able to use salt-fish and other fish condiments with their food much more freely than their fellow-subjects in India. Enquiry is being made by the Officers of the Settlement and Agricultural Departments whether salt is or is not largely given to cattle in Burma; but the result of these enquiries is not yet known. The annual consumption of duty-paid salt in British Burma during the last five years have been about 28lbs.\* per head per annum. The average consumption in Continental India seems to be about 10lbs.\* per head per annum. Nearly three-quarters of the salt consumed in Burma is imported from Europe, and the quantity

\*The totals of imported, locally made, and exported salt for the last five years in British Burma have been as follows:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Imported salt chiefly from England ...	52,581	56,480	46,002	41,489	50,969
Locally made salt (estimated) ...	22,510	28,622	21,643	14,223	16,958
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>75,091</b>	<b>85,102</b>	<b>70,645</b>	<b>55,717</b>	<b>67,912</b>
Deduct salt exported to Upper Burma and elsewhere ...	20,685	21,834	17,895	17,607	17,452
<b>Balance ...</b>	<b>54,406</b>	<b>62,769</b>	<b>52,750</b>	<b>38,050</b>	<b>50,460</b>

The figures for locally-made salt are estimated and may probably be above the truth. The average home consumption of British Burma may perhaps be taken at 50,000 tons. This on a population of four millions, which is about the average for the period, gives an average consumption of 28lbs. per head. Some part of this 28lbs. is used in preparing the salt-fish exported to Upper Burma.

The total amount of salt paying duty in India in the year 1883-84 was returned at 28,992,606 maunds. About 250,000 maunds of Indian salt are exported yearly to Nepal, Cashmere, and Cabul. This leaves 28,742,606 maunds for India. People along the border on the coast and in Feudatory States and in the salt-producing States of Rajputana and elsewhere may get a good deal of salt which does not come into the returns of the Salt Department. And it is perhaps safe to estimate that the 28,742,606 maunds are consumed by 280 millions of people in British and Feudatory India. This makes the average consumption come to 10lbs. per head on the whole population.

imported is accurately known. The tax on locally made salt is raised by license fees on cauldrons and pots used for the manufacture of salt. The rates of fees were settled several years ago. If all the licensed cauldrons and pots make the full estimated output, the duty on local salt falls at a rate below 4½d. a maund. But the estimate of each district reckons upon every licensed cauldron or pot working full power every day of the five or six months during which salt-boiling can go on. It is not probable that the industry can be thus systematically and constantly prosecuted. From most districts it is reported that the local manufacture of salt is a decaying business; the revenue from, and the estimated output of, local salt has fallen much since 1880; and in the bazaars of the Pegu province, both on the coast and in the interior, seaborne salt is sold almost to the exclusion of local salt. There is little reason to suspect that illicit manufacture of salt is practised on a considerable scale; and there seems no sufficient reason for interfering with present arrangements.

240. The gross receipts of stamp revenue amounted to £88,839 compared with £82,631 in the previous year. There was thus an increase of 7·5 cent. The charges amounted to £1,791, or more by 1·4 per cent. than the charges (£1,765) of the previous year. The net receipts were £80,866 in 1882-83 and £87,049 in 1883-84.

The charges under discount were slightly less than those in 1882-83, the increase which naturally accompanied increased sales in the Pegu, Tenasserim, and Arakan districts having been more than counterbalanced by the decrease in Irrawaddy, where salaried stamp-vendors replaced to some extent vendors remunerated by discount.

241. The net revenue yielded in the year by the sale of excisable liquors and drugs amounted to £261,057, or 2·19 per cent. below the revenue of the preceding year. The present is the first occasion on which there has been a decline since 1871. The decline occurs under the heads of "Liquor manufactured after the English method" and "Tari." The opium revenue of the year was £28 in excess of that of 1882-83. There was a moderate increase in the revenue yielded by Native fermented liquors and European imported liquors.

The following table shows the net revenue of the year under each head side by side with that of 1882-83 :—

Head of receipt.	Receipts in 1882-83.	Receipts in 1883-84.	Percentage of increase in 1883-84 over 1882-83.	Percentage of decrease in 1883-84 as com- pared with 1882-83.
	£.	£.		
<i>Opium—</i>				
License fees ...	52,029	48,018	...	7·71
Net proceeds of vand ...	98,962	103,001	4·08	...
Total ...	150,991	151,019	·02	...
<i>Spirits manufactured in the pro- vince after the English method—</i>				
License fees ...	16,712	15,167	...	9·24
Duty ...	15,206	9,247	...	28·48
Total ...	28,918	24,514	...	15·28
<i>License fees on—</i>				
Outstills ...	6,461	6,785	5·08	...
Country and fermented liquors other than tari. ...	9,313	9,707	4·88	...
Tari ...	29,127	26,497	...	9·08
Imported liquors ...	42,099	42,475	·89	...
Total ...	87,000	85,524	...	1·7
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> ...	<b>266,909</b>	<b>261,057</b>	...	<b>2·19</b>

There was a large increase in the amount given for the opium licenses in Arakan but a decrease in each of the other three divisions. Less opium was taken in Arakan and Tenasserim than in 1882-83; in Pegu there was a trifling increase, but in the Irrawaddy division the consumption rose by about 27 per cent. A marked falling-off is shown in the Pegu division in the still-head duty derived from liquor made after the English method. Licenses for the sale of this liquor are granted in the Pegu, Irrawaddy, and Tenasserim divisions. In the year under report the amounts given for these licenses were less than in 1882-83, more especially in Bassein and Rangoon Town districts. A large decrease occurred in the revenue derived from tari in the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions. The amount of customs duty derived during the year from imported liquors (including Penang rum) was £81,135, or £813 less than in 1882-83. The total revenue from intoxicating liquors and drugs consumed in the province was therefore from all sources £342,198, or a decrease of £6,548 (equal to 1·88 per cent.) as compared with that of 1882-83.

242. The quantity of opium taken by the licensees was 44,173 seers compared with 41,349 seers in 1882-83. License fees for the vend of opium realized £48,018, or £4,011 less than in 1882-83, the amounts given for them in the Pegu, Irrawaddy, and Tenasserim divisions being much below those given in that year. In Arakan there was again a large advance on the prices paid for the only two licenses allowed in that division.

243. There was again a large falling-off in the amount of revenue derived from this description of liquor. In Tenasserim the duty was only £74 less than in the previous year. But in Pegu and Irrawaddy the decrease was considerable. The decreased consumption of distillery liquor in the Irrawaddy division is put down to various causes, one being the rival attractions of Penang rum and cheap Europe brandies and another illicit distillation. The decrease in the consumption of the liquor from the local distilleries has not been accompanied by any increase in the consumption of imported liquors. On the contrary the imports from Europe fell from 416,517 gallons in 1882-83 to 352,074 gallons in 1883-84, while the imports of Penang rum and other kinds of Asiatic liquor fell from 111,392 gallons to 69,538 gallons. Unless it be the case that the habit of drinking has decreased, of which decrease there is no sign, it must be concluded that the decrease in the sales of duty-paying liquor is due to the substitution of illicit liquor upon which no duty has been paid. To devise measures for the suppression of this illegal traffic, which results at the same time in a serious loss of revenue to Government and in an undesirable reduction in the price of liquor to the consumer, will be one of the first duties of the Excise Commissioner about to be appointed.

244. The total quantity of beer issued in 1883-84 from the brewery attached to the Rangoon distillery was 9,018 gallons, representing a duty to Government of #56. The demand for this beer, which is said to be good and palatable, seems to be declining: much cheap beer is now imported from Europe and is probably preferred.

245. The revenue from outstill licenses has slightly increased, £6,786 having been realized for 46 licenses as against £6,461 in the previous year for the same number of licenses. In Arakan the license fees came to about the average of the past three years. It is said that in the Prome district of Pegu outstill licenses are disappearing as a result of the introduction of licenses for country beer. In the Irrawaddy division outstill licenses are granted in the Bassein and Thayetmyo districts only, and their value does not vary greatly. Outstill licenses are popular in the Tenasserim division; 23 were granted during the year under review as against 21 in 1882-83, the fees amounting to £3,941, or £468 more than in that year.

246. The tari revenue for the year amounted to £26,497, a decrease of £2,631 compared with the realizations in 1882-83, and the lowest amount that has been derived from

these licenses since 1879-80. Large decreases occurred in the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions, notably in the amounts obtained for the licenses in Rangoon town, and in the Bassein, Henzada, and Thayetmyo districts. For the Akyab licenses there was keen competition, which has been followed by the usual reaction and decline in the amount given for the licenses in 1884-85.

247. These consist of three descriptions of liquor known as *kaung*, *seinye*, and *hlawza*. *Kaung* is made from rice and is the liquor known in Bengal as *pachure*, or rice beer. The other two are made from fermented rice and jaggery, to which are added various herbs and spices. These liquors are consumed almost solely in the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions, where the licenses yield a fair amount of revenue.

248. Under this head are classed the various kinds of beer, wine, spirits, and liqueurs imported from Europe, and the liquor imported from the Straits Settlements which goes by the name of Penang rum. The revenue derived from all descriptions of licenses for the sale of imported liquors in 1883-84 amounted to £42,475, or £376 more than in 1882-83.

249. The numbers of persons arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for breaches of the Excise Act and rules during the year were considerably greater than in the year before, namely, 1,695, 1,298, and 433, against 1,247, 985, and 295 respectively. It is impossible to say whether these figures indicate an increase in the number of offences committed, or increased activity on the part of the magistracy and the police in the detection and punishment of these offences. Fines amounted to £5,971, of which £3,719 were realized, compared with £4,163, of which £2,549 were realized in 1882-83. Rewards to informers increased from £1,806 in 1882-83 to £2,328 in 1883-84. The number of convictions for drunkenness was 1,634 as compared with 1,512 in the preceding year.

## 2.—Finance.

250. The notable financial incident of the year is the virtual abandonment of the provincial contract, summarized in paragraph 401 of the Administration Report for 1882-83, which had been introduced from the 1st April 1882. It is unnecessary to repeat here the causes which led to the exhaustion of the provincial finances, necessitating aid from the imperial revenues to the extent of nine lakhs in two years and the restoration of the rate of percentage to that originally fixed for 1882-83.

The year was also marked by the establishment of a currency circle at Rangoon for Burma, which was opened on the 1st August 1883 under the provisions of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882 (Act XX of 1882), and which attained a net circulation of £208,510 on the 31st March 1884.

251. The gross revenue receipts during 1883-84 amounted to £2,972,172\* distributed as under:—

	£.
(a) Imperial	1,470,277
(b) Provincial	1,850,879
(c) Excluded local	76,288
(d) Municipal	75,278

and compared with those of 1882-83 show—

(a) an increase of	62,862
(b) an increase of	86,797
(c) a decrease of	58,545
(d) an increase of	6,789

There was thus on the whole a net increase of £87,843, or 2.95 per cent. The improvement in the imperial and provincial revenues is due chiefly to enlarged receipts from land revenue, opium, salt, stamps, provincial rates, forest,

\* Note.—The figure of £2,972,172 does not include the receipts of the Rangoon Municipality (£160,802) or of the Rangoon Port Commissioners (£29,810). If these two sums be added the total receipts of the year come to £3,203,784.

and registration, and the increase under "Municipalities" to loans raised for the execution of special works. The decrease in excluded local fund receipts is owing chiefly to abnormal credits of £55,000 in 1882-83 on account of sale-proceeds of church lands taken temporarily to excluded local funds, and the transfer of eight new town funds balances from the district cess fund.

252. The cost of the civil administration, imperial and provincial, during 1883-84 amounted to £1,144,054, and compared with 1882-83 shows an increase of £73,059, due chiefly to the larger amount of commission paid on the larger collections of land revenue and provincial rates in 1883-84, to the development of surveys and settlement operations, extension of the district post, additions to the police, maintenance of the Currency Office during two-thirds of the year, &c.

The surplus available for military charges, share of the cost of the imperial administration and debt, share of pensions and gratuities payable in England, share of the loss in the Post Office and Telegraph Departments, &c., amounted to £1,163,137, showing an increase in 1883-84 of £129,838 compared with the preceding year, due to causes already assigned. Excluded local fund and municipal disbursements aggregated £187,035 against £197,670 in 1882-83, showing a decrease of £10,635. The following tabular statement shows the gross receipts and disbursements on account of the imperial and provincial services of the province for each of the past eight years:—

Detail of items.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<b>Gross revenue—</b>								
Civil Department (imperial and provincial)	1,766,109	1,744,539	1,906,915	2,149,373	2,186,430	2,478,516	2,505,736	2,639,667
Public Works Department	6,306	39,817	109,322	121,163	152,300	172,820	172,956	180,999
Total	1,772,408	1,784,356	2,019,277	2,270,536	2,338,730	2,651,406	2,678,691	2,820,666
<b>Gross charges—</b>								
Civil Department (imperial and provincial)	704,941	668,644	755,218	836,392	923,404	997,103	1,070,995	1,144,054
Public Works Department	182,319	150,557	273,769	261,309	360,563	526,860	574,307	513,465
Total	887,260	819,201	1,027,987	1,097,701	1,283,967	1,403,963	1,645,302	1,657,519
<b>Results—</b>								
Surplus in Civil Department	1,061,161	1,075,893	1,154,097	1,313,051	1,263,026	1,511,413	1,434,740	1,495,613
Deduct net public works expenditure	176,013	110,738	163,407	140,043	217,333	353,991	401,441	334,466
<b>Net surplus available for military expenditure and for a share of the cost of the Central Government</b>	885,148	965,155	991,200	1,173,008	1,045,693	1,157,422	1,033,299	1,161,147

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that the net aggregate surplus of eight years, commencing from 1876-77, has been £8,414,102. The surplus in 1876-77 was £885,148 and in 1883-84 £1,163,137, being an improvement in the latter year of 31.405 per cent.

253. The traffic receipts and expenditure of the Burma State Railway amounted respectively in 1883-84 to £167,717 and £102,117 as against £158,688 and £98,816 in the previous year, the surplus being £65,600 as against £59,875 in 1882-83. The interest on the capital expenditure of the Irrawaddy branch for 1883-84 was £53,601, leaving a net profit in the year's transactions of £11,999, equivalent to 4.92 per cent. on the capital expenditure in 1883-84 and to 0.9 per cent. on the total capital expenditure to the end of 1883-84. The interest on the capital expenditure of the Rangoon and Sittang branch (under construction) amounted during 1883-84 to £31,717.

254. The net cost of the troops stationed in Burma in 1883-84 is £274,474 against £274,656 in 1882-83, the decrease, £182, being due to reduced petty contingencies during the year. This would leave £888,663 available for remittance to India, but the net remittances actually made amounted to £1,100,000, the difference having been taken from the accumulated surplus of previous years.

(a).—*Imperial Revenue and Finance.*

255. The imperial receipts in 1883-84, as compared with those of the preceding year, show an increase of £52,851, or 8·3 per cent., due chiefly to improved land revenue, opium, salt, stamps, forests, and registration.

Imperial receipts.

256. The imperial realizations from land revenue, capitation-tax, and miscellaneous items aggregated £758,006 in 1883-84 against £682,021 in 1882-83. The increase of £125,985 is owing to the recovery of arrears and prompt collection of the revenue for 1883-84.

Land revenue.

257. Capitation-tax was levied on 758,121 persons, and the net realizations (including the provincial share) amounted to £307,964, against £307,544 collected from 745,646 persons in 1882-83. The net increase amounted to £420, owing to normal causes.

Capitation-tax.

258. The forest revenue realized during 1883-84 amounted to £250,927 against £250,889 in 1882-83. The increase, £538, is due chiefly to miscellaneous fluctuating items. The imperial share of forest revenue is one-half.

Forests.

259. The imperial share of excise amounted to £110,838 against £112,746 in 1882-83. The decrease is owing to diminished receipts for licenses and a fall in the revenue from tari and from duty on imported liquors.

Excise.

260. The gross customs collections during 1883-84 amounted to £530,862 against £644,546 in 1882-83. The decrease of £113,684 is due to reduced shipments of rice. The export duty realized £445,240, or £113,376 less than during 1882-83. The following table shows the gross customs revenue, imperial and provincial, realized during the past five years:—

Customs.

	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Gross collections—</i>					
Import duty ... ..	157,229	141,203	152,666	83,096	82,802
Export duty ... ..	877,785	486,484	493,301	566,616	445,240
Warehouse and wharf rents ... ..	1,128	1,123	1,410	1,367	1,965
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,747	1,157	1,260	967	855
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>537,889</b>	<b>579,973</b>	<b>648,637</b>	<b>644,546</b>	<b>530,862</b>
Deduct provincial share ... ..	328,069	216,236	237,571	186,265	146,202
<b>Net imperial share</b> ... ..	<b>209,820</b>	<b>363,736</b>	<b>411,066</b>	<b>458,281</b>	<b>384,660</b>

261. The excise on salt (including the provincial share) yielded £600 less than during 1882-83 owing to decrease in the local manufacture of salt, but the amount of duty on foreign salt collected by the Customs Department increased during 1883-84 by £4,900, due to increased supplies induced by the more favourable prices realized in that year. The subjoined table shows the salt revenue of the last four years:—

Salt.

	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Collected by Deputy Commissioners as excise ... ..	4,184	4,919	3,481	2,950
Collected by Customs Department as duty ... ..	19,859	14,780	13,940	17,759
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>24,043</b>	<b>19,698</b>	<b>17,421</b>	<b>20,709</b>
Deduct provincial share ... ..	8,912	8,283	5,892	6,800
<b>Imperial</b> ... ..	<b>15,131</b>	<b>11,415</b>	<b>11,529</b>	<b>13,909</b>

262. The cost price of Bengal opium sold in the Revenue Department was £31,151 as against £29,977 in 1882-83, the cause being larger sales in the Irrawaddy division.
- Opium.
263. Stamp revenue is divided similarly to excise. The imperial share for 1883-84 was £14,695 against £11,310 in 1882-83. The increase has been chiefly in the receipts from the sale of general and court-fee stamps, and is due principally to the provisions of the law having become better known.
- Stamps.
264. Registration likewise is similarly divided: the imperial share for 1883-84 was £973 against £909 in 1882-83.
- Registration.
265. There was a small receipt of £53 under this head in 1883-84, being a recovery of the value of stationery supplied to local funds from the Central Stores, Calcutta.
- Stationery and printing.
266. Credits under this head aggregated £2,355 during 1883-84 against £1,907 in 1882-83. The increase is due to further loans to municipalities and *damini* fishermen.
- Interest.
267. Premia on bills-of-exchange amounted to £291 against £148 in 1883-84, due to slightly better rates and increased sales: lapsed bills were credited to the extent of £1.
- Miscellaneous.
268. Receipts under this head aggregated £698 against £3,857 in 182-83, owing to a decrease in the importation of Europe stores.
- Exchange.
269. The following heads of receipt appertain to other departments and Governments:—
- Other departments and Govern-  
ments.

	1883-84.	1882-83.	Difference + or -
	£.	£.	£.
Post office ... ..	304,850	271,675	+ 33,175
Telegraph ... ..	59,733	54,138	+ 5,595
Military ... ..	26,046	25,066	- 980
Marine ... ..	5,587	11,138	- 5,601
Public Works ... ..	240,526	528,584	- 288,058
India and other Governments ... ..	245,790	240,725	+ 5,065

The increase under "Post Office" may be ascribed to enlarged money-order and savings bank transactions; that under "Telegraph" to more extended business, and under "India and other Governments" to additional remittance operations. The decreases under "Military," "Public Works," and "Marine," are due partly to reductions in ordinary receipts and changes in the system of accounting for public works expenditure on the civil books.

270. The opening cash balance of 1883-84 compared with that of 1882-83 shows an increase of £399,582, owing chiefly to the amount available for remittance not having been fully utilized. The closing balances stood as under:—

	1883-84.	1882-83.
	£.	£.
Notes ... ..	193,066	11,614
Silver ... ..	857,430	1,042,168
Copper ... ..	5,191	7,699
Gold ... ..	8	...
Total ... ..	1,055,715	1,061,471

271. Expenditure under this head amounted to £1,116 during 1883-84 against £1,179 in 1882-83, the decrease being due to a reduction in the deposits in State Railway provident institutions.

Interest.

272. Refunds and drawbacks aggregated £15,349 against £12,339 in 1882-83; fluctuating expenditure.
273. The imperial share of the charges of collection aggregated £52,558 during 1883-84 against £41,684 in 1882-83, the increase being largely due to the better revenue realized in 1883-84. The share of charges on account of land settlement and cadastral survey amounted to £64,948 against £58,231 in 1882-83.
274. The outlay, including the provincial share, amounted to £121,606 against £121,870 in 1882-83. The decrease, £264, represents savings in 1883-84. The net combined profit from this source of revenue amounted to £129,145 in 1883-84.
275. The imperial share of expenditure under this head amounted to £703 against £755 in 1882-83.
276. The imperial share of expenditure under this head amounted to £1,076 in 1883-84 against £1,010 in 1882-83. The increase represents cost of additional stamp paper supplied from Calcutta.
277. The imperial share under this head amounted to £528 against £521 in 1882-83.
278. The civil accounts establishment cost £7,048 in 1883-84 against £6,592 in 1882-83, and the Currency Office, which was opened in August 1883, cost £1,064.
279. The outlay on the Archæological Department amounted to £325 against £242 in 1882-83.
280. The cost of the ecclesiastical establishment and miscellaneous charges amounted to £6,262 against £5,042 in 1882-83. The increase is due to the appointment of a port chaplain and the transfer to the civil books of the pay of the railway chaplain.
281. The expenditure under this head amounted to £1,816 against £7,448 in 1882-83. The decrease is largely due to the transfer of charges on account of pensions to the head "27, Territorial and Political Pensions."

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

282. The provincial share of the land revenue amounted in 1883-84 to £437,321 against £305,051 in 1882-83. The increase is due to the recovery of arrears and more punctual collection of the demand for 1883-84.
283. The gross sea and inland fisheries revenue collected in 1883-84 amounted to £112,530 against £116,093 in 1882-83. The decrease is due to leases having been sold at rates which do not, as in previous years, involve the insolvency of the fishermen lessees.
284. The following table exhibits the gross excise revenue for the past five years:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Opium ... ..	129,362	141,120	146,721	150,005	150,403
Spirits manufactured after the English method...	36,598	32,324	31,055	27,856	26,277
Spirits manufactured after the Native method ...	9,504	11,188	8,685	8,069	8,298
Taxi ... ..	81,020	83,848	37,690	38,466	37,209
Total ... ..	206,579	217,980	224,151	228,396	223,187
Licence fees for the sale of imported liquors ...	26,291	31,190	706	679	789
Customs duty on imported liquors ... ..	33,173	53,633	75,287	61,940	61,185
Total revenue from liquors and drugs ...	816,048	802,803	800,144	806,715	804,111

Deducting remissions the net revenue of the year was £221,548 against £223,844, the decrease, £1,796, being equivalent to .8 per cent. The revenue from the sale

of opium has increased by £398, but the receipts from license fees for the vend of opium were £4,658 less than in 1882-83. The revenue from license and distillery fees, and duties for the sale of liquors and drugs, amounted to £116,964 in 1883-84 against £126,343 in 1882-83, being a decrease of £9,379 due chiefly to a large decrease in the receipts from tari. The sale-proceeds of excise opium were £103,488 against £98,432 in 1882-83, and fines, confiscations, and miscellaneous (not included in the foregoing table) amounted to £1,225 against £717 in 1882-83. The total realizations of excise revenue in 1883-84 aggregated £224,202 against £225,492 in 1882-83.

285. The net revenue derived from opium in 1883-84 was £31,152, or £1,175 more than in the preceding year. The quantity of opium sold was 42,968 seers against 41,347 seers in 1882-83. The average price per seer (inclusive of £1-1-6 per seer for license fees) was £4-4-0, of which 14s. 6d. per seer, the cost price, is wholly imperial.

286. The amount realized as license fees and as duty on spirits manufactured after the English method decreased from £27,356 in 1882-83 to £26,277 in 1883-84. The revenue from this source is declining.

287. The still-head duty and license fees paid for the manufacture and sale of country spirits amounted to £8,298 in 1883-84 against £8,069 in 1882-83, showing an increase of £229.

288. The revenue realized from the sale of the right to vend tari amounted to £37,209 against £38,466 in 1882-83, showing a decrease of £1,257.

289. The charges for the remittance of treasure in 1883-84 amounted to £851 against £1,686 in 1882-83: decrease due to the utilization of the I. M. S. *Irrawaddy* when on tour with the Chief Commissioner and less movement of funds locally.

290. The charges amounted to £5 against £21 in 1882-83.

291. The subjoined table exhibits the disbursements within the province during the last two years on accounts other than that of the civil administration:—

	1883-84.	1882-83.	Difference + or -
	£.	£.	£.
Post office	5,063	9,930	- 4,867
Telegraph	53,917	48,811	+ 5,106
Public Works	887,920	1,179,136	- 291,216
Military	281,273	285,687	- 4,414
Marine	7,860	5,871	+ 1,989
India and other Governments	111,490	853,766	- 242,276

The reduction under "Post office" denotes larger postal collections and consequently less demands on the treasury; the increase under "Telegraph" is ascribed to reconstruction following the cyclone in May 1883 and to the extension of the telegraph towards Siam; "Public works" expenditure was restricted on financial considerations; "Military" indicates reduced forces; the increase under "Marine" is chiefly on account of the employment of the I. M. S. *Investigator* and the launch *Lapwing* in addition to the *Enterprise*; and the lesser expenditure under "India and other Governments" is due chiefly to fewer remittances.

292. The provincial share of forest revenue amounted to £125,464 against £125,195 in 1882-83.

293. This head includes cess on land revenue, fisheries, and town-tax, the collections on account of which in 1883-84 aggregated £101,483 against £81,499 in 1882-83, showing an increase of £19,984.

Provincial rates.

*Police.*

21. A further addition was made to the strength of the police, which now numbers 719 officers and 6,916 men, compared with 689 officers and 6,748 men in 1882. Increases to the strength were made in those districts where violent crime was most rife. The total cost of the police, exclusive of the rural police, rose from £161,628 in the year 1882 to £189,258 in 1883. Some progress was made in the work of providing quarters for policemen near their station-houses. Stripes carrying good-conduct pay were awarded to 881 constables. There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of policemen punished for misconduct; and there was some small reduction in the percentage of men who left the force; the number of changes in the force, caused by 24.4 per cent. leaving in the year, is still far too large for efficient work. The good-conduct pay has been awarded in 1883 for the first time, so the effect of that measure has not yet been felt.

22. The rural police consists of 747 gaungs, or chiefs of rural circles, and 7,968 headmen of villages. In some districts, especially in Thayetmyo, Thongwa, Bassein, and Amherst, the rural police are already affording valuable assistance in police affairs. In other districts the organization and systematic utilization of the rural force is not yet complete. The local funds for payment of village headmen are unequal; one district has a large land revenue and rich local funds, it is therefore able to pay its rural police fairly well. Another district is poor and can give only very small yearly wages to village headmen. But all headmen ought to have, and as a rule do have, other duties and other means of livelihood, and the efficiency of these rural officers does not appear to vary directly with the wages paid them. In Thayetmyo, where their remuneration is specially low, they have given much help. It would seem that the sympathetic guidance of Government officers is a chief factor in gradually converting the rural police into a most useful organization for securing the peace of the country. The cost of the rural police was £94,858 in the year against £83,485 in 1882-83, and as against £10,188 spent on the same force in 1880-81 before the new system was introduced.

23. The year 1882 was a bad year for crime. But the year 1883 has been worse. The number of cognizable offences increased from 21,821 in the year 1882 to 23,050 in 1883, or by 8.8 per cent. The increase was distributed among the several classes of cognizable crime thus—

	1882.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
Class I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice .. .. .	306	262	56	..	27.19	..
Class II.—Serious offences against the person .. .. .	1,300	1,700	400	..	30.77	..
Class III.—Serious offences against the person and property or against property only .. .. .	1,196	1,544	348	..	29.1	..
Class IV.—Minor offences against the person .. .. .	1,543	105	..	1,438	..	93.2
Class V.—Minor offences against property .. .. .	12,351	12,861	510	..	4.09	..
Class VI.—Other offences not specified above .. .. .	6,554	7,368	814	..	12.42	..
Total .. .. .	21,821	23,050	1,229	..	5.63	..

The number of murders decreased from 145 to 135, but the number of cases of grievous hurt and of hurt with deadly weapons increased from 208 and 453 to 274 and 723 respectively. The readiness with which Burmans, especially young Burmans, use knives against each other is a serious feature in the criminal his-