

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE
YEAR 1876-77.



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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. THE chief event during the year of public importance to India at large, the assumption by Her Majesty the Queen of the title of Empress of India, demands the foremost place of notice in the administrative annals.

The occasion was celebrated with due ceremony, accompanied by public rejoicings, in each station in the Province, and the opportunity was taken of presenting such persons as had distinguished themselves by loyalty or good services, rendered to the public or the State, with certificates of honour, in token of recognition of those services by their sovereign.

2. The year under report presents no special features from an agricultural point of view. The weather was, on the whole, favourable, and, though the rains were late in some parts of the Province, the rainfall was an average one. The outturn of the principal crop, rice, was fair, and that of the other crops larger, perhaps, than usual.

Seasons and harvests.

3. The condition of the people throughout the year was fairly prosperous; prices ruled high, but nowhere was there any distress, and there were no special causes at work tending to lower the standard of comfort among the general population.

Condition of the people.

4. Malarious fevers were, as usual, prevalent during the year, and cholera was not absent, although there were, happily, no bad outbreaks of that disease. In Sylhet, there was an outbreak of fever of a

Health of the people.

very fatal type. The vital statistics collected being utterly untrustworthy, no deductions can be drawn from them as to the general health of the people. The year, however, is generally stated to have been somewhat more unhealthy than that which preceded it.

The details of administration given at length in the body of the report will now be briefly summarized.

5. The only change to be noted during the year in the general powers of the Administration was the investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870 (the Court-fees Act). Under the head of political changes may be included the notification of the Inner Line in the district of Sibságar, and the demarcation of the Inner Line in the district of Lakhimpur. A form of pass under Regulation V. of 1873 was framed during the year, and its general adoption has been ordered. The administrative changes to be recorded were as follows:—

Changes in administration.

The Sunámganj sub-division, in Sylhet, was opened during the year, and steps were taken with a view to ensure the early opening of the remaining sub-divisions projected for that district. The local limits of the Sylhet munsiffis were re-adjusted, and the jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court in that district was finally determined. The thannah divisions in the district of Cachar were also re-arranged during the year.

In connection with the revision of boundaries, the work carried out during the year consisted of the definition of the boundary between the district of Cachar and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, the prosecution of the demarcation of the Gáro Hills and Maimensingh, and Gáro Hills and Khási Hills boundaries, and the completion of the survey of the boundary between the district of Kámrup and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, and its permanent definition.

6. The principal event of the year in connection with the dependent State of Manipur was the investigation by an officer of the Assam commission, under the orders of the Government of India, into certain charges made against the Political Agent, Dr. Brown, by the Durbar. The conduct of the Durbar in this matter was considered most unsatisfactory.

Relations with tributary States and frontier affairs.

The question of the acquisition by the Maharajah of land in British territory was raised during the year, and it was decided, with the approbation of the Government of India, that any further acquisition by him of land within our districts should be prohibited.

Two political detenus, Gokul Singh and Doyabunda Singh, were released during the year and permitted to return to Manipur.

With the exception of the Angami Nágas and the Abors, the various frontier tribes with whom we have political relations gave no cause for disquiet during the year under review. On the contrary, the friendly intercourse with the hillmen at the large annual fairs has been productive of excellent results, and, with the exceptions above noted, their attitude has been eminently pacific.

The turbulence and ferocity which characterise the principal villages of the Angami Nágas were manifested again this year in frequent outrages on their weaker neighbours; and besides raiding on villages in Manipur territory they ventured ultimately to attack a village in British territory. In February, 1877, a band of Nága warriors from the powerful village of Mozema passed across the border into North Cachar, and attacked the British-Nága village of Gumaigáju in retaliation for an old grudge, killing some of the inhabitants, and carrying off some booty.

The necessity for the repression of outrages upon British subjects such as that described being imperative, the Government of India have sanctioned a punitive expedition during the cold weather of 1877-78 against the offending communities.

The Abors committed no overt act of hostility; but, were it not for the fact that the survey party, which operated in the lower range of hills north of the Brahmaputra, was protected by a strong military escort, they would probably have opposed its advance. Their attitude at present is unsatisfactory, and they threaten to intercept the communications of the friendly Mishmis with the plains.

7. Parties of the Topographical, Trigonometrical, and Revenue Surveys were at work in the Province during the year, and a survey of the Dikhu Valley was undertaken, with a view to test the cost

Surveys.

of laying down a light railway from the coal-fields of the Sibságar district to the banks of the Brahmaputra. No report, however, has been received of the operations of this last-mentioned party. The main work of the Topographical party consisted of the exploration and survey of that portion of the Lakhimpur district known as the valley of the Noa Dehing. The Trigonometrical party were employed in still further extending the triangulation to the head of the Assam Valley, and two peaks on the lower range of the Abor Hills were occupied, thus enabling the party to complete important observations.

The principal work of the small Revenue Survey party employed in the Assam Valley consisted of the survey of the *la* and *nisf-kheraj* estates in the Kámrúp district. Good progress has been made, but the work is of an intricate and tedious nature, and the Chief Commissioner cannot look forward to its early completion. Some additional work in connection with the survey of the waste land grants and revenue-free tenures in Darrang was also finished during the year.

8. In addition to the ordinary annual settlement work in Assam Proper, the settlement work in
Settlements.
 progress during the year consisted of the re-settlement of *ilam* estates in Sylhet, the re-settlement of other petty scattered estates in that district, the re-settlement of the *Jaintiá* *pergunnahs*, the settlement of waste land in Cachar, and petty re-settlements in Goálpára.

The settlements in Assam Proper were made during the year in the usual manner, and resulted in an increase of revenue of Rs. 63,380 over the revenue of the preceding year. This increase was due to extension of cultivation.

Fair progress was made in connection with the work of re-settling the *ilam* estates in Sylhet, with the result of a considerable addition to the land revenue.

The same may be said with regard to the other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.

Owing to the collapse of the organized opposition to the settlement proceedings in 1875-76, measurement operations in the *Jaintiá* *pergunnahs* progressed rapidly, and without interruption. It is expected that the measurement work will be completed by November, 1878. The rates of assessment for six *pergunnahs* were provisionally approved of during the year

by the Chief Commissioner, and submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

Waste land in Cachar continued to be taken up during the year on the terms obtaining in that district. There is nothing particular to note here regarding either these waste land settlements, or the petty re-settlements in Goálpára.

The settlement of the Eastern Duárs in Goálpára expired on the 31st March, 1877, but instructions were issued during the year by the Chief Commissioner for the conduct of the revision of settlement, and preliminary arrangements were made by the Deputy-Commissioner before the close of the year for carrying it out. A detailed account of the entire settlement operations will be given in the report for 1877-78.

9. The system in force since 1862 for the disposal of waste lands, of selling them revenue-free in fee-simple, was discontinued from the commencement of this year. The objections to thus forestalling the revenue, while the expenses of administration must necessarily increase, and the land also rise in value with the development of the country and the improvement in communications, led to the substitution of a system of granting the land on perpetual lease on specially favourable rates of assessment for the first thirty years, and afterwards chargeable only with the usual rates of assessment current in the district. 24,444 acres of waste land were leased under these new rules during the year, and, in addition, 164,623 acres were applied for, but not finally allotted during that period. Only one grant, comprising an area of 1,500 acres, which was under disposal at the time of the abolition of the old system, was sold in fee-simple during the year. In addition to the above, 24,580 acres of land were taken up for tea cultivation in Cachar and Sylhet under the special rules obtaining in those districts.

In Assam Proper, 6,319 acres of waste land were taken up on ordinary revenue-paying pottah, and 80 acres were granted at reduced rates.

10. The estates under the care of the Court of Wards during the year were the same as during the preceding year. There is nothing of any special importance to record concerning them.

11. The details embodied in the report show that the working of the police during the year was fairly satisfactory. The conduct of the men was, on the whole, fair, and no serious charges were preferred against the force. Particular attention was paid to drill during the year, more especially in the case of the frontier police. Measures were introduced with a view to increase the efficiency of the village and river police in Sylhet. A slight addition was made to the total number of the municipal police during the year.

Police.

A considerable increase of crime reported as true by the police above the figures for 1875 is exhibited by the returns for the year under review. It is not easy to determine whether this increase indicates an actual increase in crime, or whether it is the result of increased exertions on the part of the police.

The result of the cases reported true by the police was a little better than in the previous year. Crime in the hill districts would appear to be on the increase. As the administration of these tracts improves, an increase in reported crime is only to be expected.

12. There is little to record with reference to jail management during the year. The buildings remained much in the same state as in previous years. The required improvements can only be gradually effected as funds are available for the purpose. Both the daily average number of prisoners and the gross prison population were larger in the year under review than in the preceding year. There were few escapes from the jails during the year, and jail discipline appears to have been fairly maintained.

Prisons.

The average cost per head of each prisoner was somewhat less in 1876 than in 1875.

The average death-rate during the year was higher than in the previous year, the season generally having been, as already remarked, a rather more unhealthy one.

The sanitary condition of the jails was generally good, and their internal management satisfactory.

13. As compared with the year 1875, there was a decrease in the number of offences reported, and an increase in the number of persons brought to trial, during the year under review. The percentage of convictions was higher, and the percentage of acquittals lower, in the latter than in the former year. The decrease in the number of offences reported has been attributed to the generally good outturn of the crops during the year. The results, as compared with those shown by the figures for the previous year, are fairly satisfactory. Heinous offences formed a very small percentage of the total number of offences committed, and the number of persons committed to the Court of Sessions was small. The result of cases committed to the Court of Sessions was, however, very unsatisfactory. There was a slight increase in the number of cases in which whipping was awarded as a punishment, but the percentage of such cases on the total number of persons punished is still very low. The unpaid magistracy continues to perform much useful work.

14. There was a decrease in civil business, as compared with 1875, the number of original suits instituted being 19,779 against 20,811 in the preceding year. The bulk of the decrease occurred in Sylhet, and is attributable partly to the short harvest in that district, and partly, perhaps, to the changes in the location of the munsiffs' courts, consequent on the opening of the new subdivisions. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 19,839, as compared with 21,311 disposed of in 1875, and the total value of the cases decided was Rs. 22,70,269, against Rs. 22,95,168 in the preceding year. The greater portion of the suits instituted were for small amounts. There was a decrease in the number of rent suits, and a slight increase in the number of cases of the Small Cause Court class. No other points call for notice here.

15. There was an increase in the work of the Registration Department during the year under review, 9,004 documents having been presented for registration, as compared with 8,356 documents presented for registration in the previous year. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 15,202-5-9, against Rs. 14,440-5-3 in 1875-76. At the same time, there was a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 1,272-9-0. These results are certainly satisfactory. The

returns show a very marked increase in the number of optional registrations effected, as compared with the preceding year. No addition was made during the year to the existing number of registration offices, and the Chief Commissioner cannot look forward to an early extension of the rural sub-registry system.

16. No addition was made during the year under report to the number of municipal institutions already existing. There is not much to note regarding the working of the municipalities. Their receipts and expenditure, respectively, were larger during 1876-77 than during 1875-76, and though no works of any extent were executed, still the funds at the disposal of the several municipal committees were, on the whole, expended with judgment.

Municipalities.

17. Experiments in agriculture and horticulture at the Shillong Model Farm were very much restricted during the period under review, in consequence of its financial ill-success, and there is little of interest to record in connection with it, with the exception of the experiment in growing wheat.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

18. Much real advance has been made by the Forest Department in this Province during the year under report. An area of 877 square miles has been added to the reserved forests, thereby securing some very valuable forest tracts from certain destruction. Demarcation work was pushed on actively during the year, and the measures taken to protect the forests from fire were successful. Revised rules were introduced during the year, which it is hoped will have the effect of still further ensuring the protection of the forest tracts. Some measures for the conservancy of the valuable forests in the Khási Hills were also inaugurated. The receipts of the department during the period under report were Rs. 81,568, as compared with Rs. 1,07,301 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 25,733. This decrease is, however, only apparent, and is attributable to a transfer of the revenue derived from "Elephant-catching" and "Soom Forests" from the head "Forest Revenue" to the head "Miscellaneous Land Revenue." The expenditure during 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 89,919-11-9, against Rs. 61,883-11-8 in 1875-76.

Forests.

The financial results, as exhibited by the above figures, cannot be called satisfactory, but it is obvious that the Forest Department in Assam must necessarily be for some time to come a deficit department. Seeing that the principal work of the newly-constituted department has been to take under its protection and endeavour to resuscitate forest tracts long exposed to reckless and wanton destruction, and to preserve tracts of valuable forest where a demand has not yet arisen, it is only to be expected that expenditure should for some time exceed income. The addition of fresh reserves must also necessarily entail at the outset additional charges not covered by increased production. The expenditure may, however, be safely looked upon as an investment that will produce large future profit.

19. Arrangements were made for the first time during the year under review to register the Trade. trade between this Province and frontier States. Owing to unavoidable delay, however, operations did not commence till late in the year, and statistics for the whole year are, therefore, not available. Instructions have been issued, which it is hoped will have the effect of rendering the returns of trade more valuable than the fragmentary statistics which have been compiled can be said to be.

20. The final grant to the Public Works Department for the year amounted to Rs. 8,69,087, and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8,14,195, leaving a surplus of Rs. 54,892, whereas in the two previous years there had been a deficit. The department, as will be seen from the details given in the body of the report, displayed much activity during the year, and can show a really good outturn of work. Among the most useful of the projects undertaken or continued by the department during the year may be enumerated the construction of telegraph-offices in connection with the extension of the line of telegraph to Upper Assam, the commencement of important alterations in, and additions to, the Sylhet Jail, the prosecution of the most important road in the Province, the Assam Trunk Road, and the opening for traffic of the Shillong Cart-road.

21. The net surplus revenue of the Province from General revenue. Imperial and Provincial Services, and Local and Municipal Funds, during

1876-77 was Rs. 20,44,477, against Rs. 18,81,711 in 1875-76. The aggregate net income from all the above sources in 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 67,86,165, and the expenditure to Rs. 49,04,394. In the present year the net income was less, amounting to Rs. 66,60,900, but the expenditure was reduced in greater proportion, being Rs. 46,16,423. The falling off in aggregate income is, however, only apparent; there has been no diminution in the resources of the Province. Imperial revenue, on the contrary, shows a slight increase. The decrease is due to the income of the preceding year having been swelled by special additions, Rs. 1,00,329 having been specially granted in that year to Provincial Services, and Rs. 42,694 having been credited from the Bengal Government to Local Funds as balances of old accounts.

22. The total gross receipts under the several heads of Imperial revenue and finance. Imperial civil revenue in 1876-77 were Rs. 55,86,763, as compared with Rs. 56,10,094 in the preceding year, showing a net decrease of Rs. 23,331. The total civil expenditure during the year under review amounted to Rs. 36,43,141, against Rs. 36,39,963 in 1875-76, showing a net increase of Rs. 3,178. The decrease in the receipts was chiefly under the heads "Land Revenue" and "Stamps." The causes of this decrease (apparent only in the case of land revenue) will be found explained in detail in the body of the report. There was, however, a considerable compensating increase under the heads "Forests," "Excise," and "Miscellaneous." The aggregate increase in expenditure was Rs. 1,28,675, of which Rs. 60,600 were nominal; the rest was incurred principally under "Forests," and also under other heads. The comparative increase was, however, reduced by the absence of the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 made in the previous year to Provincial Services.

23. The current demand on account of ordinary land revenue during the year, as compared with the current demand of the previous year, shows an increase of Rs. 1,13,911. This increase is due partly to the extension of cultivation, and partly to the re-settlement of estates at enhanced rentals.

On the other hand, the current demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue shows a falling off of Rs. 65,146, as compared with the current demand for 1875-76. This

falling off is due partly to the fact that many of the elephant mehals were allowed to rest during the year, and partly to the exclusion from the demand of the year of the sums which, though due on account of the year, were not legally recoverable before its close.

24. The excise revenue of this Province shows a steady increase. The total net abkari revenue (inclusive of the sale of opium) during the year amounted to Rs. 14,09,752, as compared with Rs. 13,90,408 in 1875-76 and Rs. 13,59,331 in 1874-75. Deducting the receipts from the sale of opium, the net excise revenue of the year under report and of the two previous years was Rs. 2,27,158, Rs. 2,07,205, and Rs. 2,02,969, respectively. The increased revenue during 1876-77 has been mainly under the heads "country spirits," "imported wines," and "ganja," and has been obtained by raising the taxation on the vend of the commodities, chiefly by putting up local monopolies to auction, while, at the same time, consumption has been checked.

25. The gross receipts on account of stamp revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 4,87,332, against Rs. 5,06,115 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 18,783, as compared with the receipts for 1875-76. The principal immediate causes of this diminution of income are apparently a decrease in the amount of litigation, in the value of suits, and in the number of deeds of sale executed during the year. What more remote causes may have produced these conditions is not so clear. The greater circulation of currency notes and the introduction of supply-bills, combined with a decrease in monetary transactions in Cachar, are also said to have contributed to this result.

26. The receipts and charges during the year under Provincial Services amounted to Rs. 17,65,430 and Rs. 16,79,387, respectively, showing a surplus of Rs. 86,043. This result, considering that the previous two years closed with a deficit under this head, is very satisfactory. Expenditure had to be largely reduced in order to produce this result. Public Works alone show a decrease of nearly two lakhs.

27. The figures under this head show a surplus. Details are given in the body of the report, and there is nothing special to notice in this summary.

28. The Chief Commissioner regrets that the returns of vital statistics are still as untrustworthy as ever, and that no deductions of the slightest value can be drawn from them. The necessity for exercising supervision in this matter has been strongly impressed upon district officers; and it is hoped that, with respect to the selected areas, at least, approximately true statistics may be obtained in future. To the obtaining of trustworthy general statistics, Colonel Keatinge does not look forward very hopefully.

Births and deaths.

29. For the reasons given in last year's report, no comparison can be attempted between the statistics for the year under review and those for the previous year, but the returns for the year are themselves complete. These returns show a total increase in the immigrant population of the Province during the year of 23,071 souls. A considerable further increase of this population may be looked for in future years, as, with the extension of the tea-industry the demand for labour becomes greater every year, and, with increased facilities of communication, the obstacles in the way of supplying this demand will gradually diminish. The condition of the immigrant population is decidedly good. They are, as a rule, well-housed and cared for, and cases of ill-treatment are very exceptional. The main causes of desertion may be said to be the desire for change and the temptation of securing a fresh bonus on re-engagement.

Immigration.

The opening of the Northern Bengal Railway as far as Rangpur will lessen the present high cost of importation, and will, at the same time, no doubt, considerably reduce the percentage of mortality among the immigrants on their upward journey.

30. The number of dispensaries was increased by one during the year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of patients treated, and in the number of operations performed. Financially speaking, the result of the working of these institutions has been fairly satisfactory; but it is questionable whether they are as popular as they should be among those for whose benefit they are established.

Medical relief.

31. There is only one lunatic asylum in this Province, the Tezpur Asylum, which was opened on the 1st April, 1876. The building is merely of a temporary character, to supply the immediate needs of the Province until such time as funds are available for the construction of more suitable and permanent accommodation for the insanes. The institution, such as it is, has been found to answer its purpose as well as could have been expected.

Lunatic asylums.

32. But little advance has been made during the year in the matter of sanitation. In the principal towns sanitary measures have been adopted with the best results ; but anything like a general system of rural sanitation is impossible without a very large expenditure, altogether out of proportion to the population and resources of the country. The peculiar formation of the country, and the habits of the people, are almost insuperable obstacles in the way of sanitary reforms.

Sanitation.

33. Vaccination operations in this Province are on a small scale, and the staff of vaccinators is limited. The total amount of work done during the year under report was only at the rate of 4.99 vaccinated per 1,000 of the population. In particular districts, however, a much larger percentage was obtained. Vaccination operations have in many parts to contend with much passive opposition.

Vaccination.

34. The working of the Education Department during the year must be pronounced to have been, on the whole, fairly successful. Though there was a decrease in the total number of schools, still there was an increased attendance, and, at the same time, there was a considerable reduction in the total expenditure on education.

Education.

The reduction in the number of schools was among the classes of schools known as the middle vernacular and middle English. Primary schools were two more in number than last year. Higher-class schools remained the same.

The increased attendance at the primary schools was considerable, the middle vernacular schools alone showing a falling off.

The contribution of the people towards the cost of education was greater in 1876-77 than in the previous year, being 32 per cent. of the total cost of educational operations against 29 per cent. in 1875-76.

The duty of inspection appears to have been adequately performed by the subordinate officers of the department.

The normal schools supplied a fair number of recruits to the lower ranks of the teaching agency of the Province.

One of the technical schools has proved fairly successful, the other, never popular, was closed during the year.

35. CONCLUSION.—The year's administration has been comparatively uneventful. It has not been marked by the introduction of any important change or new measure, with the exception of the abolition of fee-simple sales of waste lands. The more immediate wants of the country have, however, not been overlooked, and the foundations of still further improvements have been laid. More, indeed, might have been effected, had not the necessity for retrenchment and economy, in consequence of the financial deficits of the two preceding years, crippled the provincial resources.

The spread of cultivation and the continued extension of the tea industry are gratifying proofs of the healthy growth of the natural development of the Province, while the advance of the Trunk Road throughout the Assam Valley, and the extension of the line of telegraph to the most distant head-quarters station, Dibrugarh, are among the instances of the furtherance of this growth on the part of Government.

The general executive machinery of Government has, the Chief Commissioner thinks, worked throughout the Province with satisfactory efficiency, and with no lack of zeal on the part of the officers engaged in it.

PART II.



REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

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Administration Report for 1876-77.



CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.



SECTION 1.—CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

1. (a) *General*.—The only alteration in the powers of the Administration which has to be recorded during the year is the investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870 (Court-fees Act) by a notification in the *Gazette of India*, dated 23rd June, 1877.
Investiture of the Chief Commissioner with powers under Act VII. of 1870.
2. (b) *Political*.—The Sibságar Inner Line, under Regulation V. of 1873, was notified by the Government of India on the 21st June, 1876. The line follows the southern revenue survey boundary of the district from its eastern limit, namely, a point on the Disang river, to its western limit, a point on the Doyang river.
Sibságar Inner Line.
3. The demarcation of the Inner Line in Lakhimpur has been finished, but the demarcation of the Inner Line on the southern frontier of Cachar has been delayed. It will, however, shortly be completed.
Lakhimpur and Cachar Inner Lines.
4. A form of pass, framed in accordance with the provisions of the regulation above quoted, has been adopted, and is now in force in all the districts to which the Regulation has been extended, viz., Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sibságar, and Cachar.
5. Establishments have been sanctioned for each of the three new sub-divisions in Sylhet, Sunámganj, Lashkarpur, and Latu, and the Sunámganj sub-
Sub-divisions in Sylhet.

division was opened in December, 1876. The Chief Commissioner purposes opening the two other sub-divisions at an early date, and sites are being selected for their respective head-quarters.

6. (d) *Revision of district and internal boundaries.*—The boundary between the district of Cachar and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills was found to need rectification, and two officers, Messrs. Shadwell and Damant, were specially deputed for this duty, under Section 10, Act XXII. of 1869. The boundary was properly defined, and duly approved of by the Government of India on the 28th July, 1877.

7. The demarcation of these boundaries has been proceeded with during the year, but has not yet been completed. The boundaries have not as yet been notified.

8. The survey of the boundary between the district of Kámrup and the district of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills has been completed, and has been defined by permanent marks. The boundary, having been approved of by the Government of India, was notified in the *Gazette of India* dated 6th September, 1876.

9. The local limits of the munsiffis in the district of Sylhet were re-adjusted by a notification in the *Assam Gazette* dated 12th May, 1876. The jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court Judge of Sylhet was also settled.

10. The thannah divisions in the district of Cachar were re-arranged by a gazette notification dated 8th May, 1876.

11. The commission which was appointed to adjudicate on the claims for compensation consequent upon the re-adjustment of the Gáro-Goálpára boundary under Section 7, Act XXII. of 1869, as mentioned in last year's report, completed their investigation and reported, in July of this year, the award which they proposed to make in each case. These awards the zemindars concerned, with one exception, refused to accept, and filed civil suits against Government contesting the validity of the demarcation and the legality of the assumption of the management of the villages under the Act by Government. The cases came on for preliminary hearing and determination of issues in the succeeding February. Meanwhile, further negotiations were entered into with the zemindars, and terms of mutual compromise were proposed, differing somewhat from the awards of the commission, which they seemed prepared to accept, the legal aspect of the boundary proceedings remaining for the decision of the Supreme Government.

SECTION II.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

TRIBUTARY STATES.—MANIPUR.

12. As regards the dependent State of Manipur, the political relations with which are partially conducted by the Chief Commissioner, there is little to chronicle.

The question of the acquisition by the Maharajah of Manipur of land in British territory was settled during the year under review. It having come to the knowledge of the Chief Commissioner that the Maharajah held under settlement pottah extensive lands in Sylhet and Cachar, Colonel Keatinge expressed to the Government of India his opinion that it was undesirable that the Maharajah should acquire land in British territory. In this opinion the Government of India concurred. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar was accordingly directed to cancel the proceedings in all cases in which settlement had not been actually concluded with the Maharajah. The land already acquired by the Maharajah the Chief Commissioner decided he should be allowed to hold, but he forbade him to acquire any more. Later on, a similar question arose as to the settlement of certain ilam estates in Sylhet, to which the Maharajah had a claim to re-settlement. In this matter, the Chief Commissioner ruled that, as regards such estates acquired by the Maharajah previous to the date upon which the distinct prohibition against his acquiring land in British territory was communicated to him, the settlement, though it could not be made with the Maharajah directly, would be made with any British subject whom the Maharajah might select as responsible for the revenue.

The question of the definition of the boundary between Manipur and British territory in the direction of the Nāga and North Cachar Hills was alluded to in last year's report. No progress has been made in the matter during the year under review. It was arranged to form one of the subjects for debate at a conference to be held at Shillong in September, at which the Political Agent, Manipur, and the Political Officer, Nāga Hills, were to be present.

The two political detenus, Shekor Singh and Nirjit Singh (mentioned in para. 27 of last year's report), are still under surveillance at Sylhet. Their behaviour during the year under report has been peaceable. Two other detenus, Gokul Singh and Doyabunda Singh, were, under the orders of the Supreme Government, forwarded by the Government of Bengal to the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, who released them on the boundary between Cachar and Manipur.

The subject of the importation of arms and ammunition into the Nāga Hills from Manipur has engaged the Chief Commissioner's attention during the year, but no tangible result has as yet been elicited.

The Manipur Durbar have, on several occasions, complained of raids by Nágas from British territory upon Nága villages in Manipur territory. Measures to be taken for putting a stop to these raids have been ordered by the Government of India, and will, it is trusted, be carried out early in the present dry season.

An investigation, which had been directed by the Government of India to be made into certain charges preferred by the Maharajah against the then Political Agent, Dr. Brown, was conducted at Manipur by Colonel Sherer, an officer deputed by the Chief Commissioner for the purpose, under instructions from the Supreme Government. The result of the inquiry was that the charges made against Dr. Brown failed altogether to be substantiated. His death, unfortunately, occurred before the inquiry was concluded. An officer from the Assam Commission was temporarily appointed to conduct the duties of Political Agent, until the appointment of Dr. Brown's successor.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

13. A detailed description of the various tribes with whom we have political relations was given in last year's Administration Report. In the present, as in the last report, these tribes are treated of in the order of their geographical position.

BHUTIAS.

14. Our relations with the Bhutias throughout the year were peaceful. In May, 1877, one Gaicha, a Bhután Soobah and Vakeel residing at Buxa, who described himself as an agent of the Deb Rajah, addressed two communications to the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára with reference to certain tolls. These letters were subsequently forwarded to the Commissioner of Kuch Behar, in accordance with the course prescribed by the Government of India. The letters called for no further action on the part of this Administration.

On hearing of the visit of Mr. Anley, District Superintendent of Police, Kámrup, to Dewangiri in February, 1877, a Bhutia official, a nephew of the Jogga Rajah, set out for that place, accompanied by a party of Bhutia soldiers, in order to obtain an interview with Mr. Anley. Mr. Anley had, however, left Dewangiri before the arrival of the Bhutias, who despatched after him a complimentary letter, and a present for the Deputy-Commissioner.

From the beginning of January to the end of March, 1877, the usual bands of traders from among the Bhutia tribes bordering on the district of Darrang came into that district, and drove a steady trade with the Kacharis, and Marwari and other merchants.

THE SÁTH RAJAHS OF KARIAPÁRA AND CHÁRDUÁR.

15. The Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára paid a visit to the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang at Udalguri on the 1st February. The object of

their visit was to urge upon the Deputy-Commissioner the desirability of suspending the operation of the Inner Line Regulation with respect to their territory. They represented that they were put to much inconvenience, owing to the fact that our ryots, who are annually employed by them in carrying grain to Amratol, the first stage in the hills, are compelled to take out passes. In reply, the Rajahs were informed that, if they would give the Deputy-Commissioner a list of the names of the ryots they had engaged for the current year, a general pass would be issued in their names. The Rajahs were also very anxious that the large weekly market held at Kalaigaon should be closed for two months in the year, on the ground that it drew away a large quantity of the grain which formerly found its way to Udalguri. This request, however, could not possibly be complied with.

16. Towards the close of December, 1876, the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, Colonel Sherer, having heard that the Rajahs of Shergaon and Rupraigaon, commonly called the Sáth Rajahs of Chárdúár, had come down to their annual trading place at Daimará, two miles due north of our boundary line, sent them an invitation to be present at the Durbar about to be held at Tezpur, for the proclamation of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen as Empress of India. The Rajahs readily accepted the invitation, and arrived at Tezpur on the 1st January, where they took part in the Durbar proceedings held on that day. They were afterwards received by the Deputy-Commissioner in open court, when they were paid their pensions, and the object of the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Most Gracious Majesty was explained to them. The Rajahs reported that all was quiet in their country, and gave expression to most friendly feelings towards the British Government. Before leaving, they questioned the Deputy-Commissioner with respect to the guard which had been placed at Daimará, at the mouth of the pass, for the purpose of the registration of foreign trade statistics; and, upon Colonel Sherer explaining to them the reason for the guard being stationed there, they expressed themselves quite satisfied. It is a fact worthy of note that the Rajahs made no allusion during their visit to the boundary question, which they invariably discussed at former interviews.

17. The representatives of the Thebengia Bhutias came down, as usual, to receive their pensions. They evinced a very friendly spirit.

BHUTIA FAIRS.

18. A short history of the establishment of these fairs, as far as could be ascertained, was given in last year's report (pages 8 and 9).

19. *The Udalguri Fair.*—This fair was held, as usual, in the month of February. The attendance of the hillmen was less than during the previous year (their number being estimated at 590 only), owing to an outbreak of small-pox in the Mangaldai sub-division. One Bhutia

who attended the fair was attacked by the disease, and the news, reaching other Bhutias who were on their way to the fair, deterred them from proceeding thither.

The Chief Commissioner was himself present at the fair, and, while there, received a visit from the two Bhutia officers who are known as the Gelling Rajahs. These officials wore what the Chief Commissioner believes to be Chinese mandarins' hats. They had been invited to meet Colonel Keatinge. These officials ordinarily remain at Amratol while the Bhutias are in the plains, but on this occasion they readily accepted the Deputy-Commissioner's invitation. On the 9th February, the Rajahs and their attendants were received by the Chief Commissioner in open durbar, when they presented a petition, asking for the suspension of the Inner Line Regulation. They were told that, on a duly authenticated application being made from the proper quarter, the Chief Commissioner would take the matter into consideration. The Rajahs left for Amratol after receiving their pension. They appeared to be very favourably impressed with all they saw. It is to be hoped that in future they will be regular visitors at the fair.

The Deputy-Commissioner calculates the exports at Rs. 13,805, and the imports at Rs. 44,439. The exports in 1875 and 1876 were ascertained to be Rs. 35,432 and Rs. 50,425, respectively. The cause of the decrease in the value of exports is attributed by the Deputy-Commissioner partly to the small attendance of hillmen, and partly to the fact that much of the grain which used to be sold at the Udalguri fair is now sold to the Bhutias at the weekly market held at Kalaigaon.

20. *Kerkaria Fair*.—The Kerkaria fair was held this year at Khagrapara, near Bengbári, within the Inner Line, and not at Kerkaria, as last year. The value of the imports from Bhután were calculated at Rs. 19,897, and that of the exports from Assam at Rs. 9,669. The exports show a great falling off, as compared with the figures for the previous year, Rs. 16,078; but the Deputy-Commissioner thinks that a large portion of the goods exported escaped registration. The attendance of the hill people at the fair was calculated at 324, double the attendance at the previous year's fair. The behaviour of the Bhutias was all that could be desired.

21. *Daimará Fair*.—This fair was held again this year at Daimará. The imports were calculated at Rs. 3,727, and the exports at Rs. 11,833. The imports show a falling off, but the exports show a considerable increase, the figures for the previous year having been Rs. 7,452 and Rs. 5,636, respectively. The Deputy-Commissioner considers that the statistics of trade at this fair are correct, as the registering officer occupies a most advantageous situation, rendering it almost impossible for traders to evade him. He is, however, by no means satisfied as to the accuracy of the statistics of trade for the other two fairs. Accuracy can hardly be expected, but the Chief Commissioner thinks that the figures are fairly approximate. The behaviour of the Bhutias at Daimará was good.

THE AKAS.

22. The Western or Hazári-Khoa Akas showed themselves well-disposed and peaceable throughout the year, and the Kapás-Chor Akas behaved well on the whole. The two younger brothers of their chief Meçhi studied throughout the year at the Balipará school. The arrangement in progress with this clan about the allotment of a tract of waste land is now approaching completion, as they have finally selected the plot to be assigned to them, and it now only remains to survey and mark off the land.

DUFFLAS.

23. The Paschim Dufflas living on the boundary of Darrang were very peaceable during the year. They came, both hill and plains men, as usual, to Tezpur to receive their allowance, and conducted themselves with propriety.

As regards the Tagin Dufflas, who live on the boundary of North Lakhimpur, the Assistant-Commissioner in charge of North Lakhimpur reports that they came down in large numbers to trade, and that they behaved well. Since the close of the year, however, an outrage was perpetrated by a party of Dufflas, who plundered the shop of a Marwari merchant, and wounded two of his servants. Measures have been taken to exact reparation for the outrage, and to recover the stolen property. The result will be detailed in the report for the current year.

There were some instances during the year of the Dufflas fighting among themselves in the hills. These internal feuds, when not carried to excess, do not, of course, concern us, save in so far as the location of refugees with injuries to avenge in British territory may lead to frontier complications. Pakfi Gam is believed to be the principal creator of disturbances in the hills. Hé has been invited by Lieutenant Maxwell, the sub-divisional officer, North Lakhimpur, to meet him at Harmati, with a view to the settlement of these blood-feuds; but Pakfi, on one excuse or another, has put off the meeting from time to time. Lieutenant Maxwell, however, does not despair of finally securing an interview with this chief, and of putting matters on a satisfactory footing.

THE MIRIS.

24. The Miris conducted themselves during the year under report, as they have hitherto done, in an orderly and peaceable manner. Lieutenant Maxwell paid a visit to their hills, and was received with great hospitality, and with every sign of cordiality: volunteers were ready to carry his baggage, and on his departure he was requested by the leading chiefs to pay them another visit during the ensuing year.

THE ABORS.

25. The Abors Proper, or Bor Abors, gave no trouble during the year, but their attitude was, as heretofore, more or less hostile and sulky.

They were at first inclined to dispute the advance of the Great Trigonometrical Survey party under Lieutenant Harman, R.E., for the purpose of taking up survey points on the Nári and Pogarosi Hills, in the first range of hills. They were, however, deterred from active opposition by the presence of a strong escort of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry under Major Robertson, and the survey party occupied the desired points without molestation. Further survey operations on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, opposite the Abor country, have, however, on account of the threatening attitude of these savages, been prohibited by the Government of India.

Under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, a change was introduced during the year into the system of distributing "posa" to the Abors. Instead of, as heretofore, Government officers proceeding to certain points, and waiting until the Abors came to receive their "posa," the representatives of this tribe were ordered to attend at Sadiyá, and there to receive the "posa" due to them. This order, after some demur, they obeyed. The above change was very necessary, as, under the former system, the Abors were occasionally insolent, and kept the officers awaiting their convenience.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports that the Abors of Pasial are the chief instigators of mischief among the Abor tribes.

THE MISHMIS, &C.

26. The Mishmis, Khamptis, and Singphos behaved very well during the year; they attended the Sadiyá fair, as usual, their chief men receiving and giving small presents. The Topographical Survey party under Lieutenant Woodthorpe, R.E., was employed during the cold season in the Khampti-Singpho country, and, save one instance of incivility, met with uniform attention and respect from these tribes.

The Mishmis are eager traders, and, for some time subsequent to the close of the Sadiyá fair, their trading parties kept coming and going with merchandise, principally rubber. Their head chief, Lakow, is on excellent terms with us, and remains in the plains so long as his trading parties are on the move. It was reported to the Deputy-Commissioner that an attempt was made during the year by the Abors to form an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Mishmis, against our Government, but the negotiations broke down. The communication of the Mishmis with the plains *via* Nizámghát is more than ever threatened by the Abors, some of whom have come down and settled in the plains towards Nizámghát. This move may, possibly, cause future complications.

SADIYÁ FAIR.

27. The usual annual fair was held at Sadiyá on the 3rd January, 1877, and subsequent days, and is reported by the Deputy-Commissioner to have been a success. The hillmen, especially the Chulikáta Mishmis, attended in considerable numbers, and a fairly brisk trade was

carried on. There was also a large attendance of Europeans. Athletic sports and horse-races took place, in which the hillmen showed considerable interest; afterwards, native games were held, in which the hillmen joined. On the fourth day, the Deputy-Commissioner held a durbar, at which he received the various hill chiefs, making and receiving small presents. Very few Abors put in an appearance. Their absence is hardly to be regretted, as, had they attended in large numbers, an affray between them and the Chulikáta Mishmis, with whom their relations are by no means friendly, might have resulted.

The Deputy-Commissioner estimates the value of the exports and imports at the fair at Rs. 19,915 and Rs. 54,724, respectively. The exports show a considerable falling off, as compared with the preceding year. The figures are, however, only approximate. The Deputy-Commissioner remarks, moreover, that the valuation of the articles is somewhat arbitrary.

The Chief Commissioner considers this fair, next to the Bhutia fair at Udalguri, to be the most important of all the frontier fairs, as it affords a means of entering into communications with the tribes lying behind the Mishmis towards Thibet and China. The first necessity is a safe road to the plains, and this Colonel Keatinge will do his best to secure; but the settling of the Abors near Nizámghát, as already mentioned, is calculated to block communication.

THE NÁGAS.

28. As in last year's report, the Nágas directly under the jurisdiction of the Political Officer of the Nága Hills will be treated of in the account of the administration of the hill districts. In this portion of the report, our relations with the Nágas generally may be discussed. The conduct of the Nága tribes bordering on the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur has been, on the whole, satisfactory during the year. Petty thefts along the border were as numerous as ever, but none of the cases presented any special features. There was one case of murder by Nágas in Sibságar: two boys of the Khuhima tribe of Nágas murdered an Assamese villager and his daughter, in consequence of a dispute about paddy which they had with the former. The murderers were tried, and sentenced each to transportation for life. One serious case occurred in Sibságar: a party of the Lungtai Nágas, who are at feud with the Kamsingia Nágas, not being able to attack the latter in the hills, came down to the plains and lay in ambush for their adversaries on the Kamsingia path, within the Inner Line, and made an attack upon the first party of them who appeared. Only one man, however, was slightly wounded. Two of the offenders were captured, and were detained as political prisoners for a period of 66 days, when they were released upon their entering into an engagement not to again carry on their feuds within the Inner Line. In the same district, an affray took place between some Talajoo Nágas, who were working on a tea-garden, and a trading

party of the Changtoong Nágas, on account of a quarrel about a dao. Thirteen of the rioters were captured, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment each.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar reports that the Nágas of the Kongon and Namsangia tribes readily furnished the labour required by the survey party employed in exploring the line of railway from the coal-beds in the Dikhu Valley.

The result of the punitive expedition against the village of Ninu and other villages implicated in the attack upon Lieutenant Holcombe was detailed in last year's report. During the year under review, the Chief Commissioner extended pardon to the Ninu men, and permitted them to occupy the site where their village formerly stood, upon their headmen coming to Jaipur with presents, and humbly suing for pardon.

The annual amount agreed upon was paid during the year to the Nágas, on account of the withdrawal of their claims to certain land beyond the Lakhimpur Inner Line, and, as far as they are concerned, no trouble is now anticipated in the matter of the Nám sang and other gardens situated near the Nága frontier.

THE MIKIRS.

29. The Mikirs showed themselves throughout the year, as heretofore, to be a quiet inoffensive people, and gave no trouble whatever.

TRIBES OF NORTH CACHAR.

30. In the report for 1875-76 it was stated that the tribes inhabiting the North Cachar Hills suffered somewhat from the troublesome visits of the Angami Nágas. Hitherto, these savages have generally confined themselves to extorting blackmail from the hillmen beyond our district borders, but during the year under review they ventured a step further. On the 24th February, 1877, a raid was committed by a band, of about twenty Angami Nágas on the British Nága village of Gumaigaju, situated about eight miles to the west of the frontier outpost of Assalu. The attack was made shortly before daybreak, and resulted in six of the villagers being killed and two wounded. Some property, including two guns, was carried off. It has been since ascertained that the raiders came from the Angami village of Mozema. A punitive expedition is to be sent against Mozema during the cold weather of the current year.

The draft regulation for the administration of North Cachar, alluded to in last year's report, is no longer under the Chief Commissioner's consideration, as the Frontier Tracts Regulation, a draft of which has been submitted for the approval of the Government of India, will, if approved, render further special legislation for this tract unnecessary.

The establishment of a civil officer in these hills is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, a necessity for their due administration and for their further development. He trusts that before long it may be possible to provide for this want.

KUKIS, LUSHAIS, AND OTHER HILL TRIBES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF CACHAR AND SYLHET.

31. Our relations with these tribes have been very friendly during the year under review, which has been further signalized by a visit of the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar to Lushai territory. In January, 1877, Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, then Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, accompanied by Extra-Assistant-Commissioner Hari Charan Sarmah, Rai Bahadur, and by Mr. Savi, Assistant-Superintendent of Police, in command of 50 men of the frontier police force, entered Lushai territory at Changsil Bazar, on the Dhuleswar river. From thence, the party marched through the hills to Sonai Bazar, and then proceeded to Kulicherra mukh, on the Bárak river, at which point they took boat, returning to Silchar by way of the Monierkhal outpost. Mr. Johnson spent altogether about three weeks in the Lushai Hills, experiencing much hospitality from those of the inhabitants with whom he came in contact. He was unfortunately unable to arrange an interview with either Sukpial or Khalgom, these chiefs excusing their non-attendance on different grounds. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, paid a visit to, and received a visit from, Sailengpoi, who is said to be the favourite son of Sukpial. Sailengpoi evinced during the interviews a most friendly disposition. The tour was, on the whole, most successful, an issue due to a great extent to the caution and tact displayed by Mr. Johnson. It is desirable, the Chief Commissioner thinks, that the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar should pay occasional visits to these hills. Such visits enable that officer to bring his personal influence to bear upon the chiefs, an influence which can be most usefully exercised in settling their internal quarrels.

There is little reason to fear any immediate raids into British territory by the Lushais, but internal feuds lead to the location within our boundaries of refugees, and, thereby, to possible complications. The steps taken by the Chief Commissioner to obviate such difficulties have been detailed in last year's report.

Little is known of the internal movements of these tribes during the year, our only source of information being the traders who attend the Lushai bazars. It was reported that an expedition had been undertaken by Sukpial's son, Lempong, and Laljika in October, 1876, against Pugrying, a Syloo village, in which the village was plundered and several of the inhabitants carried away into slavery. Recently, news has been received that fighting has broken out between Khalgom, the most powerful of Sukpial's sons, and the eastern Lushais under Poiboi. The quarrel is said to have originated through Khalgom having jhúmed land to which Poiboi laid claim. Poiboi and Lalhai would appear to be

often guilty of acts of oppression towards the weaker chiefs. In 1875-76, Tantow, a petty eastern chief, having been attacked and robbed by Poiboi, came and settled near to Tipai Mukh. The Chief Commissioner, considering his location in this place objectionable, ordered him to return to Lushai territory, or to move to a safer spot,—he adopted the former course. Subsequently, twenty-two families of Tantow's village came into British territory, and asked for protection, saying that they could no longer tolerate the constant oppression they suffered at the hands of Poiboi and Lalhai. They stated that Tantow himself had lately been seized by Poiboi, and placed in confinement, but had been released at the instance of Lengkam. These refugees have been located for the present in the Kuki village, on the west bank of the Bárak river, opposite the mouth of the Jhiri river.

Our trade with the Lushais continues to decrease, owing to the gradual exhaustion of their rubber-supply. Before long, this commodity will cease to be procurable in Lushai territory, and then the almost sole inducement to traders to resort to the Lushai bazars will cease to exist. Owing to the decrease in the rubber-supply, several of the shops that previously existed in these bazars have been closed. There were formerly six shops at Changsil Bazar, eight shops at Sonai Bazar, and five shops at Tipai Mukh. It is reported that six out of these nineteen shops have now been closed. The price of rubber, moreover, has fallen in Calcutta, and the profits from the trade have decreased. The Deputy-Commissioner fears that there will shortly be an almost complete cessation of trade between our districts and Lushai land. This result is much to be regretted.

32. On the whole, the tribes bordering on our frontier have, with the exception of the Angami Nágas and the Abors, given no grounds for complaint, and the year has been almost unmarked by border disturbances.

33. There now only remain to be treated of the tribes who are more or less under our direct administrative control, *viz.*, the Nágas of the Nága Hills district, the Khásias, and the Gáros.

NÁGA HILLS DISTRICT.

34. The report of the Political Officer shows that our power is slowly becoming consolidated in this district, although the Angami Nágas have continued during the year under review their raidings and head-taking among themselves, and in one instance, as already related in para. 30, made an attack upon a British village. The Chief Commissioner is fully convinced that here especially the exhibition of a firm policy is imperatively needed, in rigorously prohibiting such outrages for the future, and in reducing to a submissive attitude the two most arrogant of the villages, Mozema and Konoma, who are in nearly all cases either the instigators or perpetrators of these deeds of violence. Such a policy has been recently sanctioned by the Supreme

Government, and it is confidently expected that the measures which will be taken during the present cold weather will bear the fruit anticipated from them.

The weaker villages continue to seek our protection, and the voluntary submission of three more communities, *viz.*, Zowna, Nidzuma, and Hemmah, has been received during the year.

The villages previously taken under our protectorate have steadily increased the area of their cultivation. This is a very encouraging fact, and, no doubt, has had a strong effect in inducing others to follow their example. In all, a total of 14 villages have thus come under our protection as revenue-paying subjects.

The system of receiving delegates from the more important communities has continued to work well.

Preparations are in progress to remove the head-quarters station from Samaguting to Wokha, or some other more healthy situation.

Trade of a certain kind is already fairly active in these hills, and, when tranquillity is thoroughly established, will no doubt considerably expand.

Road-making has been carried on with energy during the year, and the Nágas of the eastern parts are said to have flocked to take employment on these works. This is a gratifying sign of their inclination for settled pursuits. A school has been successfully opened at Samaguting, and the dispensary at that station is growing in popularity.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIÁ HILLS.

35. The Seims and Sirdars of the petty States in these hills have generally behaved well during the year under report. It was only necessary to inquire into one case of mal-administration during the period.

The Seim of the State of Nongspung died during the year, and a successor was duly elected.

There is every evidence that trade in these hills is in a thriving condition, and capable of much expansion.

Communications have been kept in good order, and the cart-road between Shillong and Gauháti has been opened for traffic. The prices of food and labour have remained almost stationary.

GÁRO HILLS.

36. The attitude of the Gáros throughout the year has been markedly quiet. They may be said to have already become peaceful and orderly subjects. Some old feuds were settled during the year. Communications have been kept in fair order.

Vaccine operations among the Gáros have been successful, and the progress of education under the management of the Missionaries is very fairly satisfactory.

The Luskers and Lukhmas have, with some few exceptions, been well-behaved, and have discharged their duties satisfactorily.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—SURVEYS.

37. *Topographical*.—During the winter of 1876-77, No. 6 Topographical Survey Party was employed partly in the Khási Hills and partly in the Lakhimpur district. Major Badgley, in charge of the party, was employed in the revision of the maps of the country bordering the road from Shillong to Gauhati; Messrs. Chennell and Robert surveyed the boundary between the Khási Hills and Kámrúp; and Lieutenant Woodthorpe and Mr. Ogle surveyed the country at the foot of the hills to the south-east of the Lakhimpur district, known as the Valley of the Noa Dehing.

In the Khási Hills, 369 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 1 mile to the inch, and the Khási-Kámrúp boundary was finished on the scale $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile to the inch.

In Lakhimpur, about 717 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 2 miles to the inch. The country surveyed in each case was very wild, and covered with forest and other jungle, and had little in it of interest; but the geographical results obtained in the Lakhimpur district were very valuable.

38. *Trigonometrical*.—At the close of the field season of 1875-76 the principal series of triangles of the Assam Valley series had been carried up as far as Dibrugarh church. In 1876-77 the series was taken up the course of the Brahmaputra River, and completed finally as far as Sadiya quarter-guard.

A connection was also made with the "H. S. of Manabum," of the Topographical Survey, a point about 18 miles east of Sadiya, and the whole of the snowy and other peaks surrounding the head of the Valley of Assam were fixed. It was found, however, necessary to fix other stations on the peaks of the Abor Hills on the northern side of the valley.

Two selected peaks, named "Dipa" and "Nari," were accordingly visited in the month of January by Lieutenant Harman's party, accompanied by a small military escort, and observations were made from them, a rough sketch of the topography of the intervening tracts being at the same time obtained.

Besides the work of the principal series between Dibrugarh and Sadiya, the branch series, "Dibrugarh to Jaipur" (designed to fix the position of two hill peaks on the outer range of the Nāga Hills), common to the Revenue and Topographical Surveys, was carried on.

The cutting of all the rays of this branch series was accomplished, but some observations remained to be effected, which it is hoped will be taken early in the ensuing field season.

39. *Revenue.*—In last year's report the operations of Mr. Patterson, Revenue Surveyor, first grade, and his party in connection with the survey of the waste land grants and the revenue-free tenures in the district of Darrang were detailed in full, and it was stated that the work was successfully brought to a close in that district on the 1st April, 1876. Subsequently, however, the cancelment by the Chief Commissioner of the escheat to Government of certain la-kheraj holdings in that district necessitated their survey. In addition to this work, the party surveyed three waste land grants, and the boundaries of three mouzahs and of two la- and nisf-kheraj estates in the same district.

The principal work, however, upon which Mr. Patterson and his party were employed during the year was the survey of the la and nisf-kheraj estates in the Kāmrup district. The outturn of the season's work of Mr. Patterson's party has been as follows:—

- (1) The preliminary interior survey of 224 estates, with an approximate area of 20,000 acres.
- (2) The final boundary survey of 75 estates or holdings, comprising an area of 6,249·64 acres.

In addition to the above, the interior and final boundary survey of two waste land grants, comprising an area of 962·61 acres, was completed.

In co-operation with Mr. Patterson, Babu Fatick Chandra Barua, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, on special la-kheraj duty, was employed in identifying and determining the areas of the la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings in Kāmrup. He adjusted and demarcated during the year 1,522 estates, comprising an area of 42,706·93 acres. Of these, 444 estates, with an area of 33,454·54 acres, were made over to Mr. Patterson for final survey. The total number of estates demarcated by the special Extra-Assistant-Commissioner from the commencement of his operations up to the 31st March, 1877, has been 1,738, with an area of 62,660·41 acres. Of these, in all 623 estates, comprising an area of 51,769·54 acres, have been made over to the survey party. The total number of such holdings in Kāmrup being 4,642, with an area of 533,599 acres, there still remain 2,904 estates, comprising an area of 470,938·59 acres, to be demarcated.

The Chief Commissioner cannot therefore expect the completion of the survey operations in Kāmrup for several years to come.

40. *Railway.*—A survey of the Dikhu Valley was undertaken, with a view to test the cost of laying down a light railway from the coal-fields of the Sibsāgar district to the banks of the Brahmaputra. No report, however, has been received of the operations of the survey party.

SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENTS.

41. *Work in hand.*—The settlements in progress during the year were—

- (1.) Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet.
- (2.) „ of other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.
- (3.) „ of Jaintiá, in Sylhet.
- (4.) Settlements of waste land in Cachar.
- (5.) Petty re-settlements in Goálpára.
- (6.) Annual settlements in Assam Proper.

42. *Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet.*—The progress made in the ilam settlements was as follows:—

In 360 estates measurements were made, in 447 measurements were tested, and in 260 settlements were concluded during the year under report. Of these 260 estates, one was redeemed at 25 years' revenue, four, comprising 8,527 acres of waste land, were settled for 30 years at a progressive revenue, and the rest were settled for a period expiring in A.D. 1892. The 260 estates settled during the year covered an area of 16,755 acres, and were assessed at Rs. 22,375, against Rs. 3,430 of the previous assessment. The average assessment per acre of the land settled, was Re. 1-5-4, or Re. 0-9-8 less than the average of the previous year's assessment.

There remained at the close of the year 158 estates, comprising an area of 154,294 acres, to be measured; 463 estates, comprising 73,358 acres, to be tested; and 411 estates, with 66,705 acres, to be settled.

The cost of the ilam settlement work during the year was Rs. 11,118, or at the rate of 10½ annas per acre settled, against 14 annas per acre in 1875-76.

43. *Re-settlement of other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.*—Of the petty mehals other than ilam under settlement in the district of Sylhet, 647 estates, comprising an area of 2,853 acres, were settled in 1876-77 at a revenue of Rs. 3,406, or at about Re. 1-2-7 an acre. The former assessment of these estates amounted to Rs. 1,828. Of these estates, one was settled in perpetuity, two were settled for one year, and 644 for a term expiring in A.D. 1907.

The petty settlement work pending on 31st March, 1877, was as follows:—

	Number of estates.	Area in acres.
Remaining to be measured.....	92	919
„ „ tested.....	91	7,213
„ „ settled	474	5,986

The cost of these settlements during the year was Rs. 6,122.

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44. *Re-settlement of Jaintiá, in Sylhet.*—Of the 17 pergunnahs into which Jaintiá was divided by Lieutenant Thullier at the survey in 1838-40, twelve pergunnahs and nearly three-fourths of the thirteenth have now been measured, with the view to re-settlement. An area of 185,463 acres, comprising 14,689 tenures, was measured in 1876-77, against an area of 20,961 acres, containing 3,768 tenures, measured in the previous year.

Taking the total area of Jaintiá to be 2,80,000 acres in round figures, the area still remaining to be measured is 73,576 acres.

All the measurements made up to the close of the year have been tested, and Mr. Beckett, the Settlement Officer, hopes that the Jaintiá settlement work will be completed by November, 1878.

Proposals for the assessment of the six pergunnahs noted in the margin were submitted by the Settlement Officer Sathank, Chowra, Bajera, Bordesh, Baorbhag, Chatul. during the year, and were provisionally sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India. The proposals involved an unavoidably large increase of rates, owing to the almost nominal rates imposed at the last settlement. The Chief Commissioner, however, considered it necessary to reduce these rates, owing to the large increase in assessment involved by them, but proposed to conclude the engagements only for a term of five years. The additional revenue anticipated from the proposed revision of assessment of these pergunnahs is estimated at Rs. 85,313, an increase of 131 per cent. above the former demand, the increase being largely swelled by the extension of cultivation as well as by the enhancement of the rates. The proposals of the Chief Commissioner have received the sanction of the Supreme Government since the close of the year, subject to a report two years hence as to the working of the settlement.

The settlement work carried out in the Jaintiá pergunnahs during the year 1876-77 entailed an expenditure of Rs. 59,580.

45. *Settlement of waste lands in Cachar.*—The only settlement work in progress in Cachar during the year 1876-77 was the usual settlement of waste lands newly taken up for extending cultivation.

There were 853 applications for disposal, inclusive of 536 pending on 1st April, 1876, against 923 in 1875-76. Of the total number of applications (853) on the file, 566 were disposed of during the year, leaving 287 pending at its close. The area settled on the final completion of the settlements was 21,967 acres, bearing a maximum revenue of Rs. 15,995, against 20,070 acres, bearing a revenue of Rs. 15,027, settled in the preceding year.

Of the land newly settled this year, an area of 16,053 acres was taken up by tea-planters, the rest by ordinary cultivators.

There is only a slight difference between the number of new applications filed in 1875-76 and of those made in 1876-77, the numbers being 334 and 317, respectively.

46. *Petty re-settlements in Goalpara.*—In Goalpara the settlement of six estates was effected during the year by the permanent establishment at the Deputy-Commissioner's disposal. The revenue assessed

on these estates amounted to Rs. 1,055, against Rs. 681, the revenue due on the former assessment, showing an increase of Rs. 374.

47. *Re-settlement of the Eastern Duars.*—The last settlement of the Eastern Duars lapsed on 31st March, 1876, but instructions were issued by the Chief Commissioner for the conduct of the revision of settlement, and preliminary arrangements were made by the Deputy-Commissioner before the close of the year for carrying it out. A detailed account of the entire settlement operations will be given in the report for 1877-78.

48. *Annual settlements in Assam Proper.*—Annual settlements in Assam Proper were effected during the year for 420,022 holdings, comprising an area of 1,315,377 acres, against 396,870 holdings, covering an area of 1,258,277 acres, settled in the preceding year. The revenue assessed on the area settled during the year amounted to Rs. 22,74,368, against Rs. 22,10,988, the revenue assessed on the area settled in 1875-76. The increase in the area settled, and, consequently, in the amount of assessment, is due to the extension of cultivation.

49. *Ten-years' leases under the Assam Settlement Rules.*—An area of 10,304 acres, as shown in the margin, was granted during the year on ten-years' leases, against 8,062 acres granted on decennial leases in 1875-76. Except in Lakhimpur, which district shows a very large increase, there has been a falling off in the number of these leases.

A ten-years' lease seems to offer little attractions at present to the Assam ryot, who finds in his customary annual pottah all the security of tenure he desires, without any responsibility for the future. The longer lease will ultimately no doubt become popular.

The measurement work and the compilation of the necessary settlement statements being performed by the agency of the permanent fiscal establishment at the disposal of the District Officers, the settlements in Assam Proper entail no extra cost to Government.

SECTION 3.—WASTE LANDS.

50. The most important event in the land revenue history of the year was the abrogation, with the approval of the Government of India, of the rules for the sale of waste lands in fee-simple, and the introduction, in their stead, of a perpetual lease giving a permanent, heritable, and transferable right of use and occupancy in the land, with very favourable terms of assessment for the first thirty years. The rates of assessment for the first thirty years are as follows:—

Two years	...	...	free of revenue.
Four	„	...	3 annas an acre.
Four	„	...	6 „ „
Ten	„	...	8 „ „
Ten	„	...	1 rupee an acre.

After the expiration of the first thirty years, the land is to be assessed in accordance with the law for the time being in force in the district in which the land is situated, but no portion of it is at any time to be assessed at a rate higher than is then payable in that district on the most highly assessed lands cultivated with rice, pulses, or other ordinary agricultural produce.

The procedure hitherto followed, in respect to survey, demarcation, &c., previous to the sale of waste lands in fee-simple, is also adopted in the case of these leases. The sale of the lease is advertised in the local *Gazette*, and, in order that the transaction may be a sale, and not a gift, a price (one rupee per acre for the present) has been fixed. Besides this, royalty on timber, if there be any on the land leased, is realized at the prescribed rates, if the timber comes under the head of "reserved timber," otherwise, at rates proposed by the Deputy-Commissioner and approved of by the Chief Commissioner. These latter rates vary according to the varying conditions of the lands leased.

Generally, the land is leased to the applicant, but whenever there are more applicants than one for the same land, the lease is put up to auction amongst such applicants, and sold to the highest bidder.

The following table shows the area of land leased in 1876-77 under the New Rules, as compared with the area sold in fee-simple in 1875-76:—

District.	Waste land granted under the Fee-simple Rules in 1875-76.		Waste land granted under the New Lease Rules in 1876-77.	
	Number of applications.	Area in acres.	Number of applications.	Area in acres.
Cachar .....	.....	.....	1	69
Sylhet .....	.....	.....	1	1,121
Kámrúp.....	.....	.....	6	1,026
Darrang.....	3	2,449	7	1,517
Nowgong	4	957	32	13,795
Sibságar	6	2,579	5	1,019
Lakhimpur	16	11,080	9	4,314
Khási Hills .....	.....	.....	2	1,583
Total.....	29	17,065	63	24,444

The above statement speaks for itself. It is observed that 24,444 acres of waste land were leased during the year under the New Rules, against 17,035 acres sold in fee-simple in 1875-76. Besides, 268 applications, for an area comprising 164,623 acres, remained undisposed of at the close of the year. 13,795 acres were leased in Nowgong during the year under review, against 957 acres sold in 1875-76. The paucity of applications under the New Rules in Cachar—one of the most important of the tea districts in the Province—is explained by the fact that the planters there prefer, as stated in the previous year's

report, to take up land under the "Jangalburi" or cultivation lease rules in force in the district.

The total demand on account of the price of the leases, and the royalty on timber amounted to Rs. 32,956, viz., Rs. 24,477 on account of the leases, and Rs. 8,479 on account of timber; of the above, Rs. 30,657 were realized during the year, leaving Rs. 2,299 unrealized on 31st March, 1877.

51. With the exception of the district of Sibságar (where one lot was sold), no sales of waste lands in fee-simple took place during the year. The lot of waste land referred to above as having been sold in Sibságar was advertised before the promulgation of the New Lease Rules. It covered an area of 1,500 acres. The price realized was Rs. 12,050. Three waste land grants in the same district, sold in previous years, were surveyed during the year, and their areas and price adjusted.

52. During the year under report, 17 Old Assam Rule grants, comprising an area of 12,216 acres, were commuted to fee-simple at a cost to the grantees of Rs. 57,376, or Rs. 4-11-1 per acre; 7 grants, comprising an area of 6,284 acres, were resumed; and 527 acres were found deficient on the survey of certain grants, leaving at the close of the year 84 grants, with an area of 89,141 acres, on original terms, of which 51,176 acres came under assessment up to 31st March, 1877. The revenue-free term of the rest has yet to expire.

53. During the year under report, 24 jangalburi leases were issued to planters in Cachar, and four to planters in Sylhet. In 1875-76, thirty such leases, covering an area of 11,544 acres, were issued in Cachar, but none in Sylhet. The area covered by the leases issued in the former district in 1876-77 amounted to 16,053 acres, while the area granted under these leases in Sylhet in the same year amounted to 8,527 acres. The abolition of these jangalburi leases is in contemplation, as the Government of India has signified its desire that a uniform system of leasing waste lands should prevail throughout the Province.

54. 12,458 acres of waste land in Assam Proper as shown below were taken up for the cultivation of tea during the year under the ordinary settlement rules at the usual rate for faringhati lands, while leases for 80 acres in the district of Nowgong were granted, for special reasons, at reduced rates. In 1875-76, 5,596 acres at full rates, and 3,571 acres at reduced rates were taken up for tea cultivation.

Darrang.....	5,849
Nowgong ..	50
Sibságar ..	420
Lakhiampur ..	6,139

Total 12,458

SECTION 4.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

55. In last year's report the Jaintiá pergunnahs in Sylhet and the Eastern Duars were included in the list of Government estates; but it is questionable whether these tracts, which, while the proprietary right in them vests, it is true, in Government, are settled regularly for a term of years with the cultivating occupants on the ryotwari system, ought to be retained in this classification. In respect of this proprietary right vesting in Government, to the exclusion of individuals, the position of these tracts in no way differs from the general land tenure of all Assam Proper, and the ilam lands of Sylhet.

It will be better, therefore, to exclude these tracts from consideration as Government estates, and to treat under this category only the scattered estates in Sylhet and Goálpára, in which the proprietary right has been acquired by or lapsed to Government. There are 219 of these estates in the Sylhet district, with a current demand of Rs. 7,270, and 406 estates in Goálpára, assessed at Rs. 50,274.

In the district of Goálpára there was an arrear balance, due on the 1st April, 1876, of Rs. 8,732, thus making the total demand for the year 1876-77 amount to Rs. 59,006; of this sum, Rs. 49,547 were collected and Rs. 87 remitted, leaving at the close of the year Rs. 9,372 unrealized. The most part of this balance was due from the Sidli estate, which is managed under the Court of Wards. The cost of collection charges amounted to Rs. 113.

SECTION 5.—WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

56. The estates to be reported on under this head are the same as were reported on in the previous year, viz.:—

- (1) The Sidli estate in Goálpára.
- (2) The estate of the minor Har Kumár Pál in Sylhet.
- (3) The estate of the minor Gulám Armáni in Cachar.

57. The settlement of this estate with Rajah Gowri Narain expired on 31st March, 1877. The future management of the estate depends, therefore, entirely on the decision of the Government of India regarding its re-settlement, proposals for which have been submitted in this office No. 1,164, dated 30th April, 1877.

Of the total demand of Rs. 43,007, on account of rent due to the estate, a sum of Rs. 25,904 was realized, and Rs. 2,489 were remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 14,614 at the close of the year. A portion of this balance is reported to be irrecoverable, and the remainder is in course of realization. A sum of Rs. 5,186 has been collected since the close of the year.

Adding to the rent (Rs. 25,904) collected during the year the balance of Rs. 1,334 in hand on 1st April, 1876, and miscellaneous

	Rs.
• Current.....	30,016
Arrear	12,991

receipts, Rs. 10, the total income of the year amounted to Rs. 27,248, which was disbursed as follows :—

	Rs.
Government revenue paid	20,000
Establishment and charges for the collection of rent	1,965
Law expenses	26
Maintenance of the Rajah and his family	1,791
Education of the minor son of the Rajah.....	1,041
Miscellaneous expenses.....	321
Cash balance in hand	2,104
Total	27,248

The estate is indebted to the extent of Rs. 8,349. Arrangements have been made for the early liquidation of this amount.

A sum of Rs. 7,685, on account of Government revenue, was also outstanding at the close of the year; of this amount, Rs. 5,186 has since been paid in.

58. The rental of the various estates belonging to the minor HarKumar Pál amounted to Rs. 41,674, viz., Rs. 12,627 current and Rs. 29,047 arrear rents; of this sum, Rs. 7,480* were collected, and Rs. 93 remitted during the year under report, leaving a balance of Rs. 34,101. The whole of the arrear balance is not

Har Kumar Pal's estate.	
* Current.....	Rs. 751
Arrear	6,729
Total.....	7,480

now recoverable. The arrears of 1869-70 and 1870-71 had lapsed by limitation before the estate came under the management of the revenue authorities, and those of 1871-72 had lapsed in 1875-76, owing to the difficulty in instituting suits, in consequence of the old zemindari accounts being in a confused state. An adjustment of the collection accounts with the former sarbarakars has been completed, and the result has been reported to the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year. These accounts, however, do not supply the place of a proper rent-roll, which is still wanted. The Deputy-Commissioner is endeavouring to place the condition of the estate on a satisfactory footing, a matter of much difficulty. The annexed statement shows the receipts and disbursements during the year:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Disbursements.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance from last year.	7,350	Government revenue paid	3,446
Rents collected	7,480	Management of the property and the cost of collection.	3,427
Debts recovered	1,142	Law expenses	2,517
Sale-proceeds of moveables, &c.....	30	Maintenance of the minor and his family.	436
Refund of the excess amount drawn by a mohurrir ...	1	Education of the minor.....	262
		Monthly grants, religious ceremonies, and other miscellaneous expenses.....	963
		Debts paid	1,847
		Cash balance in favour of the estate.	3,105
Total	16,003	Total	16,003

The whole of the Government revenue due from the estate was paid in during the year. Steps are being taken to reduce both the cost of management and the cost of collection to as low a scale as possible.

The minor is prosecuting his studies in the Government school at Sylhet, and the head-master reports his progress to be fair.

59. The estate of Gulam Armani is in a fairly solvent condition. Out of the total rental demand of Rs. 632,* a sum of Rs. 430 was collected and Rs. 29 were remitted, leaving Rs. 173 unrealized at the close of the year. Nearly the whole of this amount is reported to be realizable.

The estate of the minor Gulam Armani.	
	Rs.
• Current	512
Arrear	120

Total	632

Of the total amount* at the disposal of the estate, Rs. 206 were paid as Government revenue, Rs. 38 as collection charges, Rs. 94 for the maintenance of the minor and his family, and Rs. 104 as contingent charges. The contingent charges would appear to be high, but this is on account of an item of Rs. 86 paid to the old manager of the estate before it came under the revenue authorities.

• Cash balance from previous year		97
Rents realized		430
Hire of an elephant belonging to the minor		45

Total	272	

60. Besides the three estates noticed above, another very small estate in Sylhet, belonging to one Sheik Hilu Miyan, yielding a rental of Re. 1, with a sadar jama of 3 annas, was brought under attachment during the year at the instance of the criminal court. This estate has been sold since the close of the year.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—(BLANK.)

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

61. Besides the general Acts of the legislature affecting this Province in common with the rest of British India, only one special legislative enactment has been introduced during the year, *viz.*, Regulation I. of 1876 (a Regulation for the peace and government of the Gáro Hills district).

This Regulation was proposed by the Chief Commissioner and sanctioned by the Government of India during the preceding year, and its purport and extent have been set forth in the report for 1874-75 and 1875-76, Part II.B., para. 9. It came into force on the 1st April, 1876.

62. The proposed Regulation for introducing local rates for roads and similar purposes in the Province, which had been originally laid before the Government of India in the preceding year, was again submitted for further consideration, after receiving such emendations as appeared necessary. Final orders as to its adoption or rejection have not yet been received.

63. The measure of introducing the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV. of 1874) into the Province was also a subject of correspondence with the Supreme Government.

64. Two Acts of the Bengal Council were also further extended to other parts of the Province. Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.)—an Act to provide for the better regulation of police in towns and for the conservancy and improvement thereof—was extended to the town of Dibrugarh in the district of Lakhimpur by notification in the *Assam Gazette* dated 17th March, 1877.

65. The provisions of the Gambling Act, II. of 1867 (B.C.), were extended to the towns of Sylhet and Jaintiápur.

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SECTION 3.—POLICE.

66. The strength of the Assam police force at the close of the year 1876 was 3,374 men of all ranks. The permanent additions made to the force during the year amounted to 19 men.

The proportion of men employed on purely police work to area and population in the several plains districts is shown below:—

Districts.	Number of police.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Proportion of police to area (square miles).	Proportion of police to population.
Goalpára	264	4,433	444,000	1 to 16·79	1 to 1,680
Kámrúp.....	247	3,373	561,631	1 „ 13·65	1 „ 2,273
Darrang	188	3,413	236,009	1 „ 18·15	1 „ 1,255
Nowgong	123	3,648	256,390	1 „ 29·65	1 „ 2,084
Sibságar	160	2,846	296,589	1 „ 17·78	1 „ 1,853
Lakhimpur	136	3,145	121,267	1 „ 23·12	1 „ 891
Sylhet	359	5,440	1,719,539	1 „ 15·15	1 „ 4,789
Cachar	268	5,000	205,027	1 „ 18·65	1 „ 765
Total	1,745	31,298	3,840,452	1 „ 17·93	1 „ 2,200

The relative proportion of the principal castes or religions in the force is given in the following table:—

Christians	...	...	...	·65
Hindus	...	...	...	56·95
Goorkhas	...	...	...	12·18
Sikhs ...	...	...	...	·95
Muhammadans	..	...	...	7·68
Manipuris	...	...	...	2·19
Khasiás	...	...	...	1·13
Nágas, Gáros, and Kukies	...	...	...	6·08
Cacharies and Rabahs	...	...	...	11·92
Khamties, Mikirs, Burmese, and Bhutias.				·27

67. The budget grant for the Assam police for the year 1876-77 was Rs. 6,03,866, out of which the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,91,599; thus, the cost of the police falls at the rate of 2 annas and 3 pie per head of the population. In Bengal, the rate per head is 1 anna 1 pie, while it is 2 annas 2 pie in the Central Provinces and 2 annas 3 pie in the Panjab.

68. The total strength and cost of the municipal police throughout the Province, as it stood at the close of the year, are shown below:—

Districts.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Constables.	Total.	Cost per annum.
Goálpára .....	.....	.....	6	6	Rs. 534
Kámrúp	1	3	36	40	5,940
Sylhet .....	.....	2	30	32	2,750
Cachar .....	.....	.....	9	9	933
Total.....	1	5	81	87	10,157

During the year under review, municipal police have been entertained for the first time in the town of Goálpára.

69. Sylhet is the only district in which village police, properly speaking, exist. A greater degree of attention was paid to the working of this force during the year, and some degree of improvement was effected in its organization. A fund was formed from the fines imposed on the village chaukidars, from which rewards are paid to the men of the village police who distinguish themselves. Measures were also taken to ensure punctuality in paying the chaukidars.

The introduction of the Bengal Chaukidari Act into the district of Goálpára is at present under consideration. In Assam Proper, the mouzahdars and mandals perform, to a certain degree, the duties imposed elsewhere upon the rural police.

70. The system of patrolling rivers exists in the district of Sylhet only. The actual work done by the river police, as shown in the returns, is small, but the indirect benefit is considerable. Although but few cases have been brought to light by their agency, yet the almost entire cessation of river dacoities on the Sylhet rivers, where this crime was formerly common, may fairly be ascribed to them. Some improvement was effected in the organization of this branch of the police force during the year. Two additional outposts were established in the Nowgong district for maintaining the patrol of the Assam Trunk Road, and one new outpost was added in the Sylhet district.

71. The separately-organized frontier police in Sylhet and Cachar continued during the year to prove themselves to be a most efficient and useful body of men. The police of the Nága and Gáro Hills remained on the same footing as before reported.

72. More attention has been paid to drill during the year than has been possible formerly.

The want of a good drill-instructor in Kámrup has been supplied by transferring an officer from the Gáro Hills police force to that district.

The frontier police in Sylhet and Cachar have been regularly instructed in company drill and skirmishing, the manual and platoon exercises, and relieving guards and sentries. During the year, 100 men of the Cachar frontier police have gone through a course of musketry instruction and target practice.

73. During the year new short Enfield and muzzle-loading rifles, with ordinary bayonets, were supplied to the police of the districts of Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur.

Arms and accoutrements.

74. A new police station-house at Gauháti, which was much wanted, was completed by the Public Works Department during the year. No other new buildings were added.

Buildings.

The aggregate expenditure incurred on police buildings and repairs during the year was Rs. 12,086.

75. In a force of 3,363 regular police of all ranks, the number struck off the rolls from all causes in 1876 amounted to 432, or 12·84 per cent., as shown below, against 412, or 12·33 per cent., in 1875. The resignations alone amounted to 5·20 per cent. The death-rate, 1·63 per cent., was low. Desertions amounted to only ·74 per cent., and occurred entirely among the Nága Hills police:—

Deductions from the force.

					1875.	1876.
Resigned	...	...	..	...	4·87	5·20
Dismissed	...	...	...	...	2·56	3·60
Discharged	...	...	...	...	1·49	1·04
Deserted	...	...	...	...	·86	·74
Died	..	...	...	...	2·18	1·63
Retired	...	...	...	...	·53	·63
				Total	...	...
					12·33	12·84

The desertions and resignations are due principally, no doubt, to the inadequacy of the pay allowed to the lower grades. Rs. 6, the pay of the lowest grade of constable, is considerably less than that of a common day-labourer.

76. The number of constables who enlisted in the regular police of the several districts of this Province during the year was 472, of whom 230 were hillmen. As in previous years, some difficulty was experienced in getting recruits for the Nága Hills police.

Enlistment.

77. The number of convictions under the Penal Code during the year was four, against five in 1875 and ten in 1874.

Judicial punishments under the Penal Code.

78. The number of officers and men punished under Act V. of 1861 is shown below:—

Punishments under Act V. of 1861.

1874.	1875.	1876.
53	60	74

The following districts show the highest figures:—

Goálpára	...	...	...	20
Sylhet	...	...	...	14
Nága Hills	...	...	...	13

The number punished judicially was altogether 116, against 103 the year before; the number of those punished departmentally was 490, against 542 in 1875 and 648 in 1874.

In the districts below, the departmental punishments were numerous:—

Sylhet	...	...	...	81
Cachar	...	...	...	67
Goálpára	...	...	...	60
Darrang	...	...	...	58
Gáro Hills	...	...	...	56
Sibságar	...	...	...	53

79. No charges of torture, extortion, or maltreatment have been preferred against the police of this Province for the last two years.

Cases of torture.

There were only two cases of misconduct which call for notice. In one a constable absconded with the contents of the station treasure-chest, and was ultimately arrested in Calcutta; in the other a sentry accepted a bribe from the prisoner in his charge, and allowed him to escape.

80. Seven officers and men were rewarded by special promotion, 18 were rewarded by money rewards for energetic conduct in capturing absconded criminals, and 11 were rewarded by good-conduct stripes for exhibiting more than common ability and courage in the execution of their duties.

Good conduct and rewards.

81. There are no police schools at present; the very small reserves at the head-quarters of most of the districts prevent their introduction, but the education of the men is not entirely neglected. The officers at the thannahs and outposts have been ordered to instruct those who show an inclination to learn to read and write, and, where the men have leisure, some progress has been made.

Education.

82. The statement below shows the number of summonses, warrants, and other miscellaneous orders served by the police during the last three years:—

Districts.	Warrants.			Summonses.			Other orders.			Total.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Goalpara	212	366	391	1,470	2,687	3,013	454	229	271	2,136	3,282	3,675
Kamrup	383	593	313	967	1,047	716	303	617	643	1,653	2,257	1,572
Darrang	87	118	39	595	293	41	2,925	2,671	3,366	3,607	3,077	3,446
Nowgong	156	47	31	756	84	79	1,699	515	38	2,611	646	148
Sibsagar	203	106	86	1,740	615	931	898	629	987	2,841	1,350	2,004
Lakhimpur	190	36	49	691	133	229	453	984	984	1,334	1,103	1,262
Sylhet	527	590	1,200	5,065	7,107	7,354	3,925	3,960	5,744	9,517	11,657	14,296
Cachar	401	451	133	3,587	3,040	1,464	1,367	1,370	1,812	5,355	4,861	3,409
Khasi Hills	20	17	15	323	301	250	600	482	365	943	750	630
Naga Hills	18	16	10	40	20	..	231	430	1	289	76	11
Total	2,197	2,325	2,267	15,284	15,327	14,077	12,856	11,397	14,111	30,286	29,069	30,455

The result shown in this table is one that was not anticipated; for, instead of the work of serving processes having diminished, owing to the introduction of the new High Court Rules, it has in some districts actually increased. It would seem, however, that some error has been allowed to creep into the statements received from some districts.

83. The District and Assistant Superintendents performed their inspection duties during the year most carefully and thoroughly.

84. The general conduct of the police has been fair throughout the year. There is, no doubt, a want of detective ability among the members of the force, a defect, however, in which the Assam police is by no means singular. Detective talent is always a rare gift,—and in this Province the difficult nature of the country, the habits of the people, and the absence of a proper chaukidari system, render success still more difficult of attainment. On the whole, taking into consideration the disadvantages under which it labours, particularly in the matter of the pay of its lower ranks, the force may be pronounced to be fairly efficient. A scheme for its re-organization and improvement has been submitted to the Supreme Government.

85. The following table exhibits the cognizable offences reported in the Province during the last five years:—

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Cases reported	8,582	8,313	8,861	10,201	10,900
Number of persons arrested	7,592	6,968	7,214	7,755	8,207
Persons put on trial	7,076	6,606	6,773	7,387	7,839
Persons finally convicted	4,145	3,788	4,102	4,476	4,886
Persons acquitted	2,711	2,602	2,419	2,574	2,659

During the year under report, 10,900 cognizable cases were reported, and 8,207 persons arrested. 7,839 persons were actually put on trial, and, of these, 4,886 were finally convicted and 2,659 acquitted. The remainder, 277, were pending trial at the close of the year, and 17 were otherwise disposed of, as follows :—

1 on bail.

16 died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.

1873	2,131
1874	1,999
1875	2,314
1876	2,497

The number of cases reported as false during the last four years is shown on the margin.

The number of cases accepted as true during 1876 was 8,850, against 7,887 in 1875.

86. The following statement shows the true cognizable crime, district by district, as compared to area and population, during 1875 and 1876:—

Districts.	Area.	Popula- tion.	True crime to area (per square mile).		True crime to population.		Persons put on trial to area (per square mile).		Persons put on trial to popula- tion.	
			1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Goalpāra	4,433	444,000	·13	·16	1 to 769	1 to 620	·16	·19	1 to 617	1 to 527
Kāmrūp	3,373	561,631	·24	·29	1 " 644	1 " 575	·22	·22	1 " 726	1 " 789
Darrang	3,413	236,009	·21	·16	1 " 323	1 " 427	·20	·16	1 " 838	1 " 424
Nowgong	3,648	258,390	·11	·13	1 " 608	1 " 542	·11	·07	1 " 618	1 " 929
Sibsagar	2,846	296,589	·42	·35	1 " 291	1 " 297	·27	·26	1 " 383	1 " 405
Lakhimpur	3,145	121,267	·12	·14	1 " 319	1 " 271	·15	·13	1 " 244	1 " 282
Sylhet	5,440	1,719,539	·62	·63	1 " 615	1 " 501	·49	·60	1 " 636	1 " 523
Cachar	5,000	205,027	·85	·25	1 " 188	1 " 162	·16	·19	1 " 255	1 " 215
Total	31,236	3,840,452	·28	·28	1 to 486	1 to 434	·23	·24	1 to 52	1 to 489

87. The following comparative statement shows, by districts, the number of cases reported and those accepted as true, and the number of persons put on trial in each district during the last two years :—

Districts.	Cases reported.		True cases.				Persons put on trial.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	Increase	De- crease.	1875.	1876.
Goalpāra	800	905	577	716	139	....	719	842
Kāmrūp	1,368	1,418	868	977	109	....	773	760
Darrang	954	728	731	552	....	179	698	556
Nowgong	571	575	422	473	51	....	415	276
Sibsagar	1,260	1,374	1,017	997	....	20	774	732
Lakhimpur	490	606	381	447	66	....	497	429
Sylhet	2,463	3,786	2,796	3,426	628	....	2,703	3,294
Cachar	1,197	1,508	1,093	1,262	169	....	805	950
Total	10,203	10,900	7,887	8,850	1,162	199	7,384	7,839

From this statement, it appears that during the year 1876 963 more true cases of cognizable crime were reported than in the previous year. It must not, however, be necessarily inferred from these figures that crime has actually increased; less crime, perhaps, may have escaped detection.

88. The proportion of false cases reported in the different districts is shown below:—

Districts.	Cases reported.	Struck off as false.	Percentage of cases struck off as false to cases reported.
Goalpara	905	215	24
Kamrup	1,418	468	33
Darrang	728	183	25
Nowgong	575	106	18
Sibsagar	1,374	417	30
Lakhimpur	606	170	28
Sylhet	3,786	676	18
Cachar	1,508	263	17
Total.....	10,900	2,497	22

The percentage of false cases was the same during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, being 22 respectively.

89. 447 cases were pending investigation at the end of 1875; during 1876, 10,900 fresh cases were reported to the police or to the magisterial authorities,—total 11,347 cases. Of these cases, 578 were not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and 2,497 were declared false.

Convictions were obtained in 2,605 cases, or 31 per cent. of the cases reported true. In 1875, the convictions were 30 per cent.

Comparing the number of persons convicted with the number of persons arrested, the following results are shown:—

	Persons arrested.	Percentage.
1875	7,755	57.70
1876	8,207	59.53

These figures exhibit a slight improvement during the year 1876.

90. The statement below shows how the cases accepted as true were disposed of during the year:—

Districts.	True cases.*		Persons.								Percentage of convictions to persons brought to trial.		Percentage of acquittals to persons brought to trial.	
			Arrested.				Convicted.	Acquitted.						
			By police, <i>suo moto</i> .		By order of Magistrate.									
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.			
Goalpara ..	577	716	596	750	163	132	451	547	246	287	62.73	64.96	34.21	34.08
Kamrup	868	977	461	469	339	324	419	434	347	306	54.20	57.10	44.89	40.26
Darrang	731	552	644	451	70	90	515	393	178	160	73.78	70.68	25.50	28.78
Nowgong ...	422	473	199	164	226	124	289	195	122	81	66.98	70.65	29.39	29.35
Sibsagar ...	1,017	997	690	609	117	144	528	487	240	237	68.22	66.53	30.88	32.37
Lakhimpur ..	381	447	329	309	168	130	266	300	225	121	53.52	69.93	45.27	32.20
Sylhet	2,798	3,426	2,028	2,608	690	668	1,566	1,387	919	1,074	56.68	60.32	33.99	32.60
Cachar	1,093	1,262	623	709	165	174	441	343	296	393	54.78	57.16	36.77	41.37
Total ..	7,887	8,850	5,570	6,069	1,938	1,791	4,475	4,886	2,573	2,659	60.45	62.38	34.84	33.92

The percentage of convictions to persons brought to trial is highest for both years in the district of Darrang, and lowest during the year under review in the district of Kámrup.

Comparing the convictions in the different districts, an improvement in the percentage of convictions to acquittals has taken place during the year under report in all the districts except Darrang and Sibságar. These two latter districts exhibit a slight falling off; but, notwithstanding this decrease, the final results obtained in these two districts are good.

91. The total amount of property stolen in the Province during the year 1875 was Rs. 99,791, and during 1876 Rs. 1,23,011. The value of stolen property recovered during the two years was, respectively Rs. 43,491 and Rs. 53,382. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen was 43 in both years; but in the district of Goálpára it was 68, and in Nowgong 84 per cent., which is very satisfactory.

The statistics regarding the different districts are given below:—

Districts.	Amount of property stolen.		Amount of property recovered.		Percentage.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Goálpára	5,291	12,595	1,757	8,633	33	68
Kámrup	10,170	10,895	3,177	3,834	31	35
Darrang	4,451	4,894	1,842	1,597	41	32
Nowgong	5,430	2,748	4,401	2,315	81	84
Sibságar	13,331	17,360	4,877	6,610	37	38
Lakhimpur	11,605	9,147	3,856	3,033	29	33
Sylhet	31,449	51,020	16,224	22,200	52	43
Cachar	18,064	14,352	7,827	5,160	43	35
Total	99,791	1,23,011	43,491	53,382	43	43

92. The following table exhibits the number of cases of each class of cognizable crime for the years 1875 and 1876 (exclusive of cases declared to be false):—

	1875.	1876.
Class I.—Offences against the State	363	421
„ II.—Serious offences against the person	607	541
„ III.—Serious offences against the person, property, &c	827	1,011
„ IV.—Minor offences against the person	948	997
„ V.—Minor offences against property	4,441	4,538
„ VI.—Other offences not specified above	724	784
Other special laws	73	111
Total	7,983	8,403

93. 12,134 cases are shown as instituted by complaint, and taken up by the magistrates in the plains districts of this Province during the year under report,
Non-cognizable crime.

against 13,164 in 1875, or a decrease of 1,030 cases. The police were directed to make inquiry in 848 cases, against 959 cases during the preceding year.

The table below shows the results obtained in the past two years, 1875 and 1876:—

	1875.	1876.
Number of cases in which process issued	9,407	8,658
Number of persons who actually appeared	8,558	9,093
Discharged after appearance	725	695
Acquitted.....	2,344	2,417
Convicted.....	5,369	5,853

The results of convictions to persons put on trial is a little better in 1876, being 64 per cent, against 62 per cent. in 1875, and may be considered fair.

94. In the following table, the number of non-cognizable cases in 1875 is contrasted with the number in 1876, and a comparison is made between the number of these cases and the population of each of the valley districts of Assam:—

Districts.	Complaints of non-cognizable crime.				Population.	Proportion of complaint to persons.	
	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.		1875.	1876.
Goalpára	566	527	.....	89	444,000	1 to 784	1 to 842
Kamrup.....	1,385	908	.....	477	561,631	" 405	" 618
Darrang.....	604	617	13	.....	2,6009	" 390	" 382
Nowgong	1,548	1,119	.....	429	256,390	" 165	" 329
Sibsagar	1,014	1,109	95	.....	296,589	" 292	" 267
Lakhimpur	870	819	.....	51	121,267	" 139	" 148
Sylhet.....	5,422	5,275	.....	147	1,719,539	" 817	" 325
Cachar	1,755	1,760	5	.....	205,027	" 116	" 116
Total	13,164	12,134	113	1,143	8,840,452	" 291	" 316

There has been a marked diminution of cases in the districts of Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sylhet, while, on the other hand, Sibsagar shows a small increase. In the whole Province, there was one complaint of non-cognizable crime to 316 persons of the population, against 291 persons in the preceding year.

95. The comparative table below shows the total number of cases which occurred in the several hill districts during the two years of 1875 and 1876, with the results of the same:—

Districts.	Cases reported.		Pending at the close of 1875.	Arrested.		Total.		Put on trial.		Convicted.		Acquitted.		Pending.
	1875.	1876.		1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	
Khasi Hills..	76	109	2	48	118	48	120	48	118	43	100	8	18	2
Gáro " ..	26	47	2	35	69	35	71	35	71	27	56	6	12	3
Nága " ..	9	15	..	13	17	13	17	13	17	9	15	4	2	..
Total ..	111	171	4	96	204	96	208	96	206	79	171	13	32	5

From the foregoing table, it appears that crime in the hill districts shows a tendency to increase, or, perhaps, more probably the improved administration leads to more cases being brought to light than formerly.

171 cases, against 111 of 1875, were reported during the year, in which 204 persons were arrested, and, taking 4 persons that remained pending at the close of the year, altogether 206 persons were put on trial, of whom 171 were convicted and 32 acquitted,—the percentage of convictions to acquittals being 84, against 85 of 1875.

In the Khási Hills crime has increased 30 per cent. over the average of the past five years. The main increase is under Classes III., IV., and V. The offences in which the increase mostly occurs are lurking house-trespass and the like, in which the number of offences is nearly double that of former years, and ordinary theft, in which there is a large increase,—50 cases in 1876, against an average of 28 cases in the preceding five years.

The increase in the Gáro Hills is mainly under the class of offences against property. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes it to the extension of the district, which has brought many villages, inhabited by people much more addicted to petty thefts than the Gáros are, within his jurisdiction.

In the Nága Hills, as has been invariably the case, there has been little or no reported crime within the limits of the Political Officer's settled jurisdiction. The few cases that occurred were of such an ordinary nature as to require scarcely any comment. Most of the cases are cases of petty theft, and they nearly all occurred at Samaguting.

There has been a total increase of 31 cases reported, of which 21 belong to the Khási Hills. In the 80 cases reported during the year, 100 persons were arrested, and, inclusive of the 2 who remained awaiting trial at the close of the year, 102 persons were put on trial, of whom 86 were convicted, 15 were acquitted, and 1 died. The percentage of persons convicted to acquitted during the year is favourable, being 85 in 1876, against 83 in 1875.

The percentage of property recovered to property stolen is very unsatisfactory during the year, being 9 only. This has been owing to a single case of theft, which was committed in Messrs. Dey & Co.'s shop at Shillong. Out of Rs. 1,775 said to have been stolen, only Rs. 55 were recovered.

96. There were 1,339 deaths from accidental causes in the Province reported by the police during the year 1876.

Accidental deaths.

The details of the causes of death are

shown below:—

	Drowned.	Bitten by snakes.	Killed by wild animals.	By fall of buildings.	Other causes	Total.
Men	163	135	168	15	105	586
Women	99	41	25	1	30	196
Children	420	32	26	3	76	557
Total.....	682	208	219	19	211	1,339

The largest number of accidental deaths is again shown to be from drowning, and deaths from this cause are, as might be expected, most prevalent in Sylhet.

97. The following table shows the number and description of the animals destroyed, and the total value of the rewards paid for killing them during the two years 1875 and 1876:—

Description of animals.	Number.	1875.			Number.	1876.		
		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Tigers.....	458	10,249	8	0	411	9,308	8	0
Leopards.....	150	740	0	0	174	776	4	0
Bears.....	68	157	8	0	46	113	12	0
Wolves.....	3	.....	.....	.....	3	15	0	0
Hyenas.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other animals and cubs, including buffaloes.....	92	221	4	0	166	188	0	0
Total.....	772	11,368	4	0	800	10,396	8	0

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

98. The criminal courts of the Province, with the exception of those in the hill districts, are under the supervision and control of the High Court at Calcutta. The Chief Commissioner has not, however, been favoured with any report or remarks by the High Court concerning the administration of criminal justice in Assam during the past year. The remarks herein must therefore be confined to a review of the tabular statements which are furnished to the Chief Commissioner's Office. These returns (Judicial Statements Nos. 2 to 5, appended to the Report) have been compiled for the calendar year, 1876, and contain particulars only respecting the eight plains districts of the Province, which are under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

There are no complete returns of the administration of criminal justice in the hill districts; but information as to the number of offences reported by the police, and the results of the cases tried in the British courts will be found at the close of the section on police administration.

99. The criminal courts in this Province during the year 1876, exclusive of the High Court at Calcutta, the highest court of appeal, were fifty-two in number, *viz.*, the two sessions courts, eight Deputy-Commissioners, who were all magistrates of districts, and all of whom exercised the special powers described in Section 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code, sixteen magistrates with first, eight magistrates with second, and eighteen magistrates with third-class powers, including honorary magistrates.

100. The subjoined table shows the number of offences reported, and the number of persons under trial, convicted, and acquitted during the past three years:—

Statistics of crime.

Year.	Offences reported.	Persons under trial.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Otherwise disposed of.	Remaining under trial.	Percentage of convictions	Percentage of acquittals
							to persons under trial.	
1874	19,827	14,013	5,055	8,638	32	288	61	36
1875	21,849	16,072	5,464	10,135	37	426	63	34
1876	18,696	17,175	5,686	11,063	26	400	64	33

Although there was a considerable decrease in the number of offences reported during 1876, as compared with the two preceding years, yet the number of persons actually brought to trial was greater than in 1874 and 1875. The increase in the percentage of convictions and the decrease in the percentage of acquittals are satisfactory. The diminution in the number of reported crimes may, the Chief Commissioner thinks, perhaps, be attributable to the generally good harvests obtained during the year under review.

Of the offences reported, 44 per cent. were under the head of "criminal force" and "petty theft;" offences of a graver nature, such as murder, &c., were, as will be perceived from the detailed statement appended to the report (Judicial Statement No. 2), not very numerous, amounting to only 1·1 per cent., while none of the following offences were reported to have been committed during the year:—

- (1) Offences against the State.
- (2) Offences relating to the army and navy.
- (3) Offences relating to religion.
- (4) Offences relating to thuggee.
- (5) Offences relating to injury to unborn children.
- (6) Offences relating to theft with aggravating circumstances.
- (7) Offences relating to extortion with ditto.
- (8) Offences relating to dacoity.
- (9) Offences relating to criminal trespass, resulting in death or grievous hurt.

101. The following table compares the statistics of reported crime in this Province in proportion to population with the statistics of some other Provinces. Assam, it will be observed, exhibits the lowest proportion of heinous offences, compared to the total number of offences reported.

Name of Province	Popula- tion.	Total number of offences reported.	Against the person.		Against the property.		Other offences.	Proportion of reported offences per 10,000 of population.					
			Heinous.	Minor.	Heinous.	Minor.		All offences.	Offences against person.		Offences against property.		Other offences.
									Heinous.	Minor.	Heinous.	Minor.	
Bengal ..	62,706,774	172,930	2,639	50,383	1,593	70,536	47,879	27.5	4	8.0	2	11.2	7.6
Ondh ..	11,178,861	79,263	2,294	6,699	31,367	27,267	11,636	70.9	2.0	5.9	28.0	24.3	10.4
Central Provinces Assam (exclusive of Hill Dis- tricts.)	10,826,321 3,804,216	41,965 18,696	1,329 248	8,712 6,739	5,006 171	15,141 6,347	11,777 5,191	38.7 49.1	1.2 6	7.9 17.7	4.6 4	13.9 16.6	10.8 13.6
British Burmah..	2,815,193	27,363	731	6,301	829	9,912	9,500	97.1	25.9	22.7	2.9	35.2	33.7

102. During the year 1876 thirteen persons were dealt with by the High Court in its referred jurisdiction, of whom two were acquitted and eleven convicted. No information as to the nature of these cases, nor of the punishments inflicted, appears in the return submitted to this office from the High Court.

103. Inclusive of the thirty-five persons pending trial from last year there were 184 persons in all dealt with by the courts of session against 211 in 1875. Of these, 3 persons were discharged without trial. 80, or 43.4 per cent., were acquitted, only, 75, or 40.7 per cent., were convicted, three were otherwise disposed of, and 23 remained awaiting trial at the close of the year. The result is very far from satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner is not, however, in a position to say how far the committing officers are to blame for this result. He is aware that the story told by witnesses at the preliminary inquiry differs frequently most materially from their depositions before the court of session. The past three years have, however, shown a steadily decreasing percentage of convictions before the sessions court. 52 per cent. of committals resulted in convictions in 1874, 49 per cent. in 1875, and only 40 per cent. in the past year. In default of other explanation, the figures would seem to indicate considerable want of discretion, or defects in procedure on the part of the committing officers.

Of the persons convicted, 9 were sentenced to death, 3 were transported for life, 15 were transported for a term, and 48* were imprisoned, of whom 18 were also fined to the extent of Rs. 1,874-13-0. In no case was a sentence of imprisonment with solitary confinement passed by the court of session.

104. At the close of the year 1875, there were 404 persons awaiting trial in the various magisterial courts of the Province. 6,019 persons were arrested by the police during the year; 2,255 and 7,994 persons, respectively,

appeared in obedience to warrants and summonses issued; while 466 persons appeared voluntarily before the several tribunals. The total number of persons before the various courts for disposal was in 1876 17,138, against 16,045 in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,093, or 6·3 per cent. The annexed statement exhibits how these persons were disposed of, and collates the previous statistics on the subject :—

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Discharged without trial	2,143	15·3	2,163	13·4	2,030	11·8
Acquitted	2,856	20·4	3,251	20·2	3,573	20·8
Convicted or committed	8,692	62·3	10,193	63·5	11,135	65·0
Died, escaped, or transferred ...	32	..	34	...	23	...
Pending at close of the year ...	265	1·9	404	2·5	377	2·2
Total ...	13,988	...	16,045	...	17,138	...

105. The subjoined table shows in detail the total number of persons actually tried, the number of days occupied in each case, and the number of witnesses examined by each class of magistrates during the last two years :—

Class of tribunal.	1875.			1876.		
	Total number of persons tried.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.	Total number of persons tried.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.
Unpaid magistrates	859	4·6	1,900	660	5	1,857
Local and subordinate paid magistrates.	4,720	6·4	10,928	4,277	9	10,996
Full-power magistrates.....	6,684	6·4	15,939	8,336	8	17,455
Chief magistrates of districts (Deputy-Commissioners).	1,181	7·7	2,014	1,435	4	1,719
Total ..	13,444	...	30,781	14,708	...	32,027

It will be seen from this statement that the full-power magistrates disposed of the largest number of persons during both the years 1875 and 1876. During the year under review, 660 persons, or 4·4 per cent., were tried by unpaid magistrates, 29 per cent. by local and subordinate paid magistrates, 56 per cent. by full-power magistrates, and the remainder, or 9·7 per cent., by the chief magistrates of districts.

106. The honorary magistrates continue to be very useful in disposing of petty cases, and thereby relieving the district courts. As will appear from the foregoing table, they tried 859 and 660 persons and examined 1,900 and 1,857 witnesses during the years 1875 and 1876, respectively. No information is obtainable from the returns as to the number or results of appeals from their decisions.

Honorary magistrates.

107. The various kinds of punishments inflicted by the several magisterial courts during the past three years are compared in the following table:—

Punishments.

		1874.	Per cent.	1875.	Per cent.	1876.	Per cent.
Imprisonment	{ Rigorous ...	2,914	33·7	3,223	33·4	3,305	33·1
	{ Simple ...	68	·7	69	·7	150	1·5
Forfeiture of property	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Fine	{ With imprisonment ...	543	6·2	778	8·	840	8·4
	{ Without ditto ...	4,830	55·8	5,366	55·6	5,370	53·9
Whipping	{ In addition to other punishment.	47	·5	21	·2	41	·4
	{ In lieu of ditto ...	235	2·7	189	1·9	256	2·5
Total ...		8,639	...	9,646	...	9,962	...

Thus, it will appear that during the last three years more than half of the total number of persons punished were fined, and that 34·4 in 1874-75, 34·1 per cent. in 1875, and 34·6 per cent. in 1876 of the total number of persons punished were imprisoned, and that only in a few cases was whipping inflicted.

In only one case was a sentence of imprisonment with solitary confinement passed. The Chief Commissioner is of opinion that the power of ordering solitary confinement as an accompaniment to imprisonment might, with profit, be more generally exercised than it is.

Whipping is also a punishment which, considering the comparatively large number of cases of petty theft, should be inflicted oftener than appears to be the case at present. In 1875, out of all the convictions for offences in which whipping was awardable, in only 210 cases was this punishment inflicted. In 1876, whipping was inflicted in 297 cases out of all the convictions for such offences. The returns furnished by the High Court do not show, however, in how many of these convictions this punishment might have been resorted to,—some offences not punishable with whipping being mixed up in the returns with those that are so punishable.

Besides the above, 46 persons were ordered to give security to keep the peace, 1,202 were ordered to enter into recognizances, and 117 to furnish security for good behaviour, during the year under review.

108. The various degrees of punishments inflicted by the several magisterial courts during 1876, as compared with the next preceding year, is tabulated below:—

Degree of punishment.	1875.		1876.	
	Persons.	Percentage.	Persons.	Percentage.
Imprisonment for 15 days.....	791	24	696	20
" 6 months	1,949	61	2,204	63
" 2 years	435	13	538	15
" 7 "	33	1	17	.....
" above 7 " .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	3,208	.....	3,455	.....
Fine, Rs. 10 and under.....	4,781	77	4,633	74
" 50 "	1,227	19	1,427	22
" 100 "	90	1	114	1
" 500 "	44	.....	33	.....
" 1,000 "	2	.....	2	.....
Above " 1,000 " .....	.....	.....	1	.....
Total.....	6,144	.....	6,210	.....
Whipping, 10 stripes and under	72	34	80	27
" 20 "	94	45	143	48
" 30 "	44	21	74	25
Total.....	210	.....	297	.....

It will be seen that 17 persons were incarcerated during the year for a term of seven years, against 33 imprisoned for that period in the previous year, and that only one person was fined in a sum above Rs. 1,000, and two only in a sum above Rs. 500. Nearly one-half of the persons punished were fined Rs. 10 and less each.

109. The entire amount of fines imposed during the year was Rs. 84,834-10-0, viz., Rs. 1,874-13-0 by the sessions courts, and Rs. 82,959-13-0 by the magistrates. Of this sum, Rs. 71,418-8-1, or 86 per cent., were realized, and Rs. 7,299-12-8 were paid as compensation to the injured persons.

110. 32,027 witnesses attended at the magisterial courts, as detailed in the statement appended to para. 105, and 843 witnesses at the courts of session, against 30,781 and 992 respectively in 1875.

111. The result of appeals instituted before the several tribunals during the past two years is contrasted below:—

	High Court.		Sessions Courts.		Chief Magisterial Courts.		Total.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Number of appellants	147	674	624	517	394	1,191	1,165
Number of persons—								
Appeals rejected	14	93	206	77	47	170	267
Sentences confirmed...	...	57	392	220	262	193	654	470
" modified	8	77	67	82	42	159	117
" reversed	51	72	97	58	88	130	236
Proceedings quashed...	2	2	...	2	2
Further inquiry or evidence.	4	...	9	10	13	10
Cases referred	11	5	...	1	11	6
Appeals pending trial	...	17	25	27	27	13	52	57

It will be noticed that in the greater number of cases, amounting to 63 per cent., of the appeals instituted, the appeals were either rejected or the sentences of the lower courts were confirmed. In 10 per cent. the orders of the court of first instance were modified, and in 20 per cent. the orders were reversed. Of the total number of appellants, 147 appealed to the High Court, 624 to the courts of session, and 394 to the chief magistrates' courts. As compared with the previous year, the number of persons who appealed to the courts of session and the magisterial courts shows a decrease. Particulars of appeals made to the High Court during the year 1875 are not available in this office.

112. As noted in the previous year's report, all offences, including abetments and attempts falling under Chapters VIII., XI., XVI., XVII., and XVIII., of the Indian Penal Code tried by the court of session are tried by jury,—the rest are tried with the aid of assessors.

In 1876, 15 cases were tried by jury, against 11 in 1875; in 13 cases out of the 15, the Judge approved of the verdict of the jury. 75 cases were tried with the aid of assessors, against 59 in the preceding year; in 71 cases out of the 75, the Judge agreed with the assessors.

113. The returns furnished by the High Court supply no information as to the number of summary trials under Section 222, Criminal Procedure Code, and no remarks can therefore be offered as to the extent to which this system of procedure is made use of in the Province.

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

114. The following table shows the daily average number of prisoners confined in the jails of the Province during the last three years:—

General summary of prison population.			Male.	Female.	Total.
1874	...	...	1,169·24	38·38	1,207·62
1875	...	...	1,295·23	40·21	1,335·44
1876	...	...	1,435·16	52·57	1,487·73

The gross prison population for the same three years was—

1874	...	...	...	...	8,064
1875	...	...	...	...	8,409
1876	...	...	...	...	8,832

These figures show a steady increase in the jail population during these three years. This increase is, in some measure, due to the opening of new courts, and partly, probably, to the increased immigrant population of the Province. The proportion of convicted, under-trial, and civil prisoners confined in the Assam jails during the three years is shown below:—

1874.

Convicts	...	...	...	1,097·81
Under-trial	...	...	...	102·24
Civil	...	...	...	7·57
Total				<u>1,207·62</u>

1875.

Convicts	...	...	...	1,229·40
Under-trial	...	...	...	97·31
Civil	...	...	...	8·73
Total				<u>1,335·44</u>

1876.

Convicts	...	...	...	1,383·26
Under-trial	...	...	...	93·47
Civil	...	...	...	11·00
Total				<u>1,487·73</u>

It will be noticed that very few civil prisoners are confined in the jails of the Province. The decrease in the proportion of under-trial

to convicted prisoners shown by this statement is satisfactory, as indicating greater expedition in the disposal of criminal cases by the several courts.

115. The following statement shows the number and disposal of the convicts in the different jails and lock-ups during the year:—

	Male.	Female.
Convicted prisoners remaining in jails and lock-ups on the 31st December, 1875	1,271	40
Imprisoned during the year	4,143	199
Total.....	5,414	239
Received from other jails and lock-ups	178	19
Total.....	5,592	258
Deduct transferred to other jails	657	35
" released during the year	3,603	166
" transported beyond seas	7	...
" transferred to lunatic asylum	1	...
" escaped and not re-captured	7	..
" executed	5	1
" died	78	3
Total discharges.....	4,358	205
Remaining on the last day of the year	1,234	53

In the early part of the year special measures had to be adopted to relieve the overcrowding in the Sylhet jail. There was no necessity for similar measures in respect to any of the other jails.

116. The following table shows the criminality of the population in the several jails of the Province, according to religion:—

Religion.	Population.	Number of convicts admitted to jail.	Percentage admitted to jail in 1876.
Christians	1,947	2	·10
Mahomedans	1,104,601	2,018	·18
Hindus	2,679,507	2,184	·08
All other castes.....	52,876	592	1·11
Total.....	3,838,931	4,796	·12

The remark made in the report of 1875 still holds good,—that the class "all other castes" stands first in criminality, while the Hindu population supplies the fewest criminals, in comparison with its number.

117. The following table shows the ages of convict prisoners in the several jails of the Province during the year 1876:—

Ages of convicts admitted.

Ages.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Prisoners under 16 years of age	21	3	24
„ between 16 and 40 years of age	3,909	181	4,090
„ „ 40 „ 60 „ „	587	24	611
„ above 60 years of age	68	3	71
Total.....	4,585	211	4,796

The number of juvenile prisoners, it will be seen, is small.

118. The following table gives the proportion of males of the various classes, following the classification shown in the census returns, imprisoned in the several jails of the Province during the year 1876:—

Occupation.	Male population.	Number of prisoners in jail.	Per thousand.
Of independent property.....	18,500	132	7.13
Agriculturists	897,716	3,114	3.46
Non-agriculturists.....	191,029	895	4.68
Domestic servants.....	20,841	213	10.22
Government servants	8,203	187	22.79
No occupation	852,052	44	.05
Total.....	1,988,341	4,585	2.30

The number of Government servants imprisoned during the year is startlingly large; no explanation on this point has as yet been furnished by the Offg. Inspector-General of Jails.

119. The following comparative statement shows the nature and length of the sentences passed during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, respectively:—

Length of sentences.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Not exceeding one month	1,074	1,097	1,131
Above one month and not exceeding six months	1,488	1,887	2,400
„ six months „ „ one year	231	704	496
„ one year „ „ three years	160	499	533
„ three years „ „ five „	35	141	116
„ five „ „ „ ten „	24	72	81
Exceeding ten years.....	.....	9	2
Transportation for a term.....	2	18	17
„ for life.....	17	11	13
Executed.....	2	4	7
Total.....	3,033	4,442	4,796

The sentences "above one month and not exceeding six months" have largely increased, and those "above six months and not exceeding one year" have decreased, as compared with the year 1875.

120. Of the convicts received into the jails of the Province during the year, 219 had been once, 76 twice, and 49 more than twice, previously convicted and imprisoned. The percentage of the convicts who had been previously convicted to the entire number imprisoned during the year was 7.17 per cent.

121. The following table shows the nature of the sentences of imprisonment passed:—

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Simple imprisonment ...	64	12	89	7	171	32
Rigorous imprisonment ...	2,825	132	4,168	178	4,414	179

122. There were fourteen escapes from the jails and lock-ups in the Province during the year; of the persons who escaped, six remained uncaptured at the close of the year. Eleven escapes were made from inside the jail walls, and three from outside the walls. Considering the large number of prisoners employed on extramural labour, the small number of escapes is a satisfactory indication of their being carefully guarded while so engaged. Three convicts who escaped during previous years were captured during the year under report.

123. The following statement shows that the number of offences committed by the prisoners during the year was as follows:—

Criminal offences ...	...	...	...	4
Breaches of jail discipline ...	...	...	...	609
			Total ...	613

The punishments inflicted for these offences are shown in the following table:—

	Male.	Female	Total.
By Criminal Courts ...	3	1	4
By Jail Officers—			
Solitary confinement ...	16	...	16
Reduced diet ...	65	3	68
Solitary confinement with reduced diet...	4	1	5
Corporal punishment ...	180	...	180
Total ...	268	5	273

The punishments were comparatively high in the Sylhet and Nowgong jails. In both jails, the punishments were inflicted principally on account of the possession of forbidden articles. A system of fines

upon the warders in the latter jail proved efficacious in checking the supply of these forbidden articles. The structural defects of most of the Assam jails, however, render it comparatively easy for the prisoners to obtain these articles. These defects the Chief Commissioner hopes to remedy in course of time.

124. Out of the 3,546 prisoners admitted into the jails of the Province during the year, 3,372 were wholly ignorant, 112 could read and write a little, and 62 could read and write well. The daily average number of prisoners under instruction during the year was 41·58, out of a total daily average number of prisoners of 1,487·73. The clerical instruction imparted in jails is necessarily rather spasmodic, and the Chief Commissioner is very much inclined to doubt its utility.

125. The average number of prisoners employed as jail officers during the year in the different jails was 29·63, or 2·15 per cent. on the average daily number of prisoners. These men were employed as convict warders and work overseers. Out of the total number of men so employed, 27 were punished during the year.

The convict subordinates have generally worked well in the different jails.

No alteration was made during the year under report either in the scale of diet or the clothing of the prisoners.

126. The intramural labour of the convicts in the Assam jails consists of weaving, baking, brick, and tile-making, oil-pressing, and husking paddy. In some of the jails, rough carpentry and blacksmith's work have been introduced. At Sibságar and Lakhimpur, the manufacture of cart-wheels was attempted, but the result has not been very satisfactory.

127. It was not found practicable to do much to improve the arrangements for the classification of the prisoners; the jail buildings remained very much in the state reported in 1875. Until the structural defects alluded to in that report are removed, nothing more can be done than to separate the class of prisoners convicted of petty offences from the rest of the convicts.

128. Only three persons earned remission of sentence on account of marks gained during the year. The attention of the Officiating Inspector-General of Jails has been drawn to this fact, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that the mark system will be more thoroughly worked in future. Properly worked, it would prove a powerful agency in the maintenance of discipline.

129. The following table exhibits the jail expenditure and receipts of the last three years in a compendious form:--

Heads.	Expenditure.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rations	43,846	47,017	50,353
Establishment	26,447	26,962	25,929
Police guards	22,517	25,042	25,506
Hospital charges	1,866	2,018	2,260
Clothing	3,568	5,052	2,528
Contingencies	5,488	5,815	5,815
Expenditure on jail buildings by Jail Department	1,929	5,194	3,131
Expenditure on jail buildings by Public Works Department ..	16,735	19,682	24,579
Cost of Jail Department Office attached to Chief Commissioner's office.	980	980	980
Total	1,72,874	1,37,762	1,51,381
Cash expended on manufactures	29,898	22,254	26,602
Gross expenditure	1,52,272	1,60,016	1,77,983
Cash receipts from manufactures	30,922	31,707	23,689
Net cost to the State	1,22,250	1,28,309	1,44,294
Gross cost per head on average strength	126	119	119
Net ditto ditto	101	96	96

The total cost of maintenance of the prisoners under every head of charge during the two last years is shown in the annexed table:--

Heads of expenditure.	1875.	1876.
	Prisoners, 1,385-44.	Prisoners, 1,487-73.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rations	47,017	50,353
Establishment	26,962	25,929
Police guards	25,042	25,506
Hospital charges	2,018	2,260
Clothing	5,052	2,528
Contingencies	5,815	5,815
Public Works charges—		
Additions, alterations, and repairs to jails	24,876	38,010
Supervision.....	980	980
Total cost	1,37,762	1,51,381

The cost of maintenance exhibited in the foregoing table, divided among the prisoners who were daily in prison, gives the average cost per head of each prisoner in the subjoined table:—

Heads of expenditure,	1875.	1876.
	Prisoners, 1,335-44.	Prisoners, 1,487-73.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rations	35 6 10	34 1 6
Establishment	20 3 1	17 6 10
Guards	18 12 1	17 2 3
Hospital charges	1 8 2	1 8 3
Clothing	3 12 6	1 11 2
Contingencies	4 5 8	3 14 6
Public Works charges—		
Additions, alterations, and repairs to jails ...	18 0 0	25 8 9
Supervision	0 11 8	0 10 6
Total cost per prisoner under all heads	103 2 6	101 12 0

These figures are fairly satisfactory; the orders recently issued directed the purchase and storing of paddy, will, it is hoped, further reduce the cost of maintenance.

130. The following figures show the results of the labour of the prisoners employed on manufactures in the different jails of the Province during the last

Manufactures.
three years:—

	1874.	1875.	1876.
Average number of prisoners employed on manufactures ...	548	528	506
Cash drawn from treasury ...	Rs. 29,801	Rs. 21,766	Rs. 25,943
" received ...	29,591	31,052	32,867
Value of articles supplied for prison consumption...	5,296	4,638	9,962
Total ...	34,887	35,690	42,829
Loss.			
Cash profit.....	210	9,286	6,924
Average profit per head of manufacturing prisoners.....	Rs. A. P. 9 4 3	Rs. A. P. 26 5 7	Rs. A. P. 33 5 8
Outstanding debts at close of year	Rs. 2,174	Rs. 2,740	Rs. 1,467

These figures show that some advance towards self-support has been made during the year under review, as compared with former years. This is satisfactory, in so far as the result has been obtained without any disturbance of the due proportion of penal labour.

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131. The following table shows the sickness and mortality in the jails of the Province during the years 1875 and 1876:—

Jails.	Daily average number of sick.		Percentage of average sick.		Deaths.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Goalpāra	4.35	5.00	4.30	5.41	9	16
Gauhati	4.09	4.56	3.02	2.51	8	11
Tezpur	8.62	14.34	5.59	9.16	9	14
Nowgong .....	.68	2.04	1.16	2.51	1	1
Fibsagar	3.40	4.33	2.95	4.51	11	5
Dibrugarh	4.43	4.68	7.10	7.52	5	4
Sylhet	14.2	15.62	3.34	3.11	18	18
Silchar	8.32	6.02	8.94	3.95	1	8
Shillong	1.42	1.17	3.55	3.44	4	1
Total ..	49.98	56.76	4.20	4.25	66	78

The general health of the population of the Province during 1876 is said to have been below the average of previous years. Fevers of a severe and fatal type prevailed in several of the districts. The jail statistics have been affected by the same conditions. The average death-rate during the year was 5.85 per cent., against 4.92 per cent. in 1875. The sickness was heaviest in the Silchar and Dibrugarh jails.

132. The jail buildings remained during the year very much in the same state as they were during the previous year. A scheme, however, for enlarging and improving the Sylhet jail, the principal jail in the Province, was matured, and the immediate commencement of the work was sanctioned.

A sum of Rs. 38,010 was expended during the year on original works and repairs on account of the different jails, against Rs. 24,876 expended in the previous year.

133. There was no special officer in charge of the Jail Department during the year 1876, but all the jails in the Assam Valley were visited by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner. They were found, generally, in a creditable state as regards internal economy and management.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

134. 19,779 original suits were instituted during the year, as compared with 20,811 such suits instituted in 1875. In the Assam Valley Districts there was a decrease of 366 cases, while in Cachar there was an increase of 287 cases. The chief decrease in the number of cases instituted occurred, therefore, in Sylhet. The Judge is of opinion that this decrease is partly due to the re-distribution of jurisdiction between the courts of the several

munsiffs ; but he attributes it mainly to the short harvest, necessitating the importation of rice into Sylhet:—"Large sums of money were therefore exported from the district, and the people were, in consequence, more chary of spending money on law suits."

If the two reasons given by the Judge are the true ones for this gratifying decrease in litigation, the short harvest must, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, claim the principal influence. The re-distribution of jurisdiction between the several munsiffs was made after very careful consideration, and Colonel Keatinge is not disposed to accept the Judge's statement,—that such re-distribution rendered the civil courts less accessible to the people than formerly. This re-distribution was, moreover, made with the full concurrence of the Judge. The mere fact of the sites of the courts being changed, independently of the merits of those sites, may very possibly have had some effect on the number of the cases instituted.

135. The number of suits disposed of during the year was 20,193, against 21,311 in the previous year. The decrease was principally in Sylhet.

Disposals.

There were 2,289 suits pending at the close of the year, against 2,490 pending at the close of the previous year. This decrease in the number of pending suits is satisfactory.

136. The total number of suits disposed of, concerning which details are given, was 19,839. In only 312 of these did the value in dispute exceed Rs. 500. The total value of all the cases decided was Rs. 22,70,269, compared with Rs. 22,95,168 in the previous year. The Judge of Sylhet states that in 1876 pauper suits valued at Rs. 1,30,000 were instituted.

Number and value of suits instituted.

137. There has been a steady decrease during the last five years in the number of rent suits instituted in the Province, as will be seen from the following

Classification of suits.

statement:—

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Assam Proper	912	475	449	344	} 350
Goálpára	77	183	89	39	
Sylhet	978	1,016	987	934	
Cachar	81	57	33	34	
Total.....	2,048	1,731	1,558	1,351	1,287

In 1872 there were 2,048 such suits instituted, while in 1876 the number of such cases fell to 1,287. This decrease the Chief Commissioner looks on as satisfactory; it indicates harmonious relations between landlords and the ryots, light pressure of rents, and a prosperous tenantry. Cases of the small cause court class have increased slightly, but, on the whole, civil business has decreased.

138. The following statement shows the number of suits of each class instituted in the Province during each of the past two years :—

Description of suits.	1875.	1876.
Suits for money, &c.—		
Cognizable by small cause courts	15,519	15,345
Rent suits	1,351	1,287
Other ,,	3,940	3,147
	20,810	19,779

The detailed figures under the several heads call for no particular remarks, but it may be noticed that there has been an increase in the number of suits for small sums of money on written obligation, while suits for immoveable property show a considerable decrease. There were 22 suits for dissolution of marriage instituted during the year, against 6 such suits instituted in the previous year.

139. The following statement shows the manner in which suits were disposed of during the past three years :—

Year.	Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	Decided <i>ex parte</i> .	Contested.	Total.
1874	7,485	5,371	6,404	19,260
1875	7,816	5,645	7,850	21,311
1876	7,756	5,786	6,651	20,193

The proportion of contested cases during the year under review was 32·4 per cent., against 36·8 per cent. in the preceding year.

140. During 1876, 168 applications to set aside *ex parte* judgments were disposed of, 86 were granted, and 82 rejected. The corresponding figures for 1875 are 75 granted, against 87 rejected. The increase is entirely in the munsiffs' courts.

141. The following figures show the result of execution of decree cases for the past two years :—

Year.	Completely.	Partially.	Amount realized.		
			Rs.	As.	P.
1875	2,963	7,351	3,01,995	4	10
1876	2,981	8,149	2,55,459	15	7

The total number of decrees satisfied without execution was 977 in 1876, against 549 in 1875. The amount thus realized was Rs. 26,416 in 1876, as compared with Rs. 26,110 in 1875.

142. The following statement shows the number of cases in which coercive processes against the person or property, respectively, issued in execution of decrees in all courts in Assam other than revenue courts during the past two years:—

Year.	Nature of process.						Orders under Section 243, C. P. C.
	Imprisonment of person.	Moveable property.		Immoveable property.			
		Attached.	Sold.	Attached.	Sold.		
1875	115	1,003	380	1,896	705	2	
1876	176	1,076	415	2,395	861	1	

This statement calls for no remarks.

143. The number of original miscellaneous cases instituted, disposed of, and pending during the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1875.....	2,586	2,621	348
1876.....	2,024	2,008	293

The work under this head has thus decreased during 1876. The reduction in the pending files is satisfactory.

144. The following table shows the average duration of cases in the courts of the Province during the year under review:—

	District Judges.		Sub-Judges.		Munsiffs.	
	Months.	Days.	Months.	Days.	Months.	Days.
Contested	6	11	1	26	2	4
Uncontested ... ..	.....	28	1	2	1	6

The results shown in the above table are not unsatisfactory.

145. The number of appeals instituted, disposed of and pending during the past three years was as follows:—

Appeals.	Year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
	1874.....	1,347	1,394	206
	1875.....	1,743	1,461	527
	1876.....	1,538	1,643	433

The decrease in the number of institutions occurred in Sylhet and Cachar. The increase in the number of appeals disposed of was chiefly in Sylhet, but partly also in the Assam Valley Districts, but in these districts there has been a large increase in the number of pending appeals.

The ratio of appeals preferred to original suits tried on the merits for 1876 was 23·12 per cent., against 22·46 per cent. for 1875.

The following table exhibits the manner in which appeals decided on a hearing were disposed of:—

	Number.		Percentage.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Confirmed	962	1,137	67·2	71·4
Modified.....	74	126	5·27	7·9
Reversed	340	276	23·8	17·3
Remanded	54	55	3·8	3·4

In respect to the reversal of decisions, these figures show considerable improvement, and some improvement in respect to remanded cases.

In Sylhet 12·6 per cent. only of the decisions of the lower courts were reversed, against 23·23 per cent. in the valley districts.

107 miscellaneous appeals were instituted in 1876, against 101 in 1875 and 94 in 1874.

Local inquiries.

146. The number of local inquiries held in Assam in 1876 was 181, against 219 in 1875.

The following statement, taken from the High Court's report, would seem to show that the cost of the civil court establishments in Assam, with the exception of the Sylhet district, is far in excess of the receipts on account of court-fees:—

District.	Number of original suits.	Cost of establishment, including Judges' salaries.		Receipts on account of court-fees.	
		Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
Assam Valley	7,636	4,11,087	5 2	1,05,836	3 7
Sylhet	9,756	86,956	5 10	1,12,730	13 3
Cachar.....	2,037	48,228	0 0	13,395	10 4
Total ..	19,429	5,46,271	11 0	2,31,962	11 2

But, on further inquiry, it appears that this very surprising discrepancy is due altogether to the erroneous principle on which the

statement has been prepared. In the column showing "cost of establishment" has been included, in the case of the Assam Valley and Cachar, the whole of the pay of all judicial officers having civil powers and of all their establishments, whereas in these districts a considerable number of these officers and their establishments are engaged principally, and some, indeed, exclusively, on magisterial and revenue work, and have little or nothing to do with civil business. Very few are employed exclusively on civil judicial work. In Sylhet, on the contrary, the civil judicial establishment is altogether separate, and only its actual cost is shown.

The return, therefore, as it stands, is worthless. It would be necessary, in order to obtain a result of any value, to compile an approximate statement, showing the proportionate number of days devoted by the various officers and their establishments to civil judicial work, and the corresponding proportion of their salaries which should be debited to this head.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

147. The following table shows the work done by, and the financial position of, the Registration Department in this Province during the year under review, as compared with the year 1875-76:—

1 District.	2 Total number of registrations.		3 Receipts.		4 Expenditure.		5 Percentage of column 4 on column 3.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.		1876-77.		1875-76.	1876-77.
			Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		
Cachar	1,668	1,907	1,624 8 3	1,968 9 9	1,745 9 11	1,785 5 4	107.4	90.7
Sylhet	4,916	4,713	9,644 3 6	9,412 0 6	6,746 4 8	6,942 11 6	64.5	63.1
Goalpara	471	738	718 3 0	888 0 0	1,224 3 0	1,160 2 1	170.4	130.6
Kamrup	438	657	753 6 0	9 8 15 0	1,125 9 0	1,026 14 8	149.4	110.5
Darrang	116	65	260 0 6	292 3 0	494 6 6	387 11 5	190.1	132.6
Nowgong	276	291	671 4 0	631 5 6	628 9 0	602 8 0	78.7	89.7
Sibsagar	395	652	583 6 0	865 4 0	816 10 11	765 4 1	140.0	88.4
Lekhimpur	78	81	185 6 0	216 0 0	155 9 0	113 13 6	83.9	62.7
Total.....	8,356	9,004	14,440 5 3	15,202 5 9	12,836 14 0	11,684 6 7	85.3	76.8
Office of Officer in charge of Department.	....	....	.....	.....	916 5 10	796 4 3	....	....
Grand Total....	8,356	9,004	14,440 5 3	15,202 5 9	13,753 3 10	12,480 10 10	85.1	82.9

It will be seen from the above statement that in 1876-77, 9,004 documents were presented for registration, as compared with 8,356 documents presented in 1875-76, and that, while the receipts during the year under review exceeded the receipts during the preceding year by Rs. 762-0-6, the expenditure was less than in 1875-76 by Rs. 1,272-9-0.

The increase in the total number of documents presented for registration, though not large, is encouraging, while, from a financial

point of view, the results indicated by the statements are sufficiently satisfactory.

In 1875-76, five out of the eight registration districts were deficit districts, while in 1876-77 the number of deficit districts was reduced to three, and in these three districts the percentage of expenditure on receipts, which in the previous year was 170·4, 149·4, and 190·1, respectively, was reduced during the year under report to 130·6, 110·5, and 132·6, respectively, and the entire expenditure of the department was reduced from a percentage on the receipts of 95·1 to a percentage of 82·9.

148. The following synopsis of Registration Form II. shows a very marked increase (more than 18 per cent.) in the number of optional registrations effected during the year, as compared with the previous year, a fact which goes far to prove that the department is growing in popularity. The Chief Commissioner does not, however, think that the Province is as yet sufficiently advanced to demand, for the present at least, an extension of the rural sub-registry offices:—

Year.	Compulsory registration.	Optional registration.		Wills and authorities to adopt.	Total.
		Affecting immovable property.	Affecting moveable property.		
1875-76.....	4,795	2,163	1,317	81	8,356
1876-77.....	4,981	2,411	1,529	83	9,004
Increase	186	248	212	2	648

149. The aggregate value of property transferred by documents brought to the several offices for registration was less during the year under review than the preceding year, as will appear from the following statement:—

District.	Total aggregate value.		Increase or decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar.....	2,55,448	3,47,885	+ 82,437
Sylhet.....	15,89,177	14,09,773	- 1,79,404
Goálpára.....	1,06,141	1,07,809	+ 1,668
Kámrúp.....	1,88,631	2,61,046	+ 72,415
Darrang.....	1,01,826	47,237	- 54,589
Nowgong.....	4,05,922	2,46,819	- 1,59,103
Sibságar.....	2,43,684	3,59,029	+ 1,15,345
Lakhiampur.....	90,653	69,949	- 20,704
Total.....	29,91,482	28,49,547	- 1,41,734

150. The miscellaneous work of the department during the year 1876-77, as compared with the previous year, is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Wills deposited.		Powers of attorney authenticated.		Registrations on payment of fine under Section 24.	Registrations on payment of fine under Section 34.	Applications for searches and copies.	Prosecutions (Section 89).	Commissions issued under Sections 32 & 33.	Visits paid under Sections 31, 32, & 33.	Receipts.
	General.	Special.									
1875-76	3	166	284	32	51	374	6	215	63		Rs.
1876-77 .....	...	193	278	47	76	402	4	212	68		6,513

It will be seen from this statement that the receipts on account of miscellaneous work amounted during the year to Rs. 6,513, against Rs. 6,093 in 1875-76.

151. No change was made during the year in the number of registration offices, nineteen, sub-divided thus:—

Offices at head-quarter station	8
Offices at sub-divisions.....	8
Rural offices	3

152. Four prosecutions were instituted under the Registration Act during the year. In each case a conviction was obtained.

153. The department was instrumental in bringing to light during the year a large number of insufficiently-stamped documents. In the Sylhet district alone, seventy-one documents were impounded.

154. The Officer in Charge of the Registration Department reports that the duty of inspecting sub-registry offices was more efficiently performed by the several registrars during the year under report than in the previous year. Owing to his being absent on leave towards the end of the official year, Dr. Martin was unable to himself inspect more than nine offices.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPALITIES.

155. The number of municipal institutions existing in the Province during the year under report was the same as during the preceding year, viz., the municipality of Gauháti, the townships of Sylhet and Goálpára, and the chowkidari union of Silchar. The station of Dibrugarh was declared a township under Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.) just after the close of the official year.

156. The income and expenditure of the municipalities has been as follows: The aggregate receipts for the year 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 56,609-15-10, against Rs. 39,762-13-4 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 16,847-2-6. This increase is almost entirely due to the fact that the proceeds from ferries in Sylhet, amounting to Rs. 10,556-2-9, were credited in the accounts of the Town Fund during the year, whereas they had been excluded from the accounts for 1875-76. The reason was stated in para. 348, Part II.B. of last year's report. The total expenditure of the municipalities during the year was Rs. 58,739-12-2, as compared with Rs. 40,378-13-8, the total expenditure in 1875-76.

157. The total receipts of the Gauháti municipality during the year amounted to Rs. 27,092-13-9, as compared with Rs. 25,972 during the previous year. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 26,968-7-10, against Rs. 27,006 in 1875-76.

158. The receipts of the Sylhet township during the year were Rs. 17,688-4-0, as compared with Rs. 6,179-6-9 in the preceding year. The cause of the increased receipts has been already stated. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 21,194-6-7, as compared with Rs. 8,969-14-6 in 1875-76. There was a large balance at the credit of the town at the commencement of the year, from which the excess expenditure above the year's income was met.

159. The receipts of the Goálpára township during the year amounted to Rs. 3,982-14-1, against Rs. 1,818-9-9 for the period between the 1st October, 1875, and the 31st March, 1876. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 3,509-13-9. The expenditure in 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 1,237-11-2.

160. In the chaukidari union of Silchar, the receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 7,846, as compared with Rs. 5,792-12-10 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,067, against Rs. 3,165-14 in 1875-76.

161. In addition to the receipts during the year, the several municipalities had the following balances to their credit at the commencement of the year, viz.:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Gauháti	263	14	3
Sylhet.....	8,612	11	11
Goálpára	580	14	7
Silchar	16,121	0	0

The closing balances were—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Gauháti	388	4	2
Sylhet.....	5,106	9	4
Goálpára.....	1,053	14	11
Silchar	16,900	0	0

162. In lieu of the revenue derived from the land within the town limits, the following sums were assigned from Provincial Funds to the other towns of Assam Proper for the purposes of local improvement, it having been decided by the Government of India that the revenue derived from the town mouzahs should be credited under the head of "Land Revenue":—

	Rs.
Gauháti.....	5,000
Barpeta	500
Tezpur	2,000
Mangaldai	500
Nowgong	2,000
Sibságar	4,000
Jorhát	1,000
Golághát	800
Dibrugarh	5,000
North Lakhimpur	250
Jaipur	250
Total	21,300

163. No work of any magnitude was carried out during the year by any of the municipalities,—indeed, their annual resources are plainly insufficient for any but the most elementary functions of local improvement and sanitation. On the whole, however, the funds of these institutions appear to have been applied with rather more discrimination during the year under report than during the previous year. The aggregate amount spent on conservancy measures in 1876-77 was, indeed, rather less, being Rs. 6,775-13-1, against Rs. 7,496-5 2 spent in 1875-76; but the districts in which the expenditure on this object had before been plainly insufficient have shown this year a satisfactory increase in the money devoted to sanitation; while Gauháti, in which about one-fourth of the total expenditure had last year been incurred on conservancy, was enabled this year to reduce its expenditure under this head. The expenditure upon roads during the year shows a large increase, amounting to Rs. 18,509-13-5, as compared with Rs. 9,016-8-7 in the preceding year.

Considering the smallness of the resources at their command the Chief Commissioner thinks that these institutions have been managed during the past year with a very fair measure of success.

The administration of the funds granted from Provincial revenues to other stations which have no municipalities is in the hands of the District Officers. The Chief Commissioner was glad to observe during his tour that these funds appeared in the stations which he visited to have been utilized to the best advantage.

SECTION 9.—MILITARY.

164. In February, 1876, the 35th Regiment Native Infantry relieved the 3rd Regiment Native Infantry at Cachar. The distribution of the military force in the Province remained much the same as in the preceding year, as shown in the annexed statement:—

Regiment.	Stations.		Strength.	
	Head-quarters.	Outposts.	British Officers.	Natives of all ranks.
35th Native Infantry	Cachar ...	.....	7	523
		Monierkhal ...	.....	50
		Noarbund ...	.....	30
		Jirighat ...	.....	23
		Mainadahar... ..	.....	23
42nd Assam Light Infantry ...	Gauháti ...	.....	6	600
		Tezpur ...	1	175
		Nowgong ...	.....	69
		Udalguri ...	.....	58
43rd Ditto ditto ...	Shillong ...	.....	6	682
		Jowai ...	.....	53
		Chargola ...	.....	46
44th Ditto ditto ...	Dibrugarh ...	.....	6	613
		Sadiya ...	1	127
		Pubamukh ...	.....	46
		Golághát ...	.....	39
		Sisree ^o ...	.....	24
		Dibong ^o ..	.....	14
		Wokha road †	.....	25

* On escort duty.

† During cold season only.

165. The detachment of the 42nd Assam Light Infantry, which in the end of 1875 proceeded into the Nága Hills as escort to the Topographical Survey party, returned upon the 7th May, 1876. This detachment consisted of 72 of all ranks, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Tulloch. It attacked and burnt the Nága villages of Rechim and Changse, which were concerned in the ambuscade in which Captain Butler was killed.

Early in 1877, a detachment of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, under the command of Major Robertson, accompanied the party of the Great Trigonometrical Survey under Lieutenant Harman, as a protecting escort, to enable observations to be taken from two of the peaks on the lower ranges of the Abor Hills. No collision with the Abors took place.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION I.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

166. The weather throughout the year under review was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural purposes. The "Sali" and "Aus" crops of rice were moderately good. Other crops, such as jute, mustard, sugar-cane, pulse, &c., gave an abundant outturn.

In Upper Assam and Nowgong, the "Sali" crop suffered somewhat for want of seasonable rain in July and August. In Cachar, the rice harvest was more abundant than it had been during the previous five years. This favourable result is attributed to the heavy floods of the preceding year, which, after drying up, left the fields covered with rich deposits. The higher prices of the previous year continued, however, to prevail in the year under report.

167. The following statement shows the rainfall registered in each district of the Province during the years 1875 and 1876:—

Stations.	1875.	1876.	Average of six years.
<i>Surma Valley Districts.</i>			
Sylhet	183.79	150.73	157.83
Cachar.....	132.53	141.62	118.94
	104.78	100.47	100.57
<i>Brahmaputra Valley Districts.</i>			
Goálpára	97.57	87.89	92.47
	91.64	94.50	93.15
Kámrúp	54.88	65.86	60.71
	96.06	113.22	97.61
Darrang	84.03	58.15	74.05
	66.22	64.67	65.59
Nowgong	69.59	63.90	90.62
Sibságar	103.28	83.73	101.87
	84.54	70.27	81.88
	79.24	76.81	80.10
Lakhimpur.....	104.29	106.97	110.28
	140.07	117.11	120.02
	No record.		Average of 4 years.
<i>Hill Districts.</i>			
Kháisi and Jaintiá Hills	100.21	98.00	83.98
	321.45	468.67	397.05
	241.66	307.32	169.23
Gáro Hills	119.70	98.33	109.53
Nága Hills.....	59.07	53.76	53.43

From this statement, it will be observed that the rainfall was about the average; but the rains set in later than usual in Upper Assam and Nowgong, and the crops suffered to some extent in consequence.

In the district of Goálpára a rumour originated of a partial scarcity, but, upon investigation, the report was proved to be without foundation.

168. The cyclone which visited the districts of Eastern Bengal on the 31st October last with such deplorable results was felt slightly in the southern portion of Sylhet, which borders on the district of Tipperah.

At the point where the Tipperah Hills approach the Megna, some damage was done to house property, and thirty head of cattle and four human beings were reported to have died from the effects of the cyclone. It was also felt in the Nága Hills, but no damage was done.

169. The condition of the people is described as generally prosperous.

170. The prices of food-grains and other agricultural produce experienced very little fluctuation, and remained generally at the same figures as last year.

The accompanying table gives the average monthly rate in each district of rice, which may be taken as the standard staple :—

Districts.	Average quantities of rice per rupee during the year 1876-77.																							
	April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		January.		February.		March.	
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Sylhet	15	12	14	14	14	14	20	2	21	0	21	0	21	0	21	14	24	8	25	6	23	8	24	8
Cachar	14	8	26	0	24	8	14	8	17	12	20	0	20	0	14	8	22	12	22	12	22	12	22	12
Goálpára	16	0	17	0	13	0	13	0	20	0	22	0	20	0	17	0	18	0	16	0	17	0	20	0
Kámrúp	13	0	12	0	14	0	13	0	16	0	24	0	22	0	17	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	18	0
Darrang	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	10	8	10	8	11	0	13	0	11	0	13	0	11	0	11	0
Nowgong	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	16	0	13	0	14	0	14	0
Sibsagar	14	0	14	0	12	0	12	0	13	0	12	0	14	0	14	0	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	0
Lakhimpur	11	0	11	0	10	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0
Khási Hills	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	10	8	10	0	10	8	10	0	9	0	10	8	11	8	11	0
Gáro "	16	0	16	0	12	0	13	0	14	0	20	0	18	0	20	0	18	0	16	0	16	0	16	0
Nága "	5	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	11	0	11	0	5	0	7	0

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

171. As in the preceding year, experiments in agriculture and horticulture have only been made during the year under review at the Shillong model farm, but these experiments have been restricted to the small area of four acres of irrigated land. This curtailment of operations was rendered necessary, as stated in last year's report, by the

financial condition of the farm. On the 1st January, 1877, the services of the European Superintendent were dispensed with, and at present the permanent establishment consists of a sirdar, on Rs. 50 per mensem, and a chaukidar on Rs. 12 per mensem. On the above mentioned four acres of irrigated land, wheat, barley, and oats were grown. The late wheat sowings, as in former years, did better than the early sowings. The grain, however, owing to the elevation at which it was sown, did not ripen sufficiently before the commencement of the rains. In future the wheat sowings will be made at a lower elevation. Oats did not succeed so well as the wheat, owing to the poverty of the soil; but it was found to ripen earlier than the former cereal, a fact in its favour. A little barley only was sown, but what was sown succeeded well. Some high land which could not be irrigated, but which had in previous years been richly manured, was planted with English potatoes, which succeeded very well, the outturn selling at Rs. 3 per maund.

172. A kitchen-garden was kept up during the year, the vegetables raised in which found a ready sale.

173. The fruit-trees at the farm have steadily advanced in growth. They are chiefly valuable as stock to propagate from by grafting.

174. The live-stock, consisting of—

Hansi bulls	...	...	...	...	2
„ calves	...	...	...	...	3
„ cows	...	...	...	...	2
Bhutia bull	...	...	...	...	1
Khásia cows	...	...	...	...	6
„ bullocks	..	...	...	...	8
Manipuri calf	...	...	...	...	1
Khásia calves	...	...	...	...	15
English ram	...	...	...	...	1
Nepalese sheep	...	...	...	...	15
„ lambs	...	...	...	...	10

did very well during the year, and the dairy produce is profitably disposed of.

The cattle are necessary to ensure a proper supply of manure, without which any agricultural experiment in the situation chosen is hopeless.

175. The breeding of pigs was discontinued during the year, and the English pigs were presented to the Seims of Maharam and Nungkhlow, on the understanding that they were not to be killed, but were to be kept for breeding purposes. It is very doubtful, however, whether the stipulation has been honestly adhered to.

176. The Chief Commissioner entertains some hopes of the experiments at the model farm attracting the attention of the native chiefs. Several of the Seims visited the farm when the grain crops were on the ground, and they were promised a supply of seed to carry out agricultural experiments with.

177. The receipts and expenditure during the year were as follows :—

				Rs.	As.	P.
Receipts	...	...	...	499	15	6
Expenditure	...	...	...	7,895	11	5
		Deficit	...	<u>7,395</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

Colonel Keatinge does not expect that the receipts will ever cover the expenditure ; but he hopes that now, the cost of supervision having been reduced to a minimum, something approaching an equilibrium will be attained in a few years.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

178. The area of the Government reserved forests has been increased during the year by 877 square miles. The forests gazetted were the following:—

Forest reserves.
Area and boundaries.

CACHAR DISTRICT.

I.	The	Upper	Jiri	reserve	...	...	24	square	miles.
II.	"	Lower	"	"	...	...	14	"	"
III.	"	Barak	"	"	...	...	67	"	"
IV.	"	Sonai	"	"	...	...	18	"	"
V.	"	Katakhal	"	"	...	...	80	"	"
VI.	"	Dhaleswari	"	"	...	...	33	"	"
VII.	"	Inner	Line	"	...	...	509	"	"
				Total...	...	...	<u>745</u>		

DARRANG DISTRICT.

The Nowduar reserve 82 square miles.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIÁ HILLS.

The Soipung forest..... 50 square miles.

The addition of these large reserves has been imperatively necessary in order to secure valuable forest tracts against the constant danger of injury from jhuming, which, in the Cachar district in particular, is a danger of serious magnitude, owing to the specially destructive habits of the Kukies.

179. The work of demarcation of forest boundaries was carried on vigorously in the Goálpára, Gauháti, and Cachar divisions. Substantial wooden posts are erected, each numbered consecutively, and surrounded by an earthen bank or mound.

The primary importance of this work of demarcation cannot be too highly estimated, and it is intended to push on with it as rapidly as possible.

180. The Forest Rules which had been sanctioned in 1871 for Bengal generally were revised during the year with special reference to Assam, and received the approval of the Government of India. They have greatly facilitated the protection and improvement of the forests.

According to these rules, all reserved forests are placed directly in charge of the Forest Department, whilst the open forests are managed by the district authorities.

181. The subjoined table shows the extent of the forest areas, reserved and open, in each district:—

Districts.	Area of forests.			
	Reserved.		Open.	
	Sqr. miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.
Khási and Jaintiá Hills	50	32,000	.....	.....
Kámrúp district	48-55	31,080	.....	.....
Nowgong "	3-81	2,440	.....	.....
Darrang "	260-52	166,741	.....	.....
Nága Hills "	454-55	290,918	.....	.....
Goálpára "	416-39	266,502	6	3,844
Cachar "	745	476,800	.....	.....
Sylhet " .....	.....	.....	200	128,000
Total	1,978-82	1,266,481	206	131,844

182. The provisions contained in Parts IV. and V. of the Forest Rules were extended to all districts in Assam, except the Gáro Hills, Khási and Jaintiá Hills, and Nága Hills districts, and a list of the rivers, streams, and waters, which are to be kept open for the transport of forest produce, was published under Rule 15.

183. The forests have been very effectually protected from fire during the year. Although this result is partly to be attributed to the frequent showers of rain during the past season, it is chiefly due to the great efforts made by forest and civil officers, and to the fact that the people generally are becoming better acquainted with the rules on this subject. No attempts were made during the year by the ryots to surreptitiously cultivate any portion of the forest reserves. Ordinary trespass is rare, as the ryots can procure what forest produce they require outside the reserves free of payment. Owing, however, to the weakness of the permanent forest establishment, many trespasses are doubtless undiscovered.

184. Creeper-cutting operations were confined during the year to the sál forests in the Gaubáti division, where 1,500 acres were thus cleared at a total cost of Rs. 308-3-9.

Rubber plantation. 185. The extensions in caoutchouc plantations during the year were the following:—

At the Charduar plantation	110 acres.
„ Kulsì „	10 „
—	
Total	120 „
—	

The growth of the rubber-trees has been satisfactory in both places; but deer have again, as in the previous year, caused considerable damage, necessitating the construction of more substantial and expensive fencing. A new nursery for raising young rubber-trees, both from cuttings and seed, measuring two acres, was prepared in the Charduar plantation, as an unusually high flood had inundated the old nurseries during the previous summer, and had destroyed most of the seedlings.

The number of young trees raised in the new nursery during the year was as following:—

From seedlings.....	8,048
From cuttings	3,052

As regards the method of planting these trees, it became more than ever evident during the year that rubber-trees will thrive better if planted on small mounds on piles of wood, or on stumps, than when planted on level ground, and trees will in future be planted in accordance with the teachings of experience.

As rubber-trees two years old bear transplantation very much better than younger ones, it is not intended to further extend the plantation until an ample supply of trees of that age is available.

Thirteen plants of the para-caoutchouc tree were received during the year; but the climate of Assam appears to be too cold for them, and they all perished.

186. The work in the timber plantations at the Kulsì was confined to the filling up of the vacancies, so as to get the area already started completely stocked.

In the Shillong plantation, the following conifers were planted successfully, but the growth of some of the species has been very slow up to the present:—

Cedrus deodora.	|	Pinus Austriaca.
Abies Smithiana.	|	Pinus maritima.
Pinus excelsa.	|	Cryptomeria Japonica.

All the trees of the *Eucalyptus globulus*, with one or two exceptions, were killed by frost during the cold weather, but the *Eucalyptus rostratus* seems hardier, and has done much better, although, even for this species, the land and locality of the plantation seem less favourable than some of the private gardens in Shillong.

187. Due attention has been paid to the providing of better shelter for the officers of the department. The forest inspection-house at the Bhoirabi depôt, in the Tezpur division, was completed, and the building of another inspection bungalow at Dhubri, in the Goálpára division, was pushed forward nearly to completion within the year.

188. The timber from the reserve forests is either worked out by Government agency or by purchasers. In the Gauháti, Tezpur, and Golághát forest divisions nearly all the timber is worked out by the department, since no timber traders come to these forests from Bengal, and the local demand is small, and can easily be supplied by the department. In the Goálpára and Cachar divisions, on the contrary, there has been a large timber trade existing for many years past, and woodcutters have always been in the habit of working out timber on their own account. This system it was deemed advisable to continue, since much of the time of the divisional officers, and of their subordinate establishments, is taken up in general protection, survey, and demarcation work, and the working of these forests by the department direct is at present impracticable on account of the weakness of the establishments.

The number of trees felled through the agency of the department was as follows :—

Goálpára division	...	...	...	166
Gauháti	"	...	...	711
Tezpur	"	...	...	335
Golághát	"	...	...	200
				—
			Total ...	1,412
				—

The number of trees sold standing in the reserved forests has increased from 121 in 1875-76 to 523 in 1876-77. These trees are almost exclusively used for building boats or dug-outs.

In the Goálpára division, 21,813 pieces of dead sâl-wood were worked out by the Mech duffadars, 17,513 of which were sold. This wood is collected and stocked in the Government timber depôts for sale, and the revenue due on account of it is realized from the duffadars at the time of sale.

The number of licenses granted in the Cachar division was as follows :—

(1) Licenses for elephants to drag timber	...	Rs.	77
(2) Licenses to cut timber, bamboos, canes and grass	...	...	1,511

189. The undermentioned forest produce passed and paid toll at Sealtek, in Cachar :—

Logs.			Posts and planks.			Bamboos.		Canes.			Grass.		Charcoal.	
Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number of bundles.	Amount.	Number of rafts.	Amount.	Number of maunds.	Amount.	
		Rs. As.			Rs. As. P.		Rs. As.		Rs. As. P.		Rs.		Rs. As.	
2,934	52,565	7,481 14	618 71	207 1 3	234,350	292 15	10,718	163 13 5	142	355	308	33 8		

The quantities of material from private forests which passed the toll-station free were as follows:—

Logs.	Posts and planks.	Bamboos.	Canes.	Grass.
2,685	349	60	1,008 bndls.	1 raft.

190. For the convenience of purchasers, selection of timber in the Forest Department depôts in Assam is permitted at an extra charge of 25 per cent.

191. Sample sleepers of the undermentioned five kinds of wood were sent to the Northern Bengal State Railway for trial, and the Engineer-in-Chief has promised to keep the Forest Department informed as regards their durability:—

Ajgur or Jarool.—*Lagerstrœmia Reginæ.*

Gunserai.—*Cinnamomum glanduliferum.*

Sidah.—*Lagerstrœmia parviflora.*

Sam.—*Artocarpus chaplasha.*

Nahor Nagessur.—*Mesua ferrea.*

192. Although the production of bamboo fit for paper stock on plantations at a sufficiently low rate seems to be impossible in Assam, on account of the cost of labour, still, there are indigenous bamboo forests very accessible, and otherwise well suited for an experiment in the manufacture of paper stock,—as, for instance, the forests on the Gauhati and Shillong road between Burnihat and Nongpoh.

193. The topographical and valuation surveys in the Sidli forest were carried on vigorously, but were not sufficiently advanced by the end of the year to enable that forest to be declared a Government reserve.

Unreserved or open forests. Valuation surveys were carried out and completed in the following two blocks :—

Total area in acres.	<i>Maligaon Block.</i> Area valued in acres.	Percentage of area valued.
8,873	376·2	4·23
7,727	<i>Bansbari Block.</i> 354·3	4·58

The area of the different classes of forests in the two blocks surveyed is as follows :—

<i>Maligaon Block.</i>			
			Acres.
S&I forest ...	...	...	4,580
Lower-hill forest ...	...	...	625
Grass land ...	...	...	3,668
		Total ...	8,873
<i>Bansbari Block.</i>			
S&I forest ...	...	...	4,344
Lower-hill forest ...	...	...	349
Grass land ...	...	...	3,034
		Total ...	7,727

194. The investigation of the claims of certain holders of permanently-settled estates, and of certain holders of ilam lands, to large tracts of forest near Chargola, in the Sylhet district, was carried out by a settlement officer and a forest officer conjointly, who met on the spot. It was decided that no private rights existed in these forests, and that no privileges had been granted in them to anyone. These forests have since the end of the year been gazetted as Government open forests, and will be managed by the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet.

195. A further examination of the forests in the Lakhimpur district, with a view to defining the boundaries of those tracts which were to be declared Government forests, was carried out, and proposals submitted, which are under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

196. A most important measure of forest conservancy with regard to the Khási Hills was inaugurated during the year. A great number of small forest tracts, have been selected and set aside to supply the requirements of the people of each State, the duty of conserving these forests devolving on the seims and the people.

197. The list of reserved trees in Assam was revised, and three separate, and much smaller, lists were made out for the Lower and Upper Assam and the Sylhet and Cachar divisions, respectively. This revised list, together with revised rules for the felling of trees, the making of charcoal, and the cutting of firewood, has received the approval of the Chief Commissioner since the close of the year.

198. Inquiries were instituted during the year as to the feasibility of raising a revenue from indigenous lac, and in regard to the production and manufacture of dye-stuffs, and reports were submitted on both these subjects.

199. The timber from the unreserved forests under civil officers, except in the Gáro Hills, is worked out by the purchasers on permits

granted by the Deputy-Commissioners, on pre-payment of the price of the produce they wish to remove. In the Gáro Hills, the timber and other produce are collected in certain timber-markets, where the revenue due on account of such produce is paid to the officer deputed by the Deputy-Commissioner to collect it. An account of the yield in material of the unreserved forests cannot be given at present, but it is hoped that, with the changes introduced in the keeping of forest accounts by district officers, this information will be available for the report of 1877-78. For the year under notice, the amount realized is the only indication of the quantity of material removed. Realizations were as follows:—

		Rs.	As.	P.
Cachar district ...	...	5,936	0	0
Darrang „ ...	...	6,123	7	2
Gáro Hills „ ...	...	9,785	9	3
Kámráp „ ...	...	7,178	8	0
Khási Hills „ ...	...	773	0	0
Lakhimpur „ ...	...	2,992	10	0
Nága Hills „ ...	...	42	0	0
Nowgong „ ...	...	3,867	2	0
Sibságar „ ...	...	5,647	13	0
Total ...		42,346	1	5

Financial results. 200. The following statement exhibits the forest receipts of the year under notice, as compared with those of the previous year:—

Receipts, 1875-76.	Receipts, 1876-77.	Decrease, 1876-77.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1,07,301	81,568	25,733

This falling off in forest revenue is not an actual decrease. It is attributable to a transfer of the revenue derived from “Elephant-catching” and “Soom forests” from the head “Forest revenue” to the head “Miscellaneous land revenue,” which transfer was made in accordance with the orders of Government, in the Financial Department.

201. The expenditure during the year under notice, as compared with that of the previous year, is shown in detail in the following statement:—

Budget Heads.	1875-76.		1876-77.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
A. Conservancy and works	33,186	7 1	42,004	8 5	18,815	7 5	4,997	6 1
B. Establishments	28,697	4 7	47,915	3 4	19,217	14 9	.....	.....
Total	61,883	11 8	89,919	11 9	32,033	6 2	4,997	6 1

202. The distribution of receipts and expenditure in the different divisions is shown in the following table :—

Name of division.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Surplus.		Deficit.	
	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
Direction	7,755	10 6	16,663	13 4	.....	.....	8,908	2 10
Gauhati division	2,983	1 0	15,355	14 8	.....	.....	12,372	13 3
Tezpur	3,204	0 1	23,180	0 3	.....	.....	19,976	0 2
Golaghat	657	11 0	3,039	5 1	.....	.....	2,381	10 1
Goalpara	14,363	4 0	16,136	3 6	.....	.....	1,772	15 6
Cachar	10,258	6 8	9,581	13 6	676	9 2	.....	.....
Civil officers	42,346	1 5	5,962	9 10	86,383	7 7	.....	.....
Total	81,668	2 8	89,919	11 9	37,060	0 9	45,411	9 10

As was the case last year, and as will be the case for some years to come, the greater portion of the revenue realized during the year under review was realized by district officers. Still, if the above figures are compared with those of the previous year, it will be seen that the revenue collected direct by forest officers has increased from Rs. 10,913 in 1875-76 to Rs. 39,222 in 1876-77, and that one of the divisions, Cachar, shows a small surplus of income above expenditure.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND MINERALS.

203. There is nothing to add under this head to the information given in both parts of the Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76.

204. The question of the gold-washings in the streams of the Assam Valley attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner during the year, and, upon the receipt of reports called for from the district officers, the following memorandum was compiled by his order, and published in the *Assam Gazette* for general information.

Memorandum.—The earliest reference to these gold-washings which appears to be discoverable among the official records occurs in a letter from Captain H. Vetch, Political Agent, Upper Assam, to Major F. Jenkins, Agent, Governor-General, North-East Frontier, dated the 19th March, 1851. Captain Vetch, in this letter, reports the results of an inquiry he had made, respecting the complaints of eleven parties of gold-washers as to the extortions committed upon them by the Abors and Miris whenever they resorted to the Dihong in search of gold. In para. 2 of his letter, Captain Vetch writes as follows:—

“I may here explain that all gold-washers under the Assam Government were

* The quantity of gold at present annually obtained from the Dihong is probably not more than 40 or 50 tolas, yet it and other rivers afford a ready resource to the rjyots of those parts for raising the sum they may require to pay their rents, and could, of course, yield much more if the washing was extensively carried on, and for a longer period, the gold-washers seldom extending their operations over fifteen days at a time.

taxed at Rs. 5 each; and, since that tax was abolished and the land revenue introduced, the right of washing for gold in the numerous streams which flow into this district has been farmed to the highest bidders (who make their own arrangements for their share of the profits); among these is the Dihong, the right of gold-washings in which was ^o for the current year rented for Rs. 80.

“From the point where this immense river issues from the hills to its junction with the Brahmaputra the distance is little more than twenty miles, and the favourable localities for gold-washing are from twelve to seventeen miles from its mouth.”

In June, 1853, Major Hannay, commanding the forces in Upper Assam, wrote a valuable paper entitled "Notes on the Gold-fields of Assam." This note, however, with the exception of the first two paras., is confined to a general geological description of the Assam Valley and the mountain ranges which close it in, and does not contain any very precise information on the subject under notice. The first two paras., however, in which mention is made of the traditional gold-produce of the country, are extracted. Major Hannay says—

"Although it is well authenticated that the produce of the gold-washings in Assam, particularly Upper Assam, formed a very considerable source of revenue to the Assam Government of former days, no correct data can be obtained so as to give an idea of the exact amount of gold realized yearly. But, as the Sontals, or gold-washers, one of the constituted khelo or sections of the inhabitants (according to occupation), who paid their taxes in gold, form a large portion of the population, we may reckon on its having been something considerable, when in the northern district of Sadiya alone, including Lakhimpur, these Sonwal paiks amounted to 10,000. Allowing, therefore, that every paik, at the lowest rate, supplied 4 annas weight of gold-dust yearly, the total amount would be 40,000 grs. for that district alone; and, as the same system of gold-washing obtained in the districts of the south bank of the Brahmaputra, as much more may have been there realized; and it may not be perhaps beyond the mark, to note the yearly produce of gold-washing in Assam, in former times, as amounting to £8,000 or £10,000 sterling.

"In the short account of Assam given at the end of Volume III. of Montgomery Martin's 'Sketches of Eastern India' in enumerating the rivers on the north bank of the Burhamputra, the whole of them are said to contain gold in their sands; and the Subanshiri, Dikrang, Borpani, Booragong, and Boargon rivers of the Lakhimpur and Kullungpore districts are noted each as to the quality and quantity of their gold; but other small rivers in the Lakhimpur district—the more prolific sources of the Dihong, the Dibong, or the Brahmaputra—are not alluded to, neither is the Deling or any one river on the south bank mentioned, which shows that the information relative to the extent of the gold-fields was imperfect. Chapter III., however, of the same notice, under head 'Commerce of Assam,' states that the Assam Government received into the Royal Treasury 1,500 grs. weight of gold yearly from a gold-mine called Pakerguri, situated at the confluence of the Dhansiri river with the Brahmaputra. The Pakerguri is a small river rising in the Rengma mountains joining the Dhansiri, a day's journey within its confluence with the Brahmaputra. I cannot vouch for the correctness of the statement given regarding the gold-mine, but this small river is known in its upper course to be a prolific gold-stream in the present day. It is stated also that the imports at Goalpara from Bengal in 1808-09, amounting to two-and-a-quarter lakhs of rupees, were paid in gold from these resources, and in silver. A good deal has been already written on the gold statistics of Assam, as they are known in modern times (*vide* Vol. VII., p. 625), and little more can be said beyond the personal knowledge which has been obtained of the wide extent of the existence of the precious metal, and that in some of the districts in North-East Assam it is now a profitable source of payment of revenue to the Sonwal ryots. The Lakhimpur and Sadiya districts produced in 1851-52 ten seers of pure gold,—the selling rate to the Kyah traders being from Rs. 14 to 15 per tolah of solid gold prepared by melting with quick-silver."

In the concluding para. of his Note, Major Hannay describes the method in use among the Assamese for extracting the gold-dust. He says:—

"The Assamese generally wash in a trough, and take the whole stuff in the rough, the finer sand, &c., being washed in the trough through a bamboo grating or sieve placed at the higher end, and although, for want of cleets, there is some loss, it is wonderful to see with what dexterity the left hand is used to keep the

dust at the head of the trough, and to allow of a constant stream of water passing down its slope, thus washing the stuff thoroughly in a very short time, and leaving nothing but the very finest of the schlich, with its gold-dust. This trough might be improved, but as it is light, and one man can work it easily, being supplied with material by a boy, and one man to dig, it answers the purpose,—and, when gold is plentiful, this is the cheapest method of labour which could be employed in Assam. The oval board in use with the Singphos appears to me, however, in dexterous hands to be equal to any trough,—and, provided the stuff could be given to the washer after having been passed through a sieve, I reckon this to be the best and cheapest method of extracting the gold-dust,—for, not only does an expert gold-washer wash clean every particle of oxide and gold contained in a given quantity of rubble, but he will, after the day's labour is over, take the schlich and gold-dust on the board, and by a peculiar dexterity of hand with the board and the water, wash away every particle of the former, leaving the latter at the head of the board, with little necessity for quicksilver to lick it up, as generally done to prepare it for melting.”

Along with Major Hannay's Note was printed an “Account of a visit to the Jugloo and Seesee Rivers in Upper Assam,” by Captain E. T. Dalton.

This account is most interesting. In November, 1852, Captain Dalton received instructions to examine and report on the gold-producing capabilities of the Jugloo, an affluent of the Buri Dehing, falling into that river about fourteen miles above Jaipur. According to tradition, the tract through which the Jugloo flows contains rich gold deposits. Captain Dalton proceeded to the gold-field accompanied by an expert gold-washer and some coolies. He thus describes the experiments made by him:—

“After about an hour's walk from the Dihing up the stream of the Jugloo, when we first came on pebbles, we commenced washing in a rough wooden pan made for the occasion. The very first attempt gave a few minute specks of rather pale gold; we continued washing at intervals as we advanced, and every panful of gravel was found to contain a few of these spangles. At a point which seemed favourable for the purpose, we turned a portion of the stream and made a hole three feet in its bed. The washings from this depth decidedly gave a greater number of spangles and of a richer colour than those we had obtained from the surface-washings. Rising from a part of the stream the section of a hill about fifty feet in height, of coarse reddish sandstone, was left bare and perpendicular by a landslide. This contained a stratum of gravel about fifteen feet above the highest watermark, some of which I caused to be washed, and it too was found to contain gold, indicating that the presence of that metal was not confined to spots acted on by the waters of the Jugloo; sand and gravel taken from occasional watercourses leading to the Jugloo were washed with the same result.

“Retracing our steps, we proceeded up another branch of the Jugloo, and were joined by a party of gold-washers deputed by me to obtain specimens, who took us to the scene of their operations about half a mile from the junction of the two rivers. They had been working two pans, and, to assist the operation, they had constructed two small embankments with bamboos and rubbish which divided the stream into three channels, and enabled them to turn all the water into or out of the central channel. Their practice is to collect with small wooden scrapers a heap of gravel at the lower end of their central channel; upon this they cause the stream to play, and with sieves made of bamboo they sift the heap and throw aside the pebbles.

“The stream carries off the lighter particles of the sand thus disturbed. Panful of the residue, which consists entirely of mineral fragments, are then taken up and washed in the usual manner with results far more satisfactory than when the gravel is washed in the pan without being subjected to this preliminary process.

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"Proceeding up this stream, I found it had in many places cut for itself little ravines, showing sections of hills formed of deposits of grey and red coarse sand, of sufficient consistency to form upright cliffs, though crumbling when handled, with beds of gravel intervening, which also occur in tolerably consistent masses approaching to a conglomerate; these lay in strata inclined at an angle of 45° or thereabouts. I obtained washings from them all, and found gold-dust in the red sand and gravel strata always, but not always in the blue sand, which owed its colour to a mixture of blue clay slate silt.

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"I made a rough estimate of the quantity of rubble washed, and, on comparing it with the gold obtained, it gave about 18 grains to the ton, and about 8 grains as the outturn of one man's labour for the day."

Subsequently, Captain Dalton proceeded, in company with Major Hannay, to examine the gold-producing sands of the Seesee River, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra. The experiments at the Seesee River are thus described by Captain Dalton:—

"Within an easy march of their own villages, they (the Seesee ryots) annually find here lucrative occupation for the months of the year when an excursion of the kind is most enjoyable, and when they have most leisure from their agricultural pursuits to give to it. After 'harvest-home' in January, they form parties and start with provisions for a week or a fortnight, and in a very short time, if they are fortunate, they may obtain sufficient gold to pay their revenue. They wash in troughs called 'dooruni,' a process which has been already described in former numbers of the *Journal*.*

"In favourable localities, 20 grains of gold is not an unusual return to one day's labour with a dooruni worked by three men, who between them dig up, remove, and wash in a day on an average about one ton of rubble. In the operations conducted in our presence, the yield of one dooruni, which was made over to me, was only 11 grains, from 1 ton, 2 cwt., 36 lb of rubble, but this was pronounced by the gold-washers to be very unfavourable.

"The average may be estimated for the Seesee at 15 grains to one ton of earth.

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"The annual yield of the Seesee is said to be about half a seer. Judging in this way, the most valuable rivers are the Subansiri and Dibong, whose yield annually is from a seer-and-a-half to two seers of pure gold.

"The Brahmaputra and Dibong are said to give each from half-a-seer to three-quarters; the numerous smaller rivers in Lakhimpur are variously stated at from a quarter to half-a-seer, the total annual yield of the district being about ten seers. Each river is worked by the gold-washers who live nearest to it. But few are now employed in the occupation in comparison to the numbers that engaged in it when Assam was under a native government. The whole of the khêle, or tribe of gold-washers, were then obliged to follow that profession, as they were under the necessity of paying their contribution towards the expenses of the State in pure gold."

The subject of the gold deposits in the rivers of Assam does not appear to have attracted any attention subsequent to the publication of Captain Dalton's and Major Hannay's Notes. From the replies received to the recent circular of the Chief Commissioner, above alluded to, it appears that in only three districts of the Province has gold-washing ever been carried on, *viz.*, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. Colonel Sherer, Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, reporting on the subject

generally, says that, under the Assam Raj, establishments, consisting of Hazarikas, Shoikias, Boras, and Paiks, used to be entertained solely for the purpose of conducting and overlooking the gold-washings. The Bhoirabi, Borganj, and Dikrang Rivers, in Darrang, and the Subansiri and other rivers, in Lakhimpur, are, he states, known to have yielded gold to some extent. The Hazarikas were required to present to the Rajah annually a certain quantity of the gold they might extract from the streams in their respective jurisdictions, and, in default, they had to pay a penalty in the sum of Rs. 18 for each of the paiks allowed them and their subordinates. After the occupation of the Assam Valley by the British, the gold-washings in the streams of the Charduar and Nowduar mehals were regularly settled every year, as in the case of fisheries. The leases of these mehals used to be put up to auction; but, the price they fetched gradually becoming less and less, they have not been offered for sale since 1865-66.

Major Campbell, Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar, reports that in that district gold-washing was chiefly carried on in the Desai River, within the jurisdiction of the Jorhát sub-division. The vocation of gold-washing was, he says, pursued by a class of people called "Hunwál* Cacharis," and it appears that there are still in Sibságar some four villages inhabited by the descendants of these gold-washers.

* Sonawal.

Gold-washing in Sibságar used to be carried on for only three months in the year, viz., Magh, Falgun, and Chait, and the tax levied by the Assam Rajahs was half a tola of gold per man per annum. The Deputy-Commissioner states that, while at Jorhát lately, he sent for an old man, who recollected the time when gold-washing was carried on. This man stated that his village had long ago abandoned the vocation because it did not pay, and because they were able to earn more on tea-gardens. He washed some of the sand of the Desai in Major Campbell's presence, who, on the sand being washed away, observed some very minute particles of gold remaining. Of the three districts of Upper Assam, Lakhimpur appears to have been the one in which the business of gold-washing was most actively pursued. Major Clarke, in his report, says that gold-washing was carried on in almost every river and stream in the district. The principal streams whose sand contains an auriferous deposit are the Lohit, the Dihang, the Dibang, the Upper Dehing, the Noe, the Buri Dehing, the Disang, the Dikrang, the Ranga, the Jayhing, and the Subansiri.

Major Clarke says that no tax was paid by the gold-washers, except as paiks; but that the payment of the paik-tax was, in their case, made in gold. He then goes on to say—"The Sonowals, or Honowals, it is said, were required to pay a certain amount of gold to the Rajahs. A joint payment of gold, weighing 1,000 tolas, was exacted from the persons washing in each of the rivers Dihang, Dibang, and Lohit, and 500 tolas from those washing for gold in the Noe and Buri Dehing Rivers." The Deputy-Commissioner was unable to ascertain the amounts of gold payable for washing in the other rivers. He thinks these gold payments were merely another form of the paik-tax. From what Major Clarke says, it would appear that the three most productive streams

are the Dihang, the Dibang, and the Lohit. The Deputy-Commissioner considers that the industry was by no means a profitable one, and that it was followed under compulsion on the part of the Rajahs. He says the profits were only from 4 annas to 12 annas per man per mensem,—a very low rate of profit even in those days. For many years, the leases of the gold-washing mehals in Lakhimpur have been sold for merely nominal sums. In 1874-75 they only fetched the sum of Rs. 7.

It would seem, however, that gold-washing operations in the Lakhimpur district were, prior to the first great extension of the tea industry, by no means inconsiderable. Mr. A. Campbell, an officer well acquainted with the Assam Valley, says that some twenty years ago, when he was stationed in North Lakhimpur, several of the rivers in the sub-division were farmed out annually. The most profitable of these rivers was, he states, the Subansiri, and he has seen as many as two hundred men at work each year washing for gold by this river.

Mr. Campbell thus describes the method used for extracting the gold-dust:—

“The method of washing adopted was very simple. A wooden cradle, somewhat of the shape of the body of a wheelbarrow, but shallower and longer, was used. By successive washings, the gravel and larger particles of sand were got rid of, the machine being fixed on a gentle incline for this purpose. Finally, the gold-dust remained quite apparent to the sight, but mixed with the finest sand. Quicksilver was then used to separate it from the sand; it combined readily with the gold particles, leaving the sand free. The quicksilver was subsequently drawn off by heat, and the gold was obtained in its pure state.”

Mr. Campbell bears testimony to the unprofitableness of the industry, although he says the yield was considerable, and he has heard of as much as three-quarters of a seer of gold being obtained in a single season by a single party of washers. The cause of this unprofitableness he explains thus:—

“The right of washing was ordinarily purchased by one of the amlah, or by some hanger-on about the courts, who rack-rented it to the actual washers. The price of quicksilver, which, as already shown, was indispensable in the industry, was about Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per tola weight, and was all lost in the process. The price of gold in the bazar ranged from Rs. 14 to Rs. 17 per tola; but the washers had to subsist on advances obtained at ruinous rates, hypothecating their estimated outturn of gold for the season at from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per tola.”

From the above accounts, it is clearly established that a considerable amount of gold was in former days extracted from the rivers of Upper Assam, and there is no reason to suppose that these rivers have lost their auriferous character. It is scarcely to be wondered at that the industry died out as labour became more valuable, considering that it was carried on with the rudest mechanical contrivances, and without either system or capital. It is not necessarily to be inferred that, with modern appliances, systematic management, and capital, a considerable profit might not again be derived from this same source.

Colonel Keatinge thinks that if the gold-washing industry in this Province is ever again to become of any importance, it must owe its re-establishment entirely to private energy. He has some reason to believe that the question has attracted attention. He would be glad to see experimental operations undertaken by persons possessing the requisite knowledge and appliances.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

205. A general description of the manufactures of the Province was given in the permanent portion of the Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76. There is nothing to add to this description. The manufacture of tea will, as in the previous report, be dealt with separately.

206. As in previous years, so in the year under report, many of the planters submitted no returns concerning the tea cultivation on their estates, and, consequently, the information contained in this section is incomplete.

The Chief Commissioner considers it hopeless to expect to obtain complete returns of this nature for the whole Province, as long as their submission by the planters is altogether optional; indeed, he has reason to fear that, owing to the action of proprietors, the number of gardens submitting returns will considerably decrease. It is, accordingly, of very questionable utility to attempt to trace the progress of the tea industry on such data, as deductions drawn from incomplete or inaccurate returns are worse than useless. It is, indeed, much to be regretted that all the endeavours of the authorities to obtain complete returns have been unsuccessful, as accurate statistics exhibiting the development of this important industry would be of the greatest value, as well as of general interest.

Attempts have been made by the district officers to obtain approximate statistics of outturn, based on the returns of gardens which submitted the required statements, and to estimate the cultivated area of defaulting gardens from former returns, or from inquiries from other sources; but it is evident that figures so obtained cannot be relied on for accuracy.

According to the returns submitted by the district officers the total area of waste land held under different tenures for the purpose of tea cultivation during 1876 was 6,22,455 acres, against 5,66,303 acres in 1875; but, according to the official land registers, the area is as follows:—

					Acres.
(1)	Under Old Assam Rules	...	...	...	18,141
(2)	Ditto	but since redeemed	...	...	250,948
(3)	Under ordinary lease—	...	...	...	106,237
(4)	,, thirty-years' lease	...	...	...	24,444
(5)	Purchased in fee-simple	...	...	...	191,844
(6)	Held from zemindars	...	...	...	1,936
	Total				<u>664,550</u>

The discrepancy cannot be reconciled. It is not, however, very material, and the figures may be safely taken to prove that the area of land taken up for tea cultivation has been extended by about 100,000 acres during the past year.

The table overleaf contains the statistics for the Province, so far as it has been possible to compile them; but, for the reason above given, it would be of little advantage to institute any analytical comparison between the figures for this year and those given in last year's report:—

Return showing the Progress of Tea Operations during the year 1876.

1	2	Extent of land belonging to the concern.			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Under Asam Rules of 1864	In fee-simple	Under cultivation leases										Total
District.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Number of steam engines, if any.
Cachar	53,046.11	116,236.78	65,700.15	224,983.54	118,808.25	83,313.78	315.50	4,250	38,717.28	623,848	7,179,320	8,567,780	21
Sylhet	9,341.50	4,440	38,696	52,476.50	26,316.50	6,245.50	118.61	3,208	9,519.50	530,048	740,811	910,814	3
Goalpara .....	.....	.....	1,986	1,986	788	108	79.79	116	226	7,757	8,219	14,611	.....
Kamrup	2,499.38	15,988.28	2,510.51	20,996.17	12,862.42	3,020.07	220.00	671.52	6,988.52	579,923.3	664,676.3	817,780	.....
Darrang	3,749.37	53,358.66	18,128.93	75,236.96	55,037.40	19,051	180.66	2,621.3	13,287	2,674,159	3,445,572	1,570,920	23
Nowrang	2,575.33	9,601.06	5,660.65	18,237.44	8,220.13	2,624.97	308.69	679.75	4,207.32	586,551	810,028	1,006,400	6
Sibsagar	24,205	90,999	18,988	134,142	67,208	22,883	206.28	1,968	28,236	61,463,896	6,778,847	7,896,727	72
Lakhimpur	5,972	80,180	9,246	94,448	58,256	12,086.80	309.27	2,528	15,795	509,311	2,722,899	4,595,420	81
Total	1,00,888.89	870,751.28	150,810.44	622,465.61	347,189.69	99,276.92	285.2	15,902.77	115,076.62	66,967,608.6	33,360,071.3	26,360,492	165

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

207. A general outline account of the trade of this Province will be found in Section 7, Chapter I., Part II.A. of the Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76; but no statistics of trade were given in that report,—none of a trustworthy nature being available. The first attempt at systematic registration of the trade of the Province was made during the year under report, but operations have been confined to the registration of the frontier trade with non-British territories. Statistics regarding the inland trade of Assam will be found in the Report on Trade Statistics by the Government of Bengal. Almost the whole of the inland trade of the Province passes along the Brahmaputra and Surmá rivers, and, for the purpose of registering that trade, the Chief Commissioner fixed upon Dhubri, on the Brahmaputra, and Lakhai, on the Surmá, as registering stations; but, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal having opened registering stations at Chilmari, on the former river, and at Bairab Bazar, on the latter river, the Chief Commissioner abandoned his intention of registering the inland trade of the Province,—there being manifestly no necessity for keeping up two sets of registering stations for registering the trade passing down the same route.

The Chief Commissioner had hoped to commence the registration of the frontier trade from the beginning of the financial year 1876-77; but, owing to the delay in the receipt of the necessary forms, this was found impossible, and registering operations did not commence till the end of 1876. Owing, however, to the registration having commenced on different dates in the several districts, provincial totals can only be given for the months of January, February, and March, 1877.

The statistics submitted are therefore only for the last quarter of the financial year, instead of for the whole year. It may be remarked, however, that the frontier trade during the hot weather and the rains is almost *nil*, compared with the trade during the cold-weather months. The figures given are, therefore, not very much below the total figures which might have been expected, were the returns obtainable for the whole year.

208. The frontier trade of the Province is carried on with—

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (1.) Bhután. | (4.) Manipur. |
| (2.) The Mishmi Hills. | (5.) The Lushai Hills. |
| (3.) The Nága Hills. | (6.) Hill Tipperah |

For the purpose of registering this trade, twenty-one registering stations, situated on the principal trade routes, have been selected.

The trade between Bhután and Assam is registered by the frontier mouzahdars at the following stations:—Ripu, Guma, Cháring, Sidli and Bijni, in Goálpára; Darranga, in Kámrup, near to Dewangiri; and Gohpur, Helem, Daimará, Bálipára, Udalguri, and Khágrapára, in Darrang.

The trade with the Mishmi Hills is registered by two committees of traders, one at Dibrugarh and the other at North Lakhimpur: and a committee of traders at Jaipur registers the trade between the Naga Hills and the district of Lakhimpur.

The trade between the Province and Manipur is registered at Lakhipur, where an establishment has been entertained for the purpose. For the purpose of registering the trade with the Lushai Hills, three registering stations, at each of which there is a special establishment, have been opened, *viz.*, at Mainadahar, on the Bárák, at Monierkhál, on the Sonái, and at Jháluáchara, on the Dhaleswari.

The trade between this Province and Hill Tipperah passes along the rivers which debouch from those hills, and three stations for registering this trade have been opened, in charge of special establishments. These stations are—

- (1.) Karinganj, situated at the junction of the Langai and Kushiara rivers.
- (2.) Nowakháli, situated a few miles from the junction of the Mannu and Dhulai rivers.
- (3.) Lashkarpur, situated on the Khowai.

In Assam Proper, the registration is effected by unpaid agency. The Chief Commissioner thinks that the statistics furnished by the mouzahdars are to a certain extent approximately correct in most cases; but he fears that little reliance can be placed on those collected by the committees of traders, it not being in any way to the advantage of those merchants that the true state of the trade in which they are interested should be known. The returns furnished by the special establishments may, Colonel Keatinge thinks, be accepted as sufficiently correct for all practical purposes.

209. The following statement shows the total value of the export and import trade between Assam and the adjoining non-British territories during the period under review:—

Exports from Assam into			Imports into Assam from		
		Rs.			Rs.
Bhután	...	1,98,423	Bhután	...	91,546
Nága and Mishmi Hills	...	23,536	Nága and Mishmi Hills	...	58,034
Hill Tipperah	...	3,107	Hill Tipperah	...	35,256
Lushai Hills	...	17,360	Lushai Hills	...	34,363
Manipur	...	29,780	Manipur	...	5,231
Total	.....	2,72,206	Total	.....	2,24,430

It will be seen from the above that the exports exceeded the imports in value by Rs. 47,776, or about 17 per cent. This result was not to be expected, rather the converse, as the tendency of half-civilized frontier tribes would seem ordinarily to be to take away specie to be utilized, probably, partly in making ornaments, and partly as a medium of exchange and a convenient means of storing property. It may be noted that the statistics of the trade between Bengal and foreign territory for the year 1876-77 show an excess of 31 per cent. in the value of imports, as compared with exports.

In the case of Manipur, the export trade, according to the present returns, considerably exceeds in value the import trade. This result (as will be seen from the statements further on) is due to the large export trade in betel-nuts. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, states that the bulk of the imports from Manipur arrived in Cachar before registration operations began, and that, as there is no doubt but that a considerable amount of silver, which finds no place in the returns, is actually withdrawn to Manipur in the shape of specie, the import trade with that State will in reality be found on the returns of the entire year to exceed the export trade.

The unlooked-for result of an excess in the aggregate value of the exports over the imports in the frontier trade of the entire Province is due, it will be seen from the detailed district returns (given in the appendix), to the large amount of silk to the value of Rs. 1,45,943, reported as taken from the Kámrúp district into Bhután. The Chief Commissioner views, however, these figures with the greatest suspicion. He finds it difficult to believe that so extensive a trade as this in a single article, of which the manufacture, moreover, has been for several years on the decrease, can have been carried on in the three months for which returns are furnished,—especially as no large fair is held in the Kámrúp district to form a nucleus for such extensive transactions. In Darrang, where two fairs frequented by the Bhutias are held, the amount of silk exported is trifling. The figures are based merely on returns from the mouzahdars, who, unless there has been some clerical error in the computation, must, it is feared have supplemented facts largely from their imaginations.

210. The chief articles of import into Assam from non-British territories are rubber, wax, ponies, salt, and blankets. The following detailed statement of the trade in these staples illustrates the proportion of the import trade of the several frontier States in this Province:—

Imports into Assam from	Rubber.	Salt.	Ponies.	Blankets.	Wax.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután	13,230	22,758	18,640	18,215	.....
Nága and Mishni Hills.....	46,110	.....	.....	.....	6,900
Hill Tipperah	6,150	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lushai Hills	27,630	.....	.....	.....	750
Manipur	210	.....	3,010	.....	450
Total.....	93,330	22,758	21,650	18,215	8,100

It will be seen that a considerable trade in rubber and wax is shown as being carried on with the Nága and Mishni Hills. The figures are, however, not very reliable, being obtained only from the traders themselves. Still, a large amount of both these commodities is undoubtedly brought down by the hillmen. A fair amount of rubber is also obtained from the Lushai Hills. The trade in ponies with Bhután is well known to be

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considerable, and the figures under this head are probably correct. The salt, which is imported direct from Bhután, is believed to come originally from Thibet.

211. The principal articles of export from Assam into the frontier States are silk cloth, betel-nuts, paddy, rice, and European cotton piece-goods.

The following statement gives the same information regarding the chief articles of export from this Province as has been given in the preceding statement regarding the import trade:—

Exports from Assam into	Silk cloth.	Betel-nuts.	Paddy.	Rice.	European cotton piece-goods.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután	1,50,315	1,120	17,184	14,512	4,566
Nāga and Mishmi Hills	4,672	.....	.....	52	1,876
Hill Tipperah .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150
Lushai Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	131	2,575
Manipur	21	20,000	.....	.....	2,338
Total.....	1,55,008	21,120	17,184	14,695	11,505

It has already been observed that the amount of silk cloth returned as exported to Bhután is probably altogether unreliable.

212. The leading features of the trade with the several frontier States will now be briefly detailed.

213. During the cold-weather months a considerable trade is carried on between the independent State of Bhután and the bordering Assam districts of Goálpára, Kámruíp, and Darrang, and numerous Bhutia merchants come down through the several routes, or *duars*, to attend the fairs held annually at Dhubri, Datma, and Udalguri. The trade with Bhután, except in the matter of exported silk, the amount of which seems erroneously entered, is undoubtedly much larger than the returns show it to be. The extended line of frontier renders the interception of each particular stream of traffic impossible without the organization of a special and expensive agency, and only approximate figures can be hoped for. For eight months of the year there is an entire cessation of trade with Bhután, as the Bhutias of the interior will not venture into the terai, or even into the lower ranges of their hills, during the hot-weather months.

The following statement shows the total value of the principal articles imported into, and exported from, Assam into Bhután during the period under report, as shown by the returns:—

Imports.		Exports.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Ponies	18,640	Silk manufactures	1,50,315
Salt	22,758	Paddy.....	17,184
Blankets	18,215	Rice	14,512
Rubber	13,230	Cotton and piece-goods (European manufacture)	4,566
		Brass and copper manufac- tures.	4,000
		Betel-leaves	3,165
Total.....	72,843	Total.....	1,93,742

214. As a rule, our trade with the Nága and Mishmi Hills is confined to those tribes who inhabit the lower ranges of the hills, these tribes in turn trading with those lying behind them. The hillmen, generally speaking, do not come to the principal marts to trade, but deal with outlying shopkeepers who live near the hills. During the cold season, traders watch for the hillmen on the roads by which they come down to the plains, and all business is transacted in temporary sheds erected for the purpose. As soon as the rains begin, the hillmen return to their homes. The major portion of the trade with the Mishmis and other tribes on the north bank of the Brahmaputra is transacted at Gogá Mukh, Sisi and Doblóng, Dimu and Sadiya,—the traffic at the latter-named place being far larger than at any of the others. There are no shops beyond Sadiya.

Trade transactions with the Nágas are carried on chiefly at Bisa and Phákial; at the latter place a Marwari merchant has established a permanent shop. There are also shops at Jaipur and Dábá. The Nágas come down to trade as far as Jaipur, but their heavy merchandise, such as rubber, is bought from them on the way by the Marwari traders, who go to meet them. Rubber, wax, and ivory are the chief articles of import from the Mishmi and Nága Hills.

The import trade in these articles during the period under review was, according to the returns furnished by the traders, as follows:—

Rubber.....	Rs.	46,110
Wax.....	"	6,900
Ivory	"	1,920
Total.....	"	54,930

The principal articles of export from Assam into these hills are opium, silk cloth, salt, and cattle, and these articles are said to have

been exported to the value of Rs. 19,079 during the period under report, as exhibited below:—

Opium	Rs. 9,000
Silk cloth	" 4,672
Salt.....	" 3,407
Cattle	" 2,000
Total.....	" <u>19,079</u>

215. The major portion of the transactions in connection with the trade between this Province and Manipur takes place at the annual fair held at Silchar. The chief articles of export are betel-nuts, metals, European cotton piece-goods, miscellaneous native goods, and cattle. The chief articles of import are ponies, native cotton stuffs, and wax. The following statement shows the value of the trade with Manipur in the principal articles of export and import during the period under review; but, as has before been observed, the imports are understated, owing to a large portion of them having arrived before registration was commenced:—

Exports.	Rs.	Imports.	Rs.
Betel-nuts	20,000	Horses, ponies, &c.	3,010
Metals	4,090	Native cotton piece-goods.....	766
Cotton piece-goods (European). ..	2,338	Wax	450
Miscellaneous native goods.....	1,185		
Cattle	770		
Total	<u>28,383</u>	Total	<u>4,226</u>

The traders of Silchar are of opinion that the Manipur trade is on the decline, such decline being attributed partly to the fact of the Manipuris living in Cachar, who were the principal traders, having suffered from the depression of the timber trade.

In his Annual Administration Report for 1874-75, the late Dr Brown, Political Agent at Manipur, attributes the falling off in the trade to the oppressive measures of the Manipur authorities, but for whose ill-advised action it is probable that the trade would have long since assumed very considerable dimensions.

216. The bazaars resorted to by merchants trading with the Lushais are Bipari bazaar, Sonai bazaar, Chándsil bazaar, and the bazaar at Tipai Mukh.

The trade with Lushai land, though lately in a flourishing condition, is now decidedly on the decline, owing chiefly to the exhaustion of the rubber-supply in the hills. Since the close of the year under report, our traders at Tipai Mukh have left the bazaar, finding that

little profit was to be got. The following statement shows the principal articles of trade between this Province and the Lushai Hills, and the total value of such articles exported from, and imported into Assam during the period under report:—

Imports.		Exports.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Rubber	27,630	Miscellaneous native goods and cash ...	6,260
Timber	3,170	Cotton manufactures (European)	2,575
Ivory	2,138	" (raw)	2,015
Wax	750	Brass and copper manufactures	1,930
Cotton (raw)	610	Salt	1,833
		Iron manufactures	803
Total.....	34,298	Total.....	15,416

217. The principal articles of import into Assam from Hill Tipperah are bamboos, raw cotton, rubber, and mats. The following statement shows the total value of these articles imported during the period under review:—

	Rs.
Bamboos.....	14,440
Raw cotton.....	13,330
Rubber	6,150
Mats.....	630
Total.....	34,550

The principal article of import is bamboo; but the trade in this article is not carried on by the hill people themselves. Parties of men from Sylhet go up into the hills, and having cut all the available bamboos growing near to the streams, float them down in the form of rafts for sale at Sylhet. Cotton is cultivated by the hill people, who bring it down to Sylhet in long narrow baskets.

The subjoined statement shows the total value of the principal articles of trade exported from this Province into Hill Tipperah during the period under report:—

	Rs.
Dried fish	2,200
Oil	324
Salt	203
Total.....	2,727

218. Inquiries have been made, with a view to ascertain whether merchants engaged in the frontier trade are liable to any duty after they leave, or before they enter, British territory, but with no very satisfactory results.

It is believed that no duty is levied beyond our territory upon merchants trading in Bhutan, and in the Naga and Mishmi Hills.

In the Lushai Hills, however, the traders are undoubtedly taxed, and they have complained of the exactions of the chiefs. In Hill Tipperah duty is levied by the rajah on the bamboos cut by the Sylhet woodcutters; but it is not known whether any other articles of trade are taxed. Particulars of the duties levied in Manipur upon imports into, and exports out of, that country will be found at pages 15-16 of the Report of the Manipur Agency for the year 1873-74, and need not be re-produced here.

It is hoped that fuller information on this important point will be available for the next year's report.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

219. The following is an abstract of the expenditure of the Public Works Department during the year under report :—

Service heads.	Original budget grants.	Final grants.	Outlay.	Differences.	
				More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Imperial Services—</i>					
Military	39,700	39,700	36,084	.....	3,616
Civil Buildings	26,080	26,080	13,673	.....	12,407
Establishment	16,320	16,320	12,433	.....	3,887
Barrack Department	500	500	137	.....	363
Total, Imperial Services ...	82,600	82,600	62,327	.....	20,273
<i>Provincial Services—</i>					
Civil Buildings	1,27,900	1,41,026	1,42,452	1,426	.....
Communications	2,64,000	2,63,655	2,77,144	13,489	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	100	100	85	.....	15
	3,92,000	4,04,781	4,19,681	14,915	15
Establishment	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,502	502	.....
Tools and plant	28,000	15,219	14,704	.....	515
Profit and loss ... ..	.....	.....	128	128	.....
	6,70,000	6,70,000	6,85,015	15,545	530
Deduct decrease in suspense balances. ....	.....	.....	35,453	.....	35,453
Total Provincial Services ...	6,70,000	6,70,000	6,49,562	.....	20,438
<i>Local Services—</i>					
Civil Buildings	1,000	1,000	450	.....	550
Communications	80,964	1,11,487	1,00,426	.....	11,061
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	4,000	4,000	905	.....	3,095
	85,964	1,16,487	1,01,781	.....	14,706
Establishment ... ..	.....	.....	525	525	.....
Total, Local Services ...	85,964	1,16,487	1,02,306	.....	14,181
Grand Total ...	8,38,564	8,69,087	8,14,195	.....	54,892

It will be seen that the expenditure on all heads amounted to Rs. 8,14,195, against the final grant amounting to Rs. 8,69,087, leaving a balance of Rs. 54,892, which constitutes the lapse of the year.

The short outlay is principally under Imperial, and is about one-fourth of the grant. This has partly resulted from the restriction placed by the Government of India on Imperial expenditure, but principally from the building of the new telegraph-office at Gauhati having been stopped, pending the settlement of certain questions about its construction and cost.

Except a trifling saving under Miscellaneous Public Improvements and Tools and Plant, every item under Provincial Services shows an excess. But, as a very satisfactory decrease of Rs. 35,453 was effected in suspense balances during the course of the year, there has been an expenditure of Rs. 20,438 short of the total grant.

The saving of Rs. 14,181 under Local Services is due to four funds, as shown below:—

	Grant.	Outlay.				Saving.
		Original Work.	Repairs	Establishment.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Local Fund—						
Ferries	2,532	.....	1,387	..	1,387	1,145
Staging-bungalows	6,782	.....	6,019	412	6,431	351
	9,314	.....	7,406	412	7,818	1,496
Williamson Education Fund—						
Civil Buildings	1,000	.....	450	113	563	437
District Improvement Fund (Reserve Account)—						
Grants-in-aid to Provincial Services—						
Communications	79,698	74,877	1,474	...	76,351	3,347
Spent direct from the Fund—						
Communications	22,475	16,669	.....	...	16,669	5,806
	1,02,173	91,546	1,474	...	93,020	9,153
District Improvement Fund (Miscellaneous Improvement Account)—						
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	4,000	905	.....	...	905	3,095
	4,000	905	.....	...	905	3,095
Grand Total ...	1,16,487	92,451	9,330	525	1,02,306	14,181

The only item calling for notice is the saving of Rs. 3,095 from the Miscellaneous Improvement Account, which bears a large proportion to the grant of the year under that head. It is due to delay in getting a project prepared for the improvement of the drainage of the Gauhati station, for which the assignment was made. Plans and estimates could not be got ready before the expiration of the year, but they have since been received and sanctioned.

The short outlay under the other heads of Local Services was the result of precaution used to work within the limits of the grants, some of which were made late in the year.

It should be mentioned that the bulk of the expenditure from the reserve grant of the District Improvement Fund, *viz.*, Rs. 76,351, was incurred on Provincial roads passing through the districts concerned, and the balance, Rs. 16,669, with the exception of the sums of Rs. 1,034 and Rs. 2,862, spent on the construction of the road between Sibságar, and Disangmukh and the timber bridge over the Kakodanga, represents the outlay incurred in constructing dák-bungalows at the stations of Tezpur, Nowgong, Sibságar, Dibrugarh, and Silchar.

The explanatory memorandum attached to the appropriation and outlay accounts, shows that the average cost of establishment for the ten years immediately preceding the formation of Assam into a separate Local Administration was 42·74 per cent. of the expenditure on works, whereas for the three years subsequent thereto the cost has been 40·6 per cent. The percentage of the year 1876-77, under review, was 48·67, which is above the average of the last three years. But this is due to the necessity for keeping the expenditure down below the ordinary grant, to make up for the excess over grant that was incurred in the previous year, 1875-76. The average percentage of the last thirteen years has been 42, and, considering the economy and care with which the establishment is distributed over the work to be done, and the difficulty felt in making it suffice for the scattered work of the Province, it is improbable that this percentage will be reduced.

220. The progress made in the construction of buildings and roads will now be briefly described.

IMPERIAL SERVICES.

221. The principal works, the expenditure upon which is debited to Imperial Services, undertaken during the year were the metalling of the cantonment road, Dibrugarh, the completion of the repairs to the Dúm-dúm block-house, the metalling of the cantonment road, Silchar, the pushing on almost to completion the work of constructing a rifle-range at Silchar, the conversion of the gun-shed at Dibrugarh into a Commissariat godown, the raising of the parapet wall of the roof of the magazine at Sadiya, the sinking of a wooden well at the Poba stockade, the re-construction of an armourer's shop at Silchar, the conversion of the Serjeant-Major's bungalow at Sylhet into a police hospital, the addition of a room for browning arms to the armourer's shop at Shillong, the construction of Native Infantry lines at Jowai, repairing the military hospital at Tezpur, the construction of temporary telegraph-offices at Nowgong, Silghat, Jorhát, Sibságar, and Dibrugarh, the re-building of the telegraph-office at Dhubri, the partial construction of a new post-office at Sylhet, and the construction of a temporary post-office at Tezpur.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

222. *Buildings.*—In connection with buildings constructed from Provincial Funds, the principal works carried out during the year were as follows :—

The work of re-building the civil ward of the Tezpur jail was completed, and the additions to, and alterations in, the Sylhet jail were commenced. The construction of a police thannah at Gauhati was pushed on almost to completion, and a police hospital and a normal school were constructed at Goalpara. At Shillong, the building of the church was practically completed, the new court-house for the Deputy-Commissioner was almost finished, and extensive alterations, including a new iron roof, were effected in the Residency building. Materials were collected for re-building the Deputy-Commissioner's court-house at Sibsagar, the new court-house at Tura was completed, materials were collected for the work of providing additional office accommodation for the Deputy-Commissioner, Sylhet, the construction of the sub-divisional offices at Sunamganj were commenced, and the sub-divisional residence at Hailakandi was completed.

223. *Roads.*—The work performed during the year in connection with the principal roads, being of considerable importance, will be noticed in some detail.

224. The Trunk Road was so far completed by the end of the year 1876-77 that a considerable number of carts were able to pass over it the whole way from

Assam Trunk Road.

Dhubri to Sadiya. The road has been furnished throughout with inspection-bungalows and temporary serais for the use of travellers. The traffic on the road is increasing, though the increase in the year under report over the previous year is less than that of 1875-76 over 1874-75. The number of persons and cattle crossed at the ferry over the Brahmaputra at Dhubri, compared with the number during the previous two years, is given in the following table :—

	Persons.	Cattle.
1874-75	34,634	10,255
1875-76	53,323	18,155
1876-77	58,799	18,120

A good deal of this traffic is merely local, but the rate of increase at this ferry may be taken as a fair index of the general rate of increase of the through traffic along the Trunk Road into Assam.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the quality of the Assam Trunk Road is at all of a high class, or that it is constructed to uniform dimensions throughout. In the first place, the road is nowhere metalled, and the finances of the Province do not admit of its improvement to a metalled road. The main object of the road is to facilitate immigration, and a metalled road is not necessary for this purpose. But the road is embanked almost throughout its course above the level of floods, and is substantially bridged, except at the larger streams, where ferries are provided. For the first 150 miles from Dhubri, the minimum width is 16 feet, and a considerable portion is as wide as 20 feet. The next 150 miles are for the most part not more than 12 feet wide, but the last 150 miles are again from 16 to 20 feet wide.

N

It will be readily understood that the heavy floods of every rainy season do a great deal of damage to the road. The bridges are mostly of wood, and require much repair, and the traffic on many sections is not sufficient to keep the jungle from overgrowing the road. These causes render the maintenance of the road both difficult and expensive. Yet it is essential to the success of the road, as an inducement to immigration, that great attention should be paid to its maintenance and to the accommodation for travellers. Efforts have therefore been made to increase the efficiency of the subordinate establishment in charge of the several sections, and Executive-Engineers and their subordinates are required to make frequent inspections. The whole road is divided into eleven sub-divisional charges. The expenditure on the entire length of this road during the year has been Rs. 1,22,205, and, in addition, Rs. 80,648 have been spent on the ordinary maintenance of the road.

225. The expenditure on minor and petty works under the head of Communications amounted to Rs. 5,443 throughout the Province. It was incurred on ferries, serais, inspection-bungalows, and other petty items, mostly of a temporary nature.

226. During the rainy season of the year under report, work was carried on a break of two miles in the road which remained unfinished at the close of the previous year, and through communication between Gauhati and Shillong was effected in October, 1876. The worst portions of the road were improved, the narrowest parts were widened, and the temporary bridges were replaced by substantial sâl timber bridges. The upper portion of the road requires a considerable amount of work before it can be reported complete, but the lower portion may be treated as finished. Between Gauhati and Nongpoh the road was, however, very much cut up by carts during the monsoon, and was kept passable by a flooring of bamboo laid over the worst portions. It will be necessary to metal these parts as soon as funds permit, in order to make the road practicable for cart-traffic throughout the year. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 51,902, the total cost of the work amounting to Rs. 2,57,075, against an estimate of Rs. 2,61,907.

The expenditure incurred during the year on the maintenance of the Shillong Cart-road was Rs. 9,618, or for 53 miles at the rate of Rs. 181 per mile. This has been found insufficient. The cost of repairs to the Shillong bridle-road, from Umiam to the junction of the Shillong Cart-road, and of the bridle-road from Shillong to Therriaghat, which is 47 miles in length, was Rs. 2,109, giving a rate of Rs. 45 per mile.

227. The usual repairs to this line of communication was done at a cost of Rs. 12,813, or at the rate of Rs. 183 per mile.

228. A new timber bridge on this road was satisfactorily completed during the year. The total outlay on the work was Rs. 16,912, against an estimate amounting to Rs. 16,953, and the expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 4,422.

The expenditure on the maintenance of the road was Rs. 1,500.

229. The only original work that was in progress during the year was the widening and completing the road from

Branch Roads.

Koliabar to the steamer-station at Silghát, which is the principal outlet for the trade of the Nowgong district. This road is four and a half miles in length, of which one-third was completed. A timber bridge on it was also lengthened. The outlay of the year amounted to Rs. 7,505, against an estimate of Rs. 13,452.

The expenditure on maintenance of the branch roads in the valley districts of Assam was Rs. 19,934, giving, for eighty-nine miles, a rate of about Rs. 224 per mile. This high rate is due chiefly to the clearance of tracks to steamer-stations, and formation of brushwood roads across sands, and also to the maintenance of several rest-houses for travellers at those stations.

The following is the list of the roads :—

	Miles.	Rs.
Agea to Goálpára	7	3,478
Silghat to Koliabar	5	1,171
Dibrugarh to Dibrumukh	6	1,783
" to Jaipur	35	5,596
Sibságar to Dikhumukh	8	1,692
Jorhát to Kokilamukh	10	2,000
Golághát to Neghiri Ting	18	4,214
Total	89	19,934

The expenditure of the year on other roads is given below :—

Háilákándi road	1,276
Companyganj "	1,223
Nága Hills "	5,803
Gáro Hills "	3,422

With the above amounts, the ordinary repairs were executed, and the roads maintained in passable order.

230. Under the head of "Travellers' accommodation," the following

Travellers' accommodation.

works were carried out: The dák-bungalow compound at Dhubri was improved, the police hospital at Goálpára was converted into a dák-bungalow, the dák-bungalow at Tezpur was improved, a dak-bungalow was opened at Nowgong, the dák-bungalow at Silghát was re-constructed, the staging-bungalow at Dikhumukh was re-built, the construction of a dák-bungalow at Dibrugarh was commenced, and the dák-bungalow at Silchar was nearly completed. The existing dák-bungalows and serais on the provincial roads had the necessary repairs and renewals done to them, and the requisite complement of establishment and furniture was maintained during the year.

LOCAL SERVICES.

231. The following is a detail of the works carried out under this head :—

The piling to the bridge was finished, and the superstructure is in progress. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 2,862, the total outlay being Rs. 4,056, against an estimate amounting to Rs. 8,197.

Constructing a timber bridge over the Kakodonga river, on the Dhodur All.

This was carried out from the Sibságar District Improvement Fund at a cost of Rs. 1,034, against an estimate sanctioned for Rs. 1,035.

Constructing the road from Sibságar to Disangmukh.

232. *Local Roads.*—On the whole, there has been considerable improvement in the works connected with local roads.

The expenditure sanctioned for the year amounted to Rs. 1,63,219, and that actually incurred to Rs. 1,51,153, made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Original works	28,390
Repairs.....	1,04,909
Establishment.....	14,837
Refunds, contingencies, &c.....	2,276
Total	1,51,153

The only original works of any importance on which expenditure was incurred were the hill roads from Darrang to Dewangiri, in the Kámrúp district, and from Golághát to Kohimah, *viá* Wokha, in the Nága Hills. The Dewangiri road was traced and commenced some years ago; but until the year under review no establishment was available for going on with it. A good deal of the earthwork has now been completed, and some bridges constructed. The road is reported to have been open throughout, except in a few places, where heavy blasting or revetment walls are necessary. In the Nága Hills, the Wokha road was pushed on with, and a narrow path has now been cut for very nearly the whole length of the line.

In the other districts, the original works carried out were of an unimportant character, being chiefly extensions of existing roads, or the substitution of timber for bamboo bridges.

The total expenditure on original works, though small, is quite as much as is desirable; for, in the present condition of the Province, the money available can generally be more usefully expended on improving existing roads than in opening out new lines.

The ordinary annual repairs were fairly well executed in all districts. Members of the committees and other gentlemen rendered considerable assistance by undertaking or supervising road work.

It is chiefly due to such assistance that the cost of establishment bears so small a proportion to the total outlay. The only districts in which a regular executive establishment was maintained are Kámrúp and Cachar, which have each a District Engineer and some subordinate establishment. The Kámrúp District Engineer was appointed in September last (having been transferred from the Public Works Department, in which he held the rank of a Supervisor, first grade), and his appointment appears to have been followed by good results.

The districts of Goálpára, Nowgong, and Sylhet have each one overseer. In Goálpára, the road-cess (under Act X. of 1871) began to be levied from 1st October, 1876; but very little money was obtained from this source until quite the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

233. The thorough drainage of the station of Gauháti has been determined upon, and the preparatory operations were commenced during the year.

POST-OFFICE.

234. The number of post-offices in the Province is steadily increasing, as will appear from the following statements:—

<i>Existing on the 1st April, 1874.</i>			
Post-offices.	Letter-boxes.	Rural messengers.	Total number of postal receptacles.
38	5	11	54
<i>Existing on the 31st March, 1877.</i>			
Post-offices.	Letter-boxes.	Rural messengers.	Total number of postal receptacles.
82	31	96	209

These figures show a considerable increase in the short space of three years. New offices are still being established all over the country, wherever there is a prospect of their being self-supporting. In the tea districts, the plan of opening small post-offices at populous places, and of employing rural messengers to visit distant villages and gardens, is working very satisfactorily.

235. At the close of March, 1877, there were 1,435 miles of Imperial mail lines in the Assam postal circle. This includes the Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts, which form part of the circle. These figures show an increase of 172 miles, as compared with last year's return. In the Chief Commissionership of Assam the Imperial mail lines extend over 1,263 miles.

The above does not include postal lines, worked by runners paid out of zemindari funds.

Many new lines are required, but the cost of employing runners is so heavy that great care has to be taken to prevent undue loss to the State.

236. The experiment made last year, of opening small rural post-offices along the north bank of the Brahmaputra, has worked satisfactorily during the year under report. The four post-offices opened in Kámrúp have been made permanent, and, in addition to these, one has been established in Darrang, 17 miles north of Tezpur, and three in Goálpára.

237. The bulk of parcels from Calcutta for Assam are carried by steamer as far as Gauháti, and from there are sent on by land. Parcels for Shillong from Bengal travel *viâ* Dacca and Sylhet.

238. The correspondence delivered through the post-office shows a very slight increase, in spite of the great extension of postal facilities. The following is a return for the past three years:—

Years.	Number of covers.
1874-75.....	1,700,205
1875-76.....	1,723,738
1876-77.....	1,775,725

This statement shows an increase of 1 and 3 per cent. only, respectively.

The comparative statement marked A overleaf shows the correspondence of the several districts.

A.
Comparative Statement showing the operations of the Postal Department for the years 1875-76 and 1876-77.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7
				Number of covers passing through the post-office.			
				Number of covers received by the police for delivery.	Number of covers passing through the police.		
District.	Number of Post-offices.	Number of rural messengers.	Number of covers received by the police for delivery in the Post-offices.	Number of covers received by the police for delivery.	Number of covers passing through the police.	Posted.	Remarks.
	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	
Kamrup	6	8	222,769	2,391	268	810	1
Darrang	2	2	64,437	1,633	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	6	6	146,521	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibsagar	13	9	310,734	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	6	4	136,040	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khasi Hills	3	.....	151,752	355	911	325	575
Naga " .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sylhet	14	18	218,711	83,361	20,806	30,691	19,474
Cachar	8	6	247,339	.....	.....	.....	.....
Goalpara	12	4	175,555	10,840	13,064	2,676	6,339
Garo Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	70	57	1,674,158	49,580	35,949	34,592	26,389

239. The revenue on unpaid correspondence has risen from Rs. 35,920 in 1875-76 to Rs. 38,455 in the year under review.

240. The following statement shows a steady increase in the proceeds from the sale of postage labels, which is very satisfactory:—

Years.	Amount. Rs.
1873-74	43,715
1874-75	51,276
1875-76	58,348
1876-77	62,529

The increase during the last three years has thus been over 17, 13, and 7 per cent. respectively.

241. The sale of service labels for official correspondence is exhibited in the following return:—

	Rs.
1873-74	12,857
1874-75	14,797
1875-76	15,816
1876-77	16,598

242. At the end of 1875-76, there were nine publications in existence; out of these, five ceased to exist during the course of the year under report, and two new ones were started.

243. Seventeen persons were prosecuted and punished for various offences committed against the Post-office Act, of these, eight were post-office servants.

Prosecutions for offences against the Post-office Act.

244. Sylhet and Goálpára are the only regulation districts in the Province in which the Zamindari Dák Act [VIII. (B.C.) of 1862] is in operation, and where a suitable sum has been set apart for the entertainment of a local postal establishment, the main object of which is the conveyance of police and revenue despatches.

District post.

In Sylhet, the local post-office is under the management of the General Post-office. For the year under review, a sum of Rs. 8,381 was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner for the keeping up of the district post-offices in this district. At the beginning of the year, there were eight district post-offices and 477 miles of postal lines. During the year, one of these post-offices was, in consequence of its importance, converted into an Imperial office, and three new district post-offices were opened. Two new lines have also been opened during the year, and direct communication has been established with Mymensingh.

On the 1st of December last, the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára arranged to make over to the Postal Department a monthly sum of Rs. 175, to defray the expense of keeping up five district post-offices, six district rural messengers, and 56 miles of mail lines.

This new arrangement, which has been in operation since the 1st of December last, is working satisfactorily, as will be seen from the accompanying table, showing the correspondence delivered by the district post:—

District.	Number of covers passing through the district post-office.			
	Numbers of covers received for delivery.		Number of covers posted.	
	1876-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Goalpára	10,840	13,064	2,676	6,339

Kámrúp is the only other district in the Province where a small grant has been allowed to the Postal Department for the purpose of improving communications. A monthly subsidy of Rs. 60 from the District Improvement Fund enables two small mail lines to be kept up between Gauháti and the principal police-stations in the north of Kámrúp.

245. The following is a financial statement, showing the receipts and expenditure of the Postal Department in Assam during the past four years:—

Year.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Excess of expenditure over receipts.
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	
1873-74	82,978	13	7	1,08,912	11	7	25,934
1874-75	98,018	10	5	1,24,908	8	5	26,990
1875-76	1,09,455	4	3	1,26,528	0	0	17,073
1876-77	1,17,583	0	8	1,33,550	5	8	15,969

It will be observed that the excess of expenditure over receipts has been largely reduced in the last two years, in spite of the wide extension of the operations of the department.

TELEGRAPH.

246. The operations of this department during the period under review were of no slight importance, and the year saw the completion of the new line, extending from Gauháti to Dibrugarh, the survey for which had been undertaken during the preceding year. This line is 276 miles in length, and the party had to contend with many physical difficulties in the prosecution of the work. The work of construction commenced in October, 1876, and the last post was erected before the close of the year. The first office, that of Nowgong, was opened on the 1st January, 1877, and the last office, that of Dibrugarh, was

opened on the 31st March, 1877. The political value of this line, connecting, as it does, the head-quarters of the Province with districts where complications with savage border tribes are liable to happen at any moment, cannot be over-estimated, while, to that large portion of the mercantile community which is interested in the great tea industry of the Province, the connection with Calcutta by wire of the districts of the Assam Valley is a very considerable boon. The Chief Commissioner considers the completion of this extension line to have been one of the most important events of the year 1876-77, as regards Assam.

Much of the success of the undertaking was due to the fact of the removal of the divisional head-quarters from Purneah to Dhubri, and the consequent increased efficiency of the supervising agency.

It was intended to have commenced the work of re-construction of the line from Dhubri to Gauháti during the working season of 1876-77, but financial considerations rendered the postponement of this work necessary. The work will, it is hoped, be carried out during the ensuing working season.

The Chief Commissioner hopes that before long there will be direct telegraphic communication between Gauháti and Mangaldai. From the latter place, the line could be readily extended to Tezpur.

A branch extension of the line from Nigriting to Golághát is very desirable, as such extension would place a large number of planters in communication with Calcutta, and the Political Officer, Nága Hills, in easy communication with Shillong. Colonel Keatinge hopes that this work will receive the serious attention of the Telegraph Department.

The total amount realized on messages despatched from Assam during the year was Rs. 21,094, showing an increase of Rs. 2,468-10, as compared with the preceding year.

There were some thefts of telegraph material on the Sylhet-Cachar line, but, unfortunately, none of the offenders were detected.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

247. The following statements for 1875-76 and 1876-77 show that the net receipts of the Province on account of Imperial and Provincial Services, Local and Municipal Funds, were—

				Rs.
In 1875-76	...	...	...	67,86,265
In 1876-77	...	...	...	66,60,900
				<hr/>
Net falling off in 1876-77	...		...	1,25,365
				<hr/>

Account of the Gross and Net Revenue of the Province of Assam for the official year 1875-76.

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges against income.			Total.	Net receipts.	Net charges.	
			Charges for collection, including cost of salt, &c., &c.	Allowances and assignments payable under treaties and engagements.	Allowances to district and village officers.				
<i>Imperial.</i>									
Land revenue	33,73,576	18,179	7,37,504	57,496	..	8,13,179	25,60,397	..	
Forests	61,869	1,154	62,243	.....	..	63,397	.....	1,528
Excise on spirits and drugs	14,14,561	960	11,610	.....	..	12,570	14,01,991	..
Total "Territorial"	48,50,006	20,293	8,11,357	57,496	..	8,89,146	39,62,388	1,528	
Stamps	5,15,716	1,458	9,080	.....	..	10,538	5,05,178	..
Post-office	1,09,610	..	1,28,742	.....	..	1,28,742	.....	19,132
Law and justice .. { Miscellaneous	6,909	..	.....	.....	..	.....	6,909	..
{ General fees, fines, and forfeitures.	78,234	12,162	.....	.....	..	12,162	66,072	..
Interest	12,616	..	.....	.....	..	.....	12,616	..
Receipts on account of superannuation and compassionate allowances	884	..	.....	.....	..	.....	884	..
Gain by exchange on transactions with London .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	..
Miscellaneous	36,119	9,226	.....	.....	..	9,226	26,893	..
Total Imperial	56,10,094	43,139	9,49,179	57,496	..	10,49,814	45,80,940	20,660	
<i>Provincial.</i>									
Imperial allotment for Provincial Services	17,69,743	..	.....	.....	..	.....	17,69,743	..
{ Jails	32,953	..	.....	.....	..	.....	32,953	..
{ Registration	22,060	502	.....	.....	..	502	21,558	..
Departmental receipts. { Police	4,277	5	.....	.....	..	5	4,272	..
{ Education	25,658	526	.....	.....	..	526	25,132	..
{ Medical	1,047	..	.....	.....	..	.....	1,047	..
{ Printing	1,242	73	.....	.....	..	73	1,169	..
Miscellaneous receipts	5,042	230	.....	.....	..	230	4,812	..
Public Works	3,712	..	.....	.....	..	.....	3,712	..
Total Provincial	18,65,754	1,336	.....	.....	..	1,336	18,64,418	..
<i>Local Funds.</i>									
Assam Local Funds	54,309	..	.....	.....	..	.....	54,309	..
District Improvement Fund	1,85,168	..	.....	.....	..	.....	1,85,168	..
District Post Fund	9,264	..	.....	.....	..	.....	9,264	..
Cantonment	3,037	..	.....	.....	..	.....	3,037	..
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	4,718	..	.....	.....	..	.....	4,718	..
Total Local Funds	2,56,496	..	.....	.....	..	.....	2,56,496	..
Total Provincial Service and Local Funds Municipalities	21,22,250	1,336	.....	.....	..	1,336	21,20,914	..
Gross Receipts	78,37,415	44,475	9,49,179	57,496	..	10,51,150	68,06,925	20,660	
							Deduct net charges....	20,660	
							Net Receipts	67,86,265	

The above-noted falling off is thus distributed:—

Class of Revenue.	Net revenue in—		Difference in—	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial	45,60,280	44,56,738	.....	1,03,542
Provincial	18,64,418	17,64,089	.....	1,00,329
Local Funds	2,56,496	3,49,937	93,441	.....
Municipal Funds	1,05,071	90,136	.....	14,935
Total.....	67,86,265	66,60,900	93,441	2,18,806
			1,25,365	

These figures require, however, some explanation. In 1875-76, Deputy-Commissioners of Lakhimpur and Kámrúp omitted to deduct from land revenue and to credit to Local Funds the 1-17th assignment granted to the latter for local improvements. The amount aggregates Rs. 60,600. This omission has been rectified in 1876-77, and throws out the comparison between the two years by double that sum. If it be eliminated, the falling off of Rs. 1,25,365 will be thus distributed:—

	Revenue, 1876-77, compared with 1875-76.	
	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Services	17,658	.....
Provincial Services .....	.....	1,00,329
Local Funds .....	.....	27,759
Municipal Funds .....	.....	14,935
	17,658	1,43,023
	1,25,365	

The small increase under Imperial Services is due to a variety of causes. There is a net increase under the three heads classed as "Territorial revenue," viz., land revenue, forests, and excise, as shown below, of Rs. 25,000:—

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.
Net receipts.....	39,62,388	38,73,470
Net charge	1,528	8,352
	39,60,860	38,65,118
Error of Rs. 60,600	— 60,600	+ 60,600
	39,00,260	39,25,718

This would have been much larger but for the growing expenditure of the Forest Department, which has absorbed all the forest revenue, including that collected by civil officers, and Rs. 8,300 besides. On the other hand, the cost of the settlement of Jaintiá, in the district of Sylhet, and of the la-kheraj survey, in the Assam Valley, are exceptional items of expenditure, and are not really charges of 1876-77, though the money was spent in that year.

The decrease under Provincial Services of Rs. 1,00,329 is owing to a decrease in the allotment* from Imperial revenues. In 1875-76, there was a large deficit, expenditure having unavoidably exceeded income. This deficit was met by a special allotment from the Government of India, which was not repeated in 1876-77.

In 1875-76, also, certain recoveries were made from the Bengal Government on account of balances of Local and Municipal funds outstanding on 1st April, 1874. No such recoveries being again made in 1876-77, the decrease in that year connected with those funds is thus accounted for.

248. The subjoined statement will show at a glance the chief Imperial heads which brought in a net revenue or surplus to the Administration in 1875-76:—

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges for collection, including pay of Deputy-Assistant and Extra-Assistant-Commissioners.	Allowances and assignments under treaties and engagements.	Total.	Net receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	33,75,576	18,179	7,37,504	57,496	8,13,179	25,60,397
Excise	14,14,561	960	11,610	.....	12,571	14,01,991
Stamps	5,15,716	1,458	9,080	.....	10,538	5,05,178
Law and justice... {	6,909	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,909
Miscellaneous ..						
General fees, fines, &c.	78,234	12,162	.....	.....	12,162	66,072
Interest	12,616	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,616
Miscellaneous	36,119	9,226	.....	.....	9,226	26,893

There were only two Imperial heads in 1875-76 in which the charges of administration and collection exceeded the receipts, viz:—

	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges for collection and administration.	Total.	Net charge.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Forests	61,869	1,154	62,243	63,397	1,528
Post-office	1,09,610	.....	1,28,742	1,28,742	19,132

The combined deficit under both the above heads amounted in round figures to Rs. 20,000.

In 1876-77 the chief surplus Imperial heads were—

Heads.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and draw-backs.	Charges for collection, including pay of Deputy-Assistant and Extra-Assistant-Commissioners.	Allowances and assignments under treaties and engagements.	Total.	Net receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	32,89,811	4,528	7,98,836	46,973	8,50,337	24,88,974
Excise	14,46,368	380	11,843	....	11,872	14,34,496
Stamps	4,98,871	1,496	9,463	....	10,958	4,85,863
Law and justice ..	8,809	....	....	....	....	8,809
{ Miscellaneous	80,959	19,967	....	....	19,967	61,092
{ General fees and fines.	....	....	....	....	....	....
Interest	7,186	....	....	....	....	7,186
Miscellaneous	57,369	11,080	....	....	11,080	46,289

and the two deficit heads were—

					Net deficit.
Forests	81,668	163	89,757	....	89,920
Post-office	1,17,830	....	1,35,901	....	1,35,901

The net transactions of the two years are compared below:—

	Net surplus.	1876-77.	1875-76.
		Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	Net surplus.	24,38,974	25,60,397
Excise	Ditto.	14,34,496	14,01,991
Stamps	Ditto.	4,85,863	5,05,178
Law and justice—			
Miscellaneous	Ditto.	8,809	6,909
Fees and fines	Ditto.	61,002	66,072
Interest	Ditto.	7,186	12,616
Miscellaneous	Ditto.	46,289	26,893
Forests	Net charge.	8,352	1,528
Post-office	Ditto.	18,371	19,132

The falling off in the surplus land revenue has been already explained as having been caused by an omission to debit in the accounts of the preceding year the 1-17th assignment for local improvements, amounting to Rs. 60,600; rectifying this mistake, there is a difference of only Rs. 223 in the net surplus land revenue of the two years. There is an important decrease of Rs. 20,000 in the stamp revenue, which is variously accounted for by various officers. It is remarkable that a similar decrease appears to have occurred in most other parts of India, and has been ascribed in some provinces to evasion of stamp duty. Similar causes may, perhaps, have been at work here. The subject is receiving attention.

249. The following statement still further exhibits the financial position of Assam in 1876-77 :—

A.—Finance, 2.—Account of Expenditure from the net income of the Province of Assam for the official year 1876-77 and that preceding it.

Subject of Expenditure.	Amounts.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.
<i>Imperial.</i>		
Interest on Savings Banks and other accounts	2,660	3,186
Civil and Political establishments and contingencies—	2,78,191	3,07,180
Administration.....	1,66,342	1,79,699
Minor establishment.....	22,504	15,627
Ecclesiastical	12,129	17,006
Medical	57,413	65,069
Political.....	19,803	29,779
Total.....	2,78,191	3,07,180
Judicial charges, courts, &c.	4,83,220	4,84,367
Superannuation and retired allowances.....	33,173	37,890
Miscellaneous	13,142	10,705
Allotments for Provincial Services	17,69,763	16,69,788
Total Imperial.....	25,80,149	25,13,116
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.		
<i>Provincial.</i>		
Jail	1,22,237	1,15,742
Registration	21,622	18,657
Police	5,71,165	5,91,599
Education	1,83,421	1,68,104
Medical	18,398	30,322
Printing	24,955	18,822
Minor establishment	26,560	19,230
Office rents, rates and taxes	5,500	7,044
Miscellaneous.....	34,835	28,036
Contributions	17,797	30,928
Public Works.....	8,49,504	6,49,562
Total Provincial.....	18,75,994	16,78,046
<i>Local Funds.</i>		
Assam Local Funds	36,824	53,769
Improvement Fund	3,32,393	2,78,039
District Post Fund	9,489	9,498
Cantonment Fund	1,603	2,673
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund ...	4,647	5,334
Total, Local Funds.....	3,84,956	3,49,313
Total, Provincial Services and Local Funds.....	22,60,950	20,27,359
Municipalities	63,295	75,948
Grand Total.....	49,04,394	46,16,423
Net receipts as in Statement No. 1	67,86,265	66,60,900
Surplus	18,81,771	20,44,477

The preceding statement shows the expenditure of the Province from its net income. It will be observed that in 1875-76 there was a surplus on account of Imperial and Provincial Services and Local and Municipal Funds of Rs. 18,81,711; while in 1876-77 the surplus on account of these funds was Rs. 20,44,477, showing an improvement in the latter year of Rs. 1,62,766. The figures may be thus distributed:—

Class of revenue and charges.	1875-76.				1876-77.			
	Net revenue, Statement A 1.	Expenditure, Statement A 2.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Net revenue, Statement A 1.	Expenditure, Statement A 2.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Imperial	45,60,280	25,80,149	19,80,131	.....	44,56,738	25,13,116	19,43,622	.....
Provincial	18,64,418	18,75,994	.....	11,576	17,64,089	16,78,046	86,043	.....
Local	2,56,496	3,84,956	.....	1,28,460	3,49,937	3,49,313	624	.....
Municipal	1,05,071	63,295	41,776	.....	90,136	75,948	14,188	.....
Total	67,86,265	49,04,394	20,21,907	1,40,036	66,60,900	46,16,423	20,44,477	.....
			18,81,871				20,44,477	

Under Imperial revenue, there was a surplus in 1875-76 of Rs. 19,80,131; but from this must be deducted the erroneous credit of Rs. 60,600, referred to above. The same amount must be added also to the surplus of 1876-77, which has been reduced by having to bear the deduction of revenue necessary to amend this error. The correct comparison between the two years is as shown below:—

	Rs.
1875-76	19,19,531
1876-77	20,04,222
<hr/>	
Improvement in 1876-77	84,691

This improvement is thus accounted for—

Improvement in net revenue	17,000
Decreased expenditure	67,000
<hr/>	
	84,000

The decreased expenditure referred to above is accounted for by the statement already made,—that in 1875-76 there was a large Provincial Service deficit; which was met by an increased allotment, which is debitable to Imperial Services. No such allotment was made in 1876-77. This accounts for a decreased expenditure of one lakh, so that there has been an increase under other heads of about Rs. 33,000.

The increased expenditure of Rs. 33,000 may thus be apportioned, viz. :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	13,000	.....
Minor Departments.....	.....	7,000
Ecclesiastical	5,000	.....
Medical	8,000	.....
Political	10,000	.....
Law and justice	1,000	.....
Superannuation	5,000	.....
Miscellaneous .....	.....	2,000
Total	42,000	9,000
	33,000	

Rs. 8,000 of the increase under "Administration" are accounted for by the increase in the pay of the Secretary from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 24,000 per annum. The remainder is on account of increased charges for establishments, &c.

Under "Minor Departments," the decrease is accounted for by the discontinuance of the coal explorations in Assam, and by the transfer of the charges on account of the Sadiya fair to Provincial Services.

The increase under "Ecclesiastical" is owing to the promotion of the Shillong chaplain from the rank of junior to that of senior chaplain, to the re-appointment of a minister at Dibrugarh, and to the increase in the pay of the minister at Cachar.

Under "Medical" the increase is due to the employment during the year of officers of higher grade pay than in 1875-76. Some of the officers employed in 1875-76 have earned increments, which tend to swell the total charge to the Province for medical officers.

Under "Provincial Services" the chief difference is under Public Works. The expenditure was nearly two lakhs less in 1876-77 than in 1875-76. The Chief Commissioner had received instructions to bring the expenditure within the assets, and the strictest economy was ordered under every head. Compared with 1875-76, there is a saving in 1876-77 under—

• 1875-76, Deficit 11,576
1876-77, Surplus 86,943

Better in 1876-77, Rs. 97,619

	Rs.
Registration.....	2,965
Jails	6,495
Education.....	15,317
Printing	6,133
Minor establishments	7,330
Miscellaneous	6,799
Public Works	1,99,942

and an increase under—

Police	20,434
Medical	11,924
Office rent.....	1,544
Contributions	13,131

The increase under "Police" is accounted for by payments made for rifles issued from the arsenal at Fort William, and by the appointment of an Inspector-General of Police. Special additions to the Provincial Service allotment were made by the Government of India for these services. The increase under "Medical" is accounted for by the establishment of a lunatic asylum at Tezpur, and by arrear charges for medicines.

Under "Office rent," there was a charge of Rs. 1,304 for the settlement office at Sylhet; and under "Contributions" there are some arrear charges.

It will be noticed that there was a deficit under Local Funds in 1875-76 and a surplus in 1876-77. This is chiefly due to increased revenue. The expenditure also has been kept down where economy was necessary. Coming to details of these funds, it may be mentioned that the expenditure of the Assam Local Fund in 1876-77 shows an increase over the expenditure in 1875-76, viz. :—

	Rs.
1876-77	53,769
1875-76	36,824
	16,945

the increased expenditure being warranted by the flourishing condition of the fund. The chief items which have caused this increase are as follows. A net sum of Rs. 12,930 was debited to this fund on account of the tonga and bullock train service, viz. :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Charges.....	18,148	7	9
Receipts	5,217	13	6
	Net		
	12,930	10	3

A contribution of Rs. 5,000 was also given from the Assam Local Fund to the Naga Hills District Improvement Fund. The charges of the District Improvement Fund, on the other hand, show a decrease, thus :—

	Rs.
1875-76	3,32,393
1876-77	2,78,039
	Decrease
	54,354

The expenditure upon Public Works in the former year was abnormally high, owing to the large credit balances standing over from 1874-75. The remaining heads call for no remark.

250. The following statement shows the "ways and means" of the Province for 1876-77:—

A.—Finance, 3.—Account of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the treasuries of the Province of Assam for the year 1876-77.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance of last year	31,48,274		
IMPERIAL.		IMPERIAL.	
Net revenue, as per statement No. I.	44,83,461	Expenditure as per Statement No. 2 ..	25,13,116
Less revenue charges against income, as per No. I.	26,723		
Repayments of miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	65,109	Miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	64,484
Deposits	5,95,006	Repayments of deposits	4,30,310
Suspense accounts	7,599	Suspense accounts	11,430
Bills drawn on other { Local	1,93,355	Bills discharged on { Local	1,76,954
treasuries. { Other Governments	9,87,104	other treasuries. { Other Govern-	64,20,468
Local cash remittances	21,34,871	Local cash remittances	21,35,417
Public Works Department	9,09,482	Public Works Department	9,31,669
Ditto Telegraph	28,765	Ditto Telegraph	75,760
Other Governments, { Money Orders	2,84,417	Other Governments, { Money Order ..	1,29,483
Civil. { Miscellaneous	48,78,056	Civil. { Miscellaneous ..	5,44,463
Military Department	1,65,923	Military Department	9,83,950
Total Imperial	1,41,16,365	Total Imperial	1,44,17,434
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.		PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.	
Receipts, as per Statement No. I.	21,14,026	Expenditure, as per Statement No. 2 ..	20,27,359
Advances recoverable	2,378	Advances recoverable	1,573
Suspense account	53,195	Suspense account	51,582
Permanent advances .....	.....	Permanent advances .....	.....
Cash recoveries	9,142	Cash recoveries	2,142
Total Provincial Services and Local Funds	21,71,741	Total Provincial Services and Local Funds	20,82,656
Municipalities, as per Statement No. 1 ..	90,126	Municipalities, as per Statement No. 2 ..	75,948
Grand Total	1,95,26,516	Grand Total	1,65,76,038
Deduct disbursements	1,65,76,038		
Cash balance at end of the year	29,50,478		

The year, it will be observed, opened with a cash balance of Rs. 31,48,274. It met an aggregate expenditure of Rs. 1,65,76,038, its total receipts from all sources were Rs. 1,95,26,346, and the closing cash balance was therefore Rs. 29,50,478. The peculiarities of the resource arrangements of Assam having been explained in the last Administration Report, it is not necessary to go over the same ground again. It is sufficient to say, in connection with this subject, that in 1876-77 the cash remittances in coin and notes to and from the Province were as follows:—

Received from Bengal ..	30,09,695
,, India	7,03,347
Total	37,13,042
Sent to India in large notes	2,89,000
Total	34,24,042

This shows a falling off from the previous year. The figures for the past three years are—

					Rs.
1874-75	...	...	...	...	32,37,000
1875-76	...	...	...	...	41,18,180
1876-77	...	...	...	...	34,24,042

The supply-bill transactions, however, show an increase, thus—

				Rs.
Paid	.....	.....	.....	63,19,113
Issued	.....	.....	.....	7,53,660
			Net	<u>55,65,453</u>

The last three years' figures are—

					Rs.
1874-75	...	...	...	...	46,32,000
1875-76	...	...	...	...	48,00,940
1876-77	...	...	...	...	55,65,453

The net sum supplied to the Military Department was rather less than in previous years. The figures for the three years are—

					Rs.
1874-75	...	...	...	...	10,52,030
1875-76	...	...	...	...	8,51,910
1876-77	...	...	...	...	8,18,027

The supplies to the Telegraph Department were, on the other hand, larger than usual, owing, probably, to the capital charges for extending the line towards Dibrugarh.

The following are the figures for the three years :—

					Rs.
1874-75	...	...	...	...	24,220
1875-76	...	...	...	...	21,140
1876-77	...	...	...	..	47,055

IMPERIAL CIVIL REVENUE.

251. In the foregoing paragraphs, the accounts of the Province have been dealt with as a whole. They will now be explained more in detail, following the arrangement in last year's report, under the separate heads of—

- (1.) Imperial Civil Revenue.
- (2.) Ditto Expenditure.
- (3.) Provincial Revenue.
- (4.) Local Funds.
- (5.) Municipal Revenue.

252. The following statement exhibits the Imperial civil revenue of 1876-77, as compared with that of 1875-76:—

Head of Revenue.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land revenue	33,73,576	32,89,311	.....	84,265
III. Forests	61,869	81,568	19,699	.....
IV. Excise on spirits and drugs.....	14,14,561	14,46,368	31,807	.....
IX. Stamps	5,15,716	4,96,821	.....	18,895
XI. Post-offices	1,09,610	1,17,530	7,920	.....
XIII. Law and justice	85,143	89,768	4,625	.....
XVII. Interest	12,616	7,186	.....	5,430
XVIII. Receipts in aid of superannuation, &c.	884	792	.....	92
XIX. Gain by exchange on transactions with London .....	.....	50	50	.....
XX. Miscellaneous	36,119	57,369	21,250	.....
Total	56,10,094	55,86,763	85,351	1,08,682
		Net decrease		23,331

Land Revenue.—This decrease has already been explained as being apparent only, being due to an omission to debit to this head in the preceding year's accounts a sum of Rs. 60,600, which should have been credited to Local Funds. This sum has accordingly been debited against the revenue of 1876-77. The real amount of land revenue in 1875-76 was therefore Rs. 33,12,976, and for 1876-77 Rs. 33,49,911, showing an actual increase of Rs. 36,935.

Forests.—Increase, Rs. 19,699, owing to increased revenue from timber removed from the forests by consumers. The Forest Department now charges all other public departments for all timber cut for them on Government land. Such charges were not made in previous years, hence the increase.

Excise.—Increase, Rs. 31,807. This increase is on account of "License and distillery fees and duties on sale of liquors and drugs." The sale of excise opium was about the same in both years.

Stamps.—This decrease has already been noticed.

Post-office.—Increase, Rs. 7,920, owing to improved revenue caused by extended operations. There was, however, a *per contra* increase in expenditure of Rs. 7,159.

Law and Justice.—Increase, Rs. 4,625. About Rs. 2,000 of this increase is on account of "Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property." The remainder is under "Magisterial fines."

Interest.—Decrease, Rs. 5,430. Receipts under this head vary greatly from year to year. Interest is received only on account of arrears of "Sale-proceeds of waste lands." As the balances are paid up, receipts under this head will decrease.

Miscellaneous.—Increase, Rs. 21,253, due to increased receipts on account of survey expenses in connection with waste land applications, and on account of exceptional recoveries of law charges in the district of Goálpára.

IMPERIAL CIVIL EXPENDITURE.

253. In the table below the Imperial Civil expenditure in 1876-77 is compared with the same expenditure in 1875-76 :—

Head of Charge.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Interests on savings banks and other accounts	2,660	3,186	526	....
Refunds and drawbacks	43,139	37,454	....	5,685
Land revenue	7,37,504	7,94,836	61,332	....
Forests	62,243	89,757	27,514	....
Excise	11,610	11,642	32	....
Stamps	9,080	9,462	382	....
Post-office	1,28,742	1,35,901	7,159	....
Administration	1,66,342	1,79,699	13,357	....
Minor departments	22,504	15,627	....	6,877
Law and justice	4,83,220	4,84,367	1,147	....
Ecclesiastical	12,129	17,006	4,877	....
Medical	57,413	65,069	7,656	....
Political Agencies	19,803	29,779	9,976	....
Allowances and assignments	57,496	46,973	....	10,523
Superannuations	33,173	37,890	4,717	....
Miscellaneous	13,142	10,705	....	2,437
Allotment for Provincial Services	17,69,763	16,69,788	....	99,975
Total.....	36,39,963	36,43,141	1,28,675	1,25,497
		Net increase	3,178	

Refunds and drawbacks.—Decrease, Rs. 5,685. In 1875-76 the refunds on account of land revenue were exceptionally large. This fact, and the ordinary fluctuations in this very uncertain item of charge, account for the decrease in 1876-77.

Land revenue.—The increase has already been explained.

Forests.—Increase, Rs. 27,514. Rs. 12,000 of this increase represent increased charges on account of “Conservancy and works.” The remainder (Rs. 16,000 in round numbers) represents increased establishment charges. It is due to extension of the operations of the Department.

Post-office.—Increase, Rs. 7,159, owing to extended operations.

The increased charges under “Administration,” “Ecclesiastical,” and “Medical,” and the decrease under “Minor Departments,” have already been explained in detail, and the trifling decrease under “Law and Justice” requires no explanation.

Political Agencies.—Increase, Rs. 9,976. The cost to the Province on account of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi was Rs. 11,800. The cost of the public rejoicings on the 1st January was Rs. 3,700. Total, Rs. 15,500. The difference between this amount and the increase shown in the accounts under the whole major head is caused by decreased “Miscellaneous political charges for diet of hill tribes, &c.”

Allowances and assignments.—Decrease, Rs. 10,523. A decrease of Rs. 6,000 is owing to Rajah Kandarpesvar Singh having drawn his

pension at Calcutta. The remainder of the decrease is, apparently, due to the fact that some arrears were paid in 1875-76. No such arrear payments having been made in 1876-77, there is a comparative decrease.

None of the other items call for remark here.

I.—LAND REVENUE.

254. The number of land revenue paying estates on the revenue-roll at the close of the year under report was 5,08,857, being an increase of 24,153 over the figures of the preceding year. The increase is principally due to extension of cultivation. Of the above-mentioned estates, 50,842 are permanently settled, all situated in Sylhet, except 17 in Goalpara and one in the Gáro Hills, and the rest are settled temporarily, mostly under the annual Assam settlements.

The total demand on account of land revenue for the year was Rs. 32,15,410, of which Rs. 30,30,994 represent the current demand and Rs. 1,84,416, the arrear demand on account of the previous year. The current demand, as compared with that of the previous year, shows an increase of Rs. 1,13,911, due to the extension of cultivation and to the re-settlement of estates at enhanced rentals. Out of the total demand, Rs. 30,52,750 were collected and Rs. 4,689 remitted, leaving at the close of the year a balance of Rs. 1,57,971, against a balance of Rs. 1,80,385 in the previous year.

Of the total balance, Rs. 1,04,420 in Sylhet were not recoverable by law within the year, Rs. 4,263 are irrecoverable, and the remainder (Rs. 49,288*) is in course of realization. A large portion of this sum has been realized since the close of the year. The districts of Kámrúp, Darrang,

Nowgong, and Sibságar, and the hill districts, show a clear balance-sheet.

255. The main sources from which miscellaneous land revenue is derived in this Province are (1) elephant mehals, (2) fisheries, (3) lime-quarries, (4) poll-tax, (5) house-tax, (6) fines on fiscal officers. In Assam Proper the current demand of the year under this head was Rs. 2,23,650, or Rs. 65,146 less than the amount payable in the previous year. The decrease is partly due to the fact of all the elephant mehals in Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar, and some of the mehals in Lakhimpur, having been allowed to rest during the year, and partly to the exclusion from the demand of 1876-77 of the sums which, though due on account of the year, were not legally recoverable before its close.

Of the total demand, inclusive of arrears, a sum of Rs. 2,46,234 was collected, and Rs. 964 were remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 37,272, distributed as follows:—

*Cachar	.....	5,290
Sylhet	.....	30,633
Goalpara	.....	9,627
Kámrúp	.....	1
Lakhimpur	.....	3,687
		<u>49,288</u>

	Rs.
(1.) Elephant mehals.....	2,800
(2.) Fishery ditto	16,192
(3.) Poll-tax	1,562
(4.) House-tax	1,504
(5.) Fines under Act XX. of 1848	15,214

The balances under the heads (2) and (5) were chiefly due from Sylhet, and could not be realized, owing to all the formalities in connection with the procedure under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1868 not having been completed within the year. The whole of this amount, as well as the amount under head "(1) Elephant mehals," is in course of realization. Of the amount under the head "(4) House-tax," Rs. 209 have been realized since the close of the year, Rs. 104 remitted, and Rs. 758 are in course of realization. The remainder of the balance, and the whole amount under head "(3) Poll-tax," is of doubtful recovery.

II.—SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

SECTION I.—OPIUM.

256. The revenue realized from opium in this Province consists of (1) the net price of opium supplied by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, for sale in this Province, and (2) of the fees levied on licenses for the retail vend of the drug, and of the preparations therefrom (madât and chandu).

During the year under review, the collections under these heads amounted to Rs. 12,33,300,* or nearly 86 per cent. of the total excise revenue of the Province. The amount realized in 1875-76 was Rs. 12,25,141.†

	Rs.
* Net price of opium ..	11,82,694
Licence-fees—	
Opium	† 45,546
Madât	2,624
Chandu	2,636
Total....	12,33,300

† Of this sum Rs. 12,712 were collected in advance for 1877-78.

‡ Inclusive of Rs. 2,046 arrear collections on account of past years, and Rs. 1,284 realized in advance for 1876-77.

figures are obtained:—

	Rs.
1875-76	12,23,510 (a)
1876-77	12,21,871 (b)

	Rs.
(a) 12,23,141 total collections.	
Deduct	2,046 arrear collections.
and	1,284 realized in advance for 1876-77.
	<u>12,21,811.</u>
Add	1,696 revenue of 1875-76 paid in advance in 1876-78
and	1 current balance unrealized.
Total..	12,23,510

	Rs.
	(b) 12,38,300 total collections.
Deduct	12,712 advance for 1877-78.
and	1 arrear collection.
	12,20,587
Add	1,284 revenue of 1876-77 realized in advance in 1876-76.
Total	12,21,871

Deducting from these amounts, again, the cost of conveying opium which was in 1875-76 Rs. 13,764, and in 1876-77 Rs. 12,319, the net revenue of the two years will be as follows:—

	Rs.
1875-76	12,09,746
1876-77	12,09,552
Decrease in 1876-77.....	194

Thus, on the whole, the net revenue has remained almost stationary. This result is satisfactory, in so far that, while the consumption has, as will be presently seen, been checked, the revenue has not diminished to any appreciable extent, and so, as regards opium, the object of the excise system, which is to raise as large an amount of revenue from intoxicating liquors and drugs as is compatible with the discouragement of their use, has been attained.

257. 1,689 maunds of opium were imported during the year under review; 909 maunds 24 seers remained in store at the close of the preceding year; the total quantity in store during the year was thus 2,598 maunds 24 seers; of this quantity, 1,793 maunds 38 seers were issued to retail vendors during the year, leaving at its close 804 maunds 26 seers in stock.

258. The following table shows the number of shops open, and the quantity of opium sold, in each district of the Province during the last two years:—

District.	Number of shops.		Quantity sold.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
			Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.
Cochar	74	54	50 27	43 17
Sylhet	119	97	57 1	49 1
Goalpara	178	141	74 16	63 26
Kamrup	563	504	277 25	252 8
Darrang	514	457	255 33	252 14
Nowgong	491	448	260 30	263 33
Sibsagar	750	709	436 26	478 33
Lakhimpur	422	376	394 4	366 25
Hill districts	48	47	5 36	8 19
Total	3,151	2,833	1,874 38	1,793 38

There was a general falling off, both in the number of shops and in the consumption of the drug. This was owing to the enhancement, during the year, of the selling price of opium from Rs. 23 to Rs. 24 in

the Assam Valley districts, in order to equalize the price throughout the Province, and to the raising of the rate of license-fee from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 per annum, with a view to reduce the number of shops for the sale of opium, which seemed excessively large, undue facility for obtaining the drug being thus afforded. These measures were adopted as a preliminary to the introduction, in the following year, as desired by the Government of India, of the system of sale by auction of the monopoly of the vend of opium.

Out of the 1,793 mds. 38 srs. of opium issued during the year, 483 mds. 33 srs., in the Assam Valley, were sold at Rs. 23 per seer, and 1,310 mds. 5 srs. were sold at Rs. 24, yielding a gross revenue of Rs. 17,02,839.

Deducting from this amount the prime cost (Rs. 5,20,245), at Rs. 7¼ per seer, the net sale-proceeds credited to the Province amounted, as shown in the following table, to Rs. 11,82,594, against Rs. 11,83,203 in 1875-76. Rs. 34,118 were due on account of the 2,833 licenses which were in force during the year, and a sum of Rs. 415 was outstanding in the district of Sibságar since 1874-75. Thus, the total amount of license-fees to be collected up to 31st March, 1877, was Rs. 34,533; of this amount, Rs. 1,284 had been paid in advance in 1875-76, and of the balance, Rs. 32,834, together with a sum of Rs. 12,712 on account of the year 1877-78, were realized in 1876-77. The sum of Rs. 415 referred to above as outstanding from 1874-75 proved irrecoverable, and has been remitted since the close of the year.

The collections for the past year, as contrasted with 1875-76, are shown below:—

District.	License-fees.		Net sale-proceeds.		Total.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	825	636	32,845	29,095	33,670	29,731
Sylhet	994	1,479	38,800	34,974	39,794	36,453
Goálpára	1,929	1,677	46,872	42,042	48,801	43,719
Kámrúp	6,575	5,862	1,74,905	1,66,481	1,81,480	1,72,343
Darrang	5,743	6,960*	1,61,170	1,66,452	1,66,913	1,73,412
Nowgong.....	5,316	5,306	1,66,178	1,73,899	1,71,494	1,79,205
Sibságar	10,247	18,272†	3,14,150	3,15,426	3,24,397	3,33,698
Lakhimpur	4,364	4,761	2,48,283	2,54,225	2,52,647	2,58,986
Hill districts	435	593	.....	.....	435	593
Total	36,428	45,546	11,83,203	11,82,594	12,19,631	12,28,140

* Inclusive of Rs. 1,607 } paid in advance on account of 1877-78.
 † " " 11,105 }

259. *Madat and Chandu.*—The number of licenses for the sale of these articles, and the revenue realized as license-fees, for the past year were as follows:—

	Number of licenses.	Amount of License-fees. Rs.
Madat	29	2,624
Chandu	26	2,536
Total	55	5,160

The number of licenses for the sale of madat has decreased by five, as compared with the previous year, with a corresponding decrease in revenue of Rs. 330. In Cachar, while the number of licenses issued decreased by one, the revenue increased by Rs. 138. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes this satisfactory result to a brisk competition among the auction purchasers. The licenses for the sale of chandu, and the revenue therefrom, remained almost stationary during the past two years.

260. This report being the last on the system of the sale of licenses for the retail vend of opium at a fixed price, Colonel Keatinge thinks it desirable that the opium sales of each district of the Province for the past five years should be put on record, in order that there may be sufficient data at hand for comparing the results of the new system of selling licenses by auction with those of the old system. The following tables [(a) and (b)], showing respectively the quantity of opium sold and the total revenue derived from opium and its preparations for each district of the Province during the past five years, viz., 1872-73 to 1876-77, are therefore appended:—

Statement (a) showing the total sales of opium in each district for five years, viz., 1872-73 to 1876-77.

District.	Quantity of opium sold in				
	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.
Cachar	48 21	49 10	51 23	50 27	43 17
Sylhet	46 5	47 15	52 36	57 1	49 1
Goálpára	91 32	83 26	76 11	74 16	63 35
Kámrúp	289 21	290 13	274 38	277 25	252 8
Darrang	224 4	236 30	239 12	255 33	252 16
Nowgong	286 35	283 35	258 39	260 30	263 38
Sibságar	488 0	481 27	489 17	498 26	478 39
Lakhimpur	357 8	382 27	390 37	394 4	386 25
Khási Hills	0 36	1 9	2 1	2 35	3 19
Gáro „ .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nága „ .....	.....	.....	0 37	3 1	.....
Total	1,833 2	1,856 32	1,837 11	1,874 38	1,793 38

* Information not available.

Statement (b) showing the total income from opium and its preparations in each district of the Province for the five years, viz., from 1872-73 to 1876-77.

District.	1872-73.			1873-74.			1874-75.			1875-76.			1876-77.		
	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.	License-fees.	Net sale-proceeds of opium.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cocher.....	420	29,077	29,497	492	31,097	31,519	1,990	32,493	34,473	1,327	32,845	34,172	1,228	29,096	30,323
Spilhet.....	1,542	28,119	29,661	1,759	30,618	32,347	2,103	34,635	36,733	2,836	38,800	41,636	3,408	34,974	38,380
Grampars.....	384	64,162	64,546	511	49,354	49,865	2,641	46,901	49,542	2,338	46,872	49,310	2,085	43,043	44,097
Kamrup.....	656	173,121	173,787	667	182,905	183,587	6,242	173,219	181,561	7,483	1,74,905	1,82,588	6,446	1,66,483	1,72,927
Darrang.....	108	133,784	133,892	144	146,152	149,296	6,293	150,759	157,052	5,899	1,61,170	1,67,069	7,047	1,66,468	1,73,499
Nowrang.....	300	170,192	170,492	298	178,842	179,140	6,276	1,63,164	1,69,370	5,388	1,66,178	1,71,766	6,578	1,73,598	1,79,477
Shibgar.....	527	292,318	292,845	665	308,455	304,120	10,197	308,920	319,117	10,289	314,150	325,139	19,003	315,628	334,429
Lakhimpur.....	469	212,367	213,468	563	241,086	241,619	3,990	246,282	250,272	4,200	248,283	253,183	5,239	254,226	269,464
Chhet Hillis.....	48	.....	48	242	.....	242	222	.....	222	239	.....	239	111	.....	111
Garo ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naga ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	4,474*	10,93,680	10,98,154	5,377*	11,66,459	11,71,816	42,321	11,56,362	11,96,683	41,938	11,83,203	12,25,141	60,706	11,82,694	12,33,900

* In these years opium licenses were granted free of charge, the figures represent only license-fees for the retail vend of masat and chandi (preparations of opium).

Previous to the year 1874-75 licenses for the retail vend of opium were granted free of charge. In 1874-75, the system of levying fees on licenses for the sale of opium was for the first time introduced into the Province. The rates of fees in all districts except Sylhet were fixed at—

Rs. 4 for three months.
 „ 7 „ six „
 „ 10 „ nine „
 „ 12 „ one year.

In Sylhet, the rate was fixed at Rs. 3 for a half year. In 1875-76 the rate of license-fees in Sylhet was raised to the rate then prevailing in the other districts in the Province. From the month of June, 1876, the license-fee for the retail vend of opium was raised throughout the Province from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 a year, and for the remainder of that year, licenses for shorter periods were issued on the following scale, viz:—

Rs. 6 for three months.
 „ 11 „ six „

SECTION 2.—SALT.

261. As in 1875-76, so in the year under report, the revenue under this head was derived entirely from the salt-wells in Cachar. The receipts amounted to Rs. 55, against Rs. 37 in the previous year.

SECTION 3.—EXCISE.

262. The following changes in the system under which the excise branch of revenue is administered in the Province of Assam were introduced during the year 1876-77 :—

Changes in the system.

- (1). The extension of a modified system of farming the revenue derived from country spirits to the district of Goálpára and to a portion of the district of Lakhimpur.
- (2). The abolition of the sudder distillery system in Sylhet, and the extension in lieu of it of the out-still system to the entire district.
- (3). The introduction into Sylhet of the system of farming the revenue derived from country rum and imported spirits, under the Bengal rules for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system.
- (4). The extension of a modified system of farming the revenue derived from ganja to the districts of Cachar, Goálpára, and Kámrup.

263. The excise revenue of this Province shows a steady and progressive increase. The figures given below show, for the year 1875-76, in the gross revenue from all sources, except opium and its preparations, which are treated in a separate section, an increase of Rs. 9,309 (a) as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of Rs. 15,952 (b) over the receipts of 1873-74, the year in which the Chief Commissionership was formed. This increase is attributable to a considerable improvement under the heads of “country spirits” and

“ganja,” and the Chief Commissioner anticipated a still further increase during the year under review, owing to the changes in the system above enumerated:—

1875-76.		
	Rs. 14,14,421	total excise revenue.
Deduct	" 12,25,141	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>1,89,280</u>	

1874-75.		
	Rs. 13,78,654	total collections.
Deduct	" 11,98,683	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>1,79,971</u>	
Rs.	1,89,280—1,79,971=9,309 (a)	

1873-74.		
	Rs. 13,45,144	total collections.
Deduct	" 11,71,816	receipts from opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>1,73,328</u>	
Rs.	1,89,280—1,73,328=15,952 (b).	

The following figures prove that Colonel Keatinge was correct in his estimate:—

1874-75.		
	Rs. 13,80,613	total current demand on all exciseable articles (as per column 3, table II.)
Deduct	" 11,99,446	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>1,81,167 (a)</u>	

1875-76.		
	Rs. 14,12,216	total current demand on all exciseable articles (as per table II. column 3).
Deduct	" 12,23,510	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>1,88,706 (b)</u>	

1876-77.		
	Rs. 14,23,603	total demand (as per column 3, table II.)
Deduct	" 12,21,871	demand on account of opium, madat, and chandu.
	" <u>2,01,732 (c)</u>	

The total demand in 1874-75 was Rs. 1,81,167 (a); in 1875-76 it rose to Rs. 1,88,706 (b); while in 1876-77 it reached Rs. 2,01,732 (c), showing an increase, compared with 1875-76 of Rs. 13,026, and a revenue largely exceeding the average receipts of previous years.

The increase was mainly under the heads of "country spirits," "imported wines," and "ganja," the three articles with respect to which the farming system was partially introduced into this Province during the year under report.

The Chief Commissioner observes with much satisfaction that these successful financial results have been achieved without any infraction of the principles which the Government of India desires to be maintained in the administration of this branch of the Imperial revenues. This increase of revenue has not been obtained by any extension of the facilities for obtaining liquor and drugs, but is mainly due to the imposition of higher rates of license-fees.

264. Of the demand of the year, Rs. 2,00,657 were collected during the year, leaving at its close a balance of Rs. 1,075* unrealized. Of this sum, Rs. 309 (Rs. 243 in Sibságar and Rs. 66 in Gáro Hills) have since been remitted as irrecoverable. Of the remainder, Rs. 152 have been realized since the close of the year, and the balance is in process of recovery. There was an arrear demand of Rs. 38 for 1875-76, which was collected in full during the year under notice; Rs. 421 were realized in advance, in the district of Sibságar, on account of licenses issued for the sale of country spirits and imported wines for the year 1877-78. Thus, the total amount of collections during the year was Rs. 2,01,176.

265. The charges of the department (exclusive of the cost of conveying opium) amounted to Rs. 12,405 in 1876-77, against Rs. 10,249 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,156. This increase occurred mainly in the district of Sylhet, where the figures under the head of "contingent charges" rose from Rs. 895 in 1875-76 to Rs. 3,064 in 1876-77, owing to the necessity for repairing the Párukú divisional buildings and to the purchase of certain new furniture during the year.

Deducting the above charges from the total collections for the year, we get the following net result :—

				Rs.
Collections	...	...	...	2,01,176
Charges	...	...	...	12,405
Net revenue	...	...	...	1,88,771

The net revenue of 1875-76 was Rs. 1,79,031, as shown in the margin. Thus, in spite of a considerable increase in the charges incurred during the past year, the net revenue shows an improvement by Rs. 9,740.

	Rs.
Collections	1,89,380
Charges	10,249
Net revenue	1,79,031

266. The following is an analysis of the gross revenue of the year, as compared with 1875-76:—

Heads of Revenue.		1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Fixed duty on	{ Country spirits	27,479	20,962	} 1,08,854	85,203
	{ Ganja	81,375	64,241		
	{ Country spirits	43,963	51,665		
	{ Rum	1,703	1,475		
II.—License-fees	{ Imported wines	2,876	3,195	} 77,214	1,13,211
	{ Tari	34	13		
	{ Pachwai	756	1,362		
	{ Ganja	27,882	55,501		
III.—Distillery-fees on country spirits .....	.....	.....	.....	3,202	2,758
IV.—Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....	.....	10	4
Total ..		.....	.....	1,89,280	2,01,176

Of the total revenue of the year, ganja contributed Rs. 1,19,742, or nearly 60 per cent.; country spirits contributed Rs. 75,385, or 37 per cent.; and the other spirituous liquors Rs. 6,045, or 3 per cent.

267. *Country Spirits.*—The manufacture and sale of country spirits in this Province during the year under review, were carried on partly under the fixed duty system, partly under the out-still or monthly tax system, and partly under a modified farming system.

268. The fixed duty system was in force in Cachar throughout the year, and in a portion of Sylhet for the first six months of the year. From the 1st of October, 1876, however, this system was abolished in Sylhet, and the out-still or monthly tax system, which had already been introduced in previous years into the Jaintia and Sunamganj divisions, was extended to the remaining portion of the district.

The subjoined table exhibits the quantity of country spirits consumed, and the revenue derived therefrom, under the fixed duty system during the year, as compared with the previous year:—

District.	Number of licenses.		Consumption.		Revenue.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
			Gallons.	Gallons.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	159	108	22,173	20,126	37,553	32,315
Sylhet	43	38	4,655	1,408	8,321	4,041
Total ..	202	141	26,828	21,534	45,874	36,356

In Cachar, the number of shops decreased by 56. It is satisfactory to observe that 46 out of the 103 licenses issued during the year were taken out for tea-gardens, particularly, as it is believed that the planters use all the means in their power to check the excessive

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consumption of spirits among their coolies. This fact, combined with the fact that the distillers raised the price of spirits, caused a considerable diminution in the consumption of this article. This decreased consumption was attended with a corresponding falling off of Rs. 3,181 in the revenue under the head "still-head duty," while the revenue from "license-fees" fell from Rs. 12,345 in 1875-76 to Rs. 10,475 in 1876-77, or a decrease of Rs. 1,870, owing to a strong combination among the distillers to keep down the prices at the sale of licenses by auction.

In Sylhet, the figures given in the preceding table are for the first half of the year only, the sudder distillery system having been abolished, as noted above, from 1st October, 1876. It, however, appears that the consumption during six months of the past year did not amount to one-third of the consumption during 1875-76. A similar decrease in 1875-76, as compared with 1874-75, was noticed in the last General Administration Report. This steady falling off is, the Deputy-Commissioner apprehends, owing to the carrying on of illicit manufacture of country spirits in the outlying parts of the district. It is hoped that the new system will act as a check on such manufacture, and that it may eventually lead to a considerable increase in the excise revenue.

269. The monthly tax or out-still system was in force throughout the year in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, Nága Hills, Gáro Hills, in South Kámrup, and in the Sunámganj and Jaintiá divisions in the district of Sylhet, and, for the latter half of the year, in the entire district of Sylhet.

The number of shops and the revenue from license-fees for the past two years are exhibited in the following table:—

District.	Number of shops in—		Revenue in—	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
			Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet	18	32	1,486	4,887
Kámrúp	13	20	4,776	4,425
Darrang	14	13	3,778	3,874
Nowgong	10	8	3,084	2,452
Sibságar	9	11	12,508	14,877
Nága Hills	2	2	204	756
Gáro "	1	3	1,200	1,765
Total ..	67	89	26,986	32,986

The out-still or monthly tax system introduced into Sylhet has been modified in one particular,—to the lessee of each out-still has been given the monopoly of the supply of a certain definite area. Special care was taken to prevent these areas becoming either too large, lest the monopoly might become oppressive, or too small, lest the price of spirits should be kept too low. 32 licenses, producing a revenue of Rs. 4,487, were sold under this system during the past year. Although the figures under this head, as given in the foregoing table, show a considerable improvement in the revenue, as compared with the preceding year,

vet, on a comparison of the figures for the past two years under both the fixed duty and the monthly tax systems, there appears a small falling off of Rs. 829 in the total receipts from country spirits during the year under review. This decrease may fairly be attributed to the fact of the new system having been only recently introduced.

In Sibságár, the number of licenses increased from 9 to 11, and there was a corresponding increase of Rs. 2,369 in the revenue from this source. It is believed that the revenue under this head is still capable of large expansion in this district. The spirit-drinking population, who are chiefly imported labourers, are said to be in the habit of manufacturing their own liquor, and, until shops are multiplied, they will, it is feared, continue to do so, and the public revenue will consequently suffer. The Deputy-Commissioner has been requested to state the number of shops that, in this view of the case, might, in his opinion, be opened in his district.

The falling off in Nowgong of Rs. 632 in the revenue derived from country spirits is attributed to less competition for licenses at auction. Probably, the free importation of rum by the tea-planters for issue to their garden coolies may have caused this diminution, inasmuch as the garden coolies are the principal consumers of spirits.

The increase of Rs. 552, observable in the Nága Hills district, was owing to the licenses having been sold in the past year at a higher rate than in the previous year.

In the Gáro Hills, the increase of Rs. 565 was owing to more licenses having been sold last year than in the preceding year. The system of taxing the consumption of country spirits was introduced for the first time into this district in 1875-76. It is hoped that, as the system is further developed, the revenue will expand commensurately.

270. The system of selling by auction the right of manufacture and sale of country spirits within certain defined areas was in force throughout the year in the entire district of Goálpára, and in the portion of the district of Kám-rúp lying on the north bank of the Brahmaputra.

Farming system.

In Goálpára, 10 mehals were sold during the year, with results highly satisfactory. The number of shops decreased from 29 to 16, while the revenue increased from Rs. 1,764 in 1875-76 to Rs. 4,518 in 1876-77.

In Kám-rúp, 8 farms were sold during the year, against 4 in 1875-76, with an increase of Rs. 274 in the revenue realized therefrom, as shown in the margin. But this increase of Rs. 274 was more than counterbalanced by a falling off of Rs. 351 under the monthly tax system. Thus, the total receipts in Kám-rúp from country spirits, under both the systems taken together, decreased by Rs. 77. Improved results are, however, expected for the current year, in consequence of the extension of the farming system to the entire district from the 1st April, 1877.

1875-76.....	Rs. 20
1876-77.....	" 294

The system of taxing country spirits was for the first time extended, during the past year, to the district of Lakhimpur. The system introduced was a modification of the farming system. The station of Dibrugarh was constituted a farm, which was sold to the highest bidder at public auction. Generally, the conditions under which licenses under the monthly tax-system are granted were made applicable to this case. Five shops were opened during the year, which brought in a revenue of Rs. 1,231 for the year 1876-77.

The total revenue derived during the year in the Province under the farming system was Rs. 6,043.

271. The total demand of the year under the head "country spirits" was Rs. 75,839, or Rs. 1,807* in excess of 1875-76. This increase was mainly due to

* Rs. 74,984 collected.

the extension of the farming system to the districts of Goalpara and Lakhimpur, as already stated. There is still ample room for improvement under this head of the excise revenue. In some districts, the consumption of country spirits has but of late been brought under control. The further development of the system will, it is hoped, be attended with more gratifying results from a financial point of view.

272. During the past year, some cases were brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner in which country spirit shops had to be closed and removed on the complaint of the owners of neighbouring tea-gardens, who objected to the establishment of these shops in the vicinity of their estates. The attention of the District Officers concerned has since been drawn to the course which should be pursued in dealing with complaints of this nature, having full regard to the convenience and interests of the planters, as well as to the revenues of the State.

273. *Rum.*—Rum consumed in this Province is, as stated in the previous years' reports, obtained from Calcutta, where the duty is realized, and credited to the Bengal Government. 31 Licenses (7 wholesale and 24 retail) to sell rum were issued during the year, against 55 (8 wholesale and 47 retail) issued during the preceding year. The revenue from fees on these licenses amounted to Rs. 1,475, against Rs. 1,703 in the preceding year, or a decrease of Rs. 228. The decrease is mainly owing to there having been no revenue derived from this source during the past year in Sibsagar, where during the preceding year a revenue of Rs. 255 was obtained. The cause of this was the withdrawal by the Chief Commissioner of the restriction formerly imposed on planters (who are the only dealers in this article in Sibsagar) by which they were compelled to take out licenses for the purpose of distributing rum to their coolies.

The question of the liability of planters to pay license-fees for the issue of rum to the coolies on their gardens was specially referred by the Chief Commissioner for the orders of the Government of India, and it was ruled that such a transaction being of the nature of a barter, no license-fees could be demanded.

In Sylhet, the rules issued by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system, were applied in the case of licenses for the retail vend of country rum. The effect of this measure has been a satisfactory increase of Rs. 221 in the receipts from this article. This is the more satisfactory, as the return shows a decrease in consumption. The extension of the same measure to the district of Cachar is under contemplation, and, as a step towards effecting this, the monthly license-fee for the sale of rum has been raised to Rs. 10 for shops within a radius of two miles from the cutcherry at Silchar, and to Rs. 5 for mofussil shops. The results of this change have been, however, anything but satisfactory, there being a decrease in revenue and an increase in consumption under this head, in consequence of managers of tea-gardens distributing rum to their coolies, and not being required to take out licenses for doing so.

274. *Imported Spirits.*—The Bengal rules for the settlement of excise shops under the auction system were applied in the case of licenses for the sale of imported spirits in the district of Sylhet.

The total number of licenses granted during the year, both for wholesale and retail vend of imported spirits, was 77, against 66 during the preceding year. This increase in the number of licenses was attended with a corresponding increase of Rs. 319 in the revenue realized from this source, *viz.*, from Rs. 2,876 in 1875-76 to Rs. 3,195 in 1876-77.

On the recommendation of the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang, it has been ordered that the rate of fees chargeable on licenses for the general retail vend of these spirits be raised to Rs. 100 per annum from the commencement of the incoming financial year. The rate, *viz.*, Rs. 48 per year, which at present obtains, is deemed inadequate, considering the profits derived by the shopkeepers.

275. *Tari and Pachwai.*—The consumption of tari during the year was restricted to the district of Kámrúp. Revenue was derived from pachwai in the two districts of the Surmá Valley only. The returns show an increase of Rs. 585 in the revenue derived from tari and pachwai, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year.

276. *Ganja.*—Except in Sylhet, where the system of selling them to the highest bidders at auction has been in force since 1st October, 1875, licenses for the retail vend of ganja in this Province used to be issued at a uniform monthly tax of Rs. 4, in accordance with the Board's Rules, Section XVII., Chapter V. It, however, came to the notice of the Chief Commissioner that the tax thus levied on account of shops was very incommensurate with the amount of the drug consumed, or with the profits derived by the licensee. As a prompt remedy for this needless loss of revenue, Colonel Keatinge directed the institution of the system of putting up to auction the monopoly of the vend of ganja within certain specified boundaries, on conditions almost identical with those of the licenses heretofore issued. This system was introduced during the past

year into the three districts of Goalpára, Cachar, and Kámrup, with results eminently favourable from a financial point of view.

Since the close of the year, the system of farming the revenue from ganja has been introduced into the other districts of the Province, Sibságar excepted. The result of this measure, as regards the whole Province, has been, as already reported to the Government of India in letter No. 2,053, dated 3rd July, 1877, an increase of Rs. 20,494, or 37 per cent. over the revenue of the past year, while the number of shops has been reduced from 273 to 247.

277. The following table exhibits the consumption of, and revenue derived from, ganja in the several districts of this Province for the past year, as compared with 1875-76:—

District.	Consumption.		Revenue.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Mds. Sr. C.	Mds. Sr. C.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	197 7 15	175 10 7	23,256	30,577
Sylhet	419 13 7	308 22 13	61,488	61,465
Goalpára	91 18 8	55 35 0	11,529	12,548
Kámrup	60 16 0	46 7 0	7,479	9,289
Darrang	16 29 12	19 6 0	2,154	2,445
Nowgong	3 0 0	2 38 0	96	96
Sibságar .....	.....	1 38 0	.....	308
Lákshimpur	20 36 9	16 19 6	2,553	2,308
Khási Hills	5 20 0	7 10 0	702	851
Total.....	814 22 3	633 36 10	1,09,257(a)	1,19,742(b)

(a) Includes an arrear collection of Rs. 36.

(b) Ditto ditto ditto " 94.

In Cachar, the revenue from license-fees for 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 3,536. On the sale of the monopoly of the vend of ganja in the whole district for 1876-77 the price realized was Rs. 12,600. The farming of the entire district as one mehal has resulted in the checking of the consumption of the drug, and in the increase of the revenue derived from it.

In Sylhet, the consumption decreased by about one-fourth, owing to the enhancement of the price of the drug by the retail vendors. If the enhanced price of this drug does not foster illicit cultivation, and the consumption is permanently checked, desirable results will have been obtained.

In Goalpára, the number of licenses fell from 67 in 1875-76 to 21 in 1876-77, and the consumption decreased from 91 maunds to 55 maunds; while, on the other hand, the license-fees actually collected rose from Rs. 2,382 in 1875-76 to Rs. 6,930 in 1876-77; that is to say, the revenue was nearly trebled, while the consumption decreased by nearly one-half. These highly satisfactory results are entirely attributable to the new system, and to the active competition for the licenses at auction.

The increase of Rs. 1,810 in the revenue under this head in Kámrúp is satisfactory, as the number of licenses and the consumption have been reduced. The fees on licenses rose from Rs. 1,164 in 1875-76 to Rs. 4,377 in the past year; while the consumption was reduced by 25 per cent. The consequent falling off in the receipts on account of duty was more than made up by the large increase in the receipts from license-fees, due to the new system of farming the revenue.

The increase of Rs. 291 in Darrang calls for no special remarks.

In Nowgong, the consumption of ganja is very trifling, being 3 maunds in 1876-77, against 2 maunds 38 seers in 1875-76.

Hitherto, there were no shops for the sale of ganja in Sib-ságar. This, considering the very large number of foreigners in the district, appeared to the Chief Commissioner unnatural, and led him to think that the drug was sold surreptitiously, to the detriment of the Government revenue. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner was drawn to the matter. Three shops were accordingly sold last year, and realized Rs. 113. 1 maund 38 seers of ganja were imported, upon which duty, amounting to Rs. 195, was realized. There can now be no doubt but that the use of ganja is prevalent in Sib-ságar, and that in time a considerable revenue may be expected in that district from this drug.

In Lakhimpur, there was a falling off both in the revenue derived from, and in the consumption of, the drug. From this, it would appear that the people of this district are giving up the use of ganja. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner was drawn to the matter, and he was requested to ascertain and report if there was any reason to suspect that wild ganja was consumed in place of the taxed drug. From the Deputy-Commissioner's report, since received, it appears that wild ganja is sometimes used in the district for medicinal purposes, and especially in the treatment of horses, but that the Government ganja is preferred, when it can be procured.

The increase both in the revenue derived from, and in the consumption of, ganja in the Khási Hills district is attributable to the increased foreign population of Shillong.

278. *Prosecutions under the excise laws.*—There were during the year prosecutions under the excise laws in each of the plains districts of the Province (except Goálpára), but there was no case of any great importance. Two cases of illicit cultivation of the poppy were discovered in Darrang, where certain persons were found in possession of small patches of land with poppy plants growing thereon. Considering the nature of the offence, the punishment inflicted, *viz.*, a fine of Rs. 30 in each case, was, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, quite inadequate. Colonel Keatinge apprehends that these small patches are probably seed-beds for raising seed for illicit cultivation of the poppy beyond our boundary, or in some inaccessible spot. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been drawn to the matter.

In all, 124 persons were arrested, 93 by the police and 31 by excise officers, of whom 120, or 97 per cent., were convicted. The fines

imposed amounted to Rs. 2,493, of which Rs. 2,109, or nearly 80 per cent., were realized; and, out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,535 was distributed by way of reward to informers and apprehenders, in addition to an amount of Rs. 32, sanctioned as special rewards. The results of these prosecutions may be considered satisfactory, and point to commendable vigilance on the part of the excise and police officers.

279. The following statement shows the total excise revenue of the Province during the last three years, together with the total charges incurred in connection with that revenue. This statement shows clearly that the excise revenue of the Province is increasing, even if the proceeds from the sale of opium be excluded.

The fluctuations under the different heads have been fully explained in the foregoing paragraphs.

Head of Revenue.	Revenue in		
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Rs-	Rs-	Rs-
Country spirits	70,178	74,644	75,385
Rum	1,846	1,708	1,475
Imported wines	2,512	2,876	3,195
Tari	84	34	13
Pachwai	33	756	1,362
Ganja	1,04,581	1,09,257	1,19,742
Licenses to retail opium or its preparations	42,321	41,938	60,706
Miscellaneous	87	10	4
Total	2,22,292	2,31,218	2,51,882
Deduct charges			
{ Conveyance of opium	7,792	13,764	12,319
{ Establishment and contingent charges	11,531	10,249	12,405
Total	19,323	24,013	24,724
Net revenue	2,02,969	2,07,205	2,27,158
Add sale of opium	11,56,362	11,83,203	11,82,594
Total net revenue	13,59,331	13,90,408	14,09,752

SECTION 4.—STAMPS.

280. The gross receipts during the year under the General and Court-fee Stamp Acts amounted to Rs. 4,87,332, against Rs. 5,06,115 during the preceding year and Rs. 4,74,622 during 1874-75; the result being a decrease of Rs. 18,783, as compared with 1875-76, and an increase of Rs. 12,710 over the receipts for 1874-75.

The causes of this decrease, as compared with 1875-76, briefly stated, were as follows:—

- (1) Decrease in litigation.
- (2) Decrease in the value of suits, especially in Sylhet.
- (3) Decrease in the number of deeds of sale executed.
- (4) Greater circulation of currency notes and the introduction of supply bills.
- (5) Decrease in monetary transactions, caused by the temporary collapse of the timber trade in Cachar.

Of the total gross income of the year, Cachar and Sylhet, the two districts of the Surmá Valley, yielded Rs. 2,91,593, or a little less than 60 per cent. Of the remainder, a sum of Rs. 1,92,447, or about 39 per cent., was contributed by the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, and the balance of Rs. 3,292 was realized in the Khási and Jaintiá Hills and Nága Hills districts. The stamp laws are not in force in the Gáro Hills district.

281. The incidence of stamp taxation per head of the population was 2 annas 5 pie in the Surmá Valley, 1 anna 7 pie, in the Brahmaputra Valley, and 3 pie in the two hill districts. Of the gross stamp revenue of the year, Rs. 1,38,299, or 28·4 per cent., were derived from general stamps, and Rs. 3,49,033 or 71·6 per cent. from court-fee stamps.

282. *General Stamps.*—The receipts under the General Stamp Act were distributed as follows:—

Denomination of stamps.	Revenue in—		Increase.	Decrease.
	1876-76.	1876-77.		
	Rs-	Rs-	Rs-	Rs-
Non-judicial or document stamps	1,86,799	1,29,462	.....	7,337
Adhesive receipt or revenue stamps ..	3,951	4,390	489	.....
Receipts or bills of exchange	1,467	1,296	.....	171
<i>Miscellaneous receipts.</i>				
(a) Duty realized under Section 20 of Act XVIII. of 1869.	140	122	.....	18
(b) Duty realized under Section 24 of Act XVIII. of 1869.	2,593	3,029	486	.....
Total	1,44,960	1,28,299	.....	6,651

Non-judicial or document stamps.—The sale-proceeds of non-judicial stamps amounted during the year to Rs. 1,29,462, against Rs. 1,36,799 during the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,337, or 5·4 per cent.

The returns from all the Assam Valley districts (except Kámrúp) and from the Nága Hills district show an improvement under this head of stamp revenue. But this increase, viz., Rs. 2,358, was

more than counterbalanced by the total falling off of Rs. 9,695 in the remaining districts of the Province. Nearly three-fourths of the total falling off occurred in Sylhet, owing to a decrease in the number of the deeds of sale executed during the past year. In Cachar, there was a falling off of Rs. 1,744, owing to a decline in monetary transactions caused by a temporary collapse of the timber trade, consequent on the first operations for conserving the Government forests which had hitherto been worked without restraint, and on some enhancement of the rates of toll charged on timber.

The decrease in the Khási Hills is attributed to the fact that stamps over Rs. 30, to the value of Rs. 844-8, were issued in 1875-76, against a value of Rs. 182-8 in 1876-77. The stamps were taken by certain tea-planters, and by parties executing bonds for building advances granted by Government.

The decrease in Kámrúp was small, and calls for no remark.

Adhesive receipt and revenue stamps.—The sale-proceeds of adhesive receipt and revenue stamps amounted during the year to Rs. 4,390, against Rs. 3,951 during the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 439, of which Rs. 321 were contributed by the district of Sylhet. In no one of the remaining districts did the fluctuation amount to Rs. 100. In Sibságar, there was a slight increase of Rs. 33. The Deputy-Commissioner is of opinion that there is still room for improvement. He apprehends that the stamp law in regard to this class of stamps is evaded. During the year under review measures were taken to enforce the provisions of the law. The attention of all District Officers was drawn to a circular issued in May, 1876, by the High Court at Calcutta regarding evasions of the stamp law by native money lenders in certain classes of loan transactions. In October, 1876, the practice which was then said to exist of using "blank transfer deeds" in order to evade payment of the stamp duties chargeable on "share-transfer deeds" was brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, and certain instructions were thereupon issued for the guidance of the revenue officers concerned, with a view to prevent the recurrence of the practice in question.

Hoondée or bill of exchange stamps.—The sale of hoondée stamps brought in a revenue of Rs. 1,296, showing a falling off of Rs. 171, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. The decrease was mainly in the Sylhet district, where the revenue under this head fell from Rs. 536 in 1875-76 to Rs. 245 in 1876-77. The causes assigned by the Deputy-Commissioner are the free circulation of currency notes, and the introduction of supply-bills.

Miscellaneous receipts.—The revenue under the head of "Miscellaneous receipts" shows an increase of Rs. 418 over the revenue under the same head for 1875-76. Of the total amount (Rs. 3,151) realized during the year under review, a sum of Rs. 3,029 was levied by the revenue courts, under Section 24, Act XVIII. of 1869, as duty on unstamped or insufficiently-stamped instruments produced before them, and the remainder (Rs. 122) represents the duty levied by civil courts under Section 20 of the said Act under similar circumstances. The

bulk of the revenue was contributed by the Sibságar district, where the revenue under this head amounted to Rs. 1,116, showing an increase of Rs. 648, as compared with the preceding year. The increase is attributable to the fact of more title-deeds for waste lands having been stamped during the year than in 1875-76. In Lakhimpur, there was an increase of Rs. 544, attributable to the same cause. On the other hand, there was a decrease of Rs. 736 in the district of Darrang, owing to the fact of fewer deeds of waste lands having been impressed during the year than in the preceding year.

In Cachar, there was a decrease of Rs. 210, owing to a falling off in the number of fee-simple title-deeds and to the greater care taken by the people to have their documents properly stamped. The fluctuations in the other districts are unimportant.

283. *Court-fee stamps.*—The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 3,49,033, against Rs. 3,61,165 in the previous year. The above figures show a decrease of Rs. 12,132, or 3·4 per cent. The decrease was distributed over all the districts, except Cachar, Goálpára, and Sibságar, which together show an increase of Rs. 13,780. The decrease which occurred in Sylhet is specially remarkable. In this district, the revenue fell from Rs. 1,81,487 in 1875-76 to Rs. 1,63,840 in the past year, or to the extent of Rs. 17,647. The Deputy-Commissioner observes as follows :—“ Last year an increase in these (judicial) stamps was shown, but this was really delusive. There was then, and is still, a steady decrease in the number of civil suits; but there was in 1876 a single heavy suit, valued at Rs. 1,30,000, which raised the figures. There has been a great falling off in the number of cases from Jaintiá, where the settlement operations are in progress, many disputes being set at rest under the settlement laws by the executive officers, and people having less time than usual to litigate, being busy in pointing out their boundaries.” The figures for Kámrup, Darrang, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur show a total falling off of Rs. 7,987, caused by a decrease both in the number and value of civil suits. On the other hand, Cachar, Goálpára, and Sibságar show improved results, caused mainly by an increase in the number and value of civil suits instituted during the year. In Goálpára, an increase of Rs. 3,778 was owing to the institution of three heavy civil suits against Government by the Bijni Rajah and the zemindars of Gauripur and Mechpara, respectively.

In some of the districts, the improved results were in some degree owing to the strict enforcement of the rule that all process-fees should be realized in stamps. In May, 1876, the Chief Commissioner issued a circular desiring all Deputy-Commissioners of the plains districts to take measures to ensure that in future the rule in question be strictly acted upon. The practice of realizing fees for revenue processes in cash, which had previously obtained in some districts, as an exception to the above rule, has been put a stop to.

284. *Charges.*—In the year under report the charges amounted to Rs. 10,319, against Rs. 9,979 during the preceding year, as shown overleaf:—

	1875-76.	1876-77
	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Refunds	1,204	1,399
II.—Discount.....	8,620	8,846
III.—Miscellaneous	255	74
Increase .....	...	340

The above increase is mainly attributable to the progressive rise in the amount of discount allowed on the sale of judicial stamps during the last two years. In July, 1875, the old system of selling court-fee stamps through licensed vendors was revived. In 1874-75, and in the first quarter of 1875-76, the system of selling judicial stamps through official vendors obtained.

285. *Postage, service, and telegraph stamps.*—The following statement exhibits the realizations from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps during the year under review, as compared with the preceding two years:—

Year.	Receipts.			
	Postage.	Service.	Telegraph.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1874-75	50,729	14,646	19,860	85,235
1875-76	58,337	15,846	18,770	92,953
1876-77	62,590	16,599	26,468	1,05,657

From the above, it will be seen that there has been a steady progressive increase in the revenue realized from postage and service stamps. Under the head "Telegraph stamps" there was a temporary falling off of Rs. 1,090 in 1875-76, as compared with the previous year. But during the year under report the sales of telegraph stamps exceeded those of 1875-76 by Rs. 7,698, and those of 1874-75 by Rs. 6,608. It is satisfactory to observe that the returns from all the districts of the Province show a considerable increase under this head. These results are attributable mainly to the development of private correspondence, to the increased exertions of the Postal Department in extending the postal service, and to the extension of the line of telegraph to Upper Assam.

286. *Offences against the stamp laws.*—There were during the year under review 16 prosecutions in all for breaches of the stamp laws, against 3 such prosecutions in the preceding year, as will appear from the statement below:—

	1875-76.	1876-77.
Sylhet.....	3	6
Nowgong .....	...	8
Sibságar.....	...	2
Total.....	3	16

In the 6 cases reported from Sylhet, 9 persons were arrested of whom 8 were convicted. The offence charged in all these cases was the production before the courts of unstamped or insufficiently-stamped documents, with the intention of evading payment of the stamp duty required by law. In most of the cases a small fine was inflicted, the courts taking a lenient view of the matter. The Chief Commissioner has impressed upon District Officers the necessity there exists for taking strict cognizance of offences against the stamp laws.

In the 8 cases which occurred in the district of Nowgong, 8 persons were convicted of having executed deeds on unstamped paper, with the intention of evading the payment of the proper stamp duty. As in Sylhet, light fines were inflicted.

In Sibságar, there were 2 cases during the year. In one case, the accused was charged with engrossing a bond on plain paper, and in the other case, the charge was for executing an agreement on an insufficiently-stamped paper. In both the cases the accused persons were convicted and fined Rs. 100 and Rs. 20, respectively. The increase in the number of prosecutions may be attributed to increased vigilance on the part of the officers concerned in detecting and bringing to justice offenders against the provisions of the stamp laws.

287. *Miscellaneous.*—Generally, the Deputy-Commissioners report that no stamp papers were used for any purposes other than those for which they are intended, and that the rules about punching and re-punching stamps were duly observed. During the year under review, the practice, which was formerly permitted, of issuing adhesive court-fee stamps in exchange for bi-colour judicial stamped papers, was ordered to be discontinued.

The system of selling court-fee stamps through licensed vendors obtained throughout the year in the several plains districts of the Province, discount being allowed at the rate of Re. 1-8 per cent. The system has been found to work well. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet, however, observes as follows:—“There has been felt a great want for stamp vendors in the interior of the district, especially at some of the munsiffis, and I think the discount allowed to vendors is insufficient to induce men to come in several days’ journey to purchase a stock of stamps and carry them back for sale. The system of advancing stamps to respectable vendors on security will be tried at the munsiffis.”

On the representation of the Deputy-Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned an advance of stamps to the value of Rs. 2,000 to the licensed vendor at the Nabiganj munsiffi, upon his furnishing good and sufficient security.

288. In former years, some loss of revenue derivable from judicial stamps was, it is feared, occasioned by the fraudulent use or abstraction of adhesive court-fee stamps. With a view to prevent the recurrence of such practices, the Chief Commissioner, in September, 1876, issued certain instructions for the guidance of all district and sub-divisional officers. Under these instructions, no ministerial officer who is not

specially authorized to do so can, under the penalty of dismissal, sell stamps to, or buy stamps for, or receive money on account of the purchase of stamps from, any person whatever. It is now the duty of the record-keeper, on receiving records from a mohurrir, to ascertain whether all papers in the records which require stamps are properly stamped, and whether any of the stamps show signs of having been tampered with, and immediately to report any deficiency to his superior officer. The mohurrir in charge is now responsible for the value of all stamps abstracted from any records in his charge. Although it is yet premature to estimate the effect of these measures, the Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that during the past year no cases of fraudulent use or abstraction of court-fee stamps were brought to his notice. Two cases of a suspicious nature occurred in the district of Goálpára. On inquiry, negligence and carelessness were brought home to the mohurrirs in whose charge the papers were kept, but fraudulent intention was not proved against them. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, considered that the further employment of these officers under Government would be inexpedient; they were, accordingly, dismissed, the value of the deficit stamps having been recovered from them.

SECTION 5.—ELEPHANTS.

289. The Chief Commissioner, with a view to ensure that every year a certain number of elephant-hunting grounds in Assam Proper should be offered on lease, so as to provide opportunities for continuous employment to the professional hunters who maintain large numbers of very valuable hunting elephants, divided the whole Assam Valley into blocks to be worked in succession for two years at a time, and then to rest for two or more years. Under this arrangement, the mehals in the district of Goálpára and Kámráp and those on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, in Lakhimpur, were ordered to be leased during the year under report. The mehals in Goálpára were put up to auction, and one man offered Rs. 50 for each mehal; but as he was a man of no substance, the Deputy-Commissioner declined his offer. In Kámráp, no one came forward to bid for the mehals when put up to auction. The failure of bids for the mehals in Goálpára and Kámráp was attributed to the prohibition against catching elephants by noosing, and against sub-leasing the mehals; accordingly, in the Assam Valley, only seven mehals, as shown below, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, in the Lakhimpur district, were leased during the year, yielding a total revenue of Rs. 14,350 :—

No. and name of mehals.	Revenue. Rs.
9. Sesi Dhol.....	1,310
10. Dhol Kora	2,750
10½. Brahmaputra Charkaria Ranga	1,550
11. Kora Kumotia	2,250
12. Kumotiar Hobanhari	2,050
13. Hobanhari Ranga	820
14. Range Morainarnai	3,620
	<hr/>
	14,350
	<hr/>

The only other mehals leased during the year were mehals Nos. 1 and 3, in the Gáro Hills. These mehals fetched a total sum of Rs. 5,220, viz., No. 1 Rs. 3,000, and No. 3 Rs. 2,220.

The mehals in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet were reserved during the year, at the request of the Commissariat Department, for Government kheddah operations. Those in the district of the Khási Hills and Nága Hills were not leased during the year.

The revenue of the mehals leased was not due till the 30th April, 1877, and has therefore not been included in the revenue for the year. A sum of Rs. 8,605 was, however, paid in advance, and this has been credited to the year's income.

In all, 187 elephants were captured, of which 53 were taken over by Government, 7 were released as being too old; or as being heavy with calf, 1 escaped, and 14 died, leaving 112 at the disposal of the lessees. Of the 14 elephants which died, 7 were killed in the process of capture by noosing in the Gáro Hills mehals, and so, under the rule in force in this respect, full royalty was levied on them. In all, Rs. 11,300 were levied on account of royalty on elephants captured between 1st October, 1876, and 28th February, 1877. The royalty leviable on captures from the 1st of March, 1877, was not due within the year.

290. The total demand on account of revenue and royalty, including arrears, amounted to Rs. 31,047, of which Rs. 28,047 were collected and Rs. 200 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,800 in the district of Lakhimpur, which is in course of realization.

291. Diversity of practice was found to prevail in the several districts in regard to the levy of royalty on elephant calves, and on elephants that die or escape after capture but before the royalty has been levied. To ensure uniformity, the Chief Commissioner directed that royalty at full rates should be levied on all elephant calves of whatever age, and on all elephants captured, irrespective of subsequent occurrences, excepting only such animals as are taken over on behalf of Government.

292. It was found necessary to add a clause to the conditions of license permitting the lessee to claim an allowance for maintenance of captured elephants which might be detained more than 15 days at his expense before being taken over by the Government officer.

293. Capture by noosing was allowed this year in the Gáro Hills. Previously, it had been altogether forbidden, capture by driving into stockades being alone permitted. The noosing system is much preferred by the hunters.

SECTION 6.—LAC.

294. Eight mehals for the collection of indigenous lac were leased during the year, as shown in the following statement:—

District.	Number of mehals.	Revenue. Rs.
Kámrup	2	10
Darrang	1	200
Nowgong.....	1	650
Sibságar	1	40
Lakhimpur	3	60
Total.....	8	960

The mahal in the district of Darrang is held on a lease for a term of three years since 1875-76, on an annual rental of Rs. 200. The other mehals were leased for the current year only. In Nowgong only was any considerable sum offered for the monopoly; but the system is altogether new, this being the first year of the lease of the mehals, except in the case of Darrang, and the market value of the respective mehals is at present consequently to a great extent unknown. The total demand, amounting to Rs. 960, was collected within the year.

SECTION 7.—RUBBER.

295. In the district of the Gáro Hills only was any revenue derived from rubber during the year. The Deputy-Commissioner in this district is allowed to purchase the rubber from private collectors, as a Government monopoly; this rubber he again sells to the best advantage. The sum realized on this account was only Rs. 412, against Rs. 2,363 in the preceding year, an unusually small supply having been brought in for disposal.

Elsewhere throughout the Province, the collection of rubber is totally unrestricted. The Chief Commissioner made proposals for imposing certain restrictions on the collection and disposal of caoutchouc, in order that the Province might derive some revenue from this especially valuable product of its waste tracts; but the Government of India declined to sanction the measure, and desired that the future supply of this article of commerce should be dependent on a system of conservation and re-production of the tree in certain reserved areas by the Forest Department. The question is now under discussion with the chief forest officer as to the feasibility of enlarging the operations of the department in this respect which have been already undertaken.

A very large tract in the Darrang district, 80 square miles in extent, known as the Charduar Reserve, had already been set apart as a rubber plantation in the preceding year. 430 acres of this reserve are

now planted with caoutchouc-trees, which exhibit a promising growth, and 139 acres more are ready for planting.

The extension of the plantation would seem to be merely a matter of expenditure.

B.—REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 1.—PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

296. The receipts and charges of the year under Provincial Services are exhibited in the following statement:—

Head of Service.	Receipts.	Charges.	Net results.	
			Receipts.	Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial allotment for Provincial Services.	16,69,788	.....	16,69,788	.....
Refunds.....	.....	1,341	.....	1,341
Jails	33,299	1,15,742	.....	.....
Registration	22,221	18,657	.....	.....
Police.....	6,629	5,91,599	.....	.....
Education	22,927	1,68,104	.....	.....
Medical	1,889	30,322	.....	.....
Printing.....	2,904	18,822	.....	.....
Minor establishment .....	.....	19,230	.....	.....
Office rent, rates, and taxes .....	.....	7,044	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	2,122	28,036	.....	.....
Contributions .....	.....	30,928	.....	.....
Public Works	3,651	6,49,562	.....	.....
Total.....	17,65,430	16,79,387	86,043	.....

It was stated in last year's report that the expenditure under Provincial Services in 1874-75 and 1875-76 exceeded the allotment under that head, both years closing with a deficit, which was covered by special assignments made by the Government of India. At the close of 1876-77, instead of a deficit, there was a surplus of Rs. 86,043. The principal differences between the figures for 1875-76 and those for 1876-77 have already been explained, and this statement calls for no further remarks.

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SECTION 2.—LOCAL FUNDS.

297. The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure during the year under review of five of the Local Funds, viz. :—

- (1) Assam Local Fund.
- (2) District Improvement Fund.
- (3) District Post Fund.
- (4) Cantonment Fund.
- (5) Williamson Education Fund.

The comparison between the total receipts and total expenditure of these funds shows a small surplus. There was a considerable deficit in the preceding year.

The figures of the several funds for 1876-77 will be briefly compared with those for 1875-76.

298. *Assam Local Fund.*—The receipts of this fund during 1876-77 were Rs. 62,054, as compared with Rs. 54,309 in 1875-76. The corresponding expenditure was Rs. 53,770 and Rs. 36,824 respectively, showing an increase of Rs. 7,745 in receipts, and Rs. 16,946 in expenditure, as detailed below:—

		<i>Receipts.</i>	
	Increase.		Decrease.
	Rs.		Rs.
Taxes, rates, and cesses	180	Tolls	23
Police	512	Public Works	215
Rents	6		
Cattle-trespass fines	1,805		
Miscellaneous fees and fines	174		
Sundry receipts	5,311		
	Total .. 7,988		
	—243		
	Net increase		243
	7,745		—

		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	Increase.		Decrease.
	Rs.		Rs.
Collection of cattle-trespass fines	694	Refund	1,863
Miscellaneous establishment ..	19,185	Police	2,100
Government contribution	5,000	General management	146
	Total .. 24,879	Collection of tolls, rates, rents, &c.,	96
	Deduct decrease	Miscellaneous	673
	7,933	Public Works	3,055
	Net increase		
	16,946		Total .. 7,933

Under "Receipts," the most marked increases are in "Cattle-trespass fines" and "Sundry receipts." The increase in the former is due to the establishment of some new pounds during the year under review, and in the latter to the inclusion of the receipts from the Government tonga and bullock train services between Gauhati and Shillong in the account of the Assam Local Fund for 1876-77.

Under "Expenditure," the largest increase is under "Miscellaneous establishment." Of the amount of Rs. 19,185 shown under this head, Rs. 18,148 represent the charges on account of the Government tonga and bullock train services. The sum of Rs. 5,000 exhibited under "Government contribution" is the amount contributed to the Nága Hills District Improvement Fund. The increase in collection of taxes is due to increased income.

The decreases are almost all under fluctuating heads, and need no explanation.

299. *District Improvement Fund.*—The receipts of this fund during the year under report amounted to Rs. 2,70,518, against Rs. 1,85,168 in the previous year. The corresponding expenditure was Rs. 2,78,039 and Rs. 3,32,393, respectively, exhibiting an increase of Rs. 85,350 under receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 54,354 under expenditure, as shown below:—

Receipts.

Increase.		Decrease.	
Rs.		Rs.	
Taxes, rates, and cesses	1,82,119	Tolls.....	58
Miscellaneous fees and fines ..	10	Rents	2
Government contribution	5,000	Sundry receipts	52,484
Public Works.....	60		
Voluntary contribution	650		
Total....	1,87,889	Total.....	52,489
Deduct decrease	52,489		
Net increase	85,850		

Expenditure.

Education	5,643	Befund	679
Collection of taxes and cesses..	975	General management	2,028
Miscellaneous establishment ..	685	Collection of tolls, rates,	
Miscellaneous	3,622	rents, &c	321
		Public Works	62,251
Total.....	10,925	Total.....	65,279

Under "Receipts," the most marked increase is in "Taxes, rates, and cesses," and the most marked decrease is in "Sundry receipts." The increase in the former is attributable to the inclusion of Rs. 1,21,200 on account of 1-17th of land revenue of Kámrup and Lakhimpur for 1875-76 and 1876-77 at Rs. 60,600 for each year. The amount not having been deducted from the land revenue of those districts in 1875-76 and credited to the District Improvement Fund, the necessary correction was made in 1876-77. The decrease under "Sundry receipts" is owing to the accumulated balances on the 1st April, 1874, having been brought to account by debit to the Government of Bengal in 1875-76, and to there being no such balance credited in the account of 1876-77.

The increase of expenditure under "Education" is owing to the constitution of new primary schools, and that in collection of taxes and

cess to increased income. The increase in "Miscellaneous" is attributable to incorrect classification of charges, owing to non-receipt of proper details by the Deputy-Accountant-General in due time.

The decrease in expenditure under "Public Works" is attributable to less work having been done during the year under report, owing to most of the urgent works having been executed in the preceding year.

300. *District Post Fund.*—The receipts and expenditure of this fund in 1876-77 were Rs. 9,300 and Rs. 9,498, respectively, as compared with Rs. 9,260 and Rs. 9,489, respectively, in 1875-76.

It will be thus seen that there was a deficit of Rs. 229 at the close of 1875-76, and of Rs. 198 at the close of 1876-77. These deficits have, however, been made good in 1877-78. It is hoped that no deficit will occur again.

301. *Cantonment Fund.*—The comparative figures for this fund are—

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs.
Receipts	8,087	8,238
Expenditure	1,608	2,678

302. *Williamson Education Fund.*—The receipts of this fund in the year under review amounted to Rs. 4,832, and the expenditure to Rs. 5,334. The receipts in the preceding year were Rs. 4,718, and the expenditure Rs. 4,647.

303. There remain now two other local funds, the figures for which could not be incorporated with the Abstract Account of Local Funds, viz.:—

- (1) The Town Improvement Fund.
- (2) The Bazaar Fund.

The receipts and expenditure of these two funds during the years 1875-76 and 1876-77 are given below:—

Town Improvement Fund.

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs. As. P.
Receipts	49,624	66,428 2 6
Expenditure	18,851	14,564 5 10

Bazaar Fund.

	1875-76. Rs.	1876-77. Rs. As. P.
Receipts	17,562	19,068 14 6
Expenditure	1,880	4,938 2 4

It will be thus seen that the Town Improvement and Bazaar Fund accounts of 1876-77 were closed with a balance of Rs. 51,863-12-8 and Rs. 14,130-12-2, respectively. The balances are distributed as follows:—

Town Improvement Fund.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Kámrúp.....	7,799	1	8
Darrang.....	5,272	13	11
Nowgong	4,092	6	11
Sibságar	20,500	4	1
Lakhimpur	10,845	9	8
Khási Hills	8,853	8	10
Total.....	51,863	12	8

Bazaar Fund.

Darrang.....	8,065	0	6
Nowgong	6,065	11	8
Total	14,130	12	2

The Bazaar Fund exists (or rather existed) in Darrang and Nowgong only. It has been abolished since the close of the year under report, its assets having been transferred to the District Improvement Fund.

SECTION 3.—MUNICIPAL REVENUES.

304. An account of the receipts and expenditure of the several municipalities of the Province has already been given in Chapter III., Section 8 of this report.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SECTION 1.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

305. The system of registration of vital statistics obtaining in this Province was explained in last year's report (para. 654, Part II.B.), and the general untrustworthiness of these statistics, and the cause thereof, stated.

The Chief Commissioner regrets to observe that the statistics for the year under review are quite as unreliable as those for previous years. He fears that their hopeless and evident inaccuracy is an index of the absence of interest evinced by the district officers in the working of the system of obtaining these statistics. It is certain that if the collection of statistics on any subject whatever is treated by the district authorities as merely a matter of indifferent and unimportant routine, the statistics supplied by their subordinates will be absolutely valueless. The Chief Commissioner cannot but think that, if the Deputy-Commissioners gave this matter some portion of their attention, it would be possible, at any rate in the selected areas, to obtain statistics which would rise above the level of absurdity. There is, however, a still further element of uncertainty in the results exhibited, owing to the doubt which attaches to the accuracy of the returns of population of these tracts from which the rates of births and deaths are deduced. The census, in any case, dates from five years back, and considerable changes in the population have probably occurred in the interval. The Chief Commissioner thinks, therefore, that it will be advisable, at the same time that the Deputy-Commissioners are stimulated to supervise these statistics more closely, to initiate some measures for verifying and, perhaps, for re-enumerating the population of the selected areas.

It is fruitless to comment on figures which are too ludicrous for record. It is enough to observe that these returns show for the urban circle of Kámrúp a death-rate of four-and-a-half times the total recorded population, while the rural circle of Cachar enjoyed the eminent salubrity of a death-rate of only 2 per 1,000.

An anomaly is presented in the birth-rates of selected areas. In Nowgong, Darrang, Sibságar, and Cachar, the urban rate is less than the rural. In Lakhimpur, Sylhet, and Goálpára, the reverse obtains. The cause of this difference cannot be explained, except on the presumption that the numbers married to single may vary in the urban and rural areas of districts; but the figures are most probably untrustworthy.

The birth-rate in the rural areas of Sibságar and Darrang, 45·5 and 43·3 per 1,000, respectively, and the rate in the urban area of Goálpára, 36·9, may be approximately correct; but the birth-rates, of 8·3 and 10·2 per 1,000 in the Cachar urban area and the Sylhet rural area, respectively, are clearly incorrect.

The question of the comparative annual increase or decrease of population in this Province is one, the accurate solution of which would be exceedingly interesting,—this solution is, however, very far off indeed.

SECTION 2.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

306. A brief account of the immigrant population of the Province, based upon the statistics for the year, will be given, and the different questions in connection with the working of the Immigration Act will be touched upon in this chapter; but, owing to the circumstances detailed in para. 666, Part II.B., of last year's report, any useful comparison between the statistics of the year under review and those of the preceding year is impossible.

307. At the commencement of the year 1876, the total immigrant population of the Province amounted to 112,788 souls, including children and infants. During the year 34,283 immigrants were imported, and 43,297 were otherwise brought on the books. The total number employed during the year was thus 190,368. 6,253 deaths occurred, giving a death-rate of 5·11 per cent. There were 5,821 desertions, *i.e.*, at the rate of 6·16 per cent. 42,435 immigrants were otherwise deducted, that is, by determination of contract, by redemption under Section 137 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873, by cancelment of contracts, by imprisonment, by release under Section 112 of the said Act, or from other causes. The total number thus removed being 54,509, the total number of immigrants remaining in the Province at the end of the year was 135,859, showing an increase of 23,071 in the immigrant population of the Province.

308. At the commencement of the year 1876 there were 42,698 labourers on contracts under Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.) in the several tea districts of the Province. 19,813 such labourers were imported during the year, of whom 7,504 were recruited by garden-sirdars and 12,309 through contractors, and 1,520 were otherwise added.

The total number employed during the year was thus 64,031; of this number, 244 were released on account of permanent unfitness under Section 112 of the Act, 12,017 were released by determination of contract, 226 were released by redemption of remainder of contract under Section 137, and 156 by cancelment of contract under Sections 124 & 135; 2,967 persons died, 2,444 deserted, 236 were imprisoned, and 1,130 were otherwise deducted. The total number deducted was thus 19,420, and the number remaining at the end of the year was 44,611, giving a total increase of 1,913.

The death-rate among labourers on contracts under Act VII. during the year was 6.79 per cent., against 2.64 per cent., the death-rate among immigrants imported otherwise than under the provisions of the Act. The difference between the two death-rates is very marked; but it must be remembered that labourers who have become acclimatized are included among "other immigrants," and also that many of these latter, on falling ill, return to their homes, and that their deaths are not reported.

The death-rate, 11.37 per cent., among Act VII. labourers from the North-West Provinces is distressingly high. It is due, no doubt, to the fact of a large number of these labourers having been employed on newly-opened gardens. Other labourers, it was found, did not suffer in nearly so marked a degree in such gardens; but, under the existing provisions of the law, there was no mode of preventing the employment of these especially unsuitable labourers, except by closing the garden altogether to all imported labour. In order to meet such cases, a draft Regulation, empowering the Local Government to close a garden to any particular class of Act VII. labourers, was submitted to the Government of India, and has been approved of by the Governor-General in Council since the close of the year under report. The death-rate among other immigrants from the North-Western Provinces not imported under Act VII. contracts was only 2.96 per cent. These immigrants have greater freedom of selection of gardens than their Act VII. brethren, and this fact, no doubt, principally accounts for the low death-rate among them.

The desertion-rate among Act VII. labourers, and among non-Act labourers, during the year was 5.59 per cent. and 6.64 per cent., respectively.

These high desertion-rates are not, as might be surmised, an indication of harsh treatment by employers, but are almost entirely due to the bonus system, and to the unquestioning, nay, eager, readiness with which planters, as a rule, engage any coolie who seeks employment. The remedy for this state of things the planters themselves alone can apply.

309. At the commencement of the year 1876 there were in the

Province (not counting infants under two years)
 Statistics of immigrants imported otherwise than under the provisions of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873.

61,584 labourers who had immigrated otherwise than under Act VII. contracts, of whom 26,138 were men, 20,061 were women, 9,001 were boys, and 6,384 were girls.

During the year 11,911 more of such labourers immigrated, of whom 4,432 were men, 3,130 were women, 2,527 were boys, and 4,349 were girls. The number of infants who arrived at the age of two years during the same period was 1,766. The number of labourers otherwise added to this class by expiry of Act VII. contracts, and under other circumstances, was 30,007. The total number of such immigrants employed in the Province during the year was thus 105,268. The deductions from this number, owing to departure from gardens without leave, were 4,086. Those who left with permission amounted to 22,866. Counting further deductions, on account of deaths 1,984, and for other causes 488, leaves the total number of labourers other than those on contracts under the Act remaining on the books at the end of the year 75,844.

The death and desertion-rates among this class of immigrants have already been commented upon. The number of infants born of imported women on the books at the commencement of the year was 8,506; the number of such infants remaining at the end of the year was 14,916. The rate of infant mortality was very high, 11·11 per cent

310. During the year 1876 there were 800 tea-gardens existing in the Province, as compared with 763 gardens existing in 1875. Of these 800 gardens, only 437 gardens employ Act VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers; of these 437 gardens, 215 were visited only once, 103 were visited twice, and 9 thrice in the year, and 110 were left unvisited. The Chief Commissioner has noticed the number of gardens left unvisited by the Inspectors of Labourers, a feature which he considers by no means satisfactory. He trusts that better results may be exhibited in this respect in next year's returns.

Inspection.

311. The object in opening this route was stated in para. 677, Part II.B. of last year's report. The immigration operations *via* this route during the whole of the year 1876-77 will be here described. During the above-mentioned period, 296 batches of sirdari coolies, consisting of 3,770 emigrants, were despatched from the recruiting districts to Assam, *via* Dhubri, against 174 such batches, consisting of 2,694 emigrants, in the preceding year. Among the 3,770 emigrants, 160 deaths and 35 desertions occurred on the route, against 87 deaths and 16 desertions in 1875-76. The death and desertion-rates were, respectively, 4·2 per cent. and ·9 per cent., compared with 3·2 per cent. and ·6 per cent. in 1875-76. Of the 160 deaths, 112 alone occurred on the march from the recruiting districts to Dhubri; of these, 68 are attributed to an outbreak of cholera among the emigrants while passing through the district of Dinagepore. These statistics of mortality must, however, be received with caution, as it is believed, on good grounds, that the sirdars in charge of the batches report many coolies as having died who have really absconded. The death-rate during the river passage from Dhubri was only ·89 per cent., against 1·46 per cent. among the coolies embarked at Goalundo.

Dhubri and Rajmehal route.

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In addition to the emigrants embarked at Dhubri, some small batches of coolies, aggregating 126 in number, were marched along the new trunk road the whole way to Upper Assam *viâ* Dhubri from the recruiting districts. The experiment was most successful,—not a single death occurred among the emigrants, who all reached their destination in good health. This route, it is expected, will be more largely used upon the extension of the Northern Bengal Railway to Rangpur. The Chief Commissioner has taken measures, in concert with His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for the construction of a good road from Rangpur to Dhubri.

Since the close of the year, the Chief Commissioner has addressed the India General Steam Navigation Company and New Rivers Steam Company, with a view to the reduction of the fare charged by the Company for the conveyance of coolies from Dhubri upwards, which at present is the same as that charged for their conveyance from Goalundo upwards.

312. It was stated in para. 685, Part II.B. of last year's report, that the measure adopted for providing additional clothing and shelter from the wind for immigrants on their voyage upwards was most beneficial. The figures for the year under review support this statement, and show that the mortality among the emigrants during the winter months has steadily decreased since the measure came into force.

Provision of additional clothing and shelter for immigrants during the voyage in the winter months.

313. It was stated in last year's report that the question of the undue detention of steamers on their voyage up had early attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner. The excessive detention of a steamer at Goalundo in March, 1876, formed during the year the subject of a reference to the Government of Bengal, which led to the issue by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of certain instructions calculated to obviate all future complaints arising from the detention of steamers at that place of embarkation. Complaints were made during the year of the undue detention of steamers at Serajganj for the purpose of inspection. The matter was brought under the consideration of the Government of Bengal and of the Government of India, and arrangements were made by the former Government which fully met the Chief Commissioner's wishes in the matter.

Detention of steamers during the voyage.

314. The question of the detention of sirdari coolies at Goalundo for medical inspection was, as stated in last year's report, referred for the decision of the Government of India. During the year under review the Governor-General in Council decided that it was not advisable to disturb the arrangements made by the Government of Bengal for the medical inspection of sirdari coolies at Goalundo, and they are accordingly still detained at that place for four days' medical observation.

Detention of sirdari coolies at Goalundo for medical inspection before embarkation.

SECTION 3.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

315. There were 17 dispensaries open in the Province during the year 1876, as compared with 14 open in 1874, and 16 open in 1875. The additional dispensary opened during the year under review was at Jaipur.

Ten out of the 17 dispensaries are main, and seven branch dispensaries. The income of these institutions is derived from three sources, *viz.*, Government aid, donations and subscriptions of neighbouring inhabitants, and hospital charges paid by tea-planters for maintenance and treatment of sick garden coolies.

The total amount contributed by Government during the year amounted to Rs. 8,945-11-7½. From other sources, a sum of Rs. 15,845-1-3 was realized. The total income during the year amounted to Rs. 29,607-14-8, the balance in hand at the commencement of the year being Rs. 4,817-1-9½. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 24,344-9-0½, leaving a balance at the close of Rs. 5,263-5-7½. The percentage of total cost of the dispensaries paid by Government amounted to 36·74, or little more than one-third. 2,582 in-door and 25,503 out-door patients were treated during the year, making a total of 28,085 persons treated, as compared with 26,628 and 19,046 persons treated in 1875 and 1874, respectively.

Malarious fevers, bowel-complaints, and skin diseases comprise the diseases most frequently requiring relief. 7,435 fever cases were treated. At Sylhet, in April and May considerable mortality attended an outbreak of fever of a severe type. The average rate of mortality amongst in-door patients during the year was 16·92 per cent. This is not an unfavourable average, when it is considered that a very large proportion of in-patients are admitted in an emaciated or moribund state.

Eighty-nine major and 1,039 minor operations were performed during the year, as compared with 66 major and 420 minor operations performed in 1875. This increase is satisfactory.

Relief is afforded at the several dispensaries to three classes of persons, *viz.* :—

- (1.) Voluntary applicants for relief.
- (2.) Labourers sent in from tea estates.
- (3.) Persons admitted under the orders of the civil authorities.

It is satisfactory to note that by far the greater number of persons treated are voluntary applicants, who sometimes come long distances to seek medical relief.

On the whole, satisfactory results have attended the working of the dispensaries throughout the year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of persons treated and in the number of surgical operations performed. The money receipts, too, are increasing.

SECTION 4.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

316. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in this Province, that at Tezpur. To this Asylum are sent, as a rule, all insanes from districts in the Assam Valley. Insanes from the two districts in the Surmá Valley are, under special arrangements made with the Government of Bengal, sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Dacca.

The Tezpur Asylum was opened on the 1st April, 1876. The building is situated about a mile distant from the station of Tezpur, on an open plateau, and is of a very unpretentious character, consisting merely of mat huts, within a square enclosure, surrounded by a bamboo fence, and beyond by a hedge. This enclosure, which is 400 feet long each way, is divided into three compartments of unequal size, divided off by bamboo fencing. In the first compartment are ten huts for male insanes; in the second compartment are three huts for female insanes; the third compartment contains the hospital, the cook-room, and two padded cells.

A building of the above description is, perhaps, hardly worthy of the name of Lunatic Asylum; but, the Provincial resources being for the present quite unable to bear the cost of a suitable building, the most that could be done was to provide accommodation, where a few insanes not of a violent character might be lodged with comparative security. Insanes of a violent character are placed in the cells of the Tezpur Jail.

64 patients were admitted into the Asylum during the nine months of 1876, of whom 43 were in fair health at the time of admission. Of the total number of patients admitted, 8 were criminal lunatics. Most of the patients were imported labourers. Acute mania was the chief type of insanity observable among the lunatics. The rate of mortality among the inmates was distressingly high, viz, nearly 26 per cent. of average strength, and 15 per cent. of number admitted. The expenditure during the year was comparatively large, being at the rate of Rs. 145-11-2 per head per annum, as shown in the margin. This high charge is

	Rs.	As.	P.
Establishment ..	61	10	6
Diet ..	53	8	5
Clothing ..	9	11	0
Medicines ..	0	4	8
Contingencies ..	20	8	7
Total ..	145	11	2

to a great extent unavoidable, the cost of living in the Assam Valley being very much higher than in other parts of India. Moreover, owing to the insecurity of the building, a larger staff of keepers has to be entertained than would otherwise be necessary. The receipts of the institution were, as was to be expected, small, amounting to only Rs. 83-14, distributed thus :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
From manufactures	6	4	0
From paying patients	77	10	1

The value of the labour of the insanes has not been taken into consideration in this calculation. It is not, however, considerable. The arrangement of the building does not admit of the introduction of manufactures to any extent, and, besides, most of the inmates are

physically or mentally unfit for any kind of skilled labour. The services of the insanes are chiefly utilized in executing improvements and repairs, and in performing menial offices.

The insanes were, on the whole, well-behaved. There were two attempts at arson, and there were a few cases of assault. During the year seventeen insanes escaped from the asylum. They were all recaptured. Latterly, but few attempts at escape have been made.

The Chief Commissioner hopes that by degrees it may be possible to effect considerable improvements in the present premises; but he cannot see any immediate prospect of being able to provide for the expenditure necessary for the construction of a proper masonry building.

SECTION 5.—SANITATION.

317. Very little progress has yet been made in the matter of sanitation in this Province, as local conditions present many natural obstacles to even limited progress in this direction. The absence of a scavenger population, as noticed in last year's report, the peculiar formation of the country, the large, comparatively disproportionate, area occupied by swamps and dense jungle growth, obviously favour greatly the prevalence of diseases of a malarious origin. The gradual opening out of the Province and the increase of population may remove some of these obstacles. The proverbial apathy of the inhabitants, and their indifference and obstructiveness in matters of sanitary reform, are impediments still more difficult to overcome.

At head-quarters stations, however, much has already been accomplished. At Shillong, the drainage and water-supply have been improved, aqueducts conveying a supply of pure water throughout the station have been constructed, jungle growth has to some extent been cleared, and endeavours have been made to improve latrine arrangements. At Gauháti, the municipality has been persistent in its attempts to improve the sanitary condition of the station by providing latrines, conservancy labourers, and a superintending staff of employés. Similar measures have been adopted to some extent in other head-quarter stations. Further measures for improving the drainage at Gauháti and Goálpára are in contemplation.

The health of the troops occupying the military lines at Cachar has been much benefited by some alterations made in the drainage of the station.

The removal of jungle in the vicinity of the station of Tura has resulted in a marked general improvement in the health of the residents.

The improvement of the sanitary condition of the general agricultural population is a matter of special difficulty in this Province, not only from natural and physical causes, themselves a serious impediment, but, further, from the habit of the cultivating classes of living in scattered clusters of a few houses, instead of congregating in villages, a system which renders any sanitary control over a widely-scattered, as well as a scanty, population quite impossible. Sanitation must, therefore, for the present, be almost exclusively confined to the larger centres.

SECTION 6.—VACCINATION.

318. The number of vaccinators employed during the season of 1876-77, amounted to 95, of whom 79 were employed in the Kámrúp district; of these 78 were trained ex-inoculators, who earn a livelihood without any assistance from Government by charging a small fee (about four annas) for each operation. The salaries of 15 out of the remaining 17 vaccinators were defrayed by municipalities. The total cost to Government amounted to Rs. 1,286. The total amount of work performed was as the rate of 4·99 vaccinated per 1,000 of population. Though somewhat in excess of average years, the proportion is comparatively low, but it must be considered that the staff of operators is a very limited one. In districts where the relative proportions of staff to population were more equalized, results were satisfactory; thus, in the Gáro Hills, 36·76 per 1,000 of the population, and in Kámrúp 22·01 per 1,000 of the population were vaccinated.

The average number operated on by each vaccinator was 248·75. The percentage of successful cases amounted to 86·32 in primary and 94·73 in secondary vaccination. The total number vaccinated during the year amounted to 23,632, being in excess of the number vaccinated during the previous year by 1,657. Of the total number vaccinated, 9,496 were females.

The attitude of the people varies in different districts. Apathetic indifference and a predilection for ancient customs are the chief obstacles to be overcome,—where prejudices are founded on religious scruples, the difficulty is greater, and occasionally insuperable. The chief Gossain in the Province is said to be opposed to vaccination on religious grounds, and his influence, when thrown into the scale, increases the difficulties in the way of the progress of vaccine operations. Opposition has been completely overcome in the Gáro Hills; in other districts, notably in Kámrúp, Goálpára, and Cachar, it is dying out.

Of 3,276 prisoners, villagers, and schoolboys examined, only 9·09 per cent. were unprotected, 42·36 per cent. had been inoculated, 21·84 per cent. had been vaccinated, and 26·89 had suffered previously from small-pox.

The average cost to Government of each operation amounted to only 10½ pie, and the cost of each successful case to one anna one-tenth pie.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—[Blank.]

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

319. The number of schools existing in the Province at the close of the year 1876-77 was 1,133, against 1,137 at the close of 1875-76. The number of pupils on the 31st March, 1877, was 31,925, as compared with 31,462 on the 31st March, 1876. In respect, therefore, to the number of schools, and the number of pupils under instruction, the position of the department was much the same as in the preceding year. Although there was a slight decrease in the total number of schools, yet there was an increase in the total number of pupils receiving instruction.

320. The total expenditure for the last two years was as shown below:—

Year.	1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Subscribed by the public	75,838	0 0	80,794	0 0
From Provincial Funds	1,55,584	0 0	1,44,413	0 0
From Local Funds.....	28,698	0 0	29,761	0 0
Total	2,60,120	0 0	2,54,968	0 0

It thus appears that, whereas the number of schools fell off by four only, the total expenditure on education was reduced by upwards of Rs. 5,000. In 1875-76, the contributions of the people came up to 29 per cent. of the total cost; in 1876-77 it amounted to nearly 32 per cent.

It is ascertained that in the plains districts one person in every 129, and in the hills districts one person in every 95, goes to school. In the preceding year, the proportions were one in 131, and one in 106, respectively. These figures evidence some advancement.

321. The following statistics, showing the proportion of persons under instruction to the general population in other Provinces besides Assam, are interesting, and are not unfavourable to this Province :—

Province.	People to each pupil.
Bengal	117
Madras	111
N.-W. Provinces	122
Oudh.....	171
Central Provinces	99
Panjab.....	152
Haiderabad districts	83
British Burmah.....	85
Assam ... { Plains	129
{ Hills	95

322. The relative proportion of Hindus to Mussulmans at school during the year was 5 to 2. Educational statistics tend to show that the Mahomedan population of the Province are deplorably apathetic in matters relating to education. In 1874-75, one in 121 of the Hindu population, and one in 271 of the Mussulman population, went to school; in 1875-76 the corresponding proportions were one in 119 and one in 267; and in 1876-77 the proportions were one in 112 and one in 297, respectively. The diminishing attendance of Mussulman pupils shown in these returns does not, however, prove that neglect of all education is increasing among this class of the population. The purely secular teaching in the Government schools is distasteful to the Mahomedans, and they prefer, when possible, to send their children to the independent mukhtabs where the Koran is taught. These mukhtabs are believed to be on the increase. Colonel Keatinge has under consideration the question whether it would not be possible to improve the character of these mukhtabs, and by giving them assistance, conditionally on the adoption of a satisfactory course of education in addition to their religious studies, to bring them thereby under Government supervision and control.

It may be noted that, according to the departmental returns, the relative attendance of Hindus and Mahomedans is much the same in the districts of Goálpára, Kámrup, and Darrang, while in the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur the Mahomedans are proportionately better schoolgoers than the Hindus.

Out of the total number of pupils attending the schools in 1875-76, 79½ per cent. belonged to the lower classes of society; in 1876-77 the proportion was 80½ per cent.

323. The following statement shows an increase of two in the number of primary schools, and of 587 in the number of pupils receiving primary instruction:—

Year.	Schools.	Pupils.
1875-76	1,021	24,296
1876-77	1,023	24,883

The cost of these 1,023 schools came to Rs. 71,510, of which sum Rs. 48,005* were contributed by the State. The average daily attendance having been 17,620, the cost to Government of educating each pupil came to Rs. 2-11-7 out of Rs. 4-0-11. The public thus gave Re. 1-5-4 for each pupil, while in 1875-76 they contributed Re. 1-2-8. The cost of educating each pupil is ascertained by dividing by the average daily attendance; were it the practice to divide by the number of pupils on the rolls, all of whom have no doubt received some education, the cost to Government of each pupil would be found to be Rs. 1-14-11 out of Rs. 2-13-11, against Rs. 2-0-6 out of the same sum in the previous year.

It may be remarked here that, in addition to the pupils reading in primary schools, there were 2,733 scholars reading in middle and higher schools who were still in the primary stage of instruction. Thus, out of 31,925 pupils, 29,204, or 91·4 per cent., were receiving a primary education; in the year 1875-76 the percentage was 91·7.

324. *Secondary Instruction.*—(a) *Middle Vernacular Schools.*—These schools were less in number by 3 than in the preceding year, having fallen from 60 to 57. Their cost came to Rs. 25,918. The average cost per head to Government was Rs. 5-15-1 and to the public Rs. 5-14-8. It may thus be said that the people contribute one-half of the cost of the education of their children reading in middle vernacular schools. The attendance at these schools during the year was 2,970, against 3,322 in the previous year. This slight retrogression is probably only temporary.

325. (b) *Middle English Schools.*—These schools numbered 31, against 32 in 1875-76, but the number of pupils attending them rose from 1,971 in that year to 2,192 in the year under report. Their total cost came to Rs. 23,141, against Rs. 23,163 in 1875-76. In the year under report each pupil cost the State Rs. 5-13-5 out of a total cost of Rs. 15-14-5. The people thus contributed about two-thirds of the cost of the education imparted in these schools.

326. (c) *Higher Class Schools.*—*Schools teaching up to the University Entrance Standard.*—These schools consist of the eight zila schools and an unaided school situated in the town of Sylhet called the Mufti School. The average attendance at these schools during the past year was 1,133, against 1,158 in the preceding year. At the University Entrance Examination in 1876, 21 out of 38 candidates sent up from these schools passed. In no previous year had so large a number been successful.

The cost to Government of educating each pupil in the zila schools during 1876-77 was Rs. 19-5-1, and to the public Rs. 17-9-0.

In respect to these schools, it is satisfactory to observe the tendency of the public to contribute more liberally in each successive year towards the education of each student.

327. The number of female pupils attending the schools is on the increase, as will appear from the following statement:—

Female education.

District.	Number of female pupils.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.		
Cachar	59	75	16	....
Sylhet	20	55	35	....
Goalpara	31	50	19	....
Kamrup	109	226	117	....
Darrang	70	48	....	22
Nowgong	76	55	....	21
Sibsagar	133	72	....	61
Lakhimpur	8	37	29	....
Total districts of the plains ..	506	618	Net increase. 112	
Khásil Hills	390	458	68	
Garo Hills	10	20	10	
Naga Hills .....	....	4	4	
Total hill districts ..	400	482	Net decrease. 82	
Grand Total ..	906	1,100	194	

In addition to the number of the girls actually attending the schools, it seems probable that a large number, of whom the department has no cognizance, may be getting some instruction at their homes; for in the year 1874-75 it was ascertained that more than 50 per cent. of the girls joining the schools of the Sibsagar district had learnt how to read and write beforehand.

328. *Special Instruction.*—(a) *Normal Schools.*—At the close of the year there was a normal school at the head-quarters of each of the plains districts, excepting Cachar and Nowgong. During the year under review, these schools turned out 144 persons, who are now employed in teaching. In the previous three years, 351 teachers have been furnished.

In addition to the teachers supplied by the normal schools, many youths who have passed the vernacular scholarship examination are found ready to take primary-schoolmasterships, and it frequently happens that some of these turn out to be among the best teachers in the primary schools.

329. (b) *Technical Schools.*—The schools established from the Williamson Endowment Fund come under this head.

The artizan school at Jorhát is now working with fair success. Instruction is imparted in boat-building, wheel-making, furniture-making, and blacksmith's work. The survey school at Golághát did not prove popular there, and was far from successful. It has been discontinued since the close of the year, and in its stead a survey class (called the Williamson Survey Class) has been attached to the zila school at Sibsagar.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

330. During the year 1876, 37 books were registered, against nine registered in 1875, showing an increase of 28 books.

Of the 37 books registered, 13 were educational and 24 non-educational works, 21 were original works, 10 were translations, and 6 were re-publications.

The number of copies of educational works increased from 4,500 in 1875 to 11,600 in 1876, and the number of copies of non-educational works increased from 2,800 to 16,150.

With one exception, *viz.*, a work on “the peculiarity of the river names of Assam and some of the countries adjoining,” which is in English, all the books published were written either in Bengali or Assamese.

The books registered in 1876 treat of the following subjects:—Biography, drama, fiction, history, language, poetry, religion, science, and miscellaneous subjects.

There is nothing noteworthy in any of these publications, which, as a rule, are of the nature of short pamphlets. Only three of them contain more than 100 pages.

The expenditure incurred, under Section 10 of Act XXV. of 1867, in the purchase of books during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, is given below :—

1874.	1875.	1876.
Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
9 9 9	8 10 0	26 11 6

Fees levied under Section 18 amounted to Rs. 10. No necessity arose for any prosecution under Section 16 of the Act.

331. During the year 1876-77 there were six Presses in the Province,—one more than in the preceding year.

Four native papers were published in the Province during the year under review, against three published in 1875-76, *viz.*, the *Arunodoi* at Sibságar, the *Assam Bilasini* at Majuli, in Sibságar, the *Hitasadhini* in Goálpára, and the *Srihattaprokash* in Sylhet. Besides the four newspapers mentioned above, the Dihingu Gossain, of Nowgong, edits a monthly treatise on religious subjects, which is printed at Gauháti and finds sale among his disciples only. The circulation of these newspapers, as explained in last year's report, is very limited, and is chiefly among foreigners.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Nil.—Vide para. 725, Part II.B. of last year's report.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

332. Ecclesiastical affairs in the Province are under the supervision of the Bishop of Calcutta. There is only one chaplain on the establishment, who officiates part of the year at Gauháti and part of the year at Shillong, and who also visits Goálpára four times a year.

There is a minister at Dibrugarh paid by the Additional Clergy Society ; this minister visits Sadiya once a year. At Silchar there is a minister, also paid by the above Society, who visits Sylhet four times a year. At Tezpur there is minister paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts ; this minister visits Nowgong twice a year, Bishnath twice a year, and Mangaldai three times a year. In addition to the above, a minister has recently been appointed for Jorhát.

There are seven churches in the Province,—at Shillong, Gauháti, Tezpur, Mangaldai, Dibrugarh, Sylhet, and Silchar.

Statistics.

	Number of churches.	Number of Clergymen and ministers.	Number of persons attending worship.	Paid by Government.
Church of England	7	5	.....	Rs. 17,195

SECTION 2.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

333. There is nothing to add to the information given under this head in the Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76.

SECTION 3.—STATIONERY.

334. The Superintendent of Stationery not being able to give the information asked for, this section is blank.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1876-77.

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STATISTICAL TABLES.

1876-77.

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PART I.

STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL
GEOGRAPHY.

A 1.—AREA CULTIVATED AND UNCULTIVATED AND COMMUNICATIONS (1876-77).

PRINCIPAL GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY.	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.			UNAPPROPRIATED CULTURABLE WASTE IN ACRES.			COMMUNICATIONS—MILEAGE OF					REMARKS.	
	Cultivated.	WASTE.		Total.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at close of year.	Navigable rivers.	MADE ROADS.				Railroads.
		Culturable.	Unculturable.						First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.		
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.													
Burma Valley Districts { Sylhet	2,680	1,085	655	5,440	448,547	20	448,527	800	* The area in column 5 differs from the area entered in column 9 of Statement E. Piece 1, 2, owing to the inclusion in column 6 of all area which has neither been surveyed nor assessed.
{ Cachar	451	2,500	799	3,750*	1,969,444	21,977	1,911,467	261	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Godipara Includ- ing Eastern Duars	1,040	2,148	1,250	4,438	.....	.....	.....	600	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Kamrup	812	1,587	1,252	3,651	961,576	1,068	960,518	585	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Darrang	348	2,694	441	3,413	1,857,504	1,011	1,856,498	180	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Brahmaputra Valley Districts. { Nowong	289	2,117	909	3,415	.....	.....	.....	169	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Sibsagar	486	2,165	192	2,855	1,895,535	9,894	1,885,641	224	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Lakhimpur ..	147	3,386	190	3,723	2,145,903	4,958	2,140,945	940	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	7,375	17,587	5,688	30,660	.....	.....	.....	3,739	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hill Districts	112	1,385	718	3,180	.....	.....	.....	150	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Garo Hills	112	1,385	718	3,180	855,680	1,280	854,400	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Khasi Hills	2,000	2,300	1,000	5,300	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Naga Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	10,640	.....	.....	.....	154	.....	.....	.....	.....
NATIVE STATES.													
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	176	2,551	1,260	3,997	1,639,040	1,639,040	
GRAND TOTAL	45,297	3,893	

A 2.—CHARACTER OF THE SURFACE.

[2] [For details of this Table, see Part IIA., Chapter I. of this office General Administration Report for the years 1874-75 & 1875-76.]

A 3.—CLIMATE (1876).

[3]

Places at which observations taken.	RAINFALL IN INCHES.			AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN THE SHADE.												CLOUD PROPORTION 0 TO 10.			
	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	May.				July.				December.				January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	
				Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.				
Sibságar.....	27.66	49.97	6.10	83.73	84.8	70.6	93.7	74.8	77.3	77.5	94.7	74.8	73.3	48.3	77.4	42.3	8.02	9.28	6.58
Goálpára	18.00	61.43	8.46	87.89	84.3	70.5	94.1	74.5	76.7	91.1	74.5	75.0	75.0	64.5	78.5	60.7	2.54	6.18	1.70
Silchar	56.33	79.13	6.16	141.62	87.3	71.9	94.0	75.0	88.5	76.9	93.6	75.0	76.9	63.2	79.9	46.4	4.97	7.78	8.86
Sylhet .....	.....	.....	.....	150.73	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gauhati.....	.....	.....	.....	65.86	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tezpur .....	.....	.....	.....	58.15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong .....	.....	.....	.....	63.90	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dibrugarh.....	.....	.....	.....	106.97	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shillong.....	.....	.....	.....	88.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Samsagting .....	.....	.....	.....	53.76	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tura .....	.....	.....	.....	98.33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
General Average ..	24.00	63.51	6.91	104.41	80.5	71.0	94.6	74.8	88.5	77.0	93.1	74.8	75.1	52.0	78.6	48.0	6.18	7.78	4.03

1. Native and Tributary States for the year 1876-77.

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.		Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
				Rs.	A. P.			Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
MANIPUR. (Consists of the Manipur Valley Proper, and a large tract of hill country tributary to it.)	Independent but protected State: it has its own laws.	None.	Population of the valley .. 56,000 Hills .. 70,000 Total .. 126,000	Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated .. 55,000 0 0 to 60,000 0 0	Rs. A. P. 0 0 0 0	Infantry 4,400 Artillery 500 Cavalry .. 400	Duties levied both on exports and imports.	Rice, dal, and vegetables of varieties, Indian rubber, ivory, wax, ponies, buffaloes, and elephants.	Coarse cloths, yarns, brass, and hard-ware.	Iron ore, limestone, and salt.
KHÁSI HILLS. Bhawal ..	Subsidiary alliance.	Ditto.	369 ..	Market dues .. 10 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. 16,000 0 0 Total .. 16,010 0 0	None ..	None ..	None ..	Rice, millet, bay-leaves, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum."	None ..	Lime.
Cherra ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	8,060 ..	Market dues .. 7,000 0 0 Judicial fines .. 150 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. 200 0 0 Zemindari holding in Sylhet .. 1,300 0 0 Total .. 8,650 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Cotton, millet, betel-nuts, pan, oranges, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey.	Bamboo mats and bamboo-baskets.	Lime, iron, and coal.
Sbella ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	5,511 ..	Market dues .. 300 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Total .. 700 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Oranges, betel-nuts, pine-apples.	Bamboo mats and bamboo-baskets.	Lime and coal.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1. Native and Tributary States for the year 1876-77.—(Continued.)

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Suppressed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Khyrim ..	In subsidiary alliance.	None.	20,504 ..	Rs. A. P. Pension allowed by Government. Rs. 1,800 0 0 100 per incense .. 5,000 0 0 Market dues .. 400 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry Contributions for State purposes .. 1,000 0 0 Total .. 10,100 0 0	None	None	Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, coarctone, cinchona, soapstone, brass, kaolin, (a kind of asphalt), beet-root, Indian-corn, betel, orange, lac, Hamboora, Crawbars, turmeric, ginger, honey.	Cotton cloth, Fine silk cloth, Brass, Koolies, Hamboora, Crawbars, Wokers, Chisels, Bamboo bas-kets.	Lime, Coal, Iron.
Mylhim ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	12,266 ..	Market dues .. 250 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes 1,200 0 0 Judicial fines .. 225 0 0 Forest rent .. 15 0 0 Total .. 1,690 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Cinnamon, sugar-cane, Dates, Potatoes, job's-tears, Indian-corn, soapstone (a kind of excellent), ginger, millet.	Bamboo mats, Baskets.	Iron.
Langrin ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,967 ..	Market dues .. 150 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. 700 0 0 Forest rent .. 60 0 0 Fishes .. 50 0 0 Total .. 960 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, ginger.	None	Lime, Coal.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Maharaj	Ditto	Ditto	6,187	Contributions levied for State purposes Market dues .. Forest revenue .. Malikans on lime-quarry .. Judicial fines .. Total ..	400 0 0 170 0 0 65 0 0 360 0 0 170 0 0 1,045 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Job's-tears, black-pepper, pepper nigruui, chillies, bay-leaves, honey, rice, potatoes, millet, Indian-corn, sohph-lang (a kind of esculent turp), cinnamon, caoutchouc, sugar-cane, ginger.	Dhaca, kochalles, hammers.	Iron and lime.
Maoyang	Ditto	Ditto	1,288	Lime-quarries .. Horse-tax .. Rent of fisheries .. Judicial fines .. Contributions levied for State purposes Total ..	232 8 0 9 0 0 50 0 0 100 0 0 90 0 0 501 8 0	Ditto	Ditto	Honey, bees'-wax, cotton, rice, millet, job's-tears, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turp).	Mats ..	Lime.
Maosynram	Ditto	Ditto	947	Market dues .. Contributions for State purposes .. Total ..	180 0 0 150 0 0 330 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, ginger.	Ditto ..	Lime, coal, iron.
Malaisohmat	Ditto	Ditto	299	Market dues .. Malikans on lime-quarry .. Contributions levied for State purposes Forest revenue .. Total ..	50 0 0 760 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 900 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay-leaves, betel-nut, oranges.	Ditto ..	Lime.
Marriso	Ditto	Ditto	2,806	Market dues .. Contributions levied for State purposes Total ..	25 0 0 100 0 0 125 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turp), Indian-corn, sugar-cane.	Ditto ..	None.
Nobosohoh	Ditto	Ditto	961	Market dues .. Judicial fines .. Total ..	100 0 0 30 0 0 130 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turp), potatoes.	Ditto ..	Ditto.

* These contributions are of an uncertain nature.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1. *Native and Tributary States for the year 1876-77.—(Continued.)*

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Thibe in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Kongklhaw ..	Subsidiary alliance.	None.	6,924 ..	Rs. A. P.	None ..	None ..	Potatoes, rice, millet, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphiang (a kind of esculent turnip), caoutchouc, cinnamon.	Cotton, kodalies, diams, crow-bars.	Lime.
				Market dues ..						600 0 0
Nongspung ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	871 ..	Contributions levied for State purposes ..	None ..	None ..	Rice, potatoes, honey, bees-wax.	Dhaos ..	Iron.
				Judicial fines ..						800 0 0
Nongstain ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	7,768 ..	Forest dues ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Lac, honey, bees-wax, cotton, caoutchouc, job's-tears, rice, millet, chillies, sohphiang (a kind of esculent turnip).	Earthenware, pottery, cotton cloth, dhaos, spades.	Lime and coal.
				Rent of State lands ..						600 0 0
Bambrai ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,787 ..	Total ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, millet, Indian-corn.	Cotton cloth ..	None.
				Commission as mouladar in Kairup district ..						100 0 0
				Total ..					
				2,069 0 0					
				Market dues ..					
				Lime-quarries ..	1,000 0 0				
				Contribution levied for State purposes ..	900 0 0				
				Judicial fines ..	1,500 0 0				
				Total ..	4,100 0 0				
				Market dues ..	40 0 0				
				Judicial fines ..	150 0 0				
				Forest rent ..	250 0 0				
				Total ..	440 0 0				

Jesraag	Ditto	Ditto	881	..	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..	Rice, millet, ginger, chillies, job s-leaf, caoutchouc.	Ditto	..	None.
Duara Nong-tyrmen.	Ditto	Ditto	878	..	..	Malkans on lime-quarry	..	Ditto	..	Rice, millet, oranges, betel-nut, betel-leaves, turmeric.	Small net	..	Lime.
						Fees for cutting timber	..	..	..	
						Total	..	1,680 0 0	..				
							..	35 0 0	..				
							..	1,715 0 0	..				
Maodon	Ditto	Ditto	253	..	..	..	..	Ditto	..	Millet, oranges, betel-nut, jack-fruit, pine-apples, chillies, bay-leaves.	None	..	Lime and coal.

2.—Native Chiefs and Principal Male Members of their Families for the year 1876-77.

Name of individual, and State and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has sundry authorizing adoption or not.	Family follows primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.	REMARKS.
<i>Manipur.</i>									
Chandra Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Nowjindl, Nongreien Khombah; State Manipur; family Laiphum.	Maharajah. This title assumed about eight years ago, and sanctioned by Government of India.	Caste Khettri, religion Boishab.	45 years ..	Fair (now English) education.	.....	Has no sundry	Succession devolves upon eldest son.	Have ten sons. The eldest, named Sur Chandra Singh, at present Joo brai, will succeed to the Gadi.	Strong, healthy, intelligent man; fond of out-door sport; and has the good opinion of his subjects.
Dharma Satn Singh; family Laiphum.	Senapati General.	Ditto	52 ..	Ditto	Try all military cases.	Ditto	Ditto	Have eight sons.	
Sur Chandra Singh; family Laiphum.	Joo brai	Ditto	25 ..	Educated in English and Hindice.	Try civil cases, and is a Justice of the <i>Chattri</i> or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	None.	
Kul Chandra Singh, <i>alias</i> Golap Singh.	Oang Khai Rakpa.	Ditto	23 ..	Reads and writes Bengali.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
Jhallo Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Fyowbah.	Samu Hanzaba	Ditto	22 ..	Ditto	Has charge of all the elephants.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
Tejendra Singh, <i>alias</i> Kol-rang.	Katwal	Ditto	22 ..	Ditto	A Justice of the <i>Chattri</i> or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
<i>Khasi Hills, Shillong.</i>									
U Baman Singh; State Bhawal.	Siem	Khasi	17 ..	Uneducated ..	As Siem ..	Adoption is not allowed according to Khasi custom.	Not	Succession elective.	Succession to Seimship is by election.
U Hajan Manjok; State Cherra.	Ditto	Ditto	48 ..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
U Jitra, ...			30 ..	Can read and write Khasi and Bengali					
U Tab Rai			38 ..						
U Na Sing			45 ..						
U Bhab, ...			44 ..	a little					
U Khar Singh; State Khyrim.	Siem	Ditto	33 ..	Uneducated ..	As Siem ..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.

C.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY (1876-77).

THE chief executive authority in the Province of Assam is the Chief Commissioner, established under Home Department Notifications Nos 380, dated 6th February, 1874, and 2,344 of the 12th September, 1874. The Chief Commissioner is assisted by a Secretary with an Assistant, two Judges, Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Deputy-Surgeon-General, who is also *ex-officio* Sanitary-Commissioner, Inspector of Schools, who is also in Charge of Registration, Inspector-General of Police and jails, who is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps, and Deputy-Commissioners.

The following is a statement of the area, population, revenue, &c., of the different Deputy-Commissionerships and Revenue Sub-divisions of the Territory:—

Name of Chief Commissioner's	Names of the Executive Districts.	Number of Judicial and Revenue Sub-divisions.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Chief towns, with population.	Number of villages.	How many Civil and Revenue Judges of all sorts.	How many Magistrates of all sorts.	Maximum distance in miles of villages from nearest court.	Average ditto.	Number of police.	Total cost of officials and Police of all kinds.	REVENUE.	
													Land.	Gross.
SARMA Valley Districts.	Sylhet	1	5,440	1,719,559	Sylhet..... 16,816 Kasiba Baniachang 22,164	6,854	9	14	From civil, 80 civil ..	32	578	} 46,16,422	} 32,80,311	} 66,00,900
	Cachar	2	3,750	240,027	Siphar..... 3,729	4,924	4	4	30	492				
	Goalpara	2	4,433	407,711	Goalpara..... 4,678 Daburi..... 477 Gauripur..... 1,805	1,330	....	7	70	30	321			
ASSAM VALLEY Districts.	Kamrup	2	3,631	561,681	Gauripur..... 1,805 Barpeta..... 13,100	1,649	5	11	45	22	298	} 46,16,422	} 32,80,311	} 66,00,900
	Darrang	1	3,413	236,009	Tezpur..... 2,567	1,849	5	5	70	25	248			
	Nowgong	1	3,415	256,390	Nowgong..... 2,883	1,293	3	6	62	22	160			
HILL Districts.	Sibsagar	3	2,855	296,589	Sibsagar..... 5,278 Jorhat..... 1,283 Golachhat..... 1,569	1,696	12	6	50	33	283	} 46,16,422	} 32,80,311	} 66,00,900
	Lakhimpur	3	3,728	121,267	Dibrugarh..... 2,174	840	6	6	100	32	346			
	Garo Hills	1	3,180	80,000	Tura..... 624	624	....	3	70	25	335			
NAGA HILLS Districts.	Khasi Hills	2	6,157	141,838	Shillong..... 1,363 Jowai..... 443	1,003	....	4	65	25	146	} 46,16,422	} 32,80,311	} 66,00,900
	Naga Hills	1	5,300	68,018	Cherra Poojpes..... 4,502 Samaguting..... 746 Kohlnak..... 4,325	278	....	2	....	....	164			
Total		20	45,397	4,129,072	99,241	17,940	44	68	....	....	3,372			

* Hill, new villages were formed during the year by settlements of waste land.
† Exclusive of hill tracts.

[8]

E.—FISCAL (1876-77.)

1. *Survey and Settlement.*

SURVEY.

Area previously surveyed in miles.			Cost per mile.		Surveyed during the year, with cost per mile.	
Topographically.	Revenue.		Topographical.	Revenue.	Topographical.	Revenue.
	By villages.	By fields.				
21.855	27.686	..	Rs. As. P. 18 3 4	Rs. As. P. 66 7 1	717 square miles, cost Rs. 27 per mile.	....

SETTLEMENT.

Nature of Settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of Settlement.	Remarks.
		Rs.		
Settled in perpetuity	5,497.55	3,78,648	.....
" for thirty years or upwards	197.46	26,263	1906 to 1961	
" " ten years and under thirty	1,650.61	2,91,175	1878 to 1896	
" under ten years	3,889.88	23,19,552	31st March, 1877,	
" in progress	392	15,356	.....
Total.....	11,627.50	30,30,994	.....
Settlements previously made, including full record of rights	3,752.39	4,08,292	.....
Settlements without such record	5,497.55	3,78,648	.....
Settlements during the year } Detailed .....			.....
} Summary	1,985.56	22,28,698	.....

E.—FISCAL.

2.—Surveyed and Assessed Area in Acres (1876-77).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13												
													CULTIVATED.				UNCULTIVATED.				ASSESSMENT.			
													Irrigated.		Unirrigated.	Total.	Grazing lands.	Culturable.	Un-culturable waste.	Total area assessed.	Gross amount.	Rate per acre on cultivation.	Rate per acre on culturable land.	Rate per acre on total area of settlement.
By Government works.	By private individuals.																							
District.																								
Cocher			257,285	257,285	15,000	59,868	.....	325,653	1,63,286	.....	.....	.....									
Sylhet		11,880	2,075,068	2,086,448	.....	686,190	151,522	2,924,170	4,93,388	.....	.....	.....									
Goalpara	665,600	665,600	.....	1,371,620	800,000	2,837,120	61,829	.....	.....	.....									
Kamrup	519,808	519,808	.....	.....	.....	519,808	8,59,143	.....	.....	.....									
Darrang		27,611	194,618	222,229	.....	780	.....	223,009	3,80,774	.....	.....	.....									
Nowgong		6,230	211,935	217,165	.....	3,270	.....	220,435	2,52,375	2 2 3	.....	2 2 3*									
Sibsagar	293,384	293,384	.....	.....	.....	293,384	5,30,206	.....	.....	.....									
Lakhimpur	96,908	96,908	.....	.....	.....	96,908	1,67,540	.....	.....	.....									
Garo Hills	204	204	.....	.....	.....	204	872	.....	.....	.....									
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	251	251	.....	.....	.....	251	323	.....	.....	.....									
Naga Hills	728	728	.....	.....	.....	728	808	2 2 3	.....	2 2 3*								
Total and average rates		44,221	4,315,759	4,360,010	15,000	2,116,128	961,532	7,441,670	8,030,994												

* Average.

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E.—FISCAL (1876-77).

3.—Varieties of Tenure held direct from Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NATURE OF TENURE.	Number of estates.	Number of villages.	Number of holders or shareholders.	Gross area in acres.	Average area of each estate in acres.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
						Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Great zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue.	} Not known.
Held by individuals under law of primogeniture	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....
Held by individuals and families under ordinary law.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....
Large zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....
Under law of primogeniture.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....
Under ordinary law.	7	....	1	375,265	53,609	728 0 0	0 0 0
Small zemindaries other than those of cultivating communities.	724	1,038	3,243	2,760,664	3,813	413 0 0	1 0 0	
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common.	8,655	337	82,740	302,628	35	18 0 0	0 5 0	
Proprietary cultivators paying separately, including all small estates paying less than Rs. 100.	477,171	7,846	949,287	39,61,782	8	6 0 0	0 10 0	
Holders of revenue-free tenures.	454	55	63	59,532	131	.....	.....
In perpetuity	522	1,451	2,341	24,953	48	.....	.....
For life	100	50	94	94,634*	946	.....	.....
Grants held under the rules of 1838 and 1854.	100	50	94	94,634*	946	.....	.....
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue.	1,668	185	1,930	259,121*	185	.....	.....
Purchasers of waste lands	327	91	293	192,264	588	.....	.....
Total	489,628	11,053	1,040,292	8,030,833	16

* Of these areas, 41,331 acres were assessed during the year.

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E.—FISCAL.

4.—Varieties of Tenure not held direct from Government (1876-77).

[No data.]

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E.—FISCAL (1876-77.)

5.—Register of Transfers.

NATURE OF TENURE TRANSFERRED.	Number of transfers recorded.			Average area, in acres, of each holding transferred.			REMARKS.
	By voluntary sale or gift.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	By voluntary sale.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Great semindaries, complete .....	....	....	....	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	
Shares in ditto.....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Large semindaries .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shares in ditto.....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Small semindaries.....	1,561	....	....	5-1-5	....	....
Shares in ditto.....	918	....	72	18-2-39	....	3-0-0	
Villages owned by cultivating communities ..	133	....	....	11-0-15	....	....
Shares in ditto.....	1,387	117	....	4-0-16	6-3-8	....
Holdings of proprietary cultivators.....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Intermediate holdings of a transferable character.	....	....	....	....	....	....
Holdings of ryots at fixed rates	337	23	18	60-2-28	12-0-0	339-0-0	
Holdings of ryots with right of occupancy ..	61	4	26	305-3-22	9-0-0	532-0-0	
Revenue-free tenures	11	....	3	1,585-2-0	....	1,060-0-0	

E.—FISCAL (1876-77.)
6.—Land Revenue.

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE.	Revenue last year.		Revenue this year.		Cost of collections.	Net collections during the year.	Outstanding balances.	Number of arrears of revenue.	Revenue of estates sold.	Cause of increase or decrease of revenue, with explanation of any items realized in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realized.	Assessed.	Realized.						
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.						
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years.	4,17,331	.....	4,17,302	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Increase in the land revenue is due to the extension of cultivation and reassessment of old holdings at enhanced rates.
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during present year.	12,602	.....	8,919	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year.	6,946	.....	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collections from Government estates.....	4,72,967	3,03,149	4,26,073	3,32,530	.....	8,37,530	.....	.....	.....	* Rs. 111 were remitted in the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur. † Rs. 560 were paid in advance during the preceding year.
Income from sale of Government estates.....	24,94,096	24,46,564	26,04,921	25,61,498	2,86,107	22,95,491	107	9,680	9,680	
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above.	34	34	8	8	.....	8	428	1,189	1,189	
Total.....	2,78,077	2,26,489	2,23,650	2,07,666	6,863	2,01,004	.....	.....	.....	.....
	31,95,194	29,76,226	32,54,652	30,91,807‡	2,62,769	38,29,083	1,62,189	535	10,819	10,819

‡ Besides this amount, Rs. 9,159 were paid in advance for future years, viz. Rs. 23 for land revenue and Rs. 9,136 for miscellaneous revenue.

PART II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A.—LEGISLATIVE 1, 2, & 3.

Serial Nos. 14, 15, and 16, are Blank.

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

1. Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year 1876.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Number of judicial divisions.	Average area of each division in square miles.	Average population of each division.	Number of tribunals.	Constitution of tribunals, stating number of Judges in each, and jury or assessors, if any.	Judicial powers of each tribunal, original and appellate.
Class of Tribunals, distinguishing those which exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.						
Magistrate of 3rd class, exercising criminal powers only Unpaid ..	13	655	57,821	15	1 Judge, no assessor or jurors ..	Third-class Magistrate.
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers	1	5,440	1,719,539	2	1	Original.
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers Paid	1	4,524	139,356	1	1	Third-class Magistrate and Munsiff.
Ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers	3	1,748	163,870	3	1	Third-class Magistrate, Munsiff, and Deputy-Collector.
Ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers Paid						
Ditto of 2nd class, exercising criminal powers only	2	1,113	133,149	2	1	Second-class Magistrate.
Ditto	1	5,440	1,719,539	5	1	Original.
Ditto	5	1,643	166,989	6	1	Second-class Magistrate.
Magistrate of 1st class, exercising criminal and revenue powers Paid ..	1	5,440	1,719,539	2	1	Original and appellate.
Ditto	2	2,500	102,513	2	1	13 First-class Magistrates and Munsiff.
Ditto	13	1,243	99,125	13	1	Munsiffs, and 2 Sub-Judges.
Magistrates of Districts	8	10,919	2,090,604	8	1 Judge, and 2 assessors ..	Sub-Judge, Civil Judge, Magistrates of the Districts, and Collectors.
District Judges	3	26,297	3,599,407	3	1 Judge, 5 jurors, 2 assessors ..	Civil Judge, Original and appellate.
Munsiffs exercising civil powers only	5	5,440	843,807	5	1	Original.
Sub-Judge, with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge up to Rs. 60 ..	1	5,440	1,719,539	1	1	Ditto and appellate.
Court of Sessions	3	26,297	3,599,407	3	1	Appellate.

1. Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year 1876.

	8	Total number of Judges.				Average annual salary of each paid Judge.		15	16
		Covenanted.		Native.		European.	Native.		
		Commissioned Military officers.	Unrenewed.	Commissioned Military officers.	Unrenewed.				
Class of Tribunals, distinguishing those who exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.	Prescribed qualification of Judges previous to appointment.							Total cost of Tribunals.	Net receipts from stamps.
Magistrate of 3rd class exercising criminal powers only. Unpaid.	1	9	1,262	4	0	853	8	0
Ditto criminal and revenue powers..... Paid	1	1	.....	.....	.....	5,715	0	3
Ditto criminal and civil powers..... Paid	1	3	.....	.....	.....	6,151	7	6
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers only .. Paid	1	1	.....	.....	.....	11,662	1	6
Ditto of 2nd class, exercising criminal powers only .. Unpaid	1	1	.....	.....	.....	232	0	0
Ditto criminal and revenue powers..... Paid	1	4	3,289	8	0	37,763	5	0
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers..... Paid	1	5	3,000	0	0	37,834	1	0
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers..... Paid	1	2	9,770	0	0	22,165	10	0
Ditto of 1st class exercising criminal and revenue powers .. Paid	1	3	9,588	11	3	10,090	11	3
Ditto criminal and civil powers .. Paid	2	4	7,284	12	8	1,07,339	11	3
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers .. Paid	2	5	18,760	0	0	3,24,610	6	1
Magistrates of Districts ..	One Civil Service	3	1	30,000	0	0	38,613	7	6
District Judges	1	1	4,613	6	2	.....	.....	.....
Munsiffs exercising civil powers only	1	1	7,200	0	0	.....	.....	.....
Sub-Judge.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Courts of Session	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued.)

1. Showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of Assam on the last day of the year 1876.

	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Average number of days in the year devoted to judicial work	Average number of advocation cases attached to each tribunal.	Criminal.	Civil.	Revenue.	Appel.
Class of Tribunals, distinguishing those who exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments and those consisting of paid from unpaid Judges.							
Executive or other functions exercised by the same officers.							
Magistrate of 3rd class exercising criminal powers only....Unpaid	102	102	.....	444	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers .....Paid ..	22	22	.....	345	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and civil powers	232	232	7	22	1,276	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers	157	157	10	363	1,454	103	.....
Ditto of 2nd class exercising criminal powers only	147	147	.....	85	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and revenue powers	162	162	.....	2,313	.....	.....	.....
Ditto civil, criminal and revenue powers	229	229	27	458	3,239	88	.....
Ditto of 1st class exercising criminal and revenue powers ..Paid ..	137	137	.....	1,832	.....	.....	.....
Ditto exercising criminal and civil powers	10 days in the civil court and no data available for other courts.	10 days in the civil court and no data available for other courts.	.....	780	11	.....	.....
Ditto criminal, civil, and revenue powers	186	186	42	2,278	3,318	134	30
Magistrates of Districts	130	130	9	3,086	54	1,031	739
District Judges	188	188	16	.....	447	.....	306
Munsiffs exercising only civil powers	16	16	16	15,796
Subordinate Judge	248	248	16	1,127
Courts of Session	129	129	17	2	484

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.		Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial, has been noted in this column.)
1	Offences against the State.....	121 to 130	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
2	Offences relating to the army and navy..	131 to 140	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
3	Offences against public tranquillity.	Unlawful assembly. 143 to 145, 149 to 151, 167, 158.	112	362	127	223	..	12	....
4		Rioting, &c..... 147, 148, 152, and 153 to 156.	204	887	155	659	3	70	....
5		Affray 160	47	123	13	110	..	..	....
6	Offences ..	By public servants 161 to 169	33	40	19	20	..	1	....
7		Relating to public servants. 161 to 170 and 171.	7	8	1	7	..	..	....
8	Contempt of lawful authority	172 to 190	460	1,251	231	998	1	21	....
9	False evidence, or subornation, &c., of the same.	193 to 200	81	155	65	79	..	11	4
10	Offences against public justice	201 to 229	182	256	86	161	2	7	2
11	Offences relating to coin	231 to 254	29	29	5	23	..	1	....
12	to stamps	255 to 263	3	3	..	2	..	1	....
13	to weights and measures	264 to 267	14	20	8	11	..	1	....
14	affecting public health	269 to 278	41	47	5	42	..	..	....
15	safety	279 to 289	135	186	18	168	..	..	....
16	convenience ..	290 and 291	79	89	6	83	..	..	....
17	relating to decency and morals	292 to 294	8	14	1	13	..	..	....
18	religion	295 to 298	....	1	..	1	..	..	....
19	Murder	302 and 303	31	54	25	14	1	14	8
	attempts .....	....	2	3	3	..	..	..	....
20	Culpable homicide	304	35	48	25	13	1	9	5
21	Abetment at suicide	305 and 306	13	14	3	10	..	1	....
	attempts .....	....	11	7	3	4	..	..	....
22	Thuggee, &c.	311	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
23	Causing miscarriage.	Attended with aggravating circumstances. 312 to 315	8	9	9	..	..	..	....
24		Other cases	312	57	1	1
25	Injury to unborn children	316	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
26	Exposure of infants	317	7	5	..	..	..	..	....
27	Concealment of birth by secret disposal of the dead body.	318	3	4	..	4	3	..	....
28	Hurt	With aggravating circumstances. 325 to 331 and 333.	62	46	8	34	1	1	....
29		Other cases..... 323, 324, 332, and 334 to 338.	532	543	159	374	..	9	....
30	Wrongful restraint.....	341	60	78	42	36	1	..	....
31	confinement.....	342 to 348	602	487	229	188	..	19	....
32	Criminal force or assault	352 to 358	5,302	3,024	1,447	1,550	..	27	....
33	Kidnapping or forcible abduction	With aggravating circumstances. 364, 366, 367	8	14	6	8	..	..	....
34		Other cases..... 363, 365, 368, 369.	28	83	14	16	..	4	....
35	Slavery	370 and 371	2	4	2	..	..	2	....
36	Buying or selling a minor for the purpose of prostitution.	372 and 378	3	9	7	2	..	..	....
37	Forced labour	374	8	3	1	2	..	..	....
38	Rape	376	43	25	22	2	..	1	....
39	Unnatural offences	377	13	12	6	6	..	1	....

[18] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued.)

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.		Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column).
		Sections.							
40	Theft	{ With aggravating circumstances. 382	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
41		{ Other cases..... 379 to 381 and 401	3,096	2,029	781	1,182	3	63	....
	Attempts .....	....	2	2	..	2	..	..	....
42	Extortion ..	{ With aggravating circumstances. 386 to 389	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
43		{ Other cases..... 384 and 385	93	63	38	19	..	6	....
44	Robbery....	{ With hurt 394	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
45		{ Other cases..... 392	37	37	28	8	..	1	....
46	Dacoity....	{ With murder..... 396	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
47		{ With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt. 397	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
48		{ Other cases..... 395, 399, 400, and 402	10	28	17	6	..	5	1
49	Criminal misappropriation of property..	403 and 404	158	131	50	81	..	..	....
50	Breach of trust.....	406 to 409	260	163	85	72	1	5	....
51	Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen property or plundered property.	411 to 414	260	482	107	355	1	19	1
52	Cheating	417 to 420	218	142	75	57	1	9	....
	Attempts .....	....	2	4	..	4	..	..	....
53	Fraudulent deeds and disposition of property.	421 to 424	2	2	2	..	..	..	....
54	Mischief ..	{ With aggravating circumstances. 429 to 433 and 435 to 440	171	99	42	53	..	4	1
55		{ Other cases..... 426 to 428 and 434	857	592	264	308	..	20	....
56	Criminal trespass.	{ Resulting in death or other grievous hurt. 459 and 460	....	....	..	..	..	..	....
57		{ For commission of serious offences. 449 to 450, 451, 452, 454, 455, 457, and 458	628	175	63	110	..	2	....
58		{ Other cases..... 447, 448, 453, 456, 461, and 462	728	688	284	391	3	10	....
59	Forgery or uttering or possessing forged documents or papers.	456 to 471 and 474	22	27	14	11	..	2	1

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B.--JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued.)

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.		Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column.)
		Sections.							
65	Criminal breach of contract of service..	490 to 492	23	21	11	8	..	2	....
66	Offences relating to marriage	493 to 498	434	197	163	26	..	8	....
67	Defamation	500 to 502	80	49	37	12	..	..	....
68	Criminal in- Resulting in death or timidation, other grievous hurt, insult or an- Other cases.....	506	2	2	1	1	..	..	....
69		504 to 510	75	69	18	51	..	..	....
70	Other offences not included in the above specifications.	3,273	4,329	849	3,445	4	31
Total.....		18,696	17,175	5,686	11,063	26	400	21

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.
 8. (Criminal).—Statement showing the general result of Criminal Trials in the Tribunals of various classes in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL	Number of persons dealt with.							Persons disposed of.				Remaining at end of year.	Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses who attended.	
	Brought to trial during present year.			Received by transfer.	Total.	Discharged without trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Committed or referred.	Died, escaped, or transferred.					
	Under arrest by police.	Upon warrant.	On summons.								Voluntarily.				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1
Bench Magistrates	2	15	129	604	45	795	131	222	438	...	...	3	5	...
Unpaid Magistrates	183	1,669	623	2,538	126	5,139	682	1,086	3,153	38	8	172	9	10,996	
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates	166	3,647	1,315	4,154	247	9,529	1,010	1,949	6,292	95	10	173	8	17,455	
Full-power Magistrates exercising jurisdiction throughout the district	53	688	188	698	48	1,675	207	316	1,105	14	4	29	4	1,719	
Chief Magistrates of districts	404	6,019	2,255	7,994	466	17,138	2,030	3,573	10,988	147	23	377	...	32,027	
Total Magistracy	35	1	...	1	...	184	3	80	75	...	3	23	62	843	
Sessions Courts	2	...	...	...	11	13	...	2	11	...	...	...	...	...
High Court (referred jurisdiction)....	441	6,020	2,255	7,995	466	17,335	2,033	3,655	11,074	147	26	400	...	32,870	
GRAND TOTAL.....															

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

4. (Criminal).—Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by various Criminal Tribunals in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	PERSONS SENTENCED TO										PERSONS ORDERED TO FIND OR GIVE					
	Transportation.		Penal servitude.		Imprisonment.			Forfeiture of property.		Fine.		Whipping.		Surety of peace.	Recognizance.	Surety for good behaviour.
	For life.	For a term.			With solitary confinement.	Without solitary confinement.	Rigorous.	Simple.	With imprisonment.	Without imprisonment.	In addition to other punishment.	In lieu of other punishment.				
Bench Magistrates .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid Magistrates .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	1	18	899	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	926	96	312	2,014	6	86	..	..	11	10
Full-power Magistrates (exercising jurisdiction throughout the districts).	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,988	43	490	2,503	84	193	40	1,103	102	..
Chief Magistrates of districts (district Magistrates)	..	..	..	..	..	..	362	10	20	454	1	27	6	88	6	..
Total Magistracy .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	3,304	160	840	6,870	41	236	46	1,202	117	..
Sessions Courts	9	3	16	..	..	..	46	8	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL	9	3	16	..	1	..	3,349	168	868	6,870	41	266	46	1,202	117	..

N.B.—This Statement does not include the following convictions, there being no appropriate headings to indicate them, viz. 1—942 persons convicted under Chapters 29, 30, & 31 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, &c.

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

5. (Criminal).—Statement showing the result of Appeal and Revision in Criminal Cases of the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	Number of Appellants or persons applying for Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X. of 1872.	NUMBER OF PERSONS.						Cases referred for revision to High Court.	Pending.
		Appeals or applications rejected.	sentences confirmed.	Sentences modified.	Sentences reversed.	Proceedings quashed.	Further inquiry or extension ordered.		
Chief Magistrates.....	394	47	193	42	88	.....	10	1	13
Sessions Courts	624	206	220	67	97	2	.....	5	27
Total.....	1,018	253	413	109	185	2	10	6	40
High Court.....	147	14	57	8	51	.....	.....	.....	17
GRAND TOTAL.....	1,165	267	470	117	236	2	10	6	57

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued).

6. (Civil).—Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	SUITS UNDER THE REST LAW.										OTHER SUITS.									
	Arrears of rent with or without execution.	Enhancement or abatement of rent.	Relating to districts.	Damages for extortion, or withholding rents, or on account of illegal restraint or other causes.	For potahs or kabulyats.	For ejectment or recovery of possession.	For recovery of money or for accounts from agents.	All other suits under the Rest Law not included above.	Suits for immoveable property.	Suits for specific performance of contract.	Suits to declare and establish rights to real property, including foreclosure, &c.	Suits to declare and establish personal rights.	Suits for an account.	Suits relating to religious endowments.	Suits to set aside judgments, on the ground of fraud.	Suits for dissolution of marriage.	Suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights.	Suits for partition.	Suits relating to shipping.	Suits relating to religion and caste.
Village Courts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small Cause Courts.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unpaid Local Tribunals .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiff Courts),	890	11	1	.....	8	18	4	10	2,607	31	172	55	15	6	13	20	186	3	.....	.....
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Sub-judges Courts).	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	1	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges Courts).	269	1	.....	.....	38	14	7	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Revenue Courts
TOTAL	1,169	12	1	19	41	82	11	12	2,637	32	174	65	17	6	13	23	186	5

8,147

1,267

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

7. (Civil).—Statement showing value of Suits disposed of in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

VALUE OF SUITS.	NUMBER OF SUITS DISPOSED OF IN DIFFERENT COURTS.						Total Number of Suits disposed of in different Courts.	Total value of Suits.
	Village Courts.	Small Cause Courts.	Munsiffs, Deputy-Collectors, and other Sub-Divisional Courts.	District Courts.	Superior Courts.			
<i>In Civil Courts.</i>								Rs.
Not exceeding Rs. 5	1,392	39	...	1,431	5,010
Ditto " 20	5,190	278	...	5,468	17,222
Ditto " 100	9,661	342	...	10,003	4,83,463
Ditto " 500	2,623	2	...	2,625	4,99,063
Ditto " 1,000	196	4	...	200	1,38,382
Ditto " 5,000	6	88	...	94	1,88,960
Ditto " 10,000	9	...	9	68,924
Ditto " 1,00,000	6	...	6	1,01,078
Exceeding " 1,00,000	3	...	3	7,14,167
Total in Civil Courts	19,068	771	...	19,839 ^o	22,70,269
<i>In Revenue Courts.</i>								
Not exceeding Rs. 5	98	7	...	105	345
Ditto " 20	115	30	...	145	1,403
Ditto " 100	59	22	...	81	3,121
Ditto " 500	7	5	...	12	2,443
Ditto " 1,000
Ditto " 5,000	2	.....	...	2	3,318
Ditto " 10,000	1	.....	...	1	7,294
Ditto " 1,00,000
Exceeding " 1,00,000
Total in Revenue Courts	282	64	...	346 [†]	17,924
Grand Total	19,350	835	...	20,185	22,88,193

^o Six cases having no money value have not been included in this Statement.

[†] Two cases as noted above.

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

8. (Civil).—Statement showing the general result of the Trial of Civil Suits in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction in the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

CLASS OF COURTS.	Suits remaining from last year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	AVERAGE DURATION OF SUITS.		20	21	
																				Contested.	Uncontested.			
Civil Courts.	Village Courts .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Small Cause Courts .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Unpaid local tribunals .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Paid local tribunals	2,325	18,740	1,647	25,721	1,493	154	2,303	436	1,815	2,566	4,641	851	3,978	2,929	19,073	2,155	199	262	..	..	..	..
	Paid sub-divisional tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts).	141	667	61	869	8	14	163	26	49	66	202	42	114	90	756	105	19	45	..	..	..	..
	District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	3	13	7	23	2	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	6	2	16	6	..	3	..	..	..	..
	Chief Courts of districts (District Judges' Courts).	2,469	19,429	1,715	23,613	1,603	168	2,466	462	1,864	2,625	4,849	893	4,097	2,421	19,815	2,265	218	310	..	..	..	85
	Total.....	2,469	19,429	1,715	23,613	1,603	168	2,466	462	1,864	2,625	4,849	893	4,097	2,421	19,815	2,265	218	310	..	..	..	85
	Revenue Courts.	Unpaid local tribunals
		Paid sub-divisional tribunals	21	284	74	379	73	3	66	5	25	40	88	..	62	46	284	22	3
Courts of Collectors .....		..	66	..	66	..	..	7	8	10	12	6	..	16	11	64	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....		21	350	74	445	73	3	73	8	35	52	48	1	77	56	348	24	3	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL.....	2,490	19,779	1,789	24,058	1,676	171	2,539	470	1,899	2,677	4,897	894	4,174	2,477	20,163	2,289	221	310	..	..	..	85	

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.
 9. (Civil).—Statement showing the Business of the Civil and Revenue Appellate Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

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CLASS OF COURTS.	Remaining.	Instituted.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default or under Sections 5 and 6 of Act XXIII of 1861.			HEARD <i>ex parte</i> .			CONTESTED.				Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over four months.	Objections under Section 348, Act VIII of 1859.	Objections allowed.
						Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.								
													Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.					
Civil Appellate Court other than Chief Courts of District (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	153	561	710	1,424	89	36	58	...	8	726	91	203	29	1,151	184	58	46	13		
Collectors' Appellate Court ...	2	26	...	28	...	3	2	...	...	14	2	...	5	26	2	...	...	...
Chief Appellate Court of Districts (District Revenue Judges' Courts). { Civil Appeals.	286	893	41	1,220	651	9	16	2	6	222	13	50	17	335	234	30	39	2		
Chief Appellate Court of Province (High Court). { Regular Appeals from District Courts.	86	58	...	144	...	1	8	1	...	91	17	9	4	131	13	...	2	...		
Chief Appellate Court of Province (High Court). { Special Appeals	6	8	...	14	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	7	7	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	587	1,664	751	3,002	740	53	84	3	14	1,130	123	275	67	1,749	513	88	87	15		

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

11. (Civil).—Statement showing use of Jurors and Assessors in the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

Class of Courts in which Jurors or Assessors are employed, distinguishing Criminal from CIVIL Courts.	Established or average number of Jury or Assessors in each case and prescribed qualifications.	Number of cases tried by Jury.	Number of cases with Assessors.	JURY TRIALS.		ASSESSORS' TRIALS.		Remarks.
				Cases in which the Judge approved of the verdict.	Cases in which the Judge did not approve of the verdict.	Number of cases in which Judges agreed with Assessors.	Number of cases in which Judges differed from Assessors.	
Courts of Session.	Five Jurors and two Assessors. Qualifications as described in Sections 404, 405 and 406, Code of Criminal Procedure.	15	75	13	2	71 ^o	4	<p>All offences including abetments and attempts falling under Chapters VIII, XI, XVII, XVIII, and XXVIII of the Indian Penal Code are tried by Jury; the rest are tried with the aid of Assessors.</p> <p>Four of these cases were decided without the opinion of Assessors.</p>

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.

12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds Registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1875-76 and 1876-77.

DISTRICT.	REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVABLE PROPERTY—BOOK I.														
	COMPULSORY.														
	Number of Registration Offices.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
				Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Instruments of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Other instruments registered under Section 17, Clause 2 and 3.	Perpetual leases (Section 17, Clause 4).	All leases (other than perpetual leases) which have been completed under Section 17, Clause 4.	Total of compulsory registrations.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
Office of Officer in Charge of Registration Department, Assam.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cachar	2	4	431	234	188	.....	2	14	41	685	758	686	8	711	0
Sylhet	4	40	2,654	499	508	16	8	350	538	3,514	3,387	3,828	0	3,458	8
Goalpara	2	3	31	61	68	.....	.....	196	413	291	527	200	0	884	0
Kamrup	2	2	84	22	37	.....	2	23	17	161	289	192	8	242	0
Darrang	2	5	40	4	8	.....	.....	1	.....	50	23	77	0	72	0
Nowrang	1	5	21	2	2	.....	.....	.....	2	33	40	107	6	46	8
Sibsagar	3	8	19	4	11	.....	.....	5	3	28	55	70	0	98	0
Lakhimpur	3	3	20	4	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	22	75	8	45	0
Total	19	19	3,209	830	826	21	12	508	1,014	4,705	4,381	5,192	8	5,057	0

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT, 12.—(Continued.)

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DISTRICT.	RECEIPTS.										Total Expenditure.	
	1875-76.					1876-77.						
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38		
	Number of registrations under Section 34.	Number of registrations under Section 34.	Number of refusals to register.	Number of powers of attorney attested.	Number of searches or applications for copies.	Total ordinary fees, including the entries in columns 10, 13, and 26, and the total fees paid for registration under columns 27 and 28.	Total extraordinary fees and fines.					
Office of Officer in Charge of Registration Department, Assam.....	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.
Cachar	2	2	22	76	38	1,256 8	1,425 8	368 0 3	543 1 9	1,745 9 11	1,785 5 4	916 5 10
Sylhet	24	38	68	255	261	4,813 8	4,549 8	4,830 11 6	4,862 8 6	6,746 4 8	5,942 11 6	6,746 4 8
Goalpara .....	.....	.....	4	21	11	404 8	565 0	313 11 0	823 0 0	1,224 3 0	1,160 2 1	1,224 3 0
Kamrup	1	.....	8	26	25	514 8	614 8	228 14 0	814 7 0	1,125 9 0	1,028 14 8	1,125 9 0
Darrang .....	.....	.....	1	13	8	181 0	169 0	79 0 6	123 3 0	494 6 6	387 11 5	494 6 6
Nowgong	4	7	6	11	27	540 8	433 8	130 12 0	177 13 6	528 9 0	502 8 0	528 9 0
Sibsagar	1	.....	3	26	7	504 0	778 8	79 6 0	86 12 0	816 10 11	765 4 1	816 10 11
Lakhimpur	2	.....	2	25	2	133 0	134 0	52 6 0	83 0 0	155 9 0	118 13 6	155 9 0
Total.....	32	47	116	450	371	8,847 8	8,689 8	6,092 13 3	6,512 13 9	13,753 3 10	12,480 10 10	13,753 3 10

Showing the distribution of the Prisoners of all classes, confined in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Province of Assam during the year 1876.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total daily average of whole jail.														
											Remained at commencement of the year 1876.	Received during the year 1876.	Total.	Discharged from all causes.*	Remained at end of the year.	Daily average number of each class.								
Stations.	Place of confinement.	Classes of prisoners.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.										
Goalpara ..	Goalpara	Convicts	102	5	107	216	5	231	10	328	276	7	983	42	3	45	8508	424	9252	9310	428	9738		
		Under-trial	11	1	12	161	4	171	5	176	168	4	170	5	1	6	437	94	431					
		Civil .....	..	..	1	17	..	18	..	18	17	..	1	..	1	..	1	85	..	85				
		Total	31	..	31	106	..	106	137	..	137	14	..	14	..	14	..	1705	..	1705	1988	..	1988	
Kamrup ..	Gauhati	Convicts	144	5	149	176	24	200	29	349	164	23	187	156	6	162	17326	793	18119	17774	801	18575		
		Under-trial	2	..	2	180	7	187	182	7	189	159	7	186	3	..	3	339	908	347				
		Civil .....	..	..	..	12	..	12	12	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	1909	..	1909				
		Total	15	1	16	50	4	54	65	5	70	55	2	67	10	3	13	726	76	802	948	80	1028	
Darrang ..	Tezpur	Convicts	1	1	2	89	4	43	40	6	45	36	5	41	4	4	171	94	175	948	80	1028		
		Under-trial .....	..	..	..	11	..	11	11	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	..	86				
		Civil	167	4	161	215	14	229	872	18	390	284	15	249	188	3	141	16118	523	16641	16538	549	16147	
		Total	6	..	6	186	16	202	181	16	207	187	15	202	4	1	5	447	26	473				
Mangaldal ..	Mangaldal	Convicts	9	..	9	172	3	175	181	3	184	178	3	176	8	..	8	1017	11	1028	11463	14	1177	
		Under-trial	1	..	1	78	2	75	74	2	76	78	2	75	1	..	1	90	98	90				
		Civil .....	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	50				
		Total	86	..	86	202	8	206	208	8	201	170	2	172	88	1	80	8116	112	8127	8454	12	4866	
Nowgong ..	Nowgong	Convicts .....	..	..	..	125	2	127	100	2	102	120	2	121	..	..	..	932	..	932				
		Under-trial .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Sibsagar ..	Convicts	100	3	107	218	19	237	222	21	544	242	21	263	81	..	81	85-33	76	90-86	100-82	86	101-98
	Under-trial	1	..	1	176	18	188	176	..	189	172	18	184	..	..	..	8-37	-10	5-47	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jorhat	Convicts .....	..	..	..	64	3	66	64	2	66	64	2	66	..	..	..	2-27	..	2-27	2-58	..	2-83
	Under-trial .....	..	..	..	33	..	33	33	..	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Golaghat	Convicts	4	..	4	139	8	137	133	8	141	139	8	137	4	..	4	5-30	37	6-17	6-82	4-9	7-31
	Under-trial .....	..	..	..	75	4	79	75	4	79	74	4	78	1	..	1	1-02	-12	1-14	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur ..	Convicts	57	1	68	149	33	172	206	24	230	156	9	165	60	16	65	65-47	6-78	62-20	57-67	6-84	64-41
	Under-trial	1	..	1	102	12	114	103	12	115	101	12	113	2	..	2	1-78	-11	1-84	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Lakh- Impur.	Convicts .....	..	..	..	47	..	47	47	..	47	42	..	42	5	..	5	8-37	..	8-37	4-46	..	4-46
	Under-trial	2	..	2	43	..	43	45	..	45	44	..	44	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	Convicts	467	14	481	1,617	19	1,686	2,084	33	2,117	1,692	23	1,644	463	11	473	492-23	9-92	502-15	586-71	10-64	547-96
	Under-trial	43	2	45	917	32	949	960	54	994	904	54	938	36	..	36	41-20	-72	41-92	..	..	..
	Civil	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5-28	..	5-28	..	..	..
Coochar	Convicts	89	6	95	317	61	378	606	67	673	472	68	580	184	9	143	116-15	10-74	126-89	131-37	12-25	144-23
	Under-trial	31	10	41	384	46	440	428	66	481	413	66	468	12	1	13	12-70	2-00	14-70	..	..	..
	Civil	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2-32	-11	2-63	..	..	..
Haikhandi ..	Convicts	12	..	12	181	9	140	143	9	162	141	9	149	2	1	2	3-06	-03	3-08	7-69	2-6	7-96
	Under-trial	1	..	1	12	..	12	13	..	13	13	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasei Hills	Convicts	34	2	36	64	4	68	98	6	104	68	4	62	40	2	42	32-28	1-78	34-01	34-28	1-78	36-08
	Under-trial	2	..	2	25	..	25	27	..	27	23	..	23	4	..	4	2-07	..	2-07	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jowai	Convicts .....	..	..	..	38	1	26	25	1	26	28	1	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Under-trial .....	..	..	..	30	1	31	30	1	31	30	1	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	Convicts	1,271	40	1,311	4,148	189	4,342	6,414	239	6,653	4,180	186	4,366	1,284	53	1,287	1,354-66	48-70	1,388-26	1,435-16	65-97	1,487-78
	Under-trial	118	14	132	2,741	163	2,894	2,839	167	3,026	2,769	163	2,922	100	4	104	89-71	8-76	83-47	..	..	..
	Civil	6	..	6	146	1	147	152	1	153	144	1	145	8	..	8	10-88	-11	11-00	..	..	..
Grand Total		1,395	54	1,449	7,090	353	7,368	8,425	407	8,832	7,063	350	7,433	1,242	57	1,399	1,435-16	52-97	1,487-78	1,435-16	62-97	1,487-78

* Including transfers.

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

1. Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Assam Province, during the year 1876.

Serial No.	Jails and Lock-ups.																		
	Remained on the 31st Dec- ember, 1875.			Imprisoned during the year 1876.			Total.			Received from other jails.			Transferred to other jails.			Released during the year.			
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	A.	B.	C.	M.	F.	Total.	A.	B.	C.	
1	102	6	108	216	6	222	10	4	14	1	1	2	40	3	43	6	199	7	15
2	31	5	36	106	24	130	29	36	65	2	2	4	46	2	48	16	63	15	10
3	144	15	159	176	24	200	29	36	65	5	5	10	83	3	86	148	15	21	8
4	15	1	16	60	4	64	5	2	7	1	1	2	24	1	25	1	26	1	6
5	157	4	161	215	14	229	18	24	42	2	2	4	98	1	99	233	14	2	1
6	66	9	75	172	8	180	3	2	5	3	3	6	183	2	185	68	1	13	13
7	66	9	75	202	8	210	3	2	5	3	3	6	183	2	185	160	2	15	6
8	105	2	107	218	19	237	21	13	34	2	2	4	26	20	46	7	209	1	6
9	4	4	8	64	2	66	2	2	4	2	2	4	66	2	68	1	21	4	11
10	57	1	58	129	8	137	8	2	10	2	2	4	141	4	145	3	75	2	2
11	57	1	58	149	23	172	8	2	10	19	19	38	133	8	141	1	150	25	2
12	47	47	94	47	47	94	47	47	94	47	47	94	47	47	94	47	26	17	2
13	467	14	481	1,617	19	1,636	33	48	81	2,132	33	48	366	171	537	1,113	2	1,018	17
14	89	6	95	617	61	678	67	20	87	626	67	20	87	693	34	727	869	67	68
15	1	1	2	176	9	185	9	1	10	177	9	186	3	6	9	1	60	8	22
16	34	2	36	64	4	68	6	1	7	99	6	105	3	1	4	1	47	8	..
17	..	..	..	25	1	26	1	..	1	25	1	26	23	1	24	..	2	..	..
Total.....	1,271	40	1,311	4,143	199	5,414	239	173	412	5	5	10	648	85	733	4	2,874	160	479

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

3. Showing the Convicts in the Jails of the Province of Assam for the year 1876, according to the nature and length of sentence.

1	2	3	4										5											
			Nature of Imprisonment.																					
Serial No.	Jails.	Cases according to the length of sentence.										Total.												
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	A		B											
		Above one and not exceeding six months.		Above six months, and not exceeding one year.		Above one year, and not exceeding three years.		Above three years, and not exceeding five years.		Above five and not exceeding ten years.		Exceeding ten years.		Sentenced to transportation beyond seas.		Sentenced to death.		Simple imprisonment.		Rigorous imprisonment.*				
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	Goáipára	69	1	84	2	58	2	5	16	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Gauhati	28	4	137	21	91	4	4	17	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Tezpur	14	5	161	10	94	1	25	38	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Nowgong	96	3	84	...	38	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Sibságar	73	6	148	11	36	1	2	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Dibrugarh	80	13	77	10	22	1	3	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Sylhet	389	9	1,415	16	100	4	33	1	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Síchár	266	53	189	6	54	5	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Shillong	21	1	26	3	17	2	11	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		1,036	95	2,321	79	510	23	114	2	79	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
												13	...	17	...	6	1	171	32	4,414	179	4,585	211	4,796

* Including prisoners sentenced to transportation or to death.

C.—PRISONS. —(JUDICIAL.)

4. Showing the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1876 who had been previously convicted.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4				5		6		7		8		9			
	Jails.		Total.		Total.		Number previously convicted				Hadof column 4D to column 4		A		B		C		D			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.		
1	318	10	328	12	1	7	...	...	6	...	24	1	25	754	1000	2	...	2	...	702	1
2	320	29	349	23	2	...	...	2	...	25	2	27	781	689	...	...	...	...	...	773	...
3	372	18	390	39	1	13	1	4	...	56	2	58	1505	1111	...	...	...	...	...	1487	...
4	258	3	261	16	...	6	...	2	...	21	...	21	930	...	...	...	...	...	...	919	...
5	323	21	344	12	...	7	...	6	...	25	...	25	773	...	...	...	...	...	...	726	...
6	206	24	230	17	1	1	...	3	...	21	1	22	1019	416	...	...	...	...	...	956	...
7	2,084	33	2,117	80	...	35	...	25	...	140	...	140	671	...	...	...	...	...	...	662	1
8	606	67	673	11	...	5	...	2	...	18	...	18	297	...	...	...	...	...	...	267	2
9	98	6	104	4	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	5	510	...	...	...	...	...	...	480	1
	4,685	211	4,706	214	5	75	1	49	...	338	6	344	737	284	...	...	...	...	...	717	3

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

7. Showing the state of education of the Convicts imprisoned in, and released from, the Jails of Assam for the year 1876.

Serial No.	Jails.	3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
		Number imprisoned during the year.		Of those in column 3, there were		Daily average number of convicts.		Daily average number under instruction.		Number released during the year.		Of those in column 7, there were		Number released during the year after more than six months in jail.	
		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read or write well.		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read or write a little.		Able to read and write well.	
		Tenable to read or write.		Tenable to read or write.		Tenable to read or write well.		Tenable to read or write a little.		Tenable to read or write a little.		Tenable to read or write a little.		Tenable to read and write well.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Goálpára ...	216	5	196	5	88.08	4.24	...	...	281	7	259	7	14	...
2	Gauhati ...	176	24	164	24	173.26	7.93	...	...	109	18	90	18	12	...
3	Tezpur ...	215	14	191	14	151.18	5.33	...	...	239	14	213	14	8	...
4	Nowgong ...	202	3	170	3	81.15	1.12	...	...	191	2	160	2	16	...
5	Sibsagar ...	218	19	189	19	95.22	7.6	...	...	214	1	191	1	21	...
6	Dibrugarh ...	149	23	135	23	55.47	6.73	...	...	155	9	150	9	5	...
7	Sylhet ...	1,617	19	1,575	19	492.23	9.92	...	...	1,670	22	1,582	22	74	...
8	Sichar ...	517	61	516	61	116.15	10.74	...	...	492	58	478	58	8	...
9	Shillong ...	64	4	64	4	32.28	1.73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total...	8,374	172	3,200	172	1,285.02	47.40	...	...	3,361	131	3,123	131	158	...
								41.58	...					70	...
									...					9	39
									...					6	24

10. Showing the expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam, during the year 1876, excluding the cost of building new jails, of additions, alterations, or repairs.

Serial No.	Average number of prisoners.			Rations.			Establishments.			Police guard.			Hospital charges.			Clothing.			Contingencies.			Grand total expended.	Total cost per head of average strength.	
	Convicts.	Under-trial.	Total.	Rations.			Establishments.			Police guard.			Hospital charges.			Clothing.			Contingencies.					
				Cost per head of average strength excluding civil prisoners.			Total cost.			Cost per head of average strength.			Total cost.			Cost per head of average strength.			Total cost.					
				A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C			A	B	C
1	9732	421	85	2789	26 14 8	2,064	21 6 4	1,987	20 6 5	258	2 10 4	51 9 7	241	9 7 6	415	4 4 2	7774	79 13 1						
2	1795	256	27	784	39 15 8	3,851	19 5 0	3,006	25 2 4	8	0 6 5	18 5 4	...	...	114	5 11 9	1,790	60 0 7						
3	18119	347	109	5,885	31 18 0	2,981	16 0 9	2,406	12 15 2	232	1 3 7	48 10 2	402	2 3 7	742	3 15 10	32,648	98 1 5						
4	802	178	86	839	10 43	504	7 5 10	432	40 1 2	28	2 2 7	27 0 11	1	0 1 6	117	11 0 1	17,118	181 6 10						
5	15641	478	33	4,738	29 11 2	2,636	16 5 2	2,178	18 7 9	695	3 12 0	41 8 10	165	1 0 4	214	1 5 3	10,591	65 9 8						
6	1078	99	50	1,177	820	28 6 8	240	20 6 8	456	88 11 0	15	1 4 4	17 13 8	1	0 1 4	220	18 11 0	1,262	106 5 11					
7	8127	307	32	8456	3,090	36 8 0	2,302	27 8 0	1,683	18 11 6	77	0 14 6	37 8 11	16	0 3 0	208	2 6 11	7,376	88 10 1					
8	9458	547	23	10188	3,268	32 6 2	3,106	30 8 8	2,366	23 4 1	97	0 15 8	21 1 4	210	2 1 0	498	4 18 10	9,519	94 0 2					
9	227	96	..	323	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	11 7 4	1,041	25 15 6					
10	617	134	..	751	412	56 5 9	1,545	24 1 9	546	74 11 0	15	2 0 9	28 13 6	..	.....	69	9 7 0	1,043	142 6 8					
11	6220	784	87	8,311	3,112	49 2 3	1,927	28 5 10	1,927	28 5 10	106	1 10 3	22 2 9	32	0 8 0	312	4 13 6	6,993	108 9 1					
12	387	184	..	571	286	4 46	482	106 1 1	523	117 4 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	445	12 5 3	3,346	20 14 4					
13	60216	4132	828	54736	16,320	30 0 0	3,293	6 0 3	6,273	11 6 2	513	0 9 1	19 7 9	1,362	2 7 9	9,615	2 15 2	25,232	83 11 8					
14	12639	1470	263	5,328	41 2 6	3,961	27 9 7	2,968	17 13 0	213	1 7 7	21 12 9	94	0 10 5	864	5 12 6	13,518	33 11 8						
15	809	459	27	795	343	44 10 7	317	39 13 11	240	30 3 0	24	5 0 3	62 2 9	4	0 8 0	36	4 8 6	964	121 4 1					
16	3401	207	..	3608	2,637	78 1 4	1,764	48 9 9	1,489	41 4 3	274	7 9 6	230 16 6	..	.....	333	9 3 8	6,487	179 12 8					
17	409	11	..	520	28	140 0 0	.....	.....	25	126 0 0	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	46 0 0	62	310 0 0					
Total....	1,98,726	8847	1100	1,46773	50,338	34 1 6	25,929	17 6 10	25,406	17 2 3	2,260	1 8 8	34 0 6	2,628	1 11 2	5,615	3 14 6	1,12,391	878 8 8					

* Not including supervision.

12. Showing the employment of the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1876.

Serial No.	Jails.	3		4		5		6						7		
		Average number sentenced to labour.		Average number not sentenced to labour.		Average number of effectives.*		Employment.						Ratio per cent. on column 5 of those employed—		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	As prison officers.	As prison servants.	
		Prison officers.		Prison servants.		Building and repairing jails.		On jail establishment.		On manufactures.		Extra-mural.		On manufactures.		On manufactures.
1	Goálpára	85-16	4-24	2-92	...	77-83	3-97	6-30	17-60	15-50	4-95	21-72	15-73	7-70	21-51	26-55
2	Gauháti.....	172-47	7-53	7-8	40	163-59	6-85	5-73	21-18	25-73	12-35	105-45	...	3-36	12-42	61-86
3	Tezpur	146-43	4-86	5-0	30	132-09	4-02	4-57	25-08	38-63	10-54	36-15	21-14	3-35	18-42	26-55
4	Nowgong	81-50	1-2	1-0	...	79-24	0-8	2-78	10-27	5-71	5-41	48-95	6-20	3-50	12-94	61-71
5	Sibságar	109-63	9-1	1-29	0-1	88-76	7-5	4-65	15-09	10-21	5-34	24-59	29-63	5-19	16-85	27-47
6	Dibrugarh.....	55-25	6-06	2-2	6-7	42-23	4-87	9-2	8-41	7-20	2-72	25-30	2-55	1-95	17-85	53-71
7	Sylhet	483-63	9-66	8-60	2-6	387-53	7-98	3-81	53-56	153-03	7-21	177-90	...	9-6	13-54	44-97
8	Silchar	115-99	10-48	1-47	4-6	109-32	9-46	8-7	19-07	21-88	10-82	66-14	...	7-3	16-05	55-68
9	Shillong	31-83	1-73	4-4	...	29-43	1-67	...	5-78	2-37	3-32	.....	19-63	.....	18-58	.....
	Total ...	1,281-89	45-59	16-32	2-10	1,110-02	39-65	29-63	176-04	280-26	62-66	506-20	94-88	2-57	15-31	44-03

* Excluding the indirm, sick, or convalescent.

C.—PRISONS.—(FINANCIAL.)

14. Showing the expenditure on the construction of new Jails, and on additions and repairs, with the gross and net cost of the Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam, during the year 1876.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		On jail buildings.									
Retain No	Jails and Lock-ups.	A	B	On maintain- ing and guard- ing the prisoners.	Total expen- diture, columns 3 and 4.	Expendi- ture on manufac- tures (col- umn 4) of Statement XIII.)	Gross expendi- tures, columns 5 and 6.	Cash receipts from manu- factures (column 8A of Statement XIII.)	Net cost, or column 7 minus column 8.	Total expen- diture (column 6) per head of average strength.	Net cost per head of aver- age strength.
		By Jail Depart- ment.	By Public Works Depart- ment.								
1	Goálpára	Re- 41	Rs- 1,378	Rs- 7,774	Rs- 9,193	Rs- 1,453	Rs- 10,646	Rs- 2,216	Rs- 8,430	Rs- 94 6	Rs- 86 9
2	Dhubri	200	1,790	1,790	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	.....	.....
3	Gauhati	500	583	12,648	13,731	1,739	15,470	4,785	10,685	73 14	57 8
4	Barpeté	127	.....	1,716	1,843	346	2,189	484	1,705	.....	.....
5	Tezpur	28	6,921	10,591	17,540	3,521	21,061	4,383	16,778	108 10	103 14
6	Mangaldai	10	.....	1,252	1,262	151	1,413	266	1,147	.....	.....
7	Nowgong	189	765	7,276	8,230	3,452	11,682	3,222	8,460	97 3	99 14
8	Sibsagar	321	3,079	9,559	12,959	2,396	15,355	2,637	12,718	127 7	125 1
9	Jorhát	157	.....	91	248	.....	248	.....	248	.....	.....
10	Golághát	221	.....	1,042	1,263	.....	1,263	.....	1,263	.....	.....
11	Dibrugarh	228	2,950	6,993	10,171	3,581	13,752	3,492	10,260	157 14	159 4
12	North Lakhimpur	5	.....	1,346	1,351	120	1,471	1	1,470	.....	.....
13	Sylhet	314	19,203	29,282	48,799	7,078	55,877	7,994	47,883	89 2	87 7
14	Sichar	502	.....	13,518	14,020	2,723	16,743	4,238	12,505	97 3	86 11
15	Háilákándi	5	.....	964	969	.....	969	.....	969	.....	.....
16	Shillong	275	.....	6,487	6,762	42	6,804	71	6,733	187 6	185 9
17	Jowai.....	8	.....	62	70	.....	70	.....	70	.....	.....
Total.....		3,131	34,879	1,12,391	1,50,401	26,602	1,77,003	33,689	1,43,314	101 1	96 5
Add cost of Inspector-General's office, travelling on inspection, &c.				980							
Grand Total.....				1,51,381							

15. Showing the Sickness and Mortality among the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1876.

Serial No.	Jails.	3		4		5		6		7		8					
		Capacity of the jail barracks, at 36 superficial feet per head.		Average daily strength.		Maximum population on any one day.		Number admitted into hospital.		Daily average number of sick.		Number of deaths in and out of hospital.					
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total			
1	Goalpara	140	7	147	88-08	4-24	92-32	112	6	118	133	...	5-00	16	...	16	
2	Gauhati	181	15	196	173-26	7-93	181-19	180	13	193	134	6	4-12	44	4-56	11	...
3	Tezpur	169	23	192	151-18	5-23	156-41	181	10	191	669	28	13-54	80	14-34	13	1
4	Nowgong	120	26	146	81-15	1-12	81-27	113	..	113	61	...	2-04	...	2-04	1	...
5	Sibsagar	63	10	73	95-22	7-6	95-98	132	4	136	127	...	4-33	...	4-33	5	...
6	Dibrugarh	122	10	132	55-47	6-73	62-20	71	8	79	263	5	4-53	15	4-68	3	1
7	Sylhet	380	12	392	492-23	9-92	502-15	587	12	599	599	1	15-59	03	15-62	17	1
8	Silchar	128	15	143	116-15	10-74	126-89	135	22	157	173	38	4-38	64	5-02	8	..
9	Shillong	45	4	49	32-28	1-73	34-01	46	3	49	10	...	1-17	...	1-17	1	...
	Total	1,348	122	1,470	1,285-02	47-40	1,332-42	1,557	78	1,635	2,169	78	54-70	2-06	56-76	75	8

STATISTICAL RETURNS

		Ratio per cent. of average strength.														
		A			B			C			D			E		
		Of admissions into hospital.			Of daily average number of sick.			Of deaths from cholera.			Of deaths from all other causes both in and out of hospital.			Of deaths from all causes, both in and out of hospital.		
Serial No.	Jails.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
		1	Goálpára	150.99	144.06	5.67	5.41	18.16	17.33	18.16	.....	17.33
2	Gauhati	77.34	75.66	77.26	2.37	5.54	2.51	.....	.....	.....	6.34	.....	6.07	6.34	.....	6.07
3	Tezpur	442.51	535.37	445.62	8.95	15.29	9.16	.....	.....	.....	8.59	19.12	8.95	8.59	19.12	8.95
4	Nowgong.....	75.16	.....	75.05	2.51	.....	2.51	.....	.....	.....	1.23	.....	1.23	1.23	.....	1.23
5	Sibsagar	133.37	.....	132.31	4.54	.....	4.51	.....	.....	.....	5.25	.....	5.20	5.25	.....	5.20
6	Dibrugarh	474.11	74.29	430.86	8.16	2.22	7.52	.....	14.85	1.60	5.40	.....	4.82	5.40	14.85	6.42
7	Sylhet	121.69	10.08	119.48	3.16	.30	3.11	.....	.....	.....	3.45	10.08	3.58	3.45	10.08	3.58
8	Silchar	148.94	353.81	166.28	3.77	5.95	3.95	.....	.....	.....	6.88	.....	6.30	6.88	.....	6.30
9	Shillong	30.97	.....	29.40	3.62	.....	3.44	.....	.....	.....	3.09	.....	2.94	3.09	.....	2.94
	Total	168.79	104.55	168.64	4.25	4.34	4.25	.....	2.10	.07	5.83	4.20	5.77	5.83	6.22	5.85

C.—PRISONS.

20. Showing particulars regarding Civil Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year 1876.

Serial No.	Number remained at the close of previous year.		Number received during the year.		Total population.		Average daily number.		Released during the year.		Escaped.		Transferred.		Died.		Remaining on 31st Decem-ber, 1876.		Capacity of barracks, at 36 superficial feet per head.		Average number of prison-ers above capacity.		Average number of prison-ers below capacity.		Hospitals.						Cost.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	A.	B.	A.	B.					
1	1		17		19		85	17										1		7																			
2			5		5		27	12												25																			
3			12		12		109	11												23																			
4			11		11		86	11																															
5			3		3		33	3																															
6			3		3		50	4																															
7			4		4		32	3																															
8			3		3		23	2																															
9			3		3		23	2																															
10			1		1		1	1																															
11			6		6		37	6																															
12			2		2		2	2																															
13			2		2		8	28																															
14			28		31		8	28																															
15			38		49		1	2																															
16			12		13		27	11																															
17			15		17		13	12																															
			146		152		1089	1144																															
			6		6		287	0																															
			4		4		0	0																															
			287		287		0	0																															
			152		152		1089	1144																															
			1089		1144		11	144																															
			11		144		11	144																															
			11		144		11	144																															
			1089		1144		11	144																															
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			1089		1144		11	144																															
			11		144		11	144																															
			1089		1144		11	14																															

C.—PRISONS.

21. Showing particulars regarding Prisoners under trial in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year 1876.

Sl. No.	Jails and Lock-ups.	3		4		5		6		7		Convicted and sentenced.				
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.		F.	Total.		
		Number remained at close of previous year.		Number received.		Total population.		Average daily number.		Released.						
1	Goálpára	11	1	160	4	171	5	176	4.17	0.4	4.21	81	82	85	3	88
2	Dhubri	1	...	103	1	104	1	105	2.56	...	2.56	61	62	39	...	39
3	Gauhati	2	...	130	7	132	7	139	3.39	.08	3.47	75	79	49	2	51
4	Barpetá	1	1	39	4	40	5	45	1.71	.04	1.75	12	13	21	4	25
5	Tezpur	5	...	186	16	191	16	207	4.47	.26	4.73	97	103	89	9	98
6	Mangaldai	1	...	73	2	74	2	76	.96	.03	.99	18	20	52	...	52
7	Nowgong	5	...	125	2	130	2	132	3.07	...	3.07	52	54	76	...	76
8	Sibságar	1	...	175	13	176	13	189	5.37	.10	5.47	82	86	82	9	91
9	Jorbát .....	...	...	33	...	33	...	33	.26	...	.26	17	17	12	...	12
10	Goághát .....	...	...	75	4	75	4	79	1.02	.12	1.14	39	39	26	4	30
11	Dibrúgarh	1	...	102	12	103	12	115	1.73	.11	1.84	43	45	57	10	67
12	North Lakhimpur	2	...	43	...	45	...	45	.69	...	.69	23	23	21	...	21
13	Sylhet	43	2	917	32	960	34	994	41.20	.72	41.92	539	563	352	10	362
14	Silchar	31	10	394	46	425	56	481	12.70	2.00	14.70	189	221	214	22	236
15	Háilákándaí	12	...	131	9	143	9	162	4.36	.23	4.59	55	58	77	4	81
16	Shillong	2	...	25	...	27	...	27	2.07	...	2.07	10	10	13	...	13
17	Jowai .....	...	...	30	1	30	1	31	.08	.03	.11	30	31	...	...	...
	Total.....	118	14	2,741	153	2,859	167	3,026	89.71	3.76	93.47	1,423	1,506	1,265	77	1,342

D.—POLICE.

- 1] 1. *General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1876.*

PART I.—*Cognizable Crime.*

[41]

1. General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the

PART I.—

Serial Number	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.											
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.			Investigated by Police.			Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Resolved by transfer.	
				4	4a	5	6	7	8					
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a	
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total ....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.														
2	131 to 136, 138	Offences relating to Army and Navy.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	231 to 263, 467, and 471.	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	23-32	39	2	1	33	1	..	22	3	..	..
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender	2-48	5	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..
5	221 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	55-8	66	1	5	52	4	1	23	4	7	..	
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly...	318-96	367	8	39	274	45	4	166	53	74	..	
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier.	2-04	4	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	1	..
		Total	402-60	481	11	45	365	50	5	225	60	82	..	
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.														
8	302, 303, 306	Murder	by things	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9			by dacoits
10			by robbers
11			by poison	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
12		Other murders	26-5	31	..	3	29	4	..	6	3	12	..	
13	307	Attempts at murder	1-	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	304, 308	Culpable homicide	23-92	28	..	4	30	1	..	4	5	1	..	
15	376	Rape	54-76	65	3	2	46	9	..	2	22	..	..
16	377	Unnatural offences	17-	27	1	..	28	..	..	5	12	..	..
17	317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	4-76	12	..	1	8	3	..	3	..	2	..	
18	305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of suicide.	24-28	27	1	..	26	..	..	14	2	1	..
19	329, 331, 333	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	325, 326, 335	Grievous hurt	76-12	72	2	2	70	3	..	25	10	3	..	
21	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	....	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..

[41]

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>zuo morth</i> .	Investigated by Police.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Resolved by transfer.	
1	3	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
CLASS II.— <i>Serious offences against the person.</i> —(Continued.)													
22	327, 330, 332	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant	61	8	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon	107.48	145	11	11	131	5	3	47	24	2	..
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	49.92	64	3	5	43	10	..	6	26	9	..
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	24.6	53	..	2	30	17	..	3	14	..	..
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	3.12	6	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	5	..
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	353, 354, 356, 357	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	111.28	125	1	8	103	10	..	25	24	8	..
29	504A, 333	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	6.68	18	..	1	17	2	..	5	3	..	2
		Total	532.43	682	22	89	572	64	3	149	141	43	3
CLASS III.— <i>Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i>													
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	8.68	16	..	1	14	3	..	2	7	3	..
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with } } or by poisonous } or stupefy- } ing drugs. } by other means } in dwelling-house	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		} on the highway between sunset and sunrise	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	392, 393	Robbery } } other robberies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	64.72 135.32	87 232	9 3	4 11	54 166	27 28	3 1	5 22	50 67	9 4	..
34a	428, 429	Mischief	11.8	83	..	3	46	10	..	12	23	..	..

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

1.—(Continued.)

Persons.																	Property.				
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).		Otherwise disposed of, <i>e. g.</i> , died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.			Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.			
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.						Committed to Sessions.	Rs.	Rs.
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
4	1	6	..	2	4	....	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
120	12	134	..	10	124	33	..	87	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
26	12	56	..	8	48	19	..	19	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
23	9	31	..	3	28	18	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
5	1	11	..	2	9	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
..
137	26	171	..	1	170	88	..	65	..	1	..	..	..	16	..	4	1	159	..	..	1
16	..	18	..	..	18	9	1	6	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
618	81	645	5	31	609	240	33	242	31	10	..	..	..	40	13	4	1	159	..	..	485
24	..	27	..	2	25	6	5	..	6	..	..	..	..	7	1	8	4	990	270	..	8
..
..
1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	45	..	..	1
..
26	8	48	..	5	38	23	3	8	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	14	3	766	105	..	28
80	28	112	..	18	91	27	2	52	10	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	129
24	4	28	..	5	23	17	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26

[41]

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.								Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>quo modo</i> .	Investigated by Police.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.				
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a	
CLASS III.— <i>Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i> —(Continued.)														
35	451, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house trespass, or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	579.16	889	71	58	827	7	6	69	180	7	..	
36	419 to 452	House-trespass with view to commit an offence or having made preparation for hurt.	31.8	25	2	4	23	1	..	8	7	..	..
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	1.81	14	..	4	16	1	..	3	2	3	..	
Total			833.49	1,347	85	85	1,147	77	10	121	386	26	..	
CLASS IV.— <i>Minor offences against the person.</i>														
37a	.....	Hurt (simple)	165.28	404	23	10	305	10	..	122	44	2	..
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	3.48	5	..	..	5	..	..	5	..	..	..
38a	323	Voluntarily causing hurt	16.6	68	2	1	28	6	..	13	11	..	..
39	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	769.6	833	31	19	552	102	4	91	274	36	..	
40	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	1*	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
41	374	Compulsory labour	6.83	17	..	..	8	1	..	1	2	..	..
Total			962.79	1,329	56	50	895	119	4	233	332	38	..	
CLASS V.— <i>Minor offences against property.</i>														
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking.	71.36	71	3	1	60	4	..	17	13	6	..	
43	379 to 382	Theft .. of cattle	246.8	344	17	15	306	34	..	88	115	7	..	
44	406 to 408	..... ordinary	3,126.12	4,205	354	123	2,883	341	32	705	1,237	79	..
45	411, 414	Criminal breach of trust	307.76	380	3	11	295	56	..	36	79	10	1	
46	447, 448	Receiving stolen property	170.06	252	..	23	258	8	..	2.1	18	11	..	
46	447, 448	Criminal or house-trespass ..	664.2	855	23	23	402	47	1	156	130	13	..	
47	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle ..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Mischief by killing or maiming animals, &c.	9.6	31	..	1	25	3	..	1	9	..	..
Total			4,596.10	6,139	400	197	4,140	493	33	1,224	1,601	129	1	

* One person transferred to
 † One ditto
 ‡ One died before trial
 § One transferred to No. 4
 ¶ One escaped before arrest.
 § Two persons transferred

1.—(Continued.)

Persons.															Property.							
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct.)			Number pending at end of year.		Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.					
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	In custody of Police.	On bail.						Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.			
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a 18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
173	14	193	2	30	161	67	..	92	..	..	..	..	1	..	528	89	33,652	6,102	604*
24	4	28	..	6	23	13	..	9	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	25
25	1	29	..	..	29	9	10	..	8	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	16
396	59	471	2	65	404	168	20	177	27	..	..	..	13	3	561	96	36,453	5,477	837
216	114	332	..	4	328	95	..	227	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	253
6	2	8	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
24	26	50	..	1	49	15	..	33	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
417	85	535	..	29	509†	264	..	223	2	1	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	500
1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1	3	4	..	1	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
665	230	933	..	35	898	375	..	494	2	1	..	1	24	..	..	..	..	..	805
43	3	52	..	6	46	27	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	5	589	864	53
222	20	249	..	15	234	85	..	141	..	1	..	..	7	..	230	155	8,024	6,538	253	
1,461	440	1,960	8†	163	1,812‡	681	2	1,069	..	..	..	..	58	..	1,730	830	51,018	21,480	1,750
72	77	161	1†	6	155	92	..	56	..	1	..	..	6	1	72	27	9,832	6,220	80	
447	14	475	..	..	475†	132	5	323	..	1	..	..	11	..	262	231	17,986	13,308	268
362	235	600	..	6	604	244	..	393	..	1	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	449
..			
9	3	12	..	..	12	9	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
2,617	842	3,569	7	196	3,388	1,270	7	2,007	2	2	..	..	99	1	2,391	1,261	87,399	47,905	2,351	

No. 45 of this statement.
No. 16 of Statement A, Part II.

of this statement.

from Nos. 26 and 43 of this statement.

[41]

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>suo motu</i> .	Investigated by Police.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
CLASS VI.—Other offences not specified above.													
48	311, 400, 401	(Belonging to games of things, dacoits, robbers, and thieves,	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	Chapter XIX, C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad character ..	160'96	159	..	14	22	150	..	98	1	12	..
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion	2-03	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
51	Cognizable offences under the Acts specified.	Gambling Act .....	....	4	..	..	8	1	..	2	..	..	..
52		Excise Laws	105-12	176	..	8	168	5	..	124	12	..	..
53		Railway Laws .....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54		Salt and Custom Laws .....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55		Stamp Act .....	....	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
56	269, 277, 279, 280, 283, 285 to 286, 289, 291 to 294, Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws.	Public and local nuisances ..	307-52	463	..	7	891	28	..	888	8	4	..
57		Total....	575-63	805	..	80	885	186	..	610	21	23	..
58	Other special and local laws cognizable by Police.	Arms Act	18-44	14	..	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	1
		Coolie Act	57-60	101	4	1	42	2	..	88	6	1	..
		Poppy cultivation	'6	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Ferry Act .....	....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	76-64	117	4	1	51	8	..	46	6	1	1	
	Grand Total		7,979-68	10,900	578	447	7,755	992	55	2,808	2,487	342	5

—(Continued.)

Persons.															Property.									
Number arrested or appeared on the process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).					Number pending at end of year.		Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.					
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.										
11	13	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
..				
83	181	226	..	..	226	106	..	106	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	161
..	1	1	..	..	1	....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7	..	7	..	..	7	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4
148	75	230	..	..	230	89	..	189	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	180
..				
..	5	5	..	..	5	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
479	106	588	..	1	587	89	..	548	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	413
667	267	1,037	..	1	1,066	184	..	853	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	711
12	6	19	..	..	19	4	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
74	55	130	..	1	129	25	..	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1	1	2	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
88	62	152	..	1	151	30	..	121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
6,909	1,791	8,207	15,865	7,839	2,598	61	4,624	62	14	..	1	260	17	2,846	1,248	1,28,011	53,882	6,155						

1. General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1876.

PART II.—Return of Non-Cognizable Crime.

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.						Persons.																								
			Arrested during the year.	Instinct by complaint during the year.	Taken up by his own motion.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Number of persons from the inquiry in which were employed.	Number of persons in which process issued.	Number of persons against whom process issued.	Ordinary offences including property from last year.	Discharged after appearance.	By Magistrate Court.	By High Court.	By Magistrate Court.	By High Court.	By Sessions Court.	By High Court.	Waiting trial at close of year.															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17																
1	115 117 118, 119	Abetment of offence not committed, &c. Abetting commission of offence by public, &c. Concealing design to commit offence	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}																
																		Total	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}	}
<p>CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.</p>																																	
2	121 to 130, 505	Offences against the State.	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								
3	137	Harbouring deserters by master of ship	.....	484	28	522	.....	446	1,350	1,330*	16	248	.....	1,038	.....	27	.....	27										
4	172 to 190, 201 to 204, 218 to 215, 227, 228.	Offences against public justice	.....	41	4	45	.....	30	46	53†	4	19	.....	27	.....	2	.....	2										
5	161 to 169, 217 to 223	Offences by public servants	.....	135	12	147	.....	118	160	212†	12	69	.....	103	.....	7	.....	7										
6	193 to 200, 205 to 211, 229, 421 to 424.	False evidence, false complaints, and claims, and fraudulent deeds, and disposition of property.	.....	21	4	25	.....	18	23	26	8	10	.....	2	.....	1	.....	1										
7	465 to 477	Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents.	.....	11	3	14	.....	8	20	20	.....	8	.....	11	.....	1	.....	1									
8	264 to 267	Offences relating to weighing and measuring	.....	2	.....	2	.....	2	2	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....											
9	482 to 489	Making or using false trade-marks.	.....	48	1	49	.....	20	65	144	.....	26	.....	116	.....	.....	.....	.....											
10	149, 164 to 166, 160	Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	.....	763	62	805	.....	97	1,697	1,798	88	300	.....	1,209	.....	11	.....	11										
		Total	638-14	763	62	805	.....	97	1,697	1,798	88	300	.....	1,209	.....	11	.....	11											
<p>CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.</p>																																	
11	312 to 316	Causing miscarriage	.....	62	2	64	.....	3	4	8	.....	4	.....	8	.....	1	.....	1									
12	370	Buying or disposing of slaves	.....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....							
		Total	20-80	64	2	66	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1							

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
CLASS III.—Serious offences against property.																			
13 264 to 269 Distortion	127	177	25	5	25	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
14 275 Hurt	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
15 345 Wrongful confinement	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
16 352, 355, 358 Criminal force	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973	5,973
Total	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912	5,912
CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.																			
17 417 to 420 Cheating	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322	322
18 403, 404 Criminal misappropriation of property	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321
19 409 Criminal breach of trust by public servants, bankers, &c.	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
20 428 to 429, 434 Mischief (simple)	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941
Total	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611	1,611
CLASS VI.—Other offences not specified above.																			
21 493 to 496 Offences relating to marriage	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505
22 298 Offences against religion	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
23 490 to 492 Criminal breach of contract of service	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106
24 500 to 502 Detamation	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147
25 504, 506 to 510 Intimidation and insult	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
26 271 to 276, 278, 284, 287, 288, 290, 294A Public and local nuisances	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
27 294A Keeping a lottery office	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
28 Offences under Chapters XVIII, XX, XXI, and XXII, C. P. C. Total	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078	1,078
Total	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943	1,943
Special Laws not cognizable by Police, in detail.																			
286 Inner Line	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
286 Jail Act	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
29 Post-office Act	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
30 Arms Act	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
31 V. of 1861	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77
31a Section 209, C. P. C.—Compensation	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
32 Abkari Act	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
33 Ferry Act	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
33a V. of 1866	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	331
34 Regulation of 1873	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
35 Census Act	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
35 VIII. of 1871	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
36 Registry Act	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
36a Stamp Act	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
37 III. of 1857 and of 1871	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	630
38 Breach of contract	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
39 IX. of 1873	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
40 Criminal Procedure Code	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Total	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629	1,629
Grand Total	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039	12,039

* One died.
 † One " " and one committed to Sessions.
 ‡ One " and one committed to Sessions.
 § One of these transferred to Section 352.
 ¶ One person was received from Section 328, and one transferred from No. 39 of Part I.
 ** One person transferred and one received from Section 409.
 †† Two persons died.

2. Comparative Statement of Cognizable

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year. Columns 6, 7, and 8 of Statement A.		Percentage of cases in which convictions was obtained in cases decided.										
			1876.	1876.	1875.	1876.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7									
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c. ....	....	....	....	....					
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	1	....	....	....						
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence .....	....	....	....	....					
		Total	1	....	....	....						
	CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.														
2	131 to 136, 138	Offences relating to Army and Navy .....	....	....	....	....					
3	231 to 259, 260 to 263, 467 and 471 ..	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Govern- ment notes.	27	34	....	....							
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender	1	4	....	....							
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice	51	57	....	....							
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly	803	322	....	....							
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier	3	2	....	....							
		Total	885	420	5272	5244									
	CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.														
8	302, 303, 396	Murder } by thugs .....	....	....	....	....					
9			Murder } dacoits								
10				Murder } robbers	1							
11					Murder } poison	1	1						
12						Murder } Other murders	33	33					
13							Murder } Attempts at murder	7	2				
14								Murder } Culpable homicide	21	31			
15									Murder } Rape	62	55		
16										Murder } Unnatural offences	24	28	
17											Murder } Exposure of infants or concealment of birth ..	9	11
18												Murder } Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide	32	26
19	Murder } Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession.	2										
20		Murder } Grievous hurt	90										73
21			Murder } Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt	1									2
22				Murder } Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession.	3								2
23					Murder } Hurt by dangerous weapon	160							189
24						Murder } Kidnapping or abduction	45						53
25							Murder } Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purposes of extortion.	20					47
26								Murder } Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a woman for prostitution.				3
27									Murder } Habitually dealing in slaves	2			1
28										Murder } Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	106		113
29											Murder } Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	10	19
												Total	619	639	2873	3077
	CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.														
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	15									17	
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity		
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with } by poisonous or stupefying hurt. } drugs.			
		Robbery with } by other means .....	....	....	....	....					
		Robbery } in dwelling-house .....	....	1	....	....							
33	392, 393	Robbery } on the highway between sunset and sunrise.	1	....	....	....						
		Robbery } other robberies	55	84	....	....							
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440 ..	Serious mischief and cognate offences { Mischief (simple)	159	195	....	....							
			67	86	....	....							

LICE.

Crime, with result of Police operations for the year 1876.

Number and percentage of persons arrested and brought to trial.								Amount of property stolen.		Amount and percentage of property recovered.			
Number of persons arrested		Number of persons brought to trial.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons brought to trial.				Amount.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.	
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	....	....
1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
26	35	24	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	6	2	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
84	117	92	113	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,118	1,196	1,080	1,175	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	6	4	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,246	1,260	1,202	1,333	66.45	68.38	80.88	69.76	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
4	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	800	....	....	....	....	....
....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
37	54	34	52	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	2	7	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
25	41	24	37	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
31	21	27	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
17	12	11	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	11	6	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
29	22	21	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
115	52	106	51	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	2	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	6	2	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
174	134	166	124	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
43	56	39	48	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
41	31	38	28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	11	5	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
126	171	126	170	....	....	....	....	....	159	....	....	....	....
9	18	9	18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
673	646	630	609	52.	42.32	55.55	44.82	800	159	....	....	....	....
43	27	43	25	....	....	....	....	1,966	930	113	270	....	....
....
....
....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	45	....	....	....	....
6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
42	43	42	38	....	....	....	....	758	766	33	105	....	....
102	112	94	94	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
43	36	43	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

D.—POLICE.—

2. Comparative Statement of Cognizable

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year.		Percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained in cases decided.	
			1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>CLASS III. — Serious offences against personal property, or against property only. — (Continued.)</p>						
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking to use trespass or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for the same	606	840	.....	.....
36	449 to 452	House-trespass with a view to commit an offence or having made preparation for the same	36	24	.....	.....
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually	12	17	.....	.....
Total....			951	1,274	20.40	14.45
<p>CLASS IV. — Minor offences against the person.</p>						
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation	2	5	.....	.....
39	341 to 344	Simple hurt	152	315	.....	.....
40	336, 337	Wrongful restraint and confinement	514	658	.....	.....
40a	323	Wrongful act, causing hurt or endangering life	.....	2	.....	.....
41	374	Voluntarily causing hurt	.....	34	.....	.....
		Compulsory labour	4	4	.....	.....
Total.....			672	1,08	26.33	28.24
<p>CLASS V. — Minor offences against property.</p>						
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking	71	64	.....	.....
43	379 to 382	Theft of cattle	599	740	.....	.....
44	406 to 408	Theft of ordinary property	2,856	3,256	.....	.....
45	411, 414	Criminal breach of trust	244	261	.....	.....
45a	411, 414	Receiving stolen property	260	266	.....	.....
46	447, 448	Mischief by killing or maiming animals	.....	28	.....	.....
47	461, 462	Crimes of house-trespass	436	450	.....	.....
		Breaking closed receptacle	2	1	.....	.....
Total.....			4,148	4,666	30.49	42.32
<p>CLASS VI. — Other offences not specified above.</p>						
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves	1	.....	.....	.....
49	Chapter XIX., C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad characters	289	172	.....	.....
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion	3	1	.....	.....
51		Cognizable offences under the Gambling Act	2	4	.....	.....
52		Excise Laws	81	173	.....	.....
53		Railway Laws	.....	.....	.....	.....
54		Salt and Customs Laws	.....	.....	.....	.....
55		Stage Carriage Act	.....	.....	.....	.....
56		Stamp Act	.....	2	.....	.....
57	269, 270, 277, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 285 to 287, 290, 291 to 294, section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws	Public and local nuisances	311	419	.....	.....
Total....			637	771	70.58	85.79
.....	.....	Other special and local laws cognizable by Police	51	54	75.43	134.22
Grand Total....			7,464	8,802	36.25	42.7

(Continued).

Crime, with result of Police operations for the year 1876.—(Continued.)

Number and percentage of persons arrested and brought to trial.								Amount and percentage of property recovered.					
Number of persons arrested.		Number of persons brought to trial.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons brought to trial.		Amount of property stolen.		Amount.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.	
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
								Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
220	193	198	161	....	....	....	....	21,119	33,652	3,565	5,102	....	....
16	28	16	23	....	....	....	....	180	....	1	....	....	....
32	29	32	29	....	....	....	....	155	....	81	....	....	....
504	471	462	404	44.04	43.31	48.05	50.49	24,178	35,453	3,793	5,477	15.68	15.44
1	8	1	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
362	329	267	328	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
545	528	546	509	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	1	..	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	50	..	49	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	4	9	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
338	323	313	398	53.68	53.16	54.22	55.23	....	....	....	....	....	....
64	52	62	46	....	....	....	....	....	589	....	364	....	....
235	249	215	234	....	....	....	....	12,746	8,024	11,731	6,533	....	....
1,912	1,940	1,756	1,812	....	....	....	....	42,478	51,018	17,279	21,480	....	....
180	161	171	155	....	....	....	....	5,307	9,332	1,697	6,220	....	....
437	475	432	475	....	....	....	....	14,282	17,936	8,991	13,308	....	....
....	12	..	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
694	660	676	654	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..
3,528	3,589	3,312	3,388	58.74	55.97	57.24	59.29	74,813	87,399	39,698	47,905	53.06	54.81
4	..	4	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
242	226	242	226	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	1	6	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	7	9	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
160	230	159	250	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..
..
..
..
438	588	436	587	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
859	1,067	856	1,056	74.62	80.70	74.88	80.77	....	....	....	....	....	....
111	132	108	131	80.18	79.60	82.40	80.18	....	....	....	....	....	....
7,760	8,207	7,384	7,829	57.66	59.53	60.60	62.32	99,791	1,23,011	48,491	53,382	43.68	43.39

3. *Thuggee and Dacoity, Administration of Poisonous or Stupefying Drugs for criminal purposes, and other Professional Crimes, for the year 1876.*

Description of Crime.	Cases.			Persons.							Comparative return.																	
	Two years, and in which no conviction was obtained up to the beginning of the year.	Occurred within the year.	Cases under columns 2 and 3 brought to trial within the year.	Cases under columns 2 and 3 in which no one was brought to trial up to the close of the year.	Number suppressed to be concerned in cases in columns 2 and 3.	Arrested.	Brought to trial.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Remain- ing.	Number suppressed to be at large at the close of the year.	Number of persons arrested.	Brought to trial.	Convicted.	Property stolen.	Property recovered.												
1	..	1	..	..	9	4	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
Dacoity on land												
																
Dacoity on water	4	5	9	2	17	17	15	5	3	7	..	29	29	15	18	29	11	12	6	6	4,389	805	46	70	67	247	
																												..
Cattle-theft	7	8	8	7	1	46	3	8	46	3	8	44	3	7	800	8	116	800	8	116	8
Total ..	4	10	10	2	28	29	27	12	6	7	..	80	82	27	60	102	28	66	5	13	4,089	812	466	812	880	970	76	803

[44] D.—FOLIOH.
4. Statement of Additional Police collected for the protection of persons and property, or quartered as a punitive measure for the year 1876.

District.	PART I. ADDITIONAL POLICE COLLECTED FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.											PART II. ADDITIONAL POLICE QUARTERED AS A PUNITIVE MEASURE.									
	Name of fairs or places of large assembly, where additional police have been collected during the year.	Duration of fair or assembly.	Estimated number of persons assembled.	Strength of police usually looked at the place.	Detached from the regular force.	Specially employed in addition to columns 5 to 8.	Total cost under columns 9 and 10.	Number of offences against person or property during such assembly.	Property.	Recovered.	Number of cases.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Total cost of additional police, including all contingencies.	Period for which quartered.	Number of offences committed in or traced to a village or place in which the additional police was established.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Godajira	Dhauri..	15 days, 10th to 26th Jan., 1876.	10,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kamrup
Darrang
Nowgong
Sibsagar
Lakhimpur
Syhet
Cachar	15 days	3,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chhatra
Meiia
Khasi Hills
Naga
Garo
Total	4,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

District.	Contingencies, and all expenses other than included in columns II to IV.				Cost of Police.				Distribution of Forces.										Proportion of Police (Officers and Men).			
	Total cost.		Payable from Imperial revenues.		Payable from other sources.		In Districts.		On other duties.		On Town, Municipal or Harbour duty.		In cantonments.		Area of whole district, in square miles.		Population of whole district.		To area.		To population.	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37				
Goalpara	5,741	56,871	56,237	534	2	16	6	32	47	217	..	6	..	4,233	444,000	1 to 18,55	1 to 11	1 to 1,861	1 to 1,231	1 to 1,010		
Kamrup	4,781	55,458	49,545	5,940	2	28	4	16	84	219	..	4	..	3,473	236,009	1 to 13,70	1 to 11	1 to 1,661	1 to 1,868	1 to 87		
Dearrang	4,021	44,369	44,369	..	2	20	4	16	32	174	..	..	..	3,648	266,390	1 to 22,65	..	1 to 1,947	1 to 981	1 to 20
Nowgong	3,240	31,478	31,478	..	2	16	2	17	16	107	..	..	..	2,546	296,589	1 to 10,06	..	1 to 1,048	..	..
Silvassagar	4,519	45,499	43,499	..	2	24	7	42	28	179	..	..	..	3,145	121,267	1 to 9,09	..	1 to 1,350	..	..
Lakhimpur	4,438	59,631	59,631	..	2	16	15	19	27	186	..	..	..	5,000	205,027	1 to 10,06	1 to 26	1 to 81	1 to 412	1 to 414
Cachar	10,036	89,575	88,641	933	3	30	3	17	69	371	..	9	..	5,440	179,539	1 to 8,92	1 to 31	1 to 2,319	1 to 2,940	1 to 526		
Sylhet	16,791	1,09,927	1,06,075	2,760	1	13	2	23	15	92	..	30	..	2,160	20,079	1 to 14,79	..	1 to 137	..	..
Khasi Hills	1,920	24,988	24,988	..	..	..	..	..	..	123	..	..	..	4,900	68,918	1 to 23,87	..	1 to 430	..	..
Naga "	6,780	36,364	36,264	..	..	..	3	37	10	123	..	..	..	4,000	90,000	1 to 11,90	..	1 to 267	..	..
Garo "	4,545	59,025	58,025	2	15	31	237	
Total	66,910	614,115	603,856	10,157	19	228	54	342	384	2,336	6	81	..	42,858	4,019,449	1 to 1,225	..	1 to 1,162	

D.—POLICE, 6.—(Continued.)

[46]

District.	Rewards.				Education.				Number who have left the force during the year.										Percentage of deaths during the year to total strength of force.				
	Number of Police rewarded during the year.				Number of Police who can read and write.				Number of Police under instruction during the year.				Of ten years' service and upwards.										
	By promotion.	By money rewards.	Good conduct stripes.		Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Of one year's service, and under ten years.	Of ten years' service and upwards.	On pension.	On gratuity.	By resignation without pension or gratuity.	By dismissal (Columns 7 and 8).		By discharge otherwise than under preceding columns.	By desertion.	By death.	Percentage in hospital during the year to total strength of force.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36						
Goalpara	2	7	46	...	...	...	65	178	76	...	...	24	2	1	5	1.25	1.66	
Municipal	2	10	25	...	...	...	6	254	6	...	...	3	1	...	4	...	...				
Kamrup .....	...	3	2	...	...	...	5	34	...	...	...	11	1	...	3	38.14	1.34
Municipal .....	...	5	2	...	...	...	18	160	63	...	...	7	...	...	2	8.78	0.80
Darrang	2	6	18	...	...	...	22	82	56	...	...	8	1	...	3	60.6	1.87	
Nowong	2	1	14	...	...	...	22	150	88	...	...	12	6	...	1	8	3.5	
Sibsagar	4	1	19	...	...	...	44	221	88	...	...	13	7	...	1	8	2.83	
Lakhimpur	3	2	8	...	...	...	41	221	88	...	...	4	18	...	9	4	86.2	
Sylhet	1	5	58	...	...	...	45	331	197	...	...	20	3	...	10	1.6	1.73	
Municipal	1	16	8	...	...	...	8	23	1	...	...	1	2	...	4	...	...				
Cachar .....	...	6	48	...	...	...	68	263	168	...	...	19	2	...	5	11	94.6
Municipal .....	...	28	2	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	22.2
Khasi Hills .....	...	4	30	...	...	...	23	87	36	...	...	13	6	...	2	...	6.0
Naga " .....	...	3	20	...	...	...	25	119	9	...	...	4	5	...	16	...	1.73
Garo " .....	...	7	12	...	...	...	3	253	6	...	...	1	2	...	1	6	6.8
Total Regular	7	18	225	835	14	273	472	2,100	777	1	20	175	121	35	25	55	...	1.63					
" Municipal	1	4	12	28	67	1	2	9					

District.	Religion or Caste.																			Grand Total of Officers and Men.
	Men.																			
	Hindus.										Other religions.									
	Christians.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Chetras.	Gorkhas.	Belkha.	Assamese Kollia.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris.	Hindus of all other castes.	Nagas.	Kukias.	Garos.	Cachares.	Burmese.	Khasias.	Mikirs.	Bhooteas.		
	81	82	33	84	85	86	87	88	89	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	
Goalpara .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	221
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Kamrup	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	189	..	60	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	298
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Darrang .....	..	..	1	6	4	..	..	70	..	19	..	..	5	84	..	..	..	..	..	248
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	..	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	161
Nowgong .....	..	..	7	55	7	..	..	8	..	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	62	..	..	6	164	..	..	..	..	..	346
Sibsagar	2	18	6	8	14	9	..	8	..	52	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	578
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	..	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	822
Lakhimpur	8	68	30	28	35	1	..	19	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	492
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sylhet .....	..	..	9	10	176	3	..	3	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Ochiar	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Khasi Hills .....	..	..	2	9	20	10	..	41	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	836
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	144	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164
GARO " .....	..	..	1	2	77	2	..	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	144	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga " .....	..	..	..	6	11	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Regular	7	212	72	137	370	15	86	749	56	612	2	45	135	368	2	82	5	1	8,373	
Municipal .....	..	16	..	2	..	..	..	19	..	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

1. Statement showing the strength, cost, and other particulars of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

ARM OF SERVICE.	Total number of fighting officers and men.						Detail of Force at the end of year.						Average annual pay and allowance of each class.								
	Recruited this year.			Died.			Invalided.	Discharged, deserted, &c.	Remainder at the end of year.	Number of regiments, battalions, or batteries.	Number of guns.	Number of men.			Paid camp followers and non-combatants.	European commissioned officers.	Native commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers.	Fighting men.	Camp-followers.	Total cost, including contingents.
	In action.	Otherwise.	Total.	Native commissioned officers.	Native non-commissioned officers.	Fighting men.															
36th Regiment, Native Infantry ..	7	..	22	22	9	6	691	1	..	12*	13	80	588	47	48,265	10,461	13,311	56,059	4,324	1,70,199	
42nd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	135	..	16	16	33	45	884	1	..	8	15	70	789	68	55,428	12,072	15,319	92,292	5,249	1,80,339	
43rd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	70	..	19	19	16	31	867	1	..	9	16	80	761	60	49,432	11,365	12,402	1,01,446	6,008	1,84,422	
44th Regiment, Native Infantry ..	83	..	12	12	38	27	863	1	..	8	16	80	767	64	67,067	11,310	15,092	94,137	5,546	2,01,968	
Total.....	316	....	69	69	91	109	3,205	4	....	37	61	319	2,906	207	2,10,182	46,151	66,354	3,33,864	21,137	7,41,915

* Includes officers absent on leave.

2. Statement showing the distribution and employment of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1876.

Arm of Service.	EMPLOYMENT ON LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.						EMPLOYMENT DURING THE YEAR.						
	Number of regiments, battalions, &c., on active service.	Name of permanent camp employed.	Number of outposts occupied.	Average number of men at headquarters of each regiment not on active service.		Average number of men of each regiment, &c., detailed for outpost duty.	Average number of days spent by each man on active service.	Average number of days spent by each man not on active service.		Number of divisional or station parades during the year.	Number of regimental parades during the year.	Average number of days devoted to masonry instructions, &c.	
				On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	With corps or company not on duty.	On furlough.	
8th Native Infantry	1	Cochar ..	4	30	422	28	84	81-83	254-48	30-19	....	200	15
42nd Assam Light Infantry	1	Gauhati ..	2	35	576	36	210	86	488-11	56	6	239	9-07
43rd Assam Light Infantry	1	Shillong ..	3	50	634	36	167	20-01	344-98	44-02	10	240	182
44th Native Infantry	1	Dibrugarh ..	5	33	584	37	227	68-90	297-63	0-31	15	135	49
Total	4	.....	14	148	2,166	137	688	206-74	1,385-20	130-52	31	814	265-67

[50]

E.—MILITARY.

3. Statement showing Religion, Races, and Classes of the Native Officers and Men of the Army attached to the Province of Assam on the last day of the year 1876.

Classification according to religion, races, &c.	Number.	AVERAGE.			General physiog- nomical characteristics of each race and caste.	
		Age.	Height.	Weight.		
35th N. I.	Christians	9	27.88	5'6"	} Norecord. } Nothing peculiar.	
	Muhammadans.	19	29	5'7"		
	Hindus	653	27.28	5'8"		
42nd A. L. I.	Christians	} From 2½ } } ind. to 1½ } } ind. } }	
	Muhammadans	124	35	5'7"		
	Hindus	761	30	.....	
43rd A. L. I.	Christians	} 10 stone. } } Goorkhas with usual } } features: Kowals, } } coarse Assamians } } features.	
	Muhammadans.	34	40	5'8"		
	Hindus	823	29	5'4"		
44th N. I.	Christians	7	27.85	5'5"	1 md. 30 s.	Caucas- sian.
	Muhammadans.	21	33.83	5'6"	1 md. 29 s.
	Hindus	835	29.83	5'6"	1 md. 25 s.	Mongolian and Cau- cassian.

[51]

F.—MARINE. 1.—[Blank.]

[52]

F.—MARINE. 2.—[Blank.]

PART III.

STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[53, 54, 55,]

A.—FINANCE.

1, 2, 3.—See Chapter V.—Finance.

[56]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1. *Statement showing the Expenditure incurred on Imperial, Provincial, and Local Services in the Public Works Department during the year 1876-77.*

	Original Works.	Repairs.	Total.	Grand Total.
IMPERIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—				
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Military	15,670	20,414	36,084	
Civil Buildings.....	11,958	1,715	13,673	
Establishment .....	.....	.....	12,433	
	.....	.....	.....	62,190
Barrack Department .....	.....	.....	.....	137
Total, Imperial Services..	.....	.....	.....	62,327
PROVINCIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—				
Civil Buildings.....	1,01,179	41,273	1,42,452	
Communications	1,24,461	1,52,683	2,77,144	
Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	29	56	85	
Establishment .....	.....	.....	2,50,502	
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	14,704	
Profit and loss .....	.....	.....	128	
	.....	.....	6,85,015	
Suspense balances .....	.....	.....	—35,453	
Total, Provincial Services...	.....	.....	.....	6,49,562
LOCAL SERVICES—				
<i>Williamson Education Fund—</i>				
Works and repairs .....	.....	450		
Establishment .....	.....	113		
			563	
<i>Assam Local Fund—</i>				
Works and repairs .....	.....	7,406		
Establishment .....	.....	412		
			7,818	
<i>District Improvement Fund Reserve Account—</i>				
Works and repairs	91,546	1,474		
			93,020	
<i>Miscellaneous Improvement Account—</i>				
Works and repairs	905	.....	
			905	
Total, Local Services...	.....	.....	.....	1,02,306
GRAND TOTAL .....	.....	.....	.....	8,14,195

[57]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS.

2. *Statement showing the Income and Expenditure on reproductive works in 1876-77.*—[Blank.]

[58]

C.—RAILWAYS.

[Blank, there being no Railway in the Province.]

[59]

D.—MARINE.

1. *Statement showing the various Government Ships and Vessels employed in the Province of Assam in the year 1876-77.*

DETAIL OF VESSELS.	Tonnage of each vessel and horse-power of engines of a steamer.		Number of officers.	Number of men.	Total annual cost.	Total annual earning of the vessel.	REMARKS.
	Tons.	H.-P.						Rs.	Rs.
Steamer " <i>Prince Albert</i> ," April to December, 1877.	357	170	5	65	32,380	Not known.	Employed under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
Steamer " <i>Koladyne</i> ," from January to March, 1877.	295	90	5	42	7,649		
Paddle-steamer No. 2, April, 1876, to March, 1877.	55	110	1	13	5,633		
Flat " <i>Gogra</i> ," April, 1876, to March, 1877.	304	...	1	22	8,661		
Yacht " <i>Sunamukhi</i> ," April, 1876, to March, 1877.	...	..	1	15	8,046

[60]

D.—MARINE.

2. *Statement showing number of Officers and Men employed otherwise than in Government Vessels in the Province of Assam in the year 1876-77.*—[Blank.]

E.—AGRICULTURE.

1. Crops cultivated, in acres (1876-77).

[61]

Districts.	Area of rainy-season crops in acres.										Area of dry-season crops in acres.						Total.	Grand total.	Remarks.
	Rice.	Indian-corn.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Tea.	Potatoes.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Others.			
Surma Valley districts.	966,600	..	255,000	93,000	960	1,350	50,500	250	..	1,367,660	..	..	631,010	..	..	..	631,010	1,998,670	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	246,800	..	..	..	100	2,500	80	82,885	..	262,685	..	..	..	..	1,000	6,300	6,300	288,985	
Brahmaputra Valley districts.	380,226	..	2,519	..	125,350	22,170	600	1,942	..	532,717	10,265	..	..	46,670	75,998	..	182,883	665,600	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	88,261	..	8,268	..	..	2,163	8,924	6,012	..	108,608	..	..	282,719	21,219	45,995	23,260	373,198	476,801	
	8,200	100	300	145	461	665	2,363	11,125	1,500	24,869	..	..	123,005	600	6,006	300	129,811	154,670	
	76,635	1,700	8,248	1,950	600	8,400	1,650	3,860	200	108,243	..	..	43,972	24,745	73,200	1,800	145,717	248,960	
	213,150	..	..	..	15	28	4,221	27,946	..	245,350	..	..	..	10,655	6,965	43,167	60,777	306,127	
Lakhimpur	46,730	..	..	..	2,475	..	..	15,476	..	64,631	..	..	..	7,000	3,000	400	10,400	75,031	
Hill districts.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	
Garo Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hillst	69,880	9,480	46,380	..	..	1,076	..	..	33,880	152,656	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

2. Stock (1876-77).

Districts.	Cows, bullocks, and buffaloes, &c.	Horses.	Ponies.	Donkeys.	Sheep and goats.	Figs.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Boats.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	400,000	14	1,800	60,000	20,000	24	222,000	140,000	This return is based on supposition only.
Cachar	100,000	20	1,200	.....	10,000	600	...	30,000	1,250
Goálpára	291,000	50	645	50	75,000	19,000	100	91,500	5,700	
Kámrúp	254,940	170	1,220	3	28,250	33,450	32	79,538	6,299	
Darrang.....	235,729	16	421	9	773	14,140	220	24,190	840	
Nowgong .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur°	50,000	200	300	.....	15,000	25,000	300	50,000	8,600
Gáro Hills° .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khási Hills	35,258	20	170	.....	10,219	12,388	20	2,115	50
Nága Hills° .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* The Deputy-Commissioners have reported their returns blank, as no establishments were ever sanctioned to collect these statistics.

E.—AGRICULTURE.
3. Rates of Rent and Produce (1876-77).

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

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DISTRICTS.	AVERAGE RENT PER ACRE SUITED FOR										AVERAGE PRODUCE OF LAND PER ACRE IN POUNDS.												
	Rice.	Wheat.	Inferior grain.	Tea.	Cotton.	Opium and Indigo.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar-cane.	Tobacco.	Rice.	Wheat.	Inferior grain.	Indigo and opium.	Cotton.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Tea.	Sugar (gdr).	Tobacco.	Potato.	Jute.	
Sylhet.....	Rs.As.P. 1 14 11	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P. 2 11 1	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P. 1 7 8	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P. 4 8 6	Rs.As.P.	1,800	..	800	..	200	356	..	..	2,283	..	..	..	180
Cochar	1 18 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	2,000	..	..	..	320	400	180	230	800	50	..	..	..
Godipara	2 0 2	0 1 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 6 0	2 0 2	0 2 0	2 0 2	1,440	400	800	..	..	640	15	..	480	720	..	..	..
Kamrup	1 11 1	.....	.....	.....	1 8 2	.....	1 8 2	1 8 0	1 8 2	1 8 0	1,840	..	..	..	123	615	..	180	615	240	..	..	..
Darrang	1 14 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	960	..	180	..	240	700	20	191	880	720	..	..	..
Nowgong	1 11 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,120	..	640	..	240	320	240	224	250	160	..	..	..
Sibsagar	1 14 3	.....	.....	.....	1 8 2	.....	1 8 2	1 8 2	1 8 2	1 8 2	902	..	1,230	..	150	328	120	290	174	60	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	1 14 0	1 14 0	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	440	..	..	..	..	..	..	400	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hills* .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	640	..	240	..	160	..	..	..	..	..	4,400	..	..
Garo Hills†	5 6 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga Hills†	1 1 7	.....	0 14 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,112	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* These rates cannot be fixed. The lands of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are for the most part private property, and otherwise rents in money are not charged.
† Other information not obtainable.

1. Produce.

DISTRICTS.	Price of produce per maund of 82lb.														From, per maund.					
	Rice.	Wheat.	Linseed.	Rate.	Cotton, indige- nous.	Sugar, refined.	Molasses.	Sea salt.	Sambour salt.	Rock salt.	Gram.	Pulse.	Tea.	Ghn.		Mustard oil.	Mackal.	Pough-bull-cks, each.	Sheep, each.	Fish, per seer.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Sylhet.....	1 8 0	3 4 0	3 8 0	4 0 0	8 12 0	0 5 0	0 4 9 0	..	..	2 14 0	1 15 4	65 0	0 56 0	0 14 6	0 14 0	29 0 0	4 0 0	0 2 0	9 10 0
Cachar	2 8 0	.....	2 8 0	5 8 0	0 12 8	0 6 0	0 5 0 0	..	..	2 8 0	2 8 0	70 0	0 54 0	0 13 8	0 12 0	20 0 0	4 0 0	0 4 0	20 0 0
Goalpara	3 8 0	2 8 0	.....	3 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 4 0	0 5 0 0	..	2 12 0	5 0 0	85 0	0 55 0	0 12 8	0 1 8	0 13 0	0 1 8	0 2 0	0 6 0 0
Kamrup	4 8 0	2 10 0	.....	4 8 0	7 0	0 20 0	0 4 0	0 5 0 0	..	3 0 0	3 0 0	55 0	0 40 0	0 12 8	0 1 10	0 25 0	0 6 0	0 2 0	7 0 0
Darrang.....	3 0 0	.....	.....	5 0	0 9 0	0 15 0	0 7 8	0 5 8 0	..	3 8 0	5 0 0	100 0	0 55 0	0 13 0	0 2 4	0 20 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	7 0 0
Xowong	3 4 0	.....	.....	4 0	0 5 8	0 15 0	0 7 0	0 5 8 0	..	5 0 0	3 0 0	65 0	0 40 0	0 16 0	0 1 8	0 20 0	0 3 0	0 4 0	7 0 0
Silbogar	4 0 0	.....	.....	6 0	0 4 8	0 14 0	0 6 0	0 6 0 0	..	4 0 0	4 0 0	80 0	0 35 0	0 15 0	0 2 8	0 35 0	0 3 0	0 2 0	8 0 0
Lakhimpur ..	3 12 0	5 0 0	.....	5 0	0 10 0	0 16 0	0 6 10	8 6 0 0	..	3 8 0	4 0 0	70 0	0 40 0	0 16 0	0 2 8	0 25 0	0 6 0	0 4 0	10 0 0
Khasi Hills ..	3 8 0	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 8	0 25 0	0 5 0 0	.....	10 0 0
Garo Hills	3 8 0	.....	.....	.....	4 0	0 18 0	0 10 4	0 7 11 0	..	5 2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 2 0	.....	.....	0 8 0	.....
Naga Hills	7 0 0	.....	.....	10 0	0 4 0	0 25 0	0 10 0 0	.....	..	10 0	0 8 0	100 0	0 60 0	0 30 0	0 6 0	0 20 0 0	.....	0 8 0	.....

[65] F.—PRICES OF PRODUCE AND LABOUR AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1876-77.

2. Labour.

DISTRICTS.	Wages per diem.		Cart per day.	Camel per day.	Donkeys per score per day.	Boat per day.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.				
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.			Rs. As. P.
Sylhet	0 8 0	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	1 0 0
Cachar	0 8 0	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	1 8 0
Goálpára	0 4 0	0 3 0	1 0 0	.....	.....	1 8 0
Kámrúp	0 10 0	0 4 0	1 8 0	.....	.....	0 5 0
Darraug	0 10 0	0 5 0	1 4 0	.....	.....	0 4 0
Nowgong.....	0 8 0	0 3 6	1 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Sibságar	0 12 0	0 4 0	2 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Lákhimpur	1 0 0	0 5 0	2 4 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Khási Hills.....	0 14 0	0 7 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gáro Hills	0 8 0	0 4 3	1 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Nága Hills .....	.....	0 6 0	.....	.....	.....	0 10 0

(Bengali boats.)
(Dug-out canoes.)

[66] G.—MINES AND QUARRIES (1876-77).

DISTRICTS.	Where situated.	Mineral produced.	Number of mines.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	Pergunnah Jafiang, in Jaintiá	Limestone	1	*Mine belongs to a zemindar of Goálpára.
Cachar	North Cachar	Coal.		
	Katta Khál	Limestone.		
Goálpára ...	Pergunnah Karaibari	Coal	10	
Kámrúp.....	Mouzah Mataikhar	Iron	1	
	„ Chapaguri	Limestone	1	
Darraug.....	Nil.			
Nowgong ...	Hills near Panimur	Limestone.		
	Ditto	Coal.		
Sibságar.....	Dikhu and Disang... ..	Coal.		
		(Iron, gold-dust, and petroleum.)		
Lákhimpur..	Makun, Terap, and Namdang	Coal	2	
Gáro Hills ...	Gáro Hills	Coal.		
	Ditto	Limestone.		
Khási and Jaintiá Hills.	Khási and Jaintiá Hills...	Lime.....	33	
	Ditto	Coal	16	
		(Iron and slate).		
Nága Hills...	Rangemah	Coal.		
	Banks of the Nambar and Jamuna rivers.	Lime.		
	Banks of the Jamuna river	Chalk.		
	Barail Mountain.	Slate.		

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

		Class of Manufactures.										REMARKS.		
		Silk.	Cotton.	Wood.	Other fibres.	Paper.	Wood.	Iron.	Brass and copper.	Building.	Silver and gold.		Pottery.	Leather.
1.	Number of mills and large manufactures.	..	.....	..	.....	..	3	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	In Cachar and Lakhimpur.
2.	Private looms or small works ^o .	..	2,000	..	.....	..	50	200	20	.....	..	..	..	Cachar.
3.	Number of work- men in large } Male... works } Female	..	.....	..	.....	..	20	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	} Cachar.
4.	Number of workmen in small works, or independent artisans.	106	12,004	..	4,000	..	10,200	2,642	1,276	1,088	..	..	..	Sylhet, Cachar, and Lakhimpur.
5.	Number of European Superintendents in large works.	..	.....	..	.....	..	2	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..
6.	Estimated annual outturn	..	.....	..	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..

^o All the Deputy-Commissioners of Assam Valley Districts have reported their inability to furnish the information, although many private looms are at work in their respective districts.
N.B.—Headings 5 and 6 cannot be properly filled in, as the figures furnished by the Deputy-Commissioners are conjectural, and therefore misleading.

No. 1.—*Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into Assam from non-British Territories during the months of January, February, and March, 1877.*

No. 1.—Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported
February, and

No.	List of Articles.	Names of Import-					
		Goal-para.	Kamrup	Darrang	Total.	Lakhimpur.	
		From Bhutan.		Quantity.	Value.	From Nagaland Mishm Hills.	
				Rs.	Rs.		
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—						
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules .. No.	7	19	440	468	18,640	.....
	2. Cattle .. .. .	.....	.....	19	19	570	.....
	3. Sheep and goats .. .. .	.....	.....	218	218	436	.....
	4. Other animals .. .. .	.....	.....	69	69	34	.....
	Poultry	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
II.	Iron .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
III.	Steel .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
IV.	Copper	Mds.	15	73	353	441	13,230
V.	Lead .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
VI.	Copper coils .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
VII.	Cast-iron .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
VIII.	Cotton .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Twisted (for spinning) .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Piece goods (for cloth) .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	4. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	4	.....	4	.....
IX.	Drugs .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Assam .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	4. " " " "	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	5. Musk	Rs.	.....	24	.....	24	.....
X.	Dyestuffs .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. " " " "	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. " " " " .. .. .	.....	19	560	.....	519	4,152
	3. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	4. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	5. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	3	3	15	.....
XI.	Parboiled and polished	Rs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XII.	Fabrics .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Jute, raw	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. " " " " (gunny-bags and cloth)	No.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Other fibres, raw	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
	4. " " " " manufactured .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	288
XIII.	Fruit .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Cashew	No.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. All other kinds	Mds.	.....	72	72	216	.....
XIV.	Grain and pulse .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Wheat .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Gram and pulse .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Other grain crops .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	4. Rice, husked .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	5. " " " " .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	6. Other grain crops .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XV.	Gums and resins .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XVI.	Hides and skins .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Hides of cattle	No.	.....	148	148	296	.....
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XVII.	Horns	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
XVIII.	Ivory .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
	1. Dye .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Shell .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Stick and other kinds .. .. .	.....	.....	46	46	552	.....
XIX.	Leather .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Unmanufactured	Rs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XX.	Liquors	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXI.	Mats .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93
XXII.	Metals and manufacture of metals—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Brass and copper	Mds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
	2. Iron .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	220
	3. Other metals .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXIII.	Oils .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXIV.	Opium .. .. .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

TRADE.

into Assam from non-British Territories during the months of January, March, 1877.

ing districts.							Grand Total.		
Sylhet.	Sylhet.	Cachar.	Total.		Sylhet.	Cachar.	Total.		
From Hill Tipperah.	From Lushai Hills.		Quantity.	Value.	From Manipur.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Rs.				Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
.....	43	3,010	509	21,650
.....	2	125	21	695
.....	218	436
.....	69	34
.....
.....	80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80
305	6,150	120	801	921	27,630	7	210	3,111	93,380
40	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	20
1,333	13,330	48	13	61	610	35	360	1,429	14,390
.....
.....	66	66	66	66
.....	4	.....	4	.....	766	766	766	774
.....
.....	807
.....	519	4,152
.....	3	15
.....
.....	8	288
.....	72	216
.....
.....	148	296
.....
.....	6	6	2,138	.....	0 18 0	187	9	800
.....	4,215
.....	46	652
.....
.....
.....	630	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	723	723
.....
.....	5	230
.....
.....

No.	List of Articles.	Names of import							
		Goalpara.	Kamrup.	Darrang.	Total.		Lakhimpur.		
		From Bhutan.			Quantity.	Value.	From Naga and Mishmi Hills.		
						Rs.		Rs.	
XXV.	Paints and colours	Mds.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXVI.	Provisions—								
	1. Ghee .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Other kinds .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXVII.	Salt .....	"	....	1,665	2,128	3,793	22,758	....	....
XXVIII.	Saltpetre—								
	1. Saltpetre .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Other saline substances .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXIX.	Seeds—								
	1. Oil-seeds .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(a). Linseed .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(b). Mustard and rape .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(c). Til or gingelly .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(d). Other oil-seeds .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Other seeds—								
	(a). Indigo-seed .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(b). Tea seed .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(c). Other seeds .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXX.	Silk—								
	1. Raw	Rs.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	....	....	5	....	6	....	....
XXXI.	Spices	Mds.	2	1,000	1,391	2,393	11,965	....	....
	(a). Betel-nuts .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXXII.	Stone and marbles .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(a). Beads .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXXIII.	Sugar—								
	1. Refined .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Unrefined .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXXIV.	Tea—								
	1. Indian .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Foreign .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXXV.	Tobacco .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Wax .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	188	6,900
XXXVI.	Wood—								
	1. Timber	No.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Fir wood	Mds.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Bamboo	No.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXXVII.	Wool—								
	1. Raw	Mds.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods) ..	Rs.	....	....	47	....	47	....	....
	3. Shawls .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	4. Blankets	"	457	12,385	5,373	....	18,215	....	....
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—								
	1. Unmanufactured .....	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	....	....	387	....	387	920	920
	Total ..		....	....	....	....	91,546	....	58,034

[69]

No.	List of Articles.	Names of				
		Goalpara.	Kamrup.	Darrang.	Total.	
		Into Bhutan.			Quantity.	Value.
XXVII.	Salt			9	9	Rs. 6
XXVIII.	Saltpetre—					
	1. Saltpetre					
	2. Other saline substances					
XXIX.	Seeds—					
	1. Oil-seeds—					
	(a.) Linseed					
	(b.) Mustard and rape					
	(c.) Til or gingelly					
	(d.) Other oil-seeds					
	2. Other seeds—					
	(a.) Indigo-seed					
	(b.) Tea-seed					
	(c.) Other seeds					
XXX.	Silk—					
	1. Raw					
	2. Manufactured					
XXXI.	Spices—					
	(a) Betel-nuts					
XXXII.	Stone and marble					
	(a) Beads					
XXXIII.	Sugar—					
	1. Refined					
	2. Unrefined			3	3	Rs. 12
XXXIV.	Tea—					
	1. Indian					
	2. Foreign					
XXXV.	Tobacco—					
	Wax					
XXXVI.	Wood—					
	1. Timber					
	2. Firewood					
	3. Bamboos					
XXXVII.	Wool—					
	1. Raw					
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)					
	3. Shawls					
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—					
	1. Unmanufactured					
	2. Manufactured					
	Total					Rs. 1,98,423

[69a]

K.—COIN

(Blank, there being no

[69b]

K.—PAPER

(There is no separate Currency Circle for

Statement showing the number of Charitable Institutions in operation in the Province of Assam during the year 1876.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.	Number of Institutions.	Average number of in-door patients daily aided.	Number of in-door patients aided in the year.	INCOME.				In what shape relief is granted.	OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH AFFORD RELIEF.			
				From Govern-ment on account of salaries.	Estimated cost of European medicines supplied by Government.	From Local Funds.	Interest on invested funds.		Subscriptions and donations from Europeans and Natives.	In door.	Out-door.	General.
DISPENSARIES.												
Cachar .. { Cachar	1	56-22	983	Rs. A. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Medical and surgical	..	..	1
.. { Brahmaugram ..	2	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ditto	..	1	..
Darrang .. Tezpur	3	4-57	100	620 0 0	.....	498 0 6	.....	715 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Goalpara .. { Goalpara	4	6-80	174	804 0 0	17 3 3	24 15 9	14 2 3	718 9 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { Gauipur	5	1-05	33	300 0 0	10 11 9	9 0 0	.....	7-30 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { Lakhipur	6	5-43	11	346 10 8	5 3 1	.....	.....	4-80 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Kamrup .. { Gauhati	7	5-82	156	720 0 0	.....	330 0 0	19 10 0	5-18 12 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { Barpetia	8	1-57	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	1-80 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Khasi Hills.. Shillong	9	4-12	72	468 0 0	.....	16 0 0	.....	8-68 8 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Lakhimpur.. { Dibrugarh	10	15-50	275	830 0 0	178 14 6	924 15 0	.....	1-269 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { North Lakhimpur ..	11	2-59	47	.....	40 11 0½	.....	.....	247 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { Jajpur*	12	5-56	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	34 2 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Naga Hills.. Samagrting	13	4-54	68	740 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ditto	..	..	1
Nowgong .. Nowgong	14	13-05	162	400 0 0	60 1 0	878 6 11	.....	7-68 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Sibsagar .. { Sibsaagar	15	5-70	178	480 0 0	87 13 6	260 0 0	40 9 11	5-64 6 0	Ditto	..	..	1
.. { Jorhat	16	5-47	108	138 0 0	.....	.....	.....	6-18 12 6	Ditto	..	..	1
Sylhet .. Sylhet	17	8-02	221	600 0 0	138 12 11½	35 10 3	56 12 0	7-13 0 0	Ditto	..	..	1
Total.....	17	8-90	2,682	6,960 5 4	839 7 0½	6,978 11 7	181 12 2	9,134 9 6	Ditto	..	1	16

* The new dispensary at Jajpur was opened on 1st May, 1876.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

[71] PART IV.—STATISTICS OF INSTRUCTION.
 A.—Return of Religious Institutions of various denominations in the Province of Assam in the year 1876-77.

Profession.	Number of churches or institutions.	Number of ministers or priests.	Number of persons attending worship.	INCOME.				Explanatory remarks.
				Paid by Govern-ment.	From endowment property.		From fees and offerings.	
					In land.	In money.		
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Roman Catholics	1	1	50	.....	.....	60 0 0	In Kāmrip.
Church of England	7	4	210	2,130 0 0	1,011 0 0	65 0 0	In Sylhet, Cachar, Kāmrip, Darrang, Lakhimpur, and Khásá Hills.	
Church of Scotland .....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Protestant Dissenters ..	24	9	2,154	.....	.....	789 12 9	In Sylhet, Kāmrip, Nowgong, Sibságar, Khásá Hills, and Gáro Hills.
Greeks .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Armenians .....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Unitarians .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Hindu	517	711	6,289	63 4 0	48,769 0 0	1,997 0 0	In Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara, Kāmrip, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Khásá Hills.	
Mahomedan ..	169	19	666	1,222 11 0	.....	120 0 0	In Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara, Kāmrip, Darrang, Lakhimpur, and Khásá Hills.
Shées .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Goalpara and Lakhimpur.
Shékth	1	1	700	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Buddhist or Jain .....	.....	.....	200	.....	.....	.....	In Lakhimpur.
Brahma	3	.....	41	.....	.....	80 0 0	In Sylhet, Darrang, and Khásá Hills.

NOTE.—These figures are merely conjectural.

B.—EDUCATION.

2. Return of Schools, and the Scholars attending them, for the official year beginning 1st April, 1876, ending 31st March, 1877.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CLASS OF INSTITUTION.	Government institutions.										Aided institutions.					
	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.		Average daily attendance		Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.		Number of institutions.		Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.		Average daily attendance.		Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.		Religious or national classification of scholars as on 31st March.	
	English.	Vernacular only.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadians.	Buddhists.	Khasias.	Others.	English.	Vernacular only.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadians.	Buddhists.	Khasias.	Others.
<i>Normal Schools—</i>																
For Masters.....	46	188	30	178	5	..	16	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Technical Schools .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	(21)	..	(21)	..	..	..	..
<i>Schools for Boys—</i>																
Higher Schools (English)	1,263	988	19	1,050	182	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Middle Schools (English	16	29	..	86	4	..	..	..	21	1,549	89	1,028	100	..	880	4
teaching through Vernacular only..	1,289	889	6	1,000	231	..	..	22	33	1,464	1	1,165	290	..	..	8
Lower and Primary Schools .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	876	21,984	207	17,086	2,373	..	913	1,457
<i>Schools for Girls—</i>																
For Natives .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	680	119	242	49	..	265	5
Total	1,825	1,471	55	2,364	452	..	16	39	974	25,773	454	19,481	2,819	..	1,507	1,312

N.B.—This Return does not include the abolished schools.

4. *Distribution of Government Schools, and of all Schools aided and inspected by Government, in the several Districts under the Administration of Assam, for the official year beginning 1st April, 1876, ending 31st March, 1877.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Names of Districts and Native States.	Vernacular spoken.	Area in square miles.	Estimate of population.	Number of schools.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average num-ber of square miles to each school.	Percentage of scholars to popula-tion.	Remarks.	
Cachar	Bengali and Manipuri	1,285 ^o	205,027	113	2,457	11.37	1.19	° Omitting 3,715 square miles of hilly country.	
Sylhet	Bengali	5,380	1,719,539	273	8,362	19.70	.48		
Khási Hills	Khásia	6,157	141,838	82	1,882	75.08	1.32		
Gáro Hills.....	Gáro	3,390	80,000	24	405	141.25	.45		
Goálpára	Bengali	4,433	444,761	117	2,310	37.88	.51		
Kámrúp.....	} Corrupt Bengali ...	3,631	561,681	240	5,493	15.12	.97		
Darrang.....		3,413	236,009	90	2,498	37.92	1.05		
Nowgong	} Corrupt Bengali ...	3,648	256,390	109	3,249	33.46	1.26		
Nága Hills		4,900	68,918	2	57	2,450.00	.08		
Sibságar	} Corrupt Bengali ...	2,413	296,589	131	3,319	18.41	1.11		
Lakhimpur		3,145 [†]	121,267	69	1,893	45.57	1.56		
Total.....	41,795	4,132,019	1,250	31,925	33.43	.77		† Omitting 8,343 square miles of hilly country and forests.

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C.—EDUCATION.

1.—Return of Scientific and Literary Societies for the official year beginning 1st April, 1876, ending 31st March, 1877.

Name.	Objects.	Income.				Members or visitors.				Registered or not.	When established.
		From Government.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.		
Subhasadhini ..	To do good to the country.	..	..	Rs. 504 2 0	Rs. A. P. 504 2 0	18	..	..	18	Not	16th February, 1872.
Mayo Society	Diffusion of primary instruction in memory of the late Lord Mayo.	..	72	....	72 0 0	14	..	..	14	Not	March, 1872.
Shillong Debating Club.	Improvement, physical, moral, intellectual, and social.	..	360	5 0 0	365 0 0	20	..	..	20	Not	October, 1876.

[77]

C. 2.—Statistics of Instruction.—The Press, 1876-77.

1	2	3	4	
District.	Name of Press.	Name of Proprietor.	PUBLICATIONS THEREAT.	
			Newspapers.	Periodicals.
Sylhet	Srihatta Prokash	Babu Grish Chandra Dev, Babu Lakhinath Sarma, Babu Sharat Kumár Dás, Babu Krishnn Govind Dás, Babu Joy Chunder Dás	Srihatta Prokash (<i>Bi-monthly</i>).	....
Goalpara	Hitabidhayini Press	Hitabidhayini Society.....	Goalpara Hitasadhini (<i>Weekly</i>) .....	....
Kámrúp	Chidananda Press	Chidananda Chondri .....	.....	Chandradat (<i>monthly</i>).
Sibságar	American Mission Press ..	Rev. A. K. Gurney	Arunodoi (<i>Monthly</i>)..	....
	Dharmaparakash Press	Anuháti Gossain	Assam Belasini (<i>Monthly</i>) Assam Dipak. Assam Gazette (<i>Weekly</i>)	....
Khási Hills	Assam Secretariat Press ..	Her Majesty's Government		....

A.—Deaths registered from different causes in the Province of Assam in 1916

Number.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		Total
	Tracts.		Districts.		Population.		Cholera		Small pox		Fever		Dysentery		Hæmorrhage				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	225,374	215,387	444,761	276	280	500	40	41	81	1,000	571	9,001	152	80	941				
2	292,588	208,993	501,581	572	432	904	221	213	434	1,000	1,374	8,004	113	901	814				
3	133,107	123,283	256,390	408	312	720	50	48	107	700	808	1,214	116	94	310				
4	122,587	118,172	240,659	194	168	362	202	170	372	1,853	1,615	8,108	283	428	1,010				
5	154,940	141,649	296,589	2,022	1,867	3,819	84	58	142	1,508	1,417	8,303	700	408	1,108				
6	64,692	56,575	121,267	103	81	180	24	22	46	476	305	781	210	110	320				
7	880,880	839,209	1,719,989	1,084	739	1,778	141	107	248	1,227	947	2,474	430	278	708				
8	110,373	94,654	205,027	99	86	185	8	6	14	325	285	680	89	84	73				
	1,068,241	1,852,922	3,841,263	4,700	3,915	8,615	779	665	1,444	10,165	7,442	17,607	2,645	1,726	4,371				

A.—(Continued).

[78]

Number.	Tracts.	Districts.	9												10			11			12							
			Injuries.						All other causes.						Total from all causes.			Ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population.										
			Suicides.		Wounding.		Accidents.		Snake-bite or killed by wild beasts.		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	Small-pox.	Revers.	Bowel-complaints.	Injuries.	All causes.				
1		Goāpāra.....	..	..	2	8	5	16	5	21	49	12	61	72	90	163	1,397	1,491	3,486	1.2	1	5.8	5	1	8.7	6.9	7.8	
2		Kāmṛūp.....	8	1	4	..	4	4	12	2	14	44	15	69	143	101	244	3,248	2,398	5,541	1.7	7	5.8	9	1	11.0	8.5	9.8
3		Nowgong.....	1	1	2	3	..	3	29	6	35	45	11	56	60	43	1,427	1,023	2,450	2.8	4	4.7	8	3	10.7	8.2	9.5	
4		Darrang.....	4	1	5	3	1	4	14	7	21	37	6	43	201	156	867	3,003	2,579	5,672	1.5	15	14.7	4.2	3	25.1	22.7	24.0
5		Sibsagar.....	1	1	2	12	5	17	17	9	26	9	2	11	301	292	553	5,074	4,186	9,260	13.2	4	11.4	4.0	1	37.7	29.5	31.2
6		Lakhimpur.....	3	..	3	3	1	4	12	9	21	4	..	4	75	57	132	913	583	1,497	1.5	3	6.4	2.6	2	14.0	10.8	12.3
7		Sylhet.....	16	5	21	5	9	14	75	72	147	60	25	85	683	425	1,108	3,971	2,607	6,578	1.9	1	1.4	4	1	4.5	3.1	3.8
8		Cachar.....	1	..	1	..	..	29	12	41	3	4	7	100	70	170	604	417	1,021	5	..	2.3	3	2	5.4	4.4	4.9	
		Total.....	29	9	38	23	51	204	122	326	251	75	326	1,635	1,204	2,839	20,328	15,181	35,507	2.2	3	4.5	1.1	1	10.2	8.1	9.2	

[79] B.--Showing the diseases of the in-door and out-door patients treated in the Dispensaries of Assam during the year 1876.

Number.	Names of Dispensaries.	DISEASES.										LOCAL DISEASES.								
		General Diseases.					Constitutional Diseases.					Ophthalmia.	Inflammation of the external ear.	Gout.	Respiratory affections.	Heart diseases.				
		Order A. Febrile or Zymotic diseases.		Order B. Constitutional diseases.																
		Cholera.	Other diseases of this order.	Rheumatic affections.	Syphilitic affections.	Scorbuta.	Anæmia.	Leprosy.	Phthisis.	Dropsy.	Other diseases of this order.	Ophthalmia.	Inflammation of the external ear.	Gout.	Respiratory affections.	Heart diseases.				
1	Cachar.....	8	484	86	14	107	79	8	7	7	8	32	8	61	28	20	83	23		
2	Brahmangram.....	..	687	1	..	70	28	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	15	..	..	..	..
3	Tezpur.....	1	483	10	4	110	33	2	..	1	..	10	..	4	22	88	118	..	..
4	Goalpara.....	..	354	6	1	63	31	..	1	..	..	19	..	11	16	10	..	..	..
5	Gauripur.....	..	172	..	..	110	18	..	..	..	..	15	..	12	13	18	..	..	..
6	Lakhimpur.....	..	76	..	..	19	15	..	..	..	..	2	..	23	5	..	..	..	..
7	Ganbhati.....	1	319	7	10	22	18	..	..	3	..	3	..	1	13	12	..	..	..
8	Barpeeta.....	..	124	7	..	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	7	..	..	..	..
9	Shillong.....	1	323	..	4	47	18	..	..	2	..	2	..	7	2	..	..	..	..
10	Shibruagach.....	..	1979	4	6	29	63	..	1	..	..	42	..	34	21	242	74	..	..
11	North Lakhimpur.....	..	183	..	2	4	16	6	..	14	..	1	..	1	4	91	15	..	..
12	Jalpur.....	..	40	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1	..	..	..	..
13	Samsangting.....	..	216	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	..	..	..
14	Nowrang.....	..	309	..	..	51	11	1	..	18	..	..	..	18	30	414	..	..	..
15	Silsagar.....	..	808	33	..	89	11	..	5	0	..	9	..	22	10	514	..	..	..
16	Jorbhat.....	..	880	29	6	115	86	..	1	21	..	8	..	36	15	69	159	..	..
17	Sylhet.....	..	618	8	49	171	137	4	..	10	..	43	44	129	94	..	..	..	..
	Total.....	6	7,435	195	102	1,019	519	17	108	161	15	222	80	405	881	1,558	907

[79]

D.—(Continued.)

Number.	Names of Dispensaries.	Disease.													Operations.			
		Dysentery.	Diarthoa.	Worms.	Liver disease.	Spleen disease.	Gonorrhoea and its complications.	Abscesses, boils, and whitlows.	Skin disease.	Ulcer.	Labour—premature, natural, and difficult.	Other local diseases.	Debility and old age.	Poisons and poisoned wounds.	Injuries.	Total number of in-door and out-door patients treated in each Dispensary.	Major.	Minor.
1	Caohar	280	51	34	4	73	30	23	307	68	5	514	277	1	115	2844	8	109
2	Freshnangram	47	27	47	1	41	10	16	42	6	6	213	1	1	39	1847	3	16
3	Teopur	130	114	65	3	106	19	31	269	43	1	465	19	.....	83	2203	25	25
4	Goolia	37	80	19	3	133	3	41	79	4	.....	326	11	.....	32	1367	7	57
5	Gachipar	33	21	4	1	33	26	9	232	46	.....	130	17	.....	8	668	.....	10
6	Yachpur	20	7	.....	.....	32	3	10	15	9	.....	87	9	.....	4	810	.....	94
7	Gachhal	66	45	.....	.....	28	13	32	56	20	.....	107	.....	.....	62	937	.....	.....
8	Shimla	13	31	6	2	24	9	4	23	32	.....	111	3	.....	23	431	.....	.....
9	Shimla	74	54	41	2	24	24	38	67	24	.....	240	9	.....	67	1194	.....	58
10	Mithlath	449	675	110	3	26	17	17	69	49	.....	375	23	.....	40	4133	6	22
11	North Lakhimpur	47	23	9	1	11	5	10	62	14	.....	86	.....	.....	22	673	.....	.....
12	Jaipur	3	3	1	.....	2	.....	4	3	3	.....	11	2	.....	6	93	.....	.....
13	Saunangib	80	34	.....	.....	.....	13	3	73	73	.....	121	.....	.....	63	736	.....	94
14	Nowgong	18	58	.....	.....	21	11	21	84	39	.....	118	7	.....	43	193	.....	34
15	Sibesar	971	100	62	1	33	9	54	646	104	.....	367	.....	.....	98	2039	1	104
16	Fornat	122	41	66	14	91	27	53	423	68	.....	585	26	.....	113	393	3	202
17	Sylhet	81	172	30	18	76	66	174	228	119	.....	837	51	.....	260	2,668	61	273
	Total	1,721	1,434	447	65	759	264	529	2,608	781	14	4,733	460	25	1,078	28,083	89	1,039

Statement showing particulars of Vaccination in the Dispensaries

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
Circle of Medical Superintendence.	Name and rank of Superintendents of Dispensaries.	Number of Native Superintendents of Vaccination attached to the Dispensary.	Number of Vaccinators attached to the Dispensary.	Total number of persons vaccinated.		Division or District, Collectorate, Political Agency, Native State or Municipality, for the population of which the Dispensary is provided.	Population of area included in last column.	Name of dispensary.	A.		Sex.	
				Present year, 1876-77.	Previous year, 1875-76.							
				Male.	Female.				Christian.	Hindu.		
1	J. J. Monteith, M.D., Civil Surgeon.	..	1	1,492	1,580	Cachar ..	205,027	Cachar.....	867	623	2	1,287
2	A. Garden, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Civil Surgeon.	..	1	128	376	Darrang ..	236,009	Tezpur.....	68	54	2	59
3	Mr. J. Stone, Civil Medical Officer.	..	4	3,879	4,086	Garo Hills.	90,000	Tura.....	2,021	1,858	..	208
4	J. P. Cromarty, Civil Surgeon.	..	1	1,130	591	Goalpara...	407,714	Goalpara.....	901	208	..	814
5	E. G. Russell, M.A., M.D., Civil Surgeon	..	79	13,117	9,879	Kamrup ..	561,681	Gauhati	8,101	5,016	..	8,534
6	J. O'Brien, M.D., Civil Surgeon.	..	2	754	1,817	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	141,838	Shillong	418	336	36	4
7	J. White, Surgeon-Major, Civil Surgeon.	..	3	630	991	Lakhimpur.	82,109	Dibrugarh	291	292	5	328
	Ditto ditto	..		358	599	Ditto	39,158	Branch Dispensary, North Lakhimpur, Samaguting ..	184	174	..	342
	Mr. A. D. Cooper, Civil Medical Officer.	..	..	..	..	Naga Hills.	....	....	..	..	..	..
	Mr. J. W. Hughes, Civil Medical Officer.	..	1	267	156	Nowgong..	256,390	Nowgong.....	144	123	44	221
	Babu R. C. Sen, Civil Medical Officer.	..	1	1,092	1,223	Sibsagar ..	296,589	Sibsagar	614	478	18	780
	T. Mathew, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Civil Surgeon.	..	1	785	677	Sylhet ..	1,719,559	Sylhet	451	334	1	92
	Total.....	..	94	23,632	21,975				14,060	9,496	108	13,269

VACCINATION.

of Assam during the year ending 31st March, 1877.

10										11				12	13	14	
Primary vaccination.										Re-vaccination.				Percentage of successful cases, excluding those unknown from the total vaccinated.	Average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator.	Total cost of vaccination for the year.	
B.		C.		D.		A.		B.		C.		D.				Paid by Government.	Paid from other sources.
Caste.		Age.		Results.		Total.		Successful.		Unsuccessful, including those doubtful.		Unknown.		Total.		In primary vaccination.	In secondary vaccination.
Musliman.	Garos.	Other castes.	Under one year.	Above one year.	Successful.	Unsuccessful, including those doubtful.	Unknown.	Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful, including those doubtful.	Unknown.	Total.	In primary vaccination.	In secondary vaccination.	Average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator.	Paid by Government.	Paid from other sources.
77	..	24	459	1,081	1,270	196	24	1,490	2	..	..	2	85-24	100	1,492	120	....
2	..	59	6	116	106	16	..	122	5	1	..	6	86-9	88-23	122	40	....
..	3,571	..	1,792	2,086	3,869	168	407	3,879	..	..	..	..	85-80	....	969-75	240	....
26	..	269	48	1,066	142	260	707	1,100	18	3	..	21	12-80	85-71	109	120	....
3,322	..	460	1,381	11,586	12,365	619	133	13,117	..	..	..	..	94-26	....	166-08	..	120 paid by Municipality.
3	..	711	192	562	529	231	..	754	..	..	..	..	69-4	....	877	208	....
28	..	25	211	372	347	129	107	560	47	..	..	47	59-52	100	315	160	....
13	53	305	320	88	..	358	..	..	..	..	89-58	....	358	40	....
..
1	..	1	21	246	246	21	..	267	..	..	..	..	92-18	....	267	118	....
204	442	650	1,048	44	..	1,092	..	..	..	..	95-97	....	1,092	120	....
609	..	23	23	762	658	127	..	785	..	..	..	..	83-82	....	785	120	85 Ditto.
4,906	3,571	1,572	4,774	18,782	20,334	1,844	1,378	23,556	72	4	..	76	86-32	94-78	261-40	1,286	....

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE
YEAR 1877-78.



SHILLONG :
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1878.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE year was on the whole a favourable one to the agriculturist. In some districts, owing to an unseasonable rainfall, the *sali* rice crop partially failed, but this partial failure was counterbalanced by the abundant yield of the *aus* rice crop. On the whole, however, both these crops gave a fair outturn, and the yield of the other crops was not below the average. The rainfall during the year was somewhat unequally distributed: in the Brahmaputra Valley it was below, while in the Surmá Valley and in the hill districts it was above, the average.

2. The general condition of the people throughout the year appears to have been as prosperous as usual. The high prices of food-grains which generally prevailed were a result of extraneous circumstances; they were by no means an indication of local scarcity or distress.

3. The public health throughout the year was generally fair, but cholera in an epidemic form visited the districts of Sylhet, Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Darrang. In the latter district there was an especially severe outbreak of this disease, carrying off 2,204 persons. There were the usual number of deaths from malarious fevers. Small-pox prevailed in some districts. The vital statistics, being untrustworthy, throw no light on the general health of the people.

4. No general administrative change of any importance took place during the year. The creation of the post of Inspector-General of Police and Prisons, and Commissioner of Abkari Revenue and Superintendent of Stamps, was, through inadvertence, not alluded to in last year's report, and may therefore be mentioned here, although the appointment was constituted before the close of 1876-77.

Changes in Administration.

Under the head of "Political changes," the principal occurrence to be noted is the suspension, temporarily, for the period of a year, of the provisions of the Inner Line Regulation in regard to that portion of the Darrang Inner Line which faces the Towang country. This was done at the request of the Bhutia chiefs on the other side of the border, who complained that the restrictions of the Regulation were a serious impediment to their intercourse and trade with the people of the plains.

Neither of the two remaining sub-divisions in Sylhet was opened during the year, but a site for the head-quarters of the Latu sub-division was fixed upon at Karimganj, and orders to commence building operations were issued. The selection of the site for the head-quarters of the Habiganj sub-division was unavoidably postponed. Both of these sub-divisions have since been opened.

The long-standing dispute concerning the boundary between the district of Goálpára and the Gáro Hills, in which the zemindars had filed suits against Government in the Civil Court claiming large sums as compensation, was at last set at rest by a compromise and mutual agreement, according to which the newly-defined boundary is maintained, and the disputed lands, though recognized as the property of the zemindars, are left principally under Government management.

Among other proceedings for the revision of boundaries may be mentioned the completion of the demarcation of the boundary between the Gáro Hills and Mymensingh, the notification of the boundary between the Gáro Hills and the Khási Hills, the revision of the boundary between the districts of Rangpur and Goálpára, and the re-arrangement of the thannah divisions in Goálpára.

5. The chief event of the year in connection with the State of Manipur was the despatch to Tipaimukh by the Manipur Durbar of a

Relations with tributary States and frontier affairs.

deputation authorized by the Maharajah to enter into negotiations with the Lushais, with a view to induce them to refrain from attacking certain Nága villages situated in Manipur territory. The deputation, however, was of a most informal character, and the negotiations came to nothing.

The question concerning the disputed boundary between Manipur and British territory, which had been pending for several years, was settled satisfactorily during the year under report.

The behaviour of the Manipuri détenus kept under surveillance at Sylhet was good throughout the year.

With the exception of the Angámi Nágas, our relations with the various tribes on this frontier were peaceable, and, on the whole, afforded no ground for disquiet. The hillmen attended during the year the several large annual fairs which are held mainly with a view to cultivate friendly relations with them, and their behaviour while in the plains was, with the exception of the Kapas Chor Akas and some thieving Nágas, good.

Though the Abors made no overtly hostile demonstrations during the year, their manner was, as formerly, insolent and overbearing, and they have boldly asserted claims, which are altogether inadmissible, to land lying in the plains.

In last year's report it was stated that a punitive expedition was to be despatched during the cold weather of 1877-'78, to inflict punishment on the Angámi Nága village of Mozema for a raid committed on the British Nága village of Gumaigáju in North Cachar. The expedition accordingly left Samaguting on the 6th December, 1877, and on the 8th idem Mozema was carried by assault. The Mozema men, on being driven out of their village, dispersed through the neighbouring hills and jungles, and some desultory fighting ensued; but finally they made overtures for peace, and terms, on the whole satisfactory, were imposed upon them. The objects of the expedition were, to a great extent, attained.

6. Parties of the Topographical, Trigonometrical, and

Surveys.

Revenue Surveys were employed in the Province during the year. The main work of the Topographical Survey party lay in the Miri Hills, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, and in the Mishmi Hills at the head of the Brahmaputra Valley. In the Miri Hills, operations were carried on in conjunction with the Trigonometrical Survey party, one of the chief objects of the exploration

being to ascertain the true course and origin of the Subansiri river, and the possibility of its connection with the Sanpo river in Thibet. The united party, under Lieutenants Harman and Woodthorpe, penetrated to the second range of hills, no obstacle on the part of the inhabitants being met with. The principal difficulty was in obtaining supplies and carriage, the population being very scanty and miserably poor, barely able apparently to support themselves. As, however, the orders of Government prohibited the further advance of the party, the question as to the upper course of the river could not be satisfactorily settled; but observations were made which will materially help in the elucidation of the problem. In the Mishmi Hills and the country at their base, valuable explorations were made by Lieutenant Woodthorpe and his party, which, should further investigations be made in this direction of a route to Western China or Upper Burmah, will be found of much importance.

The Trigonometrical Survey, besides their work in the Miri Hills, completed the remainder of their series of triangulations in the head of the Assam Valley, and the party was then withdrawn.

The Revenue Survey party continued the demarcation and adjustment of la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings in Kámrup, on which it is still engaged. The progress of this work towards completion is very far from satisfactory. The work is to some extent, perhaps, unavoidably tedious, but it is hoped that under orders recently issued a greater degree of rapidity may be attained in the future.

During the years 1875-76 and 1876-77, a survey was undertaken in the Dikhu Valley and the adjacent coal-fields by a party detached from the Northern Bengal State Railway. The object of the survey was to examine the practicability of connecting the Dikhu coal-fields with the Brahmaputra. The result was reported in the course of the year, and the alternative projects recommended will be found in the body of the report.

7. During the year under review progress was made in the re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet, the re-settlement of other petty scattered estates in that district, the re-settlement of the Jaintia pergunnahs, the settlement of waste lands in Cachar, the re-settlement of the Eastern Duars in Goálpára, petty re-settlements in that district, and the ordinary annual settlements in Assam Proper.

Settlements.

The cost and rate of progress, both of the ilam settlements and of the settlement of the other petty estates in Sylhet, during the year were not altogether satisfactory. Good progress was, however, made during the year in the re-settlement of the Jaintiá pergunnahs,—the measurement of the remaining pergunnahs having been completed, and the re-settlement of the tenures in six pergunnahs having been nearly completed before the close of the year. The work of re-settlement at first progressed but slowly, owing to the opposition of the ryots ; but, on the Settlement Officer adopting coercive measures, the obstruction collapsed. The rates of assessment already approved for the above-noted six pergunnahs will be applied to the remaining eleven pergunnahs. The re-settlement of these remaining pergunnahs will, it is hoped, be speedily completed.

The settlement work in Cachar consisted of the settlement of waste lands under the Mirasdari Rules obtaining in the district, and calls for no notice in particular here.

The re-settlement of the Eastern Duars, in the Goálpara district, has been completed. The system adopted has been that of direct settlement with the cultivator, and this has been approved by the Government of India in the case of three out of five of the Duars. Whether this system should finally be adopted in Duars Bijni, and Sidli, is still under the Supreme Government's consideration. The revision of settlement of these Duars has resulted in a net increase of Rs. 28,490 annual revenue.

The re-settlement of the petty estates in Goálpara calls for no notice here.

The ordinary annual settlements in Assam Proper resulted in an increase of revenue of Rs. 72,088 over the revenue of the previous year. This increase was due to extension of cultivation.

8. 161 leases, covering an area of 71,646 acres, were sold during the year under the Thirty-years' Lease Rules, against 63 leases, covering an area of 24,444 acres, sold in the preceding year. The Chief Commissioner has every reason to believe that these rules are well suited to the conditions of the Province, and are favourable to the extension of the tea industry.

In addition to the above, a total area of 26,214·51 acres was taken up during the year for the cultivation of tea under the

ordinary cultivation leases. Of this area, no less than 20,355 acres were taken up in Cachar.

9. The estates under the management of the Court of Wards during the year were the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, the Sidli estate, Har Kumar Pal's estate, and the estate of the minor Gulam Armani.

The particulars of these estates require no special notice in this place.

10. The working of the police force throughout the year was satisfactory, and the general conduct of the men was, on the whole, good. Much improvement was effected during the year in the condition of the village police in Sylhet, and the re-organization of the village police in Goálpára was undertaken. The river patrol system in Sylhet worked well, as also the system of regular police patrol along the Assam Trunk Road. Much attention was paid during the year to the discipline and drill of the force.

The number of cognizable offences reported during the year was slightly in excess of the number of such cases reported in 1876, but the number of cases accepted as true was less than in the previous year. Such decrease, if the result of a real decrease of crime, may be deemed satisfactory. The result of the cases sent up by the police was much the same as in the preceding year.

From the figures given in the body of the report, there appears to have been a decrease of crime in the hill districts during the year under review, as compared with the previous year.

11. The state of the jail buildings in the Province varied but little during the year, though a considerable sum was expended upon their repairs. A step was made, in the reduction of the Goálpára Jail to the condition of a lock-up, towards a policy of abolishing the smaller jails, and massing the prison population in large central jails.

The proportion of foreigners amongst the prisoners in jail during the year amounted to nearly 12 per cent. of the gross prison population; nearly 9 per cent. were imported labourers on tea-gardens.

The percentage of prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment was higher than in the preceding year, a decidedly satisfactory fact.

Considering the insecure state of many of the jail buildings, the escapes during the year may be said to have been very few.

There was a slight increase in the number of offences against prison discipline, as compared with the preceding year. Much attention was paid during the year to the development of the mark system, and the rules regarding classification were carried out as far as practicable.

The net cost of each prisoner to the State during the year was in excess of the cost in 1876. This increase was mainly due to the large expenditure on jail buildings, and is therefore only temporary.

There was an improvement in the health of the prisoners during the year, both the percentage of sick on average strength and the percentage of deaths on average strength being lower than in the preceding year. The sanitary arrangements of the jails continue to be satisfactory.

12. As compared with the previous year, there was a decrease both in the number of offences reported and in the number of persons convicted during the year under review. The result of the trials before the court of session was decidedly satisfactory, as compared with the result of such trials in 1876; but, with the exception of the courts of district magistrates, the result of the trials in the courts of magistrates was less favourable than in the preceding year. There is little to note here under this head.

Criminal Justice.

13. There was an increase during the year in civil business, as compared with 1876, the number of suits instituted being 21,282, against 19,429 in the previous year. The increase occurred entirely in Sylhet, there having been a decrease in the number of institutions in the Valley districts and in Cachar. This decrease is attributable to various causes. The number of cases disposed of during the year was greater than in the preceding year.

Civil Justice.

The amount in litigation in the civil courts of the Province during the year was Rs. 16,77,750, against Rs. 35,05,382 in 1876. The decrease is very marked; but it occurred altogether in the Valley districts, principally in

Goálpára, and is due to the special series of cases instituted during the previous year in that district. Of the suits disposed of, eleven only exceeded Rs. 5,000 in value. There was an increase both in cases of the small cause court class and in rent suits.

The ratio of civil suits to population in the Province during the year under report was 5 per cent.

No other points call for notice here.

14. There was a marked increase in the work of the Registration Department during the year under review, 12,342 documents having been registered, as compared with 9,004 documents registered in 1876-77, showing an increase in the total number of registrations of 37 per cent. The receipts during the year, and also the expenditure, were, consequent upon the increase in the number of documents, greater than in the preceding year. There were only two deficit districts during the year, as compared with three such districts in 1876-77. There was a very marked increase, more than 54 per cent., in the number of compulsory registrations, as compared with the previous year. These results must be considered as entirely satisfactory.

The number of registration offices remained the same as in the preceding year. No extension of the rural sub-registry system is at present contemplated.

15. One addition was made to the municipal institutions of the Province during the year under report; the station of Dibrugarh having been declared a township under Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.) from the commencement of the year.

There was an increase in both receipts and expenditure on account of municipalities, as compared with the previous year, due mainly to the increase in the number of municipalities. No works of any importance were carried out during the year, but the ordinary petty works undertaken by municipalities received due attention.

16. Experimental sowings of wheat, barley, and oats were, as in the previous year, made at the Shillong Model Farm, and sowings were also made at a lower elevation. The agricultural experiments at the Shillong Farm have mostly been unsuccessful, and, financially speaking, the institution is a failure.

17. The Forest Department continued to display much activity during the year under report. An area of 72·37 square miles was added to the Government forest reserves. In addition, large areas of forest were inspected, demarcated, and reported on, with the view to their being declared forest reserves. The work of demarcating forest boundaries was pushed vigorously on, and valuation surveys over an extensive area were carried out. An area of 689·80 square miles was gazetted during the year as "open forests." The measures taken to protect the forests from jungle fires were especially successful, and this success was in no slight measure due to the co-operation of the country people with the officers of the department in the work of fire protection. The experimental plantations started in previous years made much real progress during the year under review. Finally, the financial results of the working of the forest Department during the year were decidedly satisfactory. The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,34,325-11-3, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,00,286-8-8, leaving at the close of the year a surplus of Rs. 34,039-2-7. It will be difficult for some time to come to cut down forest expenditure in Assam. The department is still in need of much development, but the total forest receipts may be confidently expected to show a yearly progressing increase.

18. It was stated in last year's report that arrangements had been made for the first time during that year to register the trade between this Province and Frontier States. These arrangements remained unaltered during the year under review. According to the returns received, the total value of the articles imported during the year into Assam was Rs. 7,34,246, and the total value of the articles exported from the Province Rs. 2,47,950. These figures, however, cannot be considered to be trustworthy, as there are many almost insuperable difficulties in the way of collecting trade statistics in this Province, and the means available for their collection are most inadequate. The trade itself is of a petty character, and very limited.

19. The final grant for the year to the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 9,28,568, and the total expenditure during the year came to Rs. 8,85,670, leaving a surplus at the close of the

year of Rs. 42,898. As will be seen from the body of the report, the outturn of work of the department during the year was considerable. The principal works commenced or continued by the department during the year were the substitution of permanent roofs of iron or shingle for the thatch-roofs of the district cutcherries, the completion of the new court-houses at Dibrugarh and Shillong, the extension of the Sylhet jail, the completion of the new workshop at Gauhati, and the advancement of the Assam Trunk Road, the Shillong Cart-road, and the Sylhet and Cachar Road; the drainage operations in the station of Gauhati were also begun.

20. The gross receipts of the Province during the year under review on account of Imperial and Provincial Services and Local and Municipal Funds amounted to Rs. 84,46,293. The net receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 72,62,714, against Rs. 66,60,900 in the preceding year, showing a net increase during the year under review of Rs. 6,01,814. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 47,40,867, and there was thus at the close of the year a net surplus of Rs. 25,21,847, against a surplus of Rs. 20,44,477 at the close of the previous year, showing an improvement during the year under report of Rs. 4,77,370. Of the total net increase in receipts, the major portion (Rs. 5,83,628) occurred under the head of "Imperial Services;" of this important increase, however, Rs. 60,600 are owing to certain corrective transfer-book entries, and the increase to this extent is nominal. Land revenue, Forests, and Excise show a real net increase of Rs. 4,76,824. A considerable portion, however (upwards of one lakh), of the increase under "Land revenue" is, as explained in the body of the report, due to a change in the date on which the last instalment of land revenue is collected in the Sylhet district, and is unreal. The remainder of the net increase under "Imperial Services" is a real increase, due to the administrative progress of the Province. For further details, the body of the report must be referred to.

General Revenue.

21. The current demand for the year on account of ordinary land revenue was Rs. 31,50,446, against Rs. 30,30,994, the current demand for the previous year. The increase, Rs. 1,19,452, is due to settlements at progressive rates, to re-settlements at enhanced rates, to assessment of Old Assam Rule grants, and to extension of cultivation.

Land Revenue.

The current demand for the year on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 2,52,863, against Rs. 2,23,650 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 29,213. This increase occurred mainly under the heads of "Elephants," " Fisheries," and "House-tax."

22. The system of putting up to auction the licenses for the retail vend of opium within certain prescribed limits was introduced into all the districts of the Province at the commencement of the year under report with results which appear very favourable. While there has been a general falling off in the consumption of the drug, and in the number of shops for its retail vend, there has been a considerable increase in the revenue derived from it, which amounted to Rs. 12,98,051 during the year under report, against Rs. 12,16,712 in the preceding year. If from the above total revenue for each year the cost of conveying opium be deducted, the net revenue for the year comes to Rs. 12,83,940, as compared with Rs. 12,04,393 in 1876-77, showing a net increase during the year under review of Rs. 79,547. This rate, however, is not likely to be maintained.

The total gross revenue from opium and its preparations (madat and chandu) for the whole Province amounted during the year under report to Rs. 13,05,413, against Rs. 12,21,871 in 1876-77, showing an increase of Rs. 83,542 in 1877-78.

23. The gross excise revenue of the year from all sources, excluding opium and its preparations, which have been dealt with separately, was Rs. 2,31,302, against Rs. 2,01,258 in the previous year, showing a total gross increase of Rs. 30,044. There was an increased revenue under all heads except "Rum," which shows a slight decrease of Rs. 71 only. The bulk of the increase was contributed by country spirits and ganja, and is attributable to the further extension of the farming system during the year. Deducting the charges of the department from the gross revenue of each of the years under comparison, as shown above, the net excise revenue for the year under report comes to Rs. 2,22,699, against Rs. 1,88,858 in 1876-77, showing a total net increase of Rs. 33,846 during 1877-78. This result is

decidedly satisfactory, the more so, as under the two principal heads the number of retail licenses granted fell off considerably during the year.

24. The gross revenue from stamps during the year under report, excluding the receipts from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps, amounted to Rs. 5,48,173, against Rs. 4,87,332 in the preceding year, or an increase of Rs. 60,841, and Rs. 4,89,356, the average of the three previous years. Thus, the revenue from general and court-fees stamps exhibits a most satisfactory increase, as compared with previous years. The receipts from general stamps alone have risen 20 per cent. over the revenue from this source in the preceding year. This increase in the revenue from general stamps is especially satisfactory, and may reasonably be attributed to a proportionate increase in monetary and commercial transactions, and partly, also, to the measures adopted to prevent evasions of the stamp laws. Deducting the charges of the department from the total gross revenue, the total net revenue for the year under report comes to Rs. 5,36,828, as compared with Rs. 4,77,013 in the preceding year, showing a net increase in the revenue of the year of Rs. 59,815, or nearly 13 per cent.

The receipts from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps during the year under review amounted, respectively, to Rs. 73,619, Rs. 17,481, and Rs. 42,396. The corresponding figures for 1876-77 are Rs. 62,590, Rs. 16,599, and Rs. 26,468. The increase in the sales of postage stamps is especially satisfactory. The increased sale of service stamps is owing to an increase in official correspondence. The increased receipts from the sale of telegraph stamps are the natural result of the extension of the telegraph line to Upper Assam.

25. The receipts and charges for the year under "Provincial Services" were, respectively, Rs. 16,78,921 and Rs. 16,43,246, leaving a surplus of Rs. 35,675. This surplus, being added to the balance at the beginning of the year, makes up the amount at credit of the Local Administration to Rs. 1,52,649.

26. The details of the several Local Funds are given in the body of the report, and there is nothing to be noted here, save that at the close of the year all the funds were solvent, the aggregate balance being Rs. 1,91,309.

27. The vital statistics given in the body of the report are, the Chief Commissioner considers, utterly untrustworthy and the deductions from them ludicrous; so they will not be reproduced here.

Births and deaths.

28. The figures given in the body of the report show a very considerable increase in the immigrant population of the Province during the year under review. At the commencement of 1877 there were 135,807 immigrants in the Province; during the year 86,712 souls were added to the immigrant population: thus, the total number of immigrants employed in the Province during the year was 222,519, as compared with 190,368, the total number employed in the previous year. The total number of immigrants removed from the books during the year was 65,300, and thus the total number remaining in the Province at the end of the year was 157,219, showing an increase in the immigrant population of the Province of 21,412 souls. The death-rate and desertion-rate (calculated on average strength) during 1877 were, respectively, 5·09 and 4·48 per cent., the corresponding figures for 1876 are 5·02 and 6·16 per cent.

Immigration.

A very large number of immigrants, as compared with previous years, entered the Province during the year under report, *via* the Dhubri and Rajmehal route.

Many questions in connection with the well-being of immigrants came under discussion during the year under review, of which full notice will be found in the body of the report. On the whole, the condition of the immigrant population of the Province affords cause for congratulation. The labourers are invariably well treated and well cared for by their employers, and are, in the main, contented with their lot. The point in connection with immigration which now chiefly demands the attention of the Local Administration is the removal of existing difficulties in the way of the transport of labourers, and the consequent cheapening of labour to the employer.

29. The number of dispensaries in the Province was increased by one during the year under review, but the total number of patients treated in these dispensaries was less during the year than during the preceding year,—the decrease was, however, slight. There was a marked decrease in the number of major operations,

Medical relief.

and a slight decrease in the number of minor operations performed during the year, as compared with the previous year.

The financial results of the working of the dispensaries during the year were not unsatisfactory; but these institutions are not popular, nor are they so useful as similar institutions are in other provinces.

Lunatic Asylums.

30. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in the Province,—the Tezpur

Asylum.

The buildings are still merely of a temporary nature and have undergone but little change; but attention was paid during the year to improving the drainage of the site. The question of erecting permanent buildings is under consideration.

The expenditure in relation to the number of patients is unavoidably very high.

31. There is little to note under this head. The drainage of the town of Gauháti was the only sanitary work deserving of the

Sanitation.

name undertaken during the year.

32. Vaccination operations in this Province are still of

Vaccination.

a limited nature, and the total number of persons, in proportion to the population, annually protected, is but small. The vaccinators meet with much passive obstruction, though in some districts, notably in Kámrúp, vaccination has made much progress. Until circle establishments can be properly organized throughout Assam, small-pox will never receive any effectual check.

33. The Education Department was, the Chief Commissioner considers, worked with fair success during the year under review.

Education.

There was an increase of 42 schools, and of 2,451 pupils, as compared with the preceding year. This increase, both in the number of schools and pupils, was mainly under the head "Primary Instruction," but the other stages of instruction exhibit a progressive element. The progress made by female education is specially satisfactory.

The normal schools did much useful work during the year.

On the whole, the position of the department improved much during the past year.

PART II. A.



PERMANENT CHAPTERS.

See Administration Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76, Part II.A.

PART II. B.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1877-78.

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Administration Report for 1877-78.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 1.--CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

1. (a) *General.*—Mention was omitted in last year's report of one administrative change, of by no means an unimportant character, viz., the creation of the post of Inspector-General of Police and Prisons, and Commissioner of Abkari Revenue and Superintendent of Stamps.

Creation of the appointment of Inspector-General of Police and Prisons, and Commissioner of Abkari Revenue and Superintendent of Stamps.

The appointment of a special officer to supervise these departments of the Administration having been determined on by the Government of India, Mr. T. J. Chichele-Plowden, c.s., was, in October, 1876, nominated to the post, and joined his appointment; but very shortly afterwards he was appointed to officiate as Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, and Captain W. J. Williamson, Deputy-Commissioner of the Gáro Hills, was, in March, 1877, appointed to officiate in his place. The necessity for this appointment has been fully justified by the results in the closer supervision now practicable over the details of the working of these departments.

2. (b) *Political.*—The demarcation of the Cachar Inner Line has been finished, and a revised notification, slightly modifying the line previously laid down, has been published.

Cachar Inner Line.

3. During the year the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the temporary suspension, for the period of one year, of the provisions of the Inner Line Regulation in regard to that part of the Darrang Inner Line which faces the Towang

Darrang Inner Line.

country. The suspension was duly notified in the *Gazette*, and approved by the Government of India. This measure was taken in compliance with the request of the Bhutias, who found their trading intercourse with the plains much impeded by the Regulation, and desired that all restrictions on the plains people crossing the frontier should be removed.

4. (c) *Administrative*.—It was found impracticable to open, as was hoped, the two remaining new sub-divisions in Sylhet during the year. A site, however, for the Latu sub-division was finally fixed on at Karimganj, and permission given for the erection of the necessary buildings.

Further inquiry and actual experience of the locality were thought necessary before determining on the position to be selected for the Habiganj head-quarters.

Both these sub-divisions have been opened since the close of the year under report.

5. Certain rules framed by the Chief Commissioner, with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, under Section 81 of the Land Improvement Act of 1871, were notified under date the 16th November, 1877.

6. Revised Rules under Clause 1, Section 20, of the Court-fees Act of 1870, framed by the High Court, were confirmed by the Chief Commissioner, with the previous sanction of the Supreme Government, and were notified for general observance under date the 5th March, 1878.

7. (d) *Revision of district and internal boundaries*.—The demarcation of the boundary between the Gáro Hills and Mymensingh, which was surveyed specially in the season of 1875-76, has been completed.

8. The boundary between the Gáro Hills and the Khási Hills was approved of by the Government of India during the year, and was duly notified on the 3rd April, 1878.

9. The boundary between the districts of Rangpur and Goálpára has been revised, and the joint report of the officers deputed on the work is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

10. The thannah divisions in the district of Goálpára were re-arranged by a notification in the *Gazette* dated 12th July, 1877.

11. It was stated in para. 11 of last year's report that negotiations were in progress for adjusting the claims of the Goálpára zemindars, who had instituted civil suits against Government to contest the validity of the proceedings for the demarcation of the boundary between the districts of Goálpára and the Gáro Hills, which had been taken in 1874 under Act XXII. of 1869.

Terms of mutual arrangement were finally agreed on between the Deputy-Commissioner of Goalpára and the parties concerned, and the suits have been withdrawn. The boundary as demarcated by Mr. Beckett has now been finally accepted, certain rights of the zemindars within that boundary having been secured, and this long-standing dispute is now at last at rest.

SECTION 2.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

TRIBUTARY STATES.—MANIPUR.

12. The chief event in connection with the relations between this Administration and the dependent State of Manipur that occurred during the year was the solicitation of the Chief Commissioner's good offices on the part of the Maharajah in carrying out some negotiations between the Manipur Durbar and the Lushais. Some of the Nága tribes, known as the Kapui Nágas, residing within Manipur territory, in the neighbourhood of the main road from Cachar to Manipur, having suffered from repeated raids by the Lushais, and being apprehensive of further inroads, applied to the Maharajah of Manipur for permission to proceed to Tipaimukh and make peace with their enemies. The Maharaja having agreed to their proposal, a deputation, consisting of a Nága Senapati, an interpreter, and a Manipur subadar, was despatched to Tipaimukh, and, at the instance of the Maharajah, the Political Agent at Manipur requested that the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar might be allowed to render assistance to the deputation. Colonel Keatinge, however, considering the despatch of a mission so ill-defined and unauthoritative both in its constitution and its objects a mistake, declined to permit the Deputy-Commissioner to take any part in the negotiations, although he would not prohibit the deputation from proceeding upon its own responsibility. Colonel Keatinge said that he could only take part in the proceedings if the Maharajah would assume the place of principal, and that the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar could only act as a medium in the matter if the Maharajah would plainly state on paper the terms he proposed to make with the Lushais, and would formally engage that, in the event of any subsequent disputes arising as to the observance of the conditions, he would implicitly abide by the Chief Commissioner's decision in the matter. These orders were approved of by the Government of India. The Maharajah, however, failed to give any formal engagement. The deputation proceeded to Tipaimukh; but the action of the so-called delegates was characterized by duplicity, and the whole proceedings were of quite too informal a nature to admit of any proper understanding being come to between the Lushai chiefs and the Durbar. The deputation was productive of no good results, and the delegates were obliged to return to Manipur, leaving a message for the Lushais to the effect that, owing to the lateness of the season, a settlement was then impracticable.

The long-pending question concerning the boundary between Manipur and British territory in the direction of the Nāga and North Cachar Hills was definitely settled during the year under report, and the arrangement entered into between the Political Agent and the Maharajah received the confirmation of the Government of India. It is a matter of satisfaction that this long-pending question has at last been finally set at rest.

The Chief Commissioner having learnt that a complete system of passports existed in Manipur, requested the Political Agent to report as to its application to British subjects. In reply, the Political Agent stated that passports are only given at the capital to people leaving the State; that passports for entering Manipur are given at Lakhipur. Every person who leaves Manipur is bound to furnish himself with a passport under pain of being stopped on the road and made to return. The amount paid varies with the side of exit. The following amounts are levied:—

For each Passport.		As.	P.
To Lakhipur and Cachar		9	0
„ Burmah.....		10	6
„ Assam		9	4

No further action has been taken in the matter.

In January, 1877, the release of the Manipur détenu Kanai Singh, who is permitted to reside under surveillance, was applied for by one Kamal Singh, a relation. The Maharajah, however, on being referred to, replied that he would only consent to his release provided he was sent to Manipur. Such an arrangement being obviously equivalent to handing over Kanai Singh to perpetual imprisonment or some worse fate, the Chief Commissioner was clearly unable to accede to it, and accordingly declined to recommend the release of the détenu.

The two Manipuri détenus Shekor Singh and Nirjit Singh resided during the year under surveillance at Sylhet. Their behaviour was good.

The measures taken for the prevention of Nāga raids on Manipur will be detailed in the para. treating of the affairs of the Nāga Hills district.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

13. As in former reports, the various frontier tribes with whom we have political relations will here be treated of in the order of their geographical position.

BHUTIAS.

14. Our relations with the Bhutias during the year were peaceful. The communications addressed in May, 1877, to the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára by the so-called Agent of the Deb Rajah concerning certain tolls, &c., and the action taken thereon was noticed in para. 14 of last year's report.

In November, 1877, information was sent to the Chief Commissioner by the military authorities that parties of armed Bhutias, headed by the Poonah Jongpen, who was in rebellion against the

Deb Rajah, had crossed the frontier near Buxa, but had been disarmed. As, however, all diplomatic relations with Bhután are carried on through the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, no further action was called for on the part of this Administration beyond forwarding the communication to the proper authority.

From the beginning to the end of March, 1878, the usual bands of Bhutia traders came down into the district of Darrang, and carried on a steady trade with the Kacharis and the Marwari and other merchants.

THE SÁTH RAJAHS OF KARIAPÁRA AND CHÁRDUÁR.

15. The Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára, the chiefs of the Towang Bhutias, paid a visit to the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang at Udalguri on the 12th February, 1878, and had a prolonged interview with that officer, principally on the subject of the suspension of the Inner Line Regulation. This Regulation has since been suspended, in accordance with the Rajahs' wishes, in the case of natives of the district of Darrang only, in regard to that portion of the Inner Line fronting Towang.

The Rajahs further wished Colonel Sherer to pay them their pensions at Udalguri, so as to spare them the journey to Tezpur. This request the Deputy-Commissioner was unable to comply with, but he consented to pay the Rajahs their pensions at the Mangaldai sub-divisional head-quarters, where, accordingly, they were paid in open Durbar on the 20th February.

No allusion was made on this occasion by the Rajahs to the large weekly market held at Kalaigaon, to the holding of which they urged objections in the previous year as prejudicing their trading operations.

16. The Rajahs of Shergaon and Rupraigaon, commonly called the Sáth Rajahs of Chárduár, came down as usual to their annual trading post at Daimára, two miles due north of the boundary-line. They also came into Tezpur to receive their annual allowances, which were paid to them in open Durbar on the 6th February. The Rajahs reported that all was quiet in their own country, and expressed friendly feelings towards the British Government. They expressed themselves anxious for the suspension of the Inner Line Regulation as regards the portion fronting their territory, in order that our ryots, whom they engage on hire to carry grain, might be able to go up to Daimára and back, without having to take out a pass on each occasion. Colonel Sherer informed the Rajahs that if a duly-authenticated application was made from the constituted authorities across the border, as was done by the Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára, he would forward it for the orders of the Chief Commissioner, or, on their furnishing him with a list of the names of the porters they had engaged for the season, he would issue a general pass for these persons. This list was accordingly furnished by the Rajahs, and a general pass for the men was granted to them on the 8th February.

17. The Thebengia Bhutias, whose country lies to the east of Towang, came into the sudder station and received their pensions on the 12th March. They evinced, as usual, a thoroughly friendly spirit.

BHUTIA FAIRS.

18. As in previous years, arrangements were made beforehand for the accommodation of the Bhutias who come down to the large annual fairs. A sum of Rs. 300 was sanctioned for purposes in connection with the Udalguri fair, and good substantial buildings were erected at that place instead of the temporary huts which, hitherto, had been run up every year. These new lines are very much more commodious than the temporary huts, and will last, with slight repairs, for several years. In addition to the lines at Udalguri, a building was erected at Khagrapára for the accommodation of the Kerkaria Bhutias. On their arrival, a small space in the building was allotted to each Bhutia family, which space the members of each family partitioned off to suit their convenience.

The usual military guard of 50 men from the 44th S. L. I. was stationed at Udalguri during the fair. There was also a police guard, consisting of 1 sub-inspector, 1 head-constable, and 10 constables.

19. *Udalguri Fair.*—The first party of Bhutias arrived at Udalguri early in January. The rest of the Bhutias came down with the Rajahs of Kariapára in February. The Bhutias remained at Udalguri throughout March, and returned to their hills about the beginning of April. As in the previous year, a mouzahdar was told off to keep an account of the import and export trade at the fair.

According to the returns received, the total value of the imports was Rs. 1,16,189, against Rs. 44,439 in the previous year, and the total value of the exports amounted to Rs. 50,677, as compared with Rs. 13,805 in 1877. Further details concerning the trade with Bhután will be found in the section treating of the frontier trade, and need not be given here.

According to the returns, 972 hillmen attended the fair (533 men, 256 women, 97 boys, and 86 girls) as compared with an attendance of 590 in 1877. These statistics are not very reliable, as the same people are in the habit of travelling backwards and forwards daily between Amritol, in the hills, where their principal depôt is formed, and Udalguri; it is therefore extremely difficult to ascertain accurately the real number of visitors. It may, however, be accepted, the Deputy-Commissioner thinks, that the attendance of the hillmen at the fair was greater than in the preceding year.

On the whole, the behaviour of the Bhutias at the fair was good, and no disputes arose between the hillmen and British subjects.

The Deputy-Commissioner visited the fair on the 11th February, and remained there till the 15th idem. While there, Colonel Sherer received the visit from the Sáth Rajahs of Kariapára, the details concerning which have already been given. The fair was also visited by the Brigadier-General Commanding Eastern Frontier Districts, who took this opportunity of inspecting the detachment and stockade.

20. *Kerkaria Fair.*—This fair was held at Khagrapára, near Bengbári, in accordance with the arrangement made with the Kerkaria Rajah in 1876. The erection of an additional building for the

accommodation of the hillmen attending this fair has already been noted. According to the returns, the total value of the import trade transactions at the fair was Rs. 16,542, against Rs. 19,897, the total value of such transactions in 1877. The corresponding figures for the export trade are Rs. 16,106 and Rs. 9,669, respectively. Owing to other engagements, the Deputy-Commissioner was unable to attend the fair.

This fair is altogether local in its character, the business transacted at it being almost exclusively between the hillmen and the inhabitants of the Mangaldai sub-division. Very few traders from other districts attend the fair. 340 hill-people are said to have attended the fair on this occasion, *viz.*, 150 men, 100 women, 70 boys, and 20 girls.

21. *Daimará Fair*.—The usual guard, consisting of one head-constable and eight constables, was stationed at pillar No. 130, to collect the statistics of the trade carried on at Daimará, which lies two miles beyond our border. The Bhutias commenced coming down to Daimará about the beginning of January, and they all returned to their hills about the beginning of April. The returns show the total value of the export trade at this fair to have been Rs. 5,684, against Rs. 11,833 in the preceding year, and the total value of the import trade to have been Rs. 7,324, as compared with Rs. 3,727 in 1877.

The Chárduár Rajahs raised no objections to the stationing of the guard at the mouth of the Daimará pass. They appear to be satisfied with the explanation previously given.

The behaviour of the Bhutias at the Daimará fair was, on the whole, good; no complaints were made against them.

THE AKAS.

22. The Western or Hazári-Khoa Akas continue to be well-disposed towards us and peaceable. The Kapás-Chor Akas, on the other hand, did not behave well throughout the year. The Deputy-Commissioner had heard from time to time that these hillmen were in the habit of intimidating our ryots living in the villages adjacent to their hills, and of obtaining things from them at a nominal price, but as the ryots made no complaints no action was taken in the matter. On the 14th March, however, when these Akas, accompanied by their chief Medhi, came into Tezpur to receive their pensions, three of their party went from the *námghar*, the rest-house where they were located, to the Chauk Bazaar, and there robbed a petty shopkeeper of some bundles of betel-leaf. On a hue and cry being raised, the thieves ran away in the direction of the *námghar*, pursued by the police and the bazaar people. They were eventually seized, whereupon one of the Akas drew his dao on the police, but was disarmed. The following day the three Akas were tried for the theft by the Deputy-Commissioner, and were punished with a whipping of 12 stripes each. A large number of Duffias were present in the station at the time, and witnessed the punishment, the sight of which, it is hoped, had a good effect upon them.

Again, on the day following this occurrence, when the Deputy-Commissioner was on the point of paying Medhi and his party their political pensions in open court, a villager of Balipára came forward and complained that one of Medhi's men had assaulted him, and threatened to burn down his house. On inquiry, however, it appeared to be a case of ordinary quarrel, resulting in a few blows on both sides, and the Deputy-Commissioner, accordingly, permitted the matter to be compromised, and the payment of the pensions to proceed. Colonel Sherer took the opportunity, however, to explain very clearly to Medhi that in future he would hold him personally responsible for the conduct of his followers while in the plains.

Medhi's two brothers still continue to remain in the plains prosecuting their studies at the Balipára school.

THE DUFFLAS.

23. The Paschim Dufflas residing on the borders of Darrang behaved well throughout the year. Both the hill and plains Dufflas came, as usual, into Tezpur to receive their police allowances.

The Tagin Dufflas, on the borders of Lakhimpur, also received their posa during the year. Colonel Graham reports that these Dufflas behaved throughout the year much in their usual way—"squabbling about women, but using no violence worth noticing."

The plundering of a Marwari's shop at Lalukadolonce, just within our border, by a party of Tagin Dufflas on the 13th April, 1877, was mentioned in last year's report. The outrage appears to have originated from a petty trading dispute between the Dufflas and some of the Marwari shopkeepers on the border. It had no political significance. Lieutenant Maxwell, the Sub-divisional Officer of North Lakhimpur, after making preliminary inquiries on the spot, proceeded promptly with an escort of ten constables into the hills to the village of Murang Gam, who was suspected of having had a principal hand in the outrage. The Dufflas promised to restore the stolen property, and delivered over two *deoguties* (copper bells highly valued by these people, and, with *mithan*, constituting their sole wealth) as security for the performance of their promise.

No further proceedings in the matter have yet been reported, Lieutenant Maxwell having been engaged during the ensuing cold weather in accompanying the survey party up the Subansiri Valley and having been afterwards transferred to the Nága Hills. He has now returned to his former post, and a further report in the matter will be required.

THE MIRIS, &c.

24. The Singphos, Khamptis, and Miris were quiet and peaceable throughout the year. The Miris rendered much assistance to Captain Woodthorpe, R.E., while surveying their country, furnishing him with coolies, guides, &c., and affording him hospitality. A report has been received about a Miri of the plains being carried off into the hills; but as, on the other hand, a hill woman is said to have been detained by the plains Miris, the matter will, doubtless, be amicably adjusted.

THE ABORS.

25. Our relations with the Abors during the year were peaceable, and they received their *posa* at Sadiya, as in the previous year. At the same time their manner throughout the year was, as formerly, insolent and overbearing. The Bor Abors still threaten the Mishmi path to Sadiya, and have made settlements in the plains on the right bank of the Dibong, where they not only claim the land for their own use, but refuse to admit the right of way through it hitherto always enjoyed by the Mishmis. They finally proceeded to set up a claim to receive *posa* on their own account, in addition to the payments already made to the other Abor clans, a demand which of course was at once refused.

Early in the year under report, the Chief Commissioner represented to the Government of India the insolent and threatening attitude of these tribes, and recommended that a military demonstration should be made through the tract during the cold season of 1877-78. The objects of the proposed demonstration were (1) to emphasize the right of the British Government to the tract of country between the Brahmaputra and the foot of the hills; (2) to put a stop within that tract to the cultivation, by either the regular inhabitants or the Abors, of the poppy plant. The Government of India, however, considered that neither of the above objects was sufficiently important or pressing to justify the proposed measure, and they accordingly refused to sanction it, chiefly on the ground that as our troops would be employed during the same season in a punitive expedition against the Angami Nágas, the time was inopportune for undertaking a second military demonstration in another part of the Province.

A rather singular case of a British subject being sold as a slave to the Abors occurred in August. A Marwari, named Jew Ram, induced a young man of some 20 or 22 years of age, named Jadu Ram Jharua, to accompany him as his servant into the Abor country and there sold him to an Abor for Rs. 100. An inquiry was made, and a reward of Rs. 100 was offered for the apprehension of Jew Ram, who had absconded, but, meanwhile, the Miri who had taken Jew Ram and his dupe across into the Abor country, fearing to get into trouble himself for his participation in the affair, procured the liberation of Jadu Ram by exchanging him for a Miri girl and Rs. 50 in cash.

The bargain being accepted by all parties concerned, Jadu Ram was restored. The culprit, Jew Ram, has not yet been arrested.

THE MISHMIS.

26. The Mishmis behaved very well throughout the year, and carried on a regular trade with Sadiya, many of them, residents in the distant hills, who had never before come down, coming down to trade. The survey party were readily admitted into the Mishmi country, and received every assistance from the hillmen. There were some internal disturbances, however, among these tribes. The Chulikáta and Digaru Mishmis are continually at feud; and during this year a party of the latter were attacked and slaughtered by the Chulikátas at a spot not far from our border.

None of our subjects, however, having been concerned, and the occurrence having taken place beyond our jurisdiction, there seemed to be no call for our interference. Some slaves of one of the most powerful of the Mishmi chiefs are reported recently to have escaped and to have taken refuge in British territory, but during the year no demand had been made for them. General instructions, have, however, been given to the Deputy-Commissioner that, in case of any such demand being made, it must be clearly explained that the restitution of such fugitives to British territory is quite impossible.

SADIYA FAIR.

27. The Sadiya fair, or, more properly, gathering, was held on the 14th, 15th, and 16th February. The number of Europeans who attended the *Mela* was considerably in excess of the number attending in previous years. Although rain kept back most of the Chulikáta and Digaru Mishmis until the sports were over, still the other tribes, the Khamptis, Singphos, and Miris, attended in greater numbers than usual. Just after the gathering had broken up, the Mishmis arrived in considerable numbers, and amongst them came a party of the Mega Khel, under their chief, Rindi. This clan comes from the hills lying behind Lakhow Miji's country, and had never before come into Sadiya, save to plunder and murder. They were specially well received, both with a view to inducing other clans to follow their example, and in view of the intended visit of the survey party to their country.

The usual races, games, and dancing took place, and all present appeared well satisfied, although rain falling on the third day somewhat interfered with the amusements. The Abors did not present themselves at the fair, though subsequently they came to Sadiya to receive their *posa*. No accidents or disputes of any kind took place at the fair. The Durbar for the Khampti and Singpho chiefs was held on the fourth day, when the usual presents were exchanged, and the chiefs were told that Government was pleased with them for their conduct towards the survey party in the preceding year.

THE NÁGAS.

28. Our dealings with the Angámi Nágas during the year will be found described later on in connection with the administration of the Nága Hills district. Our relations only with the other Nága tribes on our frontier will be noticed here.

The Nágas bordering on the district of Nowgong gave no trouble so far as that district is concerned. Although, owing to the unsettled state of the Nága Hills, a police guard was sent out for the protection of our ryots near the foot of those hills, this guard met with no hostile Nágas, and returned after twelve days.

The following is the substance of the report of the Deputy-Commissioner, Sibságar, on our relations with the Nágas bordering on that district.

There were several cases of theft by Nágas in Sibságar during the year. In five cases Nágas were convicted and punished. There

were two cases in connection with Nágas disposed of by the Deputy-Commissioner in his political capacity. In one case, a Mussulman complained that some of the Kamsingia Nágas had stolen his cow. The offenders were called upon to make good the value of the cow, and they paid a sum of Rs. 10. In the other case, a Nága of the Nowgong tribe stole two calves. The thief, with the cattle in his possession, was discovered in the Tiphook tea-garden. The calves were recovered, but the thief escaped. For this offence a fine of Rs. 32 was imposed upon the tribe and realized. In consequence of the number of cattle-thefts committed by Nágas in the Jorhát sub-division, a police guard was established at Debrapár with the best results.

During the cold season, the Nágas came down, as usual, in large numbers into the Sibságar district to trade. The Nágas living on the east of the district bring down pân-leaves, chillies, ginger, cutchu, yams, and cotton, which they barter for salt and iron. The Angami Nágas visiting the Golághát sub-division bring down ponies and cloths for sale, and some of them travel up with their goods as far as Dibrugarh. The other Nágas who come down to Golághát to trade are the Pani Duar and Lota Nágas, who bring down cotton chiefly. The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the trade in cotton with the Nágas has greatly diminished during past years, the quantity brought to market having fallen from 20,000 maunds a few years ago to about 2,000 maunds. The falling off is attributed to bad seasons and the effects of disease among the agricultural population. Since the removal of the military detachment from Golághát to Wokha, and the preliminary establishment of a sub-divisional head-quarters at the latter place, a regular postal line has been established between these two places.

The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the *kotokies* have behaved very well during the year, and have rendered valuable service in maintaining communications between Golághát and Wokha.

The Nágas on the borders of Lakhimpur remained quiet during the year, but a dispute is reported to have arisen between the chiefs of the Námsáng and Borduaria tribes regarding some buffaloes carried off by the latter, which may possibly end in a conflict between these two tribes. The Borduarias are said to have been the aggressors, and to have taken possession of some land which the Námsang Nágas claim. The land in dispute is at some distance beyond the Inner Line, but the Deputy-Commissioner, in the hope of preventing bloodshed, has sent for the chiefs of both parties, with the view to arrange matters.

THE MIKIRS.

29. The Mikirs, who are a very hardworking and quiet race, gave no trouble whatsoever during the year.

TRIBES OF NORTH CACHAR.

30. Nothing occurred during the year to disturb the peace of the North Cachar Hills, though apprehensions were felt lest the Mozema Nágas should raid in that direction.

Previous to the year under report, the house-tax in these hills was assessed in most of the villages at the rate of Re. 1 per house, while in other villages the rate of Rs. 2 per house was customarily paid. Colonel Keatinge, finding on inquiry that there seemed no sufficient reason for this want of uniformity, and that the higher scale seemed the more reasonable rate of taxation under the circumstances, applied, on the recommendation of the District Officer, for the sanction of the Government of India, to raise the lower rate for the present to Re. 1-8 per house.

This enhanced rate has accordingly been imposed, with the approval of the Government of India, from the ensuing year.

KUKIES, LUSHAIS, AND OTHER HILL TRIBES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF CACHAR AND SYLHET.

31. Our relations with the Lushais throughout the year were friendly. The following is a summary of the information received from time to time regarding events in the Lushai Hills.

Early in the year, 22 families of Tantow's tribe came down and settled in Cachar. They reported that Tantow, who had been imprisoned by Poiboi, and had been released at the instance of Lengkam, would shortly join them. As these families were members of the Waipi sect of Thados, they were allowed to take shelter in the Akhai Kuki poonji within our border, where they have relations. They are still residing at this place. In June, 1877, there was a rumour that Beneoya had burnt certain villages belonging to Pibuk and Baniyatangi, but it turned out to be false.

In July, hostilities broke out between the eastern chiefs, Lengkam, Lalbura, Chunglen, and Bungte, and the western chiefs, Sukpikal, Khalgom, his son, and Lenpoonga. These hostilities originated in a dispute about some jhüm land. Information in the matter was sent to the Deputy-Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

On the 28th July, Pibuk died, and was succeeded by her daughter, Baniyatangi.

Sukpikal and the other western chiefs, shortly after the outbreak of hostilities above referred to, sent a deputation to the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, asking for assistance against the eastern chiefs. Their request was, of course, refused. In August following, the eastern chiefs sent a similar deputation, consisting of Darpong and others, chiefly with a view to find out what answer had been given to Sukpikal. It was explained to them that the British Government would not assist either side, and they were advised to make peace with the other party. Darpong then asked that the traders who had deserted the Tipaimukh Bazaar on account of the oppression exercised by some servants of Lengkam's might be induced to return. He was told that the matter would be taken into consideration if proper explanations were tendered. Darpong then went away, promising to return with Lengkam's mantri.

Towards the end of September, Lengkam attacked Khalgom, and carried off fifteen heads, in revenge for the theft from some of his people of some salt which they were carrying through Khalgom's country from Sonai Bazaar.

In October, thirty-five of Lalhais people fled from the Lushai country, through fear of Poiboi. As these men belong to the same sect as Mantrinkup, whose village lies opposite to the Monierkhal guard, they were allowed to stay with him.

In November, Sukpilal's mantris sent a petition to the Deputy-Commissioner, asking him to mediate between the eastern and western chiefs. They were told in reply that if both sides joined in the application the request might be entertained, but not otherwise.

In January, 1878, Darpong come back with Lengkam's mantri, and made restitution to the traders who had left Tipai Bazaar, paying them Rs. 30. He also, on the part of the eastern chiefs, asked for the mediation of the British Government. Upon the Chief Commissioner being informed that both parties were desirous of mediation on the part of the British Government, he directed that they should be advised to make peace, and that a safe meeting-ground in Cachar should be offered to them. Darpong before leaving made a claim to two guns brought down by Tantow's people, who are settled at Akhai Punji; these guns have been retained by the Deputy-Commissioner, pending an inquiry by him into the justice of Darpong's claim.

The history of the Manipuri Nága deputation to the Lushais has been given in para. 12.

Trade with the Lushais is falling off, owing to fighting among the chiefs and the exhaustion of the rubber supply.

There are now eight shops at Bepari Bazaar, six at Lushai Hat, and six at Tipaimukh.

NÁGA HILLS DISTRICT.

32. The history of the Nága Hills district during the year is, mainly, the history of the punitive expedition undertaken with the object of inflicting punishment on the village of Mozema for a raid committed by a party from that village on the British Nága village of Gumaigáju, in North Cachar, in February, 1877, and to exact reparation for other numerous outrages committed by that village and its neighbour, Konoma, on weaker villages both within British limits and across the Manipur frontier.

On the 6th December, 1877, the late Political Officer, Mr. Carnegie, left Samaguting with the expedition. The force was commanded by Captain Brydon, and consisted of 196 rank and file of the 42nd A. L. I., and 50 police. The troops advanced on Mozema on the morning of the 8th December. On the approach of the troops, the inhabitants of the village at once opened fire on them. The village was accordingly attacked, and carried by assault, and the whole of it, with the exception of three or four houses, was burnt to the ground. The burning of the village was not intended. The Mozema men, after having been driven from their village, dispersed themselves among the neighbouring jungles and hill crests, and did all they could to harass our troops by intermittent firing and frequent night attacks. They also adopted the tactics of operating in rear of the force and interrupting communication between it and Dimapur, in the plains, on the road to Golághát, at the same time frequently threatening Samaguting. An

addition to the force employed was consequently deemed necessary, to bring the expedition to a successful termination, and a reinforcement of 100 men from the 43rd Assam Light Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Macgregor, who was accompanied by Captain Williamson, the Inspector-General of Police, was despatched to the Nāga Hills. In the meantime, desultory fighting had been going on in the hills, and, finally, the Mozema Nāgas, being without food and shelter, and their village and all their stores of grain having been destroyed, made overtures for peace. These negotiations were, however, interrupted by the sad death of Mr. Carnegy, the Political Officer, who was accidentally shot by one of our own sentries. On hearing of the accident to Mr. Carnegy, Captain Williamson hastened up from Samaguting, assumed charge of the Political Officer's duties, and commenced to settle the conditions to be imposed upon the Mozema people. The following were the principal conditions:—

- (1.) That they should pay a fine of Rs. 50 for their offence of fighting on the political path.
- (2.) That they should restore the arms and accoutrements of the three constables who had been waylaid when the dāk was intercepted, and also the contents of the plundered mail bags.
- (3.) That they should surrender four of their own firearms.

Pardon was extended to Konoma and Jotsoma, on their chiefs formally and humbly tendering their submission.

These conditions were, certainly, lenient, but it was taken into consideration that an ample punishment had already been inflicted on the Mozema people by the destruction of their houses and food supply, and in the privations they had undergone, and it would have been futile, as well as inexpedient, to impose on them a heavy fine, which, all their property having been destroyed, they would not have been able to pay.

It was not, however, intended that Konoma and Jotsoma should have escaped comparatively scot-free.

The omission to impose a fine upon these villages was due to the fact of Captain Williamson having no knowledge of the correspondence which had passed in connection with the expedition. The requisite papers were not at hand in camp for reference, and Mr. Carnegy was too ill to be consulted.

On the 18th January, the terms imposed upon Mozema were fully complied with, and, peace being thus formally concluded, the expeditionary force fell back upon Samaguting on the 28th January.

Colonel Keatinge considered that the main objects of the expedition were, on the whole, attained. A severe example was made of Mozema, and the other villages received a very impressive lesson and warning in the destruction of that village.

The policy to be adopted for the future towards these turbulent tribes, of absolutely prohibiting the repetition of these intertribal raids and massacres has since been clearly laid down by the Government of India, and will be rigidly carried out. Its enforcement may at the

outset be attended with some difficulty, and will demand the exercise of no little tact, firmness, and moderation; but its ultimate result, if consistently pursued, in the complete pacification of these savages, the Chief Commissioner sees no reason whatever to doubt.

In furtherance of this policy, it has already been determined to advance the head-quarters of the Nága Hills district during the ensuing cold season from Samaguting to Kohima, the principal village in the centre of the Angami country, from which the Political Officer will be enabled to maintain an effective supervision and enforce submission to his authority.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIÁ HILLS.

33. The conduct of the Khásia chiefs, and of the headmen throughout these hills, was good during the year, and nothing occurred to disturb the peace of the district. Certain villages of the State of Khyrim were at variance throughout the year with the Seim of that State, and all efforts on the part of the Deputy-Commissioner to reconcile the opposing parties have been hitherto fruitless. It is hoped that some settlement of the points in dispute may be come to during the current year.

Road communications throughout the district were kept in repair during the year.

GÁRO HILLS.

34. The Gáros were, on the whole, well-behaved during the year, but a case occurred which shows that remnants of their former savage customs still linger amongst them. A Marwari merchant and his servant were barbarously murdered while travelling in the hills for trading purposes; the perpetrators of the deed not having been actuated by any motives of plunder, but having been instigated thereto by a Laskar, or village headman, who desired to get the heads of the murdered men to burn with the bones of his deceased son. The murder is the more to be regretted, as it will deter traders from travelling in these hills. With some exceptions, the conduct of the Laskars and Lukmas throughout the year was good.

Vaccination operations were carried on during the year on an increased scale, and with the most satisfactory results.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—SURVEYS.

35. *Topographical.*—Survey operations were carried on during the field season of 1877-78, by No. 6 Topographical Survey Party, in South Sylhet, in the Khási Hills, in the Miri Hills on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, and in the Mishmi Hills at the head of the Assam Valley. The party was divided into two detachments,—one under the command of Major Badgley, and the other under the command of Lieutenant R. G. Woodthorpe.

The first detachment was employed in revising Sheet XIV. of the Khási Hills Survey, and in beginning the survey of the south-eastern part of the Sylhet district, where some 650 square miles of country still remain unsurveyed.

In Sylhet a mere beginning only was made. 300 square miles of country were triangulated and 18 square miles of finished survey completed on the scale of two inches to the mile. The unhealthiness of the jungly tract in which the detachment worked retarded in some degree its progress.

The outturn accomplished by the detachment in the Khási Hills was 282 square miles, at the average cost of about Rs. 34 per square mile. In the Khási Hills also, as in Sylhet, the unhealthiness of the tract surveyed affected the outturn of work.

The second detachment, under Lieutenant Woodthorpe, was employed in the hills at the head of the Assam Valley. Survey operations were commenced in the Miri Hills, in the neighbourhood of the Subansiri River, in conjunction with the Trigonometrical Survey Party under Lieutenant Harman; one of the principal objects of the united party being to ascertain the true course and origin of the Subansiri, and the possibility of its identity with the Sanpo. The two parties were engaged in this survey from the 1st December to the 17th February, the work being much retarded by bad weather. The Miris were, as a rule, found to be very friendly, and ready to give such assistance as they were able. The area surveyed in these hills on the scale of two miles to the inch was 1,500 square miles; but the drainage of a much larger area, on a small scale, was approximately determined. The parties, owing to the orders of Government prohibiting their advance far into the hills, were unable to determine the question as to whether the Subansiri runs through the Snowy Range or not. The results, however, of the observations taken will, when worked out, throw some light on the matter.

Later on in the season Lieutenant Woodthorpe's detachment was employed in the Mishmi Hills. Here also, owing to bad weather and sickness, operations did not proceed as rapidly as was hoped. Still, the whole drainage area of the Dibong was fairly approximately determined, and the course of its main stream accurately fixed for about 50 miles from the Dibong guard. An area in the hills of 1,150 square miles on the scale of four miles to the inch, and about 800 square miles of the low country between Sadiya and the Hills on the scale of two miles to the inch, were accurately surveyed. The Mishmis were found to be very friendly, and no opposition was met with. The total cost of the season's work of Lieutenant Woodthorpe's detachment was Rs. 26,300, giving an average of Rs. 7 per square mile.

36. *Trigonometrical*.—During November, 1877, a large number of hill peaks in Bhután were fixed from survey stations in the neighbourhood of Gauháti and Goálpára.

In December, a detachment of the party, under Lieutenant Harman, entered the Miri Hills below the Bhutan range, working, as already stated, in conjunction with the detachment of the Topographical Survey Party, under Lieutenant Woodthorpe. Two points, named Yellu and Pidi, on the first high range, and to the west of the Subansiri River, were first occupied, and on these peaks stations were built and connected with two stations in the plains near Dikhumukh. A hill about eight miles north of Yellu, and a peak called Potu, about twenty miles east of Yellu and east of the Subansiri River, were also occupied, and stations were built and fixed. From these four stations in the Miri Hills about 100 hill peaks were intersected. The principal series of triangulation in the vicinity of Sadiya was carried on to the Dikrang martello tower; to the Manabum hill station (Topographical Survey), in the Singphoo country, south of the Tengapani River, and twenty miles east of Sadiya; and to the Miaobum ridge, about forty miles east of Sadiya, and near the main ridge of the Patkoi range: from all of which stations a number of other hill peaks were intersected.

The branch series of triangulation, "Dibrugarh to Jaipur," was finally completed and closed.

Measurements were taken of the discharge volumes of the Subansiri and Dibong Rivers, of the Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh and at a place ten miles above Sadiya, of the combined Dibong and the Dihong Rivers, and of the combined Tengapani and Noa-Dehing streams.

With this season's work, the operations of this party of the Trigonometrical Survey in the Assam Valley were brought to a conclusion.

37. *Revenue*.—The demarcation and adjustment of la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings was continued during the year in the district of Kámrup by Babu Fattick Chandra Barua, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, who is specially employed on this duty, in conjunction with a survey party under Mr. W. H. Patterson. The Extra-Assistant-Commissioner effected the preliminary demarcation of 169 estates, comprising an area of 22,976 acres, of which 14 estates, with an area of 1,000 acres, were made over, after final

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adjustment of area, to the surveyors. The survey party demarcated by permanent marks 226 estates, covering an area of 20,000 acres. Preliminary surveys were also made of 75 estates, with an area of 4,700 acres.

The total number of estates demarcated in Kámrup up to 31st March, 1878, is 1,907, of which 137 estates, containing an aggregate area of 51,869.54 acres, have been made over to the survey party. There still remain 2,735 estates, with an approximate area of 147,285 acres, to be adjusted and demarcated.

The total area of la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings in this district, as reported last year, was incorrect, the Deputy-Commissioner having included in it the area of certain kheraj estates, which have been directed to be incorporated with the mouzah. The area of the 4,642 holdings is now reported to be 232,921 acres.

The slow rate at which the survey and adjustment of these la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj lands is advancing to completion having attracted the notice of the Chief Commissioner, he has, since the close of the year, issued instructions concerning the future conduct of the work, which he trusts will result in a largely increased outturn, without any loss of efficiency or accuracy.

38. A small amount of survey work was done by this same survey party in the district of Darrang during the year, consisting merely of the revision of the boundary of one nisf-kheraj estate and the laying down afresh of the boundary of another, besides the interior survey of five waste land grants under the Thirty-years' Lease Rules, the cost of which was defrayed by the district authorities.

39. *Railways.*—In the Report for 1876-77, it was stated that during that year a survey of the Dikhu Valley and intervening country had been undertaken, with a view to ascertain the practicability and the cost of laying down a light railway from the coal-fields of the Sibságar district to the banks of the Brahmaputra; but no report of the operations of the survey party having been received, no detailed information was given. An outline of the results may therefore usefully be given here, although the narrative concerns the year preceding that now under report. This report has been since received.

The party consisted of the engineers whose names are given in the margin, deputed from the staff of the Northern Bengal State Railway. The party reached Sibságar on the 17th December, commenced operations on the 26th idem, and closed them on the 15th March following. Careful and detailed surveys were effected of the country between Disangmukh, on the Brahmaputra, and Naginimora, at the foot of the hills containing the coal-beds. At the same time, all available information was procured with regard to the natural features and conditions of the tract, materials for railway construction, supply and rates labour, and the possibilities and requirements of anticipated traffic. A rough exploration was further made of the

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Lieutenant Wells, R.E., Assistant-Engineer.

Bans Gopal, Overseer.

hilly tract between Naginimora and the actual coal-beds, with the view to select a line for a wire tramway to connect them with the railway terminus.

Three alternative projects were the outcome of these inquiries, namely:—

- (1) A metre-gauge railway from Disangmukh (or from a point on the Disang River a little higher up) to Naginimora, 29 miles, costing Rs. 24,62,000; with a wire tramway from the terminus to the valley of the Borjan, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, costing Rs. 28,500, making a total cost of Rs. 24,90,500.
- (2) A metre-gauge railway from Sibságar to Suntuck, along the right bank of the Dikhu River, 14 miles, costing Rs. 8,40,000, and a wire tramway from Suntuck to the valley of the Borjan, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, costing Rs. 1,04,000, total cost Rs. 9,44,000, the railway to be afterwards carried down from Sibságar to Disangmukh, if found expedient, or water carriage being employed down the Dikhu River to the Brahmaputra.
- (3) An alternative line on the left bank of the Dikhu, consisting of a wire tramway from the valley of the Borjan to Behalea, 5 miles; a metre-gauge railway thence to Nazira, and along the Bor-Ali to the Dikhu river, 21 miles, at a total cost of Rs. 13,00,000.

Some doubts, however, are expressed by the Engineer-in-Chief, in commenting on these projects, as to whether wire tramways can be worked as a practical and financial success.

The Dikhu River was found to be in many respects unsuitable as a means of regular water transport. Its course is very winding, and in its upper waters to some distance below Suntuck there are frequent rapids, rendering navigation only possible for "dug-out" canoes. Below Nazira, however, the river is practicable for fair-sized boats, except for two or three months in the dry season.

The Government of India have since the close of the year decided that these projects are all too expensive to be undertaken, and have requested the Chief Commissioner to direct his attention to other and more practicable coal-fields. The question is one of the utmost interest and importance to the Province, both in view to the development and utilization of the abundant mineral resources of the country and to the lowering of the present excessive cost of steamer carriage, both of goods and passengers, on the Brahmaputra, which is one of the principal obstacles to its advancement.

40. During the two years preceding the one now under report preliminary surveys have been conducted by the staff of the Northern Bengal State Railway, with the view to determining the practicability of extending the Bengal Railway system into the Assam Valley. The report of their operations has recently reached the Chief Commissioner, and a brief summary of the results may be given here.

In 1875-76 surveys were completed from Kaldebari Railway Station, on the Northern Bengal State Railway, through Kuch Behar, to

a point near Dhubri; the line of country from Rangpur to Abrapára, about twenty miles north-west of Goálpára, and that from the Durlah River to Kuch Behar, were also surveyed.

In 1876-77, the survey was continued from Abrapára to Goálpára, and up the left bank of the Brahmaputra to Gauháti. Another section was also made of the line from opposite Gauháti, on the right bank of the river, to Jagikopa, opposite Goálpára.

The conclusions arrived at by the engineering authorities, upon completion of the above-mentioned surveys, were that a railway from Dhubri along the right bank of the Brahmaputra would be difficult and expensive; but that the construction of a line from Goálpára to Gauháti, and from Goálpára to a point opposite Dhubri, would be a comparatively easy matter.

SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENTS.

41. During the year under review, the following settlements were in progress in the Province:—

- (1.) Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet.
- (2.) Re-settlement of other petty scattered estates in Sylhet.
- (3.) Re-settlement of Jaintia, in Sylhet.
- (4.) Settlement of waste lands in Cachar.
- (5.) Re-settlement of Eastern Duars, in Goálpára.
- (6.) Petty re-settlements in Goálpára.
- (7.) Annual settlements in Assam Proper.

42. During the year under review, 177 ilam estates, covering an area of 43,855 acres, were measured. In 247 Re-settlement of ilam estates in Sylhet. estates, covering an area of 40,917 acres, measurements made in this and the previous years were tested, and in 146 estates comprising an area of 14,562 acres, re-settlements were concluded; of these 146 estates, the settlements of sixty expire in 1893, of twenty-six in 1894, of four in 1895, and of fifty-five in 1896, A.D., and one estate was settled for a short term, as the land was the subject of a civil suit. This settlement has since been cancelled, the land having been decreed to the plaintiff, as belonging to his decennially-settled estate.

The revenue of the 146 holdings settled during the year amounted to Rs. 4,135, against Rs. 2,056, the former demand. The increase is mainly due to the large extension of cultivated area shown by the new measurements.

Taking the total number of ilam estates in the district to be 3,142, with an aggregate area of 430,000 acres in round numbers, there still remain 158 estates, covering an area of 196,897 acres, to be measured, and 1,084 estates, with an area of 369,640 acres, of which the settlements have to be completed.

The total cost of ilam settlements in 1877-78, including the pay of the Extra-Assistant-Commissioners, was Rs. 13,478, or at the rate of 14 annas 9 pie per acre of the area settled. The average cost per acre of land settled during the previous year was 10 annas and 7 pie. Considering that the increase in revenue obtained by the labours of this establishment during the year was only Rs. 2,079 per annum, it is

apparent that the cost of these ilam settlement proceedings, as well as their rate of progress, was far from satisfactory.

43. Of the nankar and other petty estates other than ilam in the district of Sylhet, 234 holdings, covering an area of 1,458 acres, were settled during the year at a revenue of Rs. 1,031, or 11 annas 3 pie per acre. Of these estates, 229 were settled for 30 years and the remaining five for 29 years, both periods expiring in 1907. The former revenue of these estates was Rs. 768, giving an increase of Rs. 263, or 34.2 per cent., at the present re-settlement.

The cost of the re-settlement of these petty estates amounted to Rs. 6,901 during the year under report, including the pay of the Sub-Deputy-Collector in charge of these settlements and his office and field establishments. The cost and rate of progress of these petty settlements are as little satisfactory as in the case of the ilam settlements.

44. Captain M. O. Boyd was placed in charge of the Jaintiá settlements after the death of Mr. W. O. A. Beckett, which occurred on the 31st December, 1877.

During the year under report the measurement of the remainder of the Jaintiá pergunnahs was completed, the outturn of the year's work being an area of 85,778 acres, comprising 7,443 tenures, against 14,689 tenures, with an area of 185,463 acres, in the previous year. The total area of Jaintiá, as ascertained by this measurement, cannot now be given accurately, as the measurement-papers of certain pergunnahs had not been finally checked, nor the calculation of the areas completed at the conclusion of the year.

The re-settlement of the tenures in the six pergunnahs named on the margin, revised rates for the assessment of which were sanctioned in Government letter No. 851, dated 11th December, 1877, was nearly completed before the close of the year; 11,172 pottahs had been granted, against 7,479 in the previous settlement. The work at first progressed very slowly, owing to the ryots making every endeavour to delay its completion, in view to the prolongation of the old rates of assessment for another season. But the Settlement Officer having directed the settlement of the tenures of some of the recusants with other persons, these tactics of passive obstruction collapsed. The revised assessment of these six pergunnahs will take effect from the current financial year.

Since the close of the year the Government of India have sanctioned the application to the remaining eleven pergunnahs of the rates of assessment already approved for the aforesaid six pergunnahs, there being practically but very little difference in the natural conditions and capabilities of these several tracts. The new rates of assessment per bigha are as follows:—

	A.	P.
Homestead	10	0
Cultivated lands	7	0
Fallow	2	0
Jungle	1	0

At the former settlement the rates of assessment were very low, in some cases little more than nominal, and were calculated on a minute and arbitrary classification of lands, which it has been found advisable to abandon in favour of a broader and simpler system of assessment.

The re-settlement of these remaining eleven pergunnahs is now in progress, and the work, it is hoped, will be completed, as originally anticipated, by the close of November, 1878.

The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 69,724-15-3.

Besides the ordinary work of survey and settlement, the establishment of the Jaintia settlement was also employed during the year in adjusting the boundary between the districts of Sylhet and the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and in concluding the settlement of some izad land lying some distance from Jaintia, within the boundary of the Khási and Jaintia Hills district.

45. The settlement work in Cachar consisted of the settlement of waste lands newly taken up for cultivation under the Mirasdari Rules of the district.

Inclusive of the 287 applications pending on the 1st April, 1877, there were 506 applications in all for disposal during the year, against 853 in 1876-77. Of the 219 applications filed during the year, 28 were made by tea-planters and 191 by ordinary ryots. Of the total number of applications for disposal, 329 applications were disposed of during the year, leaving 177 pending at its close. The area settled on the final completion of the settlements amounts to 31,268 acres, bearing a maximum revenue of Rs. 21,796, against 21,967 acres, bearing a revenue of Rs. 15,995, in the preceding year. Of the total area settled (31,268 acres), an area of 20,355 acres, with a maximum revenue of Rs. 15,275, was taken up for tea-planting purposes, and the remainder was settled with mirasdars for ordinary cultivation.

The area of the 177 applications pending at the close of the year is estimated at 16,212 acres, of which 9,416 acres have been applied for by tea-planters. The revenue of the area to be taken up in these pending applications is estimated at Rs. 15,000.

It will be observed that there was a considerable decrease in the number of settlement cases for disposal during the year, as compared with the preceding year, but the area finally settled was larger than the area settled in 1876-77. The Deputy-Commissioner explains that the settlement cases are falling off, owing partly to the near approach of the general revision of settlement, and partly to the decreased demand for land on the part of the tea-planters.

46. The Eastern Duars, which consist of the five tracts named in

Re-settlement of the Eastern
Duars.

Bijnl.
Bidil.
Ripu.

Guma.
Chirang

the margin, are situated along the northern border of the Goalpara district. The settlement of these tracts, which was concluded from 1870-71 for a period of seven years, lapsed on the 31st March, 1877. Detailed proposals for the re-settlement of these tracts on the system of the Assam settlement were submitted to the Government of India in letter No. 1,164, dated 30th April, 1877. For reasons stated in this letter and in the subsequent correspondence, the

Chief Commissioner deemed it inexpedient to renew the engagements with the farmers and managers with whom the former settlements had been concluded, and recommended the settlement being made throughout with the cultivating occupants on the ryotwari system prevalent in Assam Proper.

The Government of India have sanctioned the Chief Commissioner's recommendations in the case of Duars Ripu, Chirang, and Guma. The course to be taken with regard to Duars Bijni and Sidli is still under their consideration. Subject, however, to the decision which the Supreme Government may arrive at with regard to the future settlement of these estates, the Deputy-Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, settled the five tracts mentioned above with the occupant ryots, under the management of monzahdars, on the Assam system of administration during the year under report.

The following table shows the results of the re-settlement of the five Duars in question :—

	Revenue in		Increase.	Decrease.
	1876-77.	1877-78.		
	Rs.	Rs.		
(1.) Bijni	23,948	37,981	14,033	...
(2.) Sidli	19,391	33,102	13,711	...
(3.) Kipu	2,364	2,850	486	...
(4.) Guma	2,125	2,715	590	...
(5.) Chirang.....	1,183	853	.....	330
Total.....	49,011	77,501	28,490	net.

It will be observed from the foregoing statement that, although the former rates of assessment have not been raised, there has been a very satisfactory increase in the revenue of the first four Duars. The decrease in Chirang is attributed by the tehsildar to the establishment of the extensive forest reserves, and the prohibition against burning the jungle, which has prevented extension of cultivation, and has caused the inhabitants of some villages to migrate to other localities. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, is not satisfied with the sufficiency of these explanations, and has promised to scrutinize the condition of this tract more fully himself. The rates of assessment adopted in this settlement were, as observed before, the same as those assessed in the original settlement of these Duars, and are about half the rates which obtain in Assam, as will be seen from the annexed table :—

Description of land.	Rates in Eastern Duars.		Rates in Assam Proper.	
	Per bigha.		Per bigha.	
	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
Homestead	8		1	0 0
Rupit	8		0	10 0
Faringhati.....	4		0	8 0

If the full rates were imposed, which it may be found possible to effect in a few years, it is very probable that the land revenue of the Eastern Duars alone will shortly very nearly equal the revenue of the district of Lakhimpur or Cachar.

The total area assessed in the Eastern Duars amounted to 63,664 acres, against 50,977 acres in 1870-71, at the time of the original settlement, showing an increase of 12,687 acres, due to extended cultivation.

47. Six petty estates were re-settled during the year by the permanent establishment at the Deputy-Commissioner's disposal. The revenue of these estates amounted to Rs. 1,156, against Rs. 1,055 of the former assessment, showing an increase of Rs. 101.

48. During the year under review 431,102 estates, as detailed on the margin, came under settlement, against 420,022 estates in the preceding year, resulting in a net increase of 11,080 estates, due to extended cultivation. As compared with the previous year, there has been a decrease in the number of settlements in the district of Nowgong. This decrease is attributed to the fact that a number of small plots of land were relinquished by the ryots, and a few much larger plots taken up, there having been, on the whole, an extension of cultivation. All the above settlements were confirmed during the year.

The area of the estates settled during the year was 1,347,721 acres, against 1,315,377 acres in the preceding year, showing an increase of 32,344 acres, as shown in the annexed table:—

Annual Settlements in Assam Proper.	Bastl.	Rupit.	Faringhati.	Total.
Kamrup	135,829			
Darrang	89,740			
Nowgong	104,631			
Sibsagar	83,165			
Lakhimpur	25,747			
	<u>431,102</u>			
Changes in cultivation and assessment in Assam Proper.				
1876-77	102,843	667,887	544,647	1,315,377
1877-78	103,241	678,106	566,374	1,347,721
Increase in 1877-78 ...	<u>398</u>	<u>10,219</u>	<u>21,727</u>	<u>32,344</u>

The main increase has occurred in the faringhati lands. Of the total area settled during the year, 1,240,856 acres were assessed at full rates, and the remainder (106,865 acres) at half rates.

The revenue of the land settled during the year was Rs. 23,46,452 against Rs. 22,74,364 in the previous year.

49. During the year under report 3,861 acres of land were settled at full rates on decennial leases under the Assam Settlement Rules; of this, 2,384 acres were taken up for the cultivation of ordinary crops, and 1,477 acres for the cultivation of tea. In all, 30,190 acres of land are held on ten years' leases in Assam Proper, viz., 19,463 acres at full rates and 10,727 at favourable rates. The whole of the area settled at favourable rates is held by European tea-planters. Of the total area under decennial settlement, 15,345 acres have been taken up by ryots for ordinary cultivation, and nearly the whole of the remainder by Europeans for the purpose of cultivating tea. Only a small area of 252 acres is held by Natives for this purpose.

50. During the year under report, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the proposal of the Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrúp to lease, for purposes of cultivation on ordinary revenue-paying pottahs for periods of five years, the low lands in North Gauháti within the station limits, with the view to improve the health of the locality by the removal of the jungle and obnoxious undergrowth, the land not being adapted for habitation.

Thirty-four pottahs, covering an area of 71 acres, were granted on these terms, giving a revenue of Rs. 109.

51. All the nisf-kheraj lands in the district of Nowgong, except a settlement of nisf-kheraj holdings in Nowgong for 10 years. khat settled for twenty years in 1862, covering an area of 4,143 acres, were settled during the year for a term of ten years in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, the uncultivated and waste portions of these estates, for which the nisf-kherajdars were, under former orders, required to pay revenue, being now left in their possession for the period of settlement without additional assessment.

The resumed portions of the la-kheraj and nisf-kheraj holdings were settled like ordinary revenue-paying lands; all the nisf-kherajdars, excepting two, preferred to have these resumed portions of their estates settled for a term of years, and accepted decennial settlements for these lands. The area of the lands so settled amounted to 920 acres.

In the other districts, the decennial settlements of the nisf-kheraj holdings have not yet been completed.

SECTION 3.—WASTE LANDS.

52. The following table shows the particulars of the leases sold during 1877-78 under the New Lease Rules, referred to in para. 50 of last year's report, as compared with those sold in the preceding year:—

Districts.	Waste land leased under the New Rules in			
	1876-77.		1877-78.	
	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.
Cachar	1	69	.....	.....
Sylhet	1	1,121	19	14,485
Kámrúp	6	1,026	8	1,333
Darrang	7	1,517	35	10,016
Nowgong	32	13,795	51	27,188
Sibságar	5	1,019	30	10,457
Lakhimpur	9	4,314	18	8,167
Khási Hills	2	1,583	.....	.....
Total.....	63	24,444	161	71,646

It will be seen that 161 leases, covering an area of 71,646 acres, were sold during the year, against 63 leases, comprising 24,414 acres in the preceding year. 61 leases, covering an area of 33,277 acres, were advertised for sale, but not sold during the year. The first lease under these rules was sold on the 16th August, 1876, so that a complete and fair comparison between the two years can hardly be

drawn; but it is plain that the New Lease Rules have allowed full scope to the extension of the tea industry of the Province. The Chief Commissioner was glad to observe in his inspection tour that the applications for these leases are, as a general rule, disposed of by the District Officers with fair despatch.

In Cachar, as has before been remarked, the planters still seem to prefer taking up the land they require for extending their operations under the ordinary settlement rules in vogue in the district, an area of over 20,000 acres, as will be seen from the table below, having been thus taken up during the past year.

The desire to avoid the competition at auction, which may necessitate a large initial expenditure in purchasing the land, appears to be the principal cause of this preference for the ordinary ryotwari title.

Of the total demand on account of leases sold, Rs. 12,345, Rs. 11,474 were realized, leaving a balance of Rs. 871 in the district of Darrang.

In two cases only, one in Nowgong and the other in Lakhimpur, was there any competition at the auction sale, and the result of this competition was that the two leases sold for Rs. 699, more than what they would have fetched at the usual fixed upset price of one rupee per acre.

53. During the year under review, twelve Old Rule grants, covering an area of 13,097 acres, were commuted to fee-simple, in accordance with the terms of the original leases, for a sum of Rs. 60,457. These grants yielded a revenue of Rs. 1,090 at the time of their commutation. Two similar grants in Cachar, comprising an area of 3,223 acres, were resumed for non-compliance with the clearance conditions stipulated in their leases, and were summarily settled with the grantees under the ordinary Settlement Rules. At the close of the year there remained 70 grants, with an area of 72,821 acres, held on their original conditions. Of this area, 49,462 acres have come under assessment, and the remainder is still held revenue-free, part in perpetuity.

54. The following table shows the number of ordinary cultivation leases and the area taken up under them for the cultivation of tea in the several districts during the year :—

District.	In 1877-78.				Altogether to end of 1877-78.			
	Number of leases.	Area in acres.	Present income.	Eventual maximum income.	Number of leases.	Area in acres.	Present income.	Eventual maximum income.
				Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
Cachar.....	49	20,355	1,567	15,275	135	64,271	11,259	51,582
Sylhet.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	15,795	1,184	23,956
Kamrup.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	2,751	4,161	4,161
Darrang.....	20	1,113	1,686	1,686	162	15,871	23,970	23,970
Nowgong.....	2	72	108	108	26	4,310	4,908	4,908
Sibsagar.....	152	4,131	6,267	6,267	383	14,146	21,569	21,569
Lakhimpur.....	5	543.51	824	824	162	18,221	23,157	27,856
Total.....	228	26,214.51	10,452	24,160	906	135,866	90,208	1,58,002

SECTION 4.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

55. For the reasons given in last year's report, para. 55, only those petty estates which have not been settled regularly for a term of years, and the revenue of which is collected direct from the tenants, will be treated of in this section. Such estates exist in the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara only. In the former district there were during the year under report 142 such estates, the current demand of land revenue on account of which amounted to Rs. 6,585, and in the latter district there were 109 such estates, the current demand of land revenue on account of which amounted to Rs. 1,538.

56. A statement showing the demand, collections, remissions, and balances on account of these estates in appended below :—

Districts.	Number of estates.	Demand.			Collections.			Remissions.	Balances.		
		Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.		Current.	Arrear.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet	142	6,585	6,743	13,328	452	4,369	4,821	32	6,133	2,342	8,475
Goalpara	109	1,538	9,383	10,921	1,401	9,230	10,631	68	137	85	222
Total	251	8,123	16,126	24,249	1,853	13,599	15,452	100	6,270	2,427	8,697

It will appear from the above statement that out of the total current demand of Rs. 8,123, Rs. 1,853 were collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 6,270 outstanding at its close. This balance is in course of realization.

The arrear demand amounted to Rs. 16,126, of which Rs. 13,599 were collected, and Rs. 100 remitted during the year, leaving at the close of the year a balance of Rs. 2,427 only.

SECTION 5.—WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

57. The estates to be reported on in this section are taken up in the order of their enumeration in previous reports.

58. *Sidli*.—The Sidli estate was held by Rajah Gouri Narayan since the original settlement in 1870-71 on a farming lease, under which he received an allowance of 30 per cent. on the collections (10 per cent. for charges of collection, and 20 per cent. as profits), in consideration of his connection with the land under the Bhutan Government: but the direct management of the estate was shortly afterwards transferred to the district authorities, owing to the incompetence of the Rajah to manage his own affairs. The above lease expired on the 31st March, 1877. Proposals for the re-settlement of the tract with the

occupant ryots, on the basis of the Assam ryotwari system, were submitted to the Government of India in April, 1877, providing at the same time for the continuance to the Rajah of the allowances he had heretofore received. The settlement with the occupant ryots has meanwhile been carried out, but the proposals with regard to the position of the Rajah in the new settlement are still under the consideration of the Supreme Government.

The settlement of the land having been thus made direct with the ryots, the management of the Rajah's estate during the past year consisted merely in the collection of arrear demands of previous years. Of the sum of Rs. 14,614 due at the close of 1876-77, Rs. 9,868 were collected during the year, and the remainder, Rs. 4,746, is reported by the Deputy-Commissioner, after careful scrutiny and detailed local inquiry, to be irrecoverable, owing to (1) desertion of ryots, (2) extreme poverty of ryots, and (3) inaccurate measurements. This amount will accordingly have to be remitted.

The total income* of the year, plus the balance of Rs. 2,104 in hand on 1st April, 1877, was disbursed as follows:—

* Rents collected	Rs. 9,868
Miscellaneous receipts ..	43
Total	9,911

Government revenue for 1876-77 paid	Rs. 5,186
Establishment and charges of collection of rents	1,049
Maintenance of the Rajah and his family	900
Education of the minor son of the Rajah	104
Miscellaneous expenses	20
Debts paid	4,250
Cash balance in land	506
Total	12,015

The estate is still indebted to the extent of Rs. 5,287. Arrangements will be made for the liquidation of this amount as soon as final orders of the Supreme Government on the future settlement of the Duar are received.

59. The rental of the various estates belonging to the Minor Hur Kumar Pal amounted for the year to Rs. 46,786, viz., Rs. 12,685 current and Rs. 34,101 arrear. Of this sum, Rs. 9,950 were realized, and Rs. 7,509 remitted during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 29,327 at its close. Some thirty-one suits, valued at Rs. 1,615, have been instituted for the recovery of arrears of rent, and endeavours are being made to collect as much as possible.

As the above figures indicate, the condition of the estate has not much improved during the year, nor is there any hope of improvement until the re-settlement with the ryots of the lands comprised in the estate, which is being made by Babu Jadu Nandan Das, Sub-Deputy-Collector, is completed, and a proper rent-roll prepared. No such rent-roll or any zemindari accounts, properly so-called, existed during the time of the minor's father. There was no proper system of management, and the rents were levied in an irregular and frequently illegal manner. The ryots, who are generally refractory, held their lands under verbal agreements, and there is now no means of realizing arrears of such rents due to

the estate, except in cases where the liability is voluntarily admitted. The re-measurement of the estate and the adjustment of the old accounts were completed during the past year, and a sum of Rs. 7,509, proved to have been irrecoverable, was remitted. A further sum which has since accumulated will, it is feared, have to be written off. The amount, indeed, which represents the annual demand of the estate, is to a great extent nominal: it is not supported by any agreements of the tenants, and includes a large sum the liability for which has never been admitted by them. When the detailed settlements with the ryots now in progress are finished, the difficulties now encountered in the prompt realization of the rents will, it is anticipated, disappear. In the meantime, the Deputy-Commissioner has been requested to pay very careful attention to the supervision of the affairs of the estate, and to submit proposals for its better management.

The receipts and expenditure of the year connected with the estate are abstracted in the subjoined statement :—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance from last year.	3,105	Government revenue paid.....	2,319
Rents collected.....	9,950	Management of the property and cost of collection	2,140
Interest on Government securities	1,680	Law expenses	8,877
Debts recovered	1,061	Maintenance of the minor and his family	485
Miscellaneous receipts	414	Education of the minor	258
		Monthly grants, religious ceremonies, and other miscellaneous expenses.....	1,032
		Debts paid	167
		Cash balance in favour of the estate	932
Total	16,210	Total	16,210

It will be observed from the above that the cost of management during the past year was considerably less than in the previous year. The pay of the manager has since the close of the year been reduced to Rs. 50 from Rs. 70; this will reduce the expenditure by Rs. 240 per annum. The unusual increase in "law expenses" is due to the payment of Rs. 6,540 as costs, &c., in certain cases decided by the High Court against the minor. The other items require no explanation.

The minor Hur Kumar Pal is reported to be making fair progress in his studies.

60. The estate of the minor Gulám Armáni is improving under the management of the Court of Wards. Out of the total demand of Rs. 683 (Rs. 510 current and Rs. 173 arrear), Rs. 593 were realized and Rs. 5 remitted, leaving

Gulám Armáni's estate.

at the close of the year a balance of Rs. 85, of which Rs. 62 were found to be irrecoverable, and have since been remitted. The remainder is in course of realization.

The total receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 790, as shown in the margin. Of this sum, Rs. 210 were paid as Government revenue, Rs. 74 as collection charges, Rs. 96 for the maintenance of the minor and his family, and Rs. 3 as miscellaneous expenses, making a total expenditure of Rs. 383, leaving a cash balance of Rs. 407 in favour of the estate.

Cash balance from previous year	Rs. 130
Rents realized	593
Elephant hire	67
Total	<u>790</u>

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—(BLANK.)

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

61. No special legislative enactment has been introduced into this Province during the year.

The Scheduled Districts Act (XIV. of 1874) was, by a notification dated 3rd November, 1877, declared to be in force in this Province, and notifications under that Act, bearing the same date, extending the New Code of Civil Procedure (Act X. of 1877) and the Specific Relief Act (I. of 1877) to the plains districts of the Province, excluding the Eastern Duars and the North Cachar Hills, were also issued.

The following Acts of the Bengal Council were also extended to the Province :—

Act V. of 1875, B.C. (the Bengal Survey Act), was extended to the districts of Sylhet and Goalpára.

Act V. of 1876 (the Bengal Municipal Consolidation Act) was extended to all the districts within the jurisdiction of the Chief Commissioner.

The proposed Regulation for introducing local rates for roads and similar purposes in the Province is still under consideration by the Government of India.

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

62. The year under review was the first year in which the administration of police affairs in this Province was conducted under the immediate supervision of a special officer stationed at the head-quarters of the Province, and the Chief Commissioner is glad to be able to observe that the appointment of Captain Williamson as Inspector-General has resulted in the increased efficiency of the force.

The Inspector-General, in the report submitted by him, expresses himself well satisfied, on the whole, with the state of the force, and records as his opinion that, so far as he was able to discern, the police are looked upon with favour by the people.

The statistics given in the Appendix afford, the Chief Commissioner thinks, good grounds for considering the condition of the force to be

fairly satisfactory, especially when the difficulty of getting a good class of men for the lower ranks of the police is taken into consideration. This difficulty will, it is hoped, be less felt now that the pay of the constables in the lower grade has been raised, and the prospects of both officers and men have, under the re-organization scheme, been much improved.

63. The total sanctioned strength of the Police during the year was 3,365 men of all ranks, but the actual strength of the force amounted to 2,731 men of all ranks only; of these, 41 officers and 340 men were employed on frontier guard duty, and 67 officers and 556 men in guarding jails and treasuries. The total number of men employed purely on police work in the eight plains districts of the Province during the year was 1,814, *i.e.*, in the proportion of one policeman to 16.90 square miles and to 2,116 inhabitants. In Bengal, the corresponding figures are 1 to 9.7 square miles, and 1 to 3,814 inhabitants. In Sylhet, the force is especially weak, there being only one policeman to every 4,501 of the population. The rank and file of the force are about to be augmented. The sanctioned police grant for the Province for the year was Rs. 6,34,000. The grant for the executive police, excluding the pay of the District and Assistant-Superintendents and that portion of Captain Williamson's pay and of the pay of his establishment debitable to "Police," amounted to Rs. 5,39,600. The total cost of the executive police, including the pay of the District and Assistant-Superintendents, calculated on the total sanctioned grant, was at the rate of 2 annas and 4 pie per head of the population, against 2 annas and 3 pie in the preceding year. The rate of incidence is, as is only to be expected, much higher than in Bengal.

64. The total strength of the municipal police during the year was 94 men of all ranks, and the total cost of the force was Rs. 9,840. The casualties in this branch of the force amounted to 23.40 per cent., against 26.43 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of resignations, discharges, and desertions was considerably lower than in 1876, but there was a slight increase in the percentage of dismissals.

65. A considerable improvement has been effected during the year in the condition of the village police in Sylhet, in which district, owing to the weakness of the regular force, the efficiency of the chaukidars is of the utmost importance. In Goálpára, the Bengal Chaukidari Act, VI. of 1870, has been introduced. The whole question of the village police of the Province is now under consideration. Of the frontier police, the Inspector-General speaks in his report in high terms, which Sir Steuart Bayley believes are fully deserved.

66. The river patrol system in Sylhet is said to work well. The work is naturally distasteful to the police, as it subjects them to much exposure to the weather; but care is taken that each member of the force shall take his fair share of the work. The establishment of a regular police patrol along the

Assam Trunk Road has been attended with marked success. The expediency of extending this patrol along the upper portion of the Trunk Road is under consideration.

67. In Sylhet alone was it found necessary to quarter a punitive police force during the year under report. This measure has had the best effect.

68. Seven new outposts were established during the year in this district, and their establishment will, the Chief Commissioner hopes, be attended by satisfactory results.

69. The total expenditure on account of police buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 13,771-13-2, or at the rate of Rs. 4-1-8 per man on the total sanctioned number of police of all grades. No money was expended on account of buildings in the Lakhimpur and Nága Hills districts. The amount was pretty evenly distributed among the remaining districts.

70. Out of a total number of 3,354 subordinate officers and men, the casualties during the year amounted to 512, or at the rate of 15·26 per cent., against 432, or 12·84 per cent., in the preceding year. The percentage of dismissals, 2·77, was satisfactorily low. Dismissals and desertions were both less than in the previous year. The percentage of resignations, 7·30, was very high, and was owing to the low rate of pay in the lower grades of the force, and to the facilities for obtaining employment on the numerous tea-gardens in the Province. As the pay of the constables in the lower grade has now been raised, the percentage of resignations may be expected to diminish. There were 80 deaths during the year, against 55 in 1876. On the whole, the health of the men was not so good as during the preceding year, but a mortality of 2·4 per cent. is not great for districts reputed so unhealthy as some of those in Assam are. No difficulty was experienced during the year in obtaining recruits. The enlistments amounted to 450, or 13·6 per cent. of the whole strength; this shows a fair element of permanence in the force

71. 136 officers and 333 men were punished departmentally during the year, as compared with 141 officers and 349 men so punished during the previous year. 94 officers and men were punished judicially, against 116 officers and men punished judicially in 1876. There was an increase in the number of convictions under the Indian Penal Code, but there was a considerable decrease in the number of convictions under the Police Act. These results are fairly satisfactory; but, on the other hand, there were some very serious cases of misconduct, notably a case of torture to extort a confession of guilt in Goalpára, and a case in which certain officers of the Sylhet municipal police plundered the house of a dying man. These results are the more to be regretted, as the Reports of the two previous years show the Assam police to have been singularly free from the violence and extortion which are the besetting sins of the police in India. There were also fewer officers and men rewarded during the

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year than during the previous year. Still, on the whole, the Chief Commissioner is fairly satisfied with the general conduct of the force throughout the year. The extra duties in connection with the survey parties and the Nāga Hills expedition were cheerfully performed by the men who were told off for these duties. The drill and discipline of the frontier police were well attended to. The contemplated changes in the arms of this portion of the force will tend to promote its efficiency.

72 Owing to the numerical weakness of the force and the numerous calls upon the time of the men, it has not hitherto been found possible to organize any regular system of instruction. Still, something has been done : of the regular police nearly 21 per cent., and of the municipal police nearly 16 per cent., can read and write. The periodical examinations for head-constabships are calculated to raise the educational standard of the force by making the acquisition of a certain amount of education necessary for advancement from the lowest grades.

73. Attention was paid during the year to the discipline and drill of the force. The frontier police are taught the thorough use of their weapons, company and light infantry drill, guard duties, &c. No attempt has been made to form military battalions, but the officers and men have received such training as is calculated to make them thoroughly efficient for the duties they may be called upon to perform. The Cachar and Sylhet frontier police, especially, are excellently drilled and thoroughly fit for any frontier work.

74. The number of cognizable offences reported during the year was 10,957, against 10,900 such cases reported during 1876. The increase is merely nominal. In the 10,957 cases reported, 8,571 persons were arrested; of these, 8,258 persons were actually put upon their trial, of whom 5,065 were convicted and 2,907 acquitted; of the rest, 265 were awaiting trial at the close of the year, and 21 were otherwise disposed of. False cases show an increase of 1 per cent., as compared with the three preceding years. 8,757 cases were accepted as true, against 8,850 cases accepted as true in 1876. If to the 10,957 cases reported during the year be added 403 cases which occurred in the previous year, but which were brought under inquiry during the year under report, the grand total of cases will amount to 11,360; deducting false cases and those not inquired into, there remain 8,052 cases, against 8,272 in 1876. Convictions were obtained in 2,517 cases, the percentage being 31, as in the preceding year. The total number of persons arrested and put on their trial being, respectively, 8,571 and 8,258, and the total number of persons convicted being 5,065, the percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested and put upon their trial, respectively, is 59.09 and 61. The corresponding percentages for 1876 are 59.53 and 62. These results are fairly satisfactory, but the total number of persons acquitted is large. The slight increase in the number of false cases calls for no remarks. The decrease in the number of cases accepted as true is satisfactory, if the result of a real decrease of crime,—that there was such a decrease by no means necessarily follows.

75. In 1876, of the total number of persons committed to the Court of Sessions, 62 were convicted and 61 acquitted, the percentage of acquittals to the number of persons tried being 49. In the year under report, the corresponding figures are 91 convictions to 46 acquittals, and the percentage of acquittals to persons tried is 33. This result is very satisfactory, as it indicates the exercise of greater judgment on the part of the committing officers. The success of a prosecution before the Court of Session cannot, however, be always accurately gauged beforehand, and acquittal is by no means a sure proof of an error of judgment on the part of the Magistrate.

76. The total value of the property stolen during the year amounted to Rs. 93,210, and, of this, property to the value of Rs. 31,651 was recovered during the year, or 33 per cent., a very low percentage. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen in the preceding year was 43. In Sylhet, the police were especially unsuccessful in recovering stolen property. The Inspector-General assigns no reason in his report for the want of success of the police generally in regard to this part of their duty, and probably no very accurate reason can be assigned. A low percentage of recovery does not necessarily show for any one year a special want of activity on the part of the police; but when year by year the recoveries in particular districts are steadily below the average of all the districts, some explanation is necessary. This is the case throughout the past four years in Sylhet and Kámrup. In Sylhet, with its dense population and insufficient police establishment, the result was to be expected; but the same explanation scarcely applies to Kámrup,—at all events not to the same extent.

77. In the following table the crime reported during the last four years is classified:—

	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Class I. Offences against the State.....	228	363	421	394
" II. Serious offences against the person.	411	607	541	480
" III. Ditto property, &c.	751	827	1,011	1,048
" IV. Minor offences against the person.	801	948	997	1,076
" V. Ditto property	3,983	4,441	4,538	4,325
" VI. Other offences not specified above.	577	724	784	885
Other special laws	111	73	111	146
Total	6,862	7,983	8,403	8,354

78. The increase under Class III. was owing to an increase under the heading "Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming animals." The increase under Class IV. is attributable to an increase under the headings "Hurt" and "Wrongful restraint and confinement;" and the increase shown under Class VI. is chiefly under the headings "Vagrancy" and "Local nuisances." Out of a total number of 379

cases of rioting or unlawful assembly reported during the year, not less than 282 cases occurred in Sylhet alone, and 42 cases in Cachar. This offence is rare in the Assam Valley. The returns show a steady increase in this crime in Sylhet and Cachar during the last four years, a state of things much to be deplored. The cause of the prevalence of this crime in Sylhet is the litigiousness and proneness to violence of the Muhammadan population of that district; but in Sylhet not only is the crime very frequent, but the result of the magisterial proceedings in dealing with it is far from satisfactory. Convictions were obtained only in 41 per cent. of the cases, and the proportion of convictions to arrests was only 65 per cent. The question as to how rioting can be most effectually suppressed is one which should occupy the earnest attention of the district authorities; and Captain Williamson has been requested to specially address the Deputy-Commissioner on the subject, reporting the result to the Chief Commissioner.

79. There was an increase of 5 cases under the head of "Murder" and a decrease of 11 cases under the head of "Culpable homicide."

80. One particularly revolting case of murder took place in Goalpara. On the whole, under the heading "Serious offences against the person," there is a considerable decrease in the number of cases accepted as true, which is satisfactory. There were 72 cases of rape reported during the year, against 65 such cases reported during the previous year. The number of these cases is very large, and the result even of the cases declared, on inquiry, to be true is extremely unsatisfactory. These cases are very often trumped up to conceal family disgrace, consequent upon the discovery of an intrigue; and the necessity of exercising the greatest caution in inquiring into them has been insisted on.

81. The results under the head of "Kidnapping" were most unsatisfactory. There was an increase of 32 cases. Some 56 persons were put on their trial, of whom only 18 were convicted. Judging from the cases specially reported, it would appear that the persons kidnapped are generally very young girls, who are taken from their parents or husbands, not for the purpose of prostitution, but for marriage, regular or irregular, and frequently with their own consent.

82. The decrease of 50 cases under the heading "Hurt by dangerous weapons" is most marked. Serious offences against the person or property, or against property only, show a total increase of 37 cases, as compared with the previous year. This increase is due (as stated before) to the increase under the head of "Mischief." Dacoity is, happily, a crime by no means prevalent in this Province. There were 9 cases of dacoity reported during the year, against 16 cases reported in 1876. Of these 9 cases, 5 were on inquiry declared to be false, and 2 cases, it is explained, were not inquired into under the provisions of Section 117 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. 15 persons were arrested and sent up for trial, of whom 10 were convicted and 2 acquitted.

83. The offence of robbery may also be said to hardly exist in Assam. Out of the 73 cases of robbery reported, 57 were declared on inquiry to be false. 4 persons only were put on their trial, of whom 2 persons were convicted. Of the above 73 cases, 61 were reported to have occurred in Cachar. Of these 61 cases, 51 were declared to be false. The majority of these so-called "robbery" cases are mere assault cases, exaggerated for the purpose of revenge.

84. The police exercised much more discrimination in dealing with cases of robbery during the year under report than during the previous year.

85. The operations of the police in cases of cattle-theft were particularly satisfactory. There was a large diminution in offences, and, at the same time, a large increase in convictions.

86. Minor offences against the person show an increase, and minor offences against property a decrease, as compared with the preceding year. The decrease in cases of ordinary theft is satisfactory, as is also the marked decrease in cases of receiving stolen property.

87. Vagrancy cases show an increase, being 198, against 159 in 1876. The number is, however, by no means large. Indeed, the provisions of the law relating to bad livelihood are, if the district of Sylhet be excluded, but rarely put in force in Assam.

88. 11,744 non-cognizable cases were instituted during the year, as compared with 12,134 such cases instituted during the previous year, showing a decrease of 390 institutions. Of the total institutions, more than half were cases of criminal force. In 750 cases only were the police employed to make inquiries. Out of the 11,744 cases instituted, process issued in 7,896 cases only. 9,448 persons actually appeared to stand their trial; of these, 973 persons were discharged after appearance, 2,711 were acquitted, and 5,647 were convicted. The proportion of persons convicted to persons who actually appeared before the courts was 59 per cent., against 64 per cent. in 1876. Very nearly half the total number of cases were instituted in Sylhet.

89. Cases under Class I. show a most marked decrease, having fallen off from 753 in the previous year to 596 in the year under report. Of the 596 cases instituted during the year 335 cases occurred in Sylhet. The magisterial officers in Sylhet acted with greater discretion during the year under report than in the previous year in the matter of prosecutions under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code. The falling off in the number of cases of serious offences against property is notable, such cases being 44 only in number, against 127 in 1876.

90. There was an increase of 191 in the number of cases under Class IV., this increase calls for no remarks in particular. The results of cases of this class are, from a statistical point of view, rarely satisfactory. Classes V. and VI. show, respectively, a decrease of 40 and of 275 cases in 1877, as compared with the preceding year.

91. There were 124 cases of cognizable crime reported from the hill districts in 1877, against 171 such cases reported in 1876. In the 124 cases reported, 132 persons were arrested, of whom 131 persons were sent up for trial, of these, 97 persons were convicted and 34 acquitted. The percentage of persons convicted to persons actually put upon their trial was 74, against 83 in the preceding year. The only cases deserving of special notice occurred in the Khási Hills. There is but little reported crime in the Gáro Hills and Nága Hills districts.

92. There were 66 cases of ordinary theft reported during the year, against 80 such cases reported during 1876. 74 persons were put upon their trial, of whom 65, or 87·83 per cent., were convicted. The percentage of persons convicted to persons who were actually tried in 1876 was 84·31.

93. The total value of the property stolen during the year was Rs. 1,482, and the value of property recovered Rs. 929, or 62·68 per cent., against 9·04 per cent. in the previous year. These results may be pronounced to be fairly satisfactory.

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

94. The Chief Commissioner has been favoured with a copy of the High Court's Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Assam during 1877, and from this Report the following review of the state of crime and of the working of the criminal courts in the Province has been compiled.

As in former years, the figures given are only for the eight plains districts of the Province. The administration of criminal justice in the three hill districts is carried on in the Political Department, and the High Court have no concern with it. The statistics of crime in these hill districts will be found at the end of the section on police administration.

95. All the criminal courts with which this chapter deals are constituted under the Criminal Procedure Code (Act X. of 1872). The head-quarters of the Sessions Judge of Sylhet are at that station, but he goes on circuit to Cachar. The Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts is stationed at Gauháti, but he holds periodical jail deliveries at the head-quarters of each of the districts in his charge. The district Deputy-Commissioner with magistrate of Sylhet is styled a Deputy-Commissioner ; but, as the district is an ordinary regulation district, he exercises the powers of a district magistrate only. In all the other districts of the Province the Deputy-Commissioners have been vested with the special powers described in Section 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Act X. of 1872), which they exercise in addition to their ordinary powers as district magistrates. The question as to whether the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet should not also be invested with these special powers is under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

96. At the end of the year under review there were in all 70 magistrates, of whom 34 were Europeans and 36 Natives. Of the 70 magistrates, 27 were magistrates of the first class, 13 were magistrates of the second class, and 30 were magistrates of the third class. Of the 54 magistrates in the Brahmaputra Valley districts 33 were stipendiary and 21 honorary magistrates. In Cachar and Sylhet, the two districts of the Surmá Valley, there are no honorary magistrates.

97. The total number of offences reported and of persons convicted during the past two years was as follows :—

	1876.	1877.
Offences reported	16,124	14,603
Persons convicted	11,063	10,897

Crime, on the whole, then, may be said to have decreased during the past year. Judging from the number of convictions, however, it increased greatly in Darrang and Lakhimpur, and to a less extent in Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sibságar. The chief decrease was in Sylhet and Cachar. In Lakhimpur, the increase in convictions occurred notwithstanding a large decrease shown in the number of offences reported.

98. During the past year but one case from Assam, in which but one person was involved, was tried by the High Court in the exercise of its ordinary criminal jurisdiction: A European British subject, charged with having killed a coolie, was committed for trial before the Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts by the Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur, on charges under Sections 304 A and 323. Indian Penal Code. On a reference by the Judge to the High Court, this commitment was quashed, and the accused was tried by the High Court on a charge of culpable homicide, &c. The jury convicted him of having caused hurt, and he was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months.

99. The number of persons brought before the courts of session for trial during the past year (including 23 persons who were awaiting trial at the close of 1876) was 196, of whom two were discharged without trial, three died or escaped, and 12 awaited trial at the end of the year. Of the balance of 179 persons whose cases were disposed of on trial, 71 were acquitted, and 108, or 60 per cent., convicted. In 1876, of 135 persons whose cases were disposed of on trial, 75, or 48 per cent., were convicted.

Shown separately for each Judgeship, the percentage of convictions during the past two years was as follows :—

	1876.	1877.
Assam Valley	40	72
Sylhet and Cachar	51	57

While the result of trial was improved in both courts of session, it is most satisfactory in the Assam Valley districts.

100. The number of witnesses who attended the sessions courts was 827 in the past, compared with 843 in the previous year. In the Assam Valley districts separately, the number was 167, against 81.

101. In the Assam Valley, 28 cases in all were tried by jury in the past year, in one of which only the Judge did not approve of the verdict given.

Trial by jury.

102. In Sylhet and Cachar, the 48 cases disposed of were tried with the aid of assessors, from whose opinion the Judge differed in six cases only.

Trial by Assessors.

103. The sentences imposed during the past year by the courts of session were as follows :—

Capital punishment.....	9
Transportation for life	20
Ditto ditto a term	13
Rigorous imprisonment	66
Ditto ditto in addition to fine.....	15

104. The number of cases disposed of by the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar in 1877 by virtue of the powers vested in him under Section 36, Criminal Procedure Code, was six. In two cases the sentences passed did not exceed two years. In three out of the four cases remaining, the Sessions Judge confirmed the orders of the Deputy-Commissioner. In the Assam Valley districts the number of cases similarly disposed of by the Deputy-Commissioners under this section of the Code was 29. In two out of three cases referred to the Sessions Judge, the orders of the Deputy-Commissioners were upheld. They were reversed in one case. The Judge of these districts remarks that many of the cases which were committed to the sessions might well have been disposed of by the district magistrates under their special powers. The matter is one in respect to which orders have already been passed by the Chief Commissioner, requiring district magistrates to use these special powers more freely.

105. The total number of persons under trial in the courts of magistrates was 17,735 in the past, compared with 17,138 in the previous year. There was an increase of business in all the Valley districts except Goalpara, and a considerable decrease in Sylhet and Cachar. The total number of persons whose cases were disposed of in 1877 was 17,347, against 16,738 in the year preceding. The courts thus kept pace with the increase in the business coming before them.

Magistrates' courts.

The number of persons awaiting trial at the close of the year was 366, 11 less than at its commencement ; of the whole number, 6 only had been under trial more than three months, and 39 more than one month.

106. The share taken by the courts of the several grades in trying cases during the past two years is exhibited in the following statement, which shows the number of persons whose cases were disposed of, excluding those committed to the sessions, and those who died, escaped, or were transferred :—

	Valley districts.		Sylhet and Cachar.	
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
District magistrates	909	945	721	739
Subordinate paid magistrates	5,820	6,658	8,572	7,093
Honorary magistrates.....	791	1,340	.....	.....

The following percentage of convictions for the past two years will show the result of the above trials :—

	1876.	1877.
District magistrates	67	79
Subordinate paid magistrates	67	62
Honorary magistrates	55	46

From the above, it will be seen that, except in the case of district magistrates, the results of trial were less favourable in the past than in the previous year. As regards the courts of district magistrates, it is to be observed that in Nowgong there were no acquittals, and that in Darrang 92 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. The Deputy-Commissioners of these two districts have been requested to explain the nature of the cases tried by them.

In Nowgong and Lakhimpur the results of trials in the courts of the subordinate paid magistrates were most favourable, the ratio of convictions being 71 per cent. and 70 per cent., respectively. The results of trial were least favourable in Goálpára, where the ratio was 54 per cent. only.

In the courts of honorary magistrates the results of trials during the past year were far from good. They were worst in Sibságar and Darrang, where 18 and 22 per cent. only of the persons whose cases were disposed of were convicted, and they were best in Goálpára, where the ratio was 76 per cent.

107. The total number of witnesses examined in the criminal courts of the Province during the past year was 34,940. Of these, 30,222 were examined on the first day of attendance, 3,043 on the second, 895 on the third, 780 later than the third day. These results may be regarded as not unsatisfactory. It is singular, however, that all but seven witnesses in Cachar should have been examined on the first day of attendance ; while in the neighbouring district of Sylhet no less than 754 witnesses were detained more than three days.

108. The number of persons sentenced by magistrates to imprisonment, fine, and flogging, respectively, or to more than one of the punishments, was as follows :—

Punishments.	
Imprisonment	3,699
Fine	6,196
Whipping	189

The imprisonment ordered in the past year was solitary in the case of two persons, rigorous in the case of 3,620 persons, and simple in the case of 77 persons. 913 persons were fined and 23 flogged in addition to other punishment. The imprisonment ordered did not exceed six months in the case of 3,235 persons, and exceeded two years in the case of 35 persons only.

The fines imposed during the year aggregated Rs. 79,972, against Rs. 84,834 in the previous year. The amount realized was Rs. 67,317 in 1877, as compared with Rs. 71,418 in the year immediately preceding. There was, thus, an apparent decrease in realizations during the past year, but the percentage of realizations was a little higher in 1877 than in 1876, being 84·2 against 84·1 respectively.

Of the fines realized, Rs. 8,545 were awarded as compensation in the past year, against Rs. 7,299 in the previous year. This increase was due mainly to the action of the magisterial authorities in the districts of Lakhimpur and Kámrúp. In the former the amount awarded as compensation in 1877 was more than double that in 1876, and in the latter it was nearly double.

109. The number of appeals from the decisions of the courts of session instituted, disposed of, and pending in the High Court during the past two years is exhibited below :—

	1876.	1877.
Instituted	52	34
Disposed of.....	50	38
Pending	9	5

The falling off in the number of appeals in 1877 is remarkable, seeing that, as above stated, the number of persons convicted by the Sessions Judges in that year was 108, as compared with 75 in 1876.

The results of the appeal cases disposed of are shown below :—

	1876.	1877.
Affirmed	35	27
Reversed	8	8
Varied	7	3

The percentage of decisions reversed or modified was thus 29 per cent. in 1877, against 30 per cent. in 1876.

110. In the following comparative statement the number of appeals preferred, disposed of, and pending in the courts of session and in the courts of the district magistrates during the past two years are shown together :—

	1876.	1877.
Preferred	504	493
Disposed of.....	494	476
Pending	16	35

In the past year there was a considerable increase in the number of appeals preferred to the district magistrate, and a considerable decrease in those preferred to the Sessions Judge. Taking these courts together, the number of appeals in 1877 was less by 11 only than that in the preceding year.

The Judge of the Assam Valley Districts accounts for a falling off in the number of appeals coming to him from Kámrúp by the fact that a better class of pleaders now practise in his court, who do not take up cases unless there be some substantial ground for appeal.

The number of appeals to the district magistrate in that district has largely increased, and this the Judge attributes to the number of honorary magistrates appointed during the year.

Of the appeals disposed of in 1877, 217 were decided by Sessions Judges and 259 by district magistrates, the corresponding figures for 1876 being 312 and 182, respectively. In all, the sentences or orders appealed from were affirmed in 312 cases.

111. The number of cases of revision instituted, disposed, and pending in the High Court during the past two years is shown below:—

Superintendent and Revision,
High Court.

	Instituted.	Disposed of	Pending.
1876	26	24	2
1877	30	30	2

Of the 30 cases disposed of during the year, the orders of the lower courts were affirmed in 13 and reversed in 17.

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

112. The total number of prisoners of all classes confined in the jails and lock-ups in this Province during the calendar year 1877 was 9,012, against 8,832

Number of prisoners.

in 1876.

The daily average number of convicts in jail was 1,273.38 against 1,383.26.

It will be seen that, while the entire prison population during 1877 exceeded that of 1876 by 180, the daily average number of prisoners confined in the jails and lock-ups considerably decreased. This is attributable to the release, on the 1st January, 1877, of 227 prisoners in commemoration of the assumption of the title of "Empress of India," by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

Taking the figures for the past four years, the prison population of the Province continues to increase, as noticed in para. 114 of last year's Report:—

1874	8,06
1875	8,409
1876	8,832
1877	9,012

This increase was only to be expected, owing to the operation of the causes mentioned in the para. of last year's report above referred to, viz., the opening of more courts, and the increase in the immigrant population, and also to the rise in the price of articles of food. Some of the increase may, also, perhaps be due to increased efficiency of the police force.

The number of civil prisoners in confinement during the year was only 124, against 153 in the previous year.

The number of under-trial prisoners was 3,032, against 3,026 in 1876.

Out of the entire population of the jails, the large number of 1,181* were foreigners (tea coolies and others).

* 906 tea coolies.
275 others.

1,181

The offences for which the tea coolies were convicted were chiefly desertion under Act VII. of 1873 and offences against the person.

These figures show prominently how large must be the foreign element in the general population, when the proportion of foreigners among the prisoners in jail amounted to nearly 12 per cent., of which nearly 9 per cent. were imported labourers on tea-gardens.

The total female population of the jails and lock-ups was 249, against 258 in the preceding year.

Only 24 juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age were confined during the year. There is no need at present for a reformatory for juvenile offenders in this Province, and it will be some time before the want of such an institution is felt.

113. The percentage of prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment was 97·94, as compared with 95·76 in the preceding year. The Chief Commissioner is glad to see this increase, as he totally disbelieves in the efficacy of simple imprisonment as a deterrent, and he can conceive nothing more conducive to moral deterioration than jail life without useful occupation. The majority of the sentences of the prisoners did not exceed a period of six months.

The number of prisoners who had been previously convicted received into the jails during the year was by no means large, being 297, against 344 in the previous year.

Only 17 prisoners were committed to jail during the year on account of bad livelihood; 48 remained in jail on this account from the preceding year. Very little resort is had in this Province to the precautionary provisions of the law regarding bad characters, a result which, in default of evidence to the contrary, may be taken to indicate that the enforcement of these provisions is seldom necessary in Assam. The immunity which the Province most fortunately, and to a very large extent, enjoys from the presence of habitually criminal classes and tribes no doubt has a very considerable influence on the frequency of the application of this law.

114. Eight prisoners escaped from the jails and five from the lock-ups during the year, and, considering the insecure nature of many of the jail buildings, and how much extramural labour is resorted to in the Assam jails, this number may be considered as very small. Nearly all those who escaped were re-captured. The total number, however, of escaped convicts now at large is still great, and the Chief Commissioner has issued special instructions to District Officers, with a view to effect the re-capture of these men, whom doubtless a lengthened freedom has rendered less alert than formerly.

115. The number of offences against prison discipline in 1877 was 727, as compared with 613 in 1876. The number of punishments in 1877 was 731, against 616 in the previous year. These figures show a slight increase in the number of offences against prison discipline, as compared with the previous year, owing partially, no doubt, to the increase in the jail population. Part of the increase may, however, be fairly ascribed to increased vigilance on the part of the prison officials, and in so far as is satisfactory. The ratio of punishments to prisoners, 59·57, is by no means abnormally high. The number of prisoners to whom corporal punishment was awarded was largely in excess of the corresponding number during the previous year. The Chief Commissioner is not entirely opposed to the infliction of corporal punishment for breaches

of jail discipline, but he would like to see this kind of punishment kept in reserve for habitual offenders, and resorted to as little as possible in ordinary cases. He hopes that, with the improvement in jail accommodation, it will be found possible to have recourse more largely to other punishments. The question of the allotment of tasks is a most important one, and the Inspector-General has been requested to give the subject his attention. It is very desirable that the quantity of labour exacted should vary as little as possible jail by jail.

116. Increased attention was paid during the year to the development of the mark system in the different jails in the Province, with, on the whole, very satisfactory results. The system was especially well worked in the Gauhátí Jail. The full development of the system must naturally be a work of time, and it will work well in proportion as the prisoners learn to understand its benefits.

117. The rules regarding classification have been carried out as far as practicable in the different jails. Civil and under-trial prisoners have been completely isolated from the other prisoners. The number of juvenile offenders, as already observed, is so small, that, except in the Gauhátí Jail, no separate wards were provided. Proper accommodation is provided for female prisoners.

118. The average number of prisoners employed as convict warders during the year was 24·87, or 1·93 per cent. of the daily average jail population. The corresponding numbers for the previous year are 29·63 and 2·15. The decrease is due to the extraordinary releases which took place on the 1st January, 1877. The Inspector-General testifies to the usefulness of these convict warders, and the Chief Commissioner thinks that convicts might with advantage be more largely employed as prison officers than they are. The prospect of attaining the position of convict warder induces to discipline and good behaviour, and the knowledge of the consequences of losing that position results, as a rule, in a careful discharge of duty.

119. The total sum expended on jail and lock-up buildings during the year was Rs. 47,545, of which Rs. 44,959 were expended by the Department of Public Works and Rs. 2,586 by the Jail Department. Many of the jails are simply mat huts, and are very insecure. During the year, the Goálpára Jail was reduced to the status of a lock-up, and fifty prisoners were transferred from the Nowgong to the Gauhátí Jail. The Chief Commissioner proposes to carry the abolition of the smaller jails still further. He thinks that, as far as possible, prisoners should be massed in large jails instead of being distributed throughout a number of small jails, and steps are being taken to carry this view into effect.

120. The total amount expended during the year under review in the jails of this Province under the heads of "Rations," "Fixed establishment," "Police-guard," "Hospital charges," "Clothing," and "Contingencies,"

amounted to Rs. 1,07,316, against Rs. 1,12,391 during 1876. The cost of rations (the most important item) came to Rs. 32-10-5 per head of average strength, as compared with Rs. 34-1-6 in the previous year. This result is owing to the introduction of the system of storing paddy for prison consumption. In consequence of the dearness of provisions in Assam, the cost of rations will be always high. The Chief Commissioner, however, hopes that the cost under this head will be still further reduced during the present year. The total cost (under all headings) per head of average strength amounted during the year to Rs. 78-0-11, against Rs. 75-8-8 in 1876, but this increase is accounted for by the decrease in the average number of prisoners in confinement during the year.

The net cost of each prisoner to the State during the year under report was Rs. 110, against Rs. 96 in each of the two previous years. This increased cost is entirely due to the comparatively large amount expended on jail buildings through the agency of the Public Works Department, and to the increased cost of the head-quarters office. The first cause is only of a temporary nature. Nearly all the other heads show a decrease.

121. The receipts on account of manufactures in the different jails during the year amounted to Rs. 43,037, and the charges to Rs. 29,596. The profit was Rs. 13,441, or Rs. 11-12-6 per head of effective prisoners. In the above calculation, however, no credit has been taken by the Jail Department for the work of the prisoners furnished to the Public Works Department. None of the outstanding debts in any of the jails were particularly large. Towards the close of the year, the Chief Commissioner ordered that credit should be given to the Jail Department for the prison labour employed on station or road work. It is expected that the result of this ruling will be a decided improvement in the jail receipts next year.

122. The vital statistics show an improvement in the health of the prisoners, as compared with the preceding year, the percentage of sick on average strength being 3·88, against 4·25 in 1876, and the percentage of deaths on average strength being 5·54, against 5·85 in the previous year. Dysentery and diarrhoea claimed the largest number of victims. There was, as usual, a large number of cases of intermittent fever, but only three cases proved fatal. The sanitary arrangements of the jails appear to be good, and the important question of a good water-supply receives attention. Opium-eaters are a class of prisoners who are to a certain extent a difficulty in the way of jail administration in Assam. To permit them unrestricted access to their accustomed dose would be subversive of all discipline; while absolutely and at once to stop their supply of the drug would be dangerous to their health. No hard-and-fast rule on the subject can, however, be laid down, and the medical authorities must necessarily treat each case of the kind by itself.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

123. The total number of suits instituted in the civil courts of the Province in 1877 was 21,282, against 19,429 in the previous year. In Sylhet there was an increase of 2,116 suits; on the other hand, there was a decrease of 139 suits in the Valley Districts, and of 124 in Cachar. In Sylhet, there was a slight decrease in "other suits," and the increase noted occurred chiefly in small cause court cases. In Cachar the decrease in cases of this class is attributed to the high price of necessaries and to abnormal causes having operated in 1876. In the Assam Valley districts the decrease, which was most marked in Lakhimpur, Kámrúp, and Goálpára, is attributed to the introduction of the New Code of Civil Procedure, to the failure of the crops in North Lakhimpur, and to the absence of a sufficient staff of officers with munsif's powers at that place and at Golághát.

Excluding suits in the revenue courts, the total number of cases disposed of during the past year was 20,889, against 19,845 in the preceding year. In Sylhet the services of an extra munsif were employed for somewhat more than a month. Notwithstanding an increase in the number of disposals, this still fell somewhat short of the number of cases instituted. In Cachar a similar result is observed, though the number of institutions had decreased. The Judge explains that work in his district has been prejudiced by the frequent change of judicial officers, and by the sudden and sub-divisional stations being left for a time without a munsif.

The total number of cases pending at the close of the year was 2,840, as compared with 2,265 at the close of 1876. In Cachar the percentage of increase is very high, and is attributed to the causes mentioned above.

124. There were at the end of 1877 14 suits and 6 appeals which had been pending more than 12 months. Of these, 4 appeals were in Sylhet and the rest of the cases in the Valley districts.

Suits and appeals pending more than one year.

125. The amount in litigation in the civil courts of the Province was Rs. 16,77,750, against Rs. 15,27,210 in 1873, the number of suits instituted being less by 429 in the former than in the latter year.

Number and value of suits instituted in 1873 and 1877.

Comparing the figures with those for 1876, when the number of suits instituted was 19,429, and their value Rs. 35,05,382, the decrease is very marked; as there was an increase of over half a lakh of rupees in Cachar and Sylhet taken together, the decrease has clearly occurred altogether in the returns of the Assam Valley districts, and principally in the district of Goálpára, where in 1876 certain zemindars instituted suits against the Government to the aggregate value of 20 lakhs of rupees.

Classification of suits.

126. The number of cases of the several classes instituted during the past three years was as follows:—

	1876.	1876.	1877.
Small cause court class	15,519	15,345	16,748
Rent suits	1,351	937	1,415
Other cases	3,941	3,147	3,119
Total	20,811	19,429	21,282

In Sylhet no less than 1,335 rent suits were filed in the past, against 892 only in the previous year. There was at the same time an increase of 1,726 in the number of small cause court class cases in this district. In the absence of a small cause court, the Subordinate Judge is vested with small cause court powers for the trial of petty cases, but only 442 such cases were instituted before him. In the Valley districts there was a slight decrease in small cause court class cases and also in other cases.

The number of suits of the small cause court class filed in each district during the past two years was as follows:—

	1876.	1877.
Sylhet	6,833	8,559
Valley districts	6,965	6,743
Cachar	1,547	1,446

The number of other cases was as follows:—

	1876.	1877.
Sylhet.....	2,031	1,958
Valley districts	671	754
Cachar	445	407

In the Valley districts rent suits are tried by the revenue courts under Act X. of 1859, and are not therefore included in the returns.

The following were the chief classes of rent suits instituted in the Province during the last two years:—

Description of suits.	Civil Courts.		Revenue Courts.	
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
Arrears of rent	890	1,305	269	241
For pottahs or kabuliyats	3	7	38	72
For ejectment	18	76	14	3
Other suits under the Rent Law...	15	27	29	43
Total	926	1,415	350	359

The most noticeable features in the returns are the total absence of suits for enhancement of rent in the Province during the past year, and the large increase of suits for arrears of rent and for ejectment in Sylhet.

Of 3,119 "other suits" filed in 1877, 2,579 were suits for immoveable property and 184 for declaration of right to the same. The total number of suits for the enforcement of matrimonial rights was 208, as compared with 343 in the whole of the Lower Provinces of Bengal. In the Valley districts alone there were 143 suits of this description, compared with 102 in 1876 and 156 in 1875. With respect to them, the District Judge reports that in almost every case the evidence is of a meagre and unsatisfactory character. It is hardly possible to do justice between

the parties under the circumstances, and the Judge's suggestion that a law should be passed, rendering the registration of marriage among the Assamese compulsory, or at least optional, is worthy of consideration.

Suits how disposed of. 127. The manner in which suits were disposed of during the past four years was as follows :—

Year.	Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	Decided <i>ex parte</i> .	Contested.	Total.
1874	7,485	5,371	6,404	19,260
1875	7,816	5,645	7,850	21,311
1876	7,756	5,786	6,651	20,193
1877	7,984	6,918	5,987	20,889

From the above, it appears that in the past year the proportion of contested cases was 28·6 per cent., as compared with 32·4 per cent. in the previous year, while in Sylhet and Cachar the ratio was only 23 per cent., or less than the average in Bengal; in the Valley districts it was as high as 37·6 per cent. The difference in the results in Goalpara as compared with those in Nowgong and Sibságar, as shown in the margin, is very marked. The fact that in Goalpara the people and the pleaders are more intelligent and better educated than in the districts further up

Proportion of contested cases.

Goalpara.....	26 per cent.
Nowgong.....	54 " "
Sibságar.....	40 " "

the Valley of the Brahmaputra may, as has been suggested by the Judge, in some measure account for this feature in the returns. The character given to the vakeels as a body at Nowgong is far from favourable, and it may be that cases which ought not to have come into court at all are taken up by them, and that suitors are induced to resist just claims. The High Court has taken action, at the instance of the District Judge, with a view to inducing a better class of men to practice at the bar in Assam.

128. The result of trials for the past two years is shown below :—

	1876.	1877.
Judgment for plaintiff	11,571	12,105
Judgment for defendant	6,410	6,823
Compromised	1,864	1,961

The percentage of cases won by plaintiffs or compromised during year under review was 57·95 and 9·4 per cent., respectively, somewhat less than in Bengal. The percentage of cases won by the defendant was correspondingly greater, being 32·65 per cent., against 23·8 per cent. in the Lower Provinces. It may be that, with an inferior bar in Assam, cases are brought before the courts which in Bengal would not be instituted. Want of skill also probably affects the case of a plaintiff more seriously than it does the defence.

129. 180 applications under Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859 were disposed of during the year under report. 76 such applications were granted; the corresponding figures for 1876 being 86 applications granted out of 168 presented.

130. Of the 20,889 suits disposed of in Assam during the past year, 11 only exceeded Rs. 5,000 in value, as compared with 18 in the previous year. 17,847 suits, or 85·4 per cent. of the whole, were of less than Rs. 100 in value. Of

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338 cases decided in the revenue courts of the Valley districts, 6 only exceeded Rs. 100 in value, while of the rest 253 were petty suits involving a value of less than Rs. 20.

131. The following figures show the action taken in execution of decrees in the Province during the past three years:—

Year.	Completely.	Partially.	Amount realized. Rs.
1875	2,963	7,351	3,01,995
1876	2,981	8,149	2,55,459
1877	2,693	7,277	2,86,883

Of the 7,277 decrees shown as partially executed, 5,478 were cases in which the judgment creditor did not proceed, and in 1,799 cases only were partial realizations made. Including cases completely executed, the average amount realized was only Rs. 47-1, a figure much below that resulting in Bengal (Rs. 111-3). Considering the increase in the number of suits disposed of during the year, an increase in the number of applications for execution seemed probable. This followed in Sylhet and Cachar, but in the Valley districts there was a marked decrease in the number of decrees executed. The amount realized there, however, as well as in the other districts, increased considerably.

The total number of decrees satisfied without execution was 479, compared with 977 in 1876. The amount thus realized was Rs. 26,775 in the past, as compared with Rs. 26,416 in the previous year.

132. The following table shows the number and nature of coercive processes issued in execution of decree during the past three years in all the courts in Assam:—

Year.	Imprisonment of person.	Moveable property.		Immoveable property.		Orders under Section 243, C. P. C.
		Attached.	Sold.	Attached.	Sold.	
1875	115	1,003	380	1,896	105	2
1876	176	1,076	415	2,395	861	1
1877	134	1,047	440	2,828	1,020	1

The number of persons imprisoned has decreased and the number of cases in which moveable property was sold has increased. The number of decrees executed by possession being given has increased slightly, the figures being 965 cases in 1877, against 926 in 1876.

133. The number of original miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted, disposed of, and pending in the regular courts in Assam during the past two years were as follows:—

Year.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1876	2,020	2,006	293
1877	1,930	1,893	298

During the year under report cases of this class in the Province have decreased. This is due entirely to a falling off in the business of the courts in the Valley districts, there having been an increase

in Sylhet and Cachar. The disposals have not quite kept pace with the institutions, but the increase in the pending files is not material.

134. The number of cases disposed of, their distribution among courts of the several grades in the Province, and the average duration of cases during the past year were as follows:—

Courts.	Number of cases.		Average duration.			
	Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.		Uncontested.	
			M.	D.	M.	D.
Judges	7	17	2	23	1	20
Subordinate Judges ...	233	432	2	16	1	1
Munsifs	5,747	14,453	2	8	1	8

From the above statement it appears that the cases before the Judges and Subordinate Judges were very rapidly disposed of. The duration of suits in the munsifs' courts was not unduly long. It must be remembered, however, that in Assam there are no separate small cause courts to attract away petty cases of the class which is most easily disposed of.

135. The Subordinate Judge of Sylhet is the only officer vested with small cause court powers. By virtue of them, he disposed of 455 cases, 120 of which were contested.

Appellate Jurisdiction.
Business from Assam disposed of by the High Court.

136. The business disposed of by the High Court is not very great, as shown by the following figures, indicating the number of appeals of each class filed during each of the past two years:—

	1876.	1877.
Regular appeals	8	7
Special appeals	119	121
Miscellaneous appeals	10	6

During the year under report the decision of the lower court was reversed or varied in 3 regular, 26 special, and 2 miscellaneous appeals, the whole number of each class decided on trial being 9 regular, 145 special, and 4 miscellaneous appeals.

137. The number of appeals instituted, disposed of, and pending in the Province during the past three years, excluding the revenue courts, was as follows:—

	1875.	1876.	1877.
Instituted	1,743	1,512	1,206
Disposed of	1,461	1,617	1,327
Pending	525	431	334

The above figures indicate a large decrease in the business of the appellate courts in the Province. This decrease extended to Sylhet and Cachar, as well as to the Valley districts, but was most marked in the latter. The Judge remarks that in the Valley districts the cases are usually of a simple nature, and the grounds taken on appeal not sustainable. He finds it necessary to check frivolous applications to his court by refusing to interfere with the judgments of the lower courts, except on very good grounds.

As regards the courts of the Deputy-Commissioners, there was an increase in the number of appeals in Kámrúp, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and a decrease in the remaining districts. The decrease in Cachar may, as suggested by the Deputy-Commissioner, be due to a decrease in the number of original cases disposed of. A similar explanation may apply to Sylhet, where there was a decrease in the number of original suits tried on their merits.

The appellate courts having fewer cases to deal with, the pending files have been considerably reduced. In Sylhet there were four appeals of over one year's standing pending at the close of the year. These were cases remanded from the High Court, and were not ripe for decision before the new year commenced.

The ratio of appeals to original cases decided on the merits was 20·14 per cent. in the past, as compared with 23·12 per cent. in the previous year. In Sylhet, the ratio was 22·14 per cent., and in Cachar only 14·07 per cent. The great distance of the Judge's court from some of the Valley districts may be an obstacle to presenting appeals in many cases. In Cachar, however, where they are the least frequent, the Deputy-Commissioner is the District Judge.

138. The manner in which appeals decided on a hearing were disposed of is shown in the following table :—

How disposed of.	Number.		Percentage.	
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
Confirmed	1,137	903	71·4	69·78
Modified	126	100	7·9	7·73
Reversed	276	255	17·3	19·7
Remanded	55	36	3·4	2·79

The proportion of cases in which the decision of the lower court was reversed has increased. In the Valley districts the ratio was 24·22 per cent., while in Sylhet it was 15·5 per cent. It is satisfactory to observe that but few cases have been remanded on appeal. In Sylhet, 1·6 per cent. only were so dealt with.

139. The following table shows the number and value of the appeals of the several classes disposed of during the past year in the courts of the District and Subordinate Judges :—

Appeals disposed of, classed, and valued.

	Small Cause Court Class.	Rent suits.	Other class.	Total.		
				Number.	Value. Rs.	
Not exceeding Rs. 10...	60	46	91	197	1,210	
Ditto " 50...	293	38	205	536	15,122	
Ditto " 100...	165	8	103	276	20,285	
Ditto " 500...	140	7	116	263	58,220	
Ditto " 1,000...	19	...	13	32	22,744	
Ditto " 5,000...	7	...	11	18	36,790	
Total {	Number ...	684	99	539	1,322
	Value Rs.	79,204	2,937	72,230	1,54,371

The proportion of cases of small value is very large (76·3 per cent.) The average value of each appeal was only Rs. 116.

140. The manner in which the original cases decided were distributed between the several grades of courts was as follows :—

General and administrative work done.

	Original suits.		Miscellaneous cases.	
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
Judges	16	24	554	424
Subordinate Judges	756	665	533	554
Munsifs	19,073	20,200	7,170	8,487

141. In the Valley districts of Assam Proper temporary amins only were employed during the year, and the receipts covered the expenditure. In Sylhet and Cachar, where the amins employed were permanent, the receipts amounted to Rs. 1,663 only, against Rs. 1,920, the disbursements, not including charge for pensions.

Civil Court Amins.

142. The number of local inquiries held in the past year was 156. The number held in the previous year was 187. The decrease has occurred chiefly in cases of small value.

Local inquiries.

143. The following figures represent the receipts of the civil courts in this Province, and the proportion of costs of establishment properly debitable to civil justice:—

Cost of Civil Courts in Assam and receipts on account of court-fees.

Year.	Receipts. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.	Surplus. Rs.
1876	2,31,963	2,28,304	3,659
1877	2,33,925	2,06,837	27,088

In the Report for 1876, it was shown that the expenditure of the civil courts largely exceeded the receipts. The contrary result, arrived at in the above table, is due to a deduction of two-thirds of the charges, as representing roughly the proportion of cost debitable to other than the Civil Department. For 1877, as explained above, a share of the cost only, proportionate to the time devoted to civil judicial duties, has been treated as a charge. In the figures for both years a share of the salary of the Judge of Sylhet has been treated as expenditure.

The surplus shown for 1877 is considerably greater than that for 1876, but the figures for the latter year, it will be observed, are approximate only. The fact may be accepted, however, that, as a whole, the civil courts in Assam are self-supporting.

144. The ratio of civil suits to population in the Province during the year under report was .5 per cent., it was greatest (.9 per cent.) in Cachar, and least (.3 per cent.) in the Valley districts.

Ratio of suits to population.

The New Code of Civil Procedure came into force late in the year under report.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

145. The following table shows the work done by, and the financial position of, the Registration Department in this Province during the year under review, as compared with the year 1876-77:—

1 District.	2 Total number of registrations.		3 Receipts.		4 Expenditure.		5 Percentage of column 4 on column 3.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Cachar.....	1,907	2,056	1,968 9 9	1,772 5 0	1,785 5 4	1,732 15 10	90·7	97·8
Sylhet.....	4,713	6,304	9,412 0 6	11,056 0 4	5,942 11 6	6,857 15 11	63·1	62·9
Goalpara.....	788	2,096	888 0 0	1,963 11 0	1,160 2 1	1,732 6 5	120·6	88·2
Kamrup.....	557	535	928 15 0	802 9 0	1,026 14 8	1,061 1 1	110·5	132·2
Darrang.....	65	92	292 3 0	272 8 9	387 11 5	250 10 3	132·6	128·6
Nowrang.....	291	328	631 5 6	772 2 0	503 8 0	676 4 10	89·7	87·5
Sibsagar.....	652	821	865 4 0	1,503 4 0	765 4 1	1,275 15 0	88·4	84·9
Lakhimpur.....	81	110	216 0 0	284 6 0	113 13 6	213 3 8	52·7	75·0
Total.....	9,004	12,342	15,202 5 9	18,426 14 1	11,684 6 7	13,900 9 0	76·8	75·4
Office of Officer in Charge of Registration Department.	....	....	.....	3 0 0	796 4 3	1,908 3 8	....	....
Grand Total....	9,004	12,342	15,202 5 9	18,429 14 1	12,480 10 10	15,808 12 8	82·9	85·3

It will be seen from the above statement that in 1877-78, 12,342 documents were registered, as compared with 9,004 documents registered in 1876-77, and that the receipts during the year under review exceeded the receipts during the preceding year by Rs. 3,224-8-4. The expenditure likewise exceeded that of 1876-77 by Rs. 2,216-2-5.

There was a very remarkable increase in the total number of registrations, amounting to 37 per cent. In each district except Kamrup, a greater number of documents were registered than in 1876-77, which is a very encouraging sign. In the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara, the increase was very marked, in fact, in the latter district the number of registrations was nearly trebled. In the year 1876-77, there were three deficit districts. In the year under review there were two such districts only. Omitting the charges incurred in the office of the Officer in Charge of the Registration Department, the percentage of expenditure upon receipts fell from 76·8 to 75·4; but, on the whole, there has been an improvement in the financial position of the department. Under the new table of fees recently sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council a still further improvement is anticipated.

146. The following synopsis of Registration Form II. shows a very marked increase, more than 54 per cent., in the number of compulsory registrations, as compared with the year 1876-77; this increase is mainly

due to the numerous registrations of leases in the districts of Sylhet and Goálpára:—

Year.	Compulsory registrations.	Optional registrations.		Wills and authorities to adopt.	Total.
		Affecting immoveable property.	Affecting moveable property.		
1876-77	4,981	2,411	1,529	83	9,004
1877-78	7,693	2,790	1,783	76	12,342
Comparison	+2,712	+379	+254	-7	+3,333

147. The aggregate value of property transferred by documents brought to the several offices for registration was considerably more during the year under review than in the preceding year, as will appear from the following statement:—

District.	Total aggregate value.		Increase or decrease.
	1876-77.	1877-78.	
	Rs-	Rs-	Rs-
Cachar	3,47,885	3,42,320	-5,563
Sylhet	14,09,773	21,05,555	+6,95,782
Goálpára	1,07,809	1,77,092	+69,283
Kámrúp	2,61,046	1,83,497	-77,549
Darrang	47,237	45,904	-1,333
Nowgong	2,46,819	3,92,141	+1,45,322
Sibságar	3,59,029	7,27,843	+3,68,814
Lakhimpur	69,949	1,50,968	+81,019
Total.....	28,49,547	41,25,320	+12,75,773

148. The miscellaneous work of the department during the year 1877-78, as compared with the previous year, is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Wills deposited.	Powers of attorney authenticated.		Registrations on payment of fine under Section 34.	Registrations on payment of fine under Section 34.	Applications for searches and copies.	Prosecutions (Section 83).
		General.	Special.				
1876-77 .....	...	193	278	47	76	402	4
1877-78	2	180	256	52	100	437	.....

The receipts on account of miscellaneous operations amounted to Rs. 7,209, against Rs. 6,513 in 1876-77.

149. No change was made during the year in the number of registration offices at head-quarter stations and sub-divisions. Of the rural offices, that at Karinganj was abolished from the 1st June, 1877. From the same date an experimental office was opened at Ratabari, in Sylhet, for the convenience of some influential planters living in the vicinity; but it was found that in the first two months of its existence only 23 documents were presented for registration, and the office was consequently closed on the 1st September following. A new rural office was opened in March, 1878, at Rajnagar, with jurisdiction over thanahs Rajnagar and Hingajiva.

As far as the Chief Commissioner can at present judge, there is no call for the extension of the rural sub-registry system in this Province.

150. No prosecutions were instituted under the Registration Act during the year under report.

151. There was a very marked increase during the year in the number of marriage contracts registered, as compared with the previous year. The registration of these deeds is entirely confined to the Sarmá Valley districts. Deeds of divorce are confined to Sylhet. There was a slight increase during the year in this class of documents. Considering the number of cases relating to marriage which come before the courts in this country, and the difficulty of producing legal evidence of marriage, any increase in the number of marriage contracts registered is to be regarded with satisfaction.

152. The Registration Department was instrumental in bringing to light during the year a large number of documents which were insufficiently stamped. In the Sylhet district alone 45 documents were impounded.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPALITIES.

153. The number of municipal institutions in the Province was increased by one during the year under report: the station of Dibrugarh having been declared a township under Act VI. of 1868 (B.C.) from the commencement of the year. These institutions are now as follows:—

Gauhati.—Originally a Municipality under Act III. (B.C.) of 1864; now a first-class Municipality under Act V. (B.C.) of 1876.

Goálpára, Dibrugarh, and Sylhet.—Originally Towns under Act VI. (B.C.) of 1868; now second-class Municipalities under Act V. (B.C.) of 1876.

Silchar.—Originally a Chaukidari Union under Act XX. of 1856; now a Union under Act V. (B.C.) of 1876.

154. In all other sadar and sub-divisional stations in the Assam Valley (except Dhubri, the extension to which of the Municipal Act is under the Chief Commissioner's consideration) there is a fund called

During the year two new serais were built, some new roads opened and others metalled, and the maintenance and conservancy of the town were generally attended to. There is, however, much to be done before the conservancy of the town can be deemed even moderately satisfactory. Towards the close of the year a steamer was built to order in the Government Dockyard at Calcutta for ferry purposes, but it was not paid for, and its cost will have to be spread over the current and next year. The toll collected at the steam-ferry during the first month it worked was Rs. 605.

The incidence per head of population, calculated on the income from taxation, was 13 annas 5 pie, but it must be remembered that more than half of this income is derived from ferries, and that a great portion of the ferry-tolls are paid by people living beyond municipal limits.

158. In Dibrugarh, the receipts, including the unexpended balance of previous year, amounted to Rs. 19,131, and the expenditure to Rs. 5,744. No regular estimate for the Dibrugarh Town Fund was sanctioned. Act VI. (B.C.) of 1868, was only extended to the town on 1st April, 1877, and a budget had previously been sanctioned for the Town Improvement Fund of the whole district of Lakhimpur. This being the first year of the municipality, it was not possible to carry out work to the full extent proposed. But the conservancy of the town was attended to, and several projects for improving the town were taken into consideration. At present, both the town roads and the conservancy arrangements are in a lamentably backward state. It is hoped that in a short time considerable progress may be made in town improvements.

The incidence per head of population of actual taxation was 3 annas 9 pie.

159. The receipts of the year of the township of Sylhet, including the unexpended balance of previous years, amounted to Rs. 26,410, and the expenditure to Rs. 13,866, as compared with Rs. 17,472 originally estimated to be received and expended. No opening balance was included in the original estimate of receipts, which omission accounts for Rs. 5,145 of the increase under "Receipts."

The receipts under all heads of income were in excess of the amounts estimated, the increase under "Ferries" amounting to over Rs. 3,500, as compared with the income of 1876-77. There is a great increase under the head "House-tax," due to a revised assessment.

The incidence per head of population of actual taxation was Re. 1-3-4; but here again more than half of the receipts from taxation is due to ferry-tolls, of which only a small portion is paid by the inhabitants of the town.

The short expenditure of the year is chiefly under "Public Works," and is due to some of the metalling provided for not having been done for want of materials. Some metalling was, however, done, and existing roads were properly maintained. Some revision of the boundaries of the town appear to be necessary, and are under con-

sideration. The constitution of the Committee was not in accordance with the Act, and a revised Committee has been appointed since the close of year.

160. In Silchar the receipts amounted to Rs. 25,579, and the expenditure to Rs. 12,781, as compared with
 Silchar. Rs. 21,782 and Rs. 12,190 originally estimated for. Rs. 16,900 of the receipts are due to the opening balance, and the actual income of the year was only Rs. 8,679. The balance has, therefore, been reduced by about Rs. 4,000, Rs. 3,000 of which were expended on improving communications in the neighbourhood of Silchar. The roads in the station were repaired and re-metalled, and are now in fair condition, and a good deal was done to improve drainage. A new police thannah and pound were built, and a contribution was made towards the construction of a serai.

The conservancy of the town was attended to, and land was purchased for a new latrine. The incidence per head of population, calculated on the income from taxation amounting to Rs. 7,513, was Rs. 2-0-2; but under the head of "Taxation" are included receipts from ferries (Rs. 3,135), mela (Rs. 935), sale of bazaar lands (Rs. 1,100), fisheries (Rs. 78), which can hardly be regarded as taxation. The incidence of actual taxation is very small.

161. From these remarks, it will be seen that no works of importance were carried out during the year, but the general duties of maintenance and conservancy were attended to. The Chief Commissioner considers that there is still much room for improvement in the administration of Municipal funds. During the current year the Bengal Consolidated Municipal Act (Act V. of 1876) has been extended to Assam, and it is hoped that the very clear rulings therein laid down as to the duties and powers of the Commissioners will be attended to.

It may be noticed that in most of the Municipalities the amount expended on conservancy bears a very small proportion to the total expenditure. In the small thinly-populated towns of Assam it is not possible to have elaborate conservancy arrangements such as are essential in larger cities. A good deal of the money included under the head of "Maintenance and repair of roads" is expended in clearing side drains, &c.; and in Assam there is nothing of more importance than ensuring that the rainfall is allowed to drain off properly. Other sanitary requirements of towns, such as a good water-supply, &c., are beyond the means of the present municipalities of Assam, but the Chief Commissioner believes that due attention is paid to the cleaning of tanks.

SECTION 9.—MILITARY.

162. The distribution of the military force in the Province during the year is shown in the annexed statement:—

Regiment.	Stations.		Strength.	
	Head-quarters.	Outposts.	British Officers.	Natives of all ranks.
35th Native Infantry	Cachar	Cachar	8	504
		Monierkhal ...	.....	50
		Noarbund.....	.....	40
		Manipur .....	.....	92
42nd Assam Light Infantry ...	Shillong .....	.....	6	648
		Samaguting...	.....	52
		Jowai .....	.....	50
		Alinagar .....	.....	47
		Chargola .....	.....	49
43rd Ditto ditto ...	Dibrugarh ...	.....	4	621
		Sadiya	1	125
		Pobamukh ...	.....	46
		Sesri .....	.....	24
		Dibong .....	.....	14
		Wokha	1	59
44th Sylhet Light Infantry ...	Shillong .....	.....	5	483
		Gauháti	2	247
		Tezpur .....	.....	113
		Oodalguri .....	.....	59

163. The relief of the local regiments having been carried out during the cold season of 1877-78, the following change of stations took place: The 42nd Assam Light Infantry moved up from Gauháti to Shillong; the 43rd Assam Light Infantry moved up from Shillong to Dibrugarh; and the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry moved down from Dibrugarh to Gauháti. Gauháti having been given up as a head-quarters station owing to its unhealthiness, the head-quarters of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry moved up to Shillong leaving a half battalion at Gauháti.

164. A detachment of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, strength 41 Natives of all ranks, marched from Golághát on the 13th July, 1877, for Samaguting, to reinforce the police at that station, a movement necessitated by the hostile attitude of the Nágas. A punitive expedition under the command of Captain Brydon, 42nd Assam Light Infantry, consisting of two British officers and 210 fighting men of that regiment, with 236 non-combatants (75 hospital attendants, 156 coolies, and 5 servants), proceeded from Gauháti on the 19th November, 1877, for the Nága Hills. This detachment attacked and captured the village of Mozemah, against which the movement was directed.

A reinforcement of 100 men of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Macgregor, 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, left Dibrugarh for Mozemah upon the 27th December, 1877.

The Manipur detachment, increased to 92 fighting men, under the orders of the Political Agent at Manipur, marched early in January from Manipur, to make a demonstration in the rear of the hostile Nágas.

The Golághát detachment, increased to fifty men, under Captain Beresford, 43rd Assam Light Infantry, proceeded to Wokha to co-operate with Captain Brydon's force, and, if necessary, to check any demonstrations from the Nága tribes in that direction.

The refractory villages having given in their submission, and having paid the fines imposed upon them, the force was withdrawn, Wokha being permanently occupied as an outpost, and a force of fifty men being left at Samaguting as a precautionary measure for the present.

A detachment of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, consisting of 25 men under a Native Officer, was despatched on 20th November, 1877, from Dibrugarh to Lakhimpur, as an escort for the survey party, proceeding up the Subansiri Valley under Lieutenants Woodthorpe and Harman.

A detachment of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry, consisting of 40 men, was despatched from Dibrugarh in January, 1878, to escort the survey party under the command of Lieutenants Woodthorpe and Harman up the Valley of the Brahmaputra north-east of Sadiya.

No collision with the hill tribes took place.

165. New stockades have been constructed at Wokha, Alinagar, and Chargola during the year under review, the stockades of Alinagar and Chargola being moved some few miles further south.

Outposts.

Nowgong was given up as a military station, as also was Golághát.

The outposts of Mainadahar and Jirighat were also given up on account of their extreme unhealthiness.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

166. THE weather throughout the year under review was, generally speaking, favourable for agricultural operations. The *Sali* and *Aus* rice crops gave a fair outturn, and the other crops, such as jute, mustard, sugarcane, pulse, &c., were fairly good.

The Province was not visited by any cyclone, severe storm, or inundation, with the exception of the southern portion of Sylhet, where a storm caused some damage to the crops and houses.

In some districts the *Sali* crop suffered partially, owing to the unseasonable rainfall; but, on the other hand, the *Aus* crop was abundant, and no distress was experienced. The high prices of the previous year continued, however, to prevail during the year under report. The famine in Southern and Western India was probably, as regards the Surmá Valley at least, the cause of the continuation of these high prices. As, however, increased facilities of communication tend to cause increased exportation of food-grains, it is extremely doubtful if the prices of these grains will ever fall to their former level.

167. The following statement shows the rainfall registered in each district of the Province during the years 1875, 1876, and 1877.

Stations.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average of preceding six years.
<i>Surmá Valley Districts.</i>				
Sylhet	183·79	150·73	158·23	157·83
Cachar	132·53	141·62	128·03	118·94
{ Silchar	104·78	100·47	94·92	100·57
{ Háilákánda				
<i>Brahmaputra Valley Districts.</i>				
Goálpára	97·57	87·89	80·30	92·47
{ Dhubri	91·64	94·50	68·95	93·15
{ Gauháti	54·88	65·86	56·66	60·71
Kámrúp	96·06	113·22	75·88	97·61
{ Barpetá	84·03	58·15	73·03	74·05
Darrang	66·22	64·67	50·02	65·59
{ Mangaldai	69·59	63·90	54·91	90·62
Nowgong	103·28	83·73	92·60	101·87
{ Sibságar				

Stations.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average of preceding six years.	
<i>Brahmaputra Valley Districts.—(Contd.)</i>					
Sibságar	{ Jorhát	84·54	70·27	74·77	81·88
	{ Golághát	79·24	76·81	78·59	80·10
	{ Dibrugarh.....	104·29	106·97	109·00	110·28
Lakhimpur.....	{ North Lakhimpur.....	140·07	117·11	132·46	120·02*
	{ Jaisipur† .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	{ Sadiya .....	.....	.....	108·03	.....
<i>Hill Districts.</i>					
Khási and Jaintiá Hills.	{ Shillong.....	100·21	98·00	104·53	83·98
	{ Cherra Poonjee.....	321·45	468·67	362·86†	397·05
	{ Jowai	241·66	307·32	361·66	169·23
Gáro Hills	Tura	119·70	98·33	114·33	109·53
Nága Hills.....	Samaguting	59·07	53·76	73·51	53·43

* Average of four years.

† No record.

‡ Since 20th April, 1877.

From this statement it will be observed that the rainfall during the year in the Brahmaputra Valley was below the average, while, on the whole, in the Surmá Valley and in the hill districts the fall was above the average.

In the plains districts the rains set in later than usual, and the crops suffered to some extent in consequence; but in the hill districts the reverse was the case, the crops suffering somewhat from excessive rain early in the year.

168. The condition of the people is described as generally prosperous. The prices of food-grains and other agricultural produce fluctuated but little during the year.

169. The accompanying table gives the average monthly rate in each district of rice, which may be taken as the standard staple :—

Districts.	Average quantities of rice per rupee during the year 1877-78.											
	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Sylhet	24 8	24 8	24 8	23 3	18 14	17 12	15 0	20 0	20 0	18 12	17 0	12 6
Cachar.....	22 8	21 9	19 12	18 8	16 14	16 12	14 8	16 0	17 8	16 8	15 3	12 5
Goalpara.....	20 8	20 9	19 4	15 9	14 0	14 0	14 8	19 0	17 12	16 6	16 0	16 4
Kámrúp	13 8	16 12	15 8	13 0	13 0	13 4	14 0	16 0	17 8	15 0	16 8	13 0
Darrang	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0	9 12	11 0	10 12	11 1	11 8	11 2
Nowgong	14 0	14 0	13 4	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0
Sibságar	12 0	11 0	9 8	9 4	7 6	7 4	8 12	10 0	8 12	11 13	14 0	13 8
Lakhimpur	11 0	11 0	11 0	10 12	10 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	11 4	11 0	11 0	10 4
Khási Hills	11 0	11 3	11 0	11 0	9 9	9 10	6 6	10 0	10 0	9 6	8 6	7 8
Gáro	16 0	16 6	14 0	14 0	12 3	12 8	10 4	14 0	14 0	12 6	12 0	9 8
Nága	8 0	8 9	9 0	9 0	8 6	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

170. The cultivation at the Shillong Farm was, as in the previous year, almost entirely confined to experimental sowings of wheat, barley, and oats. As in former years considerable difficulty had been experienced in getting these cereals reaped and threshed before the rains set in at the elevation of the farm, 5,500 feet, experimental sowings were directed to be made on the left bank of the Umiam river, where this river is crossed by the Gauháti and Shillong cart-road, at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

The sowings made in the autumn of 1877 at the Umiam were, however, a comparative failure, owing to the poverty of the soil and the want of manure. On the other hand, the results of the sowings of these cereals at the Shillong Farm were very much better than in former years, owing to the increased fertility of the soil consequent upon the application of manure year by year. The experience gained from these sowings during the last four years shows that wheat and barley will grow much better at an elevation of 4,000 feet than at a higher elevation, while oats do well at from 4,000 to 5,500 feet. But, whatever the elevation, the soil in these localities requires to be richly manured, and the land to be hoed or ploughed when the soil is comparatively dry, before success can be obtained. Sowing should be commenced in the beginning of October. The seed which has been found best suited for these hills is the seed grown at the farm from Sealkote stock. Some seed-grain, barley, wheat, and oats, was distributed among several of the Khási Seims, but they paid no attention to the instructions they received, and, consequently, the sowings made by them proved a failure.

A few vegetables were grown at the farm during the year. They were readily disposed of at remunerative prices.

The English potatoes sown did very well, but only one crop was obtained. The older variety of potato acclimatized in these hills yields two crops in the year, and is, for this reason, preferred by the cultivators.

The growth of the fruit-trees has been vigorous. They are intended as stock plants to graft from.

171. No purchases of live-stock were made during the year. The live-stock kept at the farm consisted of—

Hansi bulls	...	...	...	...	2
„ calves	...	...	...	...	3
„ cow	...	...	...	...	1
Bhutia bull	...	...	...	...	1
Khási cows	...	...	...	...	14
„ bullocks	...	...	...	...	3
„ calves	...	...	...	...	20
English ram	...	...	...	...	1
Nepalese sheep	...	...	...	...	25
„ lambs	...	...	...	...	6

The Khásias cannot be induced to breed sheep. They say that sheep require too much attention. One Hansi cow and a Manipuri

calf died during the year; five bullocks were exchanged for Khási cows; and six lambs were born during the year.

172. The permanent establishment entertained at the farm remained the same as in 1876-77, viz. :—

				Rs.
1 sirdar on	...	...	...	50 per mensem.
1 chaukidar on	...	...	...	12 " "

173. The receipts and expenditure during the year were as follows :—

				Rs.	A.	P.
Receipts	...	...	...	977	3	9
Expenditure	...	...	...	2,105	15	6
Deficit.....				1,128	11	9

The deficit in 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 7,395-11-11, owing to the entertainment for nine months of the year of a European Superintendent. The receipts in 1876-77 amounted to only Rs. 499-15-6. There will always, the Chief Commissioner fears, be a deficit, but the increase in the receipts is encouraging. Increased cultivation of vegetables would, probably, reduce the yearly deficit to a nominal sum.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

174. The area added to the Government forest reserves during the year was 72·37 square miles in the Goálpára district. This area comprises the following two sál forests :—

Forest reserves.
Area and boundaries.

			Area in square miles.
The Sidli forest reserve	...	...	68·37
An addition to the second or western part of the Chirang Duar reserve	...	...	4
Total	...	...	72·37

Besides these, considerable areas of forest in the Goálpára, Kámrup, Darrang, and Nowgong districts, were inspected by forest officers in detail, and were demarcated and reported on, with the view of having them declared forest reserves.

175. The work of demarcating forest boundaries was pushed on vigorously during the year over an area of 34 miles in the Cachar division. In the Goálpára division, the Goma, Ripu, and Chirang reserves were demarcated; in the subhátí division, the Barduar, Kulsi, and Jara reserves were completed; in the Tezpur division, the Khalingduar, Sagunbai, and Kolahat forests; and in the Golághát division, the Mikir Hills reserves were demarcated; and thus encroachments on these forests have been effectually prevented.

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176. Valuation surveys were carried out in the Goalpara division over a length of line measuring $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and an area of 298.6 acres; they show the following results:—

Saplings under one cubit abundant all through the forests.			
Second-class trees, from 1 to 2 cubits	.....	3,877	on a hundred acres.
Third-class ditto 2 to 3	.....	595	ditto.
Fourth-class ditto 3 to 4	.....	46	ditto.
Total		4,518	

In the Gauhati division, the valuation surveys extended over an area of 396 acres, and show the following results:—

Barduar Reserve.

Saplings under one cubit abundant all through the forest.			
Second-class trees, from 1 to 2 cubits	.....	1,626	on a hundred acres.
Third-class ditto 2 to 3	.....	927	ditto.
Fourth-class ditto 3 to 4	.....	220	ditto.
Fifth-class ditto 4 to 5	.....	17	ditto.
Total.....		2,790	

First addition to the Barduar Reserve.

Saplings under one cubit abundant all through the forest.			
Second-class trees from 1 to 2 cubits	.....	2,657	on a hundred acres.
Third-class ditto 2 to 3	.....	337	ditto.
Fourth-class ditto 3 to 4	.....	66	ditto.
Fifth-class ditto 4 to 5	.....	4	ditto.
Total.....		3,064	

177. The preparation of accurate maps of the Cachar forest reserves, and of the private estates adjoining or included in them, has received much attention during the year. Maps of twenty-three of these estates have been completed.

Protection and improvement of forests.

178. The permanent establishments have been strengthened by the following additions:—

1 Sub-Assistant-Conservator,	|	4 forest-rangers,
1 clerk,		and
2 peons,		27 forest-guards.

By these additions, the organization of a forest division for the district of Sibsagar was made possible, and the formation of such a division was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

Trespass by ryots in the reserve forests is very rare in Assam, as compared with other parts of India, as the forest products ordinarily required by the Assam ryots are easily obtained free of payment from the open or district forests, which are of great extent.

Three cases of encroachment upon forest reserves were brought to light during the year. The most serious of these encroachments occurred in the Parbatjuar forest, in Goalpara, where an area of over two square miles was taken possession of by the order of the

Parbatjuar zemindars. This tract, however, as well as the trees felled, was recovered by the Department. A case of alleged encroachment upon the Kholahat reserve is still under investigation. The third case occurred in the Mikir Hills reserve; it was discovered at once, and further encroachment was put a stop to.

179. Notwithstanding the unusual dryness of the season, the work of protecting forests from jungle fires was carried on with marked success, especially in the Gauháti division, where the aid and co-operation of the neighbouring villagers was enlisted in the work. Valuable assistance in this respect was also received from the inhabitants of a village near the Sidli reserve. Fire-protection is of the first importance in the case of reserved forests, and without it conservancy operations are mere waste of time and money. In the Tezpur division fire-protection operations were fairly successful. The Chief Commissioner considers that if ever the people can be brought to clearly understand the mischievous effects of carelessly setting fire to the jungle, fire-protection will be a comparatively easy matter. He would be glad to think that the operations of the Forest Department have some educational value from this point of view.

180. Creeper-cutting operations in the sál forests of the Gauháti division, at a total cost of Rs 356-1-9, extended over an area of five square miles. This is a most necessary work, as the creepers, if not cut while young, spoil the shape of the trees, and should be carried out systematically.

181. The improvement of the forest roads was carried out in the Gauháti, Tezpur, and Golághát divisions. In the Goálpára division the forests have become more accessible by reason of the construction of a new district road. The forest house at Dhubri, in the Goálpára division, was completed, and the building of another one at Golághát was commenced and nearly completed.

182. The extensions in the caoutchouc plantations during the year were as follows:--

Charduar plantation.....	143 acres
Kulsi „	11 „
	Total..... 154 „

The growth of the trees in both plantations has been most vigorous, but the deer were even more destructive than in former years. However, the new kinds of fencing since introduced have up to date been sufficient to protect the young trees.

For the purpose of transplanting trees, the nursery has been extended by about half an acre, and the propagation of rubber-trees by seed has in the Charduar plantation been most successful, where 37,234 seedlings were alive when last counted. That shading is absolutely necessary for young seedlings has been established beyond doubt during the year, and vertical shade is preferable to horizontal, as it causes no drip. No cuttings were made, as seedlings are hardier and transplant better.

183. In the timber plantations at the Kulsí, the growth of the trees has also been satisfactory, and, whilst the older plantations were gone over and the trees pruned and thinned out, a new clearance of 20 acres was made, which has been sown with teak since the close of the year.

The growth of the exotic trees in the Shillong plantation is slow, and many of the *Eucalypti* have been killed by frost. The growth of indigenous trees is satisfactory.

The experimental sowings of the nahor and ajhar in the Golághát division have been most successful, and the young trees are very promising.

In the experimental teak plantation at Makum the growth of the trees has been very good, but the borer is very prevalent, and does much damage to the trees.

These experimental plantations have all undoubted use, not merely from an educational point of view, but as testing the suitability of soil and climate for timber carrying a higher commercial value than the indigenous forest trees; and, as long as they are conducted with strict economy, the Chief Commissioner would wish to continue the experiments.

184. No change was made in the different systems by which timber is worked out from the forests. The number of trees felled by the Department was as follows:—

Yield and working.

Goálpára division	6
Gauháti „	554
Tezpur „	222
Golághát „	575
	—
Total.....	1,357
	—

The number of trees sold standing in the reserved forests was 297, as compared with 523 in 1876-77. All these trees were converted into dug-outs. The 4,300 pieces of dead sál-wood worked out by the Mech Duffadars on their own account in the Goálpára forest division, and which remained in depôt at the close of last year, were sold, and the Government revenue, amounting to Rs. 5,578, realized.

185. Under Section 20 of the Forest Rules, the following places in the Goálpára district were gazetted as stations for the exercise of control over timber and boats imported from Bhután, viz.:—

Dutma, on the Langa River.
Rajadabri, on the Garopila River.

186. In the Cachar division the following licenses were granted, as compared with the previous year:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Licenses for elephants to drag timber	77	197
(2) Licenses for cutting timber, bamboos, canes, and grass.....	1,511	2,198

187. The forest produce which passed and paid revenue at Sealtak, in Cachar, is shown in the following table:—

Logs.			Posts and planks.			Bamboos.		Canes.		Grass, &c.		Firewood and charcoal.	
Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Cubic contents.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number of bundles.	Amount.	Number of rafts.	Amount.	Number of maunds.	Amount.
		Rs. As. P.			Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.		Rs. A.		Rs. As.
3,293	59,458	8,777 12 5	879	1,214	336 0 5	358,059	447 9 2	19,357	295 0 8	213	532 8	218	27 5

188. Seventy-eight specimens of wood were sent from Assam to the Paris Exhibition.

189. The following Government open or district forests were gazetted during the year:—

In the Sylhet District.

	Area.
The Langai and Singla forest	200 square miles.

In the Lakhimpur District.

The Bhorolwah forest	8·25	„
The Kuddum	24·79	„
The Parapara	41·75	„
The Upper Dehing	236·85	„
The Dehingmukh	21·48	„
The Jokai	20·24	„
The Salaguri	106·44	„
Total.....	459·80	„

In the Sibsagar District.

The Panidehingia forest	30	„
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The system of timber felling in the open or district forests has been revised during the year, and rules were prescribed for the collection of revenue from these forests, in which a distinction was ordered to be made between superior and inferior forests, the former to be conserved permanently as forests and the latter to be surrendered for cultivation if necessary. Rules were also prescribed by the Chief Commissioner for regulating the payment for valuable timber on land allotted for purposes of cultivation.

The measures taken for the protection of these forests have borne good fruit, and they ensure great indirect advantage in educating the fiscal officers of the Province to understand the advantages and meaning of forest protection.

190. The quantity of caoutchouc exported from Assam during the last two years is as follows:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Mauuds.	Mauuds.
Gáro Hills	50	62
Goalpara	1,104	1,170
Kámrúp	227	488
Darrang	853	1,183
Nowgong	1,335	1,206
Sibságar	514	44
Lakhimpur	5,114	4,817
Cachar	275	1,290
Sylhet.....	740	483
Total.....	10,212	10,743

Financial results.

191. The forest revenue collected, as compared with the previous year, was as follows:—

Receipts, 1876-77.	Receipts, 1877-78.	Increase, 1877-78.
Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
81,568	1,34,325	52,757

This increase is chiefly to be attributed to the improved system of collecting forest revenue in the open or district forests. This result is especially satisfactory, as showing that District Officers are taking a real interest in forest matters. The expenditure during the year under report, as compared with the previous year, has been as follows:—

Budget heads.	1876-77.	1877-78.	Increase.
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
A.—Conservancy and works.....	42,004	48,954	6,950
B.—Establishments	47,915	51,332	3,417
Total.....	89,919	1,00,286	10,367

Expenditure may be expected to be high for some years to come, as long as demarcation and survey work have to be carried out.

192. The distribution of receipts and expenditure in the different divisions is shown in the following table:—

Name of division.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Surplus.			Deficit.		
	Ra.	As.	P.	Ra.	As.	P.	Ra.	As.	P.	Ra.	As.	P.
Direction	4,019	7	9	15,774	12	6	.....	.....	.....	11,755	4	9
Gauhati division	8,241	8	9	19,591	6	7	.....	.....	.....	11,349	18	10
Tezpur	4,314	9	7	18,571	2	11	.....	.....	.....	14,256	9	4
Golághát	2,133	4	6	9,762	15	2	.....	.....	.....	7,629	10	8
Goalpara	9,553	0	4	16,149	11	0	.....	.....	.....	6,596	10	8
Cachar	13,230	13	8	8,915	10	1	4,315	3	7	.....	.....	.....
Civil Officers	92,832	14	8	11,520	14	5	81,312	0	3	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	1,34,325	11	3	1,00,286	8	8	85,627	3	10	51,698	1	3

The above figures show that the major portion of the forest revenue was realized by civil officers, and this will be the case for some years to come, since the more valuable forests in charge of the forest

officers have been so overworked in former times that they require rest for the present, and can only be worked to a limited extent.

193. The amount of forest revenue collected in each district during the year under notice, as compared with the previous year, was as follows:—

District.	Forest revenue, 1876-77.			Forest revenue, 1877-78.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Garo Hills	9,785	9	3	18,642	7	5	8,856	14	2			
Kamrup	7,178	8	0	4,523	10	0				2,654	14	0
Nowgong	3,867	2	0	8,613	9	3	4,746	7	3			
Darrang	6,123	7	2	19,286	3	9	13,162	12	7			
Sibsagar	5,647	13	0	27,321	10	6	21,673	13	6			
Lakhimpur	2,992	10	0	8,479	9	0	5,486	15	0			
Naga Hills	42	0	0	24	0	0				18	0	0
Khasi "	773	0	0	3,711	2	9	2,938	2	9			
Sylhet "				204	1	0	204	1	0			
Cachar	5,936	0	0	2,126	9	0				3,809	7	0
Total.....	42,346	1	5	92,832	14	8	56,969	2	3	6,482	5	0

194. The transactions of the Forest Department during 1877-78 are exhibited under the three major heads in the following table:—

Service heads.	Receipt. Rs.	Charges. Rs.
I.—Departmental timber operations	15,877	25,037
II.—Other revenue	1,18,448	25,846
III.—Formation, protection, and improvement of the forests .....	.....	49,403
Total	1,34,325	1,00,286

195. On the whole, the Chief Commissioner considers the financial results of the year to be satisfactory. For some time to come excess expenditure in the management of the reserves must be expected; but the total forest receipts show a steady increase, and, with fuller establishments, the accounts of future years, it is hoped, will exhibit an ever-increasing surplus.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND MINERALS.

196. There is nothing to add under this head to the information already given in previous reports.

The nature and extent of the mineral resources of the Province were fully detailed in the General Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76. No further discoveries have to be reported during the year under review, but some steps have been taken towards utilizing the information previously obtained.

197. The lime-quarries in the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, which have hitherto for many years past been held on a monopoly by Messrs. Inglis & Co., by whom the trade was first developed, will shortly, it is hoped, be thrown open to the public, as most of the leases held by the above Company terminate at the close of September, 1878. Colonel Keatinge

submitted, in June, 1877, to the Government of India a proposition for breaking up the existing monopoly and putting up the quarries to public auction on such conditions as would prevent the quarries being again secured by a single firm, and would restore the lime trade to a healthy footing of open competition.

198. An application was received in January, 1878, from a newly-formed association called the Assam Mineral Oils Company, for the grant of a concession of land and right to dig for petroleum in the neighbourhood of Jaipur, in the Lakhimpur district, where large deposits of this oil are known to exist, and where Mr. Goodenough's attempts to work it were made in 1868.

The application was very favourably entertained by the Chief Commissioner, and was forwarded by him, with his recommendation and suggestions as to the terms of the concession, to the Government of India.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

199. There is nothing to add to the general description of the manufactures of the Province contained in the permanent portion of the Administration Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76. The manufacture of tea will, as in the two previous reports, be dealt with separately.

200. *Tea.*—A new form of statement illustrative of the state of tea culture in the Province was prescribed during the year by the Government of India, but many of the planters raised objections to the form on account of its minuteness, and declined to submit any returns whatever. In several instances the returns received were so incomplete as to render them worthless for statistical purposes. Some difficulty has also been experienced in ascertaining the actual number of gardens existing in each district: small gardens are being continually opened out on lands taken up under ordinary pottahs, and the existence of these gardens is often not discovered until a considerable period after the commencement of operations. For the reasons noted above, the statistics given in this section can by no means lay claim to correctness, but every endeavour has been made to make them as accurate as possible. Figures for the gardens from which no returns have been received have been extracted from the returns received in previous years. As stated in last year's report, it is hopeless to expect to obtain complete returns concerning tea culture for the whole Province, as long as their submission by the planters is altogether optional.

201. The total area held under the different kinds of tenures in force in the Province for the purpose of tea cultivation is as follows:—

Tenure.	Number of estates.	Area.
Old Assam Rules	70	72,821 acres,
Ordinary cultivation leases	906	135,365 "
Fee-simple	327	192,254 "
Old Assam Rules, but since } ...	254	263,996 "
commuted to fee-simple. }		
New Thirty-years' Lease Rules ...	161	71,646 "
Total.....	1,718	736,082 "

According to the detailed district returns, the total area taken up in the Province for the cultivation of tea (excluding the land taken up as accessory to the land required for tea cultivation, but unfit for that purpose) is 538,961 acres.

The total outturn of tea during the year, as shown by the returns, was 23,352,298lb, the average yield per acre having been 286lb, an average very close indeed to that given in the General Administration Report in this Province for 1874-75 and 1875-76, page 10, para. 48, where the generally accepted average outturn is stated at 280lb.

Owing to the widest divergence of opinion on the matter among the planters, it has been found impossible to give figures for the Province showing the cost of cultivation and manufacture.

The prices received for tea during the year were generally low, and are said to have been caused by the market having been flooded with coarse teas during previous years.

Machinery of all kinds is being introduced into all the large gardens in the Province. On the whole, the condition of the industry in Assam may be pronounced satisfactory.

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

202. In last year's report the measures initiated with a view to the systematic registration of the trade between Assam and the adjacent foreign countries were detailed, and the nature of the trade with each of the several countries and tribes on our border was described.

As the statistics then submitted were only for the last quarter of the year 1876-77, and were admittedly incomplete and untrustworthy, no useful comparison can be made between them and the statistics for the year under review. Indeed, the Chief Commissioner is not prepared to say that the statistics for 1877-78 are very much more trustworthy than those for the preceding year. The means at his disposal for the collection of these statistics are so inadequate, considering the nature of the trade and the difficulties inseparable from its due registration, that it is hopeless to expect correct returns, while, at the same time, the trade is of too petty a nature to warrant a large expenditure.

The manner in which the frontier trade of the Province is registered was fully described in the Report for 1876-77, and the agency has remained unchanged. The comparative tables given in this section must, therefore, be taken for what they are worth, and the Chief Commissioner has made no attempt to draw any but the most general deductions from them.

203. The foreign countries and border tribes with which a trading

- (1.) Bhutan.
- (2.) The Mishmi Hills.
- (3.) The Naga Hills.
- (4.) Manipur.
- (5.) The Lushai Hills.
- (6.) Hill Tipperah.

intercourse is maintained across the frontier of this Province are given in the margin. They are the same as enumerated in the corresponding section of last year's report,—no new market or outlet for trade has been opened. No

change was made during the year in the manner of registering the trade statistics, nor in the number or position of the registering stations. This

trade is, as might be expected from the poverty and uncivilized condition of the hill tribes, of an insignificant character and very limited in extent; it is chiefly confined to petty transactions of barter at the large annual fairs attended by these tribes, and any considerable expansion of it can hardly be looked forward to. The want of communications between this Province and adjoining foreign countries is a formidable obstacle in the way of any material development of the frontier trade. Routes practicable for trading purposes across the intervening hills have yet to be explored, and the establishment of regular commercial intercourse under such conditions must necessarily be a work of time, and only to be accomplished with much perseverance and at considerable cost. Some expansion of the trade with Manipur might be expected, were the Manipur authorities to lower the rates of duty levied by them upon imports and exports, but the total value of the frontier trade would not be much increased thereby.

204. The following statement shows the total value of the export and import trade between Assam and the adjoining non-British territories during the years 1876-77 and 1877-78, as shown by the returns:—

Statistics of trade with adjoining non-British territories.

Non-British territories.	1876-77.	1877-78.	Result.	
	Value. Rs.	Value. Rs.	Increase in 1877-78. Rs.	Decrease in 1877-78. Rs.
Imports into Assam from—				
Bhután	91,546	1,60,074	68,528	.....
Nāga and Mishmi Hills	58,034	44,771	.....	13,263
Hill Tipperah	35,256	3,70,164	3,34,908	.....
Lushai Hills	34,363	1,13,875	79,512	.....
Manipur	5,231	45,362	40,131	.....
Total	2,24,430	7,34,246	5,09,816	.....
Exports from Assam into—				
Bhután	1,98,423	80,969	.....	1,17,454
Nāga and Mishmi Hills	23,536	35,330	11,794	.....
Hill Tipperah	3,107	18,741	15,634	.....
Lushai Hills	17,360	42,194	24,834	.....
Manipur	29,780	70,716	40,936	.....
Total	2,72,206	2,47,950	.....	24,256

From this statement it appears that, whereas in 1876-77 the exports from Assam exceeded in value the imports into Assam, the converse took place in 1877-78, when the total value of the export trade amounted to less than one-third of the value of the import trade. It was observed indeed, in last year's report, that "the tendency of half-civilized frontier tribes would seem ordinarily to be to take away specie to be utilized, probably, partly in making ornaments, and partly as a medium of exchange and a convenient means of storing property," and, therefore, an excess in the aggregate value of the imports over the exports in the frontier trade of the entire Province is a result to be expected. Whether, however, the excess of imports over exports is so preponderating as would appear from the above table may be well doubted; but it should be noted that this excess is mainly due to the

returned import trade with Hill Tipperah and the Lushai Hills, the trade with which countries, consisting principally of timber and bamboos, floated down the hill streams during the rains, is almost entirely suspended during the cold season, and consequently did not appear in the returns for 1876-77. The excess of exports over imports, too, shown in the report for last year was due to the large amount of silk, to the value of Rs. 1,45,943, reported as taken from the Kámrúp district into Bhután. These figures, which were then noticed as open to great suspicion, are now admitted to be incorrect. Hence, also, the apparent falling off during the year under report in the export trade from Assam into Bhután. The decrease in the import trade with the Nága and Mishmi Hills is believed to be real.

205. The following table shows the principal articles of import and export, and their total value, as compared with the previous year :—

Imports.

Imports into Assam from	Timber.		Bamboos.		Cnouthouc.		Blankets.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután .....	.....	123	..	.....	13,230	14,519	18,215	75,630
Nága and Mishmi Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46,110	35,032	.....	.....
Hill Tipperah	205	1,37,070	14,440	1,39,599	6,150	.....	.....	.....
Lushai Hills	3,170	21,763	20	2,293	27,630	83,857	.....	.....
Manipur .....	.....	5,623	18	10,050	210	350	.....	.....
Total.....	3,375	1,44,669	14,488	1,51,942	93,380	1,33,768	18,215	75,630

Imports.—(Continued.)

Imports into Assam from	Cotton, raw.		Horses and ponies.		Wax.		Gold.		Cotton piece-goods (Indian).	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Bs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután .....	.....	.....	18,640	16,492	.....	10,794	.....	15,320	4	1,461
Nága and Mishmi Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,900	4,564	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hill Tipperah	13,330	65,223	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lushai Hills	610	686	.....	.....	750	552	.....	.....	4	60
Manipur	350	385	3,010	5,420	450	349	.....	.....	766	8,723
Total.....	14,290	66,299	21,650	21,912	8,100	16,259	.....	15,320	774	10,239

Exports.

Exports from Assam into	Silk manufactures.		Betel-nuts.		Cotton piece-goods (European).		Cotton piece-goods (Indian).	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhután	1,50,315	32,809	1,120	1,036	4,566	144	.....	19,616
Nága and Mishmi Hills	4,672	7,895	.....	.....	1,876	1,973	.....	.....
Hill Tipperah .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	1,047	.....	.....
Lushai Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	62	2,575	6,278	110	384
Manipur	21	11	20,000	26,993	2,338	17,615	.....	.....
Total.....	1,55,008	40,715	21,120	28,061	11,505	27,067	110	20,000

Exports.—(Continued.)

Exports from Assam into	Cotton-twist (European).		Cotton-twist (Indian).		Opium.		Salt.	
	1876-77	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Burhan.....	.....	.....	280	836	.....	.....	63	1
Naga and Mishmi Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,000	17,893	3,407	2,533
Hill Tipperah.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	203	2,563
Lushai Hills	76	107	45	307	.....	.....	1,833	11,978
Manipur .....	.....	11,644	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Total.....	76	11,751	325	1,143	9,000	17,893	5,506	17,777

This statement exhibits an increase in the export trade in each article of trade except silk manufactures. The apparent falling off in the silk trade has already been explained to be due to an exaggerated return of the exports in the preceding year.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

206. *General.*—The year under report was favourable, in respect of accidents from storms, floods, and earthquakes. No damage of any consequence occurred from these causes.

207. The following abstract will present a general view of the budget grants and expenditure of the year:—

	Original budget grants.	Final grant.	Outlay.
IMPERIAL SERVICES—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Military	39,400	54,400	56,710
Civil Buildings	18,130	18,130	14,419
Establishment	14,070	14,070	17,746
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	1,100
Barrack Department.....	1,000	1,000	952
Total, Imperial Services.....	72,600	87,600	90,927
PROVINCIAL SERVICES—			
Civil Buildings	1,97,500	2,05,110	2,10,869
Communications.....	2,10,100	2,53,490	2,38,041
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	900	900	1,257
Establishment	2,52,000	2,52,000	2,44,352
Tools and plant	25,000	24,000	22,777
Profit and loss .....	.....	.....	705
Suspense balances.....	10,000	7,35,500	7,18,001
		10,000	—5,816
Total Provincial Services.....	6,95,500	7,45,500	7,12,185
LOCAL SERVICES—			
Civil Buildings	700	5,700	5,428
Communications	57,233	73,268	60,444
Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	500	16,500	16,170
Establishment .....	.....	.....	516
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	.....
Total Local Services.....	58,433	95,468	82,558
Grand Total.....	8,26,533	9,28,568	8,85,670

There has been a marked improvement in the proportion that establishment charges bear to the cost of works and repairs.

208. *Military Works.*—The military works on which expenditure was incurred during the year were all of a minor character. The more important of them were the following:—Substituting iron for thatch on the roof of the Commissariat godown at Sadiya; metalling the main roads of the cantonments at Dibrugarh and Silchar; altering the Artillery Barracks at Shillong to accommodate the head-quarters wing of an additional regiment of Native Infantry; completing the rifle-range at Silchar; and opening up communications in the Nāga Hills.

209. *Other Services.*—The permanent post-office at Sylhet, commenced in 1876-77, was completed, and a house was purchased for a telegraph-office at Gauháti, and a commencement made in re-roofing it with shingles.

210. *Provincial Buildings.*—The principal work carried out during the year was the substitution of permanent roofs of iron or shingle for thatch on several of the court-houses of the Province. In the letter forwarding to the Government of India the Provincial budget for the year the Chief Commissioner pointed out that during the two preceding years he had considered it absolutely necessary to give as much money as possible for the prosecution of the Assam Trunk Road and the Shillong Cart-road, and to defer the work of improving buildings until these roads were completed. He said that these roads would be in a sufficiently forward state to be treated as open roads by the end of 1876-77, and that consequently in the budget for 1877-78 he had reduced the assignment for roads as much as possible and had increased the grant for buildings. He considered that the most urgent need of the Province was that the court-houses should be rendered secure against fire, and provision was accordingly made in the budget for beginning this work. During the year permanent roofs were put on the court-houses at Dhubri, Goálpára, Gauháti, Tezpur, Nowgong, Golághát, and Jorhát. The permanent roofing of the Chief Commissioner's official residence at Shillong, which had been commenced in 1876-77, was completed.

The new court-houses at Dibrugarh and Shillong were also completed, and the additional offices for the court at Sylhet commenced.

During the year under report the subject of jail improvement was also taken up. It has been proposed to do away with the numerous small district jails in Assam and to substitute lock-ups for them, and to concentrate long-term prisoners in Central Jails.

An estimate was sanctioned for large extensions to the Sylhet Jail, which is to be made the Central Jail for the Surmá Valley. During the year, considerable progress was made with the extensions. The work is being carried out by the prisoners under the supervision of the Public Works Department.

The project for a Central Jail for the Brahmaputra Valley districts is still under consideration; but, as extensions and alterations to the Gauháti Jail are absolutely necessary, whether it remain a District Jail or be selected for conversion into a Central Jail, work with a

view to its improvement was undertaken during the year, and the prisoners were employed in reclaiming some low ground for the improvement of the site and in manufacturing bricks.

A permanent lock-up for twenty prisoners was commenced at Dhubri, and has since been completed. Materials were collected for a lock-up for thirty prisoners to replace the jail at Goálpára, which has been abolished, and this work is now in progress.

The new workshop at Gauháti, commenced in 1876-77, was completed, and is now being fitted up with steam machinery. The want of such a workshop has long been felt in Assam; hitherto it has been necessary to send to Calcutta for all iron-work. The Gauháti workshop is conveniently situated for supplying all parts of the Assam Valley, and it will probably be of much use in connection with the improved steamer service which is now under consideration.

Temporary buildings for the new sub-divisional stations of Sunámganj, Karimganj, and Habiganj, in Sylhet, were commenced.

The building of a chancel and belfry for the church at Shillong was also commenced, the expenditure being met from subscriptions.

211. *Assam Trunk Road.*—A considerable amount of progress was made in effecting permanent improvements on this road, more especially on the section on the Bengal side of the Brahmaputra. This section connects Dhubri with the main line through Kuch Behar.

Before the opening of the Northern Bengal State Railway, in March, 1878, the Assam mails were carried by the Purneah road to Titalya, and thence by Julpaiguri and Kuch Behar to Dhubri along the section of road under report. But they are now carried by the Northern Bengal State Railway to Rangpur, and thence by runners along a district road to Dhubri. There was much correspondence during the year about the construction of a road connecting Rangpur with Dhubri. It was at first proposed to improve and re-model the existing track, *viâ* Kurigram and Balarhat, but this proposal was superseded by another to extend the railway from Rangpur to the Teesta River, and to make a road thence on the alignment that would be followed by a railway, if extended to Dhubri, so that the road might be fit for conversion into a railway hereafter. The latter proposal having been adopted by the Government of Bengal, the Chief Commissioner also accepted it, and issued orders for the construction of the portion of the road in Assam territory. An additional grant of Rs. 40,000 was given by the Chief Commissioner for the extension of whatever road might be decided on from Rangpur to Dhubri. But, when it became evident that there would be delay in the laying out of the road on the lines of a railway, a part of the grant was re-appropriated to the improvement of the existing line of Assam Trunk Road from Kherbari, on the Kuch Behar boundary, to Khagra-bari, a village 12 miles from Dhubri, which is about the point where the future railway line and the existing Trunk Road will coincide. A length of 15 miles was thus re-constructed on a new and more direct alignment, and provided with masonry bridges and culverts. The earthwork was completed, and all the bridges were well advanced during the year, and

have been completed since. The outlay has resulted in the reduction of the distance by two miles, and in a good 16-foot road, well raised above the floods and bridged with masonry bridges throughout the above length, the only break being at the Byduk, where a ferry is maintained. The road was maintained in proper order throughout its length, and attention was paid to the improvement of the inspection-bungalows and serais.

212. *Shillong Cart-road*.—The work of the Shillong Cart-road is still in progress. The earthwork was nearly completed, but in many places rock-blasting remains still to be done. Those parts of the road which get cut up by the cart-traffic during the rains are being gradually metalled out of the annual repair grant; but, with the increasing wheel-traffic, it will be necessary to undertake the metalling of the road as a special work, or else there will be risk of the traffic being stopped in the rains. The timber bridge over the Digru river at Burnihat was satisfactorily completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 13,858.

213. *Sylhet and Cachar Road*.—Towards the close of the year, the construction of two timber bridges on the Sylhet and Cachar Road between Ramnagar rifle-range and Silchar were taken in hand, and completed at a cost of Rs. 2,238, against an estimate amounting to Rs. 2,278. The expenditure under the head of Annual Repairs to the road was Rs. 16,193. A part of this outlay was incurred in the construction of two masonry bridges, each having a span of 16 feet, on the first section from Sylhet to Atgram, and in throwing a good deal of earthwork on the second section, from Atgram to Silchar. There is a large quantity of material collected for the bridges, which has not been hitherto utilized, because no money has been allowed of late years for the construction of the road. But, as the road, though not completed according to the finished design for the work, is still used as an open road, it has been determined, in the course of ordinary repairs, to make use, as far as possible, of the material lying at site, instead of observing the technical difference between expenditure on original works and repairs which the rules of the Public Works Department ordinarily require. It is anticipated that the whole road in the second section, from Atgram to Silchar, will now be above the flood-level, parts of which otherwise would have been submerged during the rains, and the traffic stopped on the 56th, 58th, 59th, 62nd, 63rd, 69th, and 75th miles.

214. *Branch Roads*.—The only original work undertaken during the year was the widening and completing the road from Koliabor to the steamer-station at Silghat, which is the principal outlet for the trade of the Nowgong district. This road has been in progress since 1876-77, and about one-half of the work was done up to the close of the year under report. A self-acting double-rope ferry was put up at the Kuoritol crossing over the Kallang river, and it appeared to act well, so long as the Kallang river had a current in it. The road would have been completed, but for the failure of local labour, of which there is but little available in this part of the Nowgong district.

215. *Accommodation for travellers*.—Dâk-bungalows, completely furnished and provided with servants, have been opened to the public at

Dhubri, Goálpára, Gauháti, Tezpur, Nowgong, Dibrugarh, Nungpoh, Shillong, Cherra Poonjee, Chhátak, Sylhet, and Cachar, and temporary bungalows are also annually built at most of the steamer landing-places on the river bank in the Assam Valley, and provided with a small amount of furniture. On the road between Gauháti and Sylhet there are travellers' bungalows at Burnihat, Umsning, Mofflong, and Therria. Sibságar is now the only sudder station where there is no dák-bungalow, and materials are being collected for erecting one there.

216. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements.*—An increased demand for the supply of water in the station of Shillong necessitated the construction of an aqueduct from the Crinoline Falls to the station. This was taken in hand and completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,233.

LOCAL SERVICES.

217. The following works were carried out under this head :—

218. *Constructing a timber bridge over the Kakadanga, on the Dhodor Alli.*—The roadway of this bridge was planked over and opened for traffic.

219. *Drainage of the Gauháti Station.*—The country behind the station of Gauháti is a vast swamp, which is annually submerged by the overflow of the Brahmaputra, and the exhalations from it have been always recognized as the cause of much unhealthiness. The drainage and reclamation of these swamps has been a project much desired for many years, probably as long as Gauháti has been in British possession, but it had continued to be only a project, because the apparent magnitude of the work and hopelessness of finding money for it has caused it to be regarded as a *pièce de resistance*, always to be set aside for future consideration under more favourable circumstances. Instructions were at last issued for the reduction of the project to a definite shape in August, 1875, and in November, 1877, estimates were sanctioned for preliminary work at a cost of Rs. 36,000, the sum appropriated for expenditure during the year being Rs. 16,000. The work which has been sanctioned is as follows :—

- (1) Two sluices to be erected in the culverts which exist in the dyke which runs on the right bank of the Bhorolu stream, and by which the flood of the Brahmaputra finds entrance into the swamps behind Gauháti.
- (2) A large catchwater-drain to be constructed on the proper contour level between the swamps and higher portion of the town, so as to intercept the foul water draining off the latter, and discharge it directly into the river.
- (3) The deepening of the swamps which lie nearest to the town, and converting them into ornamental tanks or reservoirs.

All the money allowed for expenditure in the year was spent, and about one-third of the work comprised in the project was accomplished.

220. *Local Roads.*—There has again been considerable improvement in the works connected with local roads. No new works of special importance were undertaken, but a fair amount of permanent improvement was effected. The expenditure sanctioned for the year amounted to Rs. 1,96,829, and that actually incurred to Rs. 1,72,124, made up as follows :—

	Rs.
Original Works.....	39,227
Repairs	1,08,519
Establishment	22,162
Tools and Plant	1,396
Refunds	820
Total	1,72,124

In many instances members of the Road Committees and other gentlemen rendered considerable assistance in undertaking and supervising work, and in making contributions towards roads in which they are specially interested. It is chiefly due to such assistance that the charge for establishment is so small.

District Engineers were maintained in the Goálpára, Kámrup, and Cachar districts, and overseers in the Sylhet and Nowgong districts.

221. In Goálpára the Bengal Road-cess Act (Act X. of 1871) is in force, and the assessments under that Act produce a fair income.

POST-OFFICES.

222. There was a steady extension in the operations of the Post-office throughout the Province during the year under report. At the end of March, 1878, there were in all 255 postal receptacles, against 209 at the close of the previous year. These receptacles are divided as follows :—

	Post-offices.	Letter-boxes.	Rural messengers.	Total.
In 1876-77	82	31	96	209
„ 1877-78	92	38	125	255

In 1876-77 there were 1,263 miles of Imperial mail lines. During the course of the year under review eight such new lines were opened, making a total of 1,272½ miles at the close of the year.

223. The correspondence delivered through the post-office is steadily increasing. The following is a return for the past four years :—

Years.	Number of covers.
1874-75	1,700,205
1875-76	1,723,738
1876-77	1,775,725
1877-78	1,898,473

This statement shows an increase of 1·3 and 6 per cent., respectively, during the last three years.

224. The following comparative statement shows the correspondence received for delivery in the post-offices of the several districts during the years 1877-78 :—

M

Districts.	1		2		3		4		5	
	Number of Imperial post-offices.		Number of rural messengers (Imperial).		Number of covers passing through the post office.		Number of covers passing through the police.		Posted.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Kamrup	10	11	14	16	224,572	196,005	268	2,368	1	2,013
Darrang	2	3	4	6	68,620	68,255	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	6	6	6	8	126,658	105,120	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibsagar	13	13	12	15	273,090	299,300	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	6	7	4	6	154,398	198,560	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khasi Hills	3	3	.....	1	188,154	134,390	911	781	575	850
Naga Hills	1	1	.....	.....	included in Sibsa- gar returns.		.....	.....	.....	.....
Sylhet	18	22	30	41	273,129	365,365	20,806	34,006	19,474	39,714
Cachar	10	10	14	15	360,610	266,815	.....	.....	.....	.....
Goalpara	12	15	12	17	216,521	222,285	13,064	6,293	6,339	7,677
Garo Hills	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	82	92	96	125	1,740,676	1,856,025	36,049	42,448	26,389	40,524

225. At the close of the year 1877-78 there were six registered publications in Assam. Under the orders of the Government of India, registration through the post-office has been discontinued from the 1st April, 1878.

226. Fifteen persons were prosecuted and punished for various offences committed against the Post-office Act, of these, ten were post-office servants.

227. Sylhet and Goalpara are the only regulation districts in the Province in which the Zemindari Dak Act [VIII. (B.C.) of 1862] is in operation, and where a fixed amount has been set apart for the entertainment of a local postal establishment, the main object of which is the conveyance of police and revenue despatches.

In both districts the local post-office is under the management of the General Post-office.

In Sylhet a sum of Rs. 10,399-12 was sanctioned for the district post-office. At the beginning of the year there were ten district post-offices and 477 miles of district postal lines in the district. During the year two district offices were closed, and six new district offices were opened.

In Goalpara a sum of Rs. 175 is granted monthly as a subsidy towards the keeping up of five district post-offices, two rural messengers, and 90 miles of district mail lines. This arrangement works satisfactorily.

Kamrup is the only other district where a subsidy is granted to the Postal Department for local purposes.

TELEGRAPHS.

228. The new line extending from Gauháti to Dibrugarh having been completed during the previous year, the operations of this department during the year under review were restricted mainly to the maintenance of existing lines. The following works were carried out during the year, viz., the re-construction of the line from Bhakwámári (opposite Dhubri) to Gauháti, along the Trunk Road, distance 129 miles (with the Goálpára line looped in at Agyáh); the dismantling of the line from Bhakwámári to Goálpára, and from thence to Gauháti, distance 125 miles; and the putting in order and materially strengthening the Kushiára River crossing. In addition to the above, estimates have been ordered of the cost of removal of the line in the Dhansiri Valley from the old to the new road; steps were taken to improve the station lines at Gauháti and Shillong, and the ordinary supports of the several river crossings on the Gauháti-Dibrugarh line were replaced by tubes, which, it is anticipated, will carry the wire sufficiently high for all ordinary traffic.

The proposal for extension of telegraphic communication on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, from Gauháti to Tezpur, was under discussion during the year, and the route was ordered to be surveyed. The report has been received since the close of the year.

The question of a line from Dibrugarh to Sadiya was also discussed during the year. This extension would be in many respects desirable, as Sadiya is an important military outpost, and there are several large tea-gardens in this direction to which the facility for telegraphic communication would be a great convenience.

The Shillong office was raised during the year from the third to the second class.

The sanction of the Director-General has been accorded to the raising of the Dibrugarh office to the second class.

An estimate of the cost of strengthening the Shillong-Sylhet line has been ordered to be made.

There were some cases of theft of straining-screws on the Sylhet line during the year, and one case on the Dibrugarh line was brought to notice.

The total amount realized on messages despatched from Assam during the year was Rs. 36,196-8-8, showing an increase of Rs. 15,102-8-8, as compared with the preceding year. This increase is most marked. The cost to the department of the telegraph establishment in the Province during the year was Rs. 32,541-4-6. The collections, therefore, exceeded the cost of working by Rs. 3,655-4-2, but of the total receipts Rs. 8,830-8 were on account of State messages.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

229. The following statement shows the gross receipts of Assam, on account of Imperial and Provincial Services, Local and Municipal Funds.

These receipts amounted in 1877-78 to Rs. 84,46,293. The refunds therefrom, and the total charges of collection, came to Rs. 11,95,698.

The net receipts therefore were	...	...	Rs. 72,62,714
In 1876-77, the net receipts amounted to	...	"	66,60,900
			6,01,814
These figures show a net increase in 1877-78 of			6,01,814

Sources of Income.	Gross receipts.	Refunds and drawbacks.	Charges against income.			Total.	Net receipts.	Net charges.
			Charges for collection, including cost of salt, &c., &c.	Allowances and assignments, payable under treaties and engagement.	Allowances to district and village officers.			
<i>Imperial.</i>								
Land Revenue	36,31,843	9,332	8,17,880	48,398	.....	8,75,610	27,56,233	.....
Forest	1,34,326	1,247	99,040	.....	.....	1,00,287	34,039	.....
Excise on spirits and drugs	16,26,664	2,368	11,026	.....	.....	13,294	16,12,270	.....
Total Territorial	53,91,833	12,947	9,27,946	48,398	.....	9,89,291	44,02,542	.....
Stamps	5,57,091	1,237	12,549	.....	.....	13,786	5,38,305	.....
Post-office	1,33,953	.....	1,46,072	.....	.....	1,46,072	.....	12,119
Law and Justice .. { Miscellaneous	8,676	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,676	.....
{ General fees, fines, and forfeitures	81,285	21,145	.....	.....	.....	21,145	60,140	.....
Interest	6,444	669	.....	.....	.....	669	5,875	.....
Receipts on account of superannuation and compassionate allowances	1,665	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,665	.....
Gain by exchange on transactions with London .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	42,424	12,142	.....	.....	.....	12,142	30,282	.....
Total Imperial	62,23,371	48,040	10,86,567	48,398	.....	11,83,005	50,52,485	12,119
<i>Provincial.</i>								
Imperial allotment for Provincial services ..	16,76,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,76,000	.....
{ Land Revenue ..	8,031	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,031	.....
{ Jails	38,845	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38,845	.....
{ Registration ..	18,608	555	.....	.....	.....	555	18,053	.....
Departmental receipts .. { Police	5,243	18	.....	.....	.....	18	5,225	.....
{ Education	23,029	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23,029	.....
{ Medical	3,691	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,691	.....
{ Printing	1,505	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1,504	.....
Miscellaneous receipts	2,830	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,830	.....
Public Works	3,411	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,411	.....
Total Provincial	17,81,197	574	.....	.....	.....	574	17,80,619	.....
<i>Local Funds.</i>								
Assam Local Funds	66,832	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66,832	.....
District Improvement Fund	2,68,328	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,68,328	.....
District Post Fund	13,460	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,460	.....
Cantonment	3,204	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,204	.....
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	5,304	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,304	.....
Total of Local Funds..	3,57,128	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,57,128	.....
Total Provincial Services and Local Funds Municipalities	21,38,321	574	.....	.....	.....	574	21,37,747	.....
.....	84,601	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84,601	.....
Gross Receipts	84,46,293	48,614	10,86,567	40,398	.....	11,83,579	72,74,833	12,119
							Deduct net charges..	12,119
							Net receipts.....	72,62,714

The increase is thus distributed :—

Class of Revenue.	Net Revenue in—		Difference in 1877-78.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	More.	Less
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial	44,56,738	50,40,366	5,83,628	.....
Provincial	17,64,089	17,80,619	16,530	.....
Local Funds	3,49,937	3,57,128	7,191	.....
Municipalities	90,136	84,601	.....	5,535
Total	66,60,900	72,62,714	6,07,349	5,535
			6,01,814	

Of the important increase under Imperial Services, Rs. 60,600 are owing to certain corrective transfer-book entries, and to this extent the increase is nominal. There is a real net increase under the three heads classed as "Territorial revenue," viz., Land Revenue, Forests, and Excise, as shown below, of Rs. 4,76,824 :—

	Rs.
1877-78, net receipts	44,02,542
1876-77, ditto	39,25,718
Net increase	4,76,824

This increase is distributed between the three heads in the following proportion :—

	Rs.
Land Revenue	2,56,659
Forests	42,391
Excise	1,77,774
Total	4,76,824

A considerable portion (upwards of one lakh) of the increase under "Land Revenue" is the result of a change in the date on which the last instalment of land revenue is collected in the Sylhet district. Formerly, it fell due on 15th April, but in 1877-78 it was ordered to be collected within the official year, or on the 15th March. The kists of two years were thus collected in 1877-78, increasing abnormally the revenue of that year by the amount named. The remaining excess is due to the growth of the revenue, and is partially the result of the recent settlements in Sylhet and the Assam Valley.

Under "Forests," the increase is due chiefly to the levy of a tax on timber standing on waste land sold. In 1876-77, the expenditure exceeded the receipts by Rs. 8,352, while in 1877-78, although the charge was enhanced by about Rs. 11,000, there is a surplus of Rs. 34,000.

Under "Excise" the increased revenue is due to a fiscal change, and is represented by the sale-proceeds of the monopoly to sell opium within a certain area.

The more important increases under other heads pertain to Stamps (Rs. 57,000) and Miscellaneous (Rs. 16,000). The former is due to the normal increase under that class of revenue; and the latter to certain book-transfers for deposits remaining unclaimed after the time prescribed for their payment. The only other point to notice is that the post-office has worked with a net charge of Rs. 12,000 only, against Rs. 18,000 in 1876-77, thus showing an improvement of Rs. 6,000. By net charge is meant the difference between income and expenditure. Thus, in 1877-78,—

the receipts amounted to	Rs. 1,33,953
and the expenditure to	1,46,672
	12,119
The net charge being	12,119

The inconsiderable increases under Provincial and Local Funds, and the decrease under Municipalities, call for no detailed remarks; they merely represent the normal fluctuations to which those services are liable.

230. The following statement exhibits the expenditure against the "Net income" of the Province, and brings out the surplus revenue in 1877-78 and the preceding year, after meeting all Imperial, Provincial, Local, and Municipal charges. The comparison between the two years is as follows:—

Surplus revenue, 1877-78	Rs. 25,21,847
Ditto 1876-77	20,44,477
	4,77,370
Improvement in 1877-78	4,77,370

Subject of Expenditure.	Amount.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.
IMPERIAL.		
Interest on Savings Bank and other accounts.....	Rs. 3,186	Rs. 4,178
Civil and Political Establishments and contingencies—	3,07,180	3,23,805
	<small>1876-77.</small>	<small>1877-78.</small>
Administration.....	1,79,699	1,83,111
Minor establishments.....	15,627	19,870
Ecclesiastical	17,006	16,894
Medical	65,069	67,000
Political.....	29,779	36,930
Total.....	3,07,180	3,23,805
Judicial charges, courts, &c.	4,84,367	4,75,498
Superannuation and retired allowances.....	37,890	49,898
Miscellaneous	10,705	10,360
Allotment for Provincial Services.....	16,69,788	16,76,000
Total Imperial.....	25,13,116	25,39,739

Subject and Expenditure.	Amount.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.		
<i>Provincial.</i>		
Land Revenue	17,393	16,746
Forests	600	868
Excise	387	603
Administration	25	100
Minor Departments	9,614	4,172
Law and Justice	8,348	8,622
Jails	1,15,742	1,19,470
Registration	12,696	15,687
Police	5,91,599	6,06,786
Education	1,68,104	1,63,171
Ecclesiastical.....	508	604
Medical Services	30,322	33,532
Stationery and Printing	18,822	23,475
Political Agencies	249	172
Miscellaneous.....	54,075	38,750
Public Works, Ordinary	6,49,562	7,12,186
Total, Provincial.....	16,78,046	17,44,944
<i>Local Funds.</i>		
Assam Local Funds	53,769	71,983
District Improvement Fund	2,78,039	2,78,442
District Post Fund	9,498	10,600
Cantonment Fund	2,673	3,482
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund ..	5,334	6,420
Total Local Funds.....	3,49,313	3,70,927
Total Provincial Services and Local Funds.....	20,27,359	21,15,871
Municipalities	75,948	85,257
Grand Total.....	46,16,423	47,40,867
Net receipts as in Statement, No. I	66,60,900	72,62,714
Surplus	20,44,477	25,21,847

The improvement thus shown may be distributed as follows:—

Class of revenue and charges.	1876-77.				1877-78.			
	Net revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Net revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial	44,56,788	25,18,116	19,43,672	....	50,40,366	25,39,739	25,00,627	....
Provincial	17,04,089	18,78,046	86,043	....	17,80,619	17,44,944	35,676	....
Local	3,49,987	3,49,313	674	....	3,67,128	3,70,927	....	12,799
Municipal	90,186	75,948	14,188	....	84,901	85,257	....	656
Total.....	66,60,900	46,16,423	20,44,477	....	72,62,714	47,40,867	25,21,847	14,456
			20,44,477				25,21,847	

231. In respect to Imperial transactions, the comparison between the two years is as follows:—

	Rs.
1877-78	25,00,627
1876-77	19,43,622
Net improvement in 1877-78	<u>5,57,005</u>

This improvement is thus accounted for—

Improvement in net revenue	5,83,628
Increased expenditure	26,623
	<u>5,57,005</u>

This increased expenditure may thus be apportioned, viz.:—

	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Interest	1,000	.....
Administration	4,000	.....
Minor Departments.....	4,000	.....
Ecclesiastical .....	.....	.....
Medical	2,000	.....
Political charges	7,000	.....
Judicial charges .....	.....	9,000
Superannuations	12,000	.....
Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....
Allotment for Provincial Services	6,000	.....
Total	<u>36,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
	<u>27,000</u>	

The increase of Rs. 1,000 under "Interest" is due to the development of the deposits in district savings banks.

The increase of Rs. 4,000 under "Administration" is about equally divided between the Civil Secretariat and the Office of Civil Accounts. Under the former it is caused by the extra expense for officiating allowances in connection with three months' privilege leave granted to the Secretary, under the latter by temporary establishment charges.

The increase under "Minor Departments" (Rs. 4,000) is due to charges for the Paris Exhibition, for statistical establishments, &c., &c.

Under "Medical" the excess of Rs. 2,000 is due to the employment of officers of higher grades than in 1876-77.

Under "Political" there is generally some exceptional charge. In 1876-77 there was the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, and the public rejoicings on 1st January, 1877, which cost Rs. 15,000 in this Province; while in 1877-78 an expedition was sent into the Nága Hills, involving a charge to this head of Rs. 22,000. The difference between these two charges accounts for the increase in 1877-78.

Under "Judicial charges" there was a decrease of Rs. 9,000, caused chiefly by the absence of officers on leave.

Under "Superannuations" the increase is caused by new pensions: Rs. 8,000 of this is the sum of two pensions drawn at

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Shillong, and the charge may be expected to increase as that station becomes better known and more accessible.

The increase under "Allotments for Provincial Services" is due to the appointment of an Inspector-General of Police and Jails, the allotment on account of whom was not drawn for the whole of the year 1876-77.

232. Under Provincial Services the comparison is:—

	Rs.
1876-77	86,043
1877-78	35,675
Falling off in 1877-78	<u>50,368</u>

which is made up thus:—

Increased charges	66,898
Increased receipts.....	16,530
	<u>50,368</u>

The increased expenditure may be divided as follows, viz.:—

	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Minor Departments .....	.....	5,000
Jails	4,000	.....
Registration	3,000	.....
Police	15,000	.....
Education.....	.....	5,000
Medical Services	3,000	.....
Stationery and Printing.....	4,000	.....
Miscellaneous .....	.....	16,000
Public Works	63,000	.....
	<u>92,000</u>	<u>26,000</u>
	<u>66,000</u>	

In 1876-77 it was necessary, in order to bring the expenditure within the assets, to work every department at the lowest possible cost. In 1877-78 there was no occasion for such rigid economy, as the operations of the previous year resulted in a balance at credit of the Administration of Rs. 1,16,974. This will explain some of the minor increases.

The increase under "Police" and "Jails" is accounted for by the appointment of an Inspector-General of Police and Jails late in the year 1876-77, the accounts for which do not consequently show a whole year's expenditure on this account.

Money being available, the Public Works Department was allowed to spend more than it did in 1876-77; extra funds were placed at its disposal late in the year for the prosecution of work on the Dhubri-Rangpur Road; and the new sub-divisional buildings in Sylhet.

The decrease under "Minor Departments" is due to the reduction of the Model Farm establishment at Shillong, that under "Education" to reductions ordered in previous years. The expenditure under this head is still far in excess of the allotment transferred from Bengal on the formation of the Province of Assam.

The decrease under "Miscellaneous" is due to certain arrear charges having been disbursed in 1876-77.

233. Under "Local Funds" there was a deficit of Rs. 13,799 in 1877-78, against a small surplus of Rs. 624 in the previous year. This is more than accounted for by contributions made from the accumulated balances of the Assam Local Fund to District Improvement Funds.

The districts aided were as follows:—

	Rs.
Cachar	5,000
Gáro Hills	3,000
Khási Hills	9,000
Sylhet	5,000
	22,000

A contribution of Rs. 1,000 was also granted to the Shillong (Municipal) Town Improvement Fund.

234. The ways and means of the Province may be summarized as follows:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cashbalance of last year, including Rs. 240 on account of Post-office, added after the Administration Report of 1876-77 was closed	29,50,918	IMPERIAL.	
IMPERIAL.		Expenditure as per Statement No. 2 ..	25,39,739
Net revenue, as per Statement No. 1	50,52,485	Miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	1,07,381
Less revenue charges against income, as per No. 1.	12,119	Re-payments of deposits	4,90,324
Re-payments of miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators	1,02,894	Tonga and Bullock Train Services ..	8,144
Deposits	5,52,773	Bills discharged on { Local	2,53,607
Tonga and Bullock Train Services ..	6,673	{ Other Govern- { other treasuries.	45,47,812
Bills drawn { Local	2,37,061	Local cash remittances	21,32,101
{ Other Governments ..	10,68,705	Public Works Department	8,53,393
Local cash remittances	21,32,151	Ditto Telegraph	86,264
Public Works Department	8,67,853	Other Governments { Money order	1,81,696
Ditto Telegraph	43,421	Civil. { Miscellaneous	13,77,886
Other Governments, { Money orders ..	8,24,730	Military Department	11,01,781
Civil. { Miscellaneous	33,98,527		
Military Department	1,63,779	Total Imperial.....	1,36,50,188
Total Imperial.....	1,39,39,083	PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.	
PROVINCIAL SERVICES AND LOCAL FUNDS.		Expenditure as per Statement No. 2 ..	21,15,871
Receipts as per Statement No. 1	21,37,747	Advances recoverable' .....	.....
Advances recoverable	445	Suspense account .....	.....
Suspense accounts .....	.....	Permanent advances .....	.....
Permanent advances .....	.....	Cash recoveries .....	.....
Cash recoveries .....	.....	Total Provincial Services and Local Funds	21,15,871
Total of Provincial Services and Local Funds	21,38,192	Municipalities, as per Statement No. 2	85,257
Municipalities, as per Statement No. 1 ..	84,601	Total.....	1,38,81,266
Grand Total.....	1,91,12,794	Cash balance at end of year	82,31,528
		Grand Total.....	1,91,12,794

235. The peculiarities of the resource operations in Assam have been fully explained in previous years' Administration Reports, and need not further be referred to here. It seems sufficient to say that in 1877-78. the operations were affected by the Madras famine, which prevented the remittance to Assam of the full amount needed for supply-bill payments. These payments had therefore to be partially suspended in the treasuries of the Brahmaputra Valley. But, notwithstanding this, the bill operations were far in excess of similar transactions in other parts of India, as the following figures will show:—

	Rs.
Payments in 1874-75	46,32,000
" 1875-76	48,06,000
" 1876-77	55,65,000
" 1877-78	44,45,000

The cash remittances in coin and notes to and from the Province were follows:—

	Rs.
Received from Bengal.....	21,51,000
" India	6,36,000
Total.....	27,87,000
Remitted to India in large notes	10,93,000
Net	16,94,000

The figures for the past four years are—

	Rs.
1874-75	32,37,000
1875-76	41,18,000
1876-77	34,24,000
1877-78	16,94,000

The net importations of money into the Province have been steadily decreasing year by year, and this result, which has only been attained by carefully watching the cash balances, cannot but be regarded as satisfactory.

The net sum supplied to the Military Department is somewhat larger than in the two previous years. This is owing apparently to the Nāga Hills expedition. The amount was not, however, so large as in 1874-75, the year of the Duffla expedition. The figures for the four years are:—

	Rs.
1874-75	10,52,000
1875-76	8,52,000
1876-77	8,18,000
1877-78	9,38,000

The supplies to the Telegraph Department in the last four years were:—

	Rs.
1874-75	24,000
1875-76	21,000
1876-77	47,000
1877-78	43,000

In the last two years the work of extending the line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh has been in progress.

I.—LAND REVENUE.

236. The Administration of the Land Revenue throughout the year under report shows fairly satisfactory results.

237. The total number of estates borne on the revenue-roll of each district during 1877-78, as compared with 1876-77, is exhibited in the annexed statement.

Districts.	Permanently-settled estates.		Temporarily-settled estates.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	Permanently-settled estates.	Temporarily-settled estates.	Permanently-settled estates.	Temporarily-settled estates.
Cachar			8,503	8,913	.....	410	.....	.....
Sylhet	50,824	50,741	25,558	25,549	.....	.....	83	9
Goálpára	17	16	406	11,405	.....	10,999	1	.....
Kámrúp			134,624	142,644	.....	8,020	.....	.....
Darrang			79,642	84,873	.....	5,231	.....	.....
Nowgong			107,240	105,134	.....	.....	.....	2,106
Sibságar.....			78,767	82,186	.....	3,419	.....	.....
Lakhimpur			22,766	26,143	.....	3,377	.....	.....
Khási and Jaintiá Hills.			24	24	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nága Hills			307	272	.....	.....	.....	35
Gáro „	1	1	178	169	.....	.....	.....	9
Total.....	50,842	50,758	458,015	487,312	.....	31,456	84	2,159

The foregoing table shows a decrease in the permanently-settled estates of 84 estates, and a net increase of 29,297 estates in those settled temporarily. The increase has mainly occurred in the district of Goálpára, and is due to the recent revision of settlement of the Eastern Duars on the ryotwari system, according to which each holding is counted as a separate estate. The increase in the districts of Cachar, Kámrúp, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, is attributed to the extension of cultivation, to settlements of waste lands, and to the assessment of grants on the expiration of their revenue-free terms. The decrease in the district of Sylhet is principally owing to the redemption of certain petty estates, while that in the district of Nowgong is due to the amalgamation of several small holdings into a few larger ones.

238. The current land revenue demand for the year amounted to Rs. 31,50,446, against a demand of Rs. 30,30,994 in 1876-77. The increase, Rs 1,19,452, is attributable, as usual, to settlements at progressive rates, to re-settlements at enhanced rates, to assessment of Old Assam Rule grants, and to fresh settlements of lands newly cleared or taken up during the year for the purpose of the cultivation of the ordinary crops of the country. The largest proportional increase by far is in

Goálpára, where the revenue of the temporarily-settled estates has risen by 31·5 per cent., owing to the recent revision of settlement on the ryotwari system in the Eastern Duars. The arrear demand for the year amounted to Rs. 1,60,965. Out of the total demand, *vi.*, 33,11,411, Rs. 32,41,809, or nearly 98 per cent., were collected during the year. Rs. 7,492 were remitted, leaving only a sum of Rs. 62,110 unrealized at the close of the year. A large proportion of this balance has been realized since the close of the year, and the remainder is in course of realization. In none of the districts do the outstanding balances call for any particular remarks.

239. The sources from which the miscellaneous land revenue in Assam are derived were described in para. 255 of last year's report, and the following table shows the details of the demand under this head for the last two years:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Elephants	11,300	31,870	20,570	.....
2. Fisheries	80,407	85,892	5,484	.....
3. Lime-quarries	67,416	66,963	.....	453
4. Poll-tax	11,185	11,440	255	.....
5. House-tax	44,418	48,414	3,996	.....
6. Hoe-tax	850	938	88	.....
7. Fines under Act XX. of 1848	533	472	.....	61
8. Fines on fiscal officers	5,456	4,104	.....	1,352
9. Coal-mines	362	362	.....	.....
10. Other miscellaneous items	1,723	2,408	685	.....
Total.....	2,23,650	2,52,863	31,079	1,866

Net increase..... 29,213

The total demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted, it will be seen, during the year to Rs. 2,52,863, against Rs. 2,23,650 in the previous year, showing a net increase of Rs. 29,213. The increase mainly occurred under the heads of "Elephants," "Fisheries," and "House-tax." On the other hand, there was a decrease of Rs. 1,352 in the amount of fines imposed upon fiscal officers. The fluctuations under the other heads are unimportant.

The increase in the revenue from elephant mehals is mainly due to the inclusion in the demand of 1877-78 of the revenue of mehals leased in 1876-77, which, not being legally recoverable before the close of that year, was, under instructions of the Government of India, excluded from the demand of 1876-77. Fresh mehals, also, having been leased during the year which had previously been allowed to rest may have caused a further increase to this head. The increase in the revenue of fisheries

Explanation of increase and decrease.

is due to higher bids obtained at auction sales, while that of house-tax is chiefly owing to the enhancement of the rate of house-tax from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8 in North Cachar.

Out of the total demand, viz., Rs. 2,52,863 current and Rs. 37,456 arrear, Rs. 2,35,663 were collected and Rs. 1,923 remitted during the year, Rs. 11,036 were paid in advance during 1876-77 for 1877-78, leaving a balance of Rs. 41,697, of which Rs. 26,680 were on account of the current and Rs. 15,017 on account of the arrear demand outstanding at the close of the year. A large portion of this balance has been collected since the close of the year, and the amounts still outstanding are small, and in process of realization.

II.—SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

SECTION I.—OPIUM.

240. The system under which the revenue from opium is raised has from time to time undergone considerable changes. Previous to the year 1874-75, the year of the formation of this Province into a separate Administration, licenses for the retail vend of opium were granted free of charge. In 1874-75, the system of levying fees on licenses granted for the retail vend of opium was for the first time introduced into Assam. It is that known as the "fixed license-fee system;" under its provisions any person can open any number of shops for the retail sale of the drug on the payment of a fixed sum for each shop.

The rates of fees noted on the margin were, in the first instance, fixed in all districts, except Sylhet, where licenses were granted at Rs. 3 for half a year. In 1875-76, the rate of license-fees in Sylhet was raised to the rate then prevailing in the other districts in the Province. In January, 1876, the Government of India suggested the advisability of selling licenses for the retail vend of opium by auction. In order to promote the success of this system, measures were adopted calculated to reduce the number of shops, which were then excessively numerous. The selling price of opium was therefore raised from Rs. 23 to Rs. 24 per seer, and the rate of license-fee for each shop was enhanced,—the new rate being Rs. 18, instead of Rs. 12 per annum. These changes came into force in the month of June, 1876.

In compliance with the wishes of the Supreme Government, the new system of selling licenses by auction was introduced at the commencement of the year under report. Each district was divided into a number of mehals, coterminous with revenue jurisdictions, such as mouzahs, in Assam Proper, and with thannah jurisdictions in the remaining districts of the Province. Under this system, the person or persons who buy at auction the right to sell opium in the limits of a mahal have the exclusive right of

Rs. 4	for 3 months.
" 7	" 6 "
" 10	" 9 "
" 12	" one year.

sale in that mehal, with permission to sublet shops, subject to the sanction of the Deputy-Commissioner, but his or their fiscal responsibility remains unimpaired for the whole mehal. The number of shops permitted to be opened in each mehal was fixed by the Chief Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Deputy-Commissioner, with regard to the legitimate requirements of each locality. Special care was taken not to afford any undue facility for obtaining the drug. The result of the introduction of the new system has, for the time being, been successful. A considerable increase in revenue has been obtained, while there has been a general falling off in the consumption of the drug, and in the number of shops opened for its retail.

The Chief Commissioner is, however, of opinion that there has been much over-speculation in the purchase of these mehals, and the high prices received for them will not continue. The system has to be narrowly watched, moreover, lest, by forcing up the retail price too high, it introduce systematic smuggling, or a taste for more deleterious drugs, such as ganja.

241. The revenue under this head rose from Rs. 12,16,712 in 1876-77, to Rs. 12,98,051 in 1877-78, as detailed below:—

District.	1876-77.			1877-78.		
	License-fees.	Duty.	Total.	License-fees.	Duty.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	636	29,095	29,731	5,171	26,566	31,737
Sylhet	1,479	34,974	36,453	5,740	32,562	38,302
Goálpára	1,677	42,042	43,719	5,110	32,294	37,404
Kámrúp	5,862	1,66,481	1,72,343	41,306	1,59,577	2,00,883
Darrang	5,353	1,66,452	1,71,805	24,061	1,62,646	1,86,707
Nowgong	5,306	1,73,899	1,79,205	20,440	1,82,390	2,02,830
Sibságar	8,451	3,15,426	3,23,877	45,912	3,18,923	3,64,835
Lakhimpur	4,761	2,54,225	2,58,986	53,987	1,79,543	2,33,530
Khási Hills	126	.....	126	1,095	.....	1,095
Nága „	356	.....	356	603	.....	603
Gáro „	111	.....	111	125	.....	125
Total	34,118	11,82,594	12,16,712	2,03,550	10,94,501	12,98,051

From the foregoing table, it will be seen that the revenue from the net sale-proceeds of the drug diminished by Rs. 88,093; but this loss on duty was more than counterbalanced by the marked increase in the receipts from license-fees. The revenue from license-fees rose from Rs. 34,118 in 1876-77 to Rs. 2,03,550 in 1877-78, or an increase of nearly 600 per cent. The results obtained in the two districts of Goálpára and Lakhimpur are, from a financial point of view, far from being satisfactory. In Goálpára, in spite of a considerable increase in the receipts from license-fees, the total revenue derived from this drug fell off from Rs. 43,719 in 1876-77 to Rs. 37,404 in 1877-78. This decrease was caused by a serious falling off in consumption, consequent

on the enhancement by the mehalدارs of the retail selling price of the drug. The diminution in the consumption, as shown in the district returns, is, however, only apparent, and far from being a matter for congratulation. The Deputy-Commissioner of the district remarks that the decrease in the consumption of opium was caused partly by the more extensive use of ganja, and was partly owing to the fact that the people on the borders of Rangpur and Cooch Behar obtained their supplies from those districts where the selling price of the drug was lower than in Goalpara. The district of Lakhimpur shows a heavier falling off in the net revenue derived from the sale of the drug, viz., of Rs. 74,682.

The very high prices paid for the opium farm, which nearly made good the enormous falling off noticed above, forced up the retail price to a point higher than the consumers cared to pay. The fall in consumption might, however, perhaps, have been to some extent caused by the illicit cultivation of the poppy, either in the district or close on its borders, or by the importation of foreign opium. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been called to these points.

Deducting from the above total revenue for the two years under comparison the cost of conveying opium, which was in 1876-77 Rs. 12,319 and in 1877-78 Rs. 14,111, the following is the net revenue of the year:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gross revenue	12,16,712	12,98,051
Deduct	12,319	14,111 cost of conveying opium.
Net revenue	12,04,393	12,83,940
Increase ... ..	.....	79,547

242. The subjoined table shows the number of shops open and the quantity of opium consumed in each district of the Province during the year under review, as compared with the preceding year:—

District.	Shops.		Consumption.					
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.			1877-78.		
			Mds.	Srs.	C.	Mds.	Srs.	C.
Cachar.....	54	59	43	17	0	39	26	0
Sylhet.....	97	73	49	1	0	45	21	0
Goalpara.....	141	108	63	35	0	48	8	0
Kamrup.....	604	200	252	8	0	238	7	0
Darrang.....	457	221	252	16	0	242	30	3
Nowgong.....	448	225	263	38	0	269	6	0
Sibsagar.....	709	299	478	39	0	472	35	3
Lakhimpur.....	356	62	386	25	0	267	39	0
Khasi Hills.....	10	5	3	19	0	3	3	0
Naga „.....	29	18	.....*	.....*	.....*	6	8	0
Garo „.....	8	1	.....*	.....*	.....*	0	33	0
Total.....	2,833	1,271	1,793	38	0	1,634	16	6

* Information not available.

Opium consumed in the Gáro Hills district was obtained from the sub-divisional treasury at Jamalpur, in Mymensingh, in Bengal, where the duty leviable thereon was paid.

The increase in the number of shops in the district of Cachar was owing to the transfer of certain villages from the Nága Hills to North Cachar, in some of which licenses were taken out for the retail vend of opium.

The figures for the other districts, as given in the foregoing table, need no further explanation than what has already been given above. The diminution in the number of shops has been one of the main features of the monopoly system. The general falling off in consumption was consequent on the enhancement of the retail price of the drug by the farmers of the mehals.

243. The number of licenses issued for the sale of madat and chandu, and the revenue realized therefrom during the past two years, are shown below :—

Madat and chandu.	Shops.		Revenue.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77. Rs.	1877-78. Rs.
Madat.....	29	30	2,624	3,617
Chandu	26	22	2,535	3,745

Thus, the total revenue from opium and its preparations (madat and chandu) for the whole Province amounted during the year under report to Rs. 13,05,413, against Rs. 12,21,871 in 1876-77, showing an increase of Rs. 83,542 in favour of the past year.

SECTION 2.—SALT.

244. The revenue under this head was derived entirely from the salt-wells in Cachar, which were leased for the year under review for Rs. 37, against Rs. 55 in the preceding year. Of the demand, Rs. 19 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 18 at the close of the year.

SECTION 3.—EXCISE.

245. The gross excise revenue of the year from all sources, except opium and its preparations, which are treated in a separate section, was Rs. 2,31,302, against Rs. 2,01,258 of the preceding year, as shown in detail in the comparative table below :—

Heads of revenue.	Demand in		Net result, plus or minus, in 1877-78. Rs.
	1876-77. Rs.	1877-78. Rs.	
Country spirits	75,839	81,782	+5,943
Rum	1,475	1,404	—71
Imported wines.....	3,171	3,420	+249
Tari	13	13	.....
Pachwai	1,362	1,874	+512
Charas.....	.....	20	+20
Ganja	1,19,868	1,42,908	+23,040
Total demand	2,01,728	2,31,421	+29,693
Irrecoverable	470	119	—351
Net revenue	2,01,258	2,31,302	+30,044

The foregoing figures show an increased revenue under all heads except "Rum," which gives a decrease of Rs. 71. The bulk of the increase was contributed by country spirits and ganja, and is attributable to the further extension of the farming system during the past year. The revenue from these sources has shown a steady and progressive rise, although the number of licenses granted for their retail vend has fallen off considerably. Of the demand of the year, Rs. 421 were paid in Sibságar in advance in 1876-77 (Rs. 397 on account of country spirits and Rs. 24 for imported wines) leaving Rs. 2,31,000 to be collected during the year under review; of this sum, Rs. 2,30,869 were realized during the year; of the unrealized balance (Rs. 131), only Rs. 12 have been recovered since the close of the year, and the balance, viz., Rs. 119, which accrued in the Sibságar district, has been remitted as irrecoverable. There was an arrear demand of Rs. 1,490, Rs. 415 (in Sibságar) for 1875-76, and Rs. 1,075 for 1876-77. Rs. 415, the arrear demand for 1875-76, has since been remitted as irrecoverable. Of the arrear demand for 1876-77, Rs. 605 (in Goálpára) have been realized, and Rs. 470* remitted as irrecoverable. Rs. 19,868 were collected in advance for 1878-79, on account of country spirits (Rs. 8,066), imported wines (Rs. 24), and ganja (Rs. 11,578). Thus, the total collections during the year came to Rs. 2,51,342, as analyzed in the subjoined table, district by district:—

• In Sibságar.....	Ra.
.. Goálpára	343
.. Garo Hills	161
	66
Total.....	470

District.	Total demand of the year.	Collections.			
		Arrear.	Current.	Advance.	Total.
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
Cachar.....	66,236	....	66,236	16,768	83,004
Sylhet.....	89,948	....	89,948	....	89,948
Goálpára.....	21,379*	605	20,601	....	21,306
Kámruáp.....	12,953	....	12,953	1,045	13,998
Darrang.....	8,986	....	8,986	1,191	10,177
Nowgong.....	4,951	....	4,951	....	4,951
Sibságar.....	17,124†	....	16,341	882	17,178
Lakhimpur.....	7,224	....	7,224	32	7,256
Khasi Hills.....	1,862	....	1,862	....	1,862
Gáro ".....	1,530‡	....	1,464	....	1,464
Naga ".....	303	....	303	....	303
Total.....	2,32,496	605	2,30,869	19,868	2,51,342

* Inclusive of Ra. 766 arrear demand.
 † " " " 343 " "
 ‡ " " " 66 " "

The charges of the department, excluding the cost of conveying opium, aggregated Rs. 8,603, against Rs. 12,405 in 1876-77, or a decrease of Rs. 3,802 in favour of the year under notice. Of the total amount of charges in 1877-78, Rs. 6,244, or 72 per cent., occurred in the district of Sylhet alone, Rs. 1,378, or 16 per cent., in Cachar, Rs. 980, or nearly 12 per cent., in Goálpára and Kámruáp, and Re. 1 in Darrang. No charges were incurred on this account in the other districts of the Province.

Deducting the above charges from the revenues of the past two years under comparison, we get the following net results :—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gross revenue	2,01,258	2,31,302
Deduct charges.....	12,405	8,603
	1,88,853	2,22,699

Thus, the net revenue of the year under report shows a satisfactory increase of Rs. 33,846, as compared with the preceding year, amounting to nearly 18 per cent.

246. The manufacture and sale of country spirits in this

Province was carried on during the year under report, partly under the out-still or monthly tax system, and partly under a modified farming system. The fixed duty, or the sudder distillery system, which was formerly in vogue in the two districts of the Surma Valley, was abolished in 1876-77. The only change introduced during the year into the system of taxing country spirits was with reference to the maximum quantity saleable by retail.

The attention of the Chief Commissioner was drawn to the doubtful efficacy of the restrictions imposed by Sections 35, 44, and 49 of Act XXI. of 1856, limiting to one seer the quantity of country spirits which might be sold by a licensed vendor, or held in possession by a private individual at one time. Colonel Keatinge was of opinion that these restrictions might advantageously be relaxed. He believed that this course would tend to check illicit distillation, and at the same time to promote the convenience of the public, while it could scarcely fail to add to the excise revenue. The restrictions were accordingly relaxed, and District Officers were authorized to raise the maximum quantity of country spirits to be sold by retail at one time from one seer, or one quart bottle, to half a gallon, or three quart bottles. A similar change had been introduced into Bengal.

The total revenue realized under this head during the past year was Rs. 81,663, against Rs. 75,369 in 1876-77, as shown below, showing an increase of Rs. 6,294 in favour of the year under notice :—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
Demand Rs.	75,839	81,782
Deduct " "	470	119 remitted as irrecoverable.
	75,369	81,663

This revenue was obtained entirely from fees levied on licenses for the manufacture and retail of country spirits, granted either under the monthly tax or the farming system.

247. The monthly tax or outstill system was in force in the districts of Sylhet, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Naga Hills, and Garo Hills. The number of licenses

Monthly tax system.

issued, and the amount of revenue derived therefrom, during the past year, as compared with the last preceding year, are given below:—

District.	Licenses issued in		Revenue in	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Sylhet	35	34	8,928	10,736
Darrang	13	14	3,824	5,257
Nowgong	8	8	2,452	3,843
Sibságar	11	11	14,480	15,946
Nága Hills	2	2	756	303
Gáro "	3	3	1,765	1,200
Total	72	72	32,205	37,285

* 38 under the Sudder distillery system during the first half of the year and 32 during the latter half of the year under the outstill system.

There was a total increase of Rs. 5,080 in revenue, although the number of licenses remained the same. An increase in the revenue is noticeable in all but the two hill districts. The Political Officer in charge Nága Hills, and the Deputy-Commissioner, Gáro Hills, attribute the falling off in their districts to the fact that the competition for licenses at auction was less brisk than in the preceding year, when the value of the mehals had not been well gauged.

248. The system of selling by auction the right of manufacture and sale of country spirits within certain defined areas, which has been in force in the districts of

Farming system.

Goálpára, Kámruip, and Lakhimpur since 1876-77, was introduced for the first time into the district of Cachar during the past year, in lieu of the sudder distillery system, which was previously in vogue.

In the district of Cachar, the sale of all exciseable articles was practically in the hands of a single wealthy and influential firm, who were enabled to crush all competition and thus create for themselves, practically, a single monopoly, notwithstanding the effort that was made to upset their plans by selling shops singly. With regard to country spirits, it was found impossible to break through this combination. In vain were repeated endeavours made to sell shops singly, or in groups by tehsils. The combination of the monopolists was too strong, and, as they bid a sum of Rs. 34,000, against Rs. 25,000, the highest offer made by any other persons, and as they consented to a reduction of the number of shops from 103 to 80 (72 shops only were actually opened), their proposals were accepted for the whole district. In Goálpára, Kámruip, and Lakhimpur, monopolies of single shops were separately sold, with a few exceptions, where two shops were allowed in each mouzah.

The subjoined table shows the results of the farming system during the year under report, as compared with the previous year:—

District.	Number of shops.		Revenue.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Cachar	103	72	Rs. 32,315	Rs. 34,000
Goálpára	16	10	4,903	4,256
Kámráp.....	28	11	4,715	4,032
Lakhimpur	5	6	1,231	2,090
Total.....	152	99	43,164	44,378

The districts of Goálpára and Kámráp show a large falling off in the receipts from country spirits. The Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára attributes the decrease to the ordinary fluctuation in revenue. In Kámráp, a large falling off is noticeable, both in the number of licenses issued for the sale of country spirits and the receipts therefrom. These unsatisfactory results must have been caused, it is feared, to some extent by illicit distillation. The necessity of every effort being made, through the mouzahdars and police, to detect and check such illicit distillation has been impressed on the Deputy-Commissioner.

The consumption of country spirits in the district of the Khási Hills has not yet been brought under a system of taxation.

249. The revenue from rum has shown a steady falling off, caused by the extension of the exemption provided in Section 49 of Act XXI. of 1856 to the case of Rum. planters who are in the habit of importing rum for the use of their coolies, for which they are required to pay no tax beyond the duty levied on the manufacture in Bengal. The planters are not held liable to take out licenses, or to pay any license-fees for the right of issuing rum to their garden coolies. It has been found that this system has not only injuriously affected the revenue from rum, but has in several instances diminished the returns from the sale of country spirits. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, for example, remarks, in his Excise Administration Report for the past year, that "there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of rum, owing to the planters endeavouring to substitute this liquor for country spirits at the gardens."

The licenses granted for the sale of rum are either wholesale or retail. A wholesale vendor cannot sell less than two Imperial gallons, or one dozen quart bottles, to one man at a time. The retail

vendor may sell below, but not above, this limit. The fee for a wholesale license is Rs. 16 a year. The rate of fees on retail sale licenses varies in the different districts. 11 wholesale licenses were taken out during the year, 3 in Cachar, 1 in Sylhet, and 7 in Lakhimpur, against 7 issued during the preceding year, *viz.*, 2 in Cachar, 1 in Sylhet, and 4 in Lakhimpur, while the number of retail licenses fell off from 24 in 1876-77 to 18 in 1877-78. No licenses were taken out in the districts of the Assam Valley, except Darrang and Lakhimpur. No licenses were taken out in the Nága Hills and Khási Hills districts. The total revenue under this head amounted to Rs. 1,404 in 1877-78, against Rs. 1,475 in 1876-77, or a decrease of Rs. 71 in 1877-78.

250. Revenue from imported wines and spirits was obtained in all the districts of the Province except the Nága Hills. Revenue under this head consists entirely of license-fees. During the past year 75 licenses (31 wholesale, 1 hotel retail, and 43 general retail) were granted, against 77 (32 wholesale, 1 hotel retail, and 44 general retail) issued during the preceding year. The fees levied on these licenses brought in a revenue of Rs. 3,420 in 1877-78, against Rs. 3,171 in the preceding year, or an increase of Rs. 249 in favour of the past year.

251. There were only two licenses for tari taken out during the year under report, both in Kámrap, one for the sale of fermented tari and the other for the sale of unfermented or fresh tari. The revenue from these licenses amounted to Rs. 13 only.

252. There is no restriction on the manufacture of pachwai for home consumption: the consequence being that, with the exception of a small amount in Cachar and Sylhet, no revenue is derived in this Province from this source. Last year, 23 licenses in all were issued for the sale of pachwai, 16 in Cachar and 7 in Sylhet, and the revenue therefrom aggregated Rs. 1,874.

253. Last year, two licenses were taken out for the vend of charas, one in Cachar and the other in Nowgong. A sum of Rs. 20 was realized from fees on these licenses. No licenses of this kind were issued, and, consequently, there was no revenue under this head during the preceding year, 1876-77.

254. The system of putting up to auction the monopoly of the vend of ganja within certain specified boundaries, on conditions almost identical with those of the licenses heretofore issued under the fixed license-fee system, in accordance with the Board's Rules, Section 17, Chapter V., was started in 1876-77 in the three districts of Cachar, Goálpára, and Kámrap.

The system was extended during the year under report to the remaining districts of the Province, with results as exhibited in the following table:—

District.	Consumption.			Revenue.		
	1876-77.	1877-78.	Net result, plus or minus.	1876-77.	1877-78.	Result, plus or minus.
	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar.....	175 10 7	120 31 14	-54 18 9	30,532	30,302	-230
Sylhet.....	308 32 13	376 22 6	+67 29 9	61,465	77,304	+15,839
Goalpara.....	55 35 0	68 38 12	+13 3 12	12,768	16,113	+3,345
Kámrúp.....	46 7 0	40 17 0	-5 30 0	9,289	8,692	-597
Darrang.....	19 6 0	17 35 1	-1 10 15	2,445	3,477	+1,032
Nowgong.....	2 38 0	3 8 0	+0 10 0	96	938	+842
Sibságar.....	1 38 0	1 38 8	+0 0 8	308	252	-56
Lakhimpur.....	16 19 6	7 12 0	-9 7 6	2,114	3,980	+1,866
Khási Hills ...	7 10 0	3 30 0	-3 20 0	851	1,730	+879
Gáro „.....	.....	1 6 0	+1 6 0	.....	120	+120
Total ...	633 36 10	641 39 9	+8 2 15	1,19,868	1,42,908	+23,040

From the foregoing table it will appear that there was a decrease both in consumption and revenue in the districts of Cachar and Kámrúp. In Sibsaágar, there was a slight increase in consumption of 8 chitáks only, attended by a falling off in revenue of Rs. 56. In the districts of Darrang, Lakhimpur, and Khási Hills, consumption decreased perceptibly, while there was a marked increase in revenue. In the remaining districts of the Province, the figures show an increase both in consumption and revenue. The total result for the whole province is a slight increase of 1.26 per cent. in consumption, the revenue at the same time having increased 19.22 per cent.

In Cachar, the monopoly of the vend of ganja in the plains portion of the district was sold by auction for Rs. 17,500, against Rs. 12,600 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 4,900. But, notwithstanding this large increase in license-fees, the total revenue derived from ganja shows a decrease of Rs. 230, compared with the returns of 1876-77, owing to the consumption of the year having fallen off, which is attributed to the dealers, being aware of the impending changes, having, in consequence, laid in large stocks of ganja in March, 1877.

In Sylhet, the consumption of the drug rose from 308 maunds in 1876-77 to 376 maunds in 1877-78, but was still much lower than in 1875-76, when it amounted to 419 maunds. The consumption in 1876-77 was kept down by a combination among the goldars, which tended to force up the retail price abnormally. This combination was successfully overcome in 1877-78 by the local authorities refusing to grant retail licenses to persons who were engaged in the wholesale trade. The revenue increased in 1877-78 by Rs. 15,839, as compared with the figures for the preceding year. This increase is attributable both to

the enhanced rates at which licenses were granted and the increased consumption of the drug, owing to the circumstances described above.

The revenue in Goálpára rose from Rs. 12,768 in 1876-77, to Rs. 16,113 in 1877-78, or an increase of Rs. 3,345, which is attributable both to the larger sale-proceeds of the monopolies of vend and the increased receipts from fixed duty levied on the quantity of the drug which actually passed into consumption. The consumption increased by 13 maunds, in explanation of which the Deputy-Commissioner of the district remarks that, "ganja is much used in lieu of opium, the latter being too dear for the poor people, and hence the increase in the consumption of ganja, and the corresponding decrease in the consumption of opium."

The district of Kámráp shows a falling off both in consumption and revenue, attributable to the smaller demand for the drug, owing to the removal during the year of the head-quarters of the 42nd Regiment from Gauháti. In Darrang, a decrease in consumption of over one maund was attended by a satisfactory increase in revenue of Rs. 1,032, a result which is attributable entirely to the introduction of the monopoly system.

The figures for Nowgong show an enormous increase in the revenue derived from ganja, a result entirely attributable to the introduction of the monopoly system. The revenue in 1876-77 was Rs. 96, and in the year under report it rose to Rs. 938, or nearly tenfold as much as in the previous year. In Sibságar, the consumption of ganja is at present very limited.

In Lakhimpur, the consumption decreased by more than one-half. It fell off from 16 maunds in 1876-77 to 7 maunds in 1877-78. This serious decrease is ascribed by the Deputy-Commissioner to the sudden enhancement of the retail price of the drug in the bazaar, necessitated to some extent by the high prices which the farms fetched at auction. The revenue, however, was increased largely by the system of selling the monopoly of the retail vend of the drug by auction. The revenue rose from Rs. 2,114 in 1876-77 to Rs. 3,980 in 1877-78, showing an increase of Rs. 1,866, or nearly 90 per cent.

In the Khási Hills, very satisfactory results were obtained. The consumption decreased by nearly one-half, while the revenue rose from Rs. 851 in 1876-77 to Rs. 1,730 in 1877-78. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes the decrease in consumption to ganja of higher value having been introduced for sale during the year, and the increase in revenue to the introduction of the new system of sale of monopolies by auction.

Hitherto there were no shops for the sale of ganja in the Gáro Hills district. During the year under report one shop was for the first time opened in the district, and the right of retail vend was sold by auction for Rs. 10 per mensem. 1 maund 6 seers of ganja was consumed during the year. This ganja was procured from the sub-divisional treasury at Jamalpur, in the district of Mymensingh, in Bengal, where the duty leviable thereon was paid.

255. Cases of breaches of the Excise Laws have been reported from all the Valley Districts of the Province except Goálpára. 149 persons in all were arrested, of whom 124, or 83 per cent., were convicted. The foregoing figures show a falling off in the percentage of convictions, as compared with the result of prosecutions in 1876-77. In 1876-77, out of 124 persons arrested, 120, or 97 per cent., were convicted. This decrease occurred in the districts of Cachar, Kámrúp, and Lakhimpur, where convictions were obtained in 58, 56, and 63 per cent., respectively, of the persons put on trial. In the districts of Sylhet and Sibságar, however, the results of prosecutions were excellent, conviction having been obtained in every case in which arrests were made, and they point to commendable discretion on the part of the excise and police officers in making arrests.

The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 3,314, of which Rs. 2,965, or nearly 90 per cent., were realized. Of this sum, Rs. 1,854 were paid during the year by way of reward to informers and apprehenders.

SECTION 4.—STAMPS.

256. The general financial results of the administration of this branch of the Imperial revenue during the past year, as compared with the preceding three years, are exhibited in the subjoined table, in which, however, the receipts from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps are not included:—

Class of Stamp.	Revenue.				
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Average of the three years.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General stamps ...	1,38,795	1,44,950	1,38,299	1,40,681	1,67,079
Court-fee stamps ...	3,35,827	3,61,165	3,49,033	3,48,675	3,81,094
Total ...	4,74,622	5,06,115	4,87,332	4,89,356	5,48,173

From this table, it will be seen that the revenue of the year from general and court-fee stamps shows a satisfactory increase over that of any of the preceding three years. While the receipts from general stamps have risen 20 per cent. over the revenue of the previous year, the sales of court-fee stamps have exceeded those of the preceding year by Rs. 32,061, or 9 per cent. The increase of 20 per cent. in the revenue from general stamps is satisfactory. It is not unreasonable to suppose that this improved revenue was caused by a proportionate increase in monetary and commercial transactions, from which the general stamp revenue is derived, and was also partly the effect of the measures taken to prevent evasions of the Stamp Laws.

The largest amount of stamp revenue was realized in the district of Sylhet, viz., Rs. 2,93,165. Kámrúp stands the next in order, which shows a revenue of Rs. 54,592. The district of Cachar, which stood second in order in 1876-77, has now taken the third place, yielding a revenue of Rs. 53,553.

In none of the remaining districts did the revenue reach Rs. 50,000. From the following table, it will be seen that the revenue realized in Sylhet exceeded that of all the remaining districts of the Province taken together by Rs. 38,157, though the population of Sylhet is only 1,719,539, against 2,332,480 of these latter districts:—

District.	Population.	Gross revenue in		Incidence of revenue in 1877-78 per head of population.	
		1876-77.	1877-78.	As.	P.
		Rs.	Rs.	As.	P.
Cachar	205,027	54,701	53,553		
Goálpára	444,761	41,379	36,421		
Kámrúp	561,681	52,231	54,592		
Darrang	236,009	20,175	22,438		
Nowgong	256,390	27,061	27,997		
Sibságar	296,589	31,863	34,236		
Lakhimpur	121,267	19,738	22,043		
Nága Hills	68,918	182	301		
Khási Hills	141,838	3,110	3,427		
	2,332,480	2,50,440	2,55,008	1	9
Sylhet.....	1,719,539	2,36,892	2,93,165	2	9

The charges of the department amounted to Rs. 11,345 in 1877-78, against Rs. 10,319 in the year immediately preceding, as detailed in the margin. There was thus an increase of Rs. 1,026, or nearly 10 per cent., in the amount of charges during the year. The total gross revenue of the year shows an increase of Rs. 60,841, or nearly 12 per cent. It is satisfactory to observe that the percentage of increase in charges was less than that in revenue.

The increased charges were due mainly to the district of Sylhet, where the figures under the head of discount rose from Rs. 4,486 in 1876-77 to Rs. 5,601 in 1877-78, owing to the larger sales of the court-fee and general stamps during the year under report. Miscellaneous charges show an increase of Rs. 187, or 252 per cent., due principally to the districts of Goálpára and Kámrúp. This increase is attributed to the cost incurred in sending stamps and stamped papers from the head-quarters to the sub-divisions and elsewhere having been higher in 1877-78 than in 1876-77.

Deducting the charges from the total gross revenue for the last two years, the following net results are obtained:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gross revenue.....	4,87,332	5,48,173
Deduct charges	10,319	11,345
Net revenue	4,77,013	5,36,828

Thus, the net revenue of the year shows a satisfactory increase of Rs. 59,815, or nearly 13 per cent.

257. The following is an analysis of the gross receipts of the year under the General Stamp Act, as compared with the results of the year immediately preceding:—

Year.	Denomination of stamps.			Miscellaneous receipts.		Total.
	Non-judicial or document.	Adhesive receipts, or revenue.	Hundi or bills of exchange.	Under Section 30 of the Act.	Under Section 34 of the Act.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1876-77	1,29,462	4,390	1,296	122	3,029	1,38,299
1877-78	1,58,530	4,753	1,517	82	2,197	1,67,079
Increase	29,068	363	221	.....	.....	28,780
Decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	40	832	.....

Of the total amount of Rs. 1,67,079 realized during the year under report, the district of Sylhet alone contributed Rs. 94,925, or 57 per cent., and the district of Cachar Rs. 20,058, or 12 per cent. Of the remainder, the sum of Rs. 50,455, or 30 per cent., was contributed by the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, and the balance of Rs. 1,641, or 1 per cent. of the total revenue, was realized in two of the hill districts,—Khási Hills and Nága Hills. No one of the Brahmaputra Valley districts, except Kámrup and Sibságar, returned receipts exceeding Rs. 10,000; but the return of the past year shows an improvement under this head of revenue in all the districts of the Province except Darrang, which shows a decrease of Rs. 108, as compared with the preceding year.

Non-judicial.—The increase of Rs. 29,068 in the sale-proceeds of non-judicial or document stamps is satisfactory. This increase was distributed over all the districts of the Province except Darrang, where the revenue realized under this head shows a decrease. The receipts fell off from Rs. 3,543 in 1876-77 to Rs. 3,384 in 1877-78, or a decrease of

Rs. 159, owing to a falling off in the number of coolie agreements executed at the tea-gardens during the year under report.

Adhesive.—All the districts of the Province show increased receipts from the sale of this description of stamps, except Sylhet, where a decrease of Rs. 55 occurred during the year under notice, as compared with the preceding year. No special cause has been assigned for this falling off.

Hundi.—The increase of Rs. 221 in the sale of Hundi stamps was due mainly to the district of Sylhet, where the sales of these stamps rose from Rs. 245 in 1876-77 to Rs. 452 in 1877-78, showing an increase of Rs. 207, or nearly 85 per cent., but compared with 1875-76 the figures still show a decrease of Rs. 84. The decrease in 1876-77, as compared with the year immediately preceding, was probably an abnormal one.

Miscellaneous.—The returns from all the plains districts of the Province, except Cachar, Kámrúp, and Sibságar, show an improvement under this head of revenue; but the increase, viz., of Rs. 383, was more than counterbalanced by the total heavy falling off of Rs. 1,255 in the three abovementioned districts.

In Cachar, the revenue under this head, to which are credited the duty and penalties levied on unstamped and insufficiently-stamped documents, has fallen off steadily for the past five years, as will appear from the figures given in the margin. This steady decrease arises, it may be supposed, to a great extent, from the greater attention paid by the public to the provisions of the Stamp Law.

	Rs.
1873-74	1,247
1874-75	928
1875-76	826
1876-77	616
1877-78	203

258. *Court-fee Stamps.*—The total sales of court-fee stamps amounted during the year to Rs. 3,81,094, against Rs. 3,49,033 in 1876-77 and Rs. 3,61,165 in 1875-76, showing an increase of Rs. 32,061 over 1876-77, and of Rs. 19,929 as compared with 1875-76. These results are due mainly to the district of Sylhet, where the revenue under this head rose from Rs. 1,63,840 in 1876-77 to Rs. 1,98,240 in the year under report, or an increase of Rs. 34,400, in consequence of the increase in the number of suits and appeals instituted during the year, resulting from the changes made under the new Law of Limitation, which came into force on 1st October, 1877. All the remaining districts of the Province (except Cachar, Goálpára, and Nowgong), gave a larger revenue during the year. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar attributes the decrease (of Rs. 3,138) in his district to a falling off in the institution of civil suits, owing partly to the enhanced prices of food during the year. The falling off of Rs. 5,603 in Goálpára is attributed by the Deputy-Commissioner to the receipts of the preceding year (1876-77) having been abnormally high, owing to the institution in that year of three heavy civil suits against Government by the Bijni Raja and the zemindars of Gauripur and Mechpara. The decrease in Nowgong is nominal, and calls for no remarks.

259. *Postage, Service, and Telegraph Stamps.*—The sales of postage, service, and telegraph stamps during the last four years are shown in the following table:—

	Postage. Rs.	Service. Rs.	Telegraph. Rs.
1874-75.....	50,729	14,646	19,860
1875-76.....	58,337	15,846	18,770
1876-77.....	62,590	16,599	26,468
1877-78.....	73,619	17,481	42,396

The steady increase in the sales of postage stamps is a matter for congratulation. In four years the sale of these stamps has increased by Rs. 22,890, or 45 per cent. The increased sale of service stamps is due to an increase in official correspondence. The increased receipts under head "Telegraph Stamps" are attributable mainly to the more extensive use of the wire by the public since it has been extended to the districts of Upper Assam.

260. *Prosecutions under the Stamp Laws.*—In the matter of prosecutions instituted by local officers for infringements of the Stamp Laws, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that a creditable degree of watchfulness has generally been shown by the officers concerned. During 1874-75 there were no prosecutions for breaches of the Stamp Laws in this Province. The absence of any prosecutions can hardly be regarded as a matter for congratulation. The results of subsequent years indicate that in former years officers were somewhat wanting in due vigilance. The figures given below do not necessarily show that offences have actually increased during the last four years, but that greater vigilance has brought into light more cases of wilful evasions of the Stamp Laws:—

	Number of prosecutions.
1874-75	Nil.
1875-76	3
1876-77	16
1877-78	28

Twelve of the above prosecutions were undertaken during the year under report in the district of Sylhet, in which twelve persons were brought to trial; of these, eleven were convicted and only one acquitted. In six of the eleven cases in which conviction was obtained, the offence committed was the execution of instruments on paper not duly stamped, and the penalties inflicted consisted of small fines only. The remaining five cases were under Section 48 of the General Stamp Act, for disobeying the rules framed under the said section for the sale of stamps. In the above cases fines amounting to Rs. 160 were inflicted on the offenders; out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 7-8 was given as a reward to an informant under Section 38 of Act XVIII. of 1869.

In Nowgong, there were eleven cases during the year. Eight persons were convicted of having executed bonds on unstamped paper, with the intention of evading the payment of the proper stamp duty. The total amount of fines inflicted in these cases was Rs. 64.

In Sibságar, there were four prosecutions. In two cases the accused were convicted of having executed bonds on insufficiently

stamped papers, and in the other two cases the charge was for executing a receipt and a deed of gift on plain paper. The fines inflicted were nominal.

In Lakhimpur, there was only one prosecution under Section 34 of the General Stamp Act, in which four persons were convicted of not having stated the full consideration-money in a deed of sale, with the deliberate intention of evading the Stamp Law. The accused were sentenced to fines of Rs. 100, 250, 125, and 125, respectively. A penalty of Rs. 995 was also realized from the accused. Out of the amount of the fines, a sum of Rs. 300 was paid to the informant as a reward under Section 38 of the Act.

In the district of Cachar, there were seven cases in which documents were impounded, owing to their having been executed on unstamped or insufficiently-stamped papers. In all these cases, however, ignorance was the cause of the violation of the law, and hence no prosecutions were undertaken, but penalties were realized from the parties concerned.

261. *Miscellaneous.*—All the Deputy-Commissioners of the Province report that the rules for the custody, sale, and defacement of stamps were duly carried out during the year under report.

In last year's Administration Report, the measures that were taken in 1876-77 to prevent the fraudulent use or removal of adhesive court-fee stamps were reported, and it was anticipated that the instructions issued would greatly diminish the danger of the fraudulent removal of judicial stamps from records. The Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that no case of fraud of this kind was brought to his notice during the past year.

SECTION 5.—ELEPHANTS.

262. Thirteen mehals, as detailed below, were leased during the year in the districts of Kámrúp, Lakhimpur, Khási and Jaintiá Hills, and the Gáro Hills, for Rs. 36,001:—

	Number of mehals.	Rs.
Kámrúp	3	6,000
Lakhimpur	7	14,350
Khási and Jaintiá Hills	1	750
Gáro Hills	2	14,901
Total	13	36,001

As the revenue payable on account of the leases sold was not due till the 30th April, 1878, no account of its realization will be given here.

The demand on account of leases of elephant mehals sold during 1876-77, and on account of royalty on elephants caught during the year under review amounted to Rs. 31,870, of which Rs. 15,415 were collected, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 7,850 at the close of the year. This balance was confined to the districts noted on the margin. Of this balance Rs. 3,000 are due from one Mr. Larminie, a lessee of one of the mehals in the Gáro Hills. This sum is irrecoverable, and will have to be remitted.

Kámrúp.....	Rs. 800
Lakhimpur	950
Gáro Hills	6,800

The arrear demand amounted to Rs. 2,800, of which Rs. 2,200 were collected and Rs. 400 remitted during the year under report, leaving a balance of Rs. 200 at the close of the year.

Besides the above collections, Rs. 24,136 were paid in advance on account of leases for 1878-79 sold during the year.

In all, 172 elephants were captured by lessees during the year under review, of which 40 were purchased by Government, 19 died, and one was released, being heavy with calf, leaving 112 at the disposal of the lessees. Royalty amounting to Rs. 9,650 (Rs. 7,450 for elephants captured during the year and Rs. 2,200 on account of elephants captured during the preceding year) was realized.

During the year under report the Chief Commissioner approved of certain alterations in the form of license for catching elephants. Under the amended form of license, one-fourth of the revenue is payable on the day of sale, half the remainder on or before the 31st December, and the remainder on or before the 1st March.

The operations of the Khedda Department during the year were confined to mehal No. 1, in the Gáro Hills, where 92 elephants were captured.

SECTION VI.—LAC.

263. Seven mehals for the collection of indigenous lac were leased during the year, against eight in the preceding year, as shown in the statement given below:—

Districts.	Number of leases in—		Revenue in—	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
			Rs.	Rs.
Kámrúp	2	2	10	24
Darrang	1	1	200	200
Nowgong	1	3	650	927
Sibságar	1	1	40	72
Lakhimpur	3	.....	60	.....
	8	7	960	1,223

From the above, it will appear that the revenue derived during year under review amounted to Rs. 1,223, against Rs. 960 in the preceding year. In only four districts, Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar, have lac mehals been leased out. In Lakhimpur there was no bid for the mehals. The Deputy-Commissioner, after making inquiries, reported that no indigenous lac exists in the plains portion of his district; some indigenous lac is found in the hills bordering on Lakhimpur, but, owing to the difficulty of gathering it and bringing it to the market for sale, there is no trade in the product.

In November, 1877, the Chief Commissioner directed the District Officers to make further inquiries into the production of, and

trade in, lac in their respective districts, with the view to see if any improvement could be effected in the revenue derived from this commodity. The result of the inquiries shows that only in five of the districts of the Province is there any indigenous lac.

The total demand, amounting to Rs. 1,223, was realized during the year.

SECTION 7.—RUBBER.

264. Revenue from rubber is obtained in the Gáro Hills district only. The Deputy-Commissioner purchases rubber from private collectors as a Government monopoly, and sells it again to the best advantage. During the year under review, 111½ maunds were so purchased and sold for Rs. 3,571, against 34 maunds in the preceding year. The rubber is purchased for Rs. 20, and sold for Rs. 32 a maund, the profit being Rs. 12 per maund.

The caoutchouc plantations in Charduar, on the Kulsí River, in Kámrúp, have been reported on in Chapter IV., Section 3—Forests.

B.—REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 1.—PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

265. The receipts and charges of the year under Provincial Services are exhibited in the following statement:—

Head of Service.	Receipts.	Charges.	Net results.	
			Receipts.	Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial allotment for Provincial services	16,76,000	.....	16,76,000	.....
Refunds and drawbacks.....	.....	574	.....	574
Land Revenue	8,031	16,746	.....	8,715
Forests .....	.....	868	.....	868
Excise .....	.....	603	.....	603
Administration.....	.....	100	.....	100
Minor Departments.....	.....	4,172	.....	4,172
Law and Justice, viz.—				
Law and Justice .....	.....	8,622	.....	8,622
Jails	38,845	1,19,470	.....	80,625
Registration	18,608	15,687	2,921	.....
Police.....	5,243	6,06,786	.....	6,01,543
Education	23,029	1,63,171	.....	1,40,142
Ecclesiastical .....	.....	604	.....	604
Medical	3,691	33,532	.....	29,841
Printing	1,505	23,475	.....	21,970
Political Agencies .....	.....	172	.....	172
Miscellaneous	2,830	38,750	.....	35,920
Public Works	3,411	7,12,186	.....	7,08,775
	17,81,193	17,45,518	16,78,921	16,43,246
			35,875	

The surplus of Rs. 35,675 is, according to rule, added to the balance at the beginning of the year, and makes up the amount at credit of the Local Administration to Rs. 1,52,649. The chief differences between the figures of 1877-78 and 1876-77 have already been explained in Part A of this chapter; and this statement therefore calls for no remark.

SECTION 2.—LOCAL FUNDS.

266. The receipts and expenditure of the several Local Funds is shown in the following statement:—

Head of Service.	Assam Local Fund.	District Improvement Fund.	District Post Fund.	Cantonment Fund.	Assam Williamson Fund.	Total.	Total, 1876-77.	Difference.	
								More.	Less.
RECEIPTS.									
Rates, taxes, and cesses	Rs. 196	Rs. 1,80,393	Rs. 13,460	....	....	Rs. 1,94,049	Rs. 2,29,186	....	Rs. 35,137
Police	11,993	....	....	....	....	11,993	11,772	221	....
Education .....	....	....	....	....	5,304	5,304	4,832	472	....
Tolls .....	....	53,218	....	....	....	53,218	44,453	8,765	....
Rents	425	2,864	....	....	....	3,289	1,962	1,327	....
Sale of houses, &c. ....	....	800	....	....	....	300	....	800	....
Cattle-trespass fines	29,071	....	....	2,229	....	31,300	26,138	5,162	....
Miscellaneous fees and fines	385	....	....	....	....	385	334	51	....
Private contributions.....	....	434	....	623	....	1,057	1,008	49	....
Sundry receipts	3,038	9,094	....	352	....	12,474	6,501	5,973	....
Contributions from one fund to another.	....	22,000	....	....	....	22,000	5,000	17,000	....
Public Works	31,784	25	....	....	....	21,759	18,761	2,998	....
Total....	66,832	2,68,328	13,460	3,204	5,304	3,57,126	3,49,937	42,338	35,137
									7,191
CHARGES.									
Refunds	928	663	....	47	23	1,661	962	679	....
Collection of cesses and taxes, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	962	....	962
Police	12,011	....	....	....	....	12,011	13,488	....	1,477
Education .....	....	29,656	....	....	5,862	35,518	32,035	3,483	....
Minor establishments	10,018	3,650	10,600	2,093	....	31,361	49,452	....	18,091
Miscellaneous	8,470	344	....	68	....	8,882	3,958	4,924	....
Contributions from one fund to another.	22,000	....	....	....	....	22,000	5,000	17,000	....
Ditto to Municipal funds.	1,000	....	....	....	....	1,000	....	1,000	....
Public Works	17,556	2,39,129	....	1,274	585	2,58,494	2,43,417	15,077	....
Total....	71,933	2,78,442	10,600	3,482	6,420	3,70,927	3,49,314	42,163	20,350
									21,613
Surplus .....	....	....	2,860	....	....	....	....	....	....
Deficit	5,161	10,114	....	278	1,116	13,799	....	....	....

The comparison between the total receipts and total expenditure of Local Funds shows a small deficit, which is taken in reduction of the balances brought forward from previous years. All the funds were solvent at the end of the year, the aggregate balance being Rs. 1,91,309.

Under "Receipts" there was an increase under all heads except that of "Rates, taxes, and cesses," under which a decrease appears of Rs. 35,137; this decrease is, however, susceptible of explanation: In 1876-77 there was an arrear credit of Rs. 60,600 on account of the assignment of 1-17th of the land revenue, which should have been credited to the Lakhimpur and Kámrúp District Improvement Funds in 1875-76, and, if this be taken into account, there is an increase under this head, thus:—

	Rs.
Arrear credit in 1876-77	60,600
Decrease in 1877-78, compared with 1876-77	35,137
	<hr/>
Real increase in 1877-78.....	25,463

This increase is attributable to the introduction of the road-cess into the Goálpára district, and to the general increase in the land revenue on which the 1-17th assignment is levied.

The increases under the other heads of receipt call for no particular remark. The excess under "Tolls," "Rents," "Cattle-trespass fines," and "Public Works" is due to the general opening up of the Province, which necessitates increased accommodation at ferries, staging-bungalows, and pounds. The head "Sundry receipts" must from its nature vary much from year to year; and the increase under "Contributions" is explained by the corresponding debit,—it is a mere transfer of funds from one account to another.

Of the net increase, Rs. 21,600, under "Charges," Rs. 18,000 are accounted for by contributions to other funds, Rs. 17,000 will be found under "Receipts," and this amount, as explained above, is a mere transfer of money from one Local Fund account to another. The remainder of the increase, Rs. 1,000, is attributable to the grant to the Shillong Town Improvement Fund, which is now classed as a "Municipal Fund."

The decrease under "Minor establishments" and the increase under "Miscellaneous" are due partly to differences in the classification of the accounts of the two years.

The net decrease in the two heads is owing to the tonga dák having been made over to the Post-office on a subsidy of Rs. 3,600 per annum, instead of the whole charge being borne by Local Funds.

The excess under "Public Works" is due to the increased operations of that department in providing staging-bungalows, steam and other ferries, &c., at important points.

The Town Improvement and Bazaar Funds noticed in this chapter in previous reports are now classed as Municipal, and not as Local Funds.

SECTION 3.—MUNICIPAL REVENUES.

267. An account of the receipts and expenditure of the several Municipalities of the Province has already been given in Chapter III., Section 8 of this report.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SECTION 1.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

268. The registration of vital statistics was continued during the year under review on the system described in previous reports, and it is to be regretted that the results are still very unsatisfactory. The figures are absolutely valueless. Taking the Province as a whole, the death-rate, as returned, was 10·9 per mille of the population under registration, which at the census of 1872 numbered 3,805,364. In the district of Goálpára, the death-rate was only 8·7 per mille, and in Sylhet it was still lower, namely, 5·8 per mille.

Taking the general and the selected areas, urban and rural separately, the following results were obtained, namely:—

Death-rate.

General area	14·5 per mille.
Selected urban	32·8 " "
Selected rural	26·1 " "

In the selected urban area of Lakhimpur, which includes only the station of Dibrugarh, the death-rate was 57·8 per mille. This excessive mortality was due chiefly to cholera. In the selected urban area of Darrang, the death-rate was 49·7 per mille, and in that of Sylhet it was 41·5 per mille. The death-rate in the former area was no doubt exceptionally affected by the presence within it of the lunatic asylum and of the dispensary, in which a large number of deaths of tea coolies admitted in a dying state occurred. The high death-rate in the Sylhet selected urban area was largely due to cholera. Even in the selected areas there is, as a rule, such an enormous excess of the male over the female rate of mortality as to compel the conclusion that a large number of deaths among the female population must be unregistered. Thus, in the Goálpára urban area the male death-rate was 76·6, the female 7·7 per mille; in Kámráp the male death-rate was 12·3, the female 5·3 per mille; in Nowgong the corresponding figures were 15·2 and 7·9.

Notwithstanding these defects, however, there is reason to believe that registration is improving in the selected areas.

The deaths from all causes during the year numbered 41,716. Of these, 18,715 were due to fevers, 11,377 to cholera, 5,806 to bowel-complaints, 1,260 to small-pox, 261 to snake-bites and attacks by wild beasts, and 432 to wounds and accidents. The proportion of deaths

from cholera is very large. This disease was exceedingly fatal in the districts of Sylhet, Nowgong, Darrang, and Kámrup. The term "fevers," however, in native parlance, embraces a great variety of diseases, as pneumonia, bronchitis, phthisis, hepatitis,—in fact, every ailment attended with increased heat of the body.

The registration of births continued to be confined to selected areas, with an aggregate population of 120,821. The results were very unsatisfactory. Altogether, 2,539 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 20·9 per mille of population. The sexes born were in the proportion of 123 males to 100 females. So great an excess of males is without parallel in accurate statistics. In the districts of Sibságár, Goálpára, and Darrang, the birth-rates approached very closely to the English birth-rate. They were 34·0, 32·1, and 31·3, respectively.

It is to be hoped that, as the people become more familiar with the system and objects of registration, better results will be obtained in future years. An endeavour will be made to secure more accurate information regarding the rate of re-production and mortality in all the sudder stations. In the outlying portions of the Province, the difficulties of obtaining information on such subjects are almost insurmountable; and the statistics obtainable so long as registration is voluntary, will always be so untrustworthy, that, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, it would be almost better to abandon all idea of collecting them. In the sudder stations, however, all difficulties may eventually be overcome by careful supervision.

SECTION 2.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

269. As in the report for the previous year, a brief account of the immigrant population of the Province during the year under review will be given in this section, and certain subjects in connection with labour immigration into Assam will be touched upon. The statistics concerning the immigrant population during the year will also be compared with the corresponding statistics for the preceding year.

270. At the commencement of the year 1877, there were 135,807 immigrants in the Province. During the year, 31,897 immigrants were added by importation, and 54,815 were otherwise added. Thus, the total number of the immigrants employed in the Province during the year under review was 222,519. 7,465 deaths occurred, 4,724 adults deserted, 53,111 immigrants were otherwise deducted, that is, by determination of contract, by redemption under Section 137 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873, by cancellation of contract, and so on. The total number thus removed being 65,300, the total number of immigrants remaining in the Province at the end of the year was 157,219, showing an increase of 21,412 in the immigrant population of the Province.

Statistics of the total immigrant population.

271. The following table gives the statistics of the total immigrant population for the year 1877, as compared with those for the preceding year:—

	1876.	1877.
Number remaining at the commencement of the year ..	112,788	135,807
Imported	34,283	31,897
Otherwise added	43,297	54,815
Total employed	190,368	222,519
Died	6,253	7,465
Deserted	5,821	4,724
Otherwise deducted	42,435	53,111
Total	54,509	65,300
Number remaining at the end of the year	135,859	157,219
Deduct the difference of	52	
Total	135,807	

Calculated on average strength.

Death-rate	5.02	5.09
Desertion-rate	6.16	4.48

The death-rate was thus nearly the same during the two years. The desertion-rate during 1877 compares favourably with the desertion-rate during 1876.

272. At the commencement of the year 1877 there were 41,549 labourers engaged under Act VII. in the several tea districts of the Province, against 42,698 such labourers in the preceding year. 22,668 such labourers were imported during the year 1877, of whom 14,382 were recruited by garden-sirdars and 8,286 through contractors, and 1,625 were otherwise added; the corresponding figures for the year 1876 are 19,813, 12,309, 7,504, and 1,520, respectively. The total number employed was 68,842, against 64,031 employed in the preceding year. Of this number, 304 were released on account of permanent unfitness under Section 112 of the Act, 13,569 were released by determination of contract, 365 by redemption under Section 137, and 152 by cancelment of contract under Sections 124 and 135; the corresponding figures for the preceding year are 244, 12,017, 226, and 156, respectively. The number of deaths recorded was 3,740, giving a death-rate of 8.19 per cent., against 2,967 deaths registered in 1876, showing a death-rate of 6.79 per cent. The death-rate calculated on actual strength was 5.51 per cent., against 4.72 in the previous year. 2,584 persons deserted, against 2,444 persons who deserted in the previous year. The desertion-rate was thus 5.65 per cent., as compared with 5.59 in the preceding year. The desertion-rate calculated on actual strength was 3.81 per cent., against 3.88 per cent. in 1876. 378 persons were imprisoned, against 236 persons imprisoned in 1876, and 9,085 persons were otherwise deducted, against 1,130 so deducted in the preceding year. The total number deducted was thus 22,077, against 19,420 in the previous year, and the number remaining

at the end of the year 1877 was 46,765, against 44,549 remaining at the end of the year 1876. This shows a total increase of 2,216 in the year 1877, against an increase of 1,851 in the preceding year as compared with the year 1875.

The death-rate among labourers engaged under Act VII., whether calculated on actual or average strength, was higher in the year under report than in the preceding year. The death-rates among labourers from Nepal, Madras, and Bombay were very high during the year 1877; but the percentages are calculated on numbers too small to show a reliable average. The very high mortality during the year among Madrassi coolies, and the action taken by the Chief Commissioner in regard to these coolies, will be noticed further on.

The death-rates among the labourers from Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and Chota Nagpur during the year compare unfavourably with the death-rates among the same classes of labourers in the year 1876. The death-rate among labourers from the North-Western Provinces continues to be lamentably high:—

		Death-rate.	
		1876.	1877.
North-Western Provinces ...	{ Men	11·37	15·11
	{ Women	9·23	9·02

The cause of this high death-rate was explained in paragraph 308 of last year's report, and the steps taken by the Chief Commissioner to remedy this evil were stated. The draft Regulation empowering the Local Government to close a garden to any particular class of labourers engaging under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 has been approved of by the Government of India. It has not, however, in the case of labourers from the North-Western Provinces, been found necessary to enforce the provisions of this Regulation.

273. At the commencement of the year 1877 there were in the Province (not counting infants under two years), 76,332 immigrants imported otherwise than under the provisions of Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.), against 61,584 such immigrants at the commencement of the preceding year. During the year under review, 7,855 such immigrants were imported, of whom 1,675 were men, 1,420 were women, 2,696 boys, and 2,064 girls, against 11,911 imported in the previous year, of whom 4,432 were men, 3,130 women, 2,527 boys, and 1,822 girls.

The number of immigrants re-engaged on expiry of contract during the year 1877 was 24,366, of whom 11,867 were men, 9,655 women, 1,551 boys, and 1,293 girls. The number otherwise added was 19,467.

The total number added during the year was thus 51,688, against 44,172 in the preceding year, and the total number employed was 128,020, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 105,756.

There was thus a gross increase of 22,264 such immigrants during the year under review.

The total number of such immigrants who left the gardens during the year with permission amounted to 28,277, of whom 13,414 were men, 9,868 women, 2,751 boys, and 2,244 girls.

The corresponding figures for the previous year are 22,866, 11,079, 7,964, 2,300, and 1,523.

The total number of such immigrants who left the gardens without permission or deserted was 2,708, against 4,086 in the previous year, showing a net decrease of 1,378.

The total number of such immigrants who died during the year 1877 was 2,487, against 1,984 in the preceding year.

The number of minors who arrived at 16 years of age was 854, against 488 in the preceding year.

The total number otherwise deducted during the year 1877 was 1,921. The total number deducted was 36,247, against 29,424 in the previous year, and the total number remaining at the end of the year 1877 was 91,773, against 76,332 in the preceding year. The net increase to the free immigrant population of the Province during the year under report was thus 15,441.

The death-rate during the year among this class of immigrants (excluding children and infants) was 1·73 per cent. (calculated on actual strength) and 2·61 per cent. (calculated on average strength). The corresponding figures for 1876 are 1·69 per cent. and 2·64 per cent. The desertion-rate during the year (excluding children and infants) was 2·38 per cent. (calculated on actual strength) and 3·58 (calculated on average strength). The corresponding figures for 1876 are 4·26 per cent. and 6·64 per cent. The death-rate thus remained nearly stationary, while the desertion-rate shows a satisfactory decrease.

At the commencement of the year 1877 there were in the Province 14,926 infants, against 8,506 infants at the commencement of the previous year. 1,374 infants were imported during the year, against 2,559 imported in the previous year. 4,950 were born during the year, against 6,952 born in the previous year, and 4,407 were otherwise added, against 2,564 in the preceding year. The total number of infants in the Province during 1877 was thus 25,657, against 20,581 in 1876. There was thus a gross increase during the year under report of 5,076 infants.

The total number of infants who died during the year was 1,238, against 1,302 in the preceding year. The death-rate was thus 7·36 per cent., against 11·11 per cent. in 1876.

The total number of infants who were otherwise deducted was 5,738, against 4,363 in the previous year.

The total number of infants remaining at the end of the year was 18,681. The corresponding figures for the previous year being 14,926, there was thus a net increase of 3,755 infants during the year under review.

Among 48,823 women (average strength) 4,950 infants were born during the year 1877, giving a birth-rate of 10·13 per cent. In the previous year among 43,247 women (average strength) 6,952 infants were born, giving a birth-rate of 16·07 per cent. The birth-rate in both years was satisfactorily high.

274. Immigration operations at Dhubri have very much increased in magnitude since their commencement, in March, 1875, and their still further extension, consequent on the opening of the Northern Bengal line to Rangpur, is certain.

Dhubri and Rajmahal route.
During the year 1877-78, 8,704 emigrants were originally registered to proceed to the labour districts, against 3,782 such emigrants registered in 1876-77. The total number received at Dhubri was 8,053 against 3,624 in the preceding year; and the total number of emigrants who reached their final destination was 7,767, against 3,561 in 1876-77. The percentage of loss on the road to Dhubri was 6·009, against 3·86 in the previous year. The percentage of loss at Dhubri, and on the passage up from Dhubri, was respectively 1·19 and 1·72, as compared with ·46 and ·89, respectively, in 1876-77. These percentages compare unfavourably with the percentages during the previous year. The increase in the rate of mortality is ascribed to the occurrence of cholera in the months of January and March.

The details of loss on the way between the recruiting districts and Dhubri are said by the Superintendent of Emigration to be still unreliable, there being practically no check on desertions being reported as deaths. Mr. Campbell's attention has been directed to the desirability of devising some means of scrutinizing the reports of the sirdars during the journey to Dhubri.

In addition to the emigrants concerning whom statistics have been given above, 1,899 emigrants set off to march up the whole way from the recruiting districts to Lakhimpur; of these, 1,885 reached their respective destinations, 11 having died and 3 absconded on their way up. The death-rate among these parties, less than ·7 per cent., was satisfactorily low. It is, however, not easy to understand why the mortality among these parties on the journey to Dhubri by land should be so much less than the mortality during the same journey among those emigrants who proceeded onwards from Dhubri by steamer. But, as stated before, the death-rate among the latter class during the journey by road is unreliable.

In addition to the emigrants imported *via* Dhubri under agreements of some kind or the other, 433 emigrants under no contract of any kind embarked at Dhubri during the year as third-class passengers. No casualties are reported to have occurred among these emigrants.

A scheme for establishing an improved system of steamer service between Dhubri and Dibrugarh has already been laid before the Government of India, and, if the scheme is sanctioned, the death-rate among the coolies during the passage will, it is hoped, be greatly reduced, as the passage from Dhubri to Dibrugarh would be performed in a much shorter time than at present, and it has been almost invariably found that heavy mortality from cholera has taken place when the voyage has been a protracted one.

If the marching up of emigrants engaging under Act VII. attains the development which recent experience foreshadows, it will by necessary, the Chief Commissioner thinks, to regulate the system by some definite rules, as the provisions of the Act relating to the journey to

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the labour districts do not apply to emigrants marched up the whole way; but these rules should be few and simple.

Sir Steuart Bayley considers the success of the Dhubri route to be now past question.

275. The death-rate for 1877-78 amongst emigrants on the river passage to Assam, namely, 3·59 per cent, was unusually high, the rate in the preceding year having been only 1·46 per cent.; but the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that the high death-rate during the year was exceptional, and was owing almost entirely to outbreaks of cholera, 251 coolies having died from that disease during the voyage, giving a death-rate from cholera of 2·31 per cent. In 1876-77 only 124 deaths occurred from cholera during the voyage, giving a death-rate of 1·21 per cent. Whether the high death-rate from cholera during the year 1877-78 was due to any special causes or not, the Chief Commissioner is unable to say. He has not yet received a copy of the Report of the Superintendent of Emigration for that year.

276. The subject of the detention of steamers during the voyage was mentioned in para. 313 of last year's report. It is satisfactory to find that no complaints of the undue detention of steamers were made during the year under review.

277. The death-rate during the year among the Madrassi coolies imported into Upper Assam was lamentably high. The facts, as represented, seem to point to want of care in selecting the individual coolies rather than to any special condition of the gardens upon which they were employed. Inquiries were set on foot, with the view to ascertain whether any general prohibition against the importation of Madrassi coolies might be necessary. These inquiries seem to indicate that no such general prohibition was requisite, but that immigrants from certain districts of Madras, especially those on the sea coast, seemed almost invariably to show a very high rate of mortality. Accordingly, under Regulation IV. of 1877, the Chief Commissioner notified that the provisions of Chapter 13 of Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.) should be held applicable to Madrassi labourers, thereby permitting the importation of such labourers to be prohibited in such localities as proved unsuited to them. Whether any action has as yet been taken under that notification by the local authorities has not yet been brought to the Chief Commissioner's notice.

Sir Steuart Bayley will watch the importation of Madrassi coolies carefully for another year, and, if the mortality still continues, he will address the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, with a view to Section 10 of the Act being put in force. His Honour has been requested by the Chief Commissioner to direct the attention of the Medical Inspector of Emigrants, Calcutta, to the necessity for special strictness in scrutinizing the condition of Madrassi labourers emigrating to Assam, and the rigorous exclusion of those who are likely to be unable to labour in Assam tea-gardens.

278. During the year 1877 there were 832 tea-gardens existing in the Province, as compared with 800 gardens existing in 1876. Of these 832 gardens, only 480 gardens employed labourers engaging under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers; and consequently the Inspectors of Labourers were bound by law to visit this number of gardens only under Section 104 of the said Act. Of these 480 gardens, 210 were visited once only, 110 were visited twice, 21 were visited thrice, and 139 gardens were left unvisited during the year 1877. It is, however, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, very questionable whether it is necessary to require that all gardens should be inspected at stated intervals, as at present. There are very many gardens employing labourers engaged under the Act which, owing to the large clearances and absence of jungle and to good sanitary arrangements, have for years past exhibited very low death-rates. Such gardens it is probably unnecessary to inspect save at very long intervals. There are many other gardens, too, in regard to which inspection might well be less frequent than is at present the case. Sir Steuart Bayley would accordingly be disposed to regulate the minuteness and frequency of inspections in accordance with some such classification based on the degree in which supervision is really required.

279. On the whole, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that the working of the Department during the year discloses a satisfactory state of affairs as regards labour immigration into this Province. On all sides he has heard the strongest testimony borne to the almost invariable good treatment of the coolies by the planters, and to the sufficiency of the accommodation provided for the labourer, and the attention paid to his comfort, on the tea-gardens. That in many points connected with labour immigration into Assam there is still much room for improvement Sir Steuart Bayley quite admits; but, on the whole, the relations between the two parties are satisfactory,—the coolie is better off in Assam than he would be probably anywhere else, and there is a prospect of the difficulties in connection with transport, which have hitherto, directly and indirectly, made the imported coolie such an expensive instrument being rapidly and materially diminished.

SECTION 3.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

280. There were 18 dispensaries open during the year in the Province, as compared with 17 open in 1876, and 16 in 1875. A new dispensary was opened at Mangaldai, the principal residents of which place have subscribed liberally in its support.

The total number of patients treated was 27,724, against 28,085 in the previous year. The in-door patients numbered 2,531, against 2,582 in 1876, and the out-door 25,193, against 25,503 in the previous year. In both classes there was a slight decrease. The principal diseases treated were, as in former years, malarious fever, dysentery and diarrhoea, skin diseases, goitre, rheumatism, syphilis, pneumonia, ulcers,

spleen disease, and worms. The last-mentioned disease seems to be very generally prevalent. It is stated that in some districts, among the bodies of natives submitted to post-mortem examination, there is hardly one in which numbers of worms are not found in the intestines. 179 cholera cases were treated; of these, 91 were treated in Cachar alone. The number of major surgical operations is very small; only 27 such operations were reported to have been performed during the year, against 89 in the previous year, and of these 21 alone were performed in the stations of Sylhet and Cachar. Of minor operations there were 1,035 performed during the year, against 1,089 performed during the preceding year. Of the in-door patients, 19 per cent. died. It seems that in certain districts, and especially in Lakhimpur, a very large proportion of the patients are tea-coolies, who are admitted in a state of extreme emaciation from dysentery or dropsy, and who are past the possibility of cure.

Excluding the cost of European medicines, which cannot be stated accurately, the total amount contributed by Government was Rs. 8,642-9-5. The other sources of income were (a) the Labour Transport and Local Funds, (b) subscriptions, and (c) interest on investments. The Labour Transport and other Funds contributed Rs. 6,502-9-2, and private subscriptions amounted to Rs. 9,415-3-9, of which sum Rs. 5,552-10-9 were contributed by Europeans, and Rs. 3,862-9 by natives. The interest on investments amounted to Rs. 132-13-11. The total expenditure was Rs. 26,846-12-8½, and the balance to credit at the close of the year was Rs. 4,883-12-10¼.

The results which attended the working of dispensaries throughout the year may be considered as, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. Much difficulty is, however, experienced in some places in inducing the native community to contribute towards the support of these institutions.

SECTION 4.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

281. The Tezpur Lunatic Asylum continues to be the only institution of the kind in the Province.

The buildings have undergone little change, but considerable improvements have been made in the drainage of the site upon which they stand. It was found that after heavy rain the whole Asylum compound become more or less swampy, and consequently the floors of the huts became extremely damp. This evil has been remedied by cutting large drains, which give a ready exit to the surface-water.

Twenty-four patients, including four re-admissions, were admitted during the year, and 47 remained from the previous year,—thus, the total lunatic population was 71, and the average population was 35·46. 24 patients were discharged cured or made over to their friends. 13 died and 34 remained in the asylum at the close of the year. The death-rate was excessive, viz., 36·6. In the nine months of 1876, during which the asylum was open, the mortality was at the rate of 34·4 per cent. per annum. A very large proportion of the mortality was due in both years to dysentery and diarrhœa. It was doubtless due to some extent to the state of health the lunatics were in on admission.

The majority of the lunatics were natives of other provinces. Of the 24 admissions, only 10 were natives of Assam.

The expenditure during the year continued very heavy in relation to the number of lunatics. The total outlay was Rs. 6,369-6-3, and the total outlay per head was Rs. 179-5-8; but, as a sum of Rs. 106-4-4 was received on account of paying patients, the actual cost to Government per head was Rs. 176-9-6½.

The high cost per head arises from two causes,—(a) the fact that an establishment has to be kept up which would suffice for the care of a much larger number of lunatics; (b) the high price of food in Assam.

In these calculations the value of the work done by the lunatics has not been taken into account. It was very trifling, however, the principal product being vegetables for the use of the lunatics themselves.

The numbers under treatment are too small to admit of any safe conclusion being drawn regarding the forms of mental disease most prevalent in the Province, or as to the relative liability of the sexes to lunacy.

SECTION 3.—SANITATION.

282. The only sanitary work of importance undertaken during the year was the drainage of the town of Gauháti. The swamps in the rear of this town have been for years a source of serious injury to the health of the community, and the work of draining them is one of imperative necessity. It is expected that the execution of this work will be attended by the best effects. In other places the means available have, as heretofore, been mainly devoted to keeping up the scavenging establishment and maintaining surface cleanliness. It is hoped that means may be found for improving the water-supply of some of the larger towns, which is in a very unsatisfactory state; but the scarcity of funds is the great obstacle to the carrying out of this and other improvements, the need of which is fully recognised.

The difficulties in the way of carrying out any general system of sanitation in this Province have been detailed in previous reports. These difficulties are still as formidable as ever.

SECTION 6.—VACCINATION.

283. In this Province there is no special establishment for carrying on vaccination operations. The work is done by native vaccinators attached to the dispensaries, and acting under the orders of the Civil Surgeons.

A large amount of vaccination is done by the medical officers attached to tea-gardens among the tea coolies which does not appear in the returns at all, and a good deal of the work shown in the returns as done by Government vaccinators is really done among the same class. The Assamese of all classes, high and low, have a superstitious dislike to vaccination, and offer a passive resistance to its progress; and the

vaccinators, in order to be able to show some work for their pay, operate among the coolies, who are under control, and do as they are told to do by their employers.

During the year under report there were 18,494 primary vaccinations, of which 17,085, or 75·95, were successful, and 95 re-vaccinations of which 80, or 84 per cent. were successful.

Assuming that every case reported as successful was really so, these figures show what a very small fraction of the population is as yet protected against small-pox. Taking the birth-rate among the population included in the returns at the low rate of 40 per mille per annum, there must have been 143,360 children born within the year, and of these only 12,891, or about 1 in 12, were protected against small-pox. In Sylhet, the most populous district in the Province, not 1 in 800 of the children born were protected.

Of the whole 17,085 persons reported to have been successfully vaccinated, no less than 7,667 belong to one district, namely, Kámrúp. The success of vaccination in that district is most encouraging, and does much credit to Dr. Russell, the Civil Surgeon of Gauháti. Dr. Russell has set the right way to work, by inducing the hereditary inoculators to abandon inoculation in favour of vaccination, and his well-directed efforts have been attended by much success in most parts of the district.

There are now in Kámrúp no less than 102 hereditary inoculators who practise vaccination.

There were altogether 18 vaccinators employed during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,799-2-4, of which sum Rs. 1,594-2-4 were contributed from Provincial Funds, Rs. 120 by Municipalities, and Rs. 85 from Local Funds.

The apathy of the people, and their superstitious dislike to vaccination, are very formidable obstacles to the progress of vaccination in this Province, and the system of operations is ill-suited to the circumstances of the country. Sir Steuart Bayley is convinced that the dispensary system of vaccination, as it is called, will never effect much in a country where the population is so sparse, and locomotion so difficult, as is the case in Assam: nothing but a properly-organized circle establishment will avail for the protection of Assam from small-pox.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—[Blank.]

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

284. The number of schools existing in the Province at the close of the year 1877-78 was 1,175, against 1,133 at the close of 1876-77. The number of pupils on the 31st March, 1878, was 34,376, as compared with 31,925 on the 31st March, 1877. There has thus been an increase of 42 schools and 2,451 pupils, or an increase of 3·7 per cent. in the number of schools and of 7·7 in the number of pupils.

285. The total expenditure for the last two years was as shown below:—

	1876-77. Rs.	1877-78. Rs.
Subscribed by the public.....	80,794	80,571
From Provincial Funds	1,44,413	1,45,424
From Local Funds	29,761	29,972
Total.....	2,54,978	2,55,967

The increase of over 7½ per cent. in the number of pupils, attended with an increased expenditure of less than 4 annas per the Rs. 100, is a subject for congratulation; but it must be observed that, whereas the contributions of the people amounted in 1876-77 to 31·7 of the total cost, in 1877-78 they fell to 31·5 per cent.

Taking the figures given in the Bengal Census Report of 1872 as correct, it is found that in the plains districts one person in every 120, and in the hill districts one person in every 95, goes to school. In the preceding year, the proportions were one in 129 and one in 95, respectively. The figures evidence a marked advancement in the plains districts. The number of square miles to each school in the plains has fallen from 26·5 to 25·5.

286. It appears from the educational statistics that the proportion of Hindus to Mussulmans at school in the Province during the year was as 5½ to 2. These educational statistics are concerned with schools "under inspection" only, *i.e.*, schools which supply the department with all the returns called for during the year; it has, however, from inquiry been ascertained that in the Sylhet district there are over 200 independent *maktabs*, or private schools, attended by more than 3,500

Muhammadan pupils. No account is taken of these schools in the educational tables of statistics. The education given in these *maktabs* is generally nominal, consisting of the teaching of portions of the Koran to a few of the Mussulman boys of a village; the teacher is generally an itinerant *mulla*, who settles down for some months in a village, and when he thinks he has performed his mission he betakes himself to some other village, where he starts a new *maktab*.

It may be noted, however, that, with the single exception of the Sibságar district, there were found a larger number of Mussulmans in the schools at the close of the present than during the preceding year. In this district, as well as in Nowgong and Lakhimpur, the Muhammadans are proportionately better schoolgoers than the Hindus; in Goalpára, Kámrúp, and Darrang, the relative attendance of Hindus and Muhammadans is much the same. It is in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar, and more especially in the former, that the Mussulmans are found so apathetic in the matter of State education.

Out of the total number of pupils attending the schools in 1876-77, 80·4 per cent. belonged to the lower classes of society: in 1877-78 the proportion was 79·7 per cent.

287. *Primary Instruction.*—The following statement shows an increase of 39 in the number of primary schools, and of 2,192 in the number of pupils attending them, as compared with the preceding year:—

Year.	Schools.	Pupils.
1876-77.....	1,023	24,883
1877-78.....	1,062	27,075

The cost during the year of these 1,062 schools came to Rs. 70,991, of which sum of Rs. 48,060 were contributed by the State. The average daily attendance having been 18,855, the cost to Government of educating each pupil came to Rs. 2-8-9 out of Rs. 3-12-2; in 1876-77 the cost to Government was Rs. 2-11-7 out of Rs. 4-0-11. The cost of educating each pupil is ascertained by dividing by the average daily attendance; were it the practice to divide by the number of pupils on the rolls, all of whom have no doubt received some education, the cost to Government of each pupil would be found to be Re. 1-12-4 out of Rs. 2-9-11, against Re. 1-14-1 out of Rs. 2-13-11 in the previous year.

It may be remarked here that, in addition to the pupils reading in the primary schools, there were 4,404 others reading in middle and higher schools who were still in the primary stage of instruction. Thus, out of 34,376 pupils, 31,479, or 91·6 per cent., were receiving a primary education; in the years 1875-76 and 1876-77 the percentages were 91·7 and 91·4, respectively.

288. *Secondary Instruction.*—(a) *Middle Vernacular Schools.*—The number of these schools remained the same (57) as in the foregoing year, but there was an increase of 250 pupils attending them, viz., from 2,970 to 3,220. Their cost came to Rs. 24,748, against Rs. 25,918 in 1876-77. The average cost per head to Government was Rs. 5-6-8, and to the public Rs. 5-13-1; against Rs. 5-15-1 and Rs. 5-14-8, respectively, in the previous year. In the year under review the people contributed 51·8 per cent. of the cost of the education of their children reading in middle vernacular schools, against 50 per cent. in the preceding year.

289. (b) *Middle English Schools.*—These schools numbered 33, against 31 in 1876-77, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 2,192 to 2,249. Their total cost increased from Rs. 23,141 to Rs. 25,747, while the cost to Government fell from Rs. 8,499 to Rs. 8,206. In 1876-77 the cost to Government of middle English schools was 36·7 per cent. of the total cost, in 1877-78 it was 31·9 per cent. only.

The cost per head for the last two years was—

	1876-77.			1877-78.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
To Government	5	13	5	5	6	0
To the people	10	1	0	11	7	8

290. (c) *Higher Class Schools.*—*Schools teaching up to the University Entrance Standard.*—These schools consist of the eight zila schools and an unaided school situated in the town of Sylhet called the Mufti School. The number of pupils reading in these nine schools was 1,469, the average daily attendance was 1,155, against 1,133 in the preceding year. None of the candidates sent up from the Mufti School proved successful at the last Entrance Examination. In no previous year were there so large a number of candidates successful at the Entrance Examination from among those sent up by the zila schools.

291. *Female Education.*—It is encouraging to find an increase still continuing in the number of female pupils attending the schools. The following table shows a net increase of 191 girls, or of more than 17 per cent. above the number attending the schools in the previous year:—

District.	Number of female pupils.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1876-77.	1877-78.		
Cachar	75	103	28	.....
Sylhet	55	195	140	.....
Goálpára	50	36	.....	14
Kámrúp	226	142	.....	84
Darrang	48	52	4	.....
Nowgong	55	98	43	.....
Sibságar	72	89	17	.....
Lakhimpur	37	34	.....	3
Total of plains districts.....	618	749	Net increase. 131	.....
Khási and Jaintiá Hills	458	528	70	.....
Gáro Hills.....	20	10	.....	10
Nága Hills.....	4	4	.....	.....
Total Hill Districts.....	482	542	Net increase. 60	.....
Grand Total.....	1,100	1,291	191	.....

Besides those actually at school, many girls and adult females devote their leisure hours at home to reading and writing.

292. *Special Instruction.*—(a) *Normal Schools.*—During the year under review the normal schools turned out 117 persons, who are now engaged in teaching; of these, 84 qualified themselves for different classes of schoolmastership certificates, in 1876-77 only 62 were so qualified.

293. (b) *Technical Schools.*—Under this head are included the Williamson artizan school at Jorhát, and the Williamson survey class attached to the Sibságar zila school. Both these schools are supported from the Williamson Endowment Fund. In the artizan school the arts of the carpenter, the wheelwright, and the blacksmith are taught, and it is working with tolerable success.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

294. During the year 1877, only 17 books were registered, against 37 registered in the preceding year.

Of the 17 books registered, 8 were educational and 9 non-educational works; 15 were original works and 2 were translations.

The number of copies of educational works fell from 11,600 in 1876 to 8,000 in 1877, and the number of copies of non-educational works from 16,150 to 8,364.

The books registered in 1877 treat of the following subjects:—

I. Biography.	IV. Poetry.
II. Fiction.	V. Religion.
III. Language.	VI. Miscellaneous.

Biography is represented by a life and genealogy of Sankar Dev. *Fiction* is represented by a book of 384 pages regarding a Goddess by name "Manassa," said to be the Goddess of Snakes.

Under the head of *Language* are included two keys to the study of two Bengali books. The remaining books are reading books for schools, written in Bengali and Assamese.

Poetry is represented by (1) "Bharatesvari," an ode to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her assuming the title of Empress of India; (2) a small poetical reader; (3) a poem entitled "Manas Kusam" or the Flower of Desire; and (4) a poem written in memory of the late Babu Rasbihari Datta, of Sylhet.

One book only, "Bhakti Ratnabali," a treatise on devotion, comes under the head of *Religion*.

Of the miscellaneous works, one is a genealogical table of a Muhammadan named Koresh; a second work describes the proceedings of a meeting held by a native Joint Stock Company recently started in Cachar; the remaining works are small primers for the use of schools.

The publications are of little interest, and seem to require no further comment. 13 are written in Bengali and 4 in Assamese.

The expenditure incurred under Section 10 of Act XXV. of 1867, in the purchase of books during the years 1875, 1876, and 1877, is given below:—

1875.		1876.			1877.		
Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
8	10	26	11	6	31	10	6

Of the amount of Rs. 31-10-6, Rs. 6-6-0 were paid for publications supplied for the British Museum, under the orders of the Government of India.

Fees levied under Section 18 of Act XXV. of 1867 amounted to Rs. 4 only. No necessity arose for any prosecution under Section 16 of the Act.

295. During the year the number of presses in the Province was six,—the same as in the preceding year.

The newspapers published were the same as in 1876, a classification of them will be found in the statement marked C 2—Statistics of Instruction—The Press, 1877-78.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

296. No fresh archæological remains have been discovered in the Province during the year under report, and there are no archæological objects anywhere in Assam of sufficient interest or importance to require the special attention of Government for their preservation. The Chief Commissioner has, however, instructed District Officers generally to exert their influence with the owners of all old buildings of any public interest, with a view to encourage their preservation as far as possible.

In March, 1877, the Chief Commissioner addressed a circular to all District Officers, stating that he was desirous of ascertaining what ancient inscriptions of interest or importance were to be found in the Province, with a view to the record and preservation of such as might prove to be of value, and requesting them to endeavour to procure accurate copies of all inscriptions on mosques, temples, or detached stones, or on copper-plates believed to be more than a century old. In accordance with the request contained in the above noted circular, copies of several ancient inscriptions have been submitted by some of the District Officers, and endeavours are being made to have those obtained translated, in case they may prove to be of any interest or archæological value.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

297. Ecclesiastical affairs in the Province are under the supervision of the Bishop of Calcutta.

There is only one Chaplain on the establishment, who officiates part of the year at Gauháti and part of the year at Shillong, and who also visits Goálpára four times a year.

There is a minister at Dibrugarh, who is paid by the Additional Clergy Society, and who visits Sadiya once a year. There is at Tezpur a minister paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; he visits Nowgong twice a year, Bishnath twice a year, and Mangaldai three times during the year.

The minister who was in 1877 appointed to Jorhát and the surrounding districts got fever and had to return to Calcutta. The minister at Silchar paid by the Additional Clergy Society, who used to visit Sylhet four times a year, does not now do so; but that station would appear to be visited occasionally by the Chaplain of Dacca.

There are seven churches in the Province,—at Shillong, Gauháti, Tezpur, Mangaldai, Dibrugarh, Sylhet, and Silchar.

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta has granted His Lordship's license to the following temporary churches, viz.:—

Hasiurah, Háilákandi, Cachar.

St. Mark's, at Shalgunga, Cachar.

„ Luke's, at Phulertol, Cachar.

„ John's at Burkhola, Cachar.

At Dhubri, Goálpára, Assam.

Statistics.

	Number of churches.	Number of temporary churches.	Number of Clergymen.	Paid by Government.
Church of England	7	5	4	Re- 24,309

SECTION 2.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

298. There is nothing to add to the information given under this head in previous reports.

SECTION 3.—STATIONERY.

299. The Superintendent of Stationery having again been unable this year to give the information asked for, this section is blank.

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1877-78.

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PART I.

**STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL
GEOGRAPHY.**

A 1.—AREA CULTIVATED AND UNCULTIVATED AND COMMUNICATIONS (1877-78).

[1]

PRINCIPAL GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY.	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.				UNAPPROPRIATED CULTURABLE WASTE IN ACRES.				COMMUNICATIONS—MILEAGE OF						REMARKS.
	WASTE.		Cultivable.	Uncultivable.	Total.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at close of year.	Navigable rivers.	Canals.	MADE ROADS.			Railroads.	
	Cultivable.	Uncultivable.									First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.															
Surma Valley Districts {	8,480	883	1,078	6,440*	448,537	17,514	451,018	800	91	* The difference between the area in column 6 and column 9 of Statement B, Fiscal, 2, is owing to the addition of 555,656 acres including jalkars and un-surveyed, unassessed, and rent-free lands. † The difference is owing to 4,225 acres having reverted to Government on account of resumption and some estates being struck off from the revenue-roll and some being taken up for public purposes. ‡ The difference with the previous year is owing to the area being since corrected.
Byhet	451	2,500	799	3,750	1,931,692†	31,388	1,890,304	401	....	....	232	300	....	....
Cachar	1,040	2,143	1,260	4,438	.....	.....	.....	600	....	74	183	300	....	....
{ Goalpara includ- ing Eastern Duars Kamrup	844	1,536	1,281	3,631	960,513	20,280	940,233	595	....	145	62	180	....	....
Kamrup	850	2,626	1,442	3,418†	1,356,498	10,016	1,346,477	280	....	143	864	62	....	....
Brahmaputra Valley Districts. Nowong	898	2,113	909	3,415*	1,385,641	16,127	1,370,514	169	....	115	163	....	....	....
Sibsagar	622	2,141	192	2,855*	1,385,641	16,127	1,370,514	224	....	119	368	121	....	....
Lakhimpur ..	168	8,375	180	8,728	2,143,944	8,167	2,135,777	940	....	119	463	312	....	....
{ Garo Hills .....	....	....	....	3,180	.....	.....	.....	186	....	37	31	....	....	....
{ Khási Hills	112	1,385	713	2,160	854,400	.....	854,400	....	....	63	51	....	....	....
{ Naga Hills	2,000	2,300	1,000	5,300	.....	.....	.....	4	....	....	....	3	....	....
Total	9,250	30,361	7,324	41,305	9,071,310	102,892	8,968,418	4,019	....	696	1,983	1,218	....	....
NATIVE STATES.															
Khási and Jaintia Hills	176	2,561	1,260	3,997	1,639,040	....	1,639,040	....	....	45	186	....	....	....
GRAND TOTAL.....	9,526	33,513	9,084	45,302	10,710,260	102,892	10,607,368	4,019	....	731	3,178	1,218	....	....

A 2.—CHARACTER OF THE SURFACE.

[2] [For details of this Table, see Part II.A., Chapter I. of this office General Administration Report for the years 1874-75 & 1875-76.]

[3]

A 3.—CLIMATE (1877).

Places at which observations taken.	RAINFALL IN INCHES.				AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN THE SHADE.												CLOUD PROPORTION 0 TO 10.			
	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	Total.	May.				July.				December.				January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	
	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	
Sibságar.....	27.51	58.23	6.86	92.60	84.2	70.1	96.1	64.9	90.8	77.8	97.5	73.8	71.7	82.5	76.6	48.4	72.8	91.6	7.28	7.28
Goálpára	28.07	50.40	1.83	80.30	85.3	70.9	92.6	66.3	87.9	76.8	94.8	74.6	75.0	86.3	77.7	52.5	2.90	6.77	2.97	2.97
Silchar	48.63	76.29	8.11	138.03	85.4	71.9	94.6	66.3	85.7	77.3	95.9	74.3	76.3	85.3	82.4	50.4	5.32	8.03	5.32	5.32
Sylhet .....	.....	.....	.....	158.23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gauháti.....	.....	.....	.....	56.66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tezpur .....	.....	.....	.....	78.03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mowgong .....	.....	.....	.....	64.91	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dibrugarh .....	.....	.....	.....	100.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shillong .....	.....	.....	.....	104.57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sengatting .....	.....	.....	.....	78.51	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tura .....	.....	.....	.....	114.23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
General Average .....	.....	.....	.....	94.01	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

1. Native and Tributary States for the year 1877-78.

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in Men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
MANIPUR. (Consists of the Manipur Valley Proper, and a large tract of hill country tributary to it.)	Independent but protected State: it has its own laws.	None.	Population of the valley .. 56,000 Hills .. 70,000 Total .. 126,000	Rs. A. P. Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated .. 55,000 0 0 to .. 60,000 0 0	Infantry 4,400 Artillery 500 Cavalry .. 400	Duties levied both on exports and imports.	Rice, dal, and vegetables of varieties, Indian rubber, ivory, wax, ponies, buffaloes, and elephants.	Coarse cloths, yarns, brass, and hardware.	Iron ore, lime-stone, and salt.
KHASH HILLS. Bhawal ..	Subsidiary alliance.	Ditto.	369 ..	Market dues .. 10 0 0 Malikans on lime-quarry .. 16,000 0 0 Total .. 16,010 0 0	Nons ..	Nons ..	Rice, millet, bay-leaves, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum.	Nons ..	Lime.
Cherra ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	8,000 ..	Market dues .. 7,000 0 0 Judicial fines .. 150 0 0 Malikans on lime-quarry .. 200 0 0 Zemindari holding in Syhet .. 1,800 0 0 Total .. 8,650 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Cotton, millet, betel-nuts, pan, oranges, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey.	Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets.	Lime, iron, and coal.
Shalla ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	6,511 ..	Market dues .. 300 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Total .. 700 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Oranges, betel-nuts, pine-apples.	Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets.	Lime and coal.

1. Native and Tributary States for the year 1877-78.—(Continued.)

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit-dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Khyrim ..	In subsidiary alliance.	None.	20,504 ..	<p style="text-align: center;">Rs. A. P.</p> Pension allowed by Government. Rs. 1,800 0 0 150 per mensam .. 6,000 0 0 Market dues .. 400 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Malkana on lime-quarry .. 1,900 0 0 Contributions for State purposes .. 1,000 0 0 Total .. 10,100 0 0	None ..	None ..	Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, chowchong, cinamon, sulphuring in kind of esculent, betel-nut, Indian-corn, betel, oranges, lac, Hammers, potatoes, black pepper, pepper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, honey.	Cotton cloth, Frialh, silk cloth, Dhows, Knives, Hammers, V-w-bars, Axes, Chisels, Bamboo bas-keé.	Lime, Coal, Iron.
Myllim ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	12,266 ..	Market dues .. 250 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes 1,200 0 0 Judicial fines .. 225 0 0 Forest rent .. 15 0 0 Total .. 1,690 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Cinnamon, sugar-cane, rice, potatoes, job's-tears, Indian-corn, souphiang (a kind of esculent), ginger, millet.	Bamboo mats, Dhows, Baskets.	Iron.
Langrin ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,987 ..	Market dues .. 150 0 0 Malkana on lime-quarry .. 700 0 0 Forest rent .. 50 0 0 Fisheries .. 80 0 0 Total .. 980 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, millet, ohillies, turmeric, ginger.	None ..	Lime, Coal.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Province	Contributions levied for State purposes	Market dues	Forest revenue	Malikans on lime-quarry	Judicial fines	Total	Ditto	Ditto	Job's-tears, black-pepper, "pepper-algram," chilli, lime, bay-leaves, honey, rice, potatoes, millet, Indian-corn, sophialang (a kind of esculent turnip), cinnamon, sugar-cane, ginger.	Dhava, kodalies, hammer.	Iron and lime
Maharum	6,187						Ditto	Ditto	400 0 0 130 0 0 65 0 0 250 0 0 130 0 0 1,045 0 0		
Maoyang	1,226						Ditto	Ditto	252 8 0 9 0 0 50 0 0 100 0 0 90 0 0 501 8 0	Mats	Lime.
Maoyuram	947						Ditto	Ditto	180 0 0 150 0 0 330 0 0	Ditto	Lime, coal, iron.
Mahalechmat	299						Ditto	Ditto	50 0 0 750 0 0 50 0 0 50 0 0 900 0 0	Ditto	Lime.
Marriso	2,306						Ditto	Ditto	25 0 0 100 0 0 125 0 0 100 0 0 30 0 0 130 0 0	Ditto	None.
Nobosepob	981						Ditto	Ditto	100 0 0 30 0 0 130 0 0	Ditto	Ditto.

[4]

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1. Native and Tributary States for the year 1877-78.—(Continued.)

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.	Military force.	Transit dues or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
							Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Nongkhaw ..	Subsidiary alliance.	None.	6,924 ..	<p>Rs. A. P.</p> Market dues .. 600 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes .. 800 0 0 Judicial fines .. 60 0 0 Forest dues .. 600 0 0 Rent of State lands .. 10 0 0 Total .. 2,060 0 0	None ..	None ..	Potatoes, rice, millet, job-sears, Indian corn, sulphur (a kind of), castor-oil, cinnamon.	Cotton, kodalies, dhacos, crow-bars.	Lime.
Nongpang ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	871 ..	Commission as mandar in Kamrup district .. 100 0 0 Total .. 100 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, potatoes, honey, bees-wax.	Dhacos ..	Iron.
Nongtain ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	7,768 ..	Market dues .. 1,000 0 0 Lime-quarries .. 900 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes .. 1,500 0 0 Judicial fines .. 1,000 0 0 Total .. 4,400 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Lac, honey, bees-wax, cotton, castor-oil, bay-leaves, rice, millet, job-sears, sugar-cane, chillies, sulphur (a kind of excellent tur-nip).	Earth enware, pottery, cotton cloth, dhacos, spades.	Lime and coal.
Bambrai ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,787 ..	Market dues .. 40 0 0 Judicial fines .. 100 0 0 Forest rent .. 200 0 0 Total .. 440 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, job-sears, ginger, chillies, millet, Indian-corn.	Cotton cloth ..	None.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

2.—Native Chiefs and Principal Male Members of their Families for the year 1877-78.

Name of individual, and State, and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has summa authorizing adoption or not.	Family follows primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.	REMARKS.
<i>Manipur.</i>									
Chandra Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Nowjirell Nongiren Khombah; State Manipur; family Laiphaun.	Maharajah. This title assumed about eighteen years ago, and sanctioned by Government of India.	Caste Khettri, religion Boisnab.	46 years	Fair (now English) education.	.....	Has no summa	Succession devolves upon eldest son.	Has ten sons. The eldest, named Sur Chandra Singh, at present (Jocbraj), will succeed to the Gual.	Strong, healthy, intelligent man; fond of out-door sport; and has the good opinion of his subjects.
Dharma Satu Singh; family Laiphaun.	Sempatti General.	Ditto	53	Ditto	Try all military cases.	Ditto	Ditto	Has eight sons.	
Sur Chandra Singh; family Laiphaun.	Joolraj	Ditto	26	Educated in Bengali and Hindee.	Try civil cases, and is a Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> , or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	None.	
Kul Chandra Singh, <i>alias</i> Golap Singh.	Oang Khai Rakpa.	Ditto	24	Reads and writes Bengali.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Jhallo Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Fyowbah.	Sann Hanzaba	Ditto	23	Ditto	Has charge of all the elephants.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Teperda Singh, <i>alias</i> Kolrang.	Kakwal	Ditto	23	Ditto	A Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
<i>Khasi Hills, Shillong.</i>									
U Bannan Singh; State Bhanwal.	Solm	Khasi	18	Uneducated	As Solm	Adoption is not allowed according to Khasi custom.	Not	Succession elective.	Succession to Selmahip is by election.
U Hajan Marlok; State Cherra.	Ditto	Ditto	44	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
U Jalra... U Tab Rai... U Na Ming... U Khar Singh; State Khyrin.	Wahadadars	Ditto	30 39 46 54	Can read and write Khasi and Bengali	As Wahadadars	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
	Solm	Ditto		Uneducated	As Solm	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.

C.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY (1877-78).

The chief executive authority in the Province of Assam is the Chief Commissioner, established under Home Department Notifications Nos. 480, dated 6th February, 1874, and 2314 of the 12th September, 1874. The Chief Commissioner is assisted by a Secretary with an Assistant; two Judges; Deputy-Conservator of Forests; Deputy-Surgeon-General, who is also *ex-officio* Sanitary Commissioner; Inspector of Schools, who is also in Charge of Registration; Inspector-General of Police and Jails, who is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps; and Deputy-Commissioners.

The following is a statement of the area, population, revenue, &c., of the different Deputy-Commissionerships and Revenue Sub-divisions of the Territory:—

Name of Chief Commissioner.	Names of the Executive Districts.	Number of Judicial and Revenue Sub-divisions.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Chief towns, with population.	Number of villages.	How many Civil and Revenue Judges of all sorts.	How many Magistrates of all sorts.	Maximum distance in miles from court.	Average ditto.	Number of police.	REVENUE.		
												Land.	Gross.	
Assam Chief Commissioner.	Zirina Valley Districts.	Sylhet	5,440	1,719,523	Sylhet..... 16,816 Kashba Baniachang 22,164	6,861	9	16	From criminal, 169 from civil .. 59	41	578	Rs.	Rs.	
		Cachar.....	3,750	240,027	Silphara..... 3,720	532	4	6	70	49	487			
		Goalpara.....	4,483	407,714	Dubai..... 4,018 Gaurpar..... 477	1,330	....	7	7	50	321			
	Assam Valley Districts.	Kamrup.....	3,631	561,681	Gaurpar..... 1,865 Garha..... 11,492 Larkya..... 13,115	1,649	6	15	45	22	298			
		Darrang.....	3,418	298,069	Tripur..... 2,571	1,849	5	5	70	25	218			
		Nowsonj.....	3,415	256,350	Newsonj..... 2,883	1,293	4	6	62	22	169			
		Subsagar.....	2,855	296,789	Subsagar..... 2,578 Jorhat..... 1,283	1,626	12	6	50	33	278			
	Hill Districts.	Lakhimpur.....	3,723	121,267	Galachak..... 1,069	834	6	6	100	32	316			
		Garo Hills.....	3,180	80,000	Dibruagarh..... 2,774	465	1	2	70	25	336			
		Khasi Hills.....	6,157	141,838	Thur..... 1,563 Jowai..... 113 Cherra Bsonjow..... 1,502	1,963	3	4	65	23	146			
Total.....	Naga Hills.....	5,300	68,918	Somoring..... 746 Kohima..... 4,526	278	....	2	....	....	....	164			
			4,129,972		17,910	44	66	....	....	....	4,362	Rs.	84,46,298	

* Eight new villages were formed during the year by settlements of waste land.
 † Calculated on full basis.
 ‡ Now formed by Khassamput equipped after the alien of 1917-18.

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E.—FISCAL (1877-78.)

1. Survey and Settlement.

SURVEY.

Area previously surveyed in miles.			Cost per mile.		Surveyed during the year, with cost per mile.		
Topographically.	Revenue.		Topographical.	Revenue.	Topographical.	Revenue.	
	By villages.	By fields.					
22,572	27,686	..	Ra. As. P. 18 0 0	....	Ra. A. P. 2,752 0 0	....

SETTLEMENT.

Nature of Settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of Settlement.	Remarks.
		Ra.		
Settled in perpetuity	5,496.49	3,78,294	.....
" for thirty years or upwards	256.42	34,535	1907 to 1962	
" ten years and under thirty	1,587.77	2,99,488	1879 to 1897	
" under ten years	3,921.87	24,17,973	31st March, 1878	
" In progress	497.	20,156	.....
Total	11,759.55	31,50,446	.....
Settlements previously made, including full record of rights	2,116.90	3,75,512	.....
Settlements without such record	5,496.49	3,78,294	.....
Settlements during } Detailed	409.77	3,96,844	.....
the year } Summary	3,239.39	19,79,640	.....

2.—Surveyed and Assessed Area in Acres (1877-78).

1	2	3	CULTIVATED.				UNCULTIVATED.				ASSESSMENT.							
			Irrigated.		Total.	Grazing lands.	Culturable.	Un-culturable waste.	Total area assessed.	Gross amount.	Rate per acre on cultivation.	Rate per acre on culturable land.	Rate per acre on total area of settlement.					
			By Government works.	By private individuals.														
District.																		
Cochar .....	.....	.....	257,285	257,285	15,000	92,320	.....	364,605	1,74,028	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sylhet	11,380	1,860,363	1,871,743	1,871,743	.....	474,300	579,811	2,928,944	4,84,217	0 2 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Goalpara .....	.....	665,600	665,600	665,600	.....	1,371,520	800,000	2,937,120	90,294	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kamrup .....	.....	534,866	534,866	534,866	.....	.....	.....	584,866	8,83,874	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	85,989	186,444	222,433	222,433	.....	1,600	.....	224,033	3,94,949	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	5,280	217,687	222,917	222,917	.....	1,074	.....	223,991	3,90,435	2 2 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shibgar .....	.....	313,875	313,875	313,875	.....	.....	.....	313,875	5,55,984	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur .....	.....	100,928	100,928	100,928	.....	.....	.....	100,928	1,74,286	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garo Hills .....	.....	.....	No data.	No data.	.....	.....	.....	.....	806	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khasi and Jaintia Hills .....	.....	395	395	395	.....	.....	.....	395	290	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naga Hills .....	.....	786	786	786	.....	.....	.....	786	833	2 2 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total and average rates	82,589	4,138,179	4,190,778	4,190,778	15,000	1,940,904	1,879,811	7,26,493	8,160,446

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E.—FISCAL (1877-78).

3.—Varieties of Tenure held direct from Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nature of tenure.	Number of estates.	Number of villages.	Number of holders or shareholders.	Gross area in acres.	Average area of each estate in acres.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
						Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Great zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						Held by individuals under law of primogeniture	
Large zemindaries, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						Held by individuals and families under ordinary law.	
Small zemindaries other than those of cultivating communities.	618	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						Under law of primogeniture.	
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common.	8,989	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						Under ordinary law.	
Proprietary cultivators paying separately, including all small estates paying less than Rs. 100.	5,22,096	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Holders of revenue-free tenures.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						In perpetuity	455	
Grants held under the rules of 1838 and 1854.	86	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						For life.....	522	
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue.	1,778	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Purchasers of waste lands	327	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	5,34,371	10,90,646	81,05,002	15

* Of these areas, 53,582 acres were assessed during the year.

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4.—FISCAL (1877-78).

Varieties of Tenure not held direct from Government.

[No data.]

[12]

E.—FISCAL (1877-78.)

5.—Register of Transfers.

NATURE OF TENURE TRANSFERRED.	Number of transfers recorded.			Average area, in acres, of each holding transferred.			REMARKS.
	By voluntary sale or gift.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	By voluntary sale.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				A. R. P.	A. R. P.	Acres.	
Great semindaries, complete	
Shares in ditto.....	
Large semindaries	
Shares in ditto.....	
Small semindaries.....	2,645	47*	21-3-27	* These figures refer to Sylhet and were supplied by the District Judge. There being no specification as to the quantity of land sold in execution cases in the civil court, the average area of these transfers cannot be given.
Shares in ditto.....	444	828*	60	40-0-29	....	27
Villages owned by cultivating communities ..	1,652	186	....	9-1-0	0-2-6	....
Shares in ditto.....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Holdings of proprietary cultivators.....	512	....	....	8-1-19	....	....
Intermediate holdings of a transferable character.	60	13	....	26-0-0	31-1-12	....
Holdings of ryots at fixed rates	1	....	....	11-0-0	....	....
Holdings of ryots with right of occupancy ..	1,178	126	96	753-1-13	52-0-0	453	
Revenue-free tenures	44	68	....	4,822-0-0	23-0-0	....

E.—FISCAL (1877-78.)
6.—Land Revenue.

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE.	Revenue last year.		Revenue this year.		Net collections during the year.	Outstanding balances.	Number of sales for arrears of revenue.	Revenue of estates sold.	Cause of increase or decrease of revenue, with explanation of any items realized in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realized.	Assessed.	Realized.					
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years.	4,17,202	4,25,156	† Besides this, Rs. 11,036 were held in advance during 1876-77 and Rs. 79 remitted during the year and Rs. 25,208 paid in advance for the incoming year.
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during present year.	8,919	.....	2,078	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year.	48	.....	199	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collections from Government estates	4,26,073	3,32,530	4,27,035	4,62,258	.....	24,777	235	8,023
Income from sale of Government estates.	26,04,931	25,51,698	27,23,411	26,96,627	2,79,583	24,17,344	345	2,113	
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above.	8	8	1,492	1,002	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2,23,650	2,07,666*	2,51,861	2,14,066†	4,973	26,680	.....	.....
Total.....	32,54,652	30,91,802	34,03,309	33,14,253	2,84,306	77,941	580	10,136	

* Besides this amount, Rs. 626 were paid in advance during the preceding year.

PART II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A.—LEGISLATIVE 1, 2, & 3.

Serial Nos. 14, 15, and 16, are Blank.

[17]

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.		Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column.)		
3	Offences against public tranquility.	Unlawful assembly.	143 to 145, 149 to 151, 157, 158.	146	451	116	313	..	20	....
4		Rioting, &c.....	147, 148, 152, and 158 to 156.	190	804	239	567	2	56	....
5		Affray	160	20	94	8	86	..	..	....
6	Offences ..	{ By public servants ..	161 to 169	20	26	12	14	..	..	....
7		{ Relating to public servants.	161 to 170 and 171.	10	17	1	9	..	7	....
8	Contempt of lawful authority	172 to 190	345	791	257	529	..	..	5	....
9	False evidence, or subornation, &c., of the same	193 to 200	72	106	37	53	4	..	11	....
10	Offences against public justice	201 to 229	189	238	64	156	..	..	13	....
11	Offences relating to coin	231 to 254	19	18	9	8	..	..	..	....
12	" to stamps	255 to 263	2	3	..	3	..	..	..	....
13	" to weights and measures	264 to 267	24	25	15	10	..	..	..	....
14	" affecting public health.....	269 to 278	48	76	6	70	..	..	..	....
15	" " safety	279 to 289	217	238	21	217	..	..	..	....
16	" " convenience	290 and 291	186	179	14	165	..	..	..	....
17	" relating to decency and morals ..	292 to 294	6	11	..	10	..	..	1	....
18	" " religion	295 to 298	5	14	4	1	..	..	9	....
19	Murder	302 and 303	81	57	23	20	4	..	10	7	
	—attempts .....	.....	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
20	Culpable homicide	304	26	37	11	23	..	..	8	1
	—attempts .....	.....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
21	Abetment of suicide	305 and 306	13	13	2	9	..	..	2	....
	—attempts .....	.....	19	20	4	16	..	..	..	....
23	Causing mis-carriage.	{ Attended with aggravating circumstances.	312 to 315	1	....	..	..	..	..	....
24		{ Other cases	312	83	5	1	4
26	Exposure of infants	317	9	5	3	2	..	..	..	....
27	Concealment of birth by secret disposal of the dead body.	318	1	4	4	..	..	..	..	....
28	Hurt	{ With aggravating circumstances.	325 to 331 and 333.	52	54	22	27	2	3	2	
29		{ Other cases.....	323, 324, 332, and 334 to 338.	581	648	170	469	..	9
30	Wrongful restraint.....	341	74	88	40	48	..	..	..	....
31	" confinement	342 to 348	490	452	243	192	1	..	15	....
32	Criminal force or assault	352 to 368	5,583	3,469	1,771	1,645	2	..	51	....
33	Kidnapping or forcible abduction	{ With aggravating circumstances.	364, 366, 367	22	29	19	10
34		{ Other cases.....	365, 365, 368, 369.	28	80	22	8
35	Slavery	370 and 371	2	9	5	4	..	..	..	....
36	Buying or selling a minor for the purpose of prostitution.	372 and 373	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	....
37	Forced labour	374	3	..	3	
38	Rape	376	49	23	14	7	1	..	1	
39	Unnatural offences	377	11	11	1	10	

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued.)

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported, and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted, for each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCES.		Sections of Penal Code applicable.	Number of offences reported during the year.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Did. escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.	REMARKS. (The number committed out of those remaining under trial has been noted in this column).	
40	Theft	{ With aggravating circumstances.	382	4	....	..	..	..	....
41		{ Other cases.....	379 to 381 and 401	2,929	2,213	933	1,207	3	70
	Attempts .....	.....	....	1	1	..	1	..	....
42	Extortion ..	{ With aggravating circumstances.	386 to 389	2	....	..	..	..	....
43		{ Other cases.....	384 and 385	49	40	24	16
44	Robbery....	{ With hurt	394	....	....	..	..	..	....
45		{ Other cases.....	392	12	4	..	2	..	2
46	Dacoity	{ With murder	396	....	....	..	..	..	....
47		{ With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt.	397	....	....	..	..	..	....
48	{ Other cases.....	395, 399, 400, and 402	9	15	2	10	..	3	....
49	Criminal misappropriation of property..	403 and 404	166	197	110	85	..	2	....
50	Breach of trust.....	406 to 409	247	167	104	54	2	7	....
51	Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen or plundered property.	411 to 414	212	371	96	266	..	9	....
52	Cheating	417 to 420	182	130	81	43	..	6	....
53	Fraudulent deeds and disposition of property.	421 to 424	3	4	1	3	..	..	....
54	Mischief ..	{ With aggravating circumstances.	429 to 433 and 435 to 440	135	127	65	59	1	2	1
55		{ Other cases.....	426 to 428 and 434	837	656	348	307	..	1
56	Criminal trespass.	{ Resulting in death or other grievous hurt.	459 and 460	....	....	..	..	..	....
57		{ For commission of serious offences.	449 to 450, 451, 452, 454, 455, 457, and 458	541	146	43	100	..	3
58	{ Other cases.....	457, 448, 453, 456, 461, and 462	629	774	348	411	..	15	....
59	Forgery or uttering or possessing forged documents or papers.	456 to 471 and 474	27	37	22	13	..	3	....
60	Counterfeiting or making or possessing a counterfeit seal, &c., for purposes of forgery.	472 to 476	1	1	....	....	..	1	....
61	Fraudulently destroying or defacing a will or other documents.	477	1	2	2	....	..	..	....
62	Criminal breach of contract of service..	480 to 492	20	11	5	5	..	1	....
63	Offence relating to marriage	493 to 498	420	226	194	27	..	5	1	
64	Detention	500 to 502	86	69	51	18	..	..	....
65	Criminal intimidation, or other grievous hurt.	{ Resulting in death or	506	8	23	2	21
66		{ Other causes.....	504 to 510	126	124	56	68
67	Other offences not included in the above specifications.	....	2,980	4,320	811	3,478	3	33	....
Total.....		....	17,950	17,759	6,459	10,817	25	378	13

4. (Criminal).—Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by various Criminal Tribunals in the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

DETAIL OF PUNISHMENT.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Fine.										Imprisonment.						Whipping.							
	Rs. 10 and under.	Rs. 50 and under.	Rs. 100 and under.	Rs. 500 and under.	Rs. 1,000 and under.	Above Rs. 1,000.	Total amount of fines.	Amount realized.	Amount paid by way of compensation.	Fifteen days.		Six months.		Two years.		Seven years.		Above seven years.		Ten stripes and under.	Twenty stripes and under.	Thirty stripes and under.		
							Ra. As. P.	Ra. As. P.	Ra. As. P.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.				
Bench Magistrates .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid Magistrates	562	30	..	..	..	..	2,698 8 0	3,496 11 0	224 1 0	29	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local and Subordinate paid Magistrates.	1,963	602	21	9	..	..	29,028 6 0	32,947 14 8	2,018 12 8	351	805	14	51	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	25	1	..
Full-power Magistrates (exercising jurisdiction throughout the districts).	1,562	844	63	21	1	..	38,781 0 0	33,240 12 8	5,413 0 6	303	1,392	21	314	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	40	56	20	..
Chief Magistrates of districts	423	80	9	8	..	..	8,494 8 0	8,184 5 3	869 8 0	99	258	10	60	2	24	..	..	..	..	..	8	9	12	..
Total Magistracy	4,509	1,566	92	38	1	..	78,902 6 0	66,869 10 9	8,545 5 9	782	2,380	45	425	4	25	..	..	..	..	..	66	90	33	..
Sessions Courts .....	..	8	7	..	..	..	1,070 0 0	448 0 9	.....	..	5	..	24	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
High Court Ordinary Original Jurisdiction.	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL	4,509	1,564	99	38	1	..	79,972 6 0	67,317 11 6	8,545 5 9	782	2,386	45	449	4	69	..	..	..	..	..	66	90	33	..

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

5. (Criminal).—Statement showing the result of Appeal and Revision in Criminal Cases of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	Number of appellants or persons applying for revision under Section 296, Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X of 1872.	NUMBER OF PERSONS.						Pending.	
		Appeals or applications rejected.	Sentences confirmed.	Sentences modified.	Sentences reversed.	Proceedings quashed.	Further inquiry or evidence ordered.		Cases referred for revision to High Court.
Chief Magistrates	573	63	290	65	121	.....	7	1	26
Sessions Courts	443	146	153	39	54	10	.....	11	30
Total	1,016	209	443	104*	175	10	7	12	56
High Court.....	144	15	66	3	48	1	.....	.....	11
GRAND TOTAL	1,160	224	509	107	223	11	7	12	67

* Inclusive of 14 persons on whom sentences were enhanced.

[21] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

6. (Civil).—Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	SUITS FOR MONEY, DISTINGUISHING SUITS UP TO Rs. 500, COGNIZABLE BY SMALL CAUSE COURTS, FROM OTHER CASES.																	
	On written obligation.	On unwritten obligation.	On account stated.	Money had and received.	Goods sold.	Breach of contract not mentioned above.	Rent not falling under the Rent Law.	Movable property on value thereof.	Damages.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.						
Village Courts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small Cause Courts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unpaid Local Tribunals .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Animals' Courts).	9345	104	1,470	10	1,144	11	364	8	322	7	721	3	239	2	1,749	12	805	5
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	311	50	88	2	76	6	5	2	9	3	12	3	10	1	60	6	23	3
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts).	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Revenue Courts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL	9,454	1,608	1,720	18	369	11	331	10	733	6	249	3	1,810	18	828	11	.....	.....

16,748

[21] B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued).
 6. (Civil).—Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits instituted in the Civil Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	SUITS UNDER THE REENT LAW.										OTHER SUITS.									
	Arrears of rent with or without ejectment or cancellation of leases.	Enhancement or abatement of rent.	Relating to distraint.	Damages for extortion, or withholding receipts, or on account of illegal restraint or other causes.	For potatoes or kabbuliyas.	For ejectment or recovery of possession.	For recovery of money or accounts from agents.	All other suits under the Rent Law not included above.	Suits for immovable property.	Suits for specific performance of contract.	Suits to declare and establish rights to real property, including pre-emption, foreclosure, &c.	Suits to declare and establish personal rights.	Suits for an account.	Suits relating to religious endowments.	Suits to set aside judgments, contracts, or obligations, on the ground of fraud.	Suits for dissolution of marriage.	Suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights.	Suits for partition.	Suits relating to shipping.	Suits relating to religion and caste.
Village Courts .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Small Cause Courts .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Unpaid Local Tribunals .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiff Courts).	1,305	....	2	....	7	76	6	19	2,845	35	183	66	7	3	21	6	208	4	....	1
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Sub-Judges' Courts).	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	24	..	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts).	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Revenue Courts	241	....	2	21	72	3	3	17	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	1,846	....	4	51	79	79	9	36	2,579	35	184	67	11	3	21	6	208	4	..	1

1,119

1,774

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

7. (Civil).—Statement showing value of Suits disposed of in the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

VALUE OF SUITS.		NUMBER OF SUITS DISPOSED OF IN DIFFERENT COURTS.					Total number of Suits disposed of in different Courts.	Total value of Suits.
		Village Courts.	Small Cause Courts.	Munsiffs, Deputy-Collectors, and other Sub-Divisional Courts.	District Courts.	Superior Courts.		
<i>In Civil Courts.</i>							Rs.	
Not exceeding Rs.	5 ... ..	...	.....	1,625	36	...	1,661	6,132
Ditto	" 20 ... ..	...	.....	5,324	201	...	5,525	79,001
Ditto	" 100 ... ..	...	.....	10,339	322	...	10,661	5,09,941
Ditto	" 500 ... ..	...	.....	2,719	22	...	2,741	5,15,796
Ditto	" 1,000 ... ..	...	.....	193	1	...	194	1,32,846
Ditto	" 5,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	96	...	96	1,87,402
Ditto	" 10,000... ..	...	.....	.....	10	...	10	70,036
Ditto	" 1,00,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	1	...	1	11,965
Exceeding	" 1,00,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Total in Civil Courts		...	.....	20,200	689	...	20,889	15,13,119
<i>In Revenue Courts.</i>								
Not exceeding Rs.	5 ... ..	...	.....	98	5	...	103	342
Ditto	" 20 ... ..	...	.....	145	5	...	150	1,705
Ditto	" 100 ... ..	...	.....	75	3	...	78	3,179
Ditto	" 500 ... ..	...	.....	6	.....	...	6	1,253
Ditto	" 1,000 ... ..	...	.....	1	.....	...	.....	958
Ditto	" 5,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Ditto	" 10,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Ditto	" 1,00,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Exceeding	" 1,00,000 ... ..	...	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Total in Revenue Courts		...	.....	325	13	...	338	7,437
Grand Total		...	.....	20,525	702	...	21,227	15,20,556

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

8. (Civil).—Statement showing the general result of the Trial of Civil Suits in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction in the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF COURTS.	Suits remaining from last year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	CONTESTED.		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
														Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.									
Civil Courts.	Village Courts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Small Cause Courts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Unpaid local tribunals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Paid sub-divisional tribunals (Munsiff Courts).	2,185	20,722	2,384	26,261	2,369	191	2,774	264	1,919	2,640	5,684	1,021	3,544	2,208	20,200	2,792	837	504	..	..	..	..
	District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts (Sub-Judges' Courts).	105	550	62	717	14	9	70	13	29	36	216	90	138	100	665	88	18	4	..	..	..	..
	Chief Courts of districts (District Judges' Courts).	5	10	21	36	2	1	3	..	3	3	7	..	3	5	34	10	2	6	..	..	..	..
	Total.....	2,265	21,262	2,467	29,014	2,285	201	2,847	396	1,961	2,679	6,847	1,071	3,679	2,308	20,869	2,840	852	314	..	..	..	..
	Revenue Courts.	Unpaid local tribunals
		Paid sub-divisional tribunals	22	327	84	443	78	..	96	10	31	60	89	..	61	39	326	40	8
		Courts of Collectors	2	82	1	86	22	4	8	5	5	13
Total.....		24	389	85	478	95	..	96	10	35	68	89	..	64	42	388	40	8	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL.....	2,289	21,641	2,552	29,492	2,380	201	2,943	406	1,996	2,742	6,936	1,071	3,743	2,350	21,227	2,880	860	314	..	..	..	..	..

9. (Civil).—Statement showing the Business of the Civil and Revenue Appellate Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF COURTS.	Remaining.	Instituted.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default, or under Sections 5 and 6 of Act XXIII of 1861.	HEARD <i>ex parte</i> .			CONTESTED.				Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over four months.	Objections under Section 848, Act VIII of 1859.	Objections allowed.
							Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.					
Civil Appellate Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts).	184	421	367	972	35	21	30	1	9	573	49	140	22	845	92	35	28	5
Collectors' Appellate Courts ...	...	11	...	11	...	.....	1	...	...	7	...	3	...	11	...	...	...	...
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts (District Revenue Judges' Courts). { Regular Appeals from District Courts. Special Appeals	234	650	49	933	360	12	14	2	5	213	33	90	14	383	190	37	29	6
Chief Courts of Districts (District Revenue Judges' Courts). { Regular Appeals from District Courts. Special Appeals	15	135	1	151	...	.....	7	4	...	66	11	11	...	99	52	...	12	1
Chief Court of Province (High Court). { Regular Appeals from District Courts. Special Appeals	7	13	...	20	...	1	...	...	...	6	1	2	...	10	10	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	513	1,411	417	2,341	395	34	52	7	14	978	95	251	62	1,493	453	72	69	12

10. (Civil).—Statement showing the Execution of the Decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

CLASS OF COURTS.	Applications to execute decrees.				Decrees completely executed.	Decrees partially executed.	Pending at the end of 1877.	Decrees executed by possession being given.	Nature and number of coercive processes issued.				Orders under Section 243, Act VIII of 1859.		
	Pending.	Filed.	Received by transfer.	Total.					Imprisonment of person.		Movable property.			Immovable property.	
									10	11	12	13		14	15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Village Courts .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Cause Courts .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Local Tribunals .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals (Munsiffs' Courts)	1,714	10,355	247	12,316	2,579	6,986	1,654	938	126	1,016	428	2,496	971	...	...
District Courts, other than Chief Courts of Districts (Subordinate Judges' Courts)	76	445	20	541	104	266	77	25	2	23	10	321	45	...	1
Chief Courts of Districts (District Judges' Courts)	6	41	81	128	10	25	10	2	6	8	2	11	4	...	...
Revenue Courts	9	119	...	128	50	71	7	1	2	41	9	20	12	...	...
Total	1,805	10,960	348	13,113	2,743	7,348	1,748	966	136	1,088	449	2,848	1,032	1	1

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

11. (Civil).—Statement showing use of Jurors and Assessors in the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

Class of Courts in which Jurors or Assessors are employed, distinguishing Criminal from Civil Courts.	Established or average number of Jury or Assessors in each case and prescribed qualifications.	Number of cases tried by Jury.	Number of cases with Assessors.	JURY TRIALS.		ASSESSORS' TRIALS.		Notes showing in what classes of cases Jurors and Assessors had been principally employed.	Remarks.
				Cases in which the Judge approved of the verdict.	Cases in which the Judge did not approve of the verdict.	Number of cases in which Judges agreed with Assessors.	Number of cases in which Judges differed from Assessors.		
Courts of Session..	Five Jurors and two Assessors. Qualifications as described in Sections 404, 405, and 406, Code of Criminal Procedure.	28	48	27	1	42	6	All offences including abettments and attempts falling under Chapters VIII., XI., XVI., XVII., and XVIII. of the Indian Penal Code are tried by Jury; the rest are tried with the aid of Assessors.	

12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds Registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1876-77 and 1877-78.

REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK I.

COMPULSORY.

DISTRICT.	Number of Registration Offices.	REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK I.										Total of compulsory registrations.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
		Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Instruments of mortgage of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Other instruments registered under Section 11, Clauses b and c.	Perpetual leases (Section 11, Clause d).	All leases (other than perpetual leases) which have been formerly registered under Section 17, Clause d.									
Office of Officer in charge of Registration Department, Assam.		1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Cachar	2	4	603	605	188	170	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Rs. As.	.....
Sylhet	4	39	2,273	2,578	603	664	8	10	21	44	638	1,056	3,387	711 0	745 0
Goalpara	2	2	45	49	63	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	418	1,761	627	3,458 8	4,651 0
Kamrup	2	9	108	97	37	36	2	.....	36	64	17	11	209	384 0	1,040 0
Darrang	2	2	.....	16	3	3	2	.....	.....	1	.....	9	23	242 0	181 0
Nowrang	1	1	31	32	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	40	72 0	24 5
Sibsagar	3	3	30	39	11	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	11	26	46 8	80 0
Lakhimpur	3	3	12	49	9	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	49	98 0	87 0
Total.....	19	21	2,009	2,740	826	642	12	10	69	104	1,014	2,894	4,081	6,057 0	7,403 0

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT, 12.—(Continued.)

REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK I.—(Continued.)

OPTIONAL.

DISTRICT.	Instruments of value of less than Rs. 100.	Instruments of mortgage of the value of less than Rs. 100.	Other instruments registered under Section 18, Clauses a and b.	Leases for one year or less (Section 18, Clause c) and leases exempted under the proviso in Section 17.	Awards (Section 17, Clause f).	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies and orders of Court.	Certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.	Total of optional registrations relating to immovable property.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.	
									11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1876-77, 1877-78.	849	166	104	6	12	7	1,033	1,079	576 0	553 8
1876-77, 1877-78.	888	71	81	64	68	88	1,033	1,318	730 8	933 8
1876-77, 1877-78.	54	62	18	20	53	8	100	124	66 0	63 8
1876-77, 1877-78.	146	6	14	7	7	14	168	184	123 0	110 8
1876-77, 1877-78.	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	8	3 0	13 0
1876-77, 1877-78.	84	2	2	3	9	3	39	39	38 0	63 0
1876-77, 1877-78.	29	1	1	1	1	1	30	33	15 0	16 8
1876-77, 1877-78.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2 8	2 8
Total.....	1,976	264	214	90	131	77	2,411	2,790	1,544 0	1,746 0

Office of Officer in charge of Registration Department, Assam.

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT, 12.—(Continued.)

DISTRICT.	Total value of immoveable property transferred.		REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING MOVEABLE PROPERTY—BOOK IV.										Number of written authorities to adopt, other than those conferred by wills—Book III.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As.	Instruments of sale of moveable property	Obligations for the payment of money (Section 18, Clause D).	Obligations for the payment of money (Section 18, Clause F).	All other obligations registered under Section 18, Clause G.	Total of registrations in Book IV.	Ordinary fees for the same.	Number of sealed covers deposited—Book V.	Number of wills registered—Book III.				
Office of charge of Registration Department, Assam.														
Cachar	3,03,337 0 0	2,79,600 0	27	33	43	73	133	149	126 8	155 0	8	1	.....
Sylhet	13,68,924 0 0	19,49,222 0	34	58	63	191	253	345	320 8	372 8	9	10	.....
Goalpara	73,822 0 0	1,13,515 0	6	47	40	56	109	162	117 0	141 8	1	8	.....
Kamrup	2,09,430 0 0	87,476 0	7	123	65	24	154	124	145 8	144 0	26	17	.....
Darrang	42,869 0 0	84,408 0	.....	.....	3	26	42	46	42 0	48 8	.....	13	.....
Nowgong	64,483 0 0	1,08,996 0	13	4	12	183	230	249	321 0	461 8	1	12	.....
Sibsagar	1,11,543 0 0	81,926 0	7	140	180	430	641	572	625 8	933 8	8	14
Lakhimpur	62,659 0 0	1,36,923 0	1	2	13	44	27	43	58 8	49 8	1	2
Total	21,37,016 0 0	27,52,061 0	95	407	409	1,027	1,311	1,783	1,766 8	2,326 0	3	79	76

C.—PRISONS.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all classes confined in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Province of Assam during the year 1877.

Stations.	Place of confinement.	3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10			
		Classes of prisoners.		Remained at the commencement of the year 1877.		Received during the year 1877.		Total.		Discharged from all causes.		Remaining at end of the year.		DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF EACH CLASS.		TOTAL DAILY AVERAGE OF WHOLE JAIL.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	
Goalpara	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	42	3	45	14	203	231	17	248	211	15	226	20	2	22	2545	111	2656	8069
		5	1	6	113	6	119	114	7	125	116	7	123	2	..	2	289			007	296
Dhubri	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	14	..	14	..	103	4	107	104	4	108	..	..	..	..	874	013	887	1111
		6	..	6	..	6	..	6	044			..	044
Kāmrip -	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	156	6	162	398	9	817	494	15	509	298	10	308	196	5	17488	184	17672	18169
		3	..	3	181	5	186	184	5	189	182	5	187	2	..	2	474			15	489
Barpeta.	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	10	3	13	44	1	45	54	4	58	47	4	51	7	..	675	553	728	1090
		4	62	1	63	66	1	67	64	1	..	2	266			02	268
Darrang.	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	138	3	141	274	14	288	412	17	429	262	18	275	150	4	12008	331	13284	14060
		4	..	4	284	18	302	268	19	307	278	17	295	10	2	12	688			105	793
Mangaldai	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	8	..	8	153	6	159	161	6	167	158	6	164	8	..	800	23	927	1194
		6	119	8	127	130	8	128	238			12	250
Nowgong	{ Convicts... Under-trial Civil.....	88	1	89	186	2	188	274	8	277	260	8	262	24	..	8023	041	8024	8226
		1	..	1	112	4	116	112	4	116	110	4	112	114			001	115
		1	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	028	014	032	037
			

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

X

Sibnagar..	Sibnagar ..	Convicts ..	81	348	11	369	429	11	440	354	11	245	95	..	95	85-02	40	86-45	100-97	98	101-96	
		Under-trial	3	146	7	163	149	7	166	143	6	149	6	1	7	90	80-60	58	87-18			
Jorhat ..	Jorhat ..	Convicts ..	..	174	3	177	174	3	177	174	3	177	..	..	..	411	01	419	5-43	02	5-44	
		Under-trial	..	183	3	141	183	3	141	183	3	141	..	..	..	..	131	01	132			
Godaghat ..	Godaghat ..	Convicts ..	4	91	6	97	95	6	101	85	6	91	10	10	..	304	20	324	4-43	03	4-75	
		Under-trial	1	60	4	64	61	4	65	60	4	64	1	..	..	..	139	12	151			
Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	Convicts ..	60	280	35	255	280	40	220	280	35	265	50	6	55	89-16	4-98	88-08	58-40	5-94	63-64	
		Under-trial	3	168	11	169	160	11	171	169	11	170	1	1	3	3	472	21	493			
North Lakhimpur.	North Lakhimpur.	Convicts ..	5	81	2	83	86	2	88	77	2	79	9	9	9	485	04	489	6-91	04	6-85	
		Under-trial	1	48	..	48	49	..	49	48	..	48	1	..	1	..	196	..	196			
Sylhet ..	Sylhet ..	Convicts ..	462	1,377	34	1,401	1,389	35	1,374	1,370	29	1,399	469	6	476	489-59	5-77	489-26	831-03	6-86	588-48	
		Under-trial	66	742	18	760	788	18	816	778	17	785	20	1	21	21	84-93	56	89-09			
Coochabar ..	Coochabar ..	Convicts ..	134	553	54	587	667	63	780	539	68	597	128	6	133	111-53	3-79	115-32	122-63	5-97	128-49	
		Under-trial	13	13	3	21	28	3	36	31	3	24	2	..	2	..	131	43	174			
HABHABANDI Hills.	HABHABANDI Hills.	Convicts ..	2	176	18	194	178	18	196	179	16	188	6	2	8	8-07	60	837	10-96	68	11-08	
		Under-trial	2	96	7	103	96	8	106	96	8	108	3	..	3	8	9-89	16	902			
Khasi Hills.	Khasi Hills.	Convicts ..	40	62	3	65	102	6	107	60	4	64	45	1	48	43-38	08	43-96	49-63	0-69	44-23	
		Under-trial	4	30	2	32	34	2	35	34	1	35	..	..	1	1	1-26	01	1-26			
Jowai ..	Jowai ..	Convicts ..	..	17	1	18	17	1	18	17	1	18	..	..	..	09	..	09	..	..	..
		Under-trial	..	9	..	9	9	..	9	9	..	9	..	..	..	..	08	..	08	..	..	..
Total ..	Total ..	Convicts ..	1,234	5,287	196	4,569	5,607	249	5,856	4,832	217	4,699	1,225	37	1,357	1,249-90	29-48	1,379-38	1,345-14	29-61	1,374-75	
		Under-trial	100	4,104	161	2,928	2,867	165	3,082	2,909	159	2,968	48	6	64	64	86-20	4-91	91-11			
Grand Total	Grand Total	Convicts ..	1,334	5,881	357	5,569	6,423	9,012	7,298	3,888	7,476	1,296	40	1,386	1,345-14	29-61	1,374-75	1,345-14	29-61	1,374-75		
		Under-trial	108	4,107	9	2,928	2,867	165	3,082	2,909	159	2,968	48	6	64	64	86-20	4-91	91-11			

1. Showing the Number and Disposal of the Convicts in the Jails and Lock-ups of the Assam Province, during the year 1877.

Serial No.	Remained on the 31st Decem-ber, 1876.		Imprisoned during the year 1877.				Total.		Received from other jails.				Transferred to other jails.				Released during the year												
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	42	8	188	14	320	17	1	337	17	215	60	1	8	1	178	3	1	178	3	1	178	3	1	178	3	1	178	3	1
2	14	6	260	111	371	13	9	380	22	388	15	10	32	22	237	6	10	237	6	10	237	6	10	237	6	10	237	6	10
3	156	8	245	8	369	14	59	428	4	481	5	1	5	2	284	7	1	284	7	1	284	7	1	284	7	1	284	7	1
4	10	8	243	1	252	16	12	264	6	270	4	3	7	5	213	0	6	213	0	6	213	0	6	213	0	6	213	0	6
5	138	8	246	18	302	16	12	318	1	319	63	1	64	4	180	4	33	180	4	33	180	4	33	180	4	33	180	4	33
6	88	1	160	2	163	9	26	172	3	175	45	4	49	1	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10
7	88	1	166	2	168	9	26	175	3	178	45	4	49	1	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10	267	45	10
8	81	..	899	11	1010	11	19	1021	..	1021	106	..	3	1	267	4	1	267	4	1	267	4	1	267	4	1	267	4	1
9	..	..	174	3	177	8	..	180	..	180	..	..	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..
10	..	..	61	0	61	6	..	67	..	67	..	..	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..	68	..	..
11	50	15	269	21	290	36	21	306	4	310	22	..	..	..	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3
12	5	5	269	21	290	36	21	306	4	310	22	..	..	..	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3	166	16	3
13	462	11	1,361	24	1,608	39	31	1,639	..	1,639	18	..	20	..	734	2	147	734	2	147	734	2	147	734	2	147	734	2	147
14	184	9	688	54	697	63	..	761	..	761	13	..	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..
15	184	9	688	54	697	63	..	761	..	761	13	..	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..	110	..	..
16	178	18	177	18	195	36	4	213	..	213	25	..	..	..	129	..	..	129	..	..	129	..	..	129	..	..	129	..	..
17	40	2	68	8	98	6	4	104	..	104	4	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
18	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
19	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
20	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
21	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
22	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
23	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
24	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
25	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
26	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
27	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
28	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
29	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
30	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
31	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
32	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
33	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
34	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
35	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
36	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
37	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
38	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
39	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
40	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
41	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
42	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
43	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
44	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
45	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
46	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
47	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
48	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
49	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
50	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
51	..	..	17	1	17	1	..	18	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..	23	..	..
52	..	..	17	1	17																								

2. Showing the Religion, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails of the Assam Province, during the year 1877.

Serial No.	Jails.			Religion.			Age.						Previous occupation.										Total.																														
	A			B			C			D			E			A			B			C			D			E			F			G			H			I			M.	F.	Total.								
Christian.			Mahomedans.			Hindus.			Buddhists and Jains.			All other classes.			Under sixteen.			Sixteen to forty.			Forty to sixty.			Above sixty.			Of independent property.			Agriculturists.			Non-agriculturists.			Domestic servants.			Government servants.			No occupation.				Married.			Unmarried.			Prostitutes.	
Europeans.			Eurasians.			Natives.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.					
a			b			c			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.			M.			F.					
1	Goalpara...	...	...	...	...	...	58	6	93	2	...	...	...	85	9	...	...	...	268	12	23	5	...	...	1	112	60	24	17	16	11	...	...	...	6	230	17	247		
2	Ganaháti	66	1	242	8	91	5	3	354	14	42	...	2	...	20	294	42	19	22	4	12	1	1	1	401	14	415													
3	Teapur ..	...	...	...	...	...	32	2	292	13	...	...	...	70	1	1	...	...	370	14	28	2	...	...	..	288	64	7	31	9	14	2	...	...	...	..	384	16	410	
4	Nowong...	...	...	...	...	...	17	2	194	1	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...	263	8	61	...	...	...	..	165	20	68	5	11	8	...	...	...	...	254	8	267		
5	Sibsagar ..	...	...	...	...	...	49	1	249	10	...	...	...	101	...	...	...	...	354	11	46	...	3	...	18	164	159	26	10	3	11	...	...	...	...	410	11	421		
6	Dibrugarh ..	...	...	...	...	...	26	7	225	29	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	246	22	18	4	...	...	31	41	2	166	12	7	35	1	...	...	...	...	259	26	295	
7	Sylhet	1,240	15	470	16	98	4	4	1,569	29	217	3	18	...	68	1,588	..	44	80	28	28	2	5	1,808	35	1,843													
8	Silchar.....	261	8	406	55	591	61	65	1	6	292	306	20	5	54	39	1	8	667	63	780													
9	Shillong	2	1	20	75	4	2	87	5	9	2	43	20	15	18	5	98	6	108													
Total	1,750	43	2,200	124	8	565	28	20	4	...	3,952	181	490	15	29	...	140	2,062	768	394	200	182	178	7	16	4,031	200	4,721													

3. Showing the Convicts in the Jails of the Province of Assam for the year 1877, according to the Nature and Length of Sentence.

Serial No.	Jails.	Classes according to Length of Sentence.																		Nature of Imprisonment.						Total			
		A. Not exceeding one month.		B. Above one and not exceeding six months.		C. Above six months, and not exceeding one year.		D. Above one and not exceeding three years.		E. Above three and not exceeding five years.		F. Above five and not exceeding ten years.		G. Exceeding ten years.		H. Sentenced to transportation beyond seas.		I. Sentenced to death.		A.		B.		Rigorous Imprisonment.*					
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Goalpara	67	6	66	8	42	2	38	1	10	...	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	15	1	215	16	230	17	247
2	Gauhati	48	2	180	5	56	4	72	2	28	1	10	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	397	14	401	14	415
3	Tezpur	...	...	87	6	128	6	54	2	18	...	22	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	5	...	389	14	394	16	410
4	Nowgong	...	...	75	3	71	...	42	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	251	3	254	3	257
5	Sibsagar	125	6	193	4	39	...	38	...	10	...	2	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4	1	406	10	410	11	421
6	Dibrugarh	139	12	71	24	8	...	28	...	4	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	6	1	253	35	253	36	295
7	Sylhet	212	2	1,002	22	395	6	93	3	65	...	4	2	1	...	10	23	...	3	...	43	5	1,765	30	1,808	35	1,843		
8	Silchar	248	39	257	18	98	1	48	4	10	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	...	661	63	667	63	730
9	Shillong	15	1	24	3	28	...	20	1	5	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	97	5	98	5	103
	Total...	1,016	76	1,992	90	762	15	483	13	152	2	54	3	2	...	28	1	23	...	87	10	4,434	199	4,521	200	4,721			

* Including prisoners sentenced to transportation or to death.

[32] C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)
 4. Showing the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1877 who had been previously convicted.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4				5		6	
	Jails.		Total.		Number previously convicted.				Ratio of column 4 D to column 3.		Number imprisoned.		Number previously convicted.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	230	17	247	2	1	...	1	1	4	1	5	5.88	2.02	...
2	401	14	415	24	5	...	7	...	36	...	36	8.97	8.07	4
3	394	16	410	37	13	...	1	...	51	...	51	12.94	12.43	1
4	254	3	257	16	4	...	4	...	24	...	24	9.44	9.33	...
5	410	11	421	24	4	...	2	...	30	...	30	7.31	7.21	5
6	259	36	295	24	2	...	...	...	26	2	28	10.03	9.49	...
7	1,808	35	1,843	64	26	...	8	...	98	...	98	5.42	5.31	...
8	667	63	730	13	4	...	2	...	19	...	19	2.84	2.60	1
9	98	5	103	5	1	...	...	...	6	...	6	6.12	5.72	2
Total ...	4,521	200	4,721	209	60	...	25	1	204	3	297	1.50	6.29	17

6. Showing the Offences committed by the Convicts, and the Punishments inflicted on them, in the Jails of Assam during the year 1877.

Serial No.	Jails.	Average number of convicts.	Criminal offences.			Breach of Jail Rules.			Punishments inflicted.												Ratio of column 6 to column 8.			
			M.	F.	Total	Forbidden articles, or having possession of	Offences relating to work	Other offences against prison discipline	A				B.—By Jail officers.				Total punishments.							
			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	By criminal courts.		Solitary confinement.		Reduced diet.		Solitary confinement with reduced diet.		Solitary confinement.		Corporal punishment.		Other punishments.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Goápara	25.45	1.11	1	3	1	...	4	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	9	33.88
2	Gauhati	174.88	1.84	5	15	1	22	20	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	20	36	20	...	63	35.64
3	Tezpur	129.03	3.31	1	31	...	95	56	1	...	...	...	2	14	...	52	...	42	80	42	...	194	143.56
4	Nowgong	80.23	.11	...	18	...	44	33	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	3	...	18	44	18	...	96	119.49
5	Sibsagar	95.02	.40	...	3	...	21	11	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	26	9	26	...	35	36.68
6	Dibrugarh†	53.15	4.93	1	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	...	7	12.05
7	Sylhet	493.59	5.77	...	113	...	87	52	...	...	...	...	27	11	...	9	...	192	73	192	...	253	50.66
8	Slichar	111.53	3.79	...	7	...	52	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	48	25	...	73	63.80
9	Shillong†	42.38	.58	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	1	.....	1	1	2.32
Total		1,205.26	21.84	8	190	2	322	4	200	1	9	25	2	62	1	64	...	268	296	4	731	59.57		

12. Showing the Employment of the Convicts in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year 1877.

Serial No.	3		4		5		6						7			
	Average number sentenced to labour.		Average number not sentenced to labour.		Average number of effectives.*		Employment.						Ratio per cent. on column 5 of those employed—			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	As prison officers.	As prison servants.	On manufactures.	
1																
	Jails and Lock-ups.															
1	24.89	1.05	.56	.06	22.23	.65	2.18	4.64	1.04	3.03	6.36	5.63	9.52	20.27	27.79	
2	8.28	.11	.46	.02	8.06	.11	...	1.03	.01	...	...	7.13	...	12.60	...	
3	160.02	1.66	14.86	.18	132.11	1.01	6.76	19.22	30.06	6.67	70.41	...	6.07	14.43	52.89	
4	6.01	.40	.74	.13	5.37	.29	...	1.74	1.16	.94	1.56	.26	...	30.74	27.56	
5	128.59	3.14	.44	.17	111.40	2.90	3.83	33.36	20.27	9.95	34.40	12.49	3.35	29.18	30.09	
6	8.28	.19	.71	.04	7.81	.16	.95	1.34	1.16	1.07	.88	2.57	11.66	16.81	11.04	
7	79.96	.11	.27	...	66.98	.11	2.93	9.44	6.09	3.84	26.77	18.02	4.36	14.07	39.90	
8	94.54	.40	.48	...	89.35	.24	1.96	19.15	8.45	4.55	39.60	15.88	2.18	21.37	44.20	
9	4.06	.01	.05	...	4.05	.01	...	...	...	...	...	4.06	...	...	...
10	2.62	.20	.42	...	2.47	.20	...	.93	.19	...	...	2.25	...	8.60	...	
11	52.33	4.80	.82	.13	41.84	3.17	1.82	8.42	1.93	3.20	27.20	2.44	4.04	18.70	60.43	
12	4.58	.04	.27	...	4.53	.04	...	...	.71	.01	.65	3.20	...	...	14.22	
13	488.38	5.45	5.21	.32	474.33	5.13	3.39	53.06	357.39	8.99	33.96	22.67	.70	11.06	7.08	
14	110.50	3.79	1.03	...	105.21	3.43	1.00	24.67	10.64	12.31	60.02	...	.92	22.70	55.24	
15	7.58	.41	.49	.09	7.28	.37	...	.95	...	...	...	6.70	...	12.41	...	
16	42.37	.58	.01	...	39.14	.52	1.00	6.01	2.15	3.10	...	26.50	2.52	15.15	2.26	
17	.08	...	...	...	.09	...	...	...	...	...	...	.09	...	...	...
	1,223.06	22.34	26.82	1.14	1,122.25	18.34	25.82	183.26	441.25	57.66	302.71	129.89	2.96	16.00	26.53	
	Total															

* Including the infirm, sick, and convalescent, who did not work.

[37] C.—PRISONS.—(FINANCIAL.)
 14. Showing the Expenditure on Constructing New Jails, and on Additions, Alterations and Repairs, with the Gross and Net Cost of the Prisoners in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam, during the year 1877.

1	2.	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		On jail buildings.									
Jails and Lock-ups.		A	B.	On maintain- ing and guard- ing the prisoners.	Total expen- diture, columns 3 and 4.	Expendi- ture on manufac- tures (col- umn 4D of Statement XIII).	Gross expenditure, columns 5 and 6.	Cash receipts from manu- factures (col- umn 5A of Statement XIII).	Net cost, or minus column 8, column 9.	Total expen- diture (column 8), per head of average strength.	Net cost per head of aver- age strength.
By Jail Depart- ment.	By Public Works Depart- ment.										
1	Godipara	Rs. 9	Rs. 504	Rs. 3,570	Rs. 4,083	Rs. 773	Rs. 4,856	Rs. 446	Rs. 4,410	Rs. A. P. 133 7	Rs. A. P. 144 2
2	Dhubri .....	.....	.....	Rs. 1,338	Rs. 1,338	.....	Rs. 1,338	.....	Rs. 1,338	Rs. A. P. 120 6	Rs. A. P. 120 6
3	Ganhāti	102	1,879	12,124	14,105	1,577	15,682	5,169	10,513	77 10	57 13
4	Barpetā	19	1,869	1,460	1,869	225	2,094	275	1,819	171 7	166 14
5	Tezpur	567	4,133	11,637	16,337	3,424	19,761	3,751	16,010	116 3	113 14
6	Mangaldai .....	.....	.....	1,179	1,179	53	1,238	259	973	98 11	81 7
7	Nowgong	285	294	6,838	7,352	3,050	10,402	3,104	7,298	89 6	88 11
8	Sibsagar	35	1,866	9,744	11,885	3,470	15,055	2,243	12,807	113 10	125 9
9	Jorhāt .....	.....	.....	352	352	.....	352	.....	352	64 11	64 11
10	Golaghat	14	.....	855	869	.....	869	.....	869	182 15	182 15
11	Dibrugarā	93	965	7,356	8,414	3,562	11,976	4,039	7,937	132 3	124 11
12	North Lakhimpur	50	.....	1,777	1,827	5	1,832	91	1,741	266 11	254 2
13	Sylhet	415	35,438	26,592	62,445	3,752	66,197	3,938	62,259	115 15	115 9
14	Silchar	860	.....	13,695	14,895	1,912	16,307	4,284	12,023	111 16	93 7
15	Hailākāndi	5	.....	1,420	1,425	.....	1,425	.....	1,425	122 8	122 8
16	Shillong	114	.....	7,122	7,286	72	7,908	118	7,190	163 10	162 9
17	Jowai	18	.....	32	50	.....	50	.....	50	416 10	416 10
Total.....		2,586	44,959	1,07,316	1,54,861	21,875	1,75,736	27,722	1,49,014	112 10	108 6
Add cost of Inspector-General's office, travelling on inspection, &c.				3,600							
Grand Total.....				1,57,861							

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)

15. Showing the Sickness and Mortality among the Convicts in the Jails of Assam during the year 1877.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8			
	Capacity of the jail barracks, at 36 superficial feet per head.		Average daily strength.		Maximum population on any one day.		Number admitted into hospital.		Daily average number of sick.		Number of deaths in and out of hospital.							
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1	48	2	50	25.45	1.11	26.56	41	2	43	48	4	52	1.39	.24	1.63	20	...	2
2	225	14	239	174.88	1.84	176.72	200	6	206	155	...	155	4.69	...	4.69	7	...	7
3	196	23	219	129.03	3.31	132.34	175	8	183	313	10	323	11.10	.17	11.27	5	1	6
4	120	5	125	80.23	0.11	80.34	102	..	102	77	...	77	2.92	...	2.92	2	...	2
5	63	10	73	95.02	.40	95.42	131	4	135	161	1	162	3.72	.01	3.73	3	...	3
6	98	12	110	53.15	4.93	58.08	82	5	87	196	3	199	4.75	.21	4.96	11	1	12
7	484	12	496	493.59	5.77	499.36	517	7	524	579	...	579	14.05	...	14.05	22	...	22
8	193	15	208	111.53	3.79	115.32	158	18	176	167	9	176	3.93	.22	4.15	13	..	13
9	45	4	49	42.38	.58	42.96	53	2	55	12	...	12	.27	...	.27	1	...	1
Total...	1,472	97	1,569	1,206.26	21.84	1,227.10	1,459	52	1,511	1,708	27	1,735	46.82	.85	47.67	65	2	68

* Including one outside.

		Ratio per cent. of average strength.														
		A			B			C			D			E		
		Of admissions into hospital.			Of daily average number of sick.			Of deaths from cholera.			Of deaths from all other causes, both in and out of hospital.			Of deaths from all causes, both in and out of hospital.		
Serial No.	Jails.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
		1	Goálpára ...	1.63	3.30	1.69	4.73	19.83	5.32	7.85	...	7.53	7.85	...	7.53
2	Gauhati ...	88.63	.....	87.70	2.68	.....	2.65	.....	.....	.....	4.00	...	3.96	4.00	...	3.96
3	Tezpur	242.57	302.11	244.06	8.60	5.13	8.56	.....	.....	.....	3.87	30.21	4.53	3.87	30.21	4.53
4	Nowgong...	95.97	.....	95.84	3.63	.....	3.63	.....	.....	.....	2.49	...	2.48	2.49	...	2.48
5	Sibsagar ...	169.43	250.00	169.77	3.91	2.50	3.00	.....	.....	.....	3.15	...	3.14	3.15	...	3.14
6	Dibrugarh	368.76	60.85	342.63	8.93	4.25	8.53	3.76	20.28	5.16	16.93	...	15.49	20.69	20.28	20.66
7	Sylhet	117.34	.....	117.30	2.84	.....	2.81	1.62	.....	1.60	2.83	...	2.80	4.45	...	4.40
8	Silchar	149.73	237.46	152.61	3.52	5.80	3.59	.....	.....	.....	11.65	...	11.27	11.65	...	11.27
9	Shillong ...	28.31	.....	27.93	.63	.....	0.62	.....	.....	.....	2.95	...	2.92	2.95	...	2.92

21. Showing particulars regarding Prisoners under trial in the Jails and Lock-ups of Assam during the year 1877.

Prison	Jails and Lock-ups.					Number remained at close of previous year.	Number received.			Total population.			Average daily number.			Released.			Convicted and sentenced.		
	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Goaldára	43	1	6	118	7	125	2.99	.07	2.96	52	...	52	62	7	69					
2	Dihuri	103	...	4	104	4	108	1.71	.09	1.80	50	1	51	47	3	50					
3	Gauhati	181	...	5	184	5	189	4.74	.15	4.89	104	4	108	75	1	75					
4	Barpetá	62	...	1	66	1	67	2.66	.02	2.68	41	1	42	23	...	23					
5	Tezpur	284	18	18	288	19	307	6.88	1.05	7.93	150	12	162	126	5	131					
6	Mangaldai	119	...	8	120	8	128	1.48	.12	1.60	49	3	52	62	1	63					
7	Nowkong	112	...	4	113	4	117	1.48	.02	1.50	51	4	55	90	2	92					
8	Sibsagar	146	...	7	149	7	156	5.60	.58	6.18	49	3	52	62	1	63					
9	Jyphát	138	...	3	138	3	141	1.31	.01	1.32	45	1	46	91	2	93					
10	Golághát	60	...	4	61	4	65	1.39	.12	1.51	13	1	14	43	3	46					
11	Dibrugarh	158	...	11	160	11	171	4.72	.21	4.93	49	1	50	102	10	112					
12	North Lakhimpur	48	...	49	49	...	49	1.96	...	1.96	41	...	41	6	...	6					
13	Sylhet	742	18	798	18	816	34.53	.56	35.09	983	10	993	389	6	396						
14	Silchar	365	...	63	378	64	442	9.78	1.75	11.53	167	36	203	195	27	222					
15	Háilákánda	96	...	7	98	8	106	2.89	.15	3.04	46	3	49	46	5	51					
16	Shillong	30	...	2	34	2	36	1.25	.01	1.26	9	1	10	23	...	23					
17	Jowai	9	...	9	9	...	9	.03	...	.03	...	...	...	9	...	9			
	Total	4,267	161	2,867	165	3,032	86.20	4.91	91.11	1,306	82	1,388	1,449	76	1,525						

	9		10		11		12		13					14					
	Transferred.		Escaped.		Deaths.		Remaining on Site Decem-ber, 1877.		Cost.					Hospital.					
									A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	Admissions.	Daily average sick.	Deaths.	Ratio of deaths per cent. of average strength.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	Other charges.	Guard and estab-lish-ment.	Rations.	Annual cost per head of average strength.	Admissions.	Daily average sick.	Deaths.	Ratio of deaths per cent. of average strength.		
1	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	7	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.23	1	20.44	..
4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.74	..	..	..
5	2	..	..	..	..	..	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	2	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	5	1	..	..	..	1	20	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	4	..	..	..	..	2	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	49	1	5	..	59	6	64	5.48

D.—POLICE.

- [1] 1. *General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1877 in the Province of Assam.*

PART I.—Cognizable Crime.

1.—General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the

PART I.—

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.			Investigated by Police.		Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.		Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false, and never to have occurred.		Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	4a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total ....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.													
2	131 to 136, 138 ..	Offences relating to Army and Navy.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	231 to 263, 467, and 471.	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	26	26	1	1	24	1	..	11	..	2	..
4	212, 216	Harboring an offender	3.4	7	1	..	4	1	..	2	..	..	..
5	221 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	59.4	62	2	2	61	..	..	39	..	4	1
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly...	305.6	379	9	34	283	43	2	158	77	71	..
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier.	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
		Total	897.4	475	13	37	362	46	2	211	81	74	..
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.													
8	302, 303, 306	Murder.....	by things .....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9			by dacoits .....	....	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..
10			by poison	8	1	..	1
11			Other murders	26.6	34	2	5	36	1	14	4	15	..
12	307	Attempts at murder	3.5	5	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	..	..
13	304, 308	Culpable homicide	25.4	17	..	6	20	2	..	12	6	8	..
14	376	Rape	62.2	72	5	2	41	8	..	6	29	1	..
15	377	Unnatural offences	21	20	2	..	14	2	..	3	6	1	..
16	317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	9.4	16	..	1	8	4	..	2	7	..	..
17	305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide.	26.4	39	1	..	37	..	..	25	3	..	..
18	329, 331, 333	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19	325, 326, 335	Grievous hurt	78.2	62	..	1	47	3	..	7	12	2	..
20	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..

* One person transferred from
† One person transferred to

LICE.

detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1877.
Cognizable Crime.

Persons.													Property.						
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).		Otherwise disposed of, <i>et c.</i> , dismissed, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.		Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.		
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		Before being put on trial.	On bail.						Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a 18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
....	Rs.	Rs.
....
....
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....
26	2	29	..	2	27	11	2	11	8	24
7	1	8	8	6	..	2	6
62	81	94	..	1	93	11	..	80	2	35
1,120	97	1,208	..	2	1,206	358	8	832	12	1	85	837
2	2	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1,226	181	1,407	..	5	1,402	366	10	927	15	1	..	..	87	..	..	..	..	..	408
....
....
1	1	..	..	1	....	..	....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1	1	..	..	1	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
31	1	47	1	..	46	4	8	..	19	5	..	..	8	7	..	..	..	..	24
2	1	3	1	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
25	33	33	3	6	2	21	1	21
16	10	26	..	5	21	11	1	3	4	1	1	42
10	1	12	..	1	11	1	..	9	1	11
11	1	12	..	2	10	8	..	1	1	12
34	1	35	..	1	34	5	..	27	..	1	1	33
....
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40	5	47	1	..	46	13	..	28	1	1	1	..	2	47
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[41]

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.		Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.		Investigated by Police.		Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Pending at end of last year.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.—													
<i>(Continued.)</i>													
22	327, 330, 332.....	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession or deferring public servant	2	3	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon ..	104.4	96	9	6	76	5	..	27	17	..	..
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	57.8	98	7	5	54	14	..	9	27	4	..
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	28.4	35	..	4	12	18	..	4	19	..	..
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	3.2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	353, 354, 356, 357..	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	120.6	130	2	11	86	20	1	38	27	7	..
29	301A, 338	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	11	9	..	1	9	..	..	4	..	1	..
Total			581.9	640	28	42	450	78	1	169	160	29	..
CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.													
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	13.2	9	2	3	8	..	..	1	5	5	..
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{by poisonous} \\ \text{hurt} \end{array} \right\}$ or $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{stupifying} \\ \text{drugs.} \end{array} \right\}$	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	392, 393	Robbery $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{by other means} \\ \text{in dwelling-house} \\ \text{on the highway be-} \\ \text{tween sunset and} \\ \text{sunrise} \\ \text{other robberies} \end{array} \right.$	10	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	70	72	1	..	46	19	1	..	57	..	..
34a	428, 429	Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animal.	170.6	229	12	12	162	9	3	29	45	3	..
			61.8	166	10	..	82	15	1	18	25	1	..

* One person transferred from

1.—(Continued.)

Persons.															Property.					
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).				Number pending at end of year.			Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.		
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.					Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Rs.	Rs.
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9	3	12	..	..	12	3	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
67	16	83	1	2	80	36	..	40*	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
43	9	56	..	..	56	34	4	16	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
9	5	14	..	..	14	3	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
....	2	2	..	..	2	2	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
....
133	37	177	..	4	173	71	..	94	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	4	3	31	24	85
10	1	12	..	..	12	5	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	8
441	93	573	3	16	554	200	25	237	52	10	1	1	20	10	6	5	4,681	3,249	431	
10	....	15	..	..	15	1	1	....	10	..	..	..	3	..	4	2	858	188	5	
..
..
..
..	2	3	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	90	..	1
2	....	2	..	..	2	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	19	10	6	
86	35	128	1	9	113	62	4	41	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	158	
28	42	81	..	1	80	46	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58

Serial No. 46 of this Statement.

[41]

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Number of cases not inquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under inquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>quo motu</i> .	Investigated by Police.	By order of the Magistrate on complaint, or of his own motion in which no previous information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to inquire.	Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.	Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.	Ending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
CLASS III.— <i>Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i> —(Continued)													
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	{ Lurking house-trespass, or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt. { House-trespass with view to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt. Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	679.6	885	87	69	840	11	13	57	196	1	..
36	449 to 452.....		33.8	19	1	..	15	1	..	8	5	..	..
37	412, 413.....		5.2	3	..	2	3	2	..	3	1	5	..
Total			1,034.2	1,384	118	86	1,147	37	18	117	336	13	..
CLASS IV.— <i>Minor offences against the person.</i>													
38	334.....	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	4.4	8	..	..	5	1	..	6	..	..	..
38a	323.....	Voluntarily causing hurt	272.8	573	32	7	274	30	2	185	56	9	..
39	341 to 344.....	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	866.8	874	47	28	453	127	3	83	331	17	..
40	356, 337.....	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	2.8	6	1	..	5	..	..	5	..	..	..
41	374.....	Compulsory labour	10.4	6	1	..	1	..	..	1	4	..	..
Total			1,157.2	1,467	81	35	738	158	5	280	391	36	..
CLASS V.— <i>Minor offences against property.</i>													
42	453, 456.....	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking.	80.2	92	9	1	64	19	..	22	20	..	..
43	379 to 382.....	Theft .. } of cattle.....	289.6	287	24	7	236	26	..	75	95	7	..
		ordinary ..	3,567.8	4,077	350	128	2,711	383	19	644	1,237	58	..
44	406 to 408.....	Criminal breach of trust ..	356.4	387	14	11	135	64	..	35	91	6	..
45	411, 414.....	Receiving stolen property ..	196.6	209	2	11	183	9	1	143	13	13	..
46	447, 448.....	Criminal or house-trespass ..	764.4	882	62	22	326	68	2	131	153	17	..
47	461, 462.....	Breaking closed receptacle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			5,255.7	5,934	461	180	3,665	562	22	1,050	1,609	104	..

* One person transferred to
 † One person transferred to

1. —(Continued.)

Persons.															Property.							
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct.)		Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	Number pending at end of year.		Under trial before Magistrate Committed to Sessions.	Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.				
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.		Before being put on trial.	On bail.										
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a 18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
167	9	177	2	28	147	53	..	92	..	..	..	..	2	..	541	78	27,028	2,281	589
28	....	28	..	3	25	6	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	49	48	18
9	....	14	..	..	14	....	5	....	9	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	60	60	5
239	88	442	3	41	398	169	10	183	22	..	..	..	9	1	555	85	28,084	2,537	840
6	2	8	..	..	8	....	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
304	273	586	..	6	580	155	..	418	2	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	382
355	173	545	..	23	522	293	..	212	..	1	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	510
6	....	6	..	..	6	....	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
3	....	3	..	..	3	....	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
674	448	1,148	..	29	1,119	448	..	645	2	1	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	905
40	8	48	..	2	46	17	..	28	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	97	1	56	
197	21	225	..	16	208	75	..	180	..	..	1	..	3	..	156	113	5,465	4,325	199	
1,379	699	2,127	7	182	1,985*	852	..	1,070	..	3	3	2	59	..	1,488	792	42,055	18,044	2,284			
74	79	159	4	9	146	92	..	47	..	1	..	..	6	..	50	30	4,638	468	208	
812	13	838	..	2	836	75	1	249	..	3	..	..	9	..	184	160	8,240	3,137	200	
266	364	767	4	19	744†	328	..	369	..	1	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	492
..			
2,379	1,184	3,664	15	180	3,465	1,489	1	1,920	..	7	4	2	96	..	1,889	1,066	60,496	25,865	3,449			

Statement A, Part II., Serial No. 17.
Serial No. 23 of this Statement.

[41]

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Reported to have been committed during the year.			Investigated by Police.		Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.		Number of cases declared by Magistrate to be false and never to have occurred.		Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
<i>CLASS VI.—Other offences not specified above.</i>													
48	Chapter XIX, C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad character...	171·8	198	..	15	36	173	..	64	..	15	..
49	295 to 297	Offences against religion.....	4·8	6	..	..	1	1	..	1	3	..	..
50	Cognizable offences under the	Gambling Act	·8	12	..	1	11	1	..	10	1	2	..
51	Acts specified:	Excise Laws	112·4	153	4	5	114	5	..	80	15	2	..
52	269, 277, 279, 280, 283, 285, 286, 289, 291 to 294.	Stamp Act	10*	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
53	Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws.	Public and local nuisances..	327·2	539	4	1	513	9	..	461	5	..	..
Total....			627·	909	8	22	675	189	..	616	24	19	..
54	Other special and local laws cognizable by Police.	Arms Act	20·6	12	..	1	9	..	..	7	..	..	..
55		Coolie Act	77·8	136	1	..	77	3	..	67	2	..	..
Total			98·4	148	1	1	86	3	..	74	2	..	..
Grand Total			9,151·1	10,957	705	403	7,123	1,093	48	2,517	2,603	274	..

1. -(Continued.)

Persons.																	Property.					
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		Total.	Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.	Released without being brought before a Magistrate.	Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.	Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.		Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).					Number pending at end of year.			Number of cases in which property was stolen.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.		
By Police.	By order of Magistrate.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	In custody of Police.	On bail.	Under trial before Magistrate.	Committed to Sessions.	Before being put on trial.							
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
46	127	188	..	..	188	106	..	71	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	208
1	9	10	..	..	10	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	1
87	4	63	..	..	63	1	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
128	25	175	1	9	165	50	..	113	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	136
..	4	4	..	..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
646	23	669	..	..	669	43	..	624	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	521
888	202	1,109	1	9	1,099	202	..	875	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	874
19	4	23	..	..	23	8	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
127	54	181	2	5	174	10	..	164	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
146	58	204	2	5	197	18	..	179	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
6,093	2,204	8,671	24	285	8,288	2,861	46	4,974	91	19	5	8	254	11	2,443	1,176	98,210	8,165	7,007			

[41] D.—POLICE.
 I. General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operations in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1877.
 PART II.—Return of Non-Cognizable Crime.

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										Persons.					
			Averred instances or proceedings in previous years.	Injured by crime during the year.	Taken to the Magistrate's Court.	Part of solemnly and 6.	Arrested in connection with the offence.	Number of persons arrested, whom process issued.	Accounts applied for before the court, in the preceding financial year.	Disposal of matter after trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Waiting trial.	Close of year.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
115	117	118, 119	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			Total															
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.																		
2	121 to 130, 345	Allegation of offence not committed, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	131	Abetting commission of offence by joint force, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	172 to 181, 201 to 204, 215 to 216, 227, 228	Offences by reboating-keepers by master of ship.	463-2	384	27	411	19	325	802	860	58	232	12	670	2	6		
5	213 to 215, 227, 228	Offences by public servants	50-6	31	6	37	6	22	33	54	14	4	4	29	7	7		
6	161 to 163, 217 to 223	False evidence, false complaints, and claims, and fraudulent deeds, and disposition of property.	122-8	101	5	106	1	71	102	129-6	25	25	3	65	4	12		
7	465 to 477	Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents.	24-2	31	1	32	2	22	30	31	13	5	1	7	8	8		
8	264 to 267	Offences relating to weighing and measurement.	14-8	21	3	24	18	19	24	19	6	3	3	10	10	10		
9	482 to 489	Making or using false trade-marks.	2-2	1	2	1	1	8	26	115	1	7	7	107	107	107		
10	149, 154 to 165, 160..	Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	42-0	27	2	29	8	36	102	115	1	7	7	107	107	107		
			Total															
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.																		
11	312 to 316	Causing miscarriage	42-2	84	1	35	84	2	8	8	1	1	3	9	9	9		
12	370	Buying or disposing of slaves	6	2	2	2	2	1	6	6	0	0	0	0	4	4		
			Total															
CLASS III.—Serious offences against property.																		
13	384 to 389	Ratortion	102-2	44	1	44	6	37	30	37	11	6	6	16	16	16		

2. Comparative Statement of Cognizable

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year. Columns 6, 7, and 8 of Statement A.		Percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained to cases decided.		
			1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	{ 115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c. ....	....	....	....	....
	{ 117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c. ....	....	....	....	....
	{ 118, 119.....	Concealing design to commit offence .....	....	....	....	....
		Total.....	....	....	....	....
		CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.					
2	181 to 136, 138	Offences relating to Army and Navy .....	....	....	....	....
3	281 to 259, 260 to 263, 467 and 471..	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	34	26	....	....
4	212, 216.....	Harbouring an offender	4	5	....	....
5	224 to 226.....	Other offences against public justice	57	51	....	....
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly	323	328	....	....
7	140, 170, 171.....	Personating public servant or soldier	2	1	....	....
		Total.....	420	410	52.44	52.55	
		CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.					
8	} 302, 303, 396	Murder { by thugs.....	....	....	....	....
10			}
11			
12	....	....		....	....
13	307	Other murders	33	37	....	....
14	304, 308.....	Attempts at murder.....	2	4	....	....
15	376	Culpable homicide.....	31	22	....	....
16	377	Rape	55	49	....	....
17	317, 318	Unnatural offences	28	16	....	....
18	305, 306, 309.....	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth..	11	12	....	....
19	329, 331, 333.....	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide.....	26	37	....	....
20	325, 326, 335.....	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession.	....	....	....	....
21	328	Grievous hurt	75	50	....	....
22	327, 330, 332.....	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt	2	1	....	....
		Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession.	2	2	....	....
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon	139	81	....	....
24	363 to 369.....	Kidnapping or abduction	53	68	....	....
25	346 to 348.....	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purposes of extortion.	47	30	....	....
26	372, 373.....	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a woman for prostitution.	3	1	....	....
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves	1	....	....	....
28	353, 354, 356, 357.....	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	118	107	....	....
29	304A, 388.....	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	19	9	....	....
		Total.....	639	529	30.72	39.21	
		CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.					
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	17	8	....	....
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity .....	....	....	....	....
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with { by poisonous or stupefying drugs.	....	....	....	....
		hurt. { by other means .....	....	....	....	....
33	392, 393	Robbery { in dwelling-house	1	....	....	....
		{ on the highway between sunset and sunrise.	....	1	....	....
		{ other robberies.....	84	65	....	....

(Continued).

with result of Police operations for the year 1877.—(Continued.)

Number and percentage of persons arrested and brought to trial.								Amount of property stolen.		Amount and percentage of property recovered.			
Number of persons arrested.		Number of persons brought to trial.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested.		Percentage of persons convicted to persons brought to trial.				Amount.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.	
1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
112	123	94	113	....	....	....	....	Re	Re	Re	Re	....	....
50	81	45	80	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
193	177	161	147	....	....	....	....	....	27,028	....	2,281	....	....
28	28	23	25	....	....	....	....	....	49	....	48	....	....
29	14	29	14	....	....	....	....	....	60	....	60	....	....
483	442	416	398	42.65	47.61	49.51	52.76	35,453	28,084	5,477	2,537	15.44	9.03
8	8	8	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
382	386	377	580	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
538	545	509	522	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	6	1	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4	3	3	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
933	1,148	898	1,119	53.16	56.62	55.23	58.08	....	....	..9.	....	....	....
52	48	46	46	....	....	....	....	....	97	....	1	....	....
249	225	234	208	....	....	....	....	....	5,465	....	4,225	....	....
1,930	2,127	1,812	1,985	....	....	....	....	....	42,055	....	18,044	....	....
161	159	155	146	....	....	....	....	....	4,638	....	458	....	....
475	338	475	336	....	....	....	....	....	8,240	....	3,137	....	....
660	767	654	744	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
..
3,577	3,664	3,376	3,465	56.10	52.40	59.44	55.41	87,399	60,495	47,905	25,865	54.81	42.75
226	138	226	188	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	10	1	10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7	63	7	63	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
230	175	280	165	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	4	5	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
588	669	587	669	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,057	1,109	1,056	1,099	80.70	78.89	80.77	79.61	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	..	2	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
19	23	19	23	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	..	1	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
130	181	129	174	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
152	204	151	197	79.60	87.74	80.13	90.86	....	....	....	....	....	....
8,207	8,571	7,339	8,258	59.53	59.09	62.32	61.33	1,23,011	93,210	53,382	31,651	43.39	33.95

5. Showing Strength, Cost, Distribution, and Employment of Police.

District.	Sanctioned strength of Police Force.											Cost of Police.					Average pay of Mounted Constables, Foot and Water Constables.
	Inspector-General, Deputy, and Assistant-Inspectors-General.	Number of District and Assistant District Superintendents.	Number of Subordinate Officers on Rs. 100 and upwards.	Number of Mounted Police Constables.	Number of Foot Police Constables.	Number of Water Police Constables.	Officers.	Men.	Pay and travelling allowances of Controlling Officers (col. 11) and District Superintendents (col. 12).	Travelling allowance of District and Assistant District Superintendents.	Other expenses of col. 3.	Total pay of Subordinate Officers (col. 4 and 5).	Total pay of Constables of all classes (6, 7, and 8).	Horses and travelling allowances permanent or otherwise not included in col. 11, 13, and 14.	Mounted Constables.	Foot and Water Constables.	
1																	
Godipera	1	1	2	63	265	.....	.....	6	6,000	1,000	1,786	17,640	23,820	.....	.....	8	0
Kamrup	1	1	2	38	257	.....	.....	36	7,200	1,200	1,395	17,640	23,820	.....	.....	7	0
Darrang	1	1	2	36	210	.....	.....	.....	6,000	600	1,348	14,520	20,424	.....	.....	7	0
Nowrang	1	1	2	19	140	.....	.....	.....	7,200	300	1,278	18,700	18,600	.....	.....	7	0
Sibsagar	1	1	2	35	240	.....	.....	.....	6,000	1,000	1,048	12,600	11,160	.....	.....	7	0
Lakhimpur	1	1	2	42	301	.....	.....	1	6,000	1,000	1,168	16,960	21,120	.....	.....	7	0
Fyhet	1	1	2	89	483	.....	.....	6	7,200	1,500	2,158	26,580	30,984	.....	.....	7	10
Cochar	1	1	2	62	421	.....	.....	2	13,200	1,000	1,768	21,532	41,352	.....	.....	8	0
Khasi Hills	1	1	2	17	126	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	1,120	14,400	15,608	.....	.....	8	0
Garo "	1	1	2	30	302	.....	.....	.....	3,600	400	1,120	14,400	32,280	.....	.....	9	0
Mega "	1	1	2	11	150	.....	.....	.....	3,600	1,200	642	6,492	17,400	.....	.....	9	0
Total	8	26	482	2,897	.....	.....	7	87	68,400	9,100	14,081	1,68,444	2,74,116	.....	.....	8	0
Office of Inspector General of Police, Assam.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31,700	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Police Branch attached to the Chief Commissioner's office.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,960	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chief Commissioner's personal staff.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,440	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26,100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total	1	8	26	482	2,897	.....	7	87	66,400	9,100	14,081	1,68,444	2,74,116	.....	.....	8	0

* Column 12 shows the budget grant sanctioned as pay of the District Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police for the financial year 1877-78.
 † There was only one District Superintendant of Police in the districts of Darrang and Nowrang during 1877.

1. Statement showing the strength, cost, and other particulars of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

ARM OF SERVICE.	Total number of fighting officers and men.										Detail of Forces at the end of year.						Average annual pay and allowances of each class.					
	Remaining at the end of last year.	Recruited this year.	In action.	Otherwise.	Total.	Invalided.	Discharged, deserted, &c.	Remaining at the end of year.	Number of regiments, battalions, or batteries.	Number of guns.	European commissioned officers.	Native commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers.	Fighting men.	Paid camp-followers and non-combatants.	European commissioned officers.	Native commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers.	Fighting men.	Camp-followers.	Total cont. including contingents.	
36th Regiment, Native Infantry.	691	42	..	18	18	28	10	677	1	..	8	16	80	571	47	48,265	10,464	13,511	56,059	4,324	1,70,199	
42nd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	884	75	1	19	20	14	27	886	1	..	7	16	79	803	86	55,428	12,072	15,319	92,223	5,249	1,82,339	
43rd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	837	78	..	9	9	30	27	870	1	..	8	16	80	774	50	49,452	11,305	12,402	1,01,446	6,008	1,84,423	
44th Regiment, Bydnet Light Infantry.	868	51	..	12	12	18	24	886	1	..	9	16	80	790	64	67,057	11,310	15,092	94,187	5,546	2,01,838	
Total....	3,296	246	1	56	59	90	88	3,351	4	....	32	64	319	2,938	207	2,10,182	45,151	56,354	8,43,864	21,327	7,41,918

2. Statement showing the distribution and employment of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1877.

Arm of Service.	EMPLOYMENT ON LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.					EMPLOYMENT DURING THE YEAR.								
	Number of regiments, batteries, &c., on active service.	Name of permanent cantonment employed.	Number of outposts occupied.	Average number of men at headquarters of each regiment not on active service.		Average number of days spent by each man on active service.		Number of divisional or station parades during the year.	Number of regimental parades during the year.	Average number of days devoted to makeley instructions, &c.				
				On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.							
26th Native Infantry.....	A detachment on active service.	Coochar ..	3	30	422	28	84	6'02	81'68	254'48	30'19	300	15	
43rd Assam Light Infantry.....	A detachment on active service.	Shillong ..	3	43	437	9	132	38'15	44	383'11	61	7	801	10'90
43rd Assam Light Infantry.....	NIL	{ Dibrugarh & Shillong. }	3	50	684	26	167	NIL.	20'01	244'98	44'02	10	240	132
44th Sylhet Light Infantry	NIL	Ditto ..	9	23	321	28	482	NIL.	68'90	297'63	0'31	3	140	45
Total	2 detachments .....	.....	18	146	1,814	106	865	44'17	214'64	1,286'20	135'92	20	881	263'80

[50]

E.—MILITARY.

3. *Statement showing Religion, Races, and Classes of the Native Officers and Men of the Army attached to the Province of Assam on the last day of the year 1877.*

Classification according to religion, race, &c.	Number.	AVERAGE.			General physique, tone, and characteristics of each race and caste.	
		Age.	Height.	Weight.		
35th N. I.	Christians	9	27.88	5'6"	} No record. } Nothing peculiar.	
	Muhammadans.	15	29	5'7"		
	Hindus	653	27.28	5'8"		
42nd A. L. I.	Christians	} From 2½ mds. to 1½ mds. }	
	Muhammadans	104	28	5'6"		
	Hindus	794	29.08	5'7"		
43rd A. L. I.	Christians	} 10 stone. } Gorkha features.	
	Muhammadans.	38	40	5'8"		
	Hindus	832	29	5'4"		
44th S. L. I.	Christians	7	27.85	5'5"	1 md. 30 s.	Caucasian type. Ditto.
	Muhammadans.	22	33.83	5'6"	1 md. 29 s.	
	Hindus	857	29.83	5'6"	1 md. 25 s.	Gorkha, Mongolian, and Hindustani.

[51] F.—MARINE. 1.—[Blank.]

[52] F.—MARINE. 2.—[Blank.]

PART III.

STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[53, 54, 55.]

A.—FINANCE.

1, 2, 3.—See Chapter V.—Finance.

[56]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1. *Statement showing the Expenditure incurred on Imperial, Provincial, and Local Services in the Public Works Department during the year 1877-78.*

	Original Works.	Repairs.	Total.	Grand Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
IMPERIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—				
Military	37,050	19,660	56,710	
Civil Buildings.....	12,504	1,915	14,419	
Establishment .....	.....	.....	17,746	
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	1,100	89,975
Barrack Department .....	.....	.....	.....	952
Total, Imperial Services...	.....	.....	.....	90,927
PROVINCIAL SERVICES—ORDINARY—				
Civil Buildings.....	1,68,303	42,566	2,10,869	
Communications	57,825	1,80,216	2,38,041	
Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	1,233	24	1,257	
Establishment .....	.....	.....	2,44,352	
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	22,777	
Profit and loss .....	.....	.....	705	
Suspense balances .....	.....	.....	—5,816	7,12,185
FROM CONTRIBUTION FOR SHILLONG CHURCH				
Civil Buildings	2,712	.....	2,712	2,712
Total, Provincial Services...	.....	.....	.....	7,14,897
LOCAL SERVICES—				
Civil Buildings.....	5,000	428	5,428	
Communications	48,297	12,147	60,444	
Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	16,170	.....	16,170	
Establishment .....	.....	.....	516	
Tools and plant .....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Local Services...	.....	.....	.....	82,558
GRAND TOTAL .....	.....	.....	.....	8,88,382

[57]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS.

2. *Statement showing the Income and Expenditure on reproductive works for 1877-78.—[Blank.]*

[58]

C.—RAILWAYS.

[Blank, there being no Railway in the Province.]

[59]

D.—MARINE.

1. *Statement showing the various Government Ships and Vessels employed in the Province of Assam in the year 1877-78.*

DETAIL OF VESSELS.	Tonnage of each vessel and horse-power of engines of a steamer.		Number of officers.		Total annual cost.	Total annual earnings of the vessel.	REMARKS.
	Ton.	H.-P.					
Steamer <i>Koladyne</i>	200	90	4	39	Rs. 46,409	Not known.	Employed under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, as necessary.
Yacht <i>Sunamukhi</i>	30	..	1	15	1,032		
Flat <i>Gogra</i>	360	..	1	22	11,813		
Paddle-steamer No. 2, <i>Condor</i> .	55	110	..	14	3,445		
Steam-launch <i>Hawk</i> .....	...	...	...	...	1,025

[60]

D.—MARINE.

2. *Statement showing the number of Officers and Men employed otherwise than in Government Vessels in the Province of Assam in the year 1877-78.—[Blank.]*

E.—AGRICULTURE.

1. Crops cultivated, in acres (1877-78).

Districts.	Area of rainy-season crops in acres.										Area of dry-season crops in acres.						Total.	Grand total.	Remarks.
	Rice.	Indian-corn.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Tea.	Potatoes.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice.	Other food-grains.	Oil-seeds.	Others.			
Burmá Valley districts. { Sylhet	937,444	..	196,500	63,575	750	1,035	45,010	200	..	1,266,534	....	..	400,724	....	16,238	....	....	416,963	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	{ Cachar	246,800	100	2,500	32,885	..	282,685	1,000	5,800	6,800		289,885
Brahmaputra Valley districts. { Goalpara	380,236	..	2,019	..	125,350	22,170	500	1,942	..	532,717	10,265	..	....	46,620	75,998	....	....	132,883	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	{ Kamrup	84,901	..	3,449	..	3,613	18,628	5,078	..	125,667	....	..	298,899	3,008	45,683	19,043	....	366,632	
	{ Darrang	8,302	128	803	140	473	2,608	12,470	1,400	26,533	....	..	125,851	400	6,074	300	....	132,625	
	{ Nowgong	79,030	1,700	7,000	1,910	500	8,500	1,750	300	106,690	....	..	46,110	24,060	73,000	1,850	....	145,010	
	{ Sibsagar	216,909	15	28	4,195	30,422	..	251,569	10,622	6,970	60,767		312,336
{ Lakhimpur	52,887	..	....	..	....	....	....	97,911	..	150,798	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	150,798	....
Hill districts. { Gáro Hills* .....	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	These figures are almost all conjectural.
	{ Khasi " †	69,880	9,460	46,360	..	1,076	....	....	33,880	152,656	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....
	{ Naga " *	

* The Deputy-Commissioners have reported their returns blank in the absence of any information on the subject.
 † No crops during the months of December, January, and February.

E.—AGRICULTURE.

2. Stock (1877-78).

Districts.	Cows, bullocks, and buffaloes, &c.	Horses.	Fonies.	Donkeys.	Sheep and goats.	Pigs.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Boats.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	500,000	18	1,800	60,000	20,000	32	222,000	140,000	This return is based on supposition only.
Cachar	100,000	20	1,200	.....	10,000	600	.....	30,000	1,250
Goálpára	291,000	50	645	50	75,000	19,000	100	91,500	5,700	
Kámrúp	307,499	112	1,026	4	34,625	39,523	82	101,168	5,491	
Darrang	247,913	25	1,215	9	112,509	14,140	325	24,190	1,800	
Nowgong ^e .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar ^e .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	50,200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	300	5,000	300
Gáro Hills ^e .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khási "	35,258	10	120	.....	10,219	12,388	20	2,115	50
Nága " ^e .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

^e The Deputy Commissioners have reported their returns blank, as no establishments were ever sanctioned to collect these statistics.

E.—AGRICULTURE.
3. Rates of Rent and Produce (1877-78).

DISTRICTS.	AVERAGE RENT PER ACRE SUITED FOR										AVERAGE PRODUCE OF LAND PER ACRE IN POUNDS.												
	Rice.	Wheat.	Inferior grain.	Tea.	Cotton.	Opium and Indigo.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar-cane.	Tobacco.	Rice.	Wheat.	Inferior grain.	Indigo and opium.	Cotton.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Tea.	Sugar (gur).	Tobacco.	Potato.	Jute.	
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Sylhet.....	2 0 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	....	....	....	1 2 0	....	3 8 0	....	1,147	716	..	175	327	..	..	2,333	..	..	..	140
Cachar	1 13 8	....	....	....	....	....	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	2,000	..	..	320	400	160	230	800	50	..	..	..
Goalpara	2 0 0	2 0 0	1 8 0	....	....	....	1 8 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	1,440	400	800	..	640	15	14	480	720	..	..	..
Kamrup	1 9 10	....	....	....	1 8 2	....	1 8 2	....	1 8 2	1 8 2	1,640	..	..	123	615	..	221	615	240	..	..	..
Darrang	1 14 0	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	960	180	..	240	730	20	345	860	720	..	..	..
Nowgong	1 11 0	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,120	640	..	240	820	240	274	250	160	..	..	..
Sibsagar	1 14 8	....	....	....	1 8 2	....	1 8 2	1 8 2	1 8 2	1 8 2	902	1,230	..	160	828	120	286	174	60	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	1 14 0	1 14 0	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,440	..	..	..	..	..	261	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hills* .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	640	240	..	160	..	..	..	..	..	4,400	..	..
Garo " † .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga " †	1 1 7	....	0 14 8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,112	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* These rates cannot be fixed. The lands of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are for the most part private property, and otherwise rents in money are not charged. The information is not obtainable.

1. Produce.

DISTRICTS.	Price of produce per maund of 82lb.																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	Rice.	Wheat.	Linseed.	Jute.	Cotton, indige- nous.	Sugar, refined.	Molasses.	Sea-salt.	Sandur-salt.	Rock-salt.	Gram.	Pulse.	Tea.	Oil.	Mustard oil.	Matkhal.	Ploogh-bullocks, each.	Sheep, each.	Fish, per seer.	Iron, per maund.	
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.					
Sylhet.....	3 0 0	6 5 0	4 7 9	3 13 6	9 9 9	13 7 3	4 7 9	4 15 6	..	..	3 2 0	4 11 3	65 0	0 83 5	0 20 8	0 2 6	6 18 0	0 3 2	5 0 2	0 7 0	0 0
Cachar	3 0 0	.....	5 0 0	7 8 0	5 0 0	15 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	10	..	4 0 0	4 0 0	60 0	0 35 0	0 20 0	0 3 0	0 20 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 20 0	0 0
Goalpara	3 0 0	3 10 0	.....	4 0 0	10 0 0	14 0 0	4 8 0	.....	..	10	4 8 0	5 0 0	80 0	0 40 0	0 15 0	0 1 12	0 15 0	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 0
Kamrup	3 0 0	2 13 6	.....	3 0 0	6 0 0	17 0 0	7 8 0	4 12 0	15	20	4 0 0	3 0 0	45 0	0 40 0	0 17 8	0 1 11	6 25 0	0 6 0	0 2 0	0 7 0	0 0
Darrang	3 0 0	.....	.....	5 0 0	9 0 0	15 0 0	7 8 0	5 8 0	..	..	4 0 0	5 0 0	100 0	0 40 0	0 20 0	0 2 12	0 20 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 7 0	0 0
Nowgong	3 4 0	.....	.....	5 0 0	5 0 0	.....	6 0 0	.....	..	..	.....	2 0 0	35 0	0 40 0	0 17 0	0 1 8	0 20 0	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 8 0	0 0
Sibsagar	3 14 9	.....	.....	6 2 0	4 0 0	14 8 0	6 12 0	6 8 6	..	6	4 11 10	5 12 0	80 0	0 33 4	0 20 0	0 3 7	4 36 0	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 14 0	0 0
Lakhimpur ..	6 8 0	5 0 0	.....	5 8 0	.....	17 0 0	.....	6 0 0	..	..	3 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 8 0	5 0 0	0 8 0	0 7 0 0	0 0
Khasi Hills ..	3 8 0	.....	.....	.....	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 12	0 30 0	0 6 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Garo " .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 0
Naga "	7 0 0	.....	.....	10 0 0	4 0 0	25 0 0	0 10 0	0 0	..	..	10 0	0 8 0	0 100 0	0 50 0	0 30 0	0 5 0	0 30 0	0 0	0 8 0	0 0	0 0

[65] F.—PRICES OF PRODUCE AND LABOUR AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1877-78.

2. Labour.

DISTRICTS.	Wages per diem.		Cart per day.	Camel per day.	Donkeys per score per day.	Boat per day.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.				
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.			Rs. As. P.
Sylhet	0 8 0	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	1 0 0
Cachar	0 10 0	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	1 8 0
Goálpára	0 4 0	0 3 0	1 0 0	.....	.....	1 8 0
Kámrúp	0 8 0	0 4 0	2 0 0	.....	.....	0 5 0
Darrang	0 10 0	0 5 0	1 4 0	.....	.....	0 4 0
Nowgong.....	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Sibságar	0 12 0	0 4 0	2 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Lakhimpur	1 0 0	0 5 0	2 8 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Khási Hills.....	0 13 0	0 6 6	1 8 0	.....	.....	.....
Gáro „	0 8 0	0 4 3	1 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Nága „ .....	.....	0 6 0	.....	.....	.....	0 10 0

(Bengali boats.)
(Dug-out canoes.)

[66]

G.—MINES AND QUARRIES (1877-78).

DISTRICTS.	Where situated.	Mineral produced.	Number of mines.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	Pergunnah Jafiang, in Jaintiá	Limestone	1	
Cachar	North Cachar	Coal.		
	Katta Khál	Limestone.		
Goálpára ...	Pergunnah Karaibari	Coal	1 ^o	• Mine belongs to a zemindar of Goálpára.
Kámrúp.....	Mouzah Mataikhar	Iron	1	
	„ Chapaguri	Limestone	1	
	<i>Nil.</i>			
Darrang.....	Hills near Panimur	Limestone.		
Nowgong ...	Ditto	Coal.		
Sibságar.....	Dikhu and Disang... ..	Coal.		
		(Iron, gold-dust, and petroleum.)		
Lakhimpur..	Makum, Terap, and Namdang	Coal	2	
Gáro Hills...	Gáro Hills	Coal.		
	Ditto	Limestone.		
Khási and Jaintiá Hills.	Khási and Jaintiá Hills...	Lime.....	32	
	Ditto	Coal	16	
		(Iron and slate).		
Nága „	Rangemah	Coal.		
	Banks of the Nambar and Jamuna rivers.	Lime.		
	Banks of the Jamuna river	Chalk.		
	Barail Mountain	Slate.		

	Class of Manufactures.											REMARKS.	
	SILK.	Cotton.	Wood.	Other fibres.	Paper.	Wood.	Iron.	Brass and copper.	Building.	Silver and gold.	Pottery.		Leather.
1. Number of mills and large manufactures.	1	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	In Lakhimpur.
2. Private looms or small works ^a .	..	2,000	..	.....	..	52	200 ^b	20	.....	..	..	..	Cachar and Sib-sagar.
3. Number of work- men in large } Male... works } Female
4. Number of workmen in small works, or independent artisans.	100	12,000	..	4,000	..	10,200	2,600	1,240	1,000	2,000	..	..	Sylhet and Cachar.
5. Number of European Superintendents in large works.	2	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	..
6. Estimated annual outturn

^a All the Deputy Commissioners of the Assam Valley districts have reported their inability to furnish the information, although many private looms are at work in their respective districts. ^b Z.B.—Headings 5 and 6 cannot be properly filled in, as the figures furnished by the Deputy Commissioners are conjectural, and therefore misleading.

[68]

I.—TRADE.

No. 1.—Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into Assam from non-British Territories during the year 1877-78.

No. 1.—Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into

No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.	Bhutan.						Naga and Mizo and B.C.s.			
			Goálpára.		Kámrup.		Darrang.		Total.		Lakhimpur.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—											
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number	12	634	27	1,548	254	14,310	293	16,492		
	2. Cattle	"	1	5					1	5		
	3. Sheep and goats	"			6	12	248		98	261		
	4. Other kinds	"			3	9	81	358	84	367		
II.	Borax	Maunds										
III.	Gums and rattans	"										
IV.	Camel-hair	"										
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Value	18	695	66	1,762	339	12,062	422	14,519	1,156	3,542
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds										
VII.	Cotton, raw	"										
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—											
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"										
	2. Ditto (Indian)	"										
	3. Piece goods (European)	Yards		5						5		61
	4. Ditto (Indian)	"						1,451		1,451		
IX.	Drugs and medicines—											
	1. Asafoetida	Value										
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating	"										
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	"										
	4. Musk	"						880		880		
X.	Dyeing materials—											
	1. Indigo	Maunds										
	2. Madder or manjit	"	13	74					13	74		
	3. Safflower	"										
	4. Turmeric	"										
	5. Other kinds	"			6	24		309	6	333		
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	Value										
XII.	Fibrous products—											
	1. Jute, raw	Maunds										
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny-bags and clothes)	Number										
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds										71
	4. " manufactured	"										
XIII.	Fish (dry)	Value										
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—											
	1. Cocoanuts	Number										
	2. All other kinds	Value						1,629		1,629		
XIV.	Grain and pulse—											
	1. Wheat	Maunds										
	2. Gram and pulse	"										
	3. Other spring crops	"										
	4. Rice, husked	"									307	368
	5. Rice, unhusked	"										
	6. Other rain crops	"						14		14		
XV.	Gums and resins	"										
XVI.	Hides and skins—											
	1. Hides of cattle	Number										
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals	"						10	5	10	5	
XVII.	Horns	Maunds		30						30		235
XVII.(a)	Ivory	"									1	818
XVIII.	Lac—											
	1. Dye	"										
	2. Shell	"										
	3. Stick and other kinds	"			8	24	221	1,997	224	2,021		
XIX.	Leather—											
	1. Unmanufactured	Value										
	2. Manufactured	"						32		32		
XX.	Liquors	"										
XXI.	Mats	Number										368

No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.	Bhutan.								Naga and Mibhmí Hills.			
			Goālpāra.		Kāmrip.		Darrang.		Total.		Lakhimpur.			
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
XXII.	Metals and manufacture of metals—													
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds												
	2. Iron						426		426					
	3. Gold	Value ..					15,220		15,220					
	4. Other metals	Maunds												
XXIII.	Oils													
XXIV.	Opium													
XXV.	Paints and colours													
XXVI.	Provisions—													
	1. Ghee					2	90		2	90				
	2. Other kinds													
XXVII.	Salt			123	961	1,616	8,804	1,738	9,542	136	624			
XXVIII.	Saltpetre—													
	1. Saltpetre													
	2. Other saline substances ..													
XXIX.	Seeds—													
	1. Oil-seeds—													
	(a). Linseed													
	(b). Mustard and rape													
	(c). Til or gingelly													
	(d). Other oil-seeds													
	2. Other seeds—													
	(a). Indigo-seed													
	(b). Tea-seed													
	(c). Other seeds													
XXX.	Silk—													
	1. Raw													
	2. Manufactured	Yards ..												
XXXI.	Spices	Maunds		97	657	962	4,567	1,059	6,224					
	(a). Betel-nuts													
	(b). Betel-leaves													
XXXII.	Stone and marble	Value ..												
	(a). Beads													
XXXIII.	Sugar—													
	1. Refined	Maunds												
	2. Unrefined													
XXXIV.	Tea—													
	1. Indian													
	2. Foreign													
XXXV.	Tobacco													
XXXV.(a)	Wax		90	772	16	650	362	9,472	228	10,794	104	4,564		
XXXVI.	Wood—													
	1. Timber	Number	246	123					946	123				
	2. Firewood	Maunds												
	3. Bamboos	Number												
XXXVII.	Wool—													
	1. Raw	Maunds												
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Yards ..		100						100				
	3. Shawls	Number												
	4. Blankets			1,468	5,981	27,923	69,649	29,291	78,639					
XXXVII.(a)	Yak tails						2,803	2,413	2,808	2,418				
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—													
	1. Unmanufactured ..	Value ..		1		28		6		33				
	2. Manufactured ..							2,046		2,046			1,345	
	3. Cash													
	Total ..	Number	269	898	1,504	7,678	51,163	1,89,071	82,926	1,17,547			2,786	
		Maunds	81	1,641	811	3,978	3,401	37,068	2,763	43,527	1,266		42,006	
			2,439			11,566		1,46,079		1,60,074			44,771	

No. 2.—Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported from

No.	List of Articles.	Denomi- nation.	Bhutan.								Naga and Mishmi Hills.	
			Gooldpara.		Kamrup.		Darrang.		Total.		Lakhimpur.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules..	Number.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Cattle .....	"	..	..	..	..	16	55	16	53	..	..
	3. Sheep and goats .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4. Other kinds .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	163	..	163	..	..
II.	Borax	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
III.	Canes and rattans .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
IV.	Caoutchouc .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware....	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	378	..	378	..	..
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
VII.	Cotton, raw .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—											
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Ditto (Indian) ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	836	..	836	..	..
	3. Piece-goods (European) ..	Yards.	..	144	..	..	..	..	..	144	..	1,973
	4. Ditto (Indian) ..	"	..	..	2,708	..	..	16,908	..	19,616	..	..
IX.	Drugs and medicines—											
	1. Asafetida	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium).	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4. Musk	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
X.	Dyeing materials—											
	1. Indigo	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Madder or manjit .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3. Safflower .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4. Turmeric .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5. Other kinds .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain....	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII.	Fibrous products—											
	1. Jute, raw	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny bags and cloths.)	Number.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	4. Ditto manufactured	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII.(a)	Fish (dry) .....	"	..	..	..	..	73	539	73	539	..	..
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—											
	1. Coconuts	Number.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. All other kinds	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIV.	Grain and pulse—											
	1. Wheat	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Gram and pulse .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3. Other spring crops .....	"	..	..	..	..	6	12	6	12	..	..
	4. Rice, husked	"	..	2	286	686	3,353	7,483	3,639	8,171	..	..
	5. " unhusked	"	..	16	20	303	352	5,482	6,935	5,801	6,307	9
	6. Other rain crops .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234
XV.	Gums and resins .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XVI.	Hides and skins—											
	1. Hides of cattle	Number.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals.	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XVII.	Horns	Maunds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
XVII.(a)	Ivory .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XVIII.	Lac—											
	1. Dye .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Shell .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3. Stick and other kinds .....	"	..	..	..	..	25	253	25	253	..	..
XIX.	Leather—											
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2. Manufactured .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XX.	Liquors .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XXI.	Mats	Number.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

L.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Statement showing the number of Charitable Institutions in operation in the Province of Assam during the year 1877.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.	Number of Institution.	Average number of in-door patients daily aided.	Number of in-door patients aided in the year.	INCOME.				In what shape relief is granted.	OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH AFFORD RELIEF.		
				From Govern-ment on account of salaries.	Estimated cost of European medicines supplied by Government.	From Local Funds.	Interest on invested funds.		Subscriptions and donations from Europeans and Natives.	In-door.	Out-door.	General.
Cachar .. Cachar	1	45-43	812	Rs. A. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	..	..	1
Sylhet .. Sylhet	2	5-43	197	600 0 0	107 9 5	1,129 1 0	87 13 11	594 0 0	..	..	1
Khasi Hills. Shillong	3	5-11	96	455 12 10	134 4 23	85 14 9	5 15 6	928 10 9	..	..	1
Garo .. Tura	4	2-95	45	192 0 0	.....	.....	.....	136 0 0	..	..	1
Goalpara .. Goalpara	5	3-77	23	801 6 4	20 11 5	5 6 0	.....	646 12 0	..	..	1
Goalpara .. Gaucipur	6	1-64	47	330 0 0	19 12 3	.....	.....	720 0 0	..	..	1
Goalpara .. Lakhimpur	7	1-90	24	240 0 0	71 8 3	.....	.....	480 0 0	..	..	1
Goalpara .. Goalpara	8	6-97	187	720 0 0	.....	685 11 10	.....	418 8 0	..	..	1
Goalpara .. Barpeta	9	0-85	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	172 3 0	..	..	1
Nowgong .. Nowgong	10	11-82	184	560 0 0	65 14 0	305 8 7	.....	856 4 0	..	..	1
Darrang .. Teraput	11	5-22	126	778 5 3	158 0 3	345 13 9	.....	575 0 0	..	..	1
Darrang .. Mangaldai	12	1-82	8	.....	102 6 10	.....	6 13 0	804 12 0	..	..	1
Shibpur .. Shibpur	13	4-39	177	480 0 0	119 0 0	203 4 6	.....	296 14 0	..	..	1
Shibpur .. Jorhat	14	4-59	97	180 0 0	64 8 6	.....	.....	408 4 0	..	..	1
High Hills. Samangting	15	5-59	84	288 0 0	188 6 4	.....	.....	.....	..	..	1
Lakhimpur. Dibrugarh	16	17-26	348	640 0 0	200 0 0	.....	.....	1,148 8 0	..	..	1
Lakhimpur. North Lakhimpur	17	7-66	17	.....	27 13 8	.....	.....	270 8 0	..	..	1
Lakhimpur. Jajpur	18	.....	.....	.....	16 12 8	.....	.....	97 8 0	..	1	..
Total	18	6-22	2,531	6,260 8 5	1,680 8 113	6,502 0 2	129 13 11	9,415 3 9	Total	..	17

PART IV.—STATISTICS OF INSTRUCTION.

[78] A.—*Eccleristical.*—Return of persons according to religious denominations in the Province of Assam in the year 1877-78.

1 Denomination.	3 Number of persons.		8 Number of ministers or priests.	4 Number of churches or buildings designed or used for worship.	5 Total annual income from Government.	6 REMARKS.
	c. Natives.	d. Others.				
Church of England	716	688	6	11	Rs- 24,876	In Sylhet, Cachar, Kāmrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Lakhimpur, and Khāsī and Jaintā Hills.
Church of Scotland .....	.....	170	.....	.....	.....	In Cachar, Darrang, and Nowgong.
Protestant Dissenters	2,459	27	5	8	100	In Cachar, Kāmrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Gāro Hills.
Roman Catholics	6	51	5	26	.....	In Kāmrup, Darrang, and Gāro Hills.
Greek Church .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Armenians .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Syrian .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jew .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Parsee .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hindu	874,909	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Cachar, Goalpāra, Nowgong, and Sibsagar.
Mohammedan	186,962	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ditto ditto.
Buddhist	446	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Goalpāra, Nowgong, and Sibsagar.
Jain	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Nowgong.
Sikh	104	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Goalpāra and Nowgong.
Other sects	100,079	.....	.....	.....	.....	In Goalpāra, Nowgong, and Sibsagar.

NOTE.—These figures are merely conjectural.

2. Return of Schools, and the Scholars attending them, for the official year beginning 1st April, 1877, ending 31st March, 1878.

Class of Institution.	Unaided Institutions under inspection.											Grand Total of							
	Number of Institutions.	Number of students on the rolls on 31st March.	Average daily attendance.	Number of students on 31st March learning through		Religion of students as on 31st March.					Grand total of students on 31st March.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Buddhists.	Khasias.	Others.		
				English.	Vernacular only.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Buddhists.	Others.									
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	
<i>Normal Schools—</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
For Masters .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Other Technical Schools</i>	2	17	14	17	..	17	..	..	..	..	8	17	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Schools for Boys—</i>																			
Higher Schools (English)	1	199	174	181	68	150	49	..	..	..	9	1,469	25	1,210	226	.....	.....	.....	4
Middle Schools (English)	11	849	386	215	324	428	100	..	..	..	33	2,248	96	1,287	248	.....	.....	.....	24
teaching through Vernacu- lar only.	4	186	86	.....	134	127	7	..	..	2	67	3,220	8	2,641	505	.....	.....	.....	66
Lower and Primary Schools	104	2,102	1,573	.....	2,162	1,894	218	..	..	50	1,003	26,154	139	20,795	2,932	.....	.....	.....	1,264
<i>Schools for Girls—</i>																			
For Natives	11	122	80	.....	122	8	12	..	..	4	60	809	125	463	64	.....	.....	.....	6
Total.....	133	3,185	2,334	346	2,339	3	2,723	391	..	68	1,175	84,376	495	26,908	3,994	.....	.....	.....	1,338

N.B.—This Return does not include the abolished schools.

B.—EDUCATION.

4. *Distribution of Government Schools, and of all Schools aided and inspected by Government, in the several Districts under the Administration of Assam, for the official year beginning 1st April, 1871, ending 31st March, 1878.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Names of Districts and Native States.	Vernacular spoken.	Area in square miles.	Estimate of population.	Number of schools.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number of square miles to each school.	Percentage of scholars to population.	Remarks.	
Cachar	Bengali and Manipuri	(a) 1,285	205,027	130	2,631	9.88	1.28	(a) Omitting 3,715 square miles of hilly country.	
Sylhet	Bengali	5,380	1,719,539	293	9,160	18.36	.53		
Khási Hills	Khásia	6,157	141,838	85	2,004	72.43	1.41		
Gáro Hills	Gáro	3,390	80,000	16	199	211.87	.24		
Goálpára	Bengali	4,423	444,761	109*	2,397	40.66	.53		
Kámrap	} Corrupt Bengali ...	3,631	561,681	248	6,301	14.64	1.12		
Darrang		3,413	236,009	92	2,530	37.09	1.07		
Nowgong		3,648	256,390	104	3,473	35.07	1.35		
Nága Hills	} Corrupt Bengali ...	4,900	68,918	2	60	2,450.00	.08		
Sibságar		2,413	296,589	124	3,749	19.45	1.26		
Lakhimpur		(b) 3,145	121,267	67	1,872	46.94	1.54		
Total	41,795	4,132,019	1,270†	84,376	32.90	.83		(b) Omitting 8,343 square miles of hilly country and forests.

* Of these, 12, though in the Goalpara district, are physically situated in the Garo Hills.
 † The schools which were in existence for part of the year only are included in this return.

[78]

C.—EDUCATION.

1.—Return of Scientific and Literary Societies for the official year beginning 1st April, 1877, ending 31st March, 1878.

Name.	Objects.	Income.				Members or visitors.				Registered or not.	When established.
		From Government.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.		
		Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.							
Shillong Club....	Improvement, physical, intellectual, moral, and social.	385 0	23 0 0	408 0 0	15	..	..	15	Not	October, 1876.
Gauhati School Club.	Literary improvement.	....	23 0 0	23 0 0	49	..	..	49	Not	23rd April, 1877.
Bidyatsahini Sabha	Ditto ditto	....	248 10 0	248 10 0	57	..	..	57	Not	20th
Subha s a d h i n i Sabha.	To do good to the public.	....	..	..	16	..	..	16	Not	February, 1873.
Tezpur Bidyotsahini Sabha.	For the improvement of boys in literature and science.	0 6	.....	0 6 0	80	..	..	80	Not	October, 1877.
Nowgong Mayo Committee.	Diffusion of Primary Instruction (in memory of the late Lord Mayo).	72 0	.....	72 0 0	14	..	..	14	Not	March, 1872.
Sibsagar Literary Association.	To cultivate literature.	....	31 5 6	31 5 6	30	..	..	30	Not	1st March, 1877.

[79]

C. 2.—Statistics of Instruction.—The Press, 1877-78.

1	2	3	4	
District.	Name of Press.	Names of Proprietors.	PUBLICATIONS THEREAT.	
			Newspapers.	Periodicals.
Sylhet	Srihatta Prokash	Babū Grish Chandra Dās, Babu Loknath Sarma, Babu Sharat Kumar Dās, Babu Krishna Govind Das, Babu Jay Chandra Das	<i>Srihatta Prokash (weekly).</i>	....
Goalpara	Hitabidhayini Press	Hitabidhayini Society	<i>Godāpāra Hitabidhayini Patrika (Weekly)</i>	....
Kāmrūp	Chidananda Press	Chidananda Chouduri .....	.....	....
Sibsagar	American Mission Press ..	Rev. A. K. Gurney	<i>Arunodoi (Monthly)..</i>	....
	Dharma Prokash Press	Aunilāti Gossain.....	<i>Assam Belashini (Monthly)</i>	....
Lakhimpur	The Exchange Lithographic Press.	The Planters' Store Company Limited.	<i>Assam Dipak (Monthly)</i>	....
Khāsi Hills	Assam Secretariat Press ..	Her Majesty's Government	<i>The Dibrugarh Telegraph.</i>	....
			<i>Assam Gazette (Weekly)</i>	....

A.—Deaths registered from different causes in the Province of Assam in 1877.

No.	Tracts.	Districts.	4		5		6		7		8					
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
			Population.		Cholera.		Small-pox.		Fever.		Bowel-complaints.					
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
1	Brahmaputra Valley	Goalpara	210,134	197,260	407,714	221	244	465	60	120	1,266	959	2,325	209	143	359
2		Kāmrup	293,591	269,238	562,829	972	774	1,746	150	270	1,697	1,089	2,786	501	346	846
3		Nowgong	183,107	123,283	296,390	1,364	1,139	2,502	43	82	551	380	951	134	88	222
4		Darrang	122,837	113,172	236,009	1,177	1,023	2,200	172	296	1,610	1,336	2,946	586	391	977
5		Sibsagar	184,940	141,649	296,589	331	247	578	62	118	1,350	1,543	3,303	1,068	748	1,801
6		Lakhimpur	64,692	56,575	121,267	178	146	324	92	168	509	374	883	228	147	375
7	Surma Valley	Sylhet	880,330	889,209	1,719,539	1,684	1,260	2,934	96	190	2,471	1,669	4,140	660	300	1,000
8		Caschar	110,373	94,654	205,027	384	244	628	24	33	67	770	541	1,311	106	77	183
		Total ..	1,970,004	1,895,260	3,865,264	6,311	5,066	11,377	709	1,200	10,324	7,491	18,710	3,462	2,326	6,804

A.—(Continued).

[80]

Number.	Tracts.	Districts.	9												10			11			13							
			Injuries.												All other causes.			Total from all causes.			Ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population.							
			Suicides.			Wounding.			Accidents.			Snake-bite or killed by wild beasts.			Small-pox.			Revera.			Bowel-complaints.			Injuries.			All causes.	
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.		
1)	Brahmaputra Valley	Goalpara.....	8	1	4	6	2	8	10	7	17	36	9	45	132	107	239	2,043	1,582	3,575	1-1	2	6-7	8	1	9-7	7-7	8-7
2)		Kamrup.....	2	2	4	3	1	4	13	..	13	34	4	38	108	73	176	3,475	2,408	5,883	3-1	0-5	4-9	1-5	1	11-7	8-9	10-4
3)		Nowgong.....	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	5	29	52	7	59	76	66	142	2,247	1,733	3,980	9-7	3	3-5	8	3	16-8	14-0	15-4
4)		Darrang.....	5	2	7	2	..	2	52	17	39	17	3	20	206	183	389	3,597	3,078	6,575	9-3	1-2	12-4	4-1	2	30-9	27-1	29-1
5)		Sibsagar.....	6	1	7	18	8	26	21	9	30	13	5	18	407	312	719	3,766	2,909	6,675	1-9	3	11-4	6-0	2	24-3	20-6	22-5
6)		Lakhimpur.....	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	9	2	11	5	..	5	28	85	1,080	758	1,838	3-6	1-2	7-2	3-0	1	16-6	13-3	15-1
7)	Surma Valley	Sylhet.....	10	6	16	9	20	29	93	84	177	40	22	62	830	710	1,540	5,893	4,215	10,108	1-6	0-9	2-4	6	1	6-6	5-0	5-8
8)		Cachar.....	1	1	2	3	2	5	26	11	37	11	3	14	291	244	535	1,626	1,156	2,782	3-0	3	6-3	8	2	14-7	12-2	13-5
		Total.....	27	13	40	46	33	79	218	135	353	298	53	261	2,102	1,723	3,825	23,927	17,789	41,716	2-9	3	4-9	1-5	1	12-1	9-6	10-9

[81] B.—Showing the diseases of the in-door and out-door patients treated in the Dispensaries of Assam during the year 1877.

No.	1		2		Diseases.												Total				
	Names of Dispensaries.				General Diseases.						Local diseases.										
					Order A. Febrile or Zymotic diseases.		Order B. Constitutional diseases.														
					Small-pox.	Malaria and remittent fever.	Cholera.	Other diseases of this order.	Rheumatic affections.	Syphilitic affections.	Scorbut.	Anæmia.	Leprosy.	Phthisis.	Prosy.	Other diseases of this order.	Ophthalmia.	Inflammation of the external ear.	Gout.	Respiratory affections.	Heart disease.
1	Carbor.	523	91	56	104	35	3	13	6	4	24	86	26	25	60	75	2				
2	Selhet.	848	15	158	27	131	8	20	1	1	2	61	63	74	2	92	2				
3	Shillong.	214	8	7	49	10	1	1	1	1	2	8	16	12	13	13					
4	Tura.	423	3	3	8	60	1	1	6	1	9	9	6	32	21	46					
5	Goalpara.	198	3	2	40	28	1	2	2	2	7	7	6	18	16	18					
6	Goalpara.	263	4	2	83	22	1	2	2	2	7	7	6	16	16	31					
7	Lakhimpur.	115	2	2	20	23	1	1	2	2	4	8	4	12	9	9					
8	Goalpara.	300	8	1	30	23	1	12	14	2	4	8	7	17	9	17					
9	Barpeta.	83	2	3	12	8	1	11	11	2	2	9	11	19	4	23					
10	Nawang.	226	7	3	37	20	1	11	2	2	8	9	11	19	782	23					
11	Teta pr.	298	17	41	21	36	1	6	2	2	8	9	11	19	44	56					
12	Moussaldal.	33	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4					
13	Sibsagar.	374	20	9	104	14	2	20	7	2	11	20	28	69	382	80					
14	Jorhat.	674	14	14	119	40	2	6	6	8	10	66	35	20	122	130					
15	Saukating.	240	4	5	11	1	1	5	2	2	5	10	10	5	96	20					
16	Jharguarh.	1,617	4	4	89	91	10	1	2	2	53	8	27	18	166	124					
17	Jalpaiguri.	67	1	6	4	12	1	1	7	7	1	1	1	1	187	16					
18	North Lakhimpur.	120	1	1	6	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Total					12	6,501	179	208	944	555	25	60	14	210	302	328	308	1,861	882	21	

Number.	Names of Dispensaries.	Diseases.										Total number of in-door and out-door patients treated in each Dispensary.	Operations.					
		Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Worms.	Liver diseases.	Spleen diseases.	Gonorrhoea and its complications.	Abcesses, boils, and whitlows.	Skin diseases.	Ulcer.	Labour—premature, natural, and difficult.		Other local diseases.	Debility and old age.	Poisons and poisoned wounds.	Injuries.	Major.	Minor.
1	Cochar	281	120	205	5	118	157	82	314	220	8	477	219	....	223	8,612	11	95
2	Syhet	72	303	17	21	133	186	203	417	278	2	958	77	12	283	4,812	10	326
3	Shillong	97	126	123	19	42	26	53	52	11	....	495	29	22	90	1,593	....	121
4	Tura	19	10	....	....	5	47	6	41	44	....	47	2	32	741	....	....	....
5	Goalpara	28	30	17	5	122	10	15	82	26	....	302	7	32	1,085	8	42	....
6	Gauripur	34	8	....	5	20	9	11	281	37	....	126	18	13	953	30	30	....
7	Lakhipur	20	20	....	....	40	7	6	29	17	....	90	18	12	429	14	14	....
8	Gaahati	64	118	3	3	37	34	34	84	24	....	80	....	91	1,020	....	68	....
9	Barpeta	7	1	1	1	23	10	9	4	4	....	103	2	39	353	....	89	....
10	Nowgong	13	29	....	....	13	9	11	37	29	....	84	14	25	1,416	1	25	....
11	Tespar	67	52	13	6	28	7	7	68	23	2	184	88	49	1,037	1	25	....
12	Mangaldai	2	5	....	....	10	1	4	5	3	....	8	....	....	89	....	....	....
13	Sibsagar	139	47	84	6	40	10	63	586	102	....	539	8	100	2,329	....	68	....
14	Jornat	104	117	8	4	45	80	67	660	119	....	844	21	185	5,030	....	187	....
15	Samaugtuh	32	29	1	....	7	4	4	52	90	....	35	9	26	685	....	6	....
16	Dibrugarh	843	443	10	2	16	31	88	117	42	....	166	6	52	3,418	1	14	....
17	Jaipur	4	6	....	....	1	5	2	8	1	....	20	....	13	144	....	....	....
18	North Lakhimpur	27	5	8	....	16	....	9	60	14	....	60	4	29	583	....	....	....
	Total	1258	1,470	563	87	769	835	567	2,784	1,103	8	4,068	468	40	1,264	27,724	27	1,035

Statement showing particulars of Vaccination in the Dispensaries

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
				Total number of persons vaccinated.				
				Present year, 1877-78.	Previous year, 1876-77.			
	Name and rank of Superintendents of Dispensaries.	Number of Native Superintendents of Vaccination attached to the Dispensary.	Number of Vaccinators attached to the Dispensary.			Division or District, Collectorate, Political Agency, Native State or Municipality, for the population of which the Dispensary is provided.	Population of area included in last column.	Name of dispensary.
1	Warburton, Officiating Civil Surgeon.	....	1	1,169	1,492	Cachar	305,027	Cachar
2	T. Mathew, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Civil Surgeon.	....	2	841	785	Sylhet	1,719,539	Sylhet
3	J. O'Brien, M.D., Civil Surgeon..	....	2	770	754	Khási and Jaintiá Hills.	141,838	Shillong
4	W. J. Mountain, Civil Medical Officer.	....	4	4,880	3,879	Gáro Hills	80,000	Tura
5	J. P. Cromarty, Civil Medical Officer.	....	1	568	1,180	Goálpára	444,761	Goálpára
6	E. G. Russell, M.A., M.D., Civil Surgeon.	....	2	7,857	13,117	Kámrúp	562,829	Ganháti
7	Mr. J. Hughes, Civil Surgeon ..	....	1	108	267	Nowgong	256,390	Nowgong
8	Surgeon Major A. Garden, M.D., Civil Surgeon.	....	1	392	128	Darrang	236,009	Tespur
9	Dr. Mohananda Mukerjee .....	....	1	1,096	1,092	Sibságar	296,689	Sibságar
10	J. B. White, Civil Surgeon ....	....	3	1,368	968	Lakhimpur.....	121,267	Dibrugarh
11	A. D. Cooper, Civil Medical Officer.	....	....	....	....	Nága Hills .....	.....	Samaguting ..
	Total.....	....	18	18,549	23,682		4,064,249	

VACCINATION.

of Assam during the year ending 31st March, 1878.

9

Primary vaccination.						Re-vaccination.		Percentage of successful cases.		Average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator.	Total cost of vaccination for the year.		
Sex.		Total.	Successful.			Total.	Successful.	Primary.	Re-vaccination.		Paid by Government.	Paid from other sources.	REMARKS.
Male.	Female.		Under one year.	Over one and under six years.	Total of all ages.								
906	263	1,169	120	489	836	....	....	71.51	....	1,169	Rs. 120 0 0	P.	
469	372	841	40	441	758	....	....	90.13	....	420	Rs. 120 0 0	P. 85 0 0	
445	325	770	233	336	569	....	....	73.89	....	885	Rs. 221 12 10	P.	
2,368	2,012	4,380	1,926	2,268	4,194	....	....	75.75	....	1,095	Rs. 297 8 3	P.	
310	258	561	61	61	521	7	....	92.86	....	568	Rs. 120 0 0	P.	
4,788	3,069	7,857	1,201	6,466	7,667	40	32	79.58	80	124	Rs.	P. 120 0 0	Paid from Municipality.
61	47	108	5	85	90	....	....	83.32	....	108	Rs. 120 0 0	P.	
112	280	392	81	291	372	....	....	94.89	....	392	Rs. 63 5 3	P.	
593	503	1,096	404	655	1,059	....	....	96.34	....	1,096	Rs. 208 0 0	P.	
743	625	1,320	352	576	1,019	48	48	77.10	100	456	Rs. 323 8 0	P.	
...	Rs.	P.	Not received.
10,795	7,754	18,494	4,423	11,668	17,085	95	80	75.95	84.21	5,813	Rs. 1,594 2 4	P. 205 0 0	

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