

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE
YEAR 1880-81.



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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. FOR nearly the whole of the year of report the Province was administered by Sir Steuart Bayley as Chief Commissioner. He vacated the office on the 1st March 1881, when its duties were assumed by Mr. C. A. Elliott, c.s.i. The former made two extensive tours in the Assam Valley districts during the rains and cold-weather of 1880, and was on tour in Sylhet in January 1881 when the news of his appointment to be Resident at Hyderabad reached him. This necessitated his immediately proceeding to Calcutta, where he remained a month in consultation with the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal regarding various matters touching the administration of the Province. Mr. Elliott, on assuming the office of Chief Commissioner, started on a tour through the Nága Hills and the districts of Sibságar and Lakhimpur. Before the hot weather set in he also visited the Gáro Hills.

Administration.

The most important measure of administrative reform effected during the year was the creation of a Commissionership for the Assam Valley. This measure had long been under discussion, and was finally carried into effect in June 1881 by uniting the functions of a Commissioner with those of the Civil and Sessions Judge in the Valley Districts, thus applying to Assam the principle which has from the commencement been adopted in other so-called non-Regulation Provinces. No additional expense was caused by the arrangement, an office staff being provided for the Commissioner by reductions in the Secretariat and by re-modelling the establishment of the Judge's office. The measure has already, by securing closer supervision of the district offices in the Assam Valley than it was possible for the Chief Commissioner personally to give, by the application of intelligent criticism and comparison of local peculiarities by a single highly-qualified officer, and by more frequent inspection during the Commissioner's tours and visits to district head-quarters as Sessions Judge, been productive of much good, and fully justified the anticipations formed of its probable results.

The development of the sub-divisional system in Sylhet was further advanced by a re-arrangement of the thánas of that district, with a view to the more convenient distribution of the area and population between the different sub-divisions. The registration circles were also revised, and it was hoped that it might be possible to complete the concentration of offices at sub-divisional head-quarters by dealing in a similar manner with the munsifs' jurisdictions. Owing, however, to the necessity of referring this portion of the subject to the High Court, it was not found practicable to notify the revision of the munsifs during the year.

2. No events of any importance marked our intercourse with the Bhutias, Akas, Daflas, Miris, Khámptis, Singphos, or Nágas bordering on the Lakhimpur and the eastern portion of the Sibságar district. In respect of the Abors and Mishmis the same may be said, since the threatened migration of people from two villages belonging to the former tribe from the west to the east of the Dibong, where they would command the route taken by the latter in their journeys to and from Sadiya, and thus, it was feared, bring about disturbance and bloodshed in British territory and interrupt the friendly relations now existing between the British Government and the Mishmis, only began to assume prominence at the close of the year, and the measures adopted to deal with it belong wholly to 1881-82. The attitude of the Abors was, as in previous years, reserved and uncommunicative; but it is to be hoped that with the better knowledge of them obtained in the current year during the occupation of Nizámghát, future reports may have to record the establishment of our relations with them on a more satisfactory footing.

3. Among the Lushais the most notable occurrence was the death of Sukpilál, which happened in January last. This has been followed by a renewal of hostile operations by the adherents of Lengkám and Poiboi against the sons of Sukpilál; and the various chiefs seem, in prosecuting their internal feuds, to be rapidly reducing themselves and their people to a condition in which they will be an easy prey to their enemies on the south and east. Their relations with this Administration have, however, throughout the year been peaceful. In January and February 1881, Major Boyd, the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, made a tour through their country, and had interviews with seven of the Chiefs. He was everywhere well received; but the recent

death of Sukpilál prevented him from effecting any compromises likely to tend to the peace of the country. The contending parties were loth to relinquish their opportunity, and had not yet become anxious, by experience of the dangers of disunion, for a settlement of their differences.

4. The Native State of Manipur was visited during the year by a severe epidemic of cholera.

Manipur.

In other respects, with the exception of the continued outrages on the Burmah frontier, its history was uneventful. In last year's Administration Report mention was made of the massacre perpetrated in the Manipur village of Chingsao by Kukis living within the jurisdiction of the Shan Rája of Sumjok, subject to Burmah. In the cold weather of 1880-81 these attacks were renewed, and assumed a more systematic and organised character. They derived their importance from the indefinite nature of the boundary between Manipur and Burmah in that quarter, which enabled both the Tangkhul Nágas of Manipur and the Kukis acknowledging allegiance to Sumjok to claim the territory where the raids took place. This, again, was due to the fact that the boundary, settled elsewhere on this frontier in 1834 by actual survey and maps and by natural landmarks, was here only a mathematical expression, being a straight line drawn due north, over a most intricate country of mountains, streams, and forests, from a point at the northern end of the Kubo Valley. The result of these disorders has been to determine the Government of India, as responsible for the demarcation of 1834, to continue the operations then left incomplete. A Boundary Commission has been despatched to visit the frontier, to mark on the ground the mathematical boundary of 1834, and to ascertain exactly the limits up to which the jurisdiction and responsibility for good government of Manipur and Burmah extend respectively. And it is to be hoped that, these being once defined, no further cause for aggression on either side will remain.

A census was taken of Manipur during the year, simultaneously with the general enumeration made of British India. The results obtained will be found stated in the body of this Report.

5. Turning now to the semi-civilised tribes dwelling within our boundaries, the most important event requiring notice is the re-

North Cachar.

establishment of the North Cachar sub-division, which was

determined on in the course of the summer of 1880, and carried out in December of that year. This tract of country, lying between Nowgong on the north, the Jaintia Hills on the west, the plains portion of Cachar on the south, and the Naga Hills district on the east, is inhabited by Kukis, Cacharis, and Kutcha Nagas, the last two of whom had frequently suffered from attacks by the Angami Nagas, whose most frequented route to the plains of Cachar lies through this region. How much exposed this frontier is to such incursions was made manifest by the daring raid of the Khonoma Nagas upon the tea plantation of Báladhan in January 1880. The events which have gradually led to the interference of Government in the internal affairs of the Naga tribes mostly occurred in North Cachar, and our occupation of the Naga Hills was the result of the measures rendered necessary for protecting our own subjects against this barbarous enemy. North Cachar was held as a sub-division, with a British Officer at Asálu as his head-quarters, from 1854 to 1866, when the present Naga Hills district was first constituted, with its head-quarters at Samaguting, as a means of controlling the Angamis more effectually from a point actually within their country. The area of the sub-division was divided between the new district, Nowgong, and Cachar, the last named district getting the larger portion; and for many years the population of North Cachar was practically left to itself, with no administrative officer nearer than Silchar. The raid on Gumaigaju, a village near Asálu, by Nagas of Mezuma in 1877, which demonstrated the insufficiency of our position at Samaguting to protect North Cachar from the Angamis, was the immediate cause of our advance to Kohima; and the raid on Báladhan during the hostilities in the Naga Hills was the occasion for the re-establishment of the North Cachar sub-division, with its head-quarters at Gunjong, a site about 20 miles north-west of Asálu, and more conveniently situated for control than the latter place. From this post as a base, the Sub-divisional Officer has been able to organise what it is hoped will be effective measures for the defence of the frontier against the Angami Nagas. Four police posts (since reduced to two) have long been established towards the Angami country, at Asálu, Hangruin, Ninglo, and Guilong: these were reinforced, and, to maintain communication between them, and to act as scouts along the Naga frontier, the Kukis were enrolled into a militia, 100 strong, called out for service during the cold weather, and receiving a retaining

pay of Re. 1-8 a month per man during the hot weather and rains, when the country is impassable to raiders. Besides this outer line of defensive posts in the heart of the hills, there is also an inner line of three posts nearer Silchar, with its eastern base resting on Jhirighát, consisting of the stockades at Báladhan, Aisacherra, and Jaipur. Between these and Silchar there is communication by a signal code.

The effect of the re-establishment of the sub-division, with a European Officer to administer it, upon the scanty population of North Cachar has, so far as can yet be seen, been good. The Kukis, who form the majority of the population towards the east, and had been found during the hostilities in the Nága Hills to be rather out of hand, have been brought under control, and the Cacharis and Nágas have been freed, by the presence of a European in their midst, from the abject terror of the Angamis in which they formerly lived. The tract is very thinly-peopled, having only 22,379 inhabitants; but these, as our subjects, we are bound to protect; and it may hereafter be found suitable for the development of European enterprise. In any case, through it passes the road by which raiders would travel down to the plains of Cachar, and it is necessary to intercept them at some point higher than that at which they would actually debouch.

6. In the Nága Hills the year has been one of complete tranquillity since the close of the expedition in March 1880. The losses of the

Nága Hills.

Nágas in life and property, and the hardships suffered by those of them whose villages had been burnt and their store of grain destroyed, were extremely severe; and the exhaustion caused by this and the natural reaction from their previous active hostility no doubt contributed towards the maintenance of quiet. The difficulties encountered in feeding the force in occupation of the hills were most serious, and the losses of coolies, baggage-animals, and stores in the transport of supplies from Golághát to Kohima very great. But the Nágas themselves have been perfectly peaceable, and, except that the late Chief Commissioner found it expedient to relax the severity of the terms imposed at the conclusion of hostilities upon our late antagonists, the year was marked by no noticeable event whatever. The decision of the Government of India, that the hills should be permanently occupied as a British district, was not arrived at till February 1881, and the suspense in which the greater portion of the year passed prevented the establishment

previous to that date of any permanent administrative arrangements. In March Mr. Elliott visited the hills, and found the Nágas apparently contented with the situation, revenue freely coming in, and land being prepared for cultivation.

7. In the Khási Hills nothing occurred calling for special notice in this place. The Census was successfully taken, and showed a much larger population than was recorded in 1872. The increase is 19·22 per cent. The most striking feature of the enumeration is the great preponderance of the female sex, the proportion being 110·3 women to 100 men.

8. The Gáro Hills were also without a history for the greater part of the year. In March 1881, however, some disturbances broke out in the north-west corner of the district, among a little-known and ignorant population, of which a full account will be found elsewhere. These, however, though they at one time seemed likely to lead to bloodshed, resulted in nothing worse than the burning of two villages. No lives were lost.

9. The survey operations carried out during the year in Assam were of two kinds: the topographical survey of South Sylhet and the adjacent portions of Hill Tipperah, and the settlement surveys in Cachar and Kámráp. The first completed the survey of 153½ square miles on the scale of two inches to the mile, and 192·7 square miles on the scale of four miles to the inch. The work done was, as before, carried out under great difficulties in a most intricate country of forests, swamps, and unexplored hill ranges. The settlement survey in Cachar is partly professional, executed by a small party detached for the purpose by the Surveyor-General, and partly carried out by native amíns working under the supervision of the Settlement Officer. The former supply an accurate map of the mauza boundaries, and the latter fill into the framework thus obtained the interior details of *maháls*. Full details of work done by this conjoint survey will be found in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the report.

The settlement survey in Kámráp is carried on in connection with the demarcation of the *lá-khírúj* and *nísf-khírúj* estates, which are so numerous in that district. The work is done by unprofessional agency. During the year 1880-81 484 estates were surveyed, covering an area of 49,602 acres, against 175

estates and 21,207 acres surveyed in 1879-80. It is hoped that the survey will be completed by the end of 1882, and the entire settlement of these estates by March 1883.

10. The settlement operations of the year, excluding the annual and other fixed-rate settlements in the Assam Valley and the Gáro Hills, were carried on only in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar. In the former the settlement of *ilám* estates was brought nearly to a completion, so far as it is possible to complete it: much of the *ilám* area consists of waste land, which will be settled from time to time, as applied for by persons wishing to cultivate it. This settlement has been in progress for nearly thirteen years, and has been an extremely intricate and difficult operation, owing to the uncertainty in which the boundaries of the *ilám* estates were left at the permanent settlement, and the gradual encroachment upon the area then left unsettled by the holders of neighbouring permanently-settled *taluks*. Besides the *ilám* settlement proper, that of the other petty Government estates in Sylhet, which are dealt with according to the *ilám* Settlement Rules, was in progress during the year, and it also was nearly completed at its close. These estates are of various classes and scattered throughout the district; their number is 2,427, and their area only 19,340 acres; the former revenue was Rs. 8,156, and the revised assessment is Rs. 17,162. The cost of re-settlement has been enormously great, reaching about Rs. 3 an acre. The re-settlement of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet, which had been completed before the commencement of 1879-80, was finally reported on in October 1880. On a review of the report, and of the manner in which the settlement had worked since the introduction of the revised assessment in the several parganas, the late Chief Commissioner decided to recommend to the Government of India that the proceedings should be revised in regard to three of the seventeen parganas, and that the assessment of certain scattered estates in the other parganas, where the new rates had been found to press hardly, should also be re-considered. A Deputy-Collector with a small establishment was immediately detached for this work, and his report on the three parganas referred to above has been received since the close of the year. The Government of India, while approving of these measures, considered that the operations of revision should be extended to eight other parganas besides the three dealt with in Sir Steuart Bayley's orders; and these parganas also have been included in the enquiries made by the Deputy-

Collector. It is probable that these proceedings will result in a considerable decrease in the revenue demandable under the new settlement of 1878-79.

The settlement proceedings in Cachar were restricted to the survey operations already noticed, and the usual determination of boundary disputes, claims regarding possession, and the like. No revised assessments have yet been imposed. Proposals for revenue rates in the Katigora tahsil, comprising the north-west portion of the district (excluding the hill tracts), were prepared by the Deputy-Commissioner, and submitted by the Chief Commissioner for the approval of the Government of India, which they received; but their introduction was postponed in consequence of a great and sudden fall in the price of rice, which made it doubtful whether they would not press unfairly on the people, and of a severe cattle murrain which raged throughout this part of the district in the commencement of 1881, and caused heavy losses to the cultivating classes.

11. There has been a marked suspension in the appropriation of waste land for tea cultivation, owing to the depression which has affected that industry during the year. In 1878-79 there were 158 grants made under the Lease Rules of 1876, covering 68,865 acres; in 1879-80 the number fell to 107, and the area to 42,950 acres; in 1880-81 only 48 grants were made, and the area was but 10,015 acres. No grants at all were taken up under these rules in Cachar, Kámrúp, Nowgong, and the Khási Hills. In the first of these tea-planters prefer to take up land under the ordinary reclamation leases given in the district, which allow no special terms for tea; 14 such leases, covering an area of 3,761 acres, were taken during the year, against 17, with an area of 5,966 acres, in 1879-80. In Sylhet 11 leases were granted for tea cultivation under a modified form of the *ilám* Settlement Rules, covering an area of 3,740 acres. In 1879-80 18 such leases had been taken, with an area of 3,695 acres. A full description of the different tenures under which land is held in the Province for the cultivation of tea, and a statement of the amount of land so held, will be found in Chapter II., Section 3, of the Report.

12. The heading "Government estates" in this Province represents only certain *maháls* in the Sylhet district where no settlements have yet been concluded with the cultivators, and certain small tenures in

Goálpára which are annually settled with the occupants under the Assam Settlement Rules. The latter should not properly appear under this heading in the report, and will in future years be included with other annual settlements in the Assam Valley. In Sylhet these estates number 93; the collections made from them were Rs. 18,474, of which only Rs. 1,085 represented the current demand (total Rs. 18,213), and the rest were in partial liquidation of the arrears of previous years. These figures, however, are misleading. The arrear demand shown is subject to revision, and has since the close of the year been almost entirely remitted; orders have also been given that in place of the present system of managing the estates *khás*, and collecting what is possible of the demand according to the season (which was this year, owing to the low selling price of rice, unfavourable to cash collections), regular settlements for a term of years shall be made with the cultivators.

13. The estates of the Rája of Sidli in Goálpára, Har Kumár Pál in Sylhet, and Ghulám Armáni in Cachar, are the only wards' estates

Wards' estates.

under the management of Government officers in the Province. The first is managed as a Government estate, the tenants being settled with on the Assam system and an allowance of 20 per cent. on the rents collected paid to the proprietor. This amounts to some Rs. 7,000 annually. The Sylhet estate is of some magnitude, and its management a difficult and intricate task, owing to the great number of *maháls* (78) in which the minor has an interest. The demand of the year was Rs. 33,357, of which Rs. 14,607 represented the current, and the rest the arrear demand. The collections were Rs. 16,894, leaving a balance of a nearly equal amount. As already noticed above in respect of the Government estates in Sylhet, the low price fetched by rice, the staple produce on which the cultivators depend for the payment of their rents, greatly affected the realisations, and considering the nature of the year, the collections were not unsatisfactory. The little estate in Cachar has a rental of Rs. 634 only, all but a fraction of which was collected.

14. No new enactments were passed during the year to meet the special requirements of the Province. The list of Acts extended to

Legislative.

Assam comprises the Elephants Preservation Act (VI. of 1879) and the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Act (XII. of 1879), extended to certain districts, and the North-Western Provinces,

Panjab, and Oudh Gambling Act, III. of 1867, which was extended to the whole Province. The last-named measure was considered necessary, although Bengal Act II. of 1867, dealing with the same subject, was already in force in Assam, because the operation of the latter Act is limited to cities, towns, and places to which it has been specially extended, while the former contains a section (13) of general application throughout the Provinces where it is in force, which enables Police Officers to apprehend without a warrant persons found gambling and setting birds and animals to fight in public streets, places, or thoroughfares.

A draft Regulation for making better provision for the Rural Police in Sylhet and Cachar was submitted for the sanction of the Government of India, under 33 Vic., cap. 3, section I., but is still under consideration. The draft Revenue Regulation for the Province, prepared by Mr. W. E. Ward in 1880, was circulated for opinion among District Officers, and was afterwards examined by a Committee sitting at Shillong; it was not, however, submitted to the Government of India before the close of the year. Another draft Regulation, for the better discipline of the Frontier Police, was also under discussion, and was submitted for the approval of the Governor-General in Council in the summer of 1881.

15. The working of the police force during the year has not, on the whole, been unsatisfactory.
- Police. The sanctioned strength of the Frontier Police, a body who perform semi-military duties in holding the frontier outposts, in guarding treasuries and jails, and in occupying wild districts like the Nāga and Gáro Hills, was, as mentioned in last year's Report, increased by 335 men; but this number was not immediately entertained, owing chiefly to the difficulty experienced in feeding the police in the Nāga Hills. The strain on the force employed in that district was very great, and the conduct of the men was generally most praiseworthy. The Civil Police remained of the same strength as in the previous year; while there was a slight addition to the number of Municipal Police, owing to the constituting of Sibságar as a "Station" under the Municipal Act. The health of the force was very good during the year: resignations were 5·4 per cent., against 6·7 per cent. in 1879; and, while the number of departmental and judicial punishments slightly increased, there was also a great increase in the rewards earned.

The returns of cognisable crime show a falling off of nearly 10 per cent. in cases reported, as compared with 1879, and the number for 1880 is the smallest of the past five years. This decrease is manifest also, though less in amount, in true cases, which were 8,964 in 1880, compared with 9,171 in 1879. The decrease was chiefly under the head of "Minor offences against property," serious offences remaining much as before, or exhibiting a slight increase. These results are in consonance with the general character of the year, which was one of plenty and low prices, when the inducements to petty theft would naturally be weakened, though violent and habitual crime would remain at much the same level as usual. The results obtained by the police in dealing with this mass of crime present no very marked variations as compared with last year. In 36·5 per cent. of the cases enquired into by the police *suo motu*, convictions were obtained, against 33·8 in 1879, which is an improvement: but of the persons sent up for trial only 73·4 per cent were convicted, against 75·6 in 1879. The districts where the detection of crime has been most efficiently carried out are Goálpára and Lakhimpur, while that in which it was proportionally least successful is Sylhet. It is probable, however, that these variations are due rather to the character of the people than to the superior ability of the police. As a whole, the results of police work in Assam compare favourably with those attained in Bengal.

15. While the number of cognisable cases, as shown above, decreased as compared with 1879, that of non-cognisable cases exhibits a slight increase of 7·2 per cent. This increase is found under each of the classes into which crime is divided in the statements appended to the Report, except in Class II., "Serious offences against the person," and Class VI., "Other offences." Nearly half the total number of non-cognisable offences reported in the Province consisted of charges of criminal force. These results are in accordance with what has been noticed above in respect of cognisable crime. The people were prosperous, and free to indulge their love of petty litigation regarding rights of property and personal quarrels. Taking all classes of crime together, 24,046 offences were reported during the year, of which 15,070 were accepted as true. This is less than the number so accepted in the previous year by nearly 7 per cent. The decrease is chiefly in "Offences against the person and property." Under the special laws, there was increased activity in prosecuting for

nuisances under the Municipal and Police Acts; but the slackness in the tea trade and in coolie immigration produced a smaller crop of cases of desertion and breach of contract.

The percentage of cases rejected was 37·3, and the magistracy appears to have exercised greater discretion in so dealing with complaints preferred than in the previous year, when the percentage was 31·8. The number of persons brought to trial was 15,712, of whom 10,850, or 69 per cent., were convicted. Last year the percentage was 65. 3,078 persons were imprisoned, 7,326 fined, and 504 flogged. 88 per cent. of the fines imposed were recovered. The number of persons who appealed to higher courts was almost exactly the same as in 1879, 874 against 879. The results of the appeals were more favourable, 66 per cent. of the orders appealed against being confirmed, against 63 per cent. in 1879. On the whole, the working of the courts during 1880 shows a distinct improvement as compared with previous years.

17. The number of jails in the Province was one less than in the previous year, owing to the closure of the lock-up at Jaipur. The total number of prisoners confined was 4,925, or 487 less than in 1879. The number in confinement at the close of the year was 1,321, or 9 more than the previous year. 24 convicts escaped (33 in 1879), and all but two were re-captured. The number of punishments inflicted in the four principal jails was 372, against 521 in 1879, and in 157 of these cases the punishment of whipping was awarded, a smaller number by 109 cases than in the preceding year. In all the 23 jails, principal and subsidiary, the punishments were 504, of which 248 were floggings. Last year there were 266 floggings in the principal jails alone. These facts show that the views expressed by the late Chief Commissioner on the subject of the punishment of whipping, and the necessity of reserving it for cases to which it is really appropriate, have had some effect.

The total expenditure on the jails was Rs. 1,55,215, against Rs. 1,70,430 in 1879. Of the decrease of Rs. 15,215, Rs. 12,917 is due to the greater cheapness of food : the average cost of dieting a prisoner fell from Rs. 41 in 1879 to Rs. 32·2·4 in 1880. The year was not only one of abundance and low prices, but was also remarkably healthy. The number of deaths fell from 103 to 76, and the percentage of mortality from 8·07 to 5·31. The daily average number of sick prisoners in all the jails was 55·33, against 63·32 in 1879. The Gauhati Jail was the only one which was marked by a high mortality (11·03 per cent.).

The causes of this have not been satisfactorily ascertained ; but it is hoped that when the new raised barracks are complete the rate of mortality and sickness will largely diminish.

The success of the mark system, and the good conduct of the convict warders, are prominent features of the administration of the year ; the former is thoroughly understood and much appreciated by the prisoners, and the threat of cancelling marks earned is found to be one of the most effective deterrents in prison discipline.

18. Civil litigation fell off during the year, both in the number of cases and in the value in suit.

Civil Justice. The former was 21,448, against 21,778 in 1879; the latter was Rs. 16,60,949, against Rs. 19,56,306 in 1879. The decrease is tolerably general, an increase being found only in Kámrup, Nowgong, and Goálpára. It seems probable that the falling off in Upper Assam is connected with the depression in the tea trade, while that in Sylhet and Cachar may be due to the low prices of rice and the consequent diminution in commercial transactions.

Though the suits instituted were fewer, more by 698 were disposed of in 1880 than in 1879. Of the whole number of suits, in 84·7 per cent. the value in litigation did not exceed Rs. 100; the average value per suit was Rs. 76-6. Only 30 per cent. of the cases were contested; 56 per cent. were decided in favour of the plaintiffs, 33 per cent. in that of the defendants, and 11 per cent. were compromised. The average duration of cases in munsifs' courts (where the great bulk of them was tried) was 1 month 10 days in uncontested and 2 months 18 days in contested cases. Appeals were filed in 23·9 per cent. of appealable cases, and of those disposed of the decision of the lower court was confirmed in 69 per cent.

The most unsatisfactory feature of the year was the falling-off in the realisations under decrees. The number of suits decided in favour of the plaintiffs was 12,444. In 10,863 cases applications for execution were filed; 10,840 of these were disposed of, among which 6,050, or 56 per cent., were wholly infructuous. The infructuous percentage in 1879 was 53, and in 1878 49; so that matters appear to have been gradually getting worse in this respect. Of the 4,790 applications which produced some effect, 2,966 resulted in a complete and 1,824 in a partial satisfaction of the decree, the amount realised being Rs. 3,33,459; in 1879 the realisations were Rs. 3,75,553 and

in 1878 Rs. 4,18,079. This increasing difficulty in the recovery of moneys found by the courts to be due is generally attributed to the modes of executing decrees prescribed by the present Civil Procedure Code and the Rules of the High Court in interpretation thereof.

19. Registration, as noticed in previous reports, is extensively resorted to only in the Surma Valley districts, where of the 14,061 deeds registered during the year 79 per cent. were presented. In four districts of the Assam Valley there is a falling off in the number of documents registered, probably attributable to the depression of the tea trade. The total increase in the number of deeds is 763, or 6 per cent. over the number of 1879-80. Under compulsory registrations the increase was 129, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.: under optional registrations it was 634, or 11 per cent.

Of the deeds registered, 11,382 affected immovable property, of which 8,708 were sales and mortgages, 211 were perpetual leases, and 1,976 were leases for one year or a term of years. 2,562 deeds affected movable property, of which 81 were sales, 476 obligations for the payment of money, and the rest are classed as "Miscellaneous." Of the remainder, 116 were wills, and one was an authority to adopt. The value covered by the registrations of the year was Rs. 47,13,305. a very slight increase on 1879-80. The receipts of the department were Rs. 27,888, and the expenditure Rs. 17,117; the net profits were thus Rs. 10,771, a larger sum than has ever been reached before.

20. The number of municipalities, stations and unions in the Province was seven, against six in 1879-80, Sibságar having been constituted a station during the year. The total income of the year was Rs. 94,181, or Rs. 9,683 more than in 1879-80; excluding Sibságar, the increased income in the six municipalities which existed during both years was Rs. 2,858. This revenue is raised almost entirely by taxes on houses and lands, and by tolls on ferries. The only other forms of taxation in use are a wheel-tax (in Dibrugarh only), and a tax on animals (in four out of the seven towns); besides these, a considerable sum was obtained from rents (Rs. 10,930) and pound-fees (Rs. 7,322). The incidence of taxation per head is 15 annas 10 pie in all the municipalities in the Province, varying from Re. 1-10-9 in Shillong to 3 annas 3 pie in Sibságar. The expenditure of the year was almost

exactly the same as the income, Rs. 94,905: of which Rs. 5,007 were spent on head office establishment, Rs. 14,518 on collection (this item is swelled by the ferry account, the establishments employed on the ferries being included), Rs. 17,069 on conservancy and cleansing, Rs. 11,764 on police, Rs. 21,945 on the construction and maintenance of roads, Rs. 5,949 on drainage works, and Rs. 9,110 on the re-payment of debt. The amounts spent on education (Rs. 240) and charitable medical relief (Rs. 1,115) were insignificant, and the municipal bodies have been informed that more is expected from them in this respect.

On the whole, there has been some progress during the year, more particularly in the municipality of Sylhet and the union of Silchar, where useful drainage works have been undertaken. The income of the municipalities is gradually increasing; and, though it is insufficient at present to permit of any large and important municipal works being carried out, much may be, and has been, done in the way of gradual improvements.

21. No military operations of any importance were undertaken during the year. The head-quarters of the 42nd Assam Light Infantry were moved to Kohima in October 1880, and the detachments of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry and 44th Sylhet Light Infantry, which had previously taken part in the occupation of the Nága Hills, were gradually withdrawn. The difficulty of keeping the troops at Kohima regularly supplied with food throughout the year was, as already noticed, very great. The road through the Námbar forest, from Golághát to the foot of the hills, is only capable of being used for wheeled traffic during the dry weather, and each year demands expensive repairs; and the road from Nichu Guard to Kohima, passing through a very difficult hilly country, becomes in the rains most trying for baggage-animals and coolies, owing to the heavy gradients and the slippery nature of the clay soil. Added to this, the forest and the lower hills are extremely unhealthy during the greater part of the year. The rains, however, though unfavourable to the land transport, facilitate, by rendering the Dhansiri navigable by large boats as far as Dimapur, 6 miles from the foot of the hills, the carriage of stores by water; and the object of the Transport Department was to convey during the rains to Dimapur by this means a sufficient stock to last, when carried up during the dry weather into the hills, for the whole of the year until the next dry season commenced, and the hill

road again became passable. But the state of indecision in which the question of our occupation of the Hills rested during the greater part of the year was fatal to an efficient organisation of the transport. Owing to an unfortunate misapprehension, orders were issued in the Military Department during the rains of 1880 to stop further shipments to Dimapur. This caused the dispersion of the boats employed, and before they could be got together again much valuable time was lost. It thus became necessary to use cart transport, at a great expense, in the cold weather, and to carry stores up hill during the rains. The latter, indeed, would in any case have been inevitable during the first year of occupation, as, while arrangements for the future were being matured, the troops must be fed; but the strain put upon the transport by the stoppage of supplies from Golághát for nearly two months caused the pony and coolie train in the hills to be overworked, and produced great mortality and sickness among both. In the present year it is believed that the object in view, as above explained, has been attained with less expenditure and fewer casualties both among beasts and men.

22. The year was one of less than average rainfall, both in the Assam and Surma Valley. When compared with 1879, the deficiency was very marked, as that year was much above the average in its amount of rain. This, however, led to no evil results. The rain was well distributed throughout the year, and the great rice crop was almost everywhere a bumper one. Prices were thus lowered, even in Assam Proper, while in Sylhet and Cachar, the former of which is ordinarily an exporting tract, the fall was most sudden and rapid, owing to abundant harvests in the adjacent districts of Bengal, which entirely stopped the exit of grain from the Surma Valley. This plenty of food, in a purely agricultural community, who depend on the sale of their surplus rice for the means of paying rent and revenue and of engaging in other enterprise, has naturally produced some embarrassment, which has made itself felt in various ways. The revenue under Stamps has fallen off, because bargains are fewer; litigation has decreased, for want of ready money to prosecute it; the timber trade has slackened, because the landholders of Cachar have no longer spare cash to invest in it; and rents (as already noticed above in regard to Government and Wards' estates) have become difficult of realisation. In the process of time, however, things must adjust themselves; and it cannot be a matter for regret if the excessively high

Weather, crops, and prices.

prices of all kinds of labour now prevailing in this Province should, owing to a decrease in the cost of food, permanently fall to a lower level. Want of cheap labour is the great difficulty of administration in Assam; and if abundance of food and low prices succeed in attracting it to the Province, any temporary falling-off in revenue caused thereby will be amply recouped.

23. Besides the comfort produced by plenteous harvests, the people also enjoyed in 1880-81 an exceptional immunity from epidemic disease. The year was throughout most healthy. A low temperature prevailed during the hot months, owing to the large amount of rain which fell in March and April; the rainy season, again, was one of moderate downpour and little sickness; and, although the mortuary statistics do not exhibit a falling off in the general mortality, this is to be attributed, as is proved by the records of our jails, police, and immigrant population, where vital facts can be accurately ascertained, to more effective registration. This subject will be found more fully dealt with further on in this summary.

24. On the whole, the condition of the people must be pronounced to be one of exceptional comfort and material well-being. The great abundance of culturable land, the light assessment, the high prices commanded by every kind of labour, all contribute to produce a state of society where the stimulus towards enterprise and the struggle for life are entirely unknown. The wants of the people are few, and there is no difficulty in satisfying them. In the Brahmaputra Valley, especially, backwardness in culture, in all the arts of life skill in which is fostered by the pressure of necessity, is the most marked feature of the people. It is rare to find a cultivator who has not laid up in his granary food sufficient for two or three years' consumption; and, should he have any difficulty in selling enough of the hoarded grain to pay rent or revenue, a few days' labour on a tea plantation or the roads will place him in possession of a sufficient sum for the purpose.

25. The chief events of the year in the management of the Government forest estate in Assam were the establishment of a new forest division in the Lakhimpur district, the forests of which had, until then, been under the charge of the Deputy-Commissioner; the addition of an officer to the superior staff, which enabled

a complete examination to be made of the forests in the Gáro Hills, with a view to the introduction of a better system of conservancy in that district; the institution of control stations at Dhubri and Dibrugarh, on the Brahmaputra river, and at Sonaimukh and Jafarband, in Cachar, in order to check the transit of timber and forest produce, and to ascertain that the amount due to Government thereon had been duly paid; and the great extension given to the system of selling trees standing in the forests to purchasers, instead of working them out by departmental agency, and disposing of them at the forest depôts. The total receipts of the department during the year were Rs. 1,68,997, against Rs. 1,64,335 in 1879-80; the expenditure was Rs. 1,42,725, against Rs. 1,32,829 in the previous year. The net surplus was thus Rs. 26,272, or less by Rs. 5,234 than in 1879-80. It is not, however, reasonable to measure the operations of the department in Assam by its present financial success; except in Cachar and at the extreme west of the Brahmaputra Valley, the market for timber is very limited, and the local demand is sufficiently supplied by the large areas of forest in private hands. Moreover, a large portion of the income of the Forest Department is derived from the price paid for timber on land taken up for tea cultivation. The depression in that industry, already noticed above, greatly curtailed the receipts under this head. The year, on the whole, exhibits a satisfactory progress, and the Chief Commissioner has no doubt that in the future, as in the past, the department will make a steady advance in the exploitation of its resources, and in carrying out judicious improvements in the forest estate of Government in Assam.

26. There is nothing new to record under the head of
Mines and minerals. "Mines and minerals" during the past year. Limestone is the only mineral from which a revenue is at present derived, though a lease of the coal-field at Makum has since the close of the year been granted to the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, and it is probable that the petroleum wells in the same tract will shortly be leased to the Company. The falling-in of leases of the limestone tracts in the Khási Hills, formerly held at higher rates than the market now admits of, and the low selling prices of lime, which much diminished their letting value, have produced a decrease in the revenue derived by Government. The present depression of the trade is probably the result of the monopoly which existed for many years

prior to 1878; and, though there are not yet any symptoms of recovery apparent, there can be little doubt that the superior qualities of the lime, and the inexhaustible quantities of stone open to persons wishing to work the quarries, must sooner or later restore the value of the tracts as a whole to Government, and lead to a considerable expansion of the trade.

27. Tea is the only manufacture of great importance in Assam; but, in accordance with the orders of the Secretary of State, particulars are

Manufactures.

given in the Report of other processes of manufacture carried on in the Province, with special reference to those of objects of art. These will be found interesting, and, for Sylhet and Manipur, are, it is believed, tolerably complete. The Chief Commissioner hopes in next year's Report to supplement the information now given by fuller particulars from other districts.

The area returned as planted with tea for 1880 is 153,657 acres, of which 120,512 were under mature and the remainder under immature plants; it shows an increase upon that of 1879 of 7,827 acres under the former and a decrease of 4,780 acres under the latter, or a net increase of 3,047 acres. The reported outturn of the year was 34,013,583 lb., as compared with 31,386,636 lb. in 1879. But this is no doubt considerably understated. In fact, the returns of river-borne trade for 1880-81 show an actual export to Bengal of 37,715,600 lb., or more than the local estimate by over 10 per cent. The depression in the industry which has existed during the year appears to be now relaxing its hold; and, although it has checked the extension of cultivation, prevented new land from being taken up, and greatly reduced the number of coolies imported, it has neither led to a diminished outturn of tea, nor caused many gardens (as was feared would be the case) to be closed. The number of tea-gardens reported open during some part of 1880 was 1,055, against 1,040 in 1879; but these figures are constantly fluctuating, as managers prefer to describe out-gardens as part of, or separate from, the parent concern. So far as is known, only eleven gardens have been closed, and not all of these have been finally abandoned.

28. The present is the first year in which it has been possible to give a tolerably complete account of the trade of the Province,

Trade.

both with the foreign territory adjacent and with the rest of India. This has been rendered practicable by the establishment of two registering stations, one at Dhubri, on the Brahma-

putra, and the other at Bhairab Bázár, on the Megna, for recording the traffic to and from Assam carried by native boats. The steamer companies furnish statistics of their trade, which are supplied to this Administration by the Government of Bengal. The statistics of foreign trade are partly registered at frontier stations, in Sylhet, Cachar, and the western portion of the Assam Valley, and are partly gathered, in Sibságar and Lakhimpur, from the traders themselves. The latter, as may be imagined, are far from accurate; but the small extent of the trade hardly justifies any considerable expenditure in obtaining more trustworthy figures. The values given in the returns are, for the foreign trade, the local market prices of the districts which furnish the statistics; for the steamer traffic, they are supplied with the rest of the statistics by the Government of Bengal; for the boat traffic they are the values declared at the registering station. They are thus very heterogeneous, and little to be depended on.

Such as they are, however, they show a total import trade during the year of Rs. 1,74,17,713, of which the value of Rs. 5,52,337 came from foreign territory, and that of Rs. 1,68,65,376 from Bengal. The export trade was valued at Rs. 3,61,37,023, of which Rs. 2,84,048 went to foreign territory and Rs. 3,58,52,975 to Bengal. Our transactions with Hill Tipperah, the Daffa, Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Nága Hills, and Manipur increased during the year; while those with Bhutan and the Lushai Hills fell off. The chief articles of import from foreign territory are timber, bamboos, rubber, raw cotton, and salt. The chief articles exported are European piece-goods, opium, brass and copper manufactures, salt, silk manufactures, betel-nuts, and rice.

In the trade with Bengal, European piece-goods, salt, and rice are the only articles the imported value of which exceeds 10 lakhs of rupees. The value of the tea exported, Rs. 2,82,86,700, alone constitutes 78 per cent. of the total exports. Besides tea, considerable articles of export are mustard-seed and lime and limestone. In the chapter of the report devoted to this subject will be found as complete an account as can at present be given of the different staples and their movements to and fro.

29. The expenditure of the Public Works Department during the year 1880-81 was Rs. 10,10,476, in addition to which Rs. 2,57,063 were expended on public works by the several Dis-

Public Works.

trict Committees, making a total of Rs. 12,67,539. Last year the expenditure was Rs. 10,85,047, or less by Rs. 1,82,492. Of the amount spent by the department, Rs. 1,12,207 were on Imperial works, Rs. 8,89,953 on Provincial works, and the remainder on works paid for by Local Funds. The Imperial expenditure was chiefly Military, and the major portion of it was incurred in the Nága Hills. Of the Provincial expenditure Rs. 3,28,851, and of the Local Rs. 7,408, were on communications, on which Rs. 1,99,353 were also spent from District Funds, making a total of Rs. 5,35,612 expended from public funds in making new roads and repairing old ones. To this must be added a sum of Rs. 13,094, which was contributed by planters in addition to the grants made for the purpose from District Funds.

Nothing was done during 1880-81 to advance the settlement of the question to which Sir Steuart Bayley in last year's report gave just prominence,—the provision of regular and rapid communication by steamer on the Brahmaputra. But in the present year an offer, on the part of one of the existing river companies, to establish a daily service between Dhubri and Dibrugarh, has been accepted; and Mr. Elliott hopes that by April 1883 such a service will be at work. Its benefit to the Province will be incalculable.

In the Surma Valley the experiment has been tried of providing at the cost of Government a small steamer, which it was intended should be able to maintain communication with the town of Sylhet and the upper portions of the Valley during the cold weather, at which time the commercial steamers are unable to proceed above Chhátak on the Surma, and Fenchuganj on the Kusiyára river. But the vessel constructed, owing to want of power and defects of build, has not answered the expectations formed of her utility.

Nor had any very satisfactory progress been accomplished up to the close of the year in developing lateral communication with the river by light tramways,—the second of the objects enumerated by Sir Steuart Bayley in paragraph 24 of the Summary prefixed to last year's Administration Report. Two such projects were sanctioned during the year, one for a two-foot gauge tramway between Kokilamukh and Jorhát, and the other for a bicycle tramway between Dibrumukh and Dibrugarh. On the first, the earthwork was nearly completed before the rains of 1881 set in, at the end of March; but some damage was done to the work by the floods which then occurred, and its further

progress was temporarily checked. The second was to have been completed by its projector, who received advances for its construction, by the end of February 1881; but when the year closed but little work had been accomplished.

The third of the objects stated last year by Sir Steuart Bayley—the maintenance of local roads by Local Committees—has been furthered during the year by the increased resources placed at the disposal of the District Committees by the Assam Local Rates Regulation, which was brought into force from the commencement of 1880-81. Hitherto, however, there has hardly yet been time to estimate the value of the work so provided for. The resources of the Committees will, without doubt, with time be largely augmented, and the new powers and responsibilities which from the close of the current year, 1881-82, will devolve upon them may be reasonably expected to stimulate greatly their activity in the future.

30. The business of the Post-office in Assam shows a satisfactory development during the year. Post and Telegraph. Five new Imperial post-offices were opened in 1880-81. The total number of covers received for delivery rose to 2,829,067, an increase of over 12 per cent. The money-order business shows an expansion of 46 per cent. The sales of postage stamps to the public fell from Rs. 91,857 to Rs. 82,932, which is due to the introduction of quarter-anna post-cards, and to the new system by which money-orders are despatched on postal service to the payees, instead of requiring to be stamped (and probably registered) by the remitters. The sales of service postage stamps increased by 17 per cent.

The changes in the administration of the Telegraph Department during the year were chiefly connected with the Nāga Hills line, constructed as a field telegraph during the expedition. The sales of telegraph stamps during the year rose from Rs. 68,546 to Rs. 82,631, or by more than 20 per cent. It is not possible, however, to state how much of this increase is due to State and how much to private telegrams.

31. The year 1880-81 was the third of the existin financial contract, under which, the Provincial Administration receives the whole revenue from Excise, Stamps, Registration, Law and Justice, Police, Public Works, Education, and Medical, and 20 per cent. of the Land Revenue, and provides therefrom for all the transferred services, except Medical and the collection and settlement of the Revenue and finance.

land revenue. As in 1879-80, a special contribution of Rs. 1,50,000 was made from Provincial to Imperial.

The Imperial receipts of the year were Rs. 38,27,489, being a net decrease upon those of 1879-80 of Rs. 43,849; this, however, was really nominal, being due to an alteration in the date of the land revenue payments in Sylhet, by which a portion of the revenue of the year became payable after its close. The payments were Rs. 8,75,848, an increase of Rs. 78,925 on those of 1879-80, the bulk of which was due to an increase in the strength of the Frontier Police rendered necessary by the Nága Hills disturbances, to political charges in connection with the Nága Expedition, and to increased cost of collection under "Land Revenue" in the Assam Valley (the charges for which, being paid by a commission on the collections, necessarily increased with an increase in the gross receipts).

The Provincial receipts were Rs. 40,33,800, being Rs. 4,46,449 more than in 1879-80. The increase was due to the introduction of the Local Rates Regulation, which produced Rs. 2,83,280, to a revenue under Excise higher by Rs. 97,146 than last year, and to the re-credit to Provincial at the end of the year of Rs. 65,986, the lapsed balance of the District Funds.

The Provincial expenditure was Rs. 37,47,358, Rs. 2,37,692 more than in the previous year. The main heads under which there was a larger expenditure were Public Works, Rs. 1,21,079; Contributions to Local, Rs. 85,621 (being the allotments to District Funds of the proceeds of the local rate); Administration, Rs. 74,955 (balanced by a decrease of Rs. 50,124 under "Law and Justice," and due chiefly to the transfer of the charges for the Commissioner of the Assam Valley and his establishment from the latter to the former head); and Police, Rs. 18,970 (due to charges incurred in the Nága Hills Expedition). There was a less expenditure of Rs. 50,124 under "Law and Justice" (already explained), and of Rs. 42,512 under "Education" (due to the transfer to District Committees of the charges for primary education).

The balance at the credit of Provincial Funds at the close of the year was Rs. 5,97,821, against Rs. 3,15,326 at the close of 1879-80.

The Local finance of the Province is classified under two heads: (1) Incorporated, and (2) Excluded, Local Funds. The former are represented by the District Funds, now administered by District Committees under the Local Rates Regulation, 1879; the latter by the funds of the three Cantonments

in the Province, the endowment of the Nowgong Dispensary, and an educational endowment in Sibságar. The District Funds during the year received a large addition to their resources from the proceeds of the local rates, and, besides their balances at the close of 1879-80 (Rs. 99,702), enjoyed an income of Rs. 3,44,113. Their expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,77,418, leaving a balance at the close of the year of Rs. 66,397, which lapsed to Provincial. Of this sum, Rs. 2,49,648* are shown as expended on public works, Rs. 60,034 were spent on education, and Rs. 15,942 on the local post. Rs. 38,353 represent advances not finally adjusted when the year closed.

The Excluded Local Funds are very petty : their total income was but Rs. 9,609, and their expenditure Rs. 9,245.

32. The current demand on account of land revenue proper for the year was Rs. 35,22,617, and the arrear demand Rs. 1,42,553.

The current demand exhibits an increase of Rs. 84,816 as compared with 1879-80, due to the extension of cultivation. Of the total demand, Rs. 36,65,170, 92·32 per cent., or Rs. 33,83,566, were collected, 14 per cent., or Rs. 4,994, remitted during the year, and 7·55 per cent., or Rs. 2,76,610, were in arrear at its close. Of this unusually large balance all but Rs. 15,598 was due in the district of Sylhet,—Rs. 67,643 on account of permanently-settled, and Rs. 1,93,369 on account of temporarily-settled estates. The former amount, as already explained, is chiefly a nominal arrear only, which has accrued in consequence of the latest date of payment (that is, practically, the date before which little or no revenue is paid in) being postponed till after the close of the year, a measure which was dictated by regard for the convenience of the revenue-payers and a desire to avoid the excessive confusion which was the normal state of things at the treasury when there was but one last day for the whole district. The arrears due from temporarily-settled estates, Rs. 1,93,369, were also partly caused by a like arrangement for the *ilám* and Jaintia holdings in Sylhet, but were partly the result of the pressure of the assessment in the latter. Of the balance of Rs. 2,76,610 due on the 1st April 1881, Rs. 1,89,075 have since been collected, and Rs. 81,804 are still due. Of this amount, Rs. 80,668 are due in Sylhet, of which Rs. 55,097 represent the arrears in the Jaintia

* The difference between this amount and Rs. 2,57,063, stated in paragraph 29, is due to the inclusion in the latter of certain advances to contractors not finally adjusted at the close of the year.

parganas, and Rs. 16,238 arrears in the Partágarh tahsil (*vide* paragraph 12 above, "Government estates"). A large portion of these will probably be eventually remitted.

The current demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue was Rs. 2,92,740, against Rs. 2,69,293 in 1879-80, an increase of 8·71 per cent. The arrear demand was Rs. 51,809, and the total thus Rs. 3,44,549. Of this, Rs. 2,83,187, or 82·19 per cent., were collected, Rs. 4,530, or 1·31 per cent., remitted, and Rs. 56,832, or 16·49 per cent., remained outstanding at the close of the year. The balances were chiefly due from elephant *maháls* in the Assam Valley, lime-quarries in the Khási Hills, fisheries in Sylhet and Cachar, and house-tax in the Nága and Gáro Hills. Under the first head they represent royalty on elephants captured towards the close of the year; under the second, they are due to the depression in the lime-market; under the third, they represent the revenue of a number of small fisheries, in regard to which the settlement rules were not properly attended to; under the fourth, the house-tax in the hill districts, there is generally some delay in collection, and in the Nága Hills the demand was in many cases a novelty.

The settlements at fixed rates in the Assam Valley continue to show a satisfactory extension of cultivation. The area so settled, at full and half rates, during the year was 1,460,406 acres, an increase of 41,527 acres, or 2·92 per cent., upon the area of 1879-80. The revenue was Rs. 25,56,676, against Rs. 24,71,526 in the previous year, an increase of 3·44 per cent.

33. The excise revenue reached during 1880-81 the highest figure ever attained in the Province. The demand on account of the year was Rs. 19,45,881, against Rs. 18,16,154 in 1879-80; but of the former amount a portion was paid in advance in 1879-80, while a portion of the demand for 1881-82 was paid in 1880-81. The total collections of the year were thus Rs. 19,56,942, against a revenue of Rs. 18,59,202 in 1879-80.

This improvement in the revenue occurred under every exciseable article, with the exception of *pachwai* or rice-beer; but as opium is the mainstay of the excise in this Province, it was greatest under that head. Of the total demand, no less than 83·95 per cent. was on account of opium, 9·04 per cent. on account of *gánja*, 5·81 per cent. on account of country spirits, and 1·04 per cent. on account of rum and imported liquors.

The opium revenue is derived from two sources,—the sale price of the drug supplied to the vendors from the Government treasuries, and the letting value of the monopoly of vend. For the first time for several years there has been an increase (though not a large increase) in the amount of opium sold, which had been steadily falling since the constitution of the Chief-Commissionership; 1,686 maunds were consumed, against 1,619 maunds in 1879-80. The use of this drug is almost confined to the five upper districts of the Assam Valley, where out of the total amount of 1,686 maunds 1,557 maunds were sold during the year.

With the inhabitants of the Surma Valley the place of opium is taken to some extent by *gánja*, the dried and prepared hemp plant. Revenue on this article is realised, as with opium, by a double tax,—the duty on the drug and the price of the monopoly of vend. The duty was slightly increased during the year, and brought in Rs. 1,645 more than in 1879-80. The monopoly of vend fetched Rs. 21,684, or 31 per cent. more than in the previous year. Of the total revenue from *gánja*, Rs. 1,75,947, Rs. 1,34,083 were received in Sylhet and Cachar alone, and of the total consumption, 583 maunds, 430 maunds were sold in these districts.

Country spirits brought in Rs. 1,13,091, against Rs. 1,00,976 in the previous year. Of this revenue, Rs. 86,125 were realised in the three districts of Sylhet, Cachar, and Sibságar. The revenue is everywhere obtained by sale of the monopoly of manufacture and vend. The chief consumers are the tea-garden population, the natives of the country being addicted rather to the use of drugs and rice-beer than to that of distilled liquors.

34. There was a falling-off of revenue from stamps under the General Stamp Act during the year of Rs. 13,955, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the income being only Rs. 1,99,906, against Rs. 2,13,861 in 1879-80. Except a trifling decrease in Nowgong, the whole of this is due to diminished sales in Sylhet and Cachar, where the total decrease was Rs. 17,481. The cause of this falling-off is no doubt the scarcity of money produced by the low price of rice, and the cessation of its export from the Surma Valley (*see* above, paragraph 22). Although less than in 1879-80, however, the total receipts from general stamps during the past year are higher than those during any other since the Province was

constituted. More than half the total revenue (Rs. 1,13,983) is produced in the district of Sylhet alone.

In judicial stamps the revenue exhibits a small increase of 4·3 per cent., being Rs. 4,13,713, against Rs. 3,96,482 in 1879-80. Here again, however, the same causes as produced a decrease of revenue under general stamps have operated in Sylhet, where there is a falling-off of Rs. 4,768 in the amount realised from court-fees.

The total charges of the department were Rs. 17,041, against Rs. 17,206 in 1879-80, and the net revenue Rs. 6,04,861, against Rs. 6,01,289 in the previous year.

35. The Census of Assam was, like that of the rest of India, taken on the night of the 17th February 1881, the operations previous to that date having provided completely filled-up forms, which only required revision on the night of the actual enumeration. In the Hill Districts, however, it was not found generally possible to carry out a synchronous census. In the Khási and Jaintia Hills the whole population was counted, but the operations were spread over some time. In the Gáro Hills, selected villages were taken and fully enumerated, and the averages so ascertained applied to the number of houses, which alone were counted in other villages. In the Nága Hills, and in the thinly-peopled and wild tracts in the east of the Lakhimpur district, no census was taken at all, except of the civil and military population.

The results of the enumeration give a total population for the Province of 4,815,157, of whom 2,465,453 are males and 2,349,704 females. Making allowance for the areas not censused, the population of Assam cannot be less than 5 millions. The increase as compared with 1872 is 759,103, or 18·71 per cent. The most conspicuous increases are in Cachar, 51·77 per cent., Lakhimpur, 41·9 per cent., the Gáro Hills (where, however, the former figures were merely a vague estimate), 36·31 per cent., Sibságar, 23·16 per cent., and Nowgong, 20·47 per cent. These districts (with the exception of the Gáro Hills) are the chief tea-producing tracts, and the large increment to their population is mainly the result of the extension of this industry. In the plains districts the recorded number of women falls below that of men by 124,495, and there are only 94·6 women to every 100 men. In the hills the proportion is reversed, and there are 105·9 women per 100 men. This great excess

of women is, however (*see ante*, paragraph 7), confined to the Khási and Jaintia Hills; in the Gáro Hills and North Cachar the disproportion is slight.

36. The vital statistics of the year (which are rendered only in the plains districts) show a

Vital statistics.

registered death-rate of 11·44 per mille in 1880, against 12·81 per mille in 1879, the population in both years being reckoned according to the Census of 1881. These figures do not, however, as would at first sight appear, indicate a retrogression in the accuracy of the registration. This is, indeed, still extremely defective: but the figures of 1879 were abnormally swelled by a widespread epidemic of cholera, to which 17,415 recorded deaths were due. In 1880 the cholera mortality was only 2,803. Excluding deaths from cholera from both years, the total registered mortality from other causes was 8·95 per mille in 1879, against 10·82 per mille in 1880, showing an improvement of nearly 2 per mille in the latter year. The measures projected in 1880 for improving the registration of deaths did not come into full operation till the close of that year, and it is hoped that better results will be shown in future.

Births were registered during the year only in selected areas, chiefly towns. In a population of 53,113, 1,067 births were recorded, giving a ratio of 20·09 per mille; last year the ratio was 18·22. Henceforth the registration of births, as well as of deaths, will be general in the Assam Valley, and in Sylhet and Cachar also attempts will be made to get better statistics under this head.

The year was, as already noticed, extremely healthy. The deaths from cholera have been stated above; the mortality from this disease is probably more correctly reported than that from any other. Small-pox was somewhat more prevalent than in 1879, 2,239 deaths being due to it. "Fever" are credited with 31,272 deaths, or 50·5 per cent. of the mortality of the year.

37. The continued depression in the tea trade, which reduced the importation of immigrant

Immigration.

labourers during 1879 by 42 per cent. as compared with 1878, caused a still greater reduction in 1880. The number of immigrants was only 15,913, or 36 per cent. less than that of 1879; of these, 10,795 only were engaged under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873. The decrease is proportionally

greatest among coolies recruited by garden-sardárs, and, in respect of localities, among immigrants from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.

The statistics dealing with the conveyance of the immigrants to the labour districts are inconveniently rendered according to the official, instead of (like the labour returns) according to the calendar, year. They show, however, that the Dhubri route continues to increase in popularity, 68·4 per cent. of the number imported under the Act into Upper Assam having chosen this line in preference to that by Goalundo. The voyage to the labour districts was exceptionally free from sickness and mortality. Of the immigrants through Dhubri, only 2·8 per mille died before reaching their destination. Of those shipped from Goalundo, only 4·3 per mille died.

The mortality among the immigrant labourers within the Province was, like that of every other class of the population, extremely low, being only 35·2 per mille, against 50·9 in 1879. It has now fallen to what is believed to be the normal figure for an Indian population. The improvement is general throughout the Province. The desertion-rate has likewise fallen, being 4·14 per cent. to strength among Act coolies, and 3·48 per cent. among non-Act coolies, against 6·20 and 3·82 per cent. respectively in 1879. The recorded birth-rate has increased from 27·0 to 31·3 per mille, which, however, perhaps shows that births are understated.

On the whole, the year has been a prosperous one for the labourer: food has been extraordinarily cheap, health has been good, and the improvements which are every year being made on tea plantations in the water-supply, the housing of the immigrants and their families, the provision of better accommodation for the sick, and the like, have generally raised his standard of comfort in a marked degree. The revision of the Emigration Act, undertaken during the year at the instance of the Indian Tea Districts Association, led to a minute examination of the law by a Committee composed of officials and representatives of the tea interest; and the Chief Commissioner is glad to be able to record that their proposals have generally commended themselves to the Legislature, and have been embodied in Act I. of 1882. How this measure has affected the position of the labourer will be more fitly noticed in the review of the present year's administration, to which it belongs.

38. Two new dispensaries were opened during the year, at Karimganj and Habiganj, in Sylhet.

Medical relief.

There was an increase of 7,231 in the number of patients treated at the 23 dispensaries in the Province, or of 6,496, excluding the two new dispensaries. The total treated was 44,428, of whom only 2,665 (against 3,083 last year) were in-door patients. This falling-off in the number of persons treated in the dispensaries is entirely attributable to the slackness of coolie immigration, the bulk of the in-door patients being immigrants. Dispensary treatment is relatively most popular among Musalmans. The proportion of females and children treated has slightly fallen, and it cannot be said that, except among the tea-coolies, there is any great advance in the confidence displayed in these institutions by the people. A fewer number of major operations (93) was performed than in 1879 (98).

The income of the dispensaries was Rs. 33,547, of which Rs. 11,598 (less than last year by Rs. 593) were from subscriptions, Rs. 12,386 were contributed by Government in salaries, medicines, forms, and special grants, and the balance was provided by Local or Municipal Funds (chiefly the Labour Transport Fund) and interest on investments. The expenditure was Rs. 30,224, of which Rs. 15,542 were on establishment, Rs. 3,956 on medicines, and Rs. 6,320 on diet.

These institutions are generally in charge of Hospital-Assistants, and the Chief Commissioner has suggested that they might become more popular if Assistant-Surgeons were entertained where the local contributions are largest. He has also suggested that separate accommodation might be provided for the better classes of natives who are willing to pay for it, and object to being lodged in the public rooms of the dispensaries. These measures have been found elsewhere to add to the attractiveness of these institutions, and Mr. Elliott hopes that they may do so in Assam.

39. There is but one Lunatic Asylum in the Province, that at Tezpur; lunatics from the Surma Valley are sent to the Dacca Asylum.

Lunatic Asylum.

46 persons were under treatment in this institution at the end of the year, and the average for the year was 45.85; of the 46, 31 were non-criminal and 15 criminal lunatics. The health of the lunatics was, like that of the rest of the population, good; but there were 7 deaths. The cost of the institution was Rs. 6,874, or about Rs. 100 more than in 1879.

40. A summary of what has been done during the year to improve the sanitary condition of some of the towns of the Province will be found in paragraph 466 of the Report. The tale of improvements carried out is not large; but, as already noticed, the Municipalities, to whom most of the works mentioned are due, are not rich, and can only proceed by degrees. Besides the towns mentioned, sanitation is attempted only on tea-gardens, where it is often very effectively carried out.

41. The reported number of vaccinations performed during the year was 24,163, less by 10,366 than in 1879-80. This decrease is confined to four districts, the Gáro Hills (less by 9,046), Kám-rúp (less by 5,855), Goálpára (less by 542), and Sylhet (less by 349). All other districts show an increase, and in Darrang and Lakhimpur the progress has been very creditable. In the first two of the four districts mentioned, the decrease is partly due to the omission from the statistics of 1880-81, and the inclusion in those of 1879-80, of work done by ex-inoculators: in Kám-rúp it is also due to the concentration of operations to the neighbourhood of the sadr station. On the whole, the statistics of the year are probably far more accurate than those of 1879-80, and represent as much, if not more, real work done. The proportion of success was 87·61 per cent., against an incredible figure, 92·75 per cent., in 1879-80. Much more attention was given by Civil Surgeons to testing the work than in the previous year; and the proportion of success recorded is probably genuine.

42. The total expenditure on education in Assam rose from Rs. 2,64,910 in 1879-80 to Rs. 2,87,410 in 1880-81. The State contributed 66·4 per cent. of this amount, and the public 33·6. The proportion supplied by the latter was slightly less than in the previous year (34·1), but the actual sum contributed was more by Rs. 6,099: nearly the whole of this increase is in fees paid by scholars. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 90,264 were on primary education, Rs. 5,216 more than in 1879-80; Rs. 44,237 were on High Schools, Rs. 3,072 more than in 1879-80; Rs. 55,504 were on middle schools, Rs. 2,085 more than last year; and Rs. 19,555 were on scholarships, Rs. 8,592 more than in 1879-80. There is a decided reduction in the cost of teaching per head in all classes of schools, the number under

tuition having increased in a greater proportion than the cost of instruction.

The number of schools has risen by 87 since last year, and is now 1,287. There were 90 more primary schools open than in 1879-80. The number of scholars was 40,671, more than that of 1879-80 by 4,780. Of this increase, 579 were in high schools and 3,984 in primary schools. The popularity of the former, which produced so large and sudden an addition to the number of scholars, was certainly due to the leniency displayed by the examiners at the Calcutta Entrance Examination of December 1880, in which 74 per cent. of the Assam candidates passed. The increase in the primary schools, and in the number of scholars studying thereat, is partly the result of the larger funds supplied for expenditure on these schools by the Local Rates Regulation.

43. The remaining sections of the Report may be dismissed with but few remarks. There is nothing

Miscellaneous.

to notice under "Literature and the Press." The chapter on Archaeology gives a brief account of all the known remains of historical interest in the Province: but in this country of dense jungle it is possible that more may exist, though as yet unexplored. In the section regarding Ecclesiastical matters will be found some interesting details, supplied by the Chaplain of Shillong and Gauháti, of the various Missionary bodies at work in Province, and the measure of success achieved by them.

PART II. A.



PERMANENT CHAPTERS.

See Administration Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76, Part II. A.

P A R T I I . B .

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1880-81.

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Administration Report for 1880-81.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION I.—CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

1. (a) *General*.—Sir Steuart Bayley, K.C.S.I., having been appointed Resident at Hyderabad, the duties of the Chief Commissioner were assumed by Mr. C. A. Elliott, C.S.I., on the 1st March 1881.

(b) *Administrative*.—The most important change in the administrative arrangements of the Province during the year under report was the appointment of the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts to be also a Commissioner of Revenue for those districts.

This change was the outcome of much discussion and consideration. The Judge of the Assam Valley undoubtedly had much time to spare from his purely judicial duties. There was decided need for increased and closer supervision in revenue and executive affairs. The Province could not afford, and it may be doubted whether it actually required, an independent High Court or Judicial Commissioner. And, under all the circumstances, it seemed best to utilise, as had previously been proposed by more than one experienced officer, the Judge as Commissioner of Division, until the condition and requirements of the Province should necessitate a more complete separation of executive and judicial functions. The Judge and Commissioner will be able to carry out more frequent inspections of subordinate courts than the Sessions Judge did, for he will be called by his double duties to make more extended tours, and to spend a longer time in travelling through the Province; while there is every ground for anticipating that the revenue and executive work of the Valley districts will be greatly benefited by personal direction at the hands of an active and experienced supervising officer.

B

2. On the 4th June 1880, the Chief Commissioner, under Section 6, Act XIV. of 1874, by notification directed that the Judge and Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts should, in the districts marginally noted, exercise and perform the jurisdiction, powers, and duties imposed on a Commissioner of a Division by any enactment then in force in, or which might thereafter be extended to, any of these districts; and in a Resolution of the Chief Commissioner, dated the 11th June 1880, the functions of the Commissioner were further defined, as well as the future relations between District Officers and the Local Government.

Jurisdiction of the Judge and Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts.

Goalpara.
Kamrup.
Darrang.

Nowgong.
Sibsagar.
Lakhimpur.

The substance of this Resolution may be here briefly stated:—

- (1) All Deputy-Commissioners of the division were declared subordinate to the Commissioner, except in the Political Department, and, except where otherwise specially directed, were required to correspond with the Local Government through the Commissioner.
- (2) In *Revenue* matters the Commissioner was required to perform the duties of a Commissioner of a Division as defined in the Rules of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, so far as these rules were applicable, and not modified by any special orders of the Chief Commissioner.
- (3) In *Police* matters the Commissioner was invested with the same powers as a Commissioner in Bengal.
- (4) In the *Jail* Department the Commissioner was directed to exercise only the functions of an official visitor, besides such powers of control as vested in him as the Magistrate's immediate superior.
- (5) In the *Excise* and *Emigration* Departments, District Officers were directed to act under the orders of, and to submit their returns to, the Commissioner.
- (6) In *Education* and *Forest* matters, and also in the department of *Vital Statistics* and *Sanitation*, the Commissioner is only the channel of communications between the District Officers and the head of the department, except in the matter of returns and explanations connected therewith, which District Officers are required to submit direct to head-quarters. The Commissioner is, however, *ex-officio* visitor of all schools in his division, he is required to exercise such powers as are vested in him by the *Forest Act*, and he is also expected to exercise general supervision over the department of vital statistics and sanitation.
- (7) In the departments of *Stamps* and *Registration* the Commissioner also exercises general supervisory functions only, the District Officers corresponding direct with the Superintendent of Stamps and Inspector-General of Registration.

(8) In the administration of *Municipalities*, the Commissioner exercises such powers as are vested in him by the Municipal Act.

3. Under Section 5 of the Indian Registration Act, 1877, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the following local jurisdictions of the registration sub-districts of the district of Sylhet:—

Registration sub-districts.

Sylhet or sadr sub-district, to comprise thánas Sylhet, Kánáirghat, Bálaganj, and Hingajiya, with head-quarters at Sylhet.

Rájnagar sub-district, to comprise thánas Rájnagar and Nawakhali, with head-quarters at Maulavi Hát.

Sunamganj sub-district, to comprise thánas Sunamganj, Chhátak, Dirai, and Dharmapásá, with head-quarters at Sunamganj.

Habiganj sub-district, to comprise thánas Habiganj, Nabiganj, Baniachung, and Mádhábpur, with head-quarters at Habiganj.

Karimganj sub-district, to comprise thánas Karimganj and Jaldhup, with head-quarters at Karimganj.

4. The following rules came into force in the Province during the year:—

Rules made during year.

- (1) Rules issued by the Chief Commissioner under Sections 15 and 16 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation.
- (2) Revised rules issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal under Section 4 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873.
- (3) Modifications in and additions to the rules for the Administration of Justice and Police in the Jaintiá Hills and such portions of the Khási Hills as have been constituted British territory, and in the Rules for the Administration of Justice and Police in the Nága Hills Agency.
- (4) Rules issued by the Chief Commissioner under Section 6 of Act XIV. of 1874, for the administration of the Gáro Hills district.
- (5) Rules issued by the Chief Commissioner under Section 6 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation, 1879, for the guidance of officers in assessing and collecting the rate levied under that Regulation in the district of Sylhet, and for other purposes mentioned in that section.

5. From the 1st September 1880 the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Munsifi of the sadr sub-division of the Cachar district were declared to extend to and include the Hailákándi sub-division of that district.

Munsifs in Cachar.

6. The thánas of the district of Sylhet were re-arranged during the course of the year, and their boundaries were revised. The establishment of sub-divisions made a revision of jurisdictions, originally planned with a view to one central head-quarters, necessary. From the 1st September 1880 the following thánas were constituted in this district:—

Thána boundaries in Sylhet.

made a revision of jurisdictions, originally planned with a view to one central head-quarters, necessary. From the 1st September 1880 the following thánas were constituted in this district:—

1 Baniachung.	9 Nowakhali.
2 Nabiganj.	10 Rajnagar.
3 Habiganj.	11 Balaganj.
4 Madhábpur.	12 Sylhet.
5 Dharmapásá.	13 Kánáirghat.
6 Sunamganj.	14 Hingajiya.
7 Chhátak.	15 Jaldhup.
8 Dirai.	16 Karimganj.

These alterations were duly notified in the *Assam Gázette*.

7. The following changes were made in the local jurisdictions of the sub-divisions of the district of Sylhet, in consequence of the changes in the thána boundaries:—

Sub-divisions.	Thánas.
Sylhet or sadr (head-quarters at Sylhet).	{ Sylhet. Kánáirghat. Balaganj. Hingajiya. Rajnagar. Nowakhali.
Sunamganj (head-quarters at Sunamganj).	{ Sunamganj. Chhátak. Dirai. Dharmapásá.
Habiganj (head-quarters at Habiganj).	{ Habiganj. Nabiganj. Baniachung. Madhabpur.
Karimganj (head-quarters at Karimganj).	{ Karimganj. Jaldhup.

SECTION 2.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

MANIPUR.

8. In last year's Administration Report the account of the administration of Manipur was carried up to the end of June, in accordance with the custom which had been in force when the Political Agent in Manipur was immediately subordinate to the Foreign Department of the Government of India. The present report, therefore, begins with the 1st July 1880, and is for a period of nine months only.

9. The heavy rainfall which was said in last year's report to have occurred from April to June was followed by unusually dry weather during the remaining months of the year. This, however, was only the case in the valley of Manipur and the hills to the west of it. In the hills to the east and north-east of the valley the rainfall was unusually heavy, and the hill streams on this side were frequently unfordable for days together, instead of, as usual, for a few hours only.

10. The sudden cessation of the rains in July caused much anxiety on account of the rice, but a fortunate fall of rain in September saved this crop, and the result was an outturn estimated at about one-eighth below the average. The outturn of cotton, pulse, and potatoes were equal to the average of former years.

11. The year under review was an extremely unhealthy one. Early in June several cases of dysentery occurred, which were fatal, especially among children. This was immediately followed by a very severe epidemic of cholera, which is reported to have been the worst that has ever been known in Manipur. This increased in violence until the end of August, when it began to abate, and by the end of September had nearly died away. The epidemic is said to have passed on to the Kubo Valley. The fatal attacks were very numerous, and as many as 2,000 people are said to have died from cholera in the capital alone. The guard of sepoys, and the other inhabitants of the Residency compound, escaped without any attack. The disease was particularly fatal among the Nāga villages, and the Political Agent describes the Nāgas as very careless and difficult to treat. Colonel Johnstone attributes the epidemic of cholera to the floods of April and May, which caused the cesspools which are said to exist in every compound to overflow into the tanks from which drinking-water is obtained. This, however, if an agent in the introduction of the disease, can hardly be supposed to be the sole cause. Notwithstanding the severe mortality which occurred, there was no panic, nor did any instance of desertion of the sick or dead come to the notice of the Political Agent.

In the early months of 1881 small-pox in a severe form was very prevalent, and in February and March it became epidemic. This disease is said not to be so fatal in Manipur as in other parts of eastern India, but as it is almost wholly unchecked the aggregate number of deaths it causes is very large.

12. The Residency dispensary continues to increase in popularity, and is said to be doing much useful work. Vaccination is being extended, and more would have been done in this direction, but for an unfortunate delay in the supply of lymph. Several Manipuris have been instructed in the work of vaccination, and continued progress in this respect is anticipated.

13. The road between Manipur and Cachar has been kept in very good repair throughout the year. A further supply of wire-rope has been received by the Political Agent, who hopes to be able to erect wire bridges over the Barák and Mukru rivers this year. The wire suspension-bridge which had been erected over the Limetak river was carried away by a flood, which washed away more than 50 yards of the bank, and has completely altered the bed of the stream and more than doubled its width at the point where it was bridged.

During the cold season, Lieutenant Raban, R.E., laid out a line for a cart-road from Sengmai to Phunamai Mao, the Manipur station on the boundary of the Naga Hills district. The former place is already connected with Manipur by a cart-road, and Mao is connected with Viswema, in the Naga Hills. The trace is laid out on a gradient which nowhere exceeds 5 in 100, and it avoids the numerous steep ascents and descents of the old track. The distance from Manipur to Mao is about 80 miles, and it is hoped that the cart-road will be completed next cold weather. Already the trace has been so far opened out that the Political Agent has been able to ride the whole way along it. This is a road which will be of great value to the Naga Hills district, and eventually also, no doubt, to Manipur itself. The energy shown in opening it out is much to be commended.

In the valley of Manipur a road from the capital to Kongal thána has been completed, and all parts of the valley are now connected with the capital by passable roads.

14. The position of the trade with Cachar continues unaltered, and the duties imposed by the Durbar, and the vexatious restrictions placed upon traders remain as before, and seriously retard the natural development of this trade.

The passes between Burmah and Manipur are all closed to traders, and a few buffaloes and ponies are only occasionally smuggled across this frontier. With the Naga Hills a brisk trade is said to be springing up for the supply of the force at Kohima with petty luxuries, such as dried fish, Manipuri cloths, salt, spirits, coarse sugar, and tobacco. The export of rice from Manipur is forbidden. This measure the Political Agent partially defends, as he considers that, allowing for storage of stock to meet possible requirements owing to bad harvests, the present production of rice is only sufficient to meet the wants of the Manipuris and the hill tribes in their neighbourhood, who are said only to grow just enough for their immediate wants, and to rely on the valley of Manipur if their stocks fall short. He is of opinion that rice for export should be obtained by additional cultivation, and not by drawing upon hoarded stocks, and he hopes to induce the Durbar to cultivate additional lands specially for the purpose of exportation. It is precisely, however, such a measure as the permission to export which would lead to extended cultivation. So long as prices and the demand for rice remain what they are at present, the cultivation of rice will not be largely extended. If, however, a brisk demand for rice at prices more than double the present rates of Re. 1 a maund were to arise, the cultivation would in all probability receive a great impetus. At present, however, the road between the capital and Kohima passes through an uninhabited, or very sparsely inhabited, country, and is only traversable by coolies. These coolies have to carry their own food with them in addition to their burdens, and thus, even with rice at Re. 1 a maund in Manipur, the Political Agent considers that it could not be delivered at Kohima for less than Rs. 11 a maund, a coolie costing Rs. 5, and being able to carry, besides food for himself, only 20 seers.

15. The Mahārāja of Manipur has sent some men to Cawnpore to learn leather work and *darri*-making. If this experiment proves successful, he proposes to send men to learn other branches of manufacture.

The Political Agent notices that much skill is displayed by Manipuris in moulding figures in clay, and thinks that the art of pottery should be capable of being easily introduced among them. He notices also, as a small industry, the manufacture of a coarse paper from a kind of grass.

The Mahārāja of Manipur has attempted to make up broken glass into new glassware, but his efforts have not been attended with much success. A fuller account of the manufactures of Manipur will be found embodied in this report in the section on arts and manufactures.

16. The Census of Manipur was taken in February 1881. A synchronous Census was not possible, and operations accordingly continued for some days before the 17th February, and were brought to a close on that date. The Manipur Durbar supplied the agency, the State officials being chiefly employed for the purpose under the direction of the Political Agent. Beyond the price of the paper for the schedules and the printing, there was no cost to Government. The result of the Census showed a total population of 147,345, divided as follows :—

Total population.		Hindus.		Muhammadans.		Hill tribes.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
72,688	74,657	63,689	65,530	2,217	2,381	6,782	6,746
147,345							

In this table the columns headed "Hindus" represent the Hinduised population of the Manipur valley, a race probably akin to the Kuki tribes, but largely recruited also from the various tribes of Nágas. The numbers given for "hill tribes" are believed to represent only a portion of the hilly country of which the State largely consists. The Political Agent has not yet explained the figures, which were calculated from the schedules transmitted by him to the Superintendent of Census, and these were accompanied by no written report. The late Mr. Damant, who was for some time Political Agent in Manipur, estimated the hill tribes to number at least six times the population here shown. The Chief Commissioner hopes to be able to include a fuller account of the results of the Census in next year's report.

17. Mention was made in last year's report of the disturbances which occurred in February 1880 on the Burmah-Manipur boundary, in the course of which the Manipuri village of Chingsao, inhabited by Tangkhul Nágas, was attacked by Chasád Kukis, and 45 persons killed. The boundary between

Burmah and Manipur, as laid down by the British Commissioners in 1834, was exactly defined by natural landmarks only along the western face of the Kubo Valley. North of that valley the country was at the time uninhabited, and the boundary running through it was never laid down on the ground. This boundary was expressed in the agreement with Burmah as "a straight line passing due north from the northern extremity of the Kubo Valley up to the first range of hills east of that upon which stand the villages of Cho-eetar, Noongbree, and Noonghur," of the Lahupa (or Tangkhul) tribe of Nágas. Since 1834, however, the Tangkhul Nágas from the west, and the Kukis, partly subject to the Rája, or Tsaubwa, of Sumjok, a tributary chief of Burmah, and partly belonging to tribes dwelling on Manipur territory, from the south, have been gradually pushing up into this formerly unoccupied tract; and the doubtfulness of the mathematical line, with the standing hostility of Kukis to Nágas, has led to several outrages, to the series of which the attack on the Kongal thána, a Manipuri military post at the head of the Kubo Valley, in December 1877, and that on the village of Chingsao in February 1880, belong. This series was continued during the year 1880-81. One of the results of the massacre at Chingsao was the establishment of a Manipur thána at Chattik, a Tangkhul Nága village south of Chingsao, standing on a ridge almost exactly coincident with "Pemberton's line" (the mathematical boundary already referred to). In the neighbourhood of Chattik is a village site known as Chowhoom *Khoonao* ("the little"), an offshoot of a larger village called Chowhoom *Khoolel*. This village site had been for some time deserted; and was in November 1880 reported to have been occupied by Choomyang Kukis from Sumjok territory, who claimed it as part of the Sumjok dominions, and refused to pay revenue to Manipur. Some time was spent in parleying between the Kukis in Chowhoom *Khoonao* and the Manipur guard at Chattik; and when a party was sent by the order of the Manipur Court to visit the former village, it was found stockaded, and, besides the Kukis, a Shan officer, with 60 men from Sumjok, in possession. This officer addressed a letter to the Manipuri Subadár, claiming the village as Sumjok territory, and matters rested thus for a short time. About the 16th or 17th January a collision occurred, precipitated apparently by a stealthy attack which the Kukis were endeavouring to make on the post at Chattik, between the Manipuris and the Sumjok people, which ended in the latter being driven out of Chowhoom *Khoonao*, and their stockade destroyed. On the 23rd January the village of Chowhoom *Khoolel*, the parent of "Little Chowhoom," was visited by a party of Sumjok Shans and Choomyang and other Kukis, and 15 persons carried off captive. This village is undoubtedly within Manipur territory, being west of Chattik, which itself stands near the line. Passing on from this place, a village of Tangkhul Nágas, still further west, named Moollung, was attacked, 15 people killed, and 5 carried off as prisoners.

While this was going on in the north, two villages on the road from Manipur to the Kongal thána, named Koontuk *Khoonao* and *Kussoong*, were about the 24th January attacked and plundered by another body of Kukis from Sumjok territory. The party which made

this raid was, however, intercepted on its return by a Manipuri force from the Khangbom thána, who recovered some of the booty, and captured two Kukis, from whom valuable information was gained. These outrages of January were the last overt acts of violence. The Manipur posts on the frontier were strongly reinforced, and no further aggression followed from the side of Sumjok. Rumours reached the Government of preparations being made at Sumjok to resist any attack which might be made by way of reprisals by Manipur; and in February there was a report that a force of 1,000 Burmese had arrived at Sumjok from Mandalay. No confirmation of this story has, however, been received, and nothing further has up to date been reported on the subject.

The gradual increase in the number and atrocity of these outrages has made it necessary for the British Government to intervene for the protection of Manipur, and to lay down afresh, in recognisable features on the ground, the boundary described in 1834 as an imaginary line drawn due north from the Kubo Valley. This work is now (January 1882) being carried out; and when the new boundary is determined it will be possible to hold those who violate it, whether from one side or the other, strictly to account. The visit of the Commission of Demarcation to the locality will also tend to clear up, what is at present somewhat doubtful, the degree to which the Shan population of Sumjok, or the Burmese authorities to whom they are subordinate, are responsible for the acts of the aggressive Kukis.

18. The Sukté Kukis have remained quiet during the year, so far as Manipur is concerned. They have, however, committed several outrages in the Kubo and Kulé Valleys, subject to the Burmese Government. Their immigration into Manipur has almost ceased, only ten or twelve families having immigrated during the year. The immigrants of this and previous years have settled down peaceably. The south of Manipur is said to be well protected from the Sukté Kukis by those of their number who have settled in Manipur territory, and by Khongjais. As the Kubo and Kulé Valleys are unprotected, it is probable that they will continue to raid in this direction, and not towards Manipur.

Sooti or Sukté Kukis.

Lushais.

19. The Lushais have maintained friendly relations with Manipur during the year.

20. The Political Agent continues his interest in the experimental gardens. Mulberries are said to be now well established, and numerous cuttings have been distributed. Apricots, apples, pears, quinces, peaches, and plums are said to be doing well.

Experimental gardens.

In the hill garden at Kangjhpukū, where the Political Agent has a summer residence, Spanish chestnuts are promising. English flowers, grass, and clovers flourish. The Political Agent points out that peas, which have been considered to be indigenous in Manipur, and are universally grown, were introduced by one of his predecessors, Captain Gordon, as were also potatoes, which have, however, much deteriorated. He hopes that in a few years cabbages, cauliflowers, and lettuces will be equally universally grown. Potatoes of new and improved qualities

should not be difficult of introduction, and some good seed which the Chief Commissioner has obtained from Kumaon will be sent to the Political Agent.

The new Residency building has been completed, and is a commodious and comfortable building.

BHUTIAS.

21. Our relations with the Tibetan Bhutias have continued as satisfactory as in previous years. While at the Udalguri Fair, from the 8th to 15th February, the Deputy-Commissioner received the Rájas in open Durbar and paid them their allowances. They enquired after the health of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen, reported everything quiet in their country, and evinced their usual friendliness to Government. The Deputy-Commissioner took this opportunity to ask their co-operation in the taking of the Census of their people who had come down to the plains, and who would be there on the night of the 17th February. The object and reasons of the enumeration were fully explained to them, and they expressed their willingness to help us in every way they could to carry it out; and it is satisfactory to state that they kept their promise. The excellent rice crops of the year have afforded them every facility of buying as much as they required.

22. The Rájas of Shergaon and Rupraigaoon, commonly called the Sáth Rájas of Charduár, visited the Deputy-Commissioner at Urang on the 7th February, when he was *en route* to Udalguri. They stated that everything was quiet in their country, and asked him to give them a letter to the Assistant-Commissioner in charge, instructing him to pay them their allowances. Colonel Comber noticed the absence of one of their chief men, who used to act as spokesman on all occasions. On enquiry, he was informed that he had died during the year from a swelling of his legs. No allusion whatever was made to the boundary laid down by Colonel Graham in 1872-73, or to the guard stationed at the Daimára Pass by Colonel Sherer in 1875, questions on which the late Chief had something to say at every visit, although he had been frequently informed that the matter had been definitively settled, and that these questions could not be re-opened. Their behaviour has been satisfactory.

23. The Thebengia Bhutias, whose country lies to the east of Towang, came to Tezpur on the 11th March, and were received by the Assistant-Commissioner in open Durbar. They were paid the usual allowances and evinced the same friendly feeling as they have always hitherto shown.

24. The Bhutias of Bhutan Proper, north of the Goálpára and Kámráp districts, have had little intercourse with us during the year. In the cold weather of 1879-80 an incident occurred which formed the subject of some correspondence with the Supreme Government. A Bhutanese functionary made his appearance in the sub-montane tract in the north of Kámráp, and levied contributions from the British villages, on the ground that their inhabitants had resorted to forests beyond the frontier to supply themselves with wood and bamboos. It was explained to the

Deb Rája that his tax-gatherers could not be permitted to take their dues by his authority on British territory; and since then nothing more has been heard of the matter.

BHUTIA FAIRS.

25. A full history of the origin of the Udalguri, Kherkeria, and Daimára Fairs was given in the Administration Report for the year 1875-76, page 8.

The usual military guard detailed from the 10th Native Infantry, subsequently relieved by the 44th S. L. I., was stationed at Udalguri during the time the Bhutias remained in the plains, as also a police guard of one head-constable and ten constables.

26. *Udalguri Fair*.—The first batch of Towang Bhutias arrived at the end of January, while the full number did not reach the fair till the end of February. The lateness of their arrival this year was due to severe cold and snow, which retarded their journey to the plains. All the Sáth Rájas had, however, arrived by the first week in February, and a *mela*, which was even larger than the one got up in the preceding year, was held between the 9th and 13th February, at which 55 Europeans and all the officials of the district attended.

The 10th and 11th February were devoted to pony-races and sports. In one race the Bhutias had to ride themselves, which afforded considerable amusement; but nothing could induce them to try the experiment a second time. The sports, at which the sepoy of the 10th Regiment principally contended, consisted of wrestling, fencing, and the *chatty*-race, the latter causing the greatest amusement to the Bhutias. These were followed up by a *nautch*, which the Bhutias gave. The dancers on this occasion wore masks with lions' heads. From the grant of Rs. 300, which the Chief Commissioner sanctioned for the fair, Rs. 130 was spent in building huts for natives, and the remainder was distributed in prizes. The *mela* passed off well.

A head-constable was deputed this year to register the trade, as the services of the mauzadár who has hitherto done this work could not be spared, owing to the Census. The value of the imports amounted to Rs. 51,970, against Rs. 87,069 in the previous year, and that of exports to Rs. 36,767, against Rs. 22,573 in the preceding year. 254 ponies only were sold, against 461 in the previous year, which was due to the special demands in the latter for the Nága Hills Expedition. Manipuris were, as usual, the principal purchasers of ponies, which they train and sell in Assam, not unfrequently as Manipuri ponies. A full account of the trade done at this and the other Bhutia fairs noticed below will be found in Chapter 4, Section 6, of the Report which treats of the frontier trade of the Province. The total number of hill people who came to the fair this year was 1,649 (854 men, 392 women, and 203 children), or 606 more than in the previous year.

The conduct of the Bhutias was most satisfactory. The fair lasted till about the first week in April.

27. *Kherkheria Fair*—This fair was held, as usual, in February at Khagrapara, near Bengbari, and lasted up to the middle of March. It was attended entirely by hillmen from Bhutan Proper, who numbered in all about 621 (men 270, women 205, children 146), or 311 more than the previous year. The imports amounted to Rs. 11,526, against Rs. 13,346 in the previous year, while the exports aggregated Rs. 6,974, against Rs. 14,228 in the previous year. This falling off is due, the Deputy-Commissioner thinks, to incorrect registration, the work having been entrusted to a head-constable, instead of to the mauzadár as in previous years, the latter officer being engaged on Census work.

The Bhutia Rájá, with whom the Sub-Divisional Officer had an interview, stated that there had been a pestilence this year in his country, which had carried off a large number of cattle and ponies. The silver belt which was taken last year from the Sáth Rájas of Koriapára by the Kherkeria Bhutias, to which reference was made at page 8 of the Administration Report of 1879-80, has been recovered and returned to Prem Gainbo, the chief of the Sáth Rajas, by Mr. Primrose, the Sub-Divisional Officer, in person. No disturbance of any sort arose between these hillmen and our people whilst in the plains, but some of them stole a few articles, such as a gong and some kodalties, from the Kherkeria tea-garden, a matter which will be enquired into by the Deputy-Commissioner on the return of the Rájá next year.

28. *Daimára Fair*.—The imports and exports during the year amounted respectively to Rs. 7,185 and Rs. 1,242, as compared with Rs. 15,800 and Rs. 8,912 in the previous year. The decrease in the trade is attributed to the fact that hardly any Brahmees, who reside in the higher ranges, and are the real traders, have come down to Daimára, their attendance having been prevented, it is alleged, by the subsidence of a large hill, which rendered the road to the plains impassable for pack animals; it is also stated that a cattle-murrain has carried off a large number of their cattle. The fair being situated outside British territory, the Deputy-Commissioner was unable to visit it, but he heard that it was very poorly attended by the hillmen. The behaviour of these Bhutias has, on the whole, been good, and no complaints have been made against them.

AKAS.

29. The Western or Hazarikhowa Akas did not come into the station to receive their pensions for 1879-80 before the 6th April 1880. These men are always late in coming down to the plains; but, as before, they have continued thoroughly well-disposed and peaceable. They had not come in for their annual allowances at the close of the year. The Kapas Chor Akas, with their Chief Medhi, came into the station on the 17th March, and received their usual allowances. The conduct of these men has been satisfactory. The brother of the Chief still resides in the plains, and is now prosecuting his studies in the zilá school; he is in the sixth class, and is making fair progress.

DAFLAS.

30. The Tagin Daflas came down to the Sadiya Fair, received their *posa*, and caused no disturbance.

The Paschim or Western Daflas also were paid the allowances to which they are entitled. Their behaviour has been quiet and orderly. The murder of the two Kaiyas and their servant, as also the abduction of three plains Daflas (British subjects), of which mention was made in paragraph 35 of last year's Report, were not the occasion for any general disturbance or agitation. The murderers in the former case were tried by the Sessions Judge, and sentenced to transportation; and in the second the Dafla in fault was fined, and paid the fine.

MIRIS.

31. No complaints have been made of the conduct of the hill Miris during the year.

ABORS.

32. The anticipated migration of some villages of the Bor Abors into our territory has been the most important feature in our relations with that tribe. No Abors attended the Sadiya Fair. The reason given out was their fear of contracting cholera, which was said to prevail in the Miri villages.

In December some Nari Abors attempted to carry off Takin, a low-caste Abor of their village, who had eloped with a high-caste woman more than two years ago. The guard at the Dijmur outpost, near which Takin had taken refuge, interfered and released Takin, who was brought into Dibrugarh, and ordered to live in the neighbourhood. The Nari Abors were very much disgusted at this turn of events, and were so turbulent and menacing that it was thought necessary to strengthen the guard at Dijmur till the beginning of the rains.

Jealousy about territory is a very strong feature in the character of all the Abor tribes. The Dobbas last year carried away a trading party belonging to the Rew and Kamsi *khels* for presuming to use their *duárs* for trading purposes. The Dobba Gams were ordered to release them, and the son of Tani Gam had this done; but afterwards he came in, and asked to be recouped for the money he had spent in effecting this object. The Deputy-Commissioner refused to comply with his demand, and told him that his *posa* was given to him as a police allowance, and he must take it out of that.

MISHMIS.

33. The Digaru Mishmis were well-behaved, and no complaints were made against them. Their traders visited the Lakhimpur district in considerable numbers, and in March 1881 some of them, it is said, went so far as Sibsagar.

The Chulikata Mishmis were also well-behaved during the year, with the exception of Kaladoi and his son Turu, who were disrespectful and sulky at the Sadiya Fair on account of some jealousy of Lako. They

expressed their regret for this afterwards, but their present was not received, nor did they get corresponding presents.

During the last rains Lieutenant Harman, R.E., of the Survey Department, sent some Bhutias with a Lama to the Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur, with a letter asking him to help them on their way to Bathang, which they were to try to reach by the Mishmi country. They were consigned to Lahman Dás Rái Bahádur, who himself in the month of July took them up to Lako's village, and arranged so far as he could for their safe conduct. They fell sick at Lako's village, where they remained about two months, and then returned to Sadiya in a wretched condition, two of their number having died.

In July 1880 the Deputy-Commissioner reported the receipt by him from Chausa Gohain, of Chau Kham, on the Tengapáni river, of certain intelligence regarding a body of 400 persons said to be on their way from somewhere in Tibet towards Assam, but no further facts have been since brought to light in connection with this movement.

KHÁMPTIS AND SINGPHOS.

34. The most important event in our dealings with these tribes was the settlement of the dispute between Ningro Samon and Bisa Banka regarding a buffalo, about which mention was made in paragraph 43 of last year's Administration Report. The affair was settled at the instance of the Deputy-Commissioner during his visit to the frontier in February 1881, by the payment of Rs. 100 to Ningro Samon by Joyhing, Bisa's successor. Bisa Banka died last year, and the succession to this important Gamship had to be determined. The Gam is responsible for the Buri Dehing Duárs and for the behaviour of the Nágas on that part of the frontier. Bisa Banka left two minor sons, but the business of the village is entirely conducted by Joyhing, the son of Bisa's brother Latu; and, at the desire of the Gam's family and the principal members of the community, the Deputy-Commissioner gave the Gamship to Joyhing, until such time as Bisa's eldest son is old enough to undertake the duties of this office. Joyhing is about to marry his aunt, Bisa Banka's widow (the mother of Bisa's eldest son), and, as she is a woman of great influence with the tribes, Mr. McWilliam thinks a better arrangement could not be made. The state of the Singphos and Khámptis is highly satisfactory. During his frontier tour the Deputy-Commissioner was much struck with the perfect state of subjection in which the Nágas living between the Patkai range and the upper course of the Dehing are kept by the Singphos: they are the most eastern of all the Nága tribes, and their spirit seems to be entirely broken.

Chaumangthi Gohain, who left his home on the Tengapáni in 1878 and went to Burmah, has not since been heard of directly. A letter, however, has been received from one of his followers, stating that he is not so well liked by the present King of Burmah as he was by his father. It is said that he made proposals to the Burmese officials to head a raid into Assam in the event of hostilities between Burmah and our Government, but they were coldly received.

On the Tengapáni there was a dispute about commission on India-rubber between the son of the Singpho Gam Latowang and

Chausa, brother of the well-known Chausam, of Chaukhám village. On Latowang's death Chausa wanted to appropriate the commission on rubber for both places ; but, on reference being made to the Deputy-Commissioner by Latowang's son, the matter was settled by allowing things to remain as they were before Latowang's death.

SADIYA FAIR.

35. The Deputy-Commissioner reached Sadiya on the 14th February, and on arriving at the Saikhowa ghat found that a dispute had occurred on the previous day between the ferryman and a Digaru Mishmi, who objected to pay the toll. The ferryman had tried to treat the Mishmi in an insolent manner, and narrowly escaped serious ill-treatment. It was reported that upwards of a thousand Miris and Assamese were prevented from visiting the fair on account of the Saikhowa ferry-toll, and the Chief Commissioner has under consideration the question of having the ferry thrown open to the public free of toll during the week in which the fair is being held.

The fair commenced on the 15th February. There was a large attendance of Singphos, Khámptis, Digarus, Chulikatas, and other Mishmis. The usual games and races took place, to the great delight of the Chulikatas. The Singpho and Khámpti Chiefs came down in state, in gorgeous clothing from Burma or China, and with their followers occupied a separate stand at the race-course. The Khámpti volunteers and Ningro Samon's own men, in discarded highland military jackets and their own dark check kilt-like loin-cloths, were drawn up next them. The ground was kept by a party of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry and some police. Lako, Kaladoi, and some other principal Mishmis were at the European race-stand, and the main body of Mishmis occupied the ground inside the race-course. There were about a dozen parties of Miri and Dome dancing-girls, who kept up their noisy music and vigorous dancing from the beginning to the end of the fair.

Through some misunderstanding, the Chulikata Mishmis were allowed to attend the fair on the next day in warlike array, with spears and daos, and when they had all entered the space set apart for them they began a war-dance, and came up brandishing their spears and daos within a few feet of the Digarus, who fortunately stood firm and did not trouble themselves, but the Miris and Assamese, thinking that the Chulikatas meant mischief, fled off the course. As the dancing went on, the Mishmis became more excited, but after some little time they were persuaded to stop the dance, and were gradually disarmed. Fortunately, no accident occurred, but it was a thoughtless and dangerous experiment to try with savages whose excitability and ferocity are so well known as those of the Mishmis. There were three or four Abors quietly looking on, but taking no part in the amusements.

On the 18th, the Deputy-Commissioner held the usual Durbar to distribute the *posa*, which was well attended. Kherem Gam was the only chief of importance who did not attend. Kaladoi and Turu, his son, were very sulky, being apparently jealous of Lako; they refused their presents, so they were sent away without their *nazars* being accepted.

Next day Kaladoi asked to be forgiven. The Deputy-Commissioner told him that he was highly displeased, and that he must never repeat such behaviour. The value of the articles sold to the tribes at the fair is estimated at Rs. 53,240, against Rs. 30,525 in the preceding year.

NÁGAS.

36. Our relations with the Nágas of the Lakhimpur district have been satisfactory during the year. There is nothing new to record of the Namsang and Borduaria Nágas: they are still at feud, one tribe attacking the other when they get a safe opportunity. Three Borduarias are said to have been murdered while travelling during the last cold weather.

The conduct of the various tribes of Nágas bordering on the Sibságar district has been, on the whole, satisfactory.

There has been, however, one exception, in the case of the Nangta Nágas, who speared two men belonging to the village of Molong Kong, where the Reverend Mr. Clarke, a Missionary, resides. Some Nágas of this village were on their way to the plains, when a party of Nangta Nágas, who were lying in wait for them, attacked them and wounded two of the Molong Kong men. Mr. Clarke brought the matter to notice, and, on sending for the headmen of the Nangta village, they at once confessed to the crime. There was also a second offence proved against this village, of making an ambuscade not far from the Amguri garden, in order to catch the Molong Kong men on their way to the plains. The Deputy-Commissioner imposed a fine on the village of Rs. 150, and detained two of the headmen till the money was paid, which was done in a very short time.

During the past cold season large numbers of Nágas have come down to trade and labour in the district. Some have been employed on earthwork on the tramway line now in course of construction at Jorhát, while others have worked on tea-gardens.

In February a fire broke out in the Jorhát Bazar, resulting in the death of a woman and the destruction of houses and property estimated to be worth about Rs. 6,000. A party of Nágas were halting in the neighbourhood of the fire at the time, and it was generally supposed that it originated through their carelessness. An order was issued, prohibiting Nágas from lighting fires in the vicinity of houses in the station.

In addition to the usual articles, consisting of cotton, mats, pân-leaves, chillies, and Nága cloths, which the Nágas annually bring down, a considerable amount of rubber has been imported from the hills, but the exact amount cannot be ascertained.

Mr. Clarke, the American Baptist Missionary, who with his wife resides in the Nága village of Molong Kong, south of Amguri, reports that he has been very successful in proselytising among the Nágas. In March last some Nágas of the Molong tribe came to the Deputy-Commissioner, and said they had adopted Mr. Clarke's religion, and had no wish to make war on their neighbours, and wished the

Deputy-Commissioner to interfere between them and the Kangon tribe of Nágas, who reside near the Dikhu. The Deputy-Commissioner has sent for the headmen of the Kangon tribe, and anticipates that he will be able to prevent them from interfering with the others who wish for peace. The work Mr. Clarke has commenced will no doubt bring good results in the future.

The Assistant-Commissioner of Golághát reports that, having heard indirectly that a trader on the Wokha road treated the Lhota Nágas with considerable oppression, forcing them to sell cotton to him at his own price, he sent for the trader and warned him that if complaints of this nature were substantiated against him he would be deprived of the liberty of trading with the Nágas.

37. The Mikirs have behaved well, and give no trouble to the police authorities.

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

38. The good relations that have now subsisted for years with the Lushais continued unimpaired during the past year. In respect of one small matter only has

Lushai frontier.

it been necessary to take exception to the behaviour of any of these people. In April last a party of Lushais who had come down to collect rubber fell in with some woodcutters in the Inner Line forest reserve, and demanded rent from them. On the matter being reported to the Deputy-Commissioner, he sent a *parwána* to Sukpílal, whose subjects the offenders were said to be. Sukpílal took the matter up promptly, and summoned the principal offender, one Lalapa, Mantri of Mintang punji, whom he fined and also personally chastised. He also expressed a hope that any Lushais who interfered with British subjects in our territory might, if arrested, be punished by the Deputy-Commissioner. In the month of May a letter, received from the Changsil Bazar, stated that Sukpílal was seriously ill, and wished, if possible, to have an interview with Rai Hari Charan Sarma Bahádur before his death. Major Boyd, therefore, with the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, despatched that officer, with an escort of 10 men of the Frontier Police, to the Changsil Bazar, whence he proceeded to Sukpílal's village. He found Sukpílal much reduced and suffering from fistula, for the removal of which the chief was very anxious that a medical man might be deputed.

In the report on our relations with these tribes during 1879-80 mention was made of the barbarous murder of a family, one of the members of which was supposed to be a sorceress, by the notorious Ratan Singh, at the bidding of Khalkam, the eldest son now living of Sukpílal. In January 1880 a Rangkal Kuki, with his wife and four children, took refuge in Cachar; the man stated that he was connected with the unfortunates who had been murdered, and that he feared Khalkam might condemn him to a similar fate. In December last, 10 men, 7 women, and 19 children, claimed protection on the same ground. When lately on tour in the Lushai country, the Deputy-Commissioner passed through the village from which these people came, and learnt that in all 25 families had thus abandoned Khalkam, and taken refuge either

in British territory or in the villages of chiefs who were able to protect them from Khalkam. This considerable defection will probably induce Khalkam to act less barbarously in future.

On the 13th January last Major Boyd started on tour in the Lushai country, and was absent a month from the district. He was able to meet seven chiefs, exclusive of the infant son and heir of Sukpial. News of the death of the last-mentioned chief reached him after his departure from Silchar.

From time to time during the past year reports have been received of petty raids committed by the several chiefs in pursuance of the quarrel which broke out four years ago between Sukpial and his sons on the one hand and Lengkam and Poiboi on the other. Had Sukpial lived, it is possible arrangements might have been made to effect an amicable settlement during the Deputy-Commissioner's tour in those hills ; but the death of the most powerful of their opponents has encouraged Poiboi and Lengkam to prosecute the quarrel. In addition to their internal feuds, the contending parties are threatened by the Suktes on the extreme east and the Howlongs on the south.

The death of Sukpial is to be regretted, as his great influence has been steadily exerted in favour of the maintenance of friendly and conciliatory relations with our Government. His work will not, however, die with him. During his late tour Major Boyd had frequent opportunities of noticing how thoroughly the conviction of the paramount importance of retaining the favour of Government was entertained by the chiefs and their headmen, and as the pressure of the less-civilised tribes on the flanks and rear of the Lushais increases year by year, so will the urgent need for the continuance of amicable relations become to these latter more and more apparent.

39. The submission of the Angami Nágas which followed the capture of Khonoma has restored quiet to the North Cachar frontier, and it only remains now briefly to mention the precautionary measures that have been taken in view to a recurrence of further raids. For the protection of the plains portion of the district three earthworks, garrisoned by the Frontier Police, have been formed, at Aisacherra, Jaipur, and Báladhan ; these posts are connected by a path, which is regularly patrolled by parties detailed from the several posts ; the Frontier Police have been instructed in signalling, and arrangements have been made by means of which communications between the outposts and head-quarters can be exchanged within a very short space of time. For the watch and ward of the extended and difficult frontier of North Cachar a militia consisting of 100 Kukis has been raised ; this force has been employed in patrolling the border from the Guilong to the Hangrum outpost ; while to bar the way to any marauding party that might attempt to slip in between the Hangrum outpost and the plains two stockaded Kuki villages have been established. Finally, the North Cachar sub-division has been re-opened, and a more effective control over the hill population has been secured by the establishment of a European officer in the hills during the cold season.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

40. The weather throughout the year was seasonable, and the district was particularly healthy. The rainfall at Shillong was exactly the average of the five previous years, 97·75 inches. The crops were abundant, and the general condition of the people prosperous. The prices of food and labour during the year differed very little from those of the previous year, although from the abundant harvest it might have been expected that they would have fallen. The district, however, is unable to feed itself, and, since it depends upon importation for a portion of its food-supply, the price at which imported grain sells rules the market for that produced in the hills.

Colonel Clarke reports that the state of public feeling in the hills is satisfactory. The relations of the Seims of the petty States with the District Officer are all that could be desired, and the populations of the small States are generally well affected towards their chiefs, and appear to be happy and contented with the system under which they are ruled. The 25 villages belonging to the State of Khyrim, referred to in paragraph 51 of last year's Administration Report, to whom self-government was conceded in 1879, have behaved quietly and well during the year. These villages are said to have now practically shaken themselves free of the authority of their Seim, who exercises no power over them.

41. The Census operations in the hills were successfully carried through, chiefly owing to the exertions of Colonel Clarke and the interest taken in the matter by him. The enumeration was not synchronous, except in certain special areas, but extended over the whole cold weather. The nature of the district and the absence of an available staff of Khási enumerators of sufficient strength made it impossible to have a synchronous enumeration.

The result of the Census shows that the population has increased 19·22 per cent. since the last enumeration. It is, however, hardly safe to assume that the figures of 1872 were as near the truth as those of the present year. The numbers were—

1872		141,838
1881		169,113
	Increase	27,275

A very remarkable feature in the Census of this district is the extraordinary preponderance of females over males. The Census of 1872 showed 73,245 females to 68,593 males, while that of the present year gives 88,710 of the former to 80,403 of the latter: that is, the district contains 110·3 women to every 100 men. That female births slightly preponderate in numbers is believed to be a general law throughout northern Europe, but in southern Europe and in almost every part of India the contrary is the case. This great excess in a small and isolated population is a fact of which it is difficult to suggest a satisfactory explanation, and the accuracy of the Census must remain open to doubt till it can be more fully tested. In the Gáro and North Cachar Hills the excess of females is trifling.

GÁRO HILLS.

42. Some disturbances occurred towards the close of the year among the Gáro villages in the neighbourhood of Randupára. The tract affected lies between the Didak river on the east, the Rompáni river on the west, the plains of Goálpára on the north, and the villages of Ribugiri on the south.

The immediate cause of the outbreak was the demand for labour to open out a new road from Tura to Bangalkháta. The jungle clearing necessary for laying down the first trace was obtained without difficulty; but when the earthwork was taken in hand, the inhabitants of a group of some eighteen villages round about Randupára, who had been little visited by European officials, and had never been accustomed to contribute labour for public works, combined to make a strike against the demand for labourers, and threatened further to injure any other villages which might obey the orders of Government. In consequence, all work was stopped, and some alarm was excited among the Hajong and Rabha inhabitants of the plains villages near Bangalkháta, many of whom left their homes. The Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára, however, pushed forward 50 police towards Bangalkháta, and confidence was restored. On the 13th March, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Gáro Hills marched from Tura with 100 police, and in three days reached Ribugiri, the most southerly of the disturbed villages. Only the Lakma, or head of the village, and three men were found here, the rest having run away. The insurgents had expected him to march by the new road, and had assembled in numbers between 200 and 400 to resist his advance, but finding that he took the direct and little-travelled path through Ribugiri they dispersed. Next day Randupára, the headquarters of the disturbance, was reached. On arriving at the first hamlet, which was that of the Lakma Marsin, a man of much influence in this neighbourhood, and one of the ringleaders in the combination, only he and a few men were found seated in the village. No resistance was offered, but when called upon to give up their arms the men disappeared into the jungle: but subsequently they gave up their arms. At this place the Deputy-Commissioner was joined by the Goálpára police, under Mr. Goad, District Superintendent of Police. Information was next sent to the remaining two hamlets, and the villagers were directed to bring in their arms; but no notice was taken, and on the following day these hamlets were visited. They were found to be perfectly empty, every article, including grain, having been removed; and, as the villagers still refused to come in and give up their arms, the village was fired.

On the 21st March the village of Hamongiri was visited, and here again, as every effort to induce the Lakma and people to come in with their arms proved unsuccessful, the village was burned. After this, the remaining villages came in, and the whole combination collapsed, two others of the ringleaders having given themselves up, and a fourth having been arrested. These men have since been released without further punishment, subject only to the condition of reporting themselves periodically to the Deputy-Commissioner, and satisfying him that they are behaving peaceably and well. A stockade has been erected

by the Deputy-Commissioner on the Rangai river, three or four miles south of Bangalkhâta, to give confidence to the people of the plains.

The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the Lashkars, the fiscal officers in charge of circles of villages, and the Lakmas, or village headmen, have behaved well on the whole. The Lashkars, it is pointed out, have not at present very much influence or authority, but the Deputy-Commissioner is of opinion that in time this may be acquired.

A careful examination of the forests in the Gáro Hills has been made, and proposals for the reservation of forests have been submitted.

43. A synchronous Census was held of the plains portions of the district only. The nature of this part of the country, which is broken up by the spurs running down into the plains, made the work very difficult and expensive in proportion to the small number of people enumerated. In the hill tracts the villages only were counted, and the number of houses they contained. An experimental Census was conducted in a certain number of houses in a few villages, with a view to ascertain the average number of persons per house, and this was found to be 5.5. On this calculation, the Census showed 85,338 hillmen, Gáros, and 23,716, members of other tribes. The total population is now returned as 109,000, an increase of 29,000, or 36 per cent., over the population the district was estimated to contain in 1872, when the figure was placed at 80,000. The number of males and females is almost exactly equal. The Census operations were viewed with some suspicion: the general impression, which it was impossible entirely to eradicate from the minds of the people, being that they were preliminary to the imposition of new taxation. Considering, however, this was the first time a Census of these hills has been taken, the excitement was very slight.

NÁGA HILLS.

44. An account was given in last year's report of the military operations in the Nága Hills, and of the conclusion of the expedition by the surrender of the Chakka Forts, situated above the village of Khonoma, on the 28th March 1881. The close of the last official year was thus almost synchronous with the cessation of hostilities. This year's record should, therefore, be a narrative of the measures which have been taken to restore or establish peace and order, and to bring our late antagonists into relations of friendliness and quiet obedience to British authority. Although, however, the year has been for the most part uneventful, marked by no outbreak or deed of violence on the part of the Nágas, much cannot be written of the progress which has been made in conciliating the Angamis, and turning them into peaceful subjects of the Queen. The chief reason of this backwardness in reclaiming the district has been the doubt which prevailed, among both the military and civil representatives of authority in the hills and the Nágas themselves, regarding the intentions of the Government of India during the greater part of the year. The final decision, that the Nága Hills shall be maintained as a British district, with Kohima for its head-quarters, was only arrived at in February 1881.

The terms on which peace was made with the villages arrayed against us, and their submission accepted, in the months of March and April 1880, have already been stated in last year's Report. Generally,

those villages which took part against us were punished by fines in grain and cash, and in a certain amount of unpaid labour. They had to surrender, without compensation, the firearms they were known to possess, and those that stood out against us were in most instances punished by the demolition of their village, and in some instances by a removal of the site from a fortified and inaccessible crest to a position more easily accessible. In the case of the village of Khonoma, the confiscation of its terraced cultivation was ordered, and the dispersion of its *khels* among other villages at a distance; and from all villages an agreement was taken to pay revenue in the shape of one maund of rice and one rupee per house, to furnish a certain amount of labour annually at a low rate for State purposes, and to appoint a headman, who should be responsible for good order and for carrying out the wishes of Government.

In the course of the year, the late Chief Commissioner found it necessary to sanction some modifications in these terms. The changes were all in the direction of greater leniency. The two main points in which the conditions laid down were relaxed were—(1) permission was given to the dispossessed villages or *khels* to re-occupy their old cultivation; and (2) the terms of the revenue assessment were modified.

The Political Officer from time to time reported that the punishment inflicted by our troops had been far more severe in its results than was at first supposed. The dispossessed villagers of Khonoma and other communities had not only been deprived of their homes, but, by the confiscation of their settled cultivation, they had, during the whole of the past year, been reduced to the condition of houseless wanderers, dependent to a great extent on the charity of their neighbours, and living in temporary huts in the jungles. The result had been great sickness and mortality among them, and a severe strain upon the resources of those who had had to supply them with food. The object aimed at in the policy of Government was to induce the dispossessed clans to settle elsewhere, either bodily in Manipur, where land and an asylum had been offered them, or on fresh land in the Nāga Hills, which was pointed out to them by the Political Officer. But in this we were disappointed. They could not be persuaded willingly to settle elsewhere, and from the nature of the case wholesale coercion was impossible. No other Nāgas were willing to take up the confiscated lands, fearing probably future retribution; and the dispossessed clans, except in occasional instances, had, for the most part, been receiving such shelter and livelihood as they could obtain from the villages in the neighbourhood of their old homes.

Under these circumstances, finding the prosecution of the policy of dispersion impossible, Sir Steuart Bayley considered that the question was narrowed to one of the sufficiency of the punishment already inflicted. After learning from Major Michell where the dispossessed clans were, how they were living, and what was their condition and attitude, he came to the conclusion that their punishment had been terribly severe; that the risk of their supposing that we were actuated by weakness in restoring their lands was not great; and that the first step towards enforcing on them permanently peaceful habits must be

to let them have not only the means of livelihood, but lands, the loss of which they would not again lightly care to risk. He therefore agreed to let the dispossessed *khels* return to their confiscated lands, on condition that they were not to be reoccupied till February 1881, when the cultivating season commenced, and with the further condition, in the case of Khonoma, that the village site would on no account whatever be restored to them, and that the three *khels* must build their houses on separate sites in the valley, aloof from their former strong position on the heights, to be marked off for them by the Political Officer. These conditions were accepted, the new sites occupied, and when Mr. Elliott visited Khonoma, in March 1881, he found houses already built, and the *khels* engaged in preparing for their cultivation.

In regard to the rates of revenue to be assessed, the Chief Commissioner had all along held that, in the first instance, the measure was important rather from a political than from a fiscal point of view; and he insisted on it as a public and well-understood symbol of obedience rather than as a valuable contribution to the revenue. Major Michell pointed out that, in his opinion, the assessment of one rupee, plus one maund of rice, per house was far too high, and that this year at all events it could not possibly be collected. They had not, he said, the rice to give, as much grain was destroyed in the operations of the troops. There were many more mouths than usual to be fed, and much land, especially in the neighbourhood of Kohima, was uncultivated. Cash they had in greater plenty than usual, as our payments for labour and for rice had made money circulate largely in the hills; but they had not more rice than was necessary to feed themselves. Sir Steuart Bayley, therefore, consented to the Political Officer changing the general rate of assessment from one rupee and one maund of rice per house to two rupees a house, which is the usual rate at which house-tax is levied from other wild tribes in Assam, and from the villages which have hitherto paid revenue in the Nāga Hills; and he allowed him large latitude in dealing with the assessment of any particular village. These rates have been readily accepted, and were paid punctually and spontaneously.

In the matter of forced labour, the conditions of the agreements have not been formally abrogated, and labour has been demanded and given in accordance with our requirements from time to time. But it was not found possible to regulate its incidence so that the burthen should fall equally on all villages bound to bear it: those far from Kohima and the road down to the plains escaped, while those nearer were unduly pressed. In all cases, however, wages have been paid at the full rate of four annas a day, instead of the subsistence rate of two annas. In the matter of fines, also, the Political Officer has been lenient, not demanding the full payment when he had reason to think that it could not be paid without some hardship.

The attitude of the tribes during the year has thus been one partly of exhaustion and partly of expectancy. The indirect results of the war were far more grievous to them than the actual hostilities; and those on whom the blow had fallen hoped, by quiet and peaceable demeanour, to earn some relaxation in the stringency of the conditions

to which they were bound. Accordingly, throughout the year there was little or no crime, no outbreak, and no necessity to employ force. There were many disquieting rumours, it is true, most of which originated in Manipur; but these gradually passed away, and no evil followed.

The difficulties with which the force occupying the hills have had to contend have been terrible: there was cholera on the line of communications and scurvy in the hills; great mortality and desertion in the transport train; bridges and roads washed away, with no local labour to fall back upon for repairs. But, so far, the policy pursued has been apparently successful. The revenue has been paid up, and the peace kept. Major Michell at the close of 1880 reported that officers could safely go about the hills unattended, and that sepoy visited the villages as freely as in the Khási Hills; while he had had on more than one occasion to refuse revenue from distant villages, situated beyond the boundary fixed by Sir Steuart Bayley at the conclusion of the expedition.

Of deeds of violence, the Political Officer reports only (1) an affray at Kigwema in December 1880, where two clans contended with two others with sticks and stones, and two persons were killed: the village was fined Rs. 200, which amount was paid; (2) a murder near the village of Kekrima of a Nāga of Viswema, the perpetrators of which had not up to the close of the year been detected; and (3) the murder of a man of Kohima at Chajubama, a village outside our frontier, whither he had gone to trade. This last event resulted, in April 1881, in an expedition being led by the Political Officer against Chajubama, which was burnt.

The revenue, as already mentioned, was got in from the Angami Nāgas without any necessity for using force. The Lhota and Rengma Nāgas (except those of the latter tribe living across the Dhansiri in the Mikir Hills) have not yet been assessed to revenue. Their attitude during the year was one of complete tranquillity.

The difficulties of transmitting supplies to the force in occupation of the hills have already been noticed. These difficulties were aggravated by the uncertainty of the position, which prevented measures of permanent effect from being taken for the greater part of the year.

45. In March 1881 Mr. Elliott visited the hills. Entering them at Nichu Guard, he marched through the Diphu gorge to Zumha, and thence by the ordinary road, *viâ* Pherrima and Piphima, to Keruphima, whence he diverged to Sachema, Mezuma, and Khonoma. From Khonoma he travelled, *viâ* Jotsoma, to Kohima, examining all the sites which had been suggested as suitable for a head-quarters station. The result of his examination was that Kohima was decided on as the only place offering the necessary conditions for a permanent head-quarters. Leaving Kohima, he marched to Wokha by the country of the Rengma, Sema, and Lhota Nāgas, and descended on the plains at Merapani at the end of March. The result of his observations was recorded in a memorandum, the conclusions and recommendations of which, with the manner in which they have been carried out, will form the subject of next year's Report.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—SURVEYS.

46. No. 6 Topographical party worked during last winter in the district of Sylhet and in Hill Tipperah. The survey in the south of Sylhet was conducted on the scale of 2 inches to the mile, and the area completed was 155·5 square miles; besides this, 35 miles of boundaries of estates were laid down by the theodolite and chain measurements. In Hill Tipperah, the survey was confined to the valley of the Juri river, where 192·7 square miles was plane-tabled on the scale of half an inch to two miles, and some heights were taken to determine the fall of the river. The country under survey was of the same intricate and difficult nature as that surveyed in former seasons.

During the recess, the detailed survey of the station of Shillong on the scale of 24 inches to the mile was taken up, and all but two plane-tables to the west of the Umshirpi was completed.

The cost of the different scales of survey was as follows:—

Scale 2"=1 mile in South Sylhet.....	Rs.	231-8-0 per sq. mile.
„ ½"=1 „ Hill Tipperah	„	46-5-0 ditto.

The cost per mile of the Shillong survey cannot easily be expressed, as the work was done by the survey establishment when it would otherwise not be employed at field work at all. It is, therefore, practically nominal.

47. The survey of the *lá-khiráj* and *nisf-khiráj* estates in Kámrup has been reported on in Section I., Land Revenue, Chapter V. of the report.

48. A detailed description of the operations of the survey party in Cachar will be found in the following section on “Settlements.”

SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENTS.

49. Excluding the ordinary annual and other settlements in the Assam Valley Districts, which have been noticed in Section I., Land

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Revenue, Chapter V. of the Report, for the reasons stated therein, the following settlements were in progress during the year:—

- (1) Re-settlement of the *ilám* estates in Sylhet.
- (2) Ditto of other petty estates in Sylhet.
- (3) Ditto of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet.
- (4) Settlement of waste lands in Cachar.
- (5) Re-settlement of the district of Cachar.
- (6) Annual re-settlements in the Gáro Hills.

50. During the year under report 71 *ilám* estates, containing an area of 13,649 acres, were measured, and the measurements in 67 estates, comprising an area of 11,338 acres, tested. 170 estates, with an area of 3,280 acres, which were assessed at the former settlement at Rs. 940, were re-settled at an annual revenue of Rs. 2,055, showing an increase of 118 per cent. The settlements have been generally made with the former holders. One of the estates re-settled during the year bore a *jama* below Re. 1, and was redeemed by payment of twenty-five years' purchase. The terms of the remaining settlements expire,—85 in 1893 A.D., 18 in 1894 A.D., 18 in 1895 A.D., and 48 in 1896 A.D.

The following statement shows the amount of work which remained to be done on the 1st April 1881:—

	Number of estates.	Area in acres.
(1) To be measured.....	9	49,130
(2) To be tested out of those already measured.	28	29,254
(3) To be settled, inclusive of headings (1) and (2).	346	242,752

Out of the last mentioned 346 estates, 309, comprising 164,368 acres, were ready for settlement at the close of the year. Many of the estates pending settlement are covered with jungle, and will shortly be transferred to the Waste Land Register. 45 estates, comprising an area of 46,986 acres, have already been so transferred since the close of the year.

The settlement of the *ilám* estates during the year cost Rs. 6,099, or 11 annas 10 pie per acre settled. This is an improvement over the last year's return.

Since the close of the year the completion report of the *ilám* settlements in Sylhet has been received. It will be fully noticed in the report for 1881-82.

51. During the year under report 6 petty estates other than *ilám* in the district of Sylhet, containing 114 acres, were measured, and in 10 *maháls* covering an area of 123 acres, measurements made in this and previous years were tested; settlements were concluded of 50 estates, comprising an area of 1,670 acres, at an annual revenue of Rs. 1,197, against Rs. 873, the former *jama* of these *maháls*. All the settlements expire in 1907 A.D. On the 1st April 1881 there remained 4 estates, comprising 130 acres to be measured, and 76 estates, with an area of 404 acres, whose measurements had been tested, to be settled. Many of these *maháls* are of little

value, and it is difficult to conclude settlements. The cost of these settlements during the year was Rs. 3,245, or Re. 1-7 per acre. The scattered and petty nature of the estates makes the cost heavy.

The Deputy-Commissioner has reported that this settlement is almost completed, only a few isolated *maháls* remaining to be disposed of, which from various causes could not be settled before.

The *maháls* treated of here are scattered estates belonging to Government and temporarily settled; they closely resemble the *ilám maháls*, and differ only in their past history, and in the manner in which they have come to be Government property. They belong to six classes:—

- (1) *Nánkár Patwárigiri*.—Lands formerly held by the *pargana* (not village) *patwáris* as *nánkár*, *i.e.*, in lieu of salary. The *patwáris* were abolished in 1833, and the lands ordered to be assessed in 1835.
- (2) *Char Bharat*.—Alluvial accretions, which in Sylhet all belong to the State.
- (3) *Bil Bharat*.—The silted-up beds of *bils*, which were excluded from the permanent settlement because they were then useless.
- (4) *Izád*.—Surplus lands discovered after the permanent settlement, and not included in it.
- (5) *Resumed revenue-free lands*.—Resumed because the grants on which they were held were invalid.
- (6) *Khás*.—Permanently-settled estates bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue.

These estates are mostly very small: only 23 exceed 100 acres, and 203 contain from 10 to 100 acres; the rest (over 2,000 in number) are all less than 10 acres. They had been settled on various systems and at various dates, and their settlements fell in between 1867 and 1880. They have now been re-settled for different periods, all ending simultaneously in 1907 A.D.

In 1876 (No. 3,490, dated the 21st October) their circumstances were reported to the Government of India, who decided (4th December 1876), in accordance with the Chief Commissioner's recommendations, that the *Ilám Settlement Rules* should be applied to these estates, *i.e.*, that the rates of assessment should be the rates paid by *ryots* in *zemin-dári* estates in similar and adjacent lands, with a reduction of 15 per cent. to meet the cost of collection; that the previous settlement-holders should have a right to be re-settled with, but no right to *malikána* if they refused to accept the offered settlement; that in the case, however, of the holders of resumed revenue-free estates, who presumably had proprietary rights, a right to *malikána* did exist; and that the settlement of all these estates should expire in 1907 A.D. It is under these rules that the settlement has been made.

The work is said to have commenced in 1867, but measurements only began in 1872-73. At first two Deputy-Collectors, each with a staff of clerks and a field establishment of *amins* and chainmen, were employed. After 1876 only one was so employed. The progress made has been extremely slow, and the cost enormously great. There are

altogether 2,427 *maháls*, with an area of 19,340 acres, and the Deputy-Commissioner reckons that to measure and settle this paltry area has cost Rs. 55,648 since April 1873, the expenditure before that date being so mixed up with other accounts that it is impossible to separate it. The cost has been at least Rs. 3 an acre.

The assessment paid before was Rs. 8,156 : the new assessment is Rs. 17,161-15-3, which is paid by 2,421 estates.

* 2 under re-measurement.
1 rates disputed.
8 under appeal before the
Deputy-Commissioner.

In 6* estates the settlement is not quite finished. The cost of assessment has therefore swallowed up more than six years of the increase in the

revenue.

52. A short account of the re-settlement of the Jaintia parganas in

Settlement of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet.

* Some of the figures given in the table appended to paragraph 71 of the last year's report were afterwards reported incorrect, and the correct figures cannot be finally ascertained for some time. When the revision is completed a revised statement will be submitted.

Sylhet was given in paragraph 71 of the previous year's report,* and in letter No. 2,186, dated the 24th November 1880, forwarding the completion report of the Jaintia Settlement, Sir Stuart Bayley fully noticed the results of the revised assessment, which had then been in force for two seasons in the six parganas of Sátbák, Bájeráj, Cháurá, Bardes, Chatul, and Báurbhág, assessed from the 1st April 1878, and for one season in the remaining eleven parganas. He observed that, while the six parganas first settled were fairly well able to bear the assessment imposed, it was now evident that a mistake had been made in applying the same rates indiscriminately to the remaining parganas, without due regard to such considerations as advantages of situation, immunity from damage by floods or ravages by wild animals, accessibility to markets, density of cultivating population, and the like. In three parganas, Piyáingul, Dhargám, and Jáflang, which were situated immediately under the hills, contained much uncultivated land, and were peculiarly liable to losses from flood, he was of opinion that a complete revision of the rates imposed at re-settlement was necessary. In the remaining eight of the eleven parganas in question he considered that, although it was doubtless the case that the rates had been hastily applied, and were ill suited to the conditions of cultivation, it would nevertheless be undesirable to renew the agitation and disturbance which had attended the settlement operations by re-opening the whole question of rates *de novo*, and that it would be sufficient to carry out a revision in scattered estates where the settlement had manifestly broken down. Accordingly, he recommended that in these eight parganas the rates should be reconsidered only in a portion of Jaintiapuri-Ráj comprising 45 estates, and in certain scattered tenures of other parganas, which, having fallen into arrears, had been exempted by the Deputy-Commissioner from sale, or had been bought in by Government. He further directed that, pending the completion of the proposed revision, 25 per cent. of the demand in the three abovementioned parganas and in the 45 *maháls* of Jaintiapuri-Ráj which were exempted from sale should be suspended.

The Government of India, while approving the measures adopted to mitigate the ill-effects of over-assessment, considered that the rates on which the new assessment was based should be revised over the whole of the 11 parganas, and directed that, pending the revision of the assessment, which would follow on the revision of the rates, care and lenity should be exercised in collecting the revenue, and that the process of sale should be avoided as far as possible. They also desired that the position of the subordinate occupants in the estates settled with middlemen should be examined, with a view to ascertain what security could be afforded them under the existing law.

From January last, Babu Shambhu Narayan Singh, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, with the establishment noted in the margin, was employed on the work of revision under the orders of the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet. His report, containing the result of the enquiries made by him in parganas Dhargám, Jáflang, and Piyáingul, has been received since the close of the year, and that on the remaining 8 parganas is still awaited. On receipt of this report, the result of his enquiries will be considered, and it is probable that a substantial reduction of revenue will be directed.

	Ra.
1 Clerk	25
1 Amin	20
Ditto	15
2 chainmen @ Ra. 5 each	10
4 peons @ Ra. 6 each	24
Total	94

53. The number of applications for settlement of waste lands under the Mirásdári Rules in Cachar was 144 (1 from a tea-planter and 143 from ordinary ryots). Adding the 90 applications pending on the 1st April 1880, there were altogether 234 applications for disposal during the year, as compared with 356 in 1879-80. Of these, 231 were disposed of, leaving 3 applications pending at the close of the year. The area settled was 9,595 acres, with a maximum revenue of Rs. 6,703, against 16,129 acres settled during the previous year, with a maximum revenue of Rs. 11,843. Of the total area settled, 3,761 acres, with a revenue of Rs. 2,559, were taken up by planters, against 5,966 acres in the previous year. The decrease in the area taken up for the cultivation of tea is explained to be due partly to the depressed state of the tea industry and partly to the increasing scarcity of land suitable for the cultivation of tea without a disproportionate outlay for labour. The remainder, or 5,834 acres, bearing a revenue of Rs. 4,144, was taken up by ordinary ryots. The area taken up in the previous year was 10,163 acres. The Deputy-Commissioner gives the following explanation for this falling off:—

“The true reason for the decrease was that the people of the district were too busily engaged in the re-settlement of their lands to go in for new settlements. Depreciation of land, due to the fall in the price of food-grains, also accounts for the smaller number of applications for waste lands.”

The area of the three pending applications is estimated at 14 acres, which, at the current rate, will give a maximum revenue of about Rs. 10.

54. A short account of the system of survey pursued was given in paragraph 73 of the last year's report. A more detailed description, given by the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, who is in charge of the settlement, is now furnished:—

"The first operation is the demarcation of the mauza boundaries by amfns supervised by the Deputy-Collectors. The amfn, who is furnished with the records of the former settlement survey, defines on the ground the boundary of the mauza as pointed out to him by the villagers, referring to the old survey papers for guidance when difficulties arise. At each bend in the boundary he plants a demarcation stone and temporarily demarcates the course of the intermediate lines by stakes or mounds of earth. After the boundary of the mauza is thus demarcated, the Deputy-Collector sends intimation to the Revenue Surveyor, who deposes a Sub-Surveyor to make a theodolite survey of the area. Each permanent demarcation stone constitutes a theodolite station, and a framework is thus provided within which the khasra amfn can work. The Sub-Surveyor is not required to adhere exactly to the demarcated boundary-line, but his lines must not be run at any point further than 5 chains from the proper boundary.

"On the completion of the mauza boundary the amfn proceeds with the demarcation of the *maháls* under reclamation leases lying within the mauza; these boundaries are relaid in accordance with the old survey papers, and demarcation stones are planted at the several angles.

"The Revenue Surveyor, after testing the work of the Sub-Surveyors, furnishes a sheet (or sheets) of the mauza to the Deputy-Collector. These sheets show the polygon figure surveyed by the Sub-Surveyor, and, as an assistance to the khasra amfns, the sheets of all mauzas except the smallest are divided into subdivisions by traverse lines, each point of intersection which is a theodolite station being marked on the sheets. The amfn then ascertains the proper boundary by offsets, and enters it on the sheet; he then proceeds to lay the boundaries of the several *maháls*, and afterwards makes a khasra survey of those *maháls* which are liable to re-settlement.

"In addition to the work above mentioned the professional party is employed in relaying the boundaries of the several grants held in fee-simple, under 99 years' leases, &c., which were professionally surveyed in former years. Each of these grants constitutes a mauza."

The continuance of this revised system of survey was sanctioned by the Government of India in letter No. 38, dated the 17th January 1881.

55. The professional survey party of the strength noted on the margin resumed field operations on the 20th November 1880. Assistant-Surveyor Mr. T. J. Campbell was transferred to the Forest Department on the 10th November 1880, and Mr. P. A. Peters was appointed in his place. The latter officer joined the party on the 5th January 1881.

At the close of the field operations of season 1879-80, there remained for survey 24 mauzas, and the relaying of boundaries, according to Mr. Davey's survey, of three grants. During the year the Deputy-Collectors furnished lists of 126 mauzas demarcated, and of 23 grants.

The following statement shows the outturn of work done during the season:—

Name of pargana.	Number of mauzas.	Number of sub-divisions.	Number of stations.	Distance in chains.	Area in acres.
Halkandi	4	7	176	1,874-13	2,659-90
Sarapur	8	4	294	2,140-28	4,349-86
Vernerpur	6	2	753	4,689-03	17,261-14
Bikrampur	1	..	12	168-33	.....
Rajnagar	11	7	228	3,421-85	7,561-17
Barkhola	16	10	264	4,220-86	9,601-16
Ularband	15	12	385	5,835-32	12,875-19
Barakpur	18	19	407	7,662-06	22,278-22
Jainagar	15	10	221	3,378-29	8,328-51
Nonapur	17	25	425	7,436-17	18,617-43
Chatlahowar .....	.....	2	11	209-34	637-98
Banskandi	2	1	58	786-07	2,100-00
Bandraj	1	8	35	740-80	2,694-62
Total	116	102	3,269	43,162-03	119,445-18

* Only boundary survey.

Besides the above, 53-32 linear miles of boundary on 14 grants were relaid according to Mr. Davey's survey of season 1864-68. The work was chiefly done by Assistant-Surveyor Mr. Peters.

During the recess months, miscellaneous computations, mapping, and typing work was done, of which the following is an abstract:—

	Number of sheets.
Plotted	52
Typed	84
Traced and inked in.....	69
Field-number typed.....	99
Conventional signs drawn	90
Borders, scales, &c., inked in.....	116
Foot-notes, &c., typed.....	137
Offsets calculated.....	111
Area of mauzas planimeted.....	90
Field areas calculated	53
Number of fields	5,190
Preliminary examination.....	111

The following table shows the actual cost of the party from the 1st November 1879 to the 31st May 1881, including contingencies:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
From 1st November 1879 to 31st October 1880 ...	16,659	6	9
" " 1880 to 31st May 1881	14,290	0	1
Total	30,949	6	10

The area surveyed up to date is tabulated as follows:—

Seasons.	Main circuits.	Mauza and grants.	Sub-divisions.	Number of sheets.	Area in acres.	Area in square miles.
1878-79 ...	No. 1	76	237	163	71,111-51	111-11
1879-80 ...	" 2-3	100	112	231	101,040-68	157-87
1880-81 ...	" 4	116	102	222	119,445-18	186-63
Total ...	" 4	292	451	616	291,597-37	455-61

Mr. Patterson reports that the survey work in certain parganas proceeded during the year at a very slow rate, owing to the boundaries of the mauzas in these parganas passing through dense jungle and over hills most difficult of access, and to sickness among surveyors, and other causes, but that the party worked well, and on the whole good progress was made.

56. The work done by the civil party from the 1st April 1880 to 30th June 1881, is recorded here. In future, both Mr. Patterson's and the Deputy-Commissioner's report will be for the year ending the 30th June.

The field establishment entertained under each of the three Deputy-Collectors consisted of 1 peshkar, 1 naib peshkar, and 30 amíns. From the middle of November 1880 to the close of the field season one of the Deputy-Collectors was allowed a special establishment of 3 naib-peshkars and 35 amíns, with a view to complete the detailed survey of the Hailákáñdi, Saraspur, and Vernerpur parganas during the field season.

During the period mentioned above the civil party demarcated 201 mauzas (including waste land grants) completely and 10 mauzas partly, out of 230 mauzas and grants under demarcation. The progress of the demarcation work was less than could be desired. The Deputy-Commissioner gives the following principal reasons for the slow rate of progress:—

- (1) A considerable portion of the area under demarcation consisted of very difficult country lying among the spurs of the North Cachar Hills and the Bhuban range, and much of the land which it was necessary to demarcate was covered with dense jungle; these tracts also were sparsely populated, and consequently the difficulties in the way of obtaining labour for line-cutting were considerable. The outbreak of cattle-disease is also reported to have increased the difficulty of inducing the people to furnish ready assistance in some parts of the district.
- (2) The amount of sickness among the amíns and surveyors employed in the more unhealthy parts of the country at the base of the hills.
- (3) The unusually heavy rainfall towards the close of March and in April, which in some places very seriously interfered with the progress of the survey, owing to the inundation of the low-lying lands.

In the parganas named in the margin, out of 133 mauzas, containing 2,980 *maháls*, detailed measurements were wholly completed in 128 mauzas, containing 2,872 estates, and partly in 78 estates situated in the remaining 5 mauzas. The total area surveyed is 93,531 acres 3 roods and 18 poles.

There remained 30 estates to be surveyed cadastrally in these parganas. The subjoined statement shows the survey and settlement work completed during the period under review, and that still remaining to be done:—

	Completed (mauzas).	Remaining to be done (mauzas).
Demarcation	201	29
Polygonal survey	113	152
Khasra	128	209
Compilation of settlement records	75	317

The following statement shows the number of cases instituted during the fifteen months ending 30th June 1881, and those disposed of by the Deputy-Collectors:—

Description of cases.	Pending at the close of 1879-80.	Instituted from 1st April 1880, up to 30th June 1881.	Total.	Disposed of.	Pending.
(1) Boundary disputes.....	70	399	469	832	137
(2) Registration of names as occupants and cases regarding possession	270	2,090	2,360	2,100	260
(3) Settlement of <i>khás</i> lands	236	539	775	372	403
(4) Enquiries regarding revenue-free tenures	21	38	59	20	39
(5) Miscellaneous	37	382	419	347	72
Total	634	3,448	4,082	3,171	911

Up to the 30th June 1881 there were 60 appeals for disposal, of which 2 were struck off, 4 remanded; in 37 cases the original orders were confirmed, in 5 cases reversed, and in 4 cases modified by the Deputy-Commissioner; 8 cases remained pending on the 1st July 1881.

The total cost of the civil party amounted during the period under review to Rs. 77,710. In future, details of the expenditure will be given according to the division of the work. The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the relations between the survey party and the *mirásdars*, with the exception of some managers of tea-gardens who gave unnecessary trouble to the survey party, and caused needless delay in the survey, were on the whole satisfactory.

57. Proposals for the revision of the rates of assessment in the Kati-
 Proposed revenue rates for the gora tahsil were submitted to the Government of India in July 1880, and, after some discussion, were finally sanctioned by them in their letter No. 106, dated the 2nd February 1881; but, owing to the great mortality amongst cattle which has occurred during the past year, and to the sudden and marked

fall in the price of rice, it has been considered unwise to introduce these rates, and the Deputy-Commissioner has been requested to submit revised proposals as early as possible.

58. The following comparative statement shows the results of the annual settlements in the Gáro Hills during the year under review. The settlements are now made on the basis of the Assam Settlement Rules, and will not appear here in future:—

Name of <i>mahál</i> .	Demand in		Increase. Decrease.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Khanabari Mahatran	89	91	2	.....
(2) Karaibári	2,599	2,507	.....	92
(3) Kalumalupára	5,764	5,238	.....	516
(4) Sherpur	987	861	.....	126
(5) Gendupára	184	201	17	.....
(6) Dangkháng	60	72	12	.....
(7) Laskar's <i>Nazarána</i> lands.....	.....	487	487	.....
Total	9,673	9,457*	518	734

* This does not include the revenue (since remitted) of lands relinquished.

The net result is a decrease of Rs. 216. The falling off, it will be seen, principally occurred in the villages of Sherpur and Kalumalupára. In the former the diminution in the demand is attributed to the introduction of the uniform rates of assessment in force in Assam Proper, in place of the differential rates hitherto levied by the zemindárs. In Kalumalupára the decrease is stated to have been caused by the relinquishment of a considerable quantity of land by the new settlers, who took up more land than they could cultivate and pay for. Some slight decrease also occurred in the Karaibári villages, owing to the prevalence of the sickness called "*Kálá Hazár*" in one or two villages.

The "*Laskar's nazarána lands*" were settled for the first time during the year. These lands were claimed by the Laskars on the north-east border (near Damra) as "*lá-khíráj*," but were really held on payment of certain tribute as "*nazar*" fixed long ago by Mr. Scott and others, but not fixed in perpetuity, so far as the Deputy-Commissioner could ascertain. These Laskars had enjoyed the whole rent of these lands for many years without any attempt on the part of Government to assert its right. Not only did Government not demand a fair share of the revenue, but it even tacitly waived its claim to the old *nazar*. The Chief Commissioner, at the suggestion of the present Deputy-Commissioner, ordered that the lands should be surveyed and assessed in the same way as the rest of the district, and that the resulting revenue should be equally divided between the Government and the Laskars.

The determination of the boundary-line between the A and B villages of the Mechpára estate, referred to in paragraph 74 of the last year's report, was completed during the year, the A villages being those inhabited by Gáros in which the authority of the zemindárs was weak, and which are now to be managed by the Deputy-Commissioner, 25 per

cent. of the receipts being retained by Government; while the B villages are those inhabited by plains people, and managed by the zemindárs themselves, paying 15 per cent. of the receipts to Government. The settlement of the boundary was delayed by a dispute as to the situation of two villages, Rámpur and Rangdan, which were in the B list, but had long ceased to exist, the inhabitants having removed further south, and carried the old names to new sites. With some difficulty, the old sites were discovered, and, as it was not possible to determine exactly how much land formerly belonged to them, an area equal to that of the average area of Mechpára mauzas was allotted to them. The survey of the line between the A and B villages was thus completed, and though at the time of the submission of the Deputy-Commissioner's report the Mechpára zemindárs had not accepted the line surveyed, they have subsequently withdrawn their objections. All that now remains to be done is to lay down boundary-pillars as a permanent demarcation of the southern line, which separates the zemindári villages from the rest of the Gáro Hills, and the interior line, which divides the zemindárs' A villages from their B villages.

The survey of the Karabári pargana was completed during the year. It will be necessary to demarcate this boundary-line also permanently with stone marks, in lieu of the present earthen mounds and wooden pillars, and operations for the purpose will be carried out this cold season.

SECTION 3.—WASTE LANDS.

59. **An account of the rules under which waste land is taken up in this Province has been given in the reports of previous years, and need not be repeated here.**

Rules in force for the disposal of waste lands.

60. **The only special rules under which waste lands are now disposed of in this Province are the Lease Rules of 1876. Lands can be taken up under these rules for the cultivation of tea, coffee, or timber trees only.**

Applications for waste land under the Lease Rules of 1876.

Inclusive of the applications pending on 31st March 1880, there were altogether 169 applications for waste lands under these rules, which were disposed of as follows:—

	Number.	Area. Acres.
Rejected, withdrawn, and struck off.....	81	15,459
Leases sold.....	48	10,015
Advertised, but not sold	6	2,301
Pending	34	10,820
Total	169	38,595

61. The particulars of leases of waste lands sold under these rules during the past two years are given in the following statement:—

Leases sold under the Rules of 1876.

	1879-80.		1880-81.		Altogether to the end of 1880-81.	
	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.
Cachar .....	...	.....	...	.....	1	69
Sylhet	16	7,939	15	2,557	74	46,103
Kámrúp	4	621	...	.....	23	5,000
Darrang	24	10,358	12	2,402	103*	33,337
Nowgong	10	1,758	...	.....	113	49,026
Sibságar	32	14,899	12	1,847	118	45,433
Lakhimpur	17	5,031	9	3,209	90	32,435
Khási and Jainta Hills...	4	2,344	...	.....	12	6,391
Total.....	107	42,950	48	10,015	534	217,794

* One lease was cancelled during the year under the orders of the Chief Commissioner.

The above statement shows a decrease of 59 leases and of 32,935 acres sold in 1880-81, as compared with the previous year. The decrease is most remarkable in the districts of Darrang and Sibságar. All the districts, however, show a decrease, which is entirely due to the depressed condition of the tea trade during the year. In the districts of Cachar, Kámrúp, Nowgong, and the Khási and Jaintia Hills no leases were sold in 1880-81. In the district of Goálpára no land has yet been taken up under the Rules of 1876, and in Cachar only one lease, covering an area of 69 acres, has been sold since the rules came into force,—planters in this district, as often before reported, preferring the ordinary terms of reclamation leases issued for general cultivation in the district. The few tea-gardens in Goálpára have all been opened on

District.	No.	Area.	Revenue.
		Acres.	Rs.
Cachar	1	69	13
Sylhet	28	25,616.75	4,803
Kámrúp	16	3,427	642
Darrang	63	17,102.53	3,194
Nowgong	52	25,677.09	4,814
Sibsagar	45	16,107.77	3,017
Lakhimpur	42	19,534	3,880
Khási Hills	6	4,507	1,605
Total.....	247	112,051.14	21,868

permanently-settled lands or have been taken up under the ordinary Settlement Rules of Assam Proper. Out of the 534 leases now held under these rules, as shown in the last column of the preceding table, 247 leases, covering an area of 112,051.14 acres, have been brought under assessment up to the 31st March 1881 in the several districts as noted in the margin. The total revenue yielded by these leases at present is Rs. 21,868.

At the sale of two leases in Sylhet during the year there was competition, and these were sold to the highest bidders among the applicants. The remaining leases were sold at the upset price of one rupee per acre. The entire price (Rs. 10,401) was realised within the year.

The total assessment on account of the price of timber standing on waste lands leased under the rules of 1876 amounted to Rs. 9,863, as

shown below. Of this sum, Rs. 6,394 were realised during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,469 at its close :—

	Area leased. Acres.	Price of timber. Ra.	Rate per acre.		
			Ra.	As.	P.
Darrang	2,402	3,396	1	6	7
Sibsagar	1,847	2,213	1	3	2
Lakhimpur	3,209	3,649	1	2	2
Sylhet	3,557	605	0	3	9
Total.....	10,015	9,863	0	15	9

The royalty on timber is payable by instalments, subject to the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

62. Waste land is also taken up in the Assam Valley Division for the cultivation of tea under the ordinary rules known as the Assam Settlement Rules. In such cases the whole land applied for, whether high or low, is classified as *faringhati* and assessed at 8 annas a *bigha* for the entire period of settlement, which cannot exceed ten years. Many planters prefer taking up such lands as they want under these rules, which give the land applied for to the first applicant, in order to avoid the competition which occurs occasionally at the auction sales under the rules of 1876. The conditions of the ten-year and one-year leases under the ordinary Settlement Rules are also less stringent than those of the thirty-year lease. On the subject of erecting and maintaining boundary-marks the ten-year and one-year leases are silent, whereas under the thirty-year lease boundary-marks have to be erected within six months from date of sale. Under the ten-year lease also the lessee can resign the lands leased, or any portion of them, within the period of the lease, whereas no such permission is granted under the thirty-year lease.

Waste land taken up under the Assam Settlement Rules.

The following tabular statement shows the particulars of ten-year and one-year leases issued for the cultivation of tea during the year under report, as compared with those issued during the preceding year 1879-80, and also the amount of land so leased up to the end of 1880-81 :—

Districts.	1879-80.				1880-81.				Altogether to the end of 1880-81.			
	Number of leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.	Number of leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.	Number of leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.
	Ten-year.	Annual.			Ten-year.	Annual.			Ten-year.	Annual.		
			Rs.				Rs.					Rs.
Goalpara	1	95	142	..	..	150	225	....	1	245	367	
Kamrup	15	318	477	..	2	23	84	10	59	2,341	3,512	
Darrang	6	1,446	2,169	..	2	4	6	19	141	12,996	18,544	
Newsong	8	148	230	..	3	74	111	6	22	1,459	2,188	
Sibsagar	28	6,412	9,711	1	10	1,251	1,892	16	312	26,271	39,806	
Lakhimpur	2	118	178	1	2	820	480	8	158	11,917	17,876	
Total.....	7	60	8,537	12,907	2	19	1,822	2,748	69	691	55,169	82,292
		67			21				750			

Note.—This statement does not include leases for ten years at favourable rates.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that during the year 21 leases, covering an area of 1,822 acres of fresh lands, yielding a revenue of Rs. 2,748, were issued, against 67 leases, covering an area of 8,537 acres, yielding a revenue of Rs. 12,907, in the preceding year. The total number of leases issued under these rules up to the end of 1880-81 amounted to 750, covering an area of 55,169 acres, and yielding a revenue of Rs. 82,292. In the districts of Goálpára, Nowgong, and Kám-rúp no ten-year leases were taken out for the cultivation of tea during either of the years 1879-80 and 1880-81. Besides the one lease shown against the district of Sibságar as settled for ten years during 1880-81, five leases, covering an area of 268 acres, formerly held under annual leases, were converted during the year to ten-year leases at the request of the applicants. In Goálpára 150 acres of land are shown as taken up in the year under report in addition to the 95 acres shown as taken up in 1879-80, but both these areas have been included in one *patta*. The diminution in the number of leases issued during the year to tea-planters under the Assam Settlement Rules as compared with those issued in the preceding year, is due to the present depression of the tea trade. The total number of holdings (750) shown at the close of the year is less than the number (783) shown at the close of the previous year. This is due (1) to the amalgamation of small holdings in Darrang, (2) to resignations in the districts of Sibságar and Nowgong, and (3) to the exclusion from the above statement of ten-year leases held under favourable rates. The Deputy-Commissioner of Kám-rúp has also reported that the figures reported by him for the year 1879-80, and which were entered in the statement given in paragraph 85 of the Report for that year, were incorrect.

63. In Cachar 14 leases, covering an area of 3,761 acres, were taken up by tea-planters during the year under the ordinary cultivation lease of the district, as compared with 17 leases, with an area of 5,966 acres, taken up in 1879-80.

Waste land taken up under ordinary cultivation leases in Cachar.

The present revenue of the land leased during the year is Rs. 570, and the eventual maximum revenue will be Rs. 2,559. The total number of such leases in the district on the 31st March 1881 was 203, comprising an area of 89,446 acres bearing an ultimate revenue of Rs. 70,110.

64. In Sylhet 11 leases, containing 3,740 acres, were settled during the year under the modified *Ilám* Rules described in paragraph 79 of last year's report. In 1879-80, 18 leases covering an area of 3,695 acres, were settled under these rules. The present revenue of the 11 estates settled in 1880-81 is Rs. 1,036, and the eventual maximum revenue is Rs. 3,766.

Waste land taken up under the *Ilám* Rules in Sylhet.

65. In the district of Sibságar 16 grants, all held by the Assam Company, were made under the Rules of 6th March 1838, between the years of 1839 and 1850, for an aggregate area of 5,494 acres. These grants are still held by the Company, and yield at present a revenue of Rs. 4,674.

Grants under the Rules of 1838.

66. The following table shows the particulars of the Old Rule grants (that is, under the rules of 1854) still held on the original terms:—

Grants under the Rules of 1854.

Districts.	Number of leases.	Area in acres.	Present	Eventual
			revenue.	maximum
			Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	28	42,205	5,935	11,870
Sylhet	6	9,051	1,273	2,546
Kámrúp	4	1,011	142	284
Darrang	1	293	41	82
Nowgong	5	1,895	266	533
Sibságar	16	10,613	1,494	2,985
Lakhimpur	3	592	84	166
Total	63°	65,660°	9,235	18,466

* In Lakhimpur one grant was shown in excess in the previous years' returns.

67. No Old Rule grants were commuted to fee-simple during the year, but a sum of Rs. 6,087 was realised in the district of Sibságar on account of grants which were in course of redemption.

The particulars of Old Rule grants commuted to fee-simple in the previous years are given below:—

District.	Number of grants.	Area in acres.	Government re-	Price of commu-	Price remain-
			venue at the time of commutation.	tation paid, including part payments for grants sold for arrears.	ing to be paid.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	64	121,425	2,498	3,76,399	.....
Sylhet	1	2,340	.....	7,924	.....
Kámrúp	23	13,178	.....	33,756	9,674
Darrang	15	6,758	347	27,500	.....
Nowgong	10	4,636	93	16,721	.....
Sibságar	106	89,370	1,614	3,04,061	16,190
Lakhimpur	39	23,853	831	85,191	22,660
Total	258	2,66,570	5,283	8,51,562	48,524

68. The following statement gives particulars of fee-simple grants, and the amount realised and remaining to be realised, on account of these grants in each district:—

Fee-simple grants.

Districts.	Number of grants sold.	Area in acres.	Price realised.				Price remaining to be realised.		
			Up to the close of 1879-80.		In 1880-81.				
			A.	R.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	Rs.	A.
Cachar	33	9,587	0	0	60,150	0	0	.....	.....
Kámrúp	17	3,616	0	3	17,611	15	0	.....	.....
Darrang	103	52,234	0	0	1,76,854	0	0	.....	3,670
Nowgong	43	15,900	0	0	65,357	0	0	1,297	7,561
Sibságar	51	31,373	0	0	3,26,268	0	0	1,024	.....
Lakhimpur	94	75,943	1	6	2,80,508	14	10	.....	37,974
Total	331†	1,88,653	1	9†	9,26,749	13	10	2,321	49,205

†The differences between these figures and those mentioned in paragraph 86 of the report for the year 1879-80 are under enquiry, and the results will be hereafter reported.

69. Ten-year leases at reduced rates have since the year 1873 been granted in Assam Proper, in some instances to tea-planters under the ordinary Settlement Rules with the sanction of the Government of Bengal, on the ground that the tea crop comes more slowly to maturity and requires a larger outlay of capital than other crops. A similar relaxation of the settlement rules was subsequently granted in some special cases by the Chief Commissioner. In June 1875 the Chief Commissioner issued a Circular (No. 13, dated the 15th June 1875) to all Deputy-Commissioners, in which he expressed his willingness to grant leases for ten-years under the Assam Settlement Rules at two-third rates to any cultivator of tea, coffee, or other similar crops. This Circular, however, was afterwards withdrawn by order of the Government of India, on the ground that the question of issuing a special lease for the cultivation of tea, coffee, or other similar crops was then pending before the Government of India. Such leases are accordingly no longer issued.

The following statement gives particulars of the leases so given which still exist in each district. Such leases do not exist in the districts of Kām-rúp and Darrang:—

District.	Number of leases.	Area. Acres.	Revenue assessed. Rs.
Nowgong.....	7	2,377	2,394
Sibságar	5	3,396	3,425
Lakhimpur	9	4,954	796
Total	21	10,727	6,615

SECTION 4.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

70. As reported in previous years, 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, are treated of in this section. On 1st April 1881 there were 230 of these estates, viz., 93 in Sylhet and 137 in Goálpára, as compared with 135 estates in the former and 131 estates in the latter district in 1879-80. The decrease in the number of estates in the district of Sylhet is owing to the fact that some of the estates have been permanently placed on the revenue-roll on confirmation of their settlements. The increase of 6 estates in Goálpára has been caused by the settlement of certain unoccupied land.

The total current demand on account of these estates amounted during the year to Rs. 19,010, as compared with Rs. 13,960, showing an increase of Rs. 5,050 entirely in the district of Sylhet, where, notwithstanding the decrease in the number of estates, the revenue demand has largely increased in consequence of the revised assessment of certain estates under the Partabgarh tahsil. In Goálpára there was a falling off of Rs. 4 in the revenue, owing to a revision of the settlement of the *khás maháls* in that district.

The following table shows the total demand, collections, remissions, and balances on account of Government estates in both districts during the year:—

District.	Number of estates.	Demand.			Collections.			Remissions.	Balance.		
		Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.		Current.	Arrear.	Total.
Sylhet	98	Rs. 18,213	Rs. 25,436	Rs. 43,649	Rs. 1,085	Rs. 17,389	Rs. 18,474	Rs. 1,556	Rs. 17,128	Rs. 6,491	Rs. 23,619
Goálpára	137	797	....	797	797	....	797	....	....	....	....
Total	230	19,010	25,436	44,446	1,882	17,389	19,271	1,556	17,128	6,491	23,619

It will be observed that out of the total demand of Rs. 44,446, a sum of Rs. 19,271 was collected, Rs. 1,556 remitted, and Rs. 23,619 (all in the district of Sylhet) remained unrealised at the close of the year. Most of this arrear was on account of estates under the Partabgarh tahsil, from which a large sum (Rs. 10,073) has, however, been realised since the close of the financial year.

SECTION 5.—WARDS' ESTATES.

71. The wards' estates under the management of the revenue authorities are the same as existed in the previous year, viz.:—

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

72. The Rája of Sidli, receives at present a proprietary allowance of 20 per cent. on the rents collected on his estate. Rs. 7,213 were received during the year under report on account of this allowance due for the previous year.

This, added to a miscellaneous receipt of Rs. 83, and the balance of Rs. 259 to credit of the estate on the 1st April 1880, gave a total on the receipt side of the account for the year under report of Rs. 7,555. The expenditure side of the account was as follows:—

Maintenance of the proprietor and his family	Rs. 3,301
Social and religious ceremonies	2,047
Repairs of houses and other sundry expenses	553
Debts paid	1,150
Cash balance at credit of the estate	504
Total.....	<u>7,555</u>

The balance above shown to the credit of the estate, together with the proprietary allowance for the year under review, which has since

been drawn, and which amounts to Rs. 6,934, is reported by the Deputy-Commissioner to be more than sufficient for the future requirements of the year.

The Kuch Behar debt has now been reduced to Rs. 1,050, and will be liquidated as the instalment falls due.

The Rája has recently presented a petition to the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára, in which he expresses his great gratitude for the care taken of him by the Government. These professions of gratitude were repeated at a subsequent interview with the Deputy-Commissioner, at which the Rája further expressed his desire to continue in his present condition as a ward, unless the Government were pleased to concede him a permanent settlement. There is no doubt that the Rája has been rescued from almost hopeless insolvency, and is now living in easy circumstances.

73. The estate of the minor Har Kumár Pál came under the management of the revenue authorities in June 1874. It is situated in the south-west of the district of Sylhet, and comprises at present 77 *maháls* paying revenue to Government, besides a small estate purchased for Rs. 1,694 on behalf of the minor at a public auction held in execution of a decree. Possession of this estate has not yet been taken, but the manager has examined the papers and accounts relating to it, and is of opinion that a good bargain has been secured for the minor.

The current rental of the estate amounted during the year to Rs. 14,607, as compared with Rs. 13,883 in 1879-80. Of the increase of Rs. 724, Rs. 90 were due to waste and fallow land being newly brought under cultivation during the year, and the balance, *viz.*, Rs. 634, was entirely on account of rent of lands to which the minor's claims have been asserted.

The following table shows the demand, collections, and balances on account of the estate for the year under review:—

On account of	Demand. Rs.	Collections. Rs.	Arrear. Rs.
1280-85 (B.S.) (1874-79)	13,811	3,131	10,680
1286 " (1879-80)	4,939	3,247	1,692
1287 " (1880-81)	14,607	10,505	4,102
Total	33,357	16,883	16,474
Collections in advance.....	.....	11	.....
Grand Total .....	.....	16,894	.....

It will be observed from the above that, out of a total demand of Rs. 33,357, Rs. 16,883 were collected and Rs. 16,474 remained unrealised on 1st April 1881. Of the arrear on account of the years 1874-79, Rs. 9,087 are due for years preceding the settlement of the estate, which was concluded in 1878-79, and consist chiefly of contested claims to *devottar*, *brahmottar*, and other revenue-free tenures, which are not now included in the demand. The Deputy-Commissioner has been asked to report for remission all sums to which the minor's claim cannot be fairly substantiated. The only uncontested outstanding claims against solvent

tenants are Rs. 3,285, due on account of the years 1878-79 and 1879-80, and Rs. 4,102 on account of 1880-81, or Rs. 7,387 in all. The year was a very bad one from a zemindári point of view. The considerable fall in the price of rice affected the ryots, who were unable to turn their produce into cash, and the realisation of rents became a task of some difficulty. The current collections were, however, considering the nature of the year, not unsatisfactory. Early steps will be taken for the realisation of the arrear.

As reported last year, the tahsildárs were dismissed from 1st

	Rs.
1 Manager	50
1 Naib	40
3 Moharrirs at Rs. 20 each	60
8 Peons at Rs. 6 each	48
	198

December 1879, and were finally replaced by the establishment noted on the margin, which is located in a central cutcherry in the sub-divisional compound at Habiganj. Remittances are made daily to the treasury. Proper accounts are kept, and the work of collection is carried

on generally in a very much more methodical and orderly manner than was possible when the tahsildárs were in charge of the rent-roll. The chief obstacle to proper management has hitherto been the absence of proper accounts. The Sarbarahkars who had managed the collections during the lifetime of the minor's father left nothing behind them except a grossly inaccurate statement of arrears, and the few accounts in the possession of the manager, which date from an earlier period than the general measurement and settlement of the estate, which was completed in 1878-79, are almost worthless. Since that year, collections have been made on the basis of fresh agreements with the ryots, and the demand is now placed on a sound and clear footing.

The total receipts and expenditure of the year connected with the estate are exhibited in the subjoined abstract:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
Cash balance from last year	9,494	Government revenue paid	4
Rents collected during the year	16,894	Management of property and cost of collection.	3,354
Debts recovered	745	Law expenses	5,215
Miscellaneous receipts	8,447	Maintenance of the minor's family	5,418
		Education of the minor	1,068
		Monthly grants and other miscellaneous expenses.	1,307
		Purchase of lands	2,793
		Debts paid	202
		Invested in Government securities	11,500
		Cash balance at the credit of the estate.	4,719
Total	35,580	Total	35,580

The total receipts amounted to Rs. 35,580, of which the item "Miscellaneous receipts" includes a sum of Rs. 6,589, being the unexpended balance of purchase-money of certain land, and Rs. 100 permanent advance sanctioned to meet ordinary and contingent expenses, which, though they cannot properly be classed as receipts of the estate, were actual account transaction, and are consequently shown in the accounts. Excluding these sums and the cash balance from last year, the actual receipts amounted during the year to Rs. 19,397, as compared with

Rs. 24,614 in 1879-80. The actual expenditure during the year, excluding investments and the cash balance at the credit of the estate, was Rs. 19,361, against Rs. 15,270 in the preceding year. As compared with last year, the principal increase of expenditure was under "Management of property and cost of collection," "Law expenses," "Maintenance of the minor's family," and "Monthly grants and other miscellaneous expenses." The increase under the first head is partly due to the establishment having been slightly increased during the year, but is mainly owing to the cost of printing certain forms. As regards the comparatively large expenditure under "Law expenses," the Deputy-Commissioner remarks as follows:—

"The expenditure in lawsuits seems large, but there are any number of distant relations of the minor who can make out a plausible claim to a share in his property, and of course there are any number of speculative persons ready to buy up these claims and prosecute them."

During the year under report an important case, to the value of Rs. 4,000, was instituted on behalf of the minor's agent, one Ishan Chandra Kar, and some 50 cases were instituted for possession of land. A sum of Rs. 639 had also to be paid to the Government Pleader on account of his arrear dues.

The increase under the head "Maintenance of the minor's family" is exceptional, and includes a sum of Rs. 4,082 incurred in the marriage of the minor, and Rs. 710 paid for the *srádh* ceremony of the minor's grandaunt and her pilgrimage expenses. The increase under "Miscellaneous expenses" is mainly owing to the erection of three pukka ghats in the minor's tank, at a cost of Rs. 448-8, and the construction of a cutcherry house at a cost of Rs. 250. The other items do not require any explanation. The Government revenue due by the estate was not deducted, through an oversight, from the amount at its credit before the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 11,500 was invested in Government securities during the year. The Chief Commissioner has desired the Deputy-Commissioner to undertake some measures of material improvement, such as drainage, embankments, or communications, which would be more useful to the estate than the storing up of cash in Government paper for the minor to squander, or at any rate to be tempted by, when he comes of age, and the subject is under the consideration of the Deputy-Commissioner.

The ward was born in August 1865. His relations wished that he should be married last year, but the marriage was put off for a year. He was married on the 7th February last. The expenses incurred in the marriage amounted to Rs. 4,082.

The minor is being educated at the Collegiate School, Dacca. Satisfactory reports are received of his progress in his studies.

74. The estate of the minor Ghulám Armáni came under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year 1874-75. It consists of a share in 24 petty tenures, all situated in the district of Cachar. Two of these tenures were newly settled during the year. The current demand of the estate amounted during the year to Rs. 634, as compared with Rs. 562 in

Estate of Ghulám Armáni.

1879-80 and Rs. 476 in 1878-79. The increase in the rental is due to an enhancement of the rents effected to equalise them with the rates of rent prevailing for similar lands in the neighbourhood.

The total demand of the estate (Rs. 664), including arrears, was collected within the year, except a sum of Rs. 39, of which Rs. 9 was erroneously included in the minor's demand, and has been since remitted, and the remainder, Rs. 30, is in process of collection.

Besides the rental of Rs. 625, a sum of Rs. 73, *viz.*, Rs. 16, being interest on Government securities, and Rs. 57, hire of an elephant belonging to the estate, was received, so that the total income of the estate amounted to Rs. 698, which, together with the cash balance (Rs. 672) at the credit of the estate on the 1st April 1880, was disbursed as follows:—

	Rs.
Government revenue paid	224
Assam local rates	14
Charges of collections of rents	60
Maintenance of the minor and his family	96
Survey expenses for the settlement of two new estates	8
Stationery	1
Cash balance at the credit of the estate	967
	<hr/>
Total	1,370

Of the total amount of the cash balance at the credit of the estate, Rs. 400 are invested in Government securities, Rs. 500 deposited in the district savings bank, and the balance, Rs. 67, is reserved for current expenditure. No debts are due by the estate.

75. The small estate of Radha Krishna Deb, referred to in paragraph 92 of the last year's report, was sold in September last for Rs. 50.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—[Blank.]

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

76. **No new legislative enactments specially for this Province framed were introduced during the year.**
Legislative enactments.

77. **The following Acts of the Government of India, and portions of Acts which had been previously in force in other parts of India, have been extended to portions of the Province of Assam during the year 1880-81:—**
Extension of Acts, &c.

- (1) Act VI. of 1879 (the Elephant Preservation Act. 1879) extended to Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, Lakhimpur, Cachar, Nága Hills, and the Khási and Jaintia Hills.
- (2.) Act XII. of 1879 (an Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, the Registration Act 1877, and the Limitation Act 1877) extended to Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, Lakhimpur, Goálpára (excluding the Eastern Duárs), Sylhet, and Cachar (excluding North Cachar).
- (3.) Act III. of 1867 (an Act to provide for the punishment of public gambling and the keeping of common gambling houses, in the North-Western Provinces, Panjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, and British Burmah) was extended to the whole of the Province, and Sections 3 to 12 and 14, 15, and 16, of this Act were also made specially applicable to the town of Barpeta and its suburbs, and to the town of Gauháti and its suburbs, within the limits of the Municipality of Gauháti.

The following Acts of the Bengal Council were declared to be in force in the Province of Assam:—

- (1.) Act I. (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals).
- (2.) Act III. (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act to enable Police Officers to arrest without warrant persons guilty of cruelty to animals).

The following Acts of the Government of India came into operation in the Province of Assam during the year 1880-81:—

- (1) Act XIV. of 1880 (the Indian Census Act).
- (2.) Act III. of 1881 (the Indian Securities Act).
- (3.) Act XI. of 1881 (the Municipal Taxation Act).

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

78. The Police of the Province of Assam consists of four distinct bodies:—*first*, the Civil Police, employed in the prevention and detection of crime, and the ordinary duties of a Police force in settled districts; *secondly*, the Frontier Police, a semi-military body, employed chiefly on detachment duty at the outposts which protect our frontier, on general service in wild districts like the Nāga and Gāro Hills (where there are no Civil Police), and in guarding jails and treasuries; *thirdly*, the Municipal Police, entertained in municipalities, stations, and unions constituted under the Bengal Municipal Act; and, *lastly*, the rural chaukidárs, who exist only in the three districts of Goalpára, Sylhet, and Cachar.

79. The sanctioned strength of the various bodies constituting the Police force on the 31st December 1880 was as shown below:—

	Civil Police.	Frontier Police.	Municipal.	Rural.
Inspectors	20	9	.....	.....
Sub-Inspectors	57	34	2	.....
Head-constables	180	212	8	.....
Constables	1,272	2,199	100	.....
Buglers .....	.....	29	.....	.....
Chaukidárs .....	.....	.....	.....	5,312
Total	1,529	2,483	110	5,312

Besides these, however, the following extra Police were entertained during the whole or a portion of the year in certain localities:—56 constables for guard duty at Sylhet from February to September; 2 head-constables and 30 constables at Golághát in connection with the transport service throughout the year; special Police, 8 officers and 36 men, for duty during the Sylhet and Silchar fairs, for a fortnight only; and a body of punitive Police, consisting of 1 head-constable and 8 constables, quartered from January till April at the village of Atgaon, in Sylhet.

80. *Kuki militia.* Lastly, a body of Kuki militia, 100 strong, was enrolled in December last for the defence of the North Cachar frontier towards the Nāga Hills. These men are called out for duty during the cold weather only, and act as scouts and patrols between the outposts held by the Frontier Police; during the rest of the year they are allowed to remain at their homes, receiving a retaining pay of Re. 1-8 a month.

81. For the administration of the Police force in the eleven districts of the Province, there are 13 European District Superintendents and Assistant-Superintendents. Two of these were at the close of the year employed on semi-political duties, one at Sadiya and one in North Cachar. The remaining 11 officers were distributed among the eleven districts, except that the Khási Hills had no Assistant Superintendent, while two were employed in the Nāga Hills.

82. The figures given above, however, so far as the Frontier Police are concerned, show only the sanctioned, and not the actual, strength. An addition of 300 constables, with 27 officers and 8 buglers, was made to this body during the year, the increase being distributed between the Nāga Hills and Cachar; but at the close of the year the full sanctioned number had not been entertained, and the total actual strength was but 2,200 of all ranks, or 283 below the sanctioned strength. Of this deficiency, 244 were in the Nāga Hills, and the difficulty of feeding the force stationed in this district still prevents it from being brought up to its full strength.

83. Compared with last year, there is no change in the strength of the Civil Police. The increase in the Frontier Police has already been mentioned. The Municipal Police has been increased by three constables, owing to the constitution of Sibsāgar as a station under the Municipal Act, and the number of chaukidārs in Sylhet is said to be 69 more than in the previous year.

84. The following table exhibits the total cost of the Police Department in the Province:—

Cost of the Police Department.	1880. Rs.	1879. Rs.	Increase. Rs.
Total cost of Department paid from Provincial and Imperial Funds.	7,89,622	6,96,264	93,358
Distributed thus—			
Inspector-General and head-quarters office.	25,000	24,800	200
Superintendence	78,600	72,600	6,000
Travelling allowance of Superintendents and pay and travelling allowance of their establishments.	25,915	25,611	304
Subordinate officers.....	1,89,996	1,79,328	10,668
Constables	3,47,640	3,13,260	34,380
Contingencies	1,22,471	80,665	41,806
Total.....	7,89,622	6,96,264	93,358

The increase is almost wholly accounted for by the addition to the Frontier Police in the Nāga Hills and Cachar, and by the purchase of breech-loading rifles, with which the Frontier Police are now supplied in these districts. The increase in the cost of superintendence is owing to the promotion of the District Superintendents and Assistant-Superintendents, who are borne on the general list of Bengal Police officers, to higher grades, and is independent of this Administration.

85. The Civil Police were distributed as follows at the close of the year:—

Employment of Civil Police.

	Total number, including officers.
On court duty at head-quarters and sub-divisions	176
Miscellaneous duties, including orderly duty, guards, &c.	127
At thánas and outposts	1,025
Reserve	71
Sick leave and other vacancies	82
Recruits	48
Total	1,529

The proportion of Police to population was as follows :—

Total number of Police employed on purely Police duties.....	1,272
Area in square miles	32,820
Population by recent Census	4,706,103
Proportion of Police to area in square miles	1 to 25·8
Proportion of Police to population	1 to 3,699·7

In Bengal the figures for the same year are—

Proportion of Police to area in square miles	1 to 10·9
Ditto ditto to population (figures of Census of 1872)	1 to 4,007

While the proportion of Police to population in Assam is not very different from that in Bengal, there is a wide difference in the proportion to area. The extreme sparseness of the population in this Province, and the difficulties of communication caused by the character of the country, interpose obstacles to the thoroughly efficient administration of the Police. On the other hand, there are no criminal classes, and the total amount of crime is small.

86. The Frontier Police were distributed on the same date as shown below:—

Employment of Frontier Police.

	Officers and men.
On guard and miscellaneous duties at head-quarters	419
On duty at sub-divisional head-quarters	109
At frontier outposts	607
On escort duty	81
Reserve and recruits	884
Sick and on leave	100
Total actual strength	2,200

87. The frontier outposts, the serving of which is the principal duty of the Frontier Police, were in 1880 42 in number, distributed as follows:—

Frontier outposts.

On the northern frontier, protecting the Province against Bhutias, Akhas, Dafias, Abora, and Mishmis (2 in Darrang, 8 in Lakhimpur district)	10
On the south-eastern frontier of the Assam Valley, protecting that territory against Singphos and Nágas (1 in Lakhimpur, 3 in Sibwágar)	4
In the Nága Hills	4
In the Gáro Hills.....	10
On the south-east frontier of Sylhet, for protection against Hill Tipperah and the Lushais	4
In the east and south-east of Cachar, against Manipur and the Lushais	2
In North Cachar, against the Angami Nágas.....	8
Total	42

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In two portions of this frontier the work of protection is shared by the military, *viz.*, in the neighbourhood of Sadiya, where four posts are garrisoned by the 43rd Regiment A. I. I., and on the southern frontier of Cachar, where four posts, intervening between the Sylhet outposts and that at Mainadhar, in Cachar, were held during the year by the 34th N. I. Besides these, a military force is annually employed during the cold weather at Udalguri, in Darrang, to keep order during the time when the Bhutias visit the plains for purposes of trade.

88. The efficiency of this chain of frontier defence depends (1) upon the defensibility and suitable location of the outposts, and (2) upon the maintenance of constant patrolling and communication between one post and another, where they form a connected chain, or between each post and its supports where the post is an isolated one. Much still remains to be done in order to secure these objects. On the northern frontier of the Assam Valley the two posts established to watch the Bhutias and Akhas (Daimāra and Bahpāra) are isolated from each other, and at a distance of about 25 and 16 miles, respectively, from any support. Here, however, there is little to be apprehended. The North Lakhimpur outposts (three), directed against the Daflas, are stated to be in bad order, too weak in strength to keep up patrolling, and expensive to renew, the buildings being of timber. On the Abor frontier, the outposts (five Police and four Military) are in much the same condition; some of them are too large to be defended by the force which occupies them, and some are reported to be in badly-chosen sites. Those in the east (Chunpura, Diphu, Disoi, and Dikrang, Police, and Sadiya, Dibong, Sesserri, and Poba, Military posts) are all connected by a road, along which patrolling is regularly maintained. The single post on the west, on the Dijnur river, which debouches opposite Dibrugarh, is unconnected with any other, and patrolling is kept up only towards the hills. The chain on the south-east of the Assam Valley, towards the independent Nāga tribes, consisting of the Makum post in the Lakhimpur district, and five posts along the foot of the hills in Sibsāgar, is said to be in good condition; but no attempt is made to patrol, and the strength of these posts is quite insignificant.

89. The duties of the Police in the Nāga Hills are of a semi-military character, and the force, with the Military serving in the hills, have hitherto constituted rather an army of occupation than an administrative machine. Very heavy duties fell upon the Frontier Police in this district during the year, and they shared with the Military in the risks of the Expedition, which did not terminate till April 1880. Their conduct was generally approved, and the acknowledgments of the Government of India for the services rendered by them have already been expressed.

90. In the Gāro Hills, also, the Frontier Police undertake the whole district duty, there being here no Civil Police; they are distributed between ten posts, located at the most important points in the district, with a strong reserve

Character and localities of the outposts in the Assam Valley.

Duties of Frontier Police in the Nāga Hills.

Duties of Frontier Police in the Gāro Hills.

at Tura. No occasion arose during the year 1880 for their employment on military duty : but soon after its close some disturbances, which at one time threatened to be serious, broke out in the north-west corner of the Gáro Hills. These, however, will be noticed in the next year's report.

91. The posts in the south of the Sylhet district which watch the Lushai frontier were re-considered during the year. Two new sites were to have been selected, for the Langai and Adampur posts, respectively; but these have not yet been decided upon, and, until they are finally chosen, the stockades erected, and patrol-paths opened out, the chain on this frontier will not be in a satisfactory condition. The four posts in the south of Cachar, next to those in Sylhet, are still held by the Military. Sir Stuart Bayley hoped to be able to take over these four military outposts by Frontier Police ; and, had the outbreak in the Nága Hills not occurred, his proposals would most likely have been carried out. Mr. Elliott agrees with the view of the question taken by his predecessor, and trusts soon, if his proposals are sanctioned by the Government of India, to be able to relieve the Military of this duty.

92. The re-organisation of the posts in North Cachar, as a defence of that frontier against attack from the Angami Nágas, who in January 1880 raided down the valleys of the Barák and Jhiri rivers upon the Báladhan tea-garden, was the chief administrative measure of frontier defence during the year. The posts here consist of two lines, an inner and an outer, the former resting upon Silchar and the latter having its support at Gonjung, the head-quarters of the now re-constituted North Cachar sub-division. The inner line of three posts, connected by a well-made patrol-path, is also in communication with Silchar by means of a system of signalling. The outer line of four posts is held in strength only during the cold weather, which is the season when danger is to be apprehended; and the patrolling of the country between the posts is secured by means of a Kuki militia, 100 strong, who are recruited in the neighbouring Kuki villages, and called out for service during the cold weather. There is also an outpost on the border of Manipur, on the road which connects Cachar with the capital of that State.

The Chief Commissioner has recently sanctioned a revision of the exterior line of posts, which will permit of more men of the Frontier Police being massed at the important points, and involve the abandonment of Asálu as a post, for which it is from its position unsuitable.

93. Besides frontier outpost duty, a portion of the Trunk Road south of the Brahmaputra is regularly patrolled by the Frontier Police, the duty being performed in other parts by the Civil Police.

94. Instruction has been given to the Frontier Police in musketry and drill, and 33 head-constables and constables earned extra pay for good shooting. This is not a large proportion of the force, and there is

On posts on the south of the Saraiá Valley.

Outposts in North Cachar.

Patrol duties of the Frontier Police.

Armament and drill of the Frontier Police.

much room for further progress in this particular. The new armament with Snider rifles (in place of the old Enfields), which were supplied to the force in the Nága Hills and Cachar during the year, and are now being distributed to the Frontier Police in other districts, will place in the hands of the men an efficient weapon; and the perfecting of the chain of outposts and patrols, with the transfer to the Police of the charge of the posts now held by the Military, will demand not only a larger force, but also a higher standard of military efficiency, which no effort should be spared to attain.

95. Municipal Police are entertained in the four Municipalities of Goálpára, Gauháti, Dibrugarh, and Sylhet, the two Stations of Shillong and Sibságar, and the Union of Silchar. As in 1879, they are in most places unfavourably spoken of, the small numbers constituting the force at each place not admitting of the retention of good men. The list of casualties shows that one-third of the whole force (only 110 strong) were changed during the year. The dismissals (12·72 per cent.) were slightly fewer than in 1879 (13·08 per cent.), but the resignations, discharges, and desertions rose from 18·69 to 20 per cent.

96. In Goálpára the Bengal Chaukidári Act, VI. (B.C.) of 1870 is in force, and is stated to work well. There are 629 chaukidárs in this district under the Act, and their cost is put down at Rs. 2,323-9-6, or an average of Rs. 3-11-1 per man per month. In Sylhet the only legislative provision for the administration of the Village Police is Section 21, Regulation XX. of 1817, and in Cachar the same system obtains by custom, though destitute of legal sanction. In the latter district the number of chaukidárs is stated to be 307, and their wages are roughly estimated at about Rs. 5,760 a year. In Sylhet the numbers are 4,376, and the annual cost approximately Rs. 1,05,024. For these two districts a new Rural Police Regulation was prepared during the year, and submitted to the Government of India, who still have it under consideration. Its object is to enable the Rural Police circles to be better defined, to secure to the chaukidárs the regular payment of an adequate wage, to define more clearly their duties, and to enable a closer control to be exercised over them by the District Officers. Notwithstanding that the Regulation has not yet become law, much has already been accomplished in the Sylhet district by the Deputy-Commissioner, to organise the Rural Police and define the areas for which they are entertained, to bring them into closer communication with the regular Police force, who must to a large extent depend upon them for reports of crime in rural areas, and especially to improve the record of vital statistics, which are reported in the Surma Valley by this agency.

97. In the five districts of Assam Proper, as already observed, there are no Village Police. Certain responsibilities in regard to reporting crime, &c., are by custom held to devolve on the mauzadárs and their mandals; but the areas of mauzas are much too great to enable these to be thoroughly discharged. In paragraph 108 of last year's

Absence of Rural Police in Assam Proper.

report, the late Chief Commissioner, Sir Steuart Bayley, observed, while accepting the opinion of District Officers, that the want of a Rural Police was not at present felt, and that the duties were sufficiently performed by the fiscal staff, that its absence "was a distinct element of weakness in the district organisation, and, should population develop as is hoped, would inevitably force itself into notice, and have to be supplied." At the present time the extreme sparseness of the population, the small aggregates in which the people live together, the shifting character of these aggregates in many parts of the country, and the extreme paucity of crime, are elements in the condition of the country which would make it unreasonable to impose on the people the cost of keeping up a body of Rural Police. While admitting that it is essential that there should be in the midst of the village communities some one *en rapport* with the district administration, and some source of information as to social facts, by means of which the Regular Police can keep themselves instructed of what is going on in the rural areas, Mr. Elliott thinks it possible that the desired result may be obtained in another way. The village *gáonbúra*, or headman, received official recognition for the first time in 1880, by being employed for the purpose of reporting births and deaths, and has in most cases been supplied with a *purwána* signed by the District Officer, recognising his position in the village. Mr. Elliott thinks that from this beginning it may perhaps be possible to advance hereafter, and to invest him with the responsible position of an intermediary between Government and the village bodies.

98. Out of a total Regular Police force (Civil, Frontier, and Municipal) of 3,839, particulars of the race and religion of 3,760 are forthcoming, from which it appears that the force is made up as follows:—

Officers—

Christians	7
Muhammadans	44
Hindus	349
Others	77
Total.....	477

Men—

Christians	5
Muhammadans	250
Hindus	2,054
Others	974
Total.....	3,283
Grand Total.....	3,760

A more instructive classification, however, would be one showing what members of the force are natives of the Province, and what proportion consists of strangers; and a revised classification will be adopted in future reports.

99. There is a considerable improvement in the number of head-constables and constables able to read and write, as compared with 1879. The year 1879, again, showed an improvement of 4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. In Bengal, the percentage of head-constables able to read and write in 1880 was 85, against 84 in Assam; but that of constables was 36, against only 20 in this Province. The difference is perhaps accounted for by the larger proportion which the Frontier or Military Police (where literary attainments are rare) bear to the Civil Police in Assam than in Bengal. The Police schools appear to be doing good work, but are naturally most popular among men of the Civil Police.

100. The health of the force has generally been much better during the year than in 1879. 1880 was a singularly healthy year throughout the Province. Only 60 deaths occurred in the year, against 93 in 1879, giving a percentage of 1·60, against 2·52 in the latter year. In Bengal, the percentage for the year was 1·8, against 2·4 in 1879. Deaths were proportionally most numerous in Lakhimpur (3·19 per cent.), Cachar (2·14 per cent.), and Kāmrup (2·06 per cent.). Apparently, the most unhealthy districts were Kāmrup and the Gáro Hills.

101. Resignations were 217, against 247 in 1879, which is a satisfactory decrease: apparently, there were more in the Civil than in the Frontier Police. Desertions were 22, against 14 in 1879. The unpopularity of the Province, as compared with Bengal, is shown in the higher proportion of resignations in Assam in the two years, 1879 and 1880 :—

	1879.	1880.
Assam	6·7	5·4
Bengal	5·2	4·7

A draft Regulation is now before the Government of India for the better regulation of the Frontier Police, by which men entering that body will be enlisted on conditions similar to those on which recruits are enrolled in the army, and resignations will, it is hoped, thereby be restricted. Considering, however, the number of openings for profitable employment in the Province, and the attractions which Military service, as compared with the Police, offers, it is remarkable that there are not more resignations than there are now.

102. The conduct of the Police, as evidenced by the number of dismissals and other punishments, judicial and departmental, shows a falling off as compared with 1879, 14 officers and 95 men were dismissed, against 13 officers and 68 men in the latter year. The number of departmental punishments rose from 438 to 462, and of judicial punishments from 91 to 110. There was one case of torture or wrongful confinement, against none in the previous year, and 5 cases under Chapter IX. of the Indian Penal Code (bribery), against the same number in 1879. Calculated on the

actual strength, the proportions of punishment appear to be as follows :—

	Percentage.	Figures for Bengal in 1880.
Dismissals	2.91	3.05
Departmental punishments	12.34	20.98
Judicial punishments	2.94	2.91

The close agreement between this Province and Bengal in the proportion of dismissals and judicial punishments (the former of which, it is understood, in most cases represent the consequence of the latter) is striking.

On the other hand, there was a notable increase in the rewards, both in promotion and money, and in the number of good-conduct stripes awarded, during the year. 169 officers and men received promotion or money rewards, and 252 men gained good-conduct stripes, against 57 and 73 in 1879. These were, however, almost entirely earned by the Frontier Police who took part in the operations in the Nāga Hills, and were distributed at the close of the Expedition.

103. Thirty-two escapes from the custody of the Police took place during the year, against 31 in 1879, 2 from that of village chaukidārs in Sylhet, and 14 from jails and lock ups. Of the 48 fugitives, only 32 were re-captured, and 15 only by the Police.

104. The large amount of work cast upon the Police in the service of warrants, summonses, and other orders has again attracted notice. The number of warrants served by the Police has increased from 2,287 in 1879 to 2,841 in 1880, and that of summonses from 11,854 to 14,928. Some misapprehension appears to exist on this subject, and the Chief Commissioner has directed the attention of District Officers to it.

105. The Inspector-General, owing to his absence in the Nāga Hills, was able to do but little inspection during the year. The other officers of the department are well reported of for their activity in visiting the different police-stations and outposts in their charge. The only districts in which this duty appears to have been neglected are Goālpāra and Darrang. In both these districts there were changes among the Police officers in charge, and in Darrang inspection in the Mangaldai sub-division is stated to have been interfered with during the touring season by the necessity which arose for the District Superintendent going out in the opposite direction to investigate a murder committed by some Hill Dafflas.

106. The number of cases of crime cognizable by the Police reported during the year in the plains districts of Assam was 10,673, against 11,824 in the previous year, and 1880 is the year which shows the smallest number of such reports out of the five years since 1875.

107. The number of cases reported in each district, excluding nuisance cases (which, however, are not very numerous in this Province), the number of true cases after deduction of those declared to be false, and the proportion of each to the population, as ascertained at the last Census, is given in the table below :—

District.	Population.	Cases reported (excluding nuisances).	Accepted as true.	Reports to population.	True cases to population.	
Assam Valley	Goálpára	444,689	605	517	1 to 735	1 to 860
	Kámrúp	644,843	1,122	888	1 „ 574	1 „ 726
	Darrang	271,485	786	664	1 „ 345	1 „ 408
	Nowgong	308,889	855	694	1 „ 361	1 „ 445
	Sibságar	365,300	1,273	980	1 „ 286	1 „ 372
	Lakhimpur	172,079	696	656	1 „ 247	1 „ 262
Surmá Valley	Sylhet	1,973,000	4,004	3,437	1 „ 492	1 „ 575
	Cachar, excluding North Cachar.	334,326	1,013	815	1 „ 330	1 „ 410
Total.....	4,514,611	10,354	8,645	1 „ 435	1 „ 522	

It has already been observed that an organised reporting agency, in the shape of village watchmen, exists only in the three districts of Goálpára, Sylhet, and Cachar. If the criminality of the population throughout the Province might safely be assumed to be a tolerably equal quantity, we should have expected that crime would have been best reported in these three districts. But the fact is widely different:—Goálpára, with chaukidárs enrolled under the Bengal Chaukidári Act, has fewer reports of crime than any other district. Sylhet stands sixth out of the eight districts in the proportion of reports. Cachar, it is true, is fourth. But the districts where, on the hypothesis that criminality is equal, crime is best reported are those where there is no village reporting agency at all, viz., Lakhimpur and Sibságar.

108. But it is tolerably certain that the criminality of the different divisions of the Province is not an equal quantity. The extremely heterogeneous population contains elements among which the disposition to crime must vary greatly. Primitive and uncorrupted, if uncivilised, tribes like the Cacharis and Meches of Goálpára, Kámrúp, and Darrang, the Mikirs and Lalongs of Nowgong, &c., rarely come into our courts as plaintiffs. If aggrieved, they have their own methods of redress; but crime among them is certainly low. On the other hand, we might expect that the keen Bengali population of Sylhet and Cachar would be as prone to crime as their compatriots in Eastern Bengal; and perhaps, so far as the native population of the Province is concerned, crime is more prevalent among them than among other classes. But a comparison of the figures shown below suggests the conclusion that much of the more serious crime in the Province is due to the immigrant

population, and that it is mainly according to the proportion of this element among the people of each district that the proportion of reported crime varies :—

	Proportion of true crime to population.	Number of tea coolies in district according to the returns of 1880.*	Proportion of tea coolies to total district population.
Lakhimpur	1 in 262	34,140	19·8
Sibságar	1 „ 372	49,743	13·6
Darrang	1 „ 408	13,982	5·1
Cachar	1 „ 410	62,547	18·7
Nowgong	1 „ 445	4,998	1·6
Sylhet	1 „ 575	18,138	·9
Kámrúp	1 „ 726	1,277	·2
Gualpára	1 „ 860	None.	<i>Nil.</i>

* The figures in this column show only the immigrant labourers and their families actually on tea-gardens. Statistics are not yet available to show the number who have settled as cultivators of artisans in the Province.

The figures available do not afford the means of pursuing the enquiry into this subject further, but next year it may be possible to obtain such particulars of the persons accused in the complaints brought or cases tried, as will show whether the conclusion above suggested is justified. The Chief Commissioner has more than once in the course of his inspections remarked on the large proportion of Hindustani-speaking foreigners who people the jails of the Province, and attention was recently drawn, in reviewing the Annual Report of that Department, to the desirability of separating the statistics of the different races. The report showed that out of 4,214 prisoners in 1880, 990, or 23·5 per cent., were foreigners,—that is, either tea-coolies under contract, or immigrants who probably came into Assam to labour on tea-gardens or public works.

109. The proportion of reports declared to be false has fallen considerably, there having been only 1,709, or 16 per cent., in 1880, against 2,653, or 22 per cent., in 1879. The proportion, however, varies much in the different districts. It should be clearly understood that no case must be entered as false until the Magistrate's order is received authorising the Police so to show it, and that the action of the Police in suggesting that cases in which they are unable to detect the offenders are fictitious requires the most careful watching.

110. An improvement in the proportion of cases recorded as wilfully false is accompanied by greater activity in the prosecution of persons charged with making a false complaint:—138 cases, out of 1,709 declared false, were so prosecuted, or 8·07 per cent., against 104 out of 2,653 in 1879. But the successful results were not commensurate with the greater activity shown. Whereas in 1879 82 persons, out of 108 prosecuted, were convicted, in 1880 only 77 persons, out of 163 prosecuted, were found guilty. The percentage of acquittals rose from 21 to 49. The Chief Commissioner, however, observes that in Bengal an even smaller percentage of convictions was obtained in such cases during the year, only 39·9 per cent. of the persons tried having been convicted.

111. The proportion of cases in which the Police categorically refused, under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to enquire into the offence is very small in Assam, being only 2·7 per cent. It was largest in Darrang, 6·5 per cent., Sibságar, 5·1 per cent., and Goálpára, 3·8 per cent. In Lower Bengal, also, the proportion is small, 2·2 per cent. Refusals of this sort are not recorded in the North-Western Provinces, but their statement shows that in about 900 cases the magistrate ordered enquiry after the Police had refused it. In that Province, however, the Police are authorised not to institute an enquiry when information is received of a simple theft under Rs. 5, and of burglary where no theft is reported; and under this sanction 28 per cent. of informations laid were not enquired into in the North-Western Provinces, and in Oudh 42 per cent. In Assam no such general authority is given, and there seems reason to suppose that it might be well to give it, and that the absence of such permission induces the Police often to turn a deaf ear to the information. Out of 10,673 cases reported, only 6,377, or 60 per cent., were investigated by the Police *suo motu*. What the number was in which they quietly declined enquiry cannot be told, but there is a large number of cognizable cases in which complaint is first made to the magistrate without being reported through the Police; and it seems probable that in many of these cases the complainant did invoke the help of the Police, but in vain. If the practice of declining enquiry in insignificant cases were authorised, it is possible that enquiry would be more active in the more important ones. In minor cases it may be argued that the enquiry by the Police is sometimes a greater misfortune to the sufferer than the loss he has sustained by the crime. The Chief Commissioner understands that in Bengal the Police are permitted to decline enquiry in cases of simple hurt; 11·2 per cent. of charges of this offence were not investigated during the year in that province. In Assam, out of 792 charges of hurt in 1880, 50, or 6·3 per cent., were refused enquiry, but only 359, or 45 per cent., were actually enquired into by the Police *suo motu*. The Inspector-General has been directed to consult the orders on this subject issued in other provinces, and make such proposals in the matter as he thinks fit for the Chief Commissioner's consideration.

112. Turning now to the amount of true crime reported (in which, if not in the total number of reports, one year should be comparable with another), the Chief Commissioner finds that the total number of cognizable offences was 8,964 in 1880, against 9,171 in 1879. There was an increase of 68, or 16 per cent., under Class I., "Offences against the State" (chiefly rioting, offences against public justice, and in connection with coin, notes, and stamps); of 31, or 6·6 per cent., under Class II., "Serious offences against the person" (murder, culpable homicide, grievous hurt, kidnapping, and aggravated criminal force); of 97, or 8·3 per cent., under Class III., "Serious offences against the person and property" (dacoity and robbery, serious mischief, cattle maiming or poisoning, and burglaries); and of 253, or 105 per cent. under the 7th class, "Other special laws," due chiefly to cases under the Arms Act

Comparison of 1880 and 1879 in respect of true crime.

On the other hand, there was a decrease of 93, or 7·1 per cent., under Class IV., "Minor offences against the person" (chiefly hurt and wrongful restraint or confinement), and of 521, or 10·7 per cent., under Class V., "Minor offences against property" (chiefly theft, criminal trespass, and house-breaking). These results are, so far as they are of importance, in accord with the general character of the year, which was one of plenty and low prices, when the inducements to petty theft would naturally be weakened, though violent and habitual crime would remain at much the same level as usual.

Chief heads of crime. 113. The principal classes of crime committed in this Province are the following:—

	1880.	1879.
Riots	371	297
Serious mischief, including cattle-poisoning	346	357
Burglaries	888	780
Hurt, wrongful restraint, and confinement	1,209	1,302
Theft and criminal breach of trust	3,183	3,728
Criminal trespass	827	854
Excise cases	269	212
Nuisances	317	332
Arms Act cases	388	4

The offences above named account for a total of 7,798 out of the 8,964 true crimes reported during the year. With a few exceptions, the classes of crime are pretty evenly distributed in the Province, no locality showing a predilection for any particular class. The exceptions are riots, 310 out of 407 reported occurring in Sylhet, and cases under the Arms Act, which were almost confined to Sylhet (232), Nowgong (85), and Lakhimpur (60).

114. The results of Police action in dealing with cognizable crime may be examined either by the comparison of one district with another, or by the comparison of one class of crime with another, in regard to the proportion of success attained. With regard to the first, it is customary in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to group the different districts in the Province according to the degree to which they satisfy four principal tests, and the Chief Commissioner thinks that the same system might with advantage be adopted in Assam. These tests are the following:—

Tests of Police action.

- (1) The percentage of convictions to the total number of cases enquired into by the Police.
- (2) The percentage of convictions to cases actually disposed of during the year.
- (3) The percentage of convictions to persons whose cases have been finally disposed of.
- (4) The percentage of convictions to arrests by the Police *suo motu* in cases decided.

115. The figures contained in the report do not enable the second test to be applied in each district, though it can be applied under each head of crime for the whole Province. As regards the other three tests, the several districts stand as follows:—

First test.—Proportion of convictions to cases investigated.

- (1) The percentage of convictions in cases investigated by the Police,—
- (a) *suo motu*;
- (b) by order of the Magistrate without previous information having been given to the Police:—

	1880.	1879.
Lakhimpur	63·8	47·0
Goálpára	53·9	47·1
Nowgong	43·8	42·5
Darrang	41·8	40·5
Kámrúp	38·9	40·9
Sibságar	35·7	28·9
Cachar	32·5	27·7
Sylhet	27·2	29·6
Average for the Province	36·5	33·8
Total number of cases convicted	2,333	2,411

- (b) *By order of the Magistrate without previous information to Police.*

	1880.	1879.
Darrang	41·0	26·0
Sylhet	26·3	17·2
Lakhimpur	25·0	13·3
Kámrúp	18·6	6·4
Cachar	15·5	9·4
Goálpára	14·2	53·8
Sibságar	11·6	36·0
Nowgong	9·8	10·3
Provincial average	23·5	14·0
Total number of convictions	179	183

The proportion of convictions to cases investigated has thus improved considerably in both the above classes. The second class—cases investigated by order of the Magistrate without previous information to the Police—is naturally that in which investigation is less successful; there were only 832 such cases in the Province, against 1,306 in 1879. The results in Assam compare very favourably with those in other provinces. Thus, in Bengal in 1880 the percentage of convictions on the total number of cases investigated by the Police was 46; but this includes a large number of cases coming under Class VI., chiefly public and local nuisances, in which conviction is almost certain. Omitting these for both Bengal and Assam, the percentage in the former Province sinks to 30·9, while in the latter it is 33·2. Again, in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the percentage of convictions to the total number of

cases investigated is only 25·17, and excluding nuisance cases 20·38. Success in the investigation of cases coming under head (b) is, as already observed, less to be expected than in those of class (a). But in the latter, while there is a general improvement throughout the Province, some districts show very good results. The order of merit varies little from that of last year. Sylhet from sixth has become last, its former place being taken by Sibságar.

116. The second test—the percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained to the total number of cases decided—cannot, as already observed, be applied to individual districts for want of the necessary particulars. For the Province as a whole the total number of cases decided is given as 5,243, in 2,780 of which a conviction was obtained. This yields a percentage of 53·0. But these figures are fallacious. There is a considerable number of cases in which complaint is made to the Magistrate direct, and the case is tried and brought to a conclusion without the intervention of the Police. Such offences are entered in column 4 of Statement D, Part I., as “reported;” the persons arrested, acquitted, and convicted are entered in the proper columns, and the cases disposed of appear in column 28. But if conviction is obtained the case does not appear in column 9, which is confined to convictions in cases investigated by the Police. Thus, among the 5,243 cases disposed of there may have been 300 or 400 convictions which are not shown in this statement or anywhere in the statistics. In future years an additional statement will be added to the report showing for each district the number of cases taken up by Magistrates direct, and the results obtained in those cases.

117. In the third test—the percentage of persons convicted to persons tried—the following results are exhibited :—

(a) *Percentage of persons convicted to persons tried in cases sent up by Police suo motu.*

	1880.	1879.
Goálpára	78·6	78·7
Lakhimpur	78·4	89·2
Sibságar	77·6	82·1
Cachar	75·6	73·2
Kámrúp	74·7	72·5
Nowgong.....	74·1	70·0
Darrang	71·8	75·7
Sylhet	69·0	70·1
	—	—
Average for Province	73·4	75·6
	—	—
Total number of persons convicted.....	4,043	4,336
	—	—

(b) *Percentage of persons convicted to persons tried in cases investigated by order of the Magistrate.*

	1880.	1879.
Darrang	84.8	67.9
Nowgong.....	81.2	65.4
Cachar	77.5	67.5
Sylhet	63.8	45.2
Goálpára	60.0	93.4
Kámrúp	58.7	41.6
Lakhimpur	50.0	33.4
Sibságágar	47.3	36.9
For whole Province	65.3	38.2
Total number of persons convicted	332	334

Thus, while the proportion of persons convicted to persons tried has fallen by 2.2 per cent. in cases investigated by the Police *suo motu*, it has much improved in cases investigated by the order of the Magistrates. The latter were, however, less than one-tenth of the former. 5,509 persons were tried in cases investigated by the Police *suo motu*, while only 507 were tried in cases investigated by the order of the Magistrates. The combined percentage for the Province is 72.7 in 1880, against 70.0 in 1879, so that the superior discretion exercised by the Magisterial authorities has redressed the proportion which had been lowered by the greater want of discrimination shown by the Police. The relative position of the different districts in the test does not differ very materially in Table (a) from what it was in 1879. Goálpára has overleaped Lakhimpur and Sibságágar, and Darrang has fallen from the fourth to the seventh place. Nowgong has improved by 4.0 per cent., and from last now stands above both Darrang and Sylhet.

Compared with the results of other provinces, these proportions show very well. The North-Western Provinces and Oudh percentage [under both (a) and (b)] is 78.13; excluding nuisance cases, however, it is only 73.6. In Bengal the provincial percentage of all cases is 64, and out of 45 districts only 8 attain or exceed the percentage in Sylhet, where it was 69.

Fourth test.—Proportion of convictions to arrests by Police *suo motu*.

118. The fourth test differs very slightly from the third. The following is the order of the districts according to it:—

Percentage of convictions to arrests by Police suo motu.

	1880.	1879.
Lakhimpur	77.9	88.8
Goálpára	76.7	73.5
Sibságágar	76.3	78.1
Cachar	74.0	70.6
Nowgong.....	73.6	67.7
Kámrúp	70.7	68.1
Darrang	65.7	72.3
Sylhet	60.3	65.4
Province.....	68.3	70.8

The same decline in the excellence attained by the Police in 1879 is visible in this test as in the last. The order of the districts is much the same as in the third test. Regarded as a whole, the Province compares favourably with Bengal, where the percentage of convictions to arrests in 1880 was 62·1, and unfavourably with the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, where the ratio for all cases was 80·27 per cent., and, excluding nuisances, 76·01 (North-Western Provinces 81·59, Oudh 63·64).

119. Combining all these tests, it appears that the districts where the detection of crime has been most efficiently carried out are Lakhimpur and Goálpára, while that in which proportionally least success is attained is Sylhet. But there is nothing to show how far success, when it is achieved, is due to the intervention and sagacity of the Police, or to the character of the people concerned, whose simplicity and veracity makes the punishment of crime, on the rare occasion when it occurs, an easy matter; and an attempt will be made to rectify this shortcoming in future reports.

120. The following table is interesting, as showing, by the percentage of cases in which convictions were obtained (a) to true cases reported, (b) to cases investigated by the Police, and (c) to cases decided, in what descriptions of crime the Police are most, and in what they are least, successful. The various offences are ranged in the order in which they stand under head (a), and only those important from their nature or their number are shown:—

Serial Number in Statement D, Police, Part I.	Offence.	(a) Percentage of convictions to true cases.		(b) Percentage of convictions to cases investigated.		(c) Percentage of convictions to cases decided.	
		1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.
52	Excise cases	71·3	71·7	80·6	81·2	80·0	75·8
45	Receiving stolen property ...	67·8	73·9	69·2	70·9	87·6	70·5
57	Local nuisances	65·6	72·5	81·9	85·4	87·4	81·4
5	Offences against public justice	62·6	69·9	68·8	97·0	76·5	87·8
21, 22, 23.	Aggravated hurt	55·4	42·7	70·7	42·2	79·3	45·2
6	Rioting	50·4	53·1	62·9	61·8	83·8	51·6
19 & 20	Grievous hurt	45·4	49·2	55·6	54·1	73·1	55·9
43	Cattle-theft.....	41·9	38·6	31·3	29·4	54·7	41·1
58	Arms cases	40·7	not stated separately	97·5	...	41·9	...
3	Offences connected with coin, notes, and stamps.	40·6	48·1	42·8	44·8	50·0	44·8
8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Murders	37·5	21·9	38·7	20·9	60·0	24·3
14	Culpable homicide	37·0	52·0	34·4	31·7	52·6	37·1
49	Vagrancy and bad character..	35·8	28·0	37·6	27·0	44·7	30·7
43	Ordinary theft	31·2	23·7	31·5	22·0	47·3	26·8

Serial Number in Statement D, Police, Part I.	Offences.	(a) Percentage of convictions to true cases.		(b) Percentage of convictions to cases investigated.		(c) Percentage of convictions in cases decided.	
		1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.
		38 to 41	Hurt, &c.	30.3	26.1	46.9	40.9	48.9	30.9
28	Aggravated criminal force ..	30.2	39.5	40.2	36.5	55.0	50.0
42	Lurking house-trespass and house-breaking.	29.6	25.7	30.1	25.0	43.7	32.6
24	Kidnapping.....	18.7	11.6	23.0	11.1	37.5	14.0
15	Rape	14.2	5.0	6.8	3.0	18.7	5.2
34 & 34 a	Serious mischief	13.8	10.9	17.2	12.0	36.4	17.3
46	Criminal trespass	13.4	20.1	39.3	36.6	34.8	29.4
44	Criminal breach of trust	10.2	12.1	29.5	21.2	26.3	24.8
35, 36	Burglaries	8.3	13.2	7.7	11.3	44.5	17.8
30, 31	Dacoity .....	...	100.0	...	23.0	...	75.0
32, 33	Robbery .....	...	36.3	...	25.0	...	44.4

It thus appears that, excluding excise cases, where the stimulus of the reward leads to active prosecution, and where information is seldom given without proof being easily obtainable, and nuisances, where the accused is commonly taken in the act, those cases are most successfully prosecuted where there is some tangible evidence ready to hand, and where detective ability and the power of correlating evidence so as to secure a chain strong enough for conviction, are least called for. Thus, grievous hurt is better dealt with than ordinary hurt, because the wound or injury caused by the former is more permanent. That cattle-theft should be better dealt with than ordinary theft is remarkable, and probably indicates the absence of any organised system of theft and class of professional thieves, such as exist in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, where a trace is seldom found of cattle once conveyed away, unless blackmail is paid to a go-between. With the serious forms of house-trespass and house-breaking (serials 35 and 36) the Police were conspicuously unsuccessful: 1,025 cases were reported, of which 888 were pronounced true, and 945 formed the subject of investigation; in 764 cases property was stolen, and only in 164 cases does any clue appear to have been obtained, and in only 73 was a conviction secured. Under the headings dacoity (including preparation) and robbery 18 true cases occurred,—7 of the former and 11 of the latter. Though no convictions are recorded during the year, this is because several of the cases were pending at its close.

121. The comparative figures for 1879 show that the Police have been less successful during 1880 in detecting cases of receipt of stolen property, local nuisances, offences against public justice, offences connected with coin, notes, or stamps, and burglaries. It has already been observed that the results of their action under dacoity and robbery show unfavourably, mainly because of the cases pending at the end of the year. They have been more successful in cases of aggravated hurt, rioting, cattle-theft, murder,

grievous hurt, culpable homicide, vagrancy and bad character, ordinary theft, hurt, &c. (Class IV.), aggravated criminal force, lurking house-trespass and house-breaking, kidnapping, rape, and serious mischief, criminal trespass, and criminal breach of trust. On the whole, deficiency under the former is fairly balanced by improvement under the latter. Taking murders and homicides together, the percentage of convictions to true cases was 37·2 in 1880, against 32·8 in 1879. There has been a considerable advance under cattle-theft and ordinary theft, although under burglaries there is a serious falling off. These are the most important tests of Police work, and in them the work of the year, if it does not exhibit any important advance, is not behind that of its predecessor.

122. The following figures show the proportion of convictions to cases investigated in the Lower Provinces of Bengal. Comparison with Lower Bengal. cases investigated in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1880 under the more important of the above heads:—

	Percentage.		Percentage.
Vagrancy	71·1	Murders.....	36·7
Receiving stolen property.	70·9	Ordinary theft.....	32·5
Grievous hurt	62·4	Serious mischief	28·8
Riots	51·4	Robbery	26·5
Hurt, &c.	47·1	Kidnapping	22·1
Cattle-theft	45·7	Dacoity.....	20·8
Aggravated hurt	41·6	Rape	10·5
Culpable homicide	39·1	Burglaries	7·8

Except under rioting, aggravated hurt, murder, and kidnapping, these figures are generally better than those of Assam. The close correspondence between the two provinces in the three crucial tests of Police work—murders, burglaries, and thefts—is striking:—

	Percentage of convictions to cases investigated by Police.	
	Bengal.	Assam.
Murders	36·7	38·7
Burglaries	7·8	7·7
Thefts	32·5	31·5

The conditions of society in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh are so different from those prevailing in Assam that any comparison between the two must be to some extent fallacious; but the following are the percentages of convictions in cases investigated by the Police and disposed of in those Provinces for the offences mentioned:—

	Cases investigated by Police.	Cases prosecuted to conviction.	Percentage.
Murders	375	177	47
Rioting	588	447	76
Burglaries	31,637	4,220	13
Thefts	31,101	13,985	45
Cattle-theft	5,007	1,127	22

These proportions, it will be seen, except under the last head, are much better than in Assam.

123. The great increase in the number of cases under the Arms Act shown in paragraph 113 attracted Mr. Elliott's attention during the year. These cases, as already

observed, occurred almost exclusively in Nowgong, Lakhimpur, and Sylhet; but the Chief Commissioner found on enquiry that the Lakhimpur cases proved to have been prosecuted with a great excess of zeal, and punished with a severity which was in most instances uncalled for. In the majority of these cases Mr. Elliott, after obtaining particulars, decided to remit the fines imposed. Regarding the general policy of Government in taking action under the Arms Act, he observed that, while he quite recognised the necessity of preventing arms of precision from reaching the hands of turbulent frontier tribes, whose possession of them is dangerous to the peace of the border, and while to this end it is necessary sternly to suppress all attempts at contraband traffic in arms and ammunition, it is neither just nor expedient to punish severely cases of innocent possession and unconscious breach of the Act and Rules, such as came to light in North Lakhimpur. To do so not only tends to enlist the people against the policy of Government, but also leads to the concealment of weapons possessed before the Act came into force, and which, being unregistered and likely to bring trouble upon the owner should their possession be detected, he takes the first opportunity of getting rid of, across the frontier if possible. Moreover, in a country where wild animals are so numerous, and their depredations so destructive to life and property, it is not just to the people to throw impediments in the way of their possessing arms which are only intended to be used *bonâ-fide* in their own defence and in the protection of their crops. The true policy to pursue is that which Mr. Luttmann-Johnson has worked with considerable success in Sylhet: to induce the people to declare all arms in their possession, and to take out licenses for them by which they may be traced hereafter. The number of arms within the Province is nowhere sufficiently great for them to be a danger to the peace of the settled population when legitimately possessed by their owners; and when registered and known their history can be traced, and measures taken to prevent them from falling into the hands of our frontier enemies. Publicity, not repression, should be the end to be kept in view; and so long as severe penalties are imposed on the possession of firearms by persons probably ignorant of the law, publicity will certainly not be attained.

124. The figures showing the amount of property stolen and recovered are probably of little value in so far as they profess to record the former. Compared with the preceding year, they yield the following results:—

	1880.	1879.
Number of cases in which property was stolen	2,901	2,616
" " " it was recovered in whole or part	1,258	1,357
Percentage of latter	43·0	51·8
	Rs.	Rs.
Value of property reported stolen	1,16,459	96,426
" " recovered	39,290	37,664
Percentage of latter	33·7	39·0

The comparison is thus unfavourable to 1880. In Bengal in that year recoveries, in whole or part, were made in 45·5 per cent. of the

cases of theft, and the property recovered was 30·4 per cent. of that reported stolen; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the proportion of cases of recovery was 39·5 per cent. and of value recovered 38·8.

125. The results of sessions trials were an improvement upon those of 1879, 111 persons committed out of 171 tried, or 64·9 per cent., having been convicted, against 99 convicted out of 189 tried, or 52·3 per cent., in that year. In the Surmá Valley the improvement was most conspicuous, the percentage of convictions being 72·7 in 1880, against 61·6 in 1879. It is only in Sylhet and Cachar that the results are comparable with those in Bengal or the North-Western Provinces, all Deputy-Commissioners in the Assam Valley having powers under Section 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code, so that none but the most serious offences, punishable with death or calling for a sentence in excess of seven years' imprisonment, come before the Sessions Court.

126. In reviewing the Police Report for 1879, the late Chief Commissioner expressed a doubt "whether the jury system in the Assam Valley Districts is not wholly unadapted to the existing state of society, and the frequent cause of failures of justice," and the matter is now under consideration. The results in the Assam Valley are worse in 1880 than in 1879, the convictions being, only 38·4 per cent., against 55 in the latter year. Mr. Elliott understands that the origin of the jury system in these districts was due to a mistake; that the original form of the institution was a *pancháyat* of assessors, whose verdict was in no way binding on the Judge, but whose assistance was not without its use; and that in converting this *pancháyat* into a jury under the Criminal Procedure Code, it was not observed how greatly the power of the assessors was increased thereby. It is well known that in cases involving the death penalty native juries are frequently biassed by considerations apart from the guilt or innocence of the accused; and, from the nature of the distribution of jurisdiction in the Assam Valley, it is, generally speaking, chiefly capital cases which come before the Sessions Court. No further time will be lost in coming to a decision on the question whether there is any advantage in retaining juries in the Assam Valley.

127. The total number of charges of offences not cognizable by the Police, either instituted by complaint or taken up by the Magistrate of his own motion during the year, was 13,081, against 12,159 in the previous year, being an increase of 922, or 7·5 per cent. This increase is found under each of the seven classes into which crime is divided in the statements appended to the report, except in Class II. "Serious offences against the person," and Class VI., "Other offences" not included in the preceding five. The increase is largest in serial No. 15, "Criminal force," where the charges were 5,947, against 5,265 in 1879; serial No. 10, "Rioting, unlawful assembly, and affray," 128, against 33 in 1879; and in offences under the Cattle-trespass Act, 784, against 638 in 1879. The other headings show little variation. Nearly one half of the total number of non-cognizable offences reported in the Province consisted of charges of

criminal force. These results, like those under cognizable crime, are quite in consonance with the character of the year. The people were prosperous and free from anxiety about their harvests, and were able to indulge their love of petty litigation regarding rights of property and personal quarrels.

128. The Police were very sparingly employed to investigate non-cognizable crime; and the Chief Commissioner is glad to find that the number of cases in which their agency was used has diminished still further during the year. In only 607 cases was the enquiry made by the Police, against 776 in 1879 and 652 in 1878.

129. The issue of process upon complaint appears to have been granted with discretion. It was allowed in only 6,620 cases, out of 13,081, or in little more than half (50·6 per cent.) the complaints lodged. Last year process issued in 7,277 cases, out of 12,159, or 58·8 per cent. In Bengal the proportion in 1880 was much greater.—83,512 out of 108,350, or 77 per cent. Increasing attention has been given to the necessity of sifting carefully charges of petty offences before summoning the accused.

130. 9,021 persons were summoned, and 8,059 appeared before the Court; 712, or 8·8 per cent. were discharged without being put on trial, against 817 out of 7,916, or 10·3 per cent., in 1879. These persons were presumably served with process without good reason, and the decrease in their number is satisfactory. In Bengal in the same year the proportion so discharged was only 5·3 per cent., so that there is room for still further improvement in Assam. Of the remainder, 7,278 were actually tried, of whom 5,372, or 73·8 per cent., were convicted, against 62·2 per cent. in the previous year. This again points to more careful sifting on the part of the magisterial authorities before the issue of process. In Bengal the proportion of convictions was only 64·9 per cent. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh this Statement (D. Police, Part II.) is confined to those cases of non-cognizable crime in which the Police were employed, so that the figure of convictions for these Provinces cannot be given.

131. Upon the whole, the working of the department is fairly satisfactory. The success attained by the Police in dealing with cognizable crime is in most respects little inferior to the average of Lower Bengal, and the action of the Magistrates in respect of non-cognizable offences appears to have been judicious and discriminating.

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

132. No alteration has been made of the figures for area given in this section of the report for the preceding year, but, owing to the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet having re-estimated the population of that district during the

year under report, the population of the whole tract is now shown to be 3,838,676 souls, or 10,763 in excess of the number shown in the report for 1879.

The territory to which this report relates is divided, as heretofore, into two sessions divisions: one comprising the six districts in the Assam Valley, and the other the two districts in the Surma Valley.

133. As at the close of the previous year, there were 2 Sessions Judges and 8 District Magistrates (Deputy-Commissioners) employed at the close of 1880.

The Criminal Courts.

With the exception of the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet, all the District Magistrates exercised the special powers described in Section 36 of Act X. of 1872.

The number of Magistrates employed in Assam at the close of 1879 and 1880, was as follows:—

	Stipendiary.		Honorary.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Assam Valley Districts	32	33	25	24
Sylhet and Cachar	17	14	...	4
Total.....	49	47	25	28

It will be observed that the staff of Stipendiary Magistrates in Sylhet and Cachar was not so strong at the close of the past year as at the close of 1879; but the strength was somewhat augmented by the employment during the year under report of 4 Honorary Magistrates. Of these, 2 were Special Magistrates employed in Cachar (1 of whom, however, did no criminal work during the year), and 2 were Honorary Magistrates employed in Sylhet. In the latter district, the Deputy-Commissioner reports that the practice of making over petty cases to respectable gentlemen for enquiry under Section 146 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was attended with satisfactory results.

Of the 47 Stipendiary Magistrates, 32 exercised first-class, 12 second-class, and 3 third-class powers.

In Nowgong there were 9 Honorary Magistrates employed during the year, but one of these, the Deputy-Commissioner reports, was convicted in a criminal case and deprived of his powers; and, of the remaining 8, 6 did no criminal work during the year. The 2 Honorary Magistrates employed in Sylhet were the first of this class of officers introduced into that district. They, however, did very little judicial work during the year.

No Benches of Magistrates have yet been constituted in Assam.

134. No cases were committed by the Criminal Courts in Assam in the past year to the High Court on its Original Side.

The High Court.

135. The number of cases (including references under Section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) brought to trial, decided, and pending in the Courts of Session during 1879 and 1880, is given below:—

Courts of Session.

	Brought to trial.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1879	147	154	10
1880	116	104	19

The decrease was chiefly in Sylhet and Cachar, while in the Assam Valley Districts the commitments by the Magistrates of Lakhimpur increased from 3 in 1879 to 10 in the past year.

Only 5 cases were referred to Sessions Judges during the past year by Deputy-Commissioners under Section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, against 16 referred in the previous year.

The districts from which these 5 references were received were Goalpara (2), Lakhimpur (2), and Nowgong (1).

The average duration of cases of persons committed and of trials referred under Section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, decided by the Courts of Session in Assam for the past two years, is given below:—

	Average number of days during which each case lasted.					
	Assam Valley Districts.		Sylhet.		Cachar.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Cases of persons committed	42.1	36.7	48.8	50.2	89.3	48.3
Cases referred under Section 36, Criminal Procedure Code.	15.5	7.8	...	...	10.1	18.0

In Cachar the Sessions trials were not so protracted in 1880 as they were in the previous year. As regards the Courts in the Assam Valley Districts, more satisfactory figures would have been recorded had it not been for a case in Nowgong which remained on the file for so long a period as 68 days. In Sibsagar cases appear to have been disposed of with the greatest expedition, 23.7 days being recorded as the average duration of each case.

At the end of 1879, 12 persons were under trial, the cases of 229 persons were received on commitment or reference during the past year, and the case of 1 person was received back from the High Court for re-trial. There were therefore 242 persons under trial in the Courts of Session during 1880. Of these 3 died or escaped, 188 were tried, and the cases of 51 persons were pending trial at the close of the year.

The result of trials in each of the past two years is given below:—

	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Referred.
1879	172	137	7
1880	61	120	7

Including the cases of those on whom sentence of death was passed, subject to confirmation by the High Court, the ratio of convictions was 67 per cent. in the past, as compared with 45.5 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage was particularly good (100 per cent.) in respect of the commitments from Nowgong. The result of commitments from Goalpara (41 per cent. convicted) and Lakhimpur (45 per cent.) is not satisfactory.

136. 23 cases were tried by jury in the Sessions Courts of the Assam Valley Districts. In 3 of these the Sessions Judge disapproved of the verdicts

Jury trials.
recorded.

137. The number of cases tried with the assistance of assessors was 65 in the past, as compared with 100 in the previous, year. In 51 cases in the past year

the Judge concurred in the opinions given by the assessors, in 9 cases he differed from the opinions of one, and in 5 cases from the opinions of both of the assessors.

138. Six hundred and ninety-nine witnesses were examined by the Courts of Session during 1880, as compared with 984 in the previous year.

Witnesses examined, &c., in sessions cases.

The amount of diet-money, &c., paid to witnesses during the past year was Rs. 872, as compared with Rs. 1,572 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the smaller number of witnesses examined.

Including the witnesses who were not examined, the total number before the Courts during the past year was 1,179. Of these, 1,027 were discharged on the first day, 106 on the second, 17 on the third, and 29 after the third day. These last were detained in the courts at Goalpara and Kamrup, and the causes assigned for their prolonged detention are not unreasonable.

139. The number of cases brought to trial, disposed of, and pending in the Courts of Magistrates during each of the past two years, was as follows:—

Courts of Magistrates.

	Brought to trial.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1879	9,498	9,512	134
1880	9,821	9,789	159

The districts where the most marked increase is observable are Cachar (where 313 cases more than the number brought to trial in 1879 are reported), Lakhimpur, and Nowgong; and those where a decrease in the number of institutions appear are Sibsagar and Goalpara. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibsagar attributes the decrease to the prosperity of the people; while the Deputy-Commissioner of Goalpara states that the decrease was owing to fluctuation of litigation, and that the careful examination into complaints and the rejection of such as were of a civil nature also had a beneficial effect.

The number of cases decided last year was slightly in excess of the number tried during the previous year, but the files were not kept so clear of arrears as during that period; the number of cases decided not being equal to the number of new trials, and the number of cases pending at the close of 1880 being in consequence in excess of the number pending at the close of 1879.

Summary and regular trial.

140. The number of cases tried by the Magistrates is shown in the following

statement:—

	1879.	1880.
Tried under ordinary powers	6,887	6,778
Tried summarily	2,625	3,011
Total.....	9,512	9,789

The number of summary trials was 30·7 per cent. of the whole number of cases under trial in 1880, as compared with 27·6 per cent. in the preceding year.

Of the 3,011 summary trials held last year, 2,743 were held by Stipendiary Magistrates exercising first-class powers, and the rest by the District Magistrates (Deputy-Commissioners).

141. The following statement shows the number of cases decided by the Courts of the several grades of Magistrates in the past, as compared with the previous year:—

Disposal of cases.		1879.		1880.	
Subordinate Magistrates	Stipendiary.....	8,554	8,675		
	Honorary.....	528	451		
District and Divisional Magistrates.	Cases referred under Section 46, Criminal Procedure Code.	33	10		
	Chief Magistrates of districts.	53	36		

142. Cases referred under Section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been distributed generally among all the districts except Sylhet, where, as stated elsewhere, the District Magistrate does not exercise those powers. Of 36 cases decided, 5 were referred during the year under report to the Sessions Court for confirmation of the higher sentences passed.

143. The number of cases dealt with by Magistrates having powers of the first class, under Section 46 of the Code was only 10 in the past as compared with 33 in the previous year. The districts in which these trials were held were Goalpara (7), Nowgong (1), and Cachar (2).

144. No cases were referred during the year by Magistrates for the orders of the Sessions Courts under Section 507 of the Code.

145. The duration of cases disposed of by Magistrates of each class in each of the past two years is given in the following statement:—

	Average number of days each case lasted.					
	Assam Valley Districts.		Sylhet.		Cachar.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Honorary Magistrates	5·6	4·2	...	9·2	...	6·8
Stipendiary Magistrates	3·9	5·4	10·9	10·9	7·3	6·5
District Magistrates	6·3	5·3	5·2	3·4	14·6	7·1

From the above, it will be observed that, with the exception of the Stipendiary Magistrates of the Assam Valley Districts and of Sylhet,

cases on the files of all Magistrates in Assam have been decided with greater rapidity in 1880 than they were in 1879. Taking, however, each district in the Assam Valley separately, the greatest delay occurred in the Courts of Stipendiary Magistrates in Goalpára and Kámrup, 14·5 and 8·4 days per case being recorded as the average duration in these districts. In 1879 the average duration of cases decided by the Magistrates of this class in the two districts named was 6·9 and 2·0 days respectively. The Honorary Magistrates of Goalpára also show some dilatoriness in disposing of cases before them in the past year, for an average of 19·5 days to each case is reported ; but this is some improvement on the average duration (27·6 days) reported in 1879.

146. The total number of persons under trial in the Courts of Magistrates was 16,096 in the past, as compared with 15,974 in the previous year. Details are given below of the manner in which the persons brought to trial during 1880 appeared before the Court :—

Under arrest by Police	6,965
Upon warrant	1,894
On summons	5,932
Voluntarily	1,054

Omitting the number of persons who were committed to the Sessions, or whose cases were referred to a higher tribunal, the total number of persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates during 1880 was 15,526, as compared with 15,343 in 1879.

147. The results of trials in each of the years 1879 and 1880 are given below :—

Results of trials as affecting persons.

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Committed or referred.
1879.....	5,290	10,053	376
1880.....	4,800	10,726	244

Of the 15,526 persons who were acquitted, discharged, or convicted in 1880, 69·08 per cent. were convicted, as compared with 65·6 per cent. convicted in 1879. The districts in which the results were most satisfactory were Cachar (75· per cent.), and Kámrup and Nowgong, in each of which 71 per cent. were convicted. In Lakhimpur the returns are the most unsatisfactory, 61 per cent. only being recorded.

148. The mode of trial and the sentence passed in the cases of the persons convicted are shown below :—

Mode of trial and sentence passed.

	On regular trial.	On summary trial.
Appealable sentence passed	3,441	220
Non-appealable sentence passed	3,865	3,200
Total.....	<u>7,306</u>	<u>3,420</u>

It will be observed from this that of the persons who were convicted on summary trial, only 6·4 per cent. had the right of appeal ; whereas in the case of those who were convicted on regular trial, the ratio was 47·09 per cent.

The following were the classes of Courts holding the trials, in which 8,420 persons were convicted summarily :—

	Appealable sentence passed.	Non-appealable sentence passed.
Stipendiary Magistrates with first-class powers	194	2,864
District Magistrate	26	336
	220	3,200
	3,420	

The following statement shows the results of trials during the past two years before the Magistrates of each class :—

	Acquitted or discharged.		Convicted.		Percentage convicted.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Honorary Magistrates	441	396	572	501	56.4	55.8
Stipendiary Magistrates	4,683	4,204	8,921	9,426	65.5	69.1
District Magistrates	166	200	560	799	77.1	79.9

From the above it will be observed that there was a slight improvement in the results of trials before District and Stipendiary Magistrates. The districts where the result of trials by Honorary Magistrates was most satisfactory were Cachar (80.5 per cent. convicted) and Lakhimpur (74.3 per cent.) In Sibságar only 46.3 per cent. were convicted, and in Darrang 47.8 per cent. The results in Sibságar were, however, an improvement on the results obtained in 1879, when the percentage of persons who were convicted was reported to be only 37.2.

149. The number of persons awaiting trial in the Magistrates' Courts at the close of 1880 was 303, of whom only one had been under trial for more than three months. Of the remaining 302 persons, 22 were under trial for more than one and less than two months, as compared with 33 shown in the corresponding return of 1879. The trial of 10 persons could not be terminated at the end of 1880, because the accused persons were unable from unsoundness of mind to make their defence.

150. The total number of witnesses examined was 39,315 in the past, as compared with 37,412 in the preceding year. A considerable decrease appears in the number of witnesses examined in Sylhet in 1880. The decrease is the more noticeable when it is considered that there was a slight increase in the number of cases disposed of.

The amount paid to witnesses as expenses during 1880 was Rs. 437, or nearly half the amount reported to have been expended during 1879. In Lakhimpur an unaccountable decrease of from Rs. 469 in 1879 to Rs. 57 in 1880 is recorded. This decrease is the more remarkable when it appears that 854 witnesses more than the number examined in 1879 were examined in the past year. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar, however, in commenting on his return of expenses paid to witnesses, says that application is seldom made for the payment of expenses of witnesses, the usual practice in the district being that each side pays some sum or other to each one of its witnesses. This may be

regarded either as a reward for taking the trouble to come and give evidence, or as payment of expenses incurred in so doing. From the above, it will be observed that the figures given in the district returns do not represent the actual amount of expenses paid away to witnesses, and that therefore no comparison can be made of the figures of different years.

Of the witnesses who appeared in 1880 in the Courts of Magistrates (including those not examined), 41,437 were discharged on the first day, 4,934 on the second, 915 on the third, and 163 witnesses were not allowed to leave until after the third day. In Sylhet and Kámrup the greatest number of witnesses were detained for more than three days. The Deputy-Commissioner of the former district attributes the delay in the discharge of witnesses to the paucity of officers in the district, and to a case in which several defendants absconded, when processes issued and fresh defendants appeared on three successive days, thus rendering it necessary to re-examine the witnesses already examined. From the explanation submitted by the Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrup, it appears that some of the officers in the district do not attach sufficient importance to the punctual discharge of witnesses attending their Courts. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been drawn to this irregularity, as it is the duty of that officer to check it at the time of occurrence. In Lakhimpur, Nowgong, and Sibságar, no witnesses were kept in attendance for more than three days.

151. Of the cases referred under Section 287 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to the High Court on its appellate side for confirmation of sentence of death, the sentence was ordered to be carried out in the case of four persons.

The number of persons sentenced to transportation by the Courts of Session was 25, of whom 16 were sentenced to transportation for life and the rest to transportation for a term only.

The other sentences passed by the Courts of Session in the past year are given below:—

Rigorous imprisonment	94
Fine	30
Whipping	2

Of the 30 persons fined, in the case of one only was the fine the sole punishment.

The periods for which imprisonment was awarded were as follows:—

Not exceeding 15 days	1
" " 6 months	28
" " 2 years	22
" " 7 "	32
Above 7 years	4

In addition to the persons shown above, six persons were sentenced by Sessions Judges to rigorous imprisonment not exceeding seven years, and one person to rigorous imprisonment for a longer period, in cases referred to them by the Deputy-Commissioners under Section 36 of the Code.

The following table shows the results during the past two years as regards fines imposed by Courts of Session:—

	Imposed. Rs.	Realised. Rs.	Paid by way of compensation.
1879	2,170	1,436	.....
1880	904	538	.....

The number of persons sentenced by Magistrates to imprisonment, fine, and whipping respectively, or to more than one of these punishments, was as follows:—

	1879.	1880.
Imprisonment.....	3,221	3,078
Fine	6,304	7,326
Whipping	507	504

The imprisonment ordered in the past year was rigorous combined with solitary confinement in the case of 4 persons, rigorous in the case of 2,995 persons, and simple in the case of 79 persons. The terms of imprisonment did not exceed six months in the case of 2,637 persons; and in the case of 16 persons the imprisonment was for terms between two and seven years. Of the persons fined or sentenced to be flogged, 1,064 were sentenced to those punishments, in addition to some other class of punishment.

The amount of fines imposed by Magistrates in the exercise of Original jurisdiction was Rs. 90,371 in the past, as compared with Rs. 78,712 in the previous year, and the amount realised was Rs. 86,783, as compared with Rs. 74,724. The increase both in respect of the amount imposed and of that realised is most marked in Lakhimpur, Cachar, and Kámrúp; while, on the other hand, Sibságar shows a marked decrease in the amount of fines imposed. The above increase is attributed partly to the fact that the total number of cases dealt with in the past year was greater than in the preceding year; and partly to the fact that some exceptionally heavy fines were imposed in certain individual cases under the Arms Act and under Section 380 of the Indian Penal Code, and for infractions of the Opium and Excise Laws. In one case alone, a case regarding the illegal capture of elephants, fines to the amount of Rs. 1,550 were imposed. The Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrúp, in commenting on his return of fines realised, states that the readiness with which fines imposed by him were paid struck him as remarkable; and may, he thinks, be regarded as evidence of the comparative affluence of the Kámrúp ryots.

The amount awarded as compensation was Rs. 10,051 in the past year, as compared with Rs. 8,357 in the preceding one. The increase is distributed generally among the districts, save in Goálpára and Cachar, where there is a slight decrease, and in Darrang and Lakhimpur where the increase is considerable.

152. The number of appeals from the decisions of the Criminal Courts in Assam instituted, disposed of, and pending in the High Court during the past two years was as follows:—

Appellate Jurisdiction.—The High Court.

	Instituted.		Disposed of.		Pending.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Valley Districts	9	15	9	12	...	3
Sylhet	48	40	47	38	1	3
Cachar	13	14	10	15	3	2
Total.....	70	69	66	65	4	8

Of the appeals filed in 1880, 15 were appeals by persons convicted by Deputy-Commissioners in the exercise of their special powers under Section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 54 were appeals by persons convicted by Sessions Judges. No appeal was preferred in 1880 by Government against a judgment of acquittal passed by any of the officers in Assam.

It will be observed, from the statement given above, that there was a slight falling off in the number of appeals filed in 1880 by persons convicted by the Court of Session at Sylhet, notwithstanding that the number of persons convicted, and in whose cases the sentences passed were appealable, was 86 in the past, as compared with 77 in the preceding year.

The following statement shows the result as affecting cases of the appeals decided during each of the past two years :—

	Valley Districts.		Sylhet.		Cachar.		Total.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Affirmed.....	6	9	37	33	8	10	51	52
Reversed	1	1	4	5	1	2	6	8
Varied	1	...	6	...	1	...	8	...
Re-trial ordered.....	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	2
Otherwise disposed of	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3

From the above, it appears that in 80 per cent. of the cases decided during the past year the judgment of the Lower Court was upheld, as compared with 77·2 per cent. in the previous year. Of appeals against the decisions of Sessions Judges, the result (82·6 per cent. in which the Judges' decisions were affirmed) was satisfactory; the decisions of Deputy-Commissioners appealed against did not, however, fare so well: only 9 out of 13, or 69·2 per cent., of their decisions being upheld.

The results of appeals as affecting persons during the past two years are given below :—

	1879.	1880.
Appeals rejected	34	58
Sentence confirmed	35	18
" enhanced .....	...	...
" reduced or altered	8	...
" reversed or quashed	7	8
New trial ordered.....	7	2

The appeals of 67·4 per cent. of the appellants whose cases were disposed of during 1880 were summarily rejected, as compared with 37·8

per cent. in the previous year. Appeals against the decisions of the Sessions Judge of Sylhet were the least successful, 79·1 per cent. having been rejected.

The results of admitted appeals were as follows :—

	Percentage.	
	1879.	1880.
Orders of Lower Courts affirmed:.....	61·4	64·2
Sentences reduced	14	.....
" reversed	12·2	28·5
New trials ordered	12·2	7·1

153. The following comparative table shows the number of appeals preferred, decided, and pending in the Courts of Session and of District Magistrates during the past two years :—

Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

	Filed.		Decided.		Pending.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Courts of Session:.....	235	282	220	282	18	17
Courts of Magistrates:	125	104	126	104	1	1
Total:.....	360	386	346	386	19	18

The total number of appeals filed was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. This increase is to be found only in Courts of Session, the appeals to District Magistrates having decreased in the past year. Appeals to the Sessions Court against the sentences passed by the Magistrates of Cachar rose from 34 in 1879 to 83 in 1880. The Sessions Court at Lakhimpur also shows a marked increase. The great influx of appeals in these two Courts was obviously due to the fact that appealable sentences were passed by Magistrates exercising first-class powers in respect of 472 persons in 1880; whereas in the preceding year such sentences were passed by Magistrates of the class referred to in the respect of 328 persons only.

Of the appeals decided in 1880, 282 were tried by Sessions Judges and 104 by District Magistrates; the corresponding figures for 1879 were 220 and 126 respectively. Notwithstanding that the number of appeals preferred in the Courts of Session was greater in 1880 than in 1879, the number pending at the close of the past year was only 17.

The number of persons who appealed in 1880 was 653, or 17·8 per cent. of the number of persons in respect of whom appealable orders were passed, as compared with 13 per cent. in the previous year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in the case of 424 persons, or 67·08 per cent. of those whose appeals were heard. The districts where the results of appeals were most favourable to Lower Courts were Kāmrup (82·1 per cent. of the decisions affirmed), Nowgong (81·2 per cent.), and Darrang (80 per cent.); and the districts where the appellants were more successful were Goalpāra (only 52 per cent. of the decisions being affirmed) and Cachar (54 per cent.) In the case of Nowgong and Darrang, however, it will be observed that the number of appellants in each district was 35 only.

The following statement shows more in detail the results (as affecting persons) of the appeals decided during the past year:—

		Appeals rejected or sentence confirmed.	Sentence enhanced.	Sentence reduced or otherwise altered.	Sentences reversed or proceedings quashed.	New trial or further enquiry ordered.
Valley Districts...	Magistrates' Courts..	68	10	21	8	1
	Courts of Session ...	139	...	8	21	...
Sylhet and Cachar	Magistrates' Courts..	34	3	9	13	...
	Courts of Session ...	183	1	44	62	7
Total.....	Magistrates' Courts..	102	13	30	21	1
	Courts of Session ...	322	1	52	83	7

154. The following table shows the number of cases arising in the Province of Assam dealt with by the High Court as a Court of Reference during the past year:—

Superintendence, reference, and revision.—The High Court.
Number of cases.

	Pending, 1879.	Filed, 1880.	Disposed of, 1880.	Pending, 1880.
References under Section 263, Criminal Procedure Code.	...	...	...	...
References under Section 287, Criminal Procedure Code.	1	6	6	1
References under Section 186, Criminal Procedure Code.	...	...	...	...
References under Section 197, Criminal Procedure Code.	...	1	1	...
Total	1	7	7	1

In the past year no case was referred under Section 263 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, in consequence of his disapproving of the verdict of the jury; nor was any case under Section 186 of the Code referred during that year by any of the officers of the Province of Assam.

Of the 6 cases referred to the High Court during 1880 under Section 287 of the Code, for confirmation of the sentence of death, 1 was received from Kámrúp, 1 from Lakhimpur, 3 from Sibságar, and 1 from Sylhet. The case pending at the commencement of the year came up from Sylhet. In respect of 4 persons the sentence of death was confirmed; 1 person was acquitted, and the case of another was remanded for re-trial.

The case under Section 197 of the Code was referred by the Court of Session at Kámrúp, with a view to have the commitment of the accused (who, it appears, was insane at the time of the enquiry before the Lower Court) quashed. It resulted in the recommendation of the Sessions Judge being adopted.

The total number of cases dealt with by the High Court under its powers of revision during the past year was 34. Of these, 3 were pending at the close of 1879; 17 were referred for the orders of the Court under Section 296 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by District Magistrates and Sessions Judges; and the rest were dealt with by the Court under Section 294. The figures for 1879 were 21 under Section 296, and 17 under Section 294.

Of the cases dealt with under Section 294, 3 were decided by the Sessions Judge of Sylhet and Cachar, and 14 by Magistrates (7 in the Assam Valley Districts and 7 in Sylhet).

The following statement shows in detail for each district the results (as affecting cases) of the proceedings in revision :—

Courts whose orders were the subject of revision.		Affirmed.	Reversed.	Varied.	New trial ordered.	Otherwise disposed of.	Total.
Courts of Session	{ Valley Districts .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Sylhet and Cachar	1	1	1	...	...	3
District Magistrates...	{ Valley Districts	3	1	...	...	1	5
	{ Sylhet .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Cachar .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Others	{ Valley Districts	7	3	2	1	...	13
	{ Sylhet	3	4	...	1	...	8
	{ Cachar .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total.....		14	10	3	2	1	30

The orders of the Lower Court were upheld in 46·6 per cent. of the cases decided, and reversed in 33·3 per cent. From the above statement it will be seen that the results are unfavourable to the Sessions Judge of Sylhet and Cachar; one out of 3, or 33·3 per cent. only, of that officer's decisions being upheld.

The statement below gives details of the result of proceedings in revision (as affecting persons) during each of the past two years:—

	1879.	1880.
Applications rejected.....	18	30
Orders confirmed.....	12	7
Sentence enhanced .....	...	4
„ reduced or altered	1	1
„ reversed or quashed	14	21
New trials or further enquiry ordered ...	4	8
	—	—
Total	49	71
	—	—

155. The following table shows the number of applications for revision preferred, disposed of, and pending in the past two years in the Courts of Sessions Judges and District Magistrates:—

		Preferred.		Disposed of.		Pending.	
		1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Valley Districts.....	Sessions Judges	42	17	42	14	1	3
	Magistrates	33	34	31	33	...	1
Sylhet and Cachar...	Sessions Judges	16	31	15	30	1	2
	Magistrates	23	105	21	105	2	2
Total ...	Sessions Judges	58	48	57	44	2	5
	Magistrates	56	139	62	138	2	3

While the number of applications for revision filed in the Courts of Session has slightly fallen off, the number filed in the Magistrates' Courts in 1880 largely exceeded the number filed in the previous year; the increase in the Court of the Magistrate of Sylhet being most marked. The Sessions Judge attributes the decrease in the Assam Valley Districts to the better comprehension of the law on the subject of revision on the part of petitioners.

The number of applicants for revision during 1880 was 221, or 1·3 per cent. of the number of persons in respect of whom orders were passed by the Subordinate Criminal Courts. The ratio of persons applying was highest in Goálpára (2·5 per cent.), Sylhet (2·4 per cent.), and Kámrúp (2·1 per cent.); and was lowest in Lakhimpur, in which district only ·07 per cent. is recorded, and in Darrang ·06 per cent. The applications of 133 persons, or of 62·1 per cent. of those whose cases were decided, were rejected, the orders of the Lower Court being upheld. The proportion of applicants who were thus unsuccessful was greatest in Darrang and Nowgong, and least in Kámrúp, where only 15·8 per cent. of the persons whose cases were disposed of had their applications rejected.

The following statement shows more in detail the result of revision as affecting persons:—

Courts to which application was made.		Applications rejected.	New trial ordered.	Referred.
Courts of Session ...	Valley Districts.....	14	...	3
	Sylhet and Cachar...	31	2	6
District Magistrates.	Valley Districts.....	20	7	25
	Sylhet	67	32	...
	Cachar.....	1	4	2
Total		133	45	36

156. As explained in the report for 1879, there is some difficulty in determining the amount to be charged to the administration of Criminal Justice on account of the salary of the officers employed in Assam.

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The receipts and charges of all the Criminal Courts for the past two years were as follows:—

	Receipts. Rs.	Charges. Rs.
1879	1,14,425	2,33,227
1880	1,25,335	2,29,025

The general financial result is to show a deficit of Rs. 1,03,690 in the past, as compared with Rs. 1,18,802 in the previous, year. In the Assam Valley Districts the excess of expenditure over receipts was Rs. 88,849; while in Sylhet and Cachar it was only Rs. 14,841.

The receipts of Magistrates' Courts and of Courts of Session for the past two years are shown below in detail:—

	STAMPS.				CASH.			
	Process-fees.		Other fees.		Fines.		Miscellaneous.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Magistrates' Courts	10,943	10,815	21,672	19,898	76,173	89,563	3,912	4,112
Sessions Courts .....	.....	.....	256	262	1,451	660	18	25
Total	10,943	10,815	21,928	20,160	77,624	90,223	3,930	4,137

From the above, it will be observed that, while the value of court-fee stamps expended was not so large in 1880 as it was in 1879, a material increase in the amount of fines and of miscellaneous receipts is reported. The only Courts in which there was a slight increase in the value of court-fee stamps used are the Courts of the Deputy-Commissioners of Cachar, Goálpára, and Lakhimpur, and the Court of the Sessions Judge of Sylhet and Cachar.

The following are the details of the charges of the Criminal Courts for the past two years:—

	Salaries of Judicial Officers.		ESTABLISHMENT.				Contingencies, and refunds.	
			Process-servers.		Others.			
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Magistrates' Courts.	1,24,870	1,19,325	8,614	8,103	53,083	50,446	19,316	20,355
Courts of Session ...	22,048	25,256	.....	.....	1,732	3,866	3,564	1,674
Total ...	1,46,918	1,44,581	8,614	8,103	54,815	54,312	22,880	22,029

From this statement will be observed that in 1880 the expenditure of the Criminal Courts in Assam was reduced under all heads.

Although the amount realised in 1880 on account of process-fees fell short of the amount realised in the preceding year, the finances of

the process serving department appear to be in a more satisfactory condition; for, by the reduction of establishment expenses during 1880, the profit to Government from these fees was Rs. 2,712, as compared with Rs. 2,329 in 1879. Moreover, the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet reports that, owing to the Subordinate Magistrates of the district having delayed bringing into operation his orders to add from June to October of the year 25 per cent. on account of boat-hire to the charges ordinarily recovered from parties for the issue of processes, Government sustained a loss of about Rs. 350. From this, it will be observed that, had the delay referred to not occurred, the profit to Government would have been Rs. 3,062 in the year under review.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE HILL DISTRICTS.

157. The proportion of reported crime to population in the hill districts is less than one-third of what it is in the several plains districts of this Province, as will be seen from the figures shown below:—

Hill districts 1 crime to 1,384 souls.
 Plains " " 455 "

This, however, is principally due to the fact that petty crime in these districts is dealt with by the village authorities, who submit no returns.

158. The table below compares the total number of cases instituted in the three hill districts during the past three years:—

Districts.	Cases reported.			Persons.												Remarks.
				Arrested.			Put on trial.			Convicted.			Acquitted.			
	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.	
Khási Hills....	130	187	160	179	238	166	172	216	152	139	181	119	33	35	30	3 under trial at the close of the year.
Gáro "	24	38	34	42	62	55	40	62	55	30	40	33	10	18	21	1 ditto ditto.
Nága " ....	..	..	16	..	..	26	..	..	26	..	..	21	..	..	5	
Total .	154	225	210	221	300	247	212	278	233	169	221	173	43	53	56	4 ditto ditto.

From the above, it appears that there has been a decrease of 27 cases in the Khási Hills and 4 in the Gáro Hills, as compared with the figures for 1879, but the percentage of persons convicted to those arrested was not so favourable, as will be seen from the figures given below:—

Khási Hills 1879. 1880.
 Gáro " 76 71
 " 64 60

In the Nága Hills the percentage of convictions to persons arrested was 80, which, considering that but few cases occurred in this district, does not call for any remark.

159. Of the 210 cases instituted in these districts, 84 were under the head of "ordinary theft," against 106 in the preceding year, or a decrease of 22 cases.

Results of cases.

The results of these cases are shown in the following statement:—

Districts.	Cases reported.		Pending trial at the close of the last year.	Persons.								Property stolen.		Property recovered.		Percentage of property recovered to property stolen.					
	1879.	1880.		Arrested.	Total.		Put on trial.		Convicted.	Acquitted.		1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.				
					1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.		1879.	1880.							1879.	1880.		
Khási Hills..	88	54	..	95	48	95	48	88	44	67	33	16	7	..	2	4,000	2,644	1,523	1,111	38-07	42-02
Gáro " "	18	21	..	30	36	30	36	30	36	19	18	8	18	3	..	..	357	..	846	..	96-91
Nága " "	..	9	..	..	16	..	16	..	16	..	12	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	106	84	..	125	100	125	100	118	96	86	65	24	29	3	2	4,000	3,001	1,523	1,457	38-07	48-5

The percentage of persons convicted to those arrested is shown below:—

Khási Hills.....	1879.	1880.
Gáro "	70	73
Nága "	63	50
..	..	75

The proportion of property recovered to that stolen was good in the Nága Hills, where out of Rs. 357 stated to have been stolen, Rs. 346, or 96·91 per cent., was recovered. The Deputy-Commissioner of the Gáro Hills has not stated the value of property stolen and that recovered. In the Khási Hills a slight improvement is seen in the recovery of stolen property,—the percentage being 42·02, against 38·07 of 1879, or an increase of 3·95 per cent. over the figures for last year. In one theft case property valued at Rs. 1,500 could not be traced by the investigating officer, and this fact brought down the percentage of recoveries. In the Khási Hills the number of cases under the head of "Public and Local nuisances" has increased from 23 to 35. Convictions were obtained in 34 cases, against 36 persons out of 37 actually put on trial.

160. The following statement shows the results of the non-cognizable cases instituted in the hill districts during the past two years:—

Districts.	Number of cases instituted.		Number of cases in which Police were employed to make enquiry.		Number of cases in which processes issued.		Number of persons against whom processes issued.		Number actually appeared before the court, including that pending from last year.		Number acquitted.		Number convicted.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Khási Hills.	40	42	11	9	33	34	65	62	65	72	9	25	56	47
Gáro " "	20	35	..	11	20	30	44	53	44	53	35	19	9	33*
Nága " "	..	11	..	2	..	7	..	17	..	17	..	1	..	16
Total ..	60	88	11	22	53	71	109	132	109	142	44	45	65	96

* One waiting trial at the close of the year.

From the foregoing, it appears there has been an increase of 28 cases over the figures for last year, 2 in the Khási Hills, 15 in the Gáro Hills, and 11 in the Nága Hills. Of these 88 cases, only 4 in the Khási Hills were taken up by the Magistrate of his own motion, and the rest were instituted by complaint. The number of cases in which the Police were employed to make enquiry was 22, or double the number shown for the preceding year. The percentage of persons convicted to those who actually appeared before the Courts was, on the whole, good, as will be seen from the figures given below:—

	1879.	1880.
Khási Hills.....	86	67
Gáro „	20	62
Nága „ .....	...	94

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

161. There were 4 principal and 17 subsidiary jails in Assam during the year 1880, or one less than in the preceding year, the lock-up at Jaipur having been closed. The total number of prisoners confined was less than in the preceding year by 487 (4,925, against 5,412); the number in confinement at the close of the year was larger by 9 (1,321, against 1,312); 24 convicts escaped (9 less than in the preceding year), and all but 2 were re-captured. The number of punishments inflicted in the 4 principal jails was 372, against 521 in 1879, and in 157 of these cases the punishment of whipping was awarded, a smaller number by 109 cases than in the preceding year. The total expenditure on the jails was Rs. 1,55,215, against Rs. 1,70,430 in 1879, and the average cost of dieting a prisoner fell from Rs. 41 in 1879 to Rs. 32-2-4 in 1880, a decrease of Rs. 8-13-8 per head. The number of deaths fell from 103 to 76, and the percentage of mortality from 8.07 to 5.31. These facts show that the year was, on the whole, a fortunate one, as compared with its predecessor: the amount of crime was less, food was cheaper, health was better, and the management of the department was economical and successful.

162. Of the 1,321 convicts who were in jail at the close of the year 42.5 were Muhammadans, 38.9 Hindus, and 19 per cent. belonged to the hill and wild races, who cannot be classed as belonging to either of these religions. The great preponderance of Muhammadans was of course in Sylhet and Cachar. In 626 cases the sentences did not exceed a year, and in only 124 did they exceed five years. No less than 19 per cent. of these prisoners, or 249, had been convicted more than once.

In both 1879 and 1880 an attempt has been made to distinguish the convicts who are natives of the Province from those who are tea-coolies of other classes, and this year it is shown that of 4,214 prisoners 990 were foreigners, and of these 738 were tea-coolies.

Most of these so-called "foreigners" were probably imprisoned for breaches of the Artificers' Contract Act (XIII. of 1859) and of the Labour Emigration Act (VII. [B.C.] of 1873).

Civil prisoners.

Number of civil prisoners admitted.—1876, 147; 1877, 116; 1878, 227; 1879, 323; 1880, 231.

163. The number of civil prisoners was much smaller than in 1879, but was nearly identical with that of 1878, and much larger than the number in 1876 and 1877.

164. The only important building work that went on was that of constructing the two central jails of Gauhati and Sylhet, in which fair progress was made.

Buildings.

Next after the works carried on in the Gauhati and Sylhet Jails the chief expenditure has been on the construction of a solid masonry wall round the subsidiary jail at Silchar. The Chief Commissioner thinks that this has been a great waste of money. He finds that the jail population is, speaking generally, mild and quiet in behaviour; *émeutes* are unknown; and any prisoner of political importance, or convicted of a serious offence, can be transferred to one of the two central jails. For this and other reasons, more fully detailed later on, he has decided to employ the prisoners to a great extent on extramural labour, and when prisoners are so employed there is little use in building jail walls of formidable strength. For such a class of people as we have to deal with in Assam, the bamboo or timber stockades which are usual in the country are quite sufficient, and any large expenditure on more solid work will be discouraged.

165. A justification of this policy will be found in the very light return of escapes, of which there were only 24 in 1880, against 33 and 30 in the two preceding years; and of these escapes only 4 were from inside, 20 from outside the walls.

Escapes.

From the four main jails there were 5 escapes, giving a percentage of .56 on the 893 admissions of the year. From the smaller jails and lock-ups, there were 19 escapes, and the percentage, similarly calculated, was .7, a figure not so much in excess of the former as might have been expected, considering the better discipline and security of the larger institutions. Of the 24 prisoners who escaped 22 were recaptured. There were several cases of neglect on the part of the guards, who were duly punished, and orders have now been issued, prescribing the use of ankle-rings by all prisoners extramurally employed, and other precautions, which will, it is hoped, still further diminish the frequency of escapes.

166. Two points are favourably mentioned under the head of discipline: one is the good conduct of the convict warders, who, as the Inspector-General writes, are stimulated in the discharge of their duties by the many privileges of their position, and hope, if they work well, to get a considerable remission of their original sentence. The other is the success of the mark system, which the long-term prisoners thoroughly understand and appreciate, so much so that when a jail is inspected, one of the most frequent matters of complaint brought

Good conduct of convict warders and success of mark system.

forward by the prisoners is that they do not get their full share of marks. The Chief Commissioner believes that experience shows the same results all over India, and he considers these points noticeable, as indicating how much more successful the British Administration is, when it is able to govern not merely by the appeal to duty or by the fear of punishment, but also by holding out hope of substantial reward.

167. In the report for 1879 the total number of prison offences and punishments was not shown; but in the chief jails the punishments were 521 and the floggings 266; in 1880 in the same jails the number of offences punished fell to 372 and the number of floggings to 157. In the whole of the jails there were only 504 punishments and 248 floggings. This decrease in the use of the cane is approved by the Chief Commissioner, who looks with displeasure on a large return of floggings. But at the same time, the Chief Commissioner does not wish Jail Superintendents to fall into the opposite extreme of inflicting no penalties at all, and passing over unruly or lazy conduct without a punishment, and he has remarked with dissatisfaction that in some jails he has inspected the punishment register was almost or entirely blank.

168. The following figures show in full detail the entire cost of maintaining the jails for the last two years:—

Average number of prisoners of all classes.....	1879.			1880.		
	1,437.			1,431.		
	Total cost.	Average per head.		Total cost.	Average per head.	
	Rs.	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	Rs.	As. P.
General supervision.....	3,000	2	1 4	3,000	2	1 4
Dieting	58,919	41	0 0	46,002	32	2 4
Establishment	20,524	14	4 6	17,821	12	7 3
Police guard.....	26,540	18	7 6	27,263	19	0 9
Hospital	2,699	1	14 0	1,854	1	4 8
Clothing	4,239	2	15 2	4,308	3	0 2
Miscellaneous contingencies ...	8,004	5	9 1	6,871	4	12 9
Construction and repairs	47,505	33	0 11	48,096	33	9 9
Total	1,70,430	118	9 7	1,55,215	108	7 5

The decrease in cost amounts to Rs. 15,215, or Rs. 10-2-2 per head of all persons confined in the jails. The expenditure under all other heads except that of diet varied very little; but, owing to the greater cheapness of food, the cost of rations was less by Rs. 8-13-8 per head. In order, however, to understand the normal cost of maintaining a prisoner, and to compare one year with another, it is more correct to put aside all expenditure on the construction and re-modelling of jails, and to include only the cost of ordinary repairs and up-keep of the buildings. Calculated in this manner the cost is Rs. 78-10-1 per head.

169. The cost of rationing a prisoner was Rs. 32-2-4 on the average of all jails; at the three principal jails of Gauhati, Sylhet, and Tezpur the rate differed but slightly from this average, while at Shillong it was necessarily higher, rising to Rs. 51-13-10 per head, on account of the dearness of

provisions in this place. But in the subsidiary jails the variations are very remarkable, the rate at the most expensive one, Hailakandi, being Rs. 53-1-2, and at Dibrugarh Rs. 45-1-6, while it fell as low as Rs. 13-3-2 at Mangaldai, Rs. 15-13 at Barpeta, and Rs. 17-4-7 at Nowgong.

170. The average daily number of convicts sentenced to labour throughout the year (calculating 311 working days to the year) was 1,328·15. Of these, the average daily number of sick and convalescent was 91·76, and the different employments to which the balance, or 1,236·39, were set, are shown in the following table:—

Unremunerative labour	15·67
Prison officers	41·99
Prison servants	150·05
Jail garden	72·62
Preparing articles for jail consumption	30·68
Jail repairs	51·51
Ditto under Public Works Department	464·54
Manufactures	257·84
Miscellaneous extramural labour	151·49

It appears that the term “unremunerative labour” is used with no precise meaning, and covers in some cases any work for which cash is not paid.

The percentage of prison officers and prison servants is 3·16 and 11·29 respectively, which are moderate figures, considering the large number of small lock-ups to be dealt with.

171. The gross expenditure under all heads on prison maintenance proper was Rs. 1,12,522, and the cash expenditure Rs. 85,150. Deducting from this the difference between cash drawn out of the treasury for manufactures, &c. (Rs. 26,332), and cash paid in from profits of labour (Rs. 28,811), or Rs. 2,479, the net total expenditure of the year was Rs. 1,10,043, and the net cash expenditure Rs. 82,671, or Rs. 76-14-4 and Rs. 57-12-7 per head respectively.

172. The year was a peculiarly healthy one. The total number of sick convicts admitted to jail was 1,693, and, including under-trial prisoners, 1,738; the corresponding figures for last year are not given for all the prisons, but for the four principal jails alone the admissions to hospital were 1,500 in 1879, against 1,107 in 1880. The daily average number of sick in all the prisons was 63·32, against 55·33 in the present year. The number of deaths was 76 in 1880, or 5·31 of the entire jail population, against 103 deaths in 1879, or 8·07 per cent. of the population. These figures show decided improvement in every particular. Looking at the individual returns of the four principal jails, the death-rate in Sylhet, Tezpur, and Shillong is 2·74, 2·70, and 2·51, respectively, while in Gauhati it stands

as high as 11·03, and the rate in 1879 was 17·55. No sufficient explanation is given of this high rate. The principal causes* of death were dysentery, diarrhoea, and fever; and the Civil Surgeon attributes the mortality from dysentery and diarrhoea to the prevalence of opium-eating and the consequent enfeeblement of the constitution. The objection to this theory is

* Dysentery and diarrhoea.....	17
Fever	2
Debility	8
Other causes	9
Total	31

that opium-eating is less prevalent in Kámrúp than in the districts to the north-east of it, in which, however, the mortality is not so great as in the Gauháti Jail. Some special statistics are being collected to show what portion of the direct admissions to each jail are opium-eaters, what quantity of the drug they have been in the habit of consuming, and what effects its stoppage has on them, and in a year or two we may hope to have some more definite information on this vexed question. Meanwhile, the Inspector-General has been directed to hold a careful examination of the Gauháti Jail, to see if he can detect any preventible causes of sickness; the completion of the new barracks will be hurried on, and the tank within the jail compound, to which the Chief Commissioner has already objected, will be filled up.

173. Among the subsidiary jails the general average death-rate was 5·14 per cent., or nearly the same as that of the principal jails. The ratio was highest in the places named below; but in all cases the numbers concerned are too few for any deductions to be safely drawn, since in no case except Dibrugarh do the deaths amount to more than 2. In seven of these smaller prisons there were no deaths at all:—

Subsidiary Jail.	Average strength.	Number of deaths.	Average death-rate.
Dibrugarh	23·27	5	21·48
Barpeta	7·01	1	14·26
Goálpára	14·22	2	14·06
Golághát	19·77	2	10·11
Mangaldai	12·14	1	8·23
Jorhát	14·	1	7·14

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Original Jurisdiction. Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court. Number of original suits instituted, &c.

174. The number of suits instituted, disposed of, and pending in the Civil Courts of Assam during 1879 and 1880 was as follows:—

	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1879.....	21,778	21,483	3,191
1880.....	21,448	22,081	2,797

The number of rent suits under Act X. of 1859 instituted, disposed of, and pending in the Revenue Courts of the Assam Valley Districts during the same period was as follows:—

	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1879	333	338	18
1880	228	231	24

In the Civil Courts the figures for the past year show a decrease under all three heads. The districts where the decrease in the number

of institutions was most marked were Sylhet (where the institutions in the past year were 814 less than the number instituted in 1879) and Lakhimpur. On the other hand, the districts in which litigation appears to be on the increase were Kámrúp, where 1,909 suits were instituted in 1880 as compared with 1,652 in 1879, Nowgong, 1,764 in 1880 as compared with 1,482 in 1879, and Goálpára, 1,049 in the past as compared with 926 in the previous year.

In explanation of these results, the Officiating Judge of the Assam Valley Districts (Mr. Ridsdale) reports thus:—"It is difficult, and often perhaps impossible, to afford an adequate and demonstrable explanation of variations from year to year in these aggregate results, except when the successive recurrence of a similar variation may suggest the operation of some specific cause in a certain direction. Individual cases, however, of large discrepancy should be capable of explanation." He agrees in the opinion of his predecessor (Mr. Ward) embodied in the report for 1879, and adds that "in the present condition of the Province the amount of litigation may be expected to vary from year to year within the limits shown by the figures for the past six years, such variation being due to accidental circumstances in particular districts." The decrease in Lakhimpur the Deputy-Commissioner attributes to the impending crisis in the tea industry. On this subject he remarks—"The district in respect of its commercial relations is very largely, almost exclusively it may be said, dependent on the tea industry. The ordinary population of the district is very small, and its trade, except in connection with this industry and with speculations in rubber, is of a very trifling description. The very severe depression, which undoubtedly affected the tea industry last year, and still affects it, would consequently very likely have had this effect of checking litigation, both by the decrease in business operations in this branch of trade, and from the reluctance of creditors to compel settlement of their claims during such a crisis." The Judge adds that "it will be observed that the figures for Lakhimpur are this year very nearly the same as those of 1878, which would point to a different inference—that the increase last year was abnormal, and that the decrease this year is due to special causes." The decrease in litigation in Cachar is slight, and is chiefly in respect of title and other suits. This decrease the Deputy-Commissioner attributes to the adjustment of boundaries now in course of being carried out in the district.

It will be observed that there has been a great falling off in the institutions in the Revenue Courts in the Assam Valley Districts. The District Judge states:—"No explanation of this variation is afforded by the Deputy-Commissioner. I attribute the decrease principally to the uncertainty in the districts in Assam Proper as to the state of the revenue law."

175. Although the institutions during 1880 in the Civil Courts of the Province fell short of the number instituted Original suits disposed of. in 1879, the number of cases decided in the past year exceeded the number decided in the previous year. In Lakhimpur and Cachar, however, the number decided was not very satisfactory. The Deputy-Commissioner of the latter district in explaining this reports:—"The decrease in the disposals is mainly in the Court of the

Assistant-Commissioner of Hailákáñdi sub-division, whom it has been lately found necessary to relieve of some portion of the civil work owing to the amount of executive work he has to discharge."

176. In the Assam Valley Districts there was an increase in the Pending files of original suits. pending files at the close of the year, which was obviously in consequence of the greater number of suits instituted during the past year; and in Cachar the pending file rose from 138 in 1879 to 172 in the past year. This increase was owing to the transfer of cases from the file of the Assistant-Commissioner of Hailákáñdi to that of the Sadr Munsif, for reasons already stated.

177. At the close of 1880 six suits and two appeals were pending Suits and appeals pending for more than a year at the end of 1880. on the files of the Civil Courts of the Province for more than one year; at the close of 1879 there were no suits pending for that period. Three of the suits referred to above were pending in the Courts of Sylhet, and the delay in their decision is accounted for by the District Judge thus:—"In all these cases Government was a party, and several postponements were granted before the written statements were filed by Government, and local enquiries were ordered in April and June last. When the amín reached the localities he found the lands under water, and the enquiries were consequently postponed till the inundation had subsided. The enquiries could not be made within the year sufficiently early to enable the Court to dispose of those cases till after the close of the year."

Number and value of suits instituted. 178. In the following statement figures are given for each of the years 1879 and 1880:—

	Number of suits filed.		Value in litigation.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Valley Districts.....	7,608	8,119	7,75,091	6,98,470
Sylhet	12,735	11,921	10,70,467	8,59,597
Cachar	1,435	1,408	1,10,748	1,02,882

On comparing the figures for the past two years, it will be observed that in Sylhet the value of the property in litigation in the past year fell short of the value of the property in litigation in the previous year by over two lakhs of rupees. This the District Judge attributes to the fact that fewer bond suits for large amounts were instituted in 1880. In Cachar the falling off is shown to be only Rs. 8,866.

Value in detail of suits instituted. 179. In the following statement the value of the suits instituted in the Civil and Revenue Courts in the past year in each district is shown in detail:—

		Number of suits.			
		Assam Valley Districts.	Sylhet.	Cachar.	Total.
Not exceeding Rs.	10	1,498	1,905	235	3,638
"	" 50	4,009	6,008	652	10,669
"	" 100	1,551	2,214	306	4,071
"	" 500	1,117	1,548	196	2,861
"	" 1,000	79	101	15	195
"	" 5,000	36	56	4	96
"	" 10,000	6	3	.....	9
"	" 1,00,000	2	2	.....	4
Exceeding	" 1,00,000 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Value not estimable in money ...		49	84	.....	133
Total.....		8,347	11,921	1,408	21,676

Of the whole number of suits instituted, 84·7 per cent., or 0·8 per cent. below the number instituted in the previous year, were petty suits in which the value involved did not exceed Rs. 100, and of these, in 77·8 per cent. the value did not exceed Rs. 50. The average value of a suit was Rs. 76·6 in the past, as compared with Rs. 88·7 in the previous year. Details are given below of the average value of a suit in the Assam Valley Districts and in Sylhet and Cachar in each of the past three years:—

	1878. Rs.	1879. Rs.	1880. Rs.
Assam Valley Districts	91·3	98·48	86·02
Sylhet	72·1	84·05	72·10
Cachar	83·2	77·17	73·06

In Cachar there has been a gradual decrease in the value of suits.

180. The number of suits of each class instituted in all the Civil and Revenue Courts in each of the past two years was as follows:—

	1879.	1880.
Small Cause Court Class	16,421	16,332
Rent suits	1,569	1,750
Other class	3,788	3,366

In the Assam Valley Districts suits for money or movables rose from 7,013 in 1879 to 7,537 in 1880; while, on the other hand, suits of this class fell off to a great extent in Sylhet. In Cachar also there was a decrease of the total number of suits instituted in 1880, 5,740, or 26·4 per cent., were dealt with by officers under the powers vested in them by Section 29 of the Bengal Civil Courts Act (VI. of 1871). In 1879 the number of suits dealt with under these powers was 439 only, or 1·9 per cent. of the total number of suits instituted.

181. The average value of each suit for money or movables instituted in the Province was Rs. 75·1 in the past as compared with 77·9 in the previous year; and of title and other suits the average value was Rs. 115·1 in the past as compared with Rs. 170 in the previous year.

To explain the falling off in the average value of title suits, it has been pointed out that the average for 1879 was unduly raised by a suit for immovable property of the value of Rs. 2,10,000.

In each district separately the percentage of suits of a nature cognizable by a Small Cause Court for the past two years was as shown below:—

	Percentage.	
	1879.	1880.
Assam Valley Districts	68·9	60·2
Sylhet	59·3	39·8
Cachar	64·9	48·5

It thus appears that the number of petty suits has decreased considerably. The depression of the tea industry in Lakhimpur referred to elsewhere, and the fact stated above that there were fewer bond suits for large sums in Sylhet, in some measure account for such results.

182. The following further details are given showing the nature of the suits instituted during each of the past three years:—

Detailed classification of suits instituted.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Suits for money or movables.			
Contract in writing	8,874	9,024	8,424
Contract not in writing	1,285	1,300	1,306
On account stated	1,102	1,062	1,199
Money had and received	641	479	531
Goods sold	451	552	852
Wages, work, and materials	210	270	377
Rent not falling under the Rent Law ...	136	84	178
Movable property or the value thereof ...	1,556	1,661	1,606
Damages	1,189	1,355	1,260
Other suits for money or movables not included above.	668	634	599
Total.....	16,112	16,421	16,332

From the above statement, which gives details of suits for recovery of money or movables, it will be seen that suits instituted for recovery of money on account stated, and those to recover the price of goods sold, have been greater in number during the past year than during either of the two preceding years. On the other hand, the number of suits for the recovery of debts due on bonds (contract in writing) has decreased considerably.

183. The following table contains a comparative statement of the various descriptions of rent suits instituted during the past two years in the Civil and Revenue Courts respectively:—

	Civil Courts.		Revenue Courts.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Suits for arrears of rent	1,460	1,634	224	186
" " enhancement or abatement of rent.	31	8	2	1
" relating to distraint	20	4	1	...
" for damages.....	7	2	33	...
" " <i>pattas</i> or <i>kabūliyats</i>	4	1	59	11
" " ejectment	45	89	12	25
" " recovery of money or accounts from agents.	2	12	...	...
Other suits under the Rent Law..	..	..	2	5
Total.....	1,569	1,750	333	228

Details are given below of suits instituted in each district in Assam for arrears of rent and for ejectment during each of the past two years:—

	Arrears of rent.		Ejectment.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Assam Valley Districts	224	186	12	25
Sylhet.....	1,428	1,581	45	89
Cachar	32	53	...	...

From these details, it will be observed that the increase was chiefly in Sylhet. In Cachar, however, there is also an increase of 21 cases. In these cases the plaintiff was the Mahārāja of Manipur, whose tenants are said to have combined to withhold payment of rent at the instigation of certain persons who were on bad terms with him. The decrease in suits for enhancement or abatement of rent and suits relating to distraint was most noticeable in Sylhet. In the Assam Valley Districts no suits for damages were instituted in the past year, while in the preceding year the number instituted of this class of suits was 33, and suits for *pattas* or *kabūliyats* fell off from 59 in 1879 to 11 in 1880.

184. The following statement gives details of suits other than rent suits and for money or movables instituted during the past two years:—

	Number of suits.		Percentage of the total number of this class.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Suits for immovable property	2,979	2,541	78.65	75.49
" " declaratory decrees.....	21	26	.55	.77
Other suits under the Specific Relief Act.	166	190	4.38	5.65
Suits to declare and establish right to real property.	282	222	7.44	6.59
Suits ditto ditto personal right	67	79	1.77	2.94
" for an account	24	27	.63	.8
" relating to religious endowments.	3	7	.08	.21
" to set aside judgments, &c., on the ground of fraud.	9	9	.28	.27
" for dissolution of marriage ...	3	5	.08	.15
" " enforcement of matrimonial rights.	192	202	5.06	6.
" " partition	4	3	.1	.09
Other suits not falling under any of the previous heads.	38	55	1.	1.04
Total.....	3,788	3,366	100.	100.

Taking the Province as a whole, suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights appear to be increasing steadily year by year. The increase last year in the institutions of suits of this class occurred, however, only in the Assam Valley Districts; in Sylhet and Cachar the number instituted fell off to some extent. With the exception of suits for immovable property, the figures relating to the other classes of title and other suits for the past two years vary very slightly, and call for no remarks.

185. The manner in which suits were determined by the civil courts in the Province during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

	Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	Decided <i>ex-parte</i> .	Contested.	Total.
1876	7,756	5,786	6,651	20,193
1877	7,984	6,918	5,987	20,889
1878	7,773	7,068	6,527	21,368
1879	8,115	6,741	6,627	21,483
1880	8,544	6,782	6,755	22,081

From the above it will be observed that the proportion of contested cases in 1880 declined very slightly when compared with the proportion shown in the figures for the previous year. Taking each of the districts separately, the proportion of contested cases in the past two years was as follows:—

	Percentage.	
	1879.	1880.
Assam Valley Districts.....	36.3	35.5
Sylhet	27.3	27.1
Cachar	26.9	32.

In the Assam Valley districts and in Sylhet the proportion of cases decided after contest has not materially varied, but the number of such cases in Cachar increased to some extent in the past year. Of the total number of cases decided by officers in the exercise of their powers as Judges of Small Cause Courts, 27.6 per cent. were contested, and of those tried by officers under ordinary procedure, 31.5 per cent. were decided after contest.

186. The following statement shows more in detail the general character of the orders passed in suits coming before the Civil Courts in Assam during the

Results of trials. past three years:—	1878.	1879.	1880.
	Plaints rejected and cases dismissed for default or withdrawn	3,412	3,845	3,837
Dismissed <i>ex-parte</i> and judgment for defendant .	3,519	3,371	3,324
On reference to arbitration in which defendant succeeds	25	80	27
Plaintiff loses	6,956	7,246	7,188
Decreed <i>ex-parte</i> , or on confession or judgment for plaintiff	12,352	12,002	12,373
On reference to arbitration in which plaintiff succeeds.....	46	69	71
Plaintiff wins.....	12,398	12,071	12,444
Compromised	2,014	2,166	2,449

Of the whole number of these cases, 56.3 per cent. were decreed for the plaintiffs and 32.5 per cent. for the defendants; 11.09 per cent. were compromised. The results obtained in 1879 were respectively 56.18 per cent., 33.73 per cent., and 10.8 per cent.

187. The figures given below show for the past two years the number of cases dismissed on default or decreed *ex parte*, compared with the number of applications for setting aside the judgments in such cases made and granted:—

	1879.	1880.
Number of cases dismissed on default or decreed <i>ex parte</i>	9,095	9,139
„ of applications to set aside judgments in such cases ...	335	329
„ of such applications granted	203	194

The proportion of applications to judgments has not varied during these years, 3·5 per cent. being recorded in the past as compared with 3·6 in the previous year. Of the applications made, 58·9 per cent. were successful in the past as compared with 60·6 per cent. in the previous year. The districts in which the proportion of applications granted to applications preferred was greatest were Cachar (68·4 per cent.) and Darrang (65·2 per cent.), while in Nowgong, 40 per cent only of the applications made were granted.

188. The result of applications for the execution of decrees during the past three years is shown in the following table:—

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Number on which satisfaction was obtained in full	2,744	2,985	2,966
„ „ „ „ in part	2,263	1,812	1,824
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Amount realised	4,18,079	3,75,553	3,33,459

Of the whole amount realised last year, Rs. 2,64,325 were realised on 4,003 applications after issue of process, and Rs. 69,134 in 787 applications without process. In Sylhet there was a decrease of 191 applications disposed of and of Rs. 35,561 in the amount realised, as compared with the previous year. This decrease, the Judge reports,

was to some extent owing to the difficulty found to exist in the district in always complying with the rules* made by the High Court in July 1880 for the guidance of courts in the

exercise of their duties under Section 287 of the Code of Civil Procedure. These rules require a party to make search in the offices of the Registrars of Deeds before applying for an order for sale; the application must be supported by an affidavit, &c., and witnesses and documents are required to be produced for the settlement of the sale proclamation. The expenses of the searches and affidavits, and for the production of witnesses, &c., give rise to additional outlay, and the proceedings entail extra labour on the decree-holder, and have retarded in a great measure the progress in the execution department. Most people fail to procure the necessary information, and, as a consequence, they cannot apply for an order for sale. In Cachar, while there was an increase in the number of decrees executed in 1880, the actual amount realised has decreased. The decrease in the realisations the Deputy-Commissioner considers an indication of the difficulty arising from the mode of execution prescribed by Act X. of 1877, and from the rules of the High Court referred to above.

* Published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th July 1880 and in the *Assam Gazette* of the 10th idem.

189. The following statement shows some of the principal measures adopted during the past four years to effect the execution of decrees:—

Number of coercive processes.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Judgment-debtors imprisoned.....	134	179	166	164
Movable property attached and sold	440	249	274	311
Immovable property attached and sold ...	1,020	1,077	802	666

In addition to these cases, movable property was attached and subsequently released under Section 275 of the Code of Civil Procedure in 219 cases, and immovable property in 496 cases. Possession was given of movables in 40, and of immovables in 947 cases. Specific performance was ordered in eleven cases.

190. The number of original miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted, decided, and pending in the Civil Courts during the past three years is shown below:—

Original miscellaneous cases.

	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1878	1,996	2,029	190
1879	1,280	1,275	219
1880	1,456	1,364	324

The increase in the number of cases of this class was distributed generally among all the districts in the Province except in Lakhimpur, where only 48 were instituted in the past as compared with 80 in the previous year. In Cachar the increase occurred chiefly in the court of the sadr munsif, and was owing to an unusual number of claims to property under attachment or of applications under Section 278 of the Code of Civil Procedure having been preferred during the year.

191. The manner in which miscellaneous (judicial) cases were dealt with in the past two years is shown below:—

Miscellaneous (judicial) cases, how disposed of.

	1879.	1880.
Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	228	234
Decided <i>ex-parte</i>	331	405
Contested	716	725
Total	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,364</u>

It will be observed that a far larger number of cases of this class was determined during the past year than during the previous year. The proportion of contested cases was, however, not so great in the past year, the proportion being 53·1 per cent. in the past as compared with 56·1 in the previous year. In 62 per cent. of the cases decided after contest, the applications were granted, and in the rest they were refused. Thirty-one cases, or 2·2 per cent. of the whole number decided during the year, were compromised.

192. The number of contested and uncontested suits originally decided by the courts of each class during the past two years was as follows:—

Number of original suits decided with or without contest.

	Contested.		Uncontested.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
District Judges.....	11	16	12	6
Subordinate Judges.....	198	217	383	428
Munsifs	6,385	6,522	14,434	14,892
Total	6,594	6,755	14,829	15,326

193. The average duration of suits contested and uncontested before the courts of every grade during the past year was as follows:—

Average duration of suits.

	District Judges.		Subordinate Judges.		Munsifs.	
	M.	D.	M.	D.	M.	D.
Contested	4	24	1	23	2	18
Uncontested	7	8	...	22	1	10

The results, as stated above, were most favourable in the Courts of Subordinate Judges. This is due to the inclusion of petty cases tried by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet under the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge with which he is vested. Excluding such cases, the average duration of contested suits in the Courts of Subordinate Judges was 4 months and 27 days, and of uncontested cases 2 months and 25 days. In Cachar the duration of uncontested cases in the Court of the Deputy-Commissioner appears to be unusually long. The number of uncontested cases disposed of by this officer was, however, only two. He explains that the delay was mainly in respect of one "title suit" brought to recover possession of certain tea lands, in which the boundaries between two grants were disputed. The question in dispute could not be settled without a professional survey, with a view to which the case was postponed from time to time at the request of the plaintiff, and when the survey was completed the parties compromised the case. The long pendency of uncontested cases decided by the District Judge of Sylhet is also not very satisfactory; but the Judge explains that of the four uncontested cases disposed of by him, three were probate cases, and their decision was delayed because the parties interested took no action in the matter after filing *caveats*. In the fourth case, which was an application for letters of administration, he reports that an unaccountable delay of eleven months occurred.

194. As stated in the reports for previous years, cases coming from Assam form but a small proportion of the work coming before the High Court. In the following table figures are given showing the number of appeals against the decisions passed originally or on appeal

Appellate jurisdiction.—The High Court. Appeals filed.

by the Courts in Assam, filed in the High Court during the past two years and decided during the same period:—

	Filed.		Decided.		Pending.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
<i>First Appeals.</i>						
From decrees	6	14	3	6	9	17
„ orders	7	1	4	5	4	...
<i>Second Appeals.</i>						
From decrees	106	131	94	40	107	198
„ orders	3	7	4	4	1	4

195. Of the 14 regular appeals filed during 1880, 9 came from Sylhet, and 5 from Goalpara. Of the 131 appeals from appellate decrees, 86 came from Sylhet, 18 from Cachar, and the rest (27) from the Assam Valley Districts. Six of the eight miscellaneous (first or second) appeals filed in 1880 came from Sylhet, and the remaining two from the Assam Valley Districts. In no appeal from Assam decided by a single Judge of the High Court was there a third appeal filed in the past year under the Letters Patent.

196. Of the appeals from original decrees of the Lower Courts filed in 1880, 3 were valued at Rs. 10,000 and upwards, and, of the appeals from the decrees of Subordinate Appellate Courts, 49, or 37·4 per cent. of the number filed, were valued at less than Rs. 50.

197. Of the 14 appeals from original decrees filed in the past year 6 were heard and determined, with the results that in 2 the judgments of the Lower Courts were affirmed, in 2 they were reversed, 1 appeal was dismissed on default, and 1 was remanded.

The number of appeals from appellate decrees decided during 1880 was 40, of which 17 were appeals against the decisions of the District Judges, and 23 against those of the Subordinate Judges. Of the former, in 58·8 per cent., and of the latter in 73·9 per cent., of the appeals decided the decisions of the Lower Appellate Courts were affirmed. In 9 cases the orders were set aside, the cases being remanded for retrial.

During the past year 9 miscellaneous (first and second) appeals were decided, of which the orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed in 7, and reversed in 2.

198. The following table shows the number of appeals instituted, decided, and pending in the Civil Appellate Courts in Assam during the past three years:—

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Instituted	1,301	1,261	1,065
Disposed of	1,326	1,199	1,156
Pending	341	417	347

In the Assam Valley Districts the appeals preferred fell off from 462 in 1879 to 377 in 1880. From the local returns it appears that the decrease was only in the Courts of the Subordinate Judges. This decrease is in appeals from orders passed by Munsifs, and it is fully

accounted for by the fact that by investing several of them with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge, their orders in cases so tried were not appealable. This reason is also given by the Judge of Sylhet for the decrease in his district. In Cachar the number of appeals preferred rose from 64 in 1879 to 88 in 1880, which was due to the fact that the number of decrees in contested cases, against which an appeal would lie to the District Court, was greater in the past than in the preceding year.

199. The number of decisions in contested cases in which an appeal would lie to the local Civil Appellate Courts was 4,458 in the past, as compared with 5,787 in the previous year; and the ratio of appeals to such decisions was 23·88 per cent. as compared with 21·79 per cent. The percentage was highest in the district of Goalpara. In Cachar the percentage was highest in the Hailakandi Munsif's Court, in regard to which the Deputy-Commissioner reports that "the Hailakandi bar is so weak that litigants are frequently encouraged to appeal when no good grounds exist, and cases are so ill-prepared and conducted by pleaders in the Court of First Instance, that the success of appeals is jeopardised."

The following statement shows separately appeals against the decisions of Subordinate Judges and of Munsifs filed during the past year, compared with the number of appealable decisions by officers of those classes respectively:—

	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.
Number of decrees in contested cases against which an appeal lay to the Appellate Courts in the interior.	59	4,399
Number of appeals filed	35	1,030
Ratio of appeals to decrees against which an appeal lay.	59·3	23·4

200. The following statement shows the number of appeals of each class instituted during the past two years:—

	1879.	1880.
In suits for money or movables.....	604	448
„ „ under the Rent Law.....	147	159
„ title and other suits.....	510	458
Total	1,261	1,065

It will be observed that appeals in rent suits have increased. The decrease in appeals in suits for money or movables is, as has already been stated, obviously due to the fact that a greater number of officers were vested with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge in the past year than in the previous one. The figures given in the above statement do not include appeals under Act X. of 1859 preferred to the Courts of Collectors in the Assam Valley Districts. The number of such appeals filed was 27 in the past as compared with 16 in the previous year.

201. The aggregate value of each class of appeals preferred during the past two years is exhibited in the following table:—

	1879. Rs.	1880. Rs.
In suits for money or movables	64,209	65,062
In suits under the Rent Law	5,268	4,468
In title and other suits.....	71,573	58,046
Total	1,41,050	1,27,576

It will be observed that the decrease in the institution of appeals in suits for money or movables has not had the effect of decreasing the value of such appeals. The average value of each appeal was Rs. 119-7 in the past as compared with Rs. 111-8 in the previous year.

202. In the following table details are given of the value of the appeals of each class instituted in the past year:—

	In suits for money or movables.	In suits under the Rent Law.	In title and other suits.
Not exceeding Rs. 10	22	70	91
" " " 50	136	69	151
" " " 100	127	10	91
" " " 500	139	9	95
" " " 1,000	16	...	9
" " " 5,000	8	...	12
Value not denotable in money .....	...	1	9
Total.....	448	159	458

As might be expected, the proportion of the different values of cases appealed is not the same as of original suits, especially in the suits of smallest values; but about 84·7 of the original suits instituted were of a value not exceeding Rs. 100, the percentage of such cases appealed to the aggregate of appeals being 72 per cent.

203. Omitting from consideration 25 cases which did not come to a hearing, the number of appeals decided after argument was 1,131. In the following table the results of appeals in the past three years are shown:—

	Number.			Percentage.		
	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Confirmed.....	837	787	792	67·4	70	70
Modified	131	120	115	10·5	10·7	10·1
Reversed	232	189	186	18·7	16·8	16·4
Remanded	41	28	38	3·3	2·5	3·3

From this statement it appears that there was in the past year no material variation in the quality of the decisions of the Courts of First Instance; but taking the districts separately, the result was least satisfactory to such Courts in Cachar, as in only 53·2 per cent. of the cases decided by them were their orders confirmed. The number of appeals preferred from the decisions of officers in this district was, however, small, and hardly affords sufficient material for criticism. In Sylhet appeals against the decisions of the Lower Courts met with the least success,

as in only 96 cases, or 14·4 per cent. of the number heard, were the orders under appeal reversed.

204. The number of appeals in miscellaneous cases instituted decided, and pending during each of the past three years is shown in the following table:—

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Instituted	82	72	44
Decided	70	85	59
Pending	30	17	2

The decrease exhibited in this table is confined to the district of Sylhet, the figures for the districts of the Assam Valley and Cachar being stationary. The files of these appeals appear to have been kept clear of arrears, as at the close of 1880 only two remained untried, and they had been pending less than three months.

205. The following table shows the work done by the District Judges during the past two years:—

	Days.			Miscellaneous cases	Regular appeals.	Miscellaneous appeals.	Sessions trials.	Criminal appeals.
	Civil.	Criminal.	Original suits.					
1879	236	240	23	413	359	66	126	143
1880	238	268	22	463	417	41	104	282

As in the previous year, the District Judge of the Assam Valley decided no original suit. He was, in the course of the year under review, invested with the powers of a Revenue Commissioner, in addition to his judicial office. The Judge of Sylhet decided 17, and the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar 5, original suits.

The outturn of work performed by the last mentioned Judges during the past year was somewhat in excess of that of the previous year.

206. The amount of work done by Subordinate Judges during the past two years was as follows:—

Work done by Subordinate Judges.	Original Suits.			Appeals.		
	Dealt with under ordinary procedure.	Dealt with under Small Cause Court powers.	Miscellaneous judicial cases.	Applications for the execution of decrees.	Regular	Miscellaneous.
1879	150	437	37	218	840	19
1880	120	525	56	180	739	18

As explained in the reports for preceding years, the larger number of original suits decided by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet is due to the fact that this officer exercises the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge for the trial of petty suits not exceeding Rs. 50 in value. The number of original suits otherwise decided by this officer was only 80 in the past, as compared with 112 in the previous year. Of the returns relating to the Assam Valley Districts, the returns of the Deputy-Commissioners and Subordinate Judges of Kámrúp and Goálpára show an increase in the number of original suits decided, and the return from Nowgong shows an increase in the number of regular and miscellaneous appeals heard and determined.

Work done by Munsifs.

207. The number of original suits decided by Munsifs during the past two years is shown

in the following table:—

		Withdrawn, compromised, confessed, &c.	Decided <i>ex parte</i> .	Contested.	Total.
1879	Under ordinary procedure	7,909	6,550	6,414	20,873
	„ Small Cause Court powers.. ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	7,909	6,550	6,414	20,873
1880	Under ordinary procedure	5,990	5,398	5,194	16,582
	„ Small Cause Court powers.. ..	2,333	1,171	1,328	4,832
	Total	8,323	6,569	6,522	21,414

In Sylhet the Munsifs who show an increase in the number of original suits decided were those of the sadr station and Habiganj. Details are given below showing the number of miscellaneous cases of each class decided by Munsifs during the past as compared with the previous year:—

	1879.	1880.
Applications for the execution of decrees...	4,576	4,605
Miscellaneous (judicial) cases	825	845
Miscellaneous (non-judicial) cases	276	608
Total.....	5,677	6,058

In the Courts of the First Munsif of the sadr station of Sylhet and of the Munsif of Sunámganj, the largest number of miscellaneous applications of a non-judicial character was disposed of during 1880, 322 having been disposed of at the sadr station, and 161 at Sunámganj. The figures for the previous year were 44 and 41 respectively.

208. The number of cases in which local enquiries were completed in 1880 was 175, as compared with 171 in the previous year. The increase has occurred chiefly in cases not exceeding Rs. 50 in value and in those exceeding Rs. 1,000 in value. In cases not exceeding Rs. 5 in value, the cost of the enquiries exceeded the value in litigation. Taking all cases, the average value in litigation was Rs. 262 in the past, as compared with Rs. 332 in the previous year; and the average cost of enquiry Rs. 18 as compared with Rs. 15. It must, however, be borne in mind that the value of a suit, if it is a suit for immovable property, rarely represents the net value of such property. The value which appears in these returns is an arbitrary value imposed by a rule of law for purposes of assessing the institution fee.

209. The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure of the Civil Courts in the Province during the past three years:—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1878	2,93,110	2,90,315	2,795
1879	3,07,914	2,17,926	89,988
1880	3,06,662	2,34,614	72,048

The aggregate of receipts exhibits little material variation, but there has been a considerable increase of expenditure owing principally to the establishment of a new Munsif's Court in Sylhet; but notwithstanding this the expenditure is very far short of what it was in 1878.

Details of the receipts and charges of the Civil Courts in the past two years are given below:—

	Receipts.			Charges.		
	1879.	1880.		1879.	1880.	
	Ra.	Ra.		Ra.	Ra.	
In stamps { Process-fees	95,787	98,649	Salaries of { Judicial officers	1,13,996	1,20,688	
{ Other fees	1,97,445	1,91,915		Establish- { Process-servers. 43,364 43,634 ments. { Others	53,347	62,185
In cash .. { Fines	915	1,650			Contingencies and Refunds	7,319	8,107
{ Other receipts ..	13,767	14,448				
Total.....	3,07,914	3,06,662	Total.....	2,17,926	2,34,614	

The net receipts from stamps, it will be observed, amounted to Rs. 2,46,930 in the past as compared with Rs. 2,49,968 in the previous year. Under the head of process-fees separately, the net gain to Government was Rs. 55,015.

The following statement shows for each district the receipts from court-fees and the charges on account of establishment during each of the past two years:—

	Court-fees realised.		Cost of establishment.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
Assam Valley Districts...	88,199	97,729	94,673	1,03,964
Sylhet	1,87,324	1,73,667	96,671	1,00,634
Cachar	17,709	19,168	19,263	21,909
Total.....	2,93,232	2,90,564	2,10,607	2,26,507

The receipts in court-fees have increased in the Assam Valley Districts and Cachar, and have decreased by more than Rs. 13,000 in Sylhet. The Munsifs' Courts are the only class of Civil Courts in which the receipts exceed the expenditure.

210. The total amount of duty on Probates and Letters of Administration levied in the District Courts of the Province was Rs. 3,986 in the past as compared with Rs. 2,512 in the previous year. In five cases in which the Probates and Letters of Administration were granted by the High Court, the amount of duty levied was Rs. 7,057. In these five cases the assets were entirely in Assam. Besides the above, in 181 cases in which the Probates, and in 164 cases in which the Letters of Administration, were granted by the High Court, the assets were only partly in Assam, the rest having been in other Presidencies.

Probates, &c.

211. The following statement shows the number of applications for a declaration of insolvency filed, disposed of, and pending in each of the past two years :—

Proceedings in insolvency.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1879	37	33	7
1880	47	32	22

In the Assam Valley Districts, 15 applications were filed in the past, as compared with 5 in the previous, year. In Sylhet and Cachar the figures for the past two years vary very slightly. Of the 54 applications for a declaration of insolvency before the Courts, 17 were withdrawn or otherwise not prosecuted, 7 were granted (receivers being appointed in 4 of them), and 8 were rejected. In one of the cases rejected a sentence of imprisonment was passed under Section 359 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The following statement shows the number of persons declared to be insolvents during the past as compared with the previous year, the number who obtained their discharge, and those who remained undischarged in the same period :—

	Declared to be insolvents.	Discharged.	Pending.
1879	9	8	1
1880	7	7	1

Of the persons declared to be insolvents, 5 were in Sylhet, 1 was in the Assam Valley Districts, and 1 in Cachar.

The number of estates placed in the hands of receivers was 4 in the past, as compared with 3 in the previous, year; and, including those that were in their hands in previous years, in which the proceedings were not finally closed, there were altogether 8 estates in their hands in 1880. Of these, the proceedings terminated in 1880 in respect of one estate only. The following statement shows the amount realised and disbursed by, and the balance in the hands of, receivers during each of the past two years :—

	Amount realised. Rs.	Amount disbursed. Rs.	Balance. Rs.
1879	311	633	156
1880	343	211	278

The amount of creditors' claims admitted during the year was Rs. 7,249 ; the amount satisfied Rs. 714, and the amount unsatisfied and outstanding at the close of the year Rs. 15,184. The figures for the preceding year were,—admitted claims Rs. 8,145, amount satisfied Rs. 811, and amount unsatisfied Rs. 11,674.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE HILL DISTRICTS.

212. In these districts civil justice is administered under special rules framed under the Scheduled Districts Act.

213. The total number of suits instituted during the year was 103, against 91 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 12 cases. The increase is chiefly in suits in connection with money transactions, of which description there were 94 cases during the year under report, as compared with 79 of the

previous year. Of the other institutions six cases were for immovable property, 2 to declare and establish right to real property, and one for restitution of conjugal rights.

Of the 94 cases relating to money, 42 arose in connection with trade at Shillong, 33 were for recovery of loans, and 19 for recovery of wages and share of profit in trade carried on outside the limits of the station of Shillong.

In 27 of the 42 cases in connection with trade at Shillong both parties were foreigners, in 4 the parties were Khásis, and in the remaining 11 cases both Khásis and foreigners were concerned.

Of the 33 cases for recovery of loans, 16 were between foreigners, 8 between Khásis, 5 between Syntengs, and 4 between foreigners and Khásis. In 10 out of the 19 cases for recovery of loans, &c., the parties were foreigners, in 5 cases the parties were Khásis, and in 4 Khásis and foreigners. In 2 of the 6 cases for immovable property both parties were Khásis: in the remaining 4, as also in the 2 cases to declare and establish right to real property, the parties were Syntengs. In the case for enforcement of matrimonial rights the parties concerned were Muhammadans.

Including the 6 cases remaining undisposed of last year, there were 109 cases for disposal. Three cases were transferred to Courts beyond the limits of this district, 13 dismissed for default, 16 compromised or decreed on confession or *ex parte*, and 24 tried on their merits. In 15 of the latter cases judgment was declared in favour of the plaintiffs, and in 9 in that of the defendants. At the close of the year only one case was pending.

Out of the 108 cases disposed of as above, 11 were referred to arbitration, 5 of which were compromised, 3 were dismissed, 1 was decided in favour of the plaintiff, and 2 in favour of the defendants.

The average time taken in disposing of the suits, calculated from the date of filing of the plaint to date of final decision, was 32 days in contested and 22 days in uncontested cases.

The total value of the suits disposed of aggregated Rs. 8,111-13-7, against Rs. 7,026-13 of the preceding year, the increase being chiefly in the number of suits for amounts not exceeding Rs. 50.

The total number of applications for execution of decrees was 47, of which 3 were pending at the close of the preceding year, 39 were filed during the year under report, and 5 were received by transfer from other courts. Of these, 22 were completely or partially executed, 8 were struck off the file by default, 5 were transferred to other courts with certificates, and 7 remained unexecuted at the close of the year.

There was only one appeal to the Deputy-Commissioner against the order of the Extra-Assistant-Commissioner at head-quarters, which was dismissed. No appeals were preferred against the orders of the Assistant-Commissioner, Jowai.

85 suits were instituted before and disposed of by the dolois or village elders of the Jaintia Hills, and 105 cases were disposed of by the Wahdadars of Shella.

214. Out of the 64 cases pending in the preceding year, 60 cases (all of which were instituted by one man) were withdrawn by the plaintiff on the 30th April 1881, and of the remaining 4, 1 was dismissed for default and the other 3 for want of sufficient evidence. During the year under report 37 cases were instituted, of which 27 were disposed of, leaving 10 pending. Of the cases disposed of 8 were decreed for plaintiff, 8 dismissed, 3 struck off the file, and 8 withdrawn by the plaintiffs.

The Mechpára Zemindárs instituted a suit against Government during the year to recover Rs. 10,000 as compensation for loss sustained by the action of Government in prohibiting them from catching wild elephants in the A and B *maháls*. They, however, withdrew and compromised the case in September 1880. None of the other cases call for any remark, as they were all of a petty nature.

215. There were only four civil suits instituted in this district during the year. They were all for small amounts under Rs. 100, and call for no remarks.

Naga Hills.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

216. There has been a general but slight increase in the number of deeds registered, the total of which amounted to 14,061, being 763, or 6 per cent., above the total number of 1879-80; the increase in deeds compulsorily registered was 129, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; while those whose registration is optional increased by 634, or 11 per cent. This is as it should be, for a decrease in the work of the department would have been disappointing, but a large and sudden increase would have been a proof of distress and financial pressure among the people. The increase is mainly in Cachar and Sylhet. In four districts in the Assam Valley there is a slight and inconsiderable fall in the number of deeds. Of the total number of documents registered, 63 per cent. were presented in Sylhet, and 16 per cent. in Cachar.

217. There were 11,382 deeds affecting immovable property, of which 8,708 were sales and mortgages, 211 were perpetual leases, and 1,976 were leases for one year or a term of years. The habit of granting perpetual leases at low rates on payment of a heavy fine by the lessee, is said to be becoming more and more popular among landowners, who do not care to manage their own property, or are unable to do so by reason of its being too scattered.

Immovable property.

There has been an increase in the number of leases given and registered in Sylhet, which is said to have arisen from a prevalent belief in the minds of landowners that a new Rent Bill is about to pass, which will affect them unfavourably, and that they had better get as good terms as they can out of their ryots before it is too late.

218. The deeds affecting movable property were 2,562, of which 81 were sales and 476 were obligations for the payment of money. The rest are classed as

Movable property.

miscellaneous, and no account is given of their character; but a large number appear to have been security-bonds executed by mauzadárs.

219. The number of wills registered was 116, against 133 in 1879-80, and there was one authority to adopt.

Wills.

The habit of making wills has not of course penetrated into the customs of the people; so far as it exists at all, it is not confined to the Bengali districts, but is pretty equally practised in the Assam Valley. But it will probably be found that all the will-makers are men who have come much into contact with English civilisation.

220. The value represented by the deeds registered was Rs. 47,13,305, a very slight increase over the preceding year. Immovable property to the

Value of deeds registered.

value of 18½ lakhs of rupees was sold, and to the value of 10½ lakhs of rupees was mortgaged. The bonds for money lent represented only a total amount of 2½ lakhs of rupees.

221. The average time taken to effect the registration of a deed has considerably decreased, and in the two worst cases, Sylhet and Habiganj, where registration

Time spent in registering.

in the previous year took on an average 17 and 16 days, the time has since been reduced to 3 and 8 days respectively. With greater speed in registering has come greater punctuality on the part of the public in calling to take deeds away, and the number registered and ready for delivery, but lying unclaimed at the end of the year, was less by one-fourth than the year before.

222. The receipts of the year were Rs. 27,888, which is slightly less than the sum received in 1879-80, but as

Financial results.

Rs. 1,000 of that had to be refunded, there was really an increase of Rs. 886. The expenditure was Rs. 17,117, and was lower than in 1879-80 by Rs. 1,465; this was almost entirely due to the substitution of a special Registrar, who received a fixed salary and a low rate of commission on fees, for an official Sub-Registrar on a high rate of commission. The net profits of the department were Rs. 10,771, a larger sum than they have ever reached before.

223. The actual charge for registering the 14,061 documents of the year was Rs. 16,575, or Re. 1-2-11 per document, and the cost of copying was Rs. 2,415-6,

Details of receipts.

or 2 annas 9 pie apiece. 1,780 "miscellaneous operations" (under which are included authentication of powers of attorneys, issue of commissions, fees on searches, &c.) involved the payment of Rs. 4,990, and Rs. 3,906 were collected on account of fines and penalties. Of the total receipts 70 per cent. were contributed by the Sylhet district alone, and 10 per cent. by Cachar.

224. The amount of inspection done was insufficient, and the Inspector-General was unfortunately unable to visit

Inspection.

two most important of all the offices, Sylhet and Cachar. For this, however, there were special reasons, as Major

Williamson was engaged in other employments, which necessarily precluded him from giving full attention to this department.

225. There were five offices last year in which the expenditure exceeded the receipts.

Excess of expenditure in certain offices.

This year there are six :—

	Deficiency.	
	1879-80.	1880-81.
	Rs.	Rs.
Dhubri	61	138
Goalpára	84	141
Barpeta	16	67
Nowgong .....	...	89
Tezpur	223	346
Mangaldai	62	51
Total	446	832

There is thus not only no improvement in this respect, but a decided going back. The Inspector-General has been requested to fix a scale both of the number and of the pay of clerks proportionate to the quantity of work to be done, and by this measure the present anomalies in the relation between the establishments entertained and the work done, will to a great extent be removed.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPALITIES.

226. The number of Municipalities, Stations, and Unions in operation was seven, or one more than last year. During the previous year, Chapter IV. of Act V. of 1876 (B.C.) was extended to the station of Sibságar, but the rules for the working of the station were only approved and published in the *Assam Gazette* on the 12th June 1880.

227. The income of this Municipality amounted to Rs. 3,893-12-6, against Rs. 4,084-2 in 1879-80. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 2,361-0-5, against Rs. 2,553-5-3 in 1879-80. The incidence of taxation in this Municipality was 12 annas 3 pie per head of the population.

228. The total income of this Municipality, excluding balances, amounted to Rs. 29,273-13-0 during the year, against Rs. 30,098-9-2 in 1879-80, showing a decrease of Rs. 824-12-2. There was a great decrease in the receipts from ferries, which in the previous year realised Rs. 11,229-9-2, and only brought in Rs. 7,751-5-3 in 1880-81.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 31,619-14-0, against Rs. 30,012-15-7 in the previous year. Collection charges and expenditure on roads have increased, but expenditure on conservancy and cleansing has decreased. A sum of Rs. 6,649-4-11 was spent on the latter account during the year. The work was confined to the ordinary clearing of jungle on the roadsides, clearing out drains, and cutting jungle on unoccupied lands; to the maintenance of the latrines, and to clearing out tanks.

The incidence of taxation per head of population was Re. 1-2-5.

229. From the 1st April 1880, the town of Sibságar and its suburbs, contained within the *mahál* known as the Nagar *mahál*, was constituted a station under Chapter IV. of Act V. of 1876. At first, there was some opposition on the part of a minority of the inhabitants to the introduction of the Act, but the people are now said to be generally contented with the measure.

The receipts of the station, excluding the balances of the Town Fund at the commencement of the year, amounted to Rs. 6,824-12-3. The incidence of taxation per head of population was only 3 annas 3 pie.

The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 6,230-1-2. A sum of Rs. 1,136 was spent on a bund which protects the town from inundation by the Dikhu river, and, besides this sum, the Station Committee were compelled during the current year to spend another Rs. 1,000 on this work. The river has, notwithstanding, since the close of the year burst through the bund. The cost of maintaining this work having been found to be too great a strain on the slender resources of the Station Committee, the Chief Commissioner has transferred the bund to the Public Works Department, which will provide for its maintenance from Provincial Funds.

230. The total receipts of the year were Rs. 13,689-10-3, against Rs. 14,699-3-0 in 1879-80 (excluding the balance at the close of the year), showing a decrease of Rs. 1,009-14-6. The decrease is under "Wheel-tax," "Pounds," and "Municipal services to individuals." The wheel-tax brought in less by Rs. 220-5 than last year. The Dibrugarh Municipality is the only one in which such a tax exists. There is a good deal of wheel-traffic within the limits of this Municipality, owing to the large number of planters located at the station and its immediate neighbourhood. The expediency of introducing a similar tax into the Municipality of Gauhati has been suggested to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts.

The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 18,700-10-2, against Rs. 16,148-4-1 in the previous year. The increase of expenditure is mainly due to the payment of a debt of Rs. 5,109-12-10, which is claimed on behalf of Government against the Municipality as having accrued during the last sixteen years, and which has only lately been brought to notice by the Accountant-General, Bengal. The final settlement of the claim is still under consideration, and it is possible that some of the debt may be shown to have been wrongly charged. Collection charges, Rs. 564-7-2, which include charges for pounds, are nearly the same as last year, and are 3.02 per cent. of the whole expenditure. A sum of Rs. 1,597-10-3 was spent on conservancy and cleansing. The expenditure on roads was Rs. 9,087-0-1, against Rs. 10,720-8-8 in 1879-80. The expenditure on roads is 49 per cent. of the whole expenditure of the Municipality, which is a large proportion, but the construction of good and well-raised metalled roads is of the first importance in this station. No special drainage works were undertaken during the year.

The incidence of taxation per head of population was 9 annas 4 pie.

231. The receipts of the year under report, excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 22,209-3-10, against Rs. 19,408-6-4 in the previous year.

By the

The only form of taxation proper levied in the Municipality is the house-tax, the ferry-tolls being paid more by the residents of the district than by residents of the town. Compared with the previous year, all sources of income show an increase. Under "Ferries," however, it is explained by the Deputy-Commissioner that the increase is nominal, and is caused by the renewal in 1880-81 of season tickets for 1881-82. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 20,004-3-7, against Rs. 22,632-7-6, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,628-3-11.

The expenditure under "Conservancy and cleansing" amounted to Rs. 5,054-3-9, against Rs. 3,596-1-0 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 1,458-2-9. Five new latrines were constructed, and are said to be a successful and valuable sanitary improvement. Under the head "Construction and repairs," the work undertaken was the completion of a new cross-road from Babu Lane to Skipwith Street, metalling the road from the jail bridge to Nayapul, part of Kemble Street, part of the Kalighat Road, part of the Strand Road, and part of Norval Lane. A pukka bridge in Thornton Street, which was taken in hand towards the close of the previous year, was finished. All the station roads and by-lanes were repaired and kept in good order. Under the head "Drainage" a sum of Rs. 1,861-5-9 was expended. The work was undertaken on a more extensive scale than in previous years. The surface drainage and levelling of the old circuit house compound, which was commenced towards the close of the previous year, has been finished. The roadside drains have been thoroughly repaired. These works, together with the raising and metalling of the roads, and the clearing out and reclaiming of the many swamps and waterholes which abound in the town area, form, the Chief Commissioner considers, the most important object to which the resources of this Municipality can be devoted. The Municipal Commissioners were in some measure checked in their scheme of reclaiming foul tanks by the great price put by the Civil Court on some of these tanks which they acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. The Municipality has been managed throughout the year with energy and success.

232. The total income of the year, excluding the balance (which is in deficit,) was Rs. 9,723-0-3. The only taxes, properly so-called, are the chaukidári tax and the tax on animals. The latter is a rate per head for the registration of the sale of the beasts sold in the market, and is levied as a police measure to check the prevalence of cattle-theft by enabling the parties to transactions to be traced.

Silchar Union.

The income from all sources increased during the year. The chief increase is under "Rents" and "Tolls and ferries;" the former is due to the better management of rented lands and houses. There has also been some increase in the receipts from the chaukidári tax, consequent on a re-assessment. The population subject to taxation is reported to be

4,901, and the incidence of taxation per head, calculated on the chaukidari tax and payments for registration of the sales of animals, is 7 annas 4 pic.

The expenditure of the year was Rs. 8,753-0-11, against Rs. 10,988 in the previous year. The work done as regards roads, drains, and culverts was excellent, and the town will soon be in a very fair condition. There remain, however, many tanks to be protected, and the water-supply is still bad.

The Chief Commissioner has suggested to the Deputy-Commissioner that the time has now arrived for converting Silchar, which is now a Union, into a Station under the Municipal Act.

233. The income of the station during the year, including the balance of last year, amounted to Rs. 10,289-6-8. Shillong. In this sum is included the Government contribution of Rs. 3,000.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,235-7-11, against Rs. 6,736-15-5 in the previous year. The receipts from taxes on houses and lands show an increase of Rs. 1,249-3, being Rs. 3,449-12-6, against Rs. 2,200-9-6 in the previous year. There was an unexpended balance of Rs. 3,053-14-9 at the close of the year. The expenditure has decreased by Rs. 401-7-6, compared with 1879-80. The charges for conservancy and maintenance of roads were greater than last year. The former consisted of the usual station works and in thinning out the trees in the station, the sale-proceeds of which added to the miscellaneous receipts Rs. 1,963.

A scheme for the supply of pure drinking-water to be brought into the station and distributed by pipes has been prepared and estimates framed. This project is still under consideration. The suburb of Mowkhar has been separately supplied with pure water, which is drawn from a source on the slope of the Shillong range. This is an extension of the system which supplies the cantonments of Shillong with water, the pipes having been continued to a point just outside the suburb. It is intended to carry the pipes still further, so as to pass through the village and to extend to the Police Lines, and the scheme for this has been sanctioned, and the money provided by a grant made by the Chief Commissioner.

234. The new system of Municipal accounts and the audit of these accounts, which is referred to at paragraph 227 of last year's Report, has been in force throughout the year, and is said by the Comptroller, by whom the audit is conducted, to be working smoothly, and to give no trouble. Audit of Municipal accounts.

235. The Chief Commissioner is of opinion that some progress has been made during the year, more particularly in the Municipality of Sylhet. The income of the Municipalities is gradually increasing, and, though it is insufficient at present to permit of any large and important Municipal works being undertaken, much may be, and has been, done in the way of gradual improvements. General results.

SECTION 9.—MILITARY.

236. In consequence of the events which occurred on the Nága Frontier in the year 1879-80, it was considered desirable to locate a force permanently in the Nága Hills ; and during the month of November 1880 the head-quarters of the 42nd Native Infantry were directed to proceed to Kohima, which position has since been accepted by the Government of India as the site for the military station in those hills.

Some raids having taken place on the Manipur-Burmah frontier, a detachment of the 34th Native Infantry, consisting of 300 men, was held in readiness at Cachar for an immediate advance to Manipur, for the purpose of protecting the Capital as well as to maintain confidence in the country. But, the disturbances having quieted down, their services were not brought into requisition.

With the above exceptions, the past year has been an uneventful one in a military point of view, and there is nothing to record.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

237. The rainfall during the year 1880-81 was generally deficient, except at Hailákándi, Gauháti, Barpeta, Tezpur, and Mangaldai, where the fall was above or about the average of the last five years. The deficiency was most marked at the following places :—

Assam and Surma Valleys.

	Below average in inches.
Silchar	21·34
Dhubri	34·88
Goálpára	27·80
Goálgát	10·98
Dibrugarh	9·21

As compared with the previous year, which was generally one of excessive rainfall, the decrease is still more marked. As, however, the rain fell at convenient times, and was well distributed, no evil effects followed from this peculiarity in the character of the season, and the year was on the whole favourable for agricultural operations. The outturn of the harvests was exceptionally large during the year under review, as will be seen from the following abstract:—

Cachar.—The harvests were bountiful; tea and other crops did well on the whole.

Sylhet.—With the exception of the *bura* (or winter) paddy of 1879-80, which was partially destroyed by the early rains (March 1880), the harvests were generally good throughout the year. The Deputy-Commissioner thinks that the *aman* and *sáli* paddy crop was not quite so heavy a one as in 1879, but it was more extended. The outturn of tea was good. The *bura* paddy of 1880-81 has turned out a very good crop.

Goálpára.—The year was favourable as regards agricultural operations, the outturn of nearly every crop having been abundant.

Kámrúp.—The general opinion is that the harvests in this district were excellent.

Nowgong.—The year was on the whole very favourable for the growth of all crops, including tea.

Darrang.—The early and late rice crops were abundant, the late crop being superior in quantity and quality to that of the previous year.

The cultivation of sugarcane in the sub-division of Mangaldai is falling off, owing to the ravages committed by wild animals. The people accordingly find it more profitable to cultivate *matikalai*. The mustard crop of the district was fair, and the season was specially favourable for the cultivation of English vegetables.

Sibságar.—The late rice crop was on the whole light, owing to the dry weather in May and the want of rain in September and October, but may be considered a fair average crop. The early rice crop, however, and the cold-weather crops gave a favourable outturn. The outturn of tea was also favourable.

Lakhimpur.—The outturn of the crops was generally good, except in some places on the north bank, where the cattle and buffaloes suffered from disease during the cultivating season. In North Lakhimpur the crops were unusually heavy.

238. The weather throughout the year in the Khási and Jaintia Hills was seasonable, and the district was particularly healthy. The rainfall at Shillong was exactly the average of the five previous years, 97·75 inches. The crops were abundant, and the general condition of the people prosperous.

Khásí and Jaintia Hills.

239. The rainfall in the Gáro Hills was considerably above the average, and was excessive in August. The year was favourable to agriculture except in low-lying places. Some of the eastern villages complained of bad crops, which they attributed to the displeasure of the demons at the opening of the new road from Rongrengiri to Bangshi. Some damage was also here caused by tigers, which interfered with the clearance of new ground. The crops in the neighbouring district of Mymensingh were, however, exceptionally abundant, and this benefited Tura and the villages in the Gáro Hills which trade with Mymensingh.

Gáro Hills.

240. The year was on the whole a healthy one in all districts of the Province, a result which is generally attributed to the early rains of March and April, which prevented the drying up of the country in the hot weather. In Cachar during the months of May and June cholera appeared in most parts of the district, and a few cases of small-pox were also reported in May 1880 and in March 1881, but neither disease appeared in an epidemic form. In Sylhet a few isolated cases of fever, cholera, and small-pox from Habiganj, and cholera from Sunámiganj, were reported during the year, but none of these were of a virulent or epidemic type.

Public health.

Much fever of a fatal type prevailed during the year in the town of Goálpára. The Sub-Divisional Officer reports that the cause of this fever "has been the subject of considerable interest and discussion in the Municipal Committee," and he expresses a hope that the proposed new drainage may remove the present unhealthiness of the town. In the district of Kámrúp cholera was absent, and there was a decrease in the number of deaths from small-pox. In the district of Nowgong cholera cases were rather frequent in the cold weather, and small-pox during the latter portion of the rains, and in the month of December

deaths from fever were numerous. In Darrang there has been no epidemic of any kind, and the Deputy-Commissioner reports that for years there has not been so healthy a season as the year 1880.

At Golághát, in the Sibságar district, there was an outbreak of cholera in October of a very virulent type. It originated in the fishermen's village on the left bank of the Dhansiri, at Golághát, and 31 deaths were reported within a few days. The deaths occurred chiefly among the boatmen of the Nága Boat Transport Service.

241. The condition of the people of the Province continues excellent. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts observes on this subject as follows :—

Condition of the people.

“Upon the material condition of the people the Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong is the only officer who says anything. He says, very truly, that the wants of the Assamese are few and easily met. They are a contented people, being lightly assessed, and rarely suffering from bad harvests. There is no difficulty in obtaining as much land as they require, and the soil yields, as it always has yielded, a handsome return to anyone who can find a plough and a pair of bullocks wherewith to till it. The difficulty experienced in finding labour is a sure sign of the people's prosperity ; another sign is the large sums which are expended on marriage expenses ; a third sign is the steadily increasing consumption of opium, notwithstanding the increase which has occurred of late years in the price at which the drug has been retailed to the people. The total want of enterprise and energy, however, which characterises all the Assamese is a bar to anything like rapid progress in their material condition. The Assamese cultivator has all the materials before him for accumulating wealth and storing up against evil days, but he has no desire for more than sufficient to eat, sufficient opium, sufficient to clothe himself with, and sufficient to shelter himself from the heat or inclemency of the weather. Should a famine ever strike the land, he will not, I fear, be found more ready to meet it than the poorest and most rackrented peasant in Behar.”

The above extract is not quite accurate where it speaks of an increased consumption of opium. The consumption of this drug has on the contrary steadily decreased, although, owing to the measures of excise adopted, a larger revenue has year by year been realised from it.

242. The prices of food-grains and other articles fell considerably during the year, especially in the Sarmá Valley. In Sylhet, prices began to fall in September 1879, and have been falling ever since. Over large tracts, rice could be obtained in small quantities for a rupee a maund in March 1881. The reason why prices have kept up to 25 and 28 seers for the rupee in the large bazars is, according to the Deputy-Commissioner, that people are holding on to their stocks in hopes of a rise in the market. In Cachar there was an immense fall in the price of rice, which averaged throughout the year 20 seers and 8 chittacks per rupee, against 12 seers and 4 chittacks last year. The price, with the exception of a slight recovery at Silchar in November and December, fell steadily from April 1880 to March 1881, and in the latter month reached the low average of 27 seers per rupee. In December in Hailákánda the price actually fell to 35 or 40 seers a rupee. Of the two causes for this fall of price mentioned by the Deputy-Commissioner,—good harvests and lowered prices in the adjacent districts of Bengal, owing to cessation of exports,—the latter was unquestionably the most potent.

The Commissioner of the Assam Valley reports that "common labour continues to be, much what it always has been in this division, expensive and difficult to procure, and, when procured, inefficient whenever the labourer is an Assamese." In Sylhet the price of labour has shown a tendency to fall, while in the Khási and Jaintia Hills the prices of food and labour have differed very little from those of the previous year, although from the abundant harvest it might have been expected that they would have fallen.

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

243. There is nothing of any importance to be noticed under this head.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

244. The chief events of the year were the establishment of a new forest division in the Lakhimpur district, the forests of which had until then been in charge of the Deputy-Commissioner; the addition of an officer to the superior staff, which enabled Mr. W. R. Fisher, Assistant-Conservator in charge of the Goalpara division, to make an examination of the forests in the Gáro Hills, with a view to the selection of reserved and protected forests there; the institution of control-stations at Dhubri and Dibrugarh, on the Brahmaputra river, and at Sonaimukh and Jafarband, in Cachar, in order to check the transit of timber and forest produce, and to ascertain that the amount due to Government thereon had been duly paid; and the great extension given to the system of selling trees standing in the forests to purchasers, instead of working them out by departmental agency, and disposing of them at the forest depôt. The total cost of the department during the year was Rs. 1,42,725, and the receipts were Rs. 1,68,997, showing a surplus of Rs. 26,272. This surplus, however, was partly obtained by drawing upon the stock in hand, the value of which was diminished during the year by Rs. 14,779.

245. The forest estate of Government in Assam consists of three classes of wooded lands:—First, the reserved forests, 2,015 square miles in area, which have been gazetted as such under Section 19 of the Forest Act: in these all private rights, save such as may have been recorded under Section 13 of the Act, have been extinguished, and no new private rights can be acquired: the prohibitions stated in Section 25 of the Act are in force, and the area reserved cannot, except with the consent of the Government of India, be released from reservation. Secondly, the protected forests, 689 square miles in area, notified under Section 28 of the Forest Act. These differ from reserved forests in that the extent of the control to be exercised by Government over their working, and the nature of the acts prohibited in them, are left to be regulated from time to time by rules issued under Section 31 of the Act, instead of being, as in the case of reserved forests, declared by the law, and the

necessary consequence of reservation. Thirdly, the large area, computed by Mr. Mann as amounting to 5,371 square miles, consisting of waste land the property of Government; trees and other forest growth standing on such land, are, with the land itself, the property of the State. Although no special law at present exists in the Province corresponding to Chapter IV. of the Burmah Forest Act, 1881, enabling this Administration to make rules for the disposal of forest growth on such land, still, in the exercise of its general proprietary right, Government can and does make such terms as it pleases with persons desiring to acquire or use the produce of its lands. The expediency of applying to Assam the provisions of the Burmah Act quoted above is now under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, and the Government of India will shortly be addressed on the subject.

No extension of the area either of reserved or protected forests took place during the year: although the enquiries into rights in tracts proposed for reserves had in several cases been concluded, the interval prescribed by law (Section 16) before a notification could be issued had not expired before the year closed.

246. For the administration of this forest estate the Government has at its disposal, first, the Forest Department, consisting of a Conservator, four Assistant-Conservators, and three Sub-Assistant-Conservators, with a staff of forest-rangers, foresters, and forest guards subordinate to them; secondly, the district forest establishments under the control of the Deputy-Commissioners, which exist in all districts of the Province except Sylhet, Cachar, Goálpára, and the Nága Hills, and consist of a forest-ranger and one or two peons, whose duty it is mainly to estimate the value of trees on lands allotted for cultivation; and, lastly, the ordinary fiscal establishments, whose office it is to watch over the interests of Government in the forests as in other sources of revenue, and specially to control the use by the people of the forest produce on unappropriated waste land. Of these establishments, the Forest Department proper during the past year was mainly charged with the care of the reserved and protected forests, and the Deputy-Commissioners' establishments with that of the Government waste. But in the orders recently issued with a view to bring into closer connection the officers charged with the district administration and those of the Forest Department, the Chief Commissioner has placed the District Forest Officer, in subordination to the Deputy-Commissioner, in charge not only of the gazetted forest estate of Government, but also of all Government forest land, whether notified as reserved or not.

247. The Province was in 1880-81 divided, for the purpose of control by the staff of the Forest Department proper, into six forest divisions, viz., (1) the Goálpára division, including during the year of report the Goálpára and Gáro Hills districts: since its conclusion, the Chief Commissioner has been able to place a special officer in charge of the forests in the latter district; (2) the Gauháti division, covering the Kámrap district; (3) the Tezpur division, including the Darrang and

Nowgong districts; (4) the Sibságar division, including the Sibságar and part of the Nága Hills district; (5) the Lakhimpur division, covering the district of that name; (6) the Cachar division, including the district of Cachar. The portions of the Province not directly in charge of a Forest Officer are thus the districts of Sylhet, the Khási Hills, and the Nága Hills, excluding the valley of the Dhansiri and Doyang rivers and the Rengma Hills. In the first-named district the forest area is of comparatively small extent, and of inferior quality in its timber growth; the greater part of it is managed, under the orders of the Deputy-Commissioner, by the revenue establishments in charge of the Partabgarh tahsil, which adjoins the forest. Other small patches of forest in the district are farmed to the highest bidder. In the Khási and Jaintia Hills the forests are in charge of the Deputy-Commissioner. In the Nága Hills (with the exceptions above named) no forest conservancy has yet been attempted by Government.

248. The receipts of the department under the different major heads during the last five years are shown below :—

Receipts of the Department.	1876-77. Ra.	1877-78. Ra.	1878-79. Ra.	1879-80. Ra.	1880-81. Ra.
I. Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency—					
(a) realised by Forest Officers	3,968	15,393	10,078	13,068	17,629
(b) " by Civil " ...	.....	.....	1,760	266	1,139
II. Timber, &c., removed from the forests by consumers and purchasers—					
(a) realised by Forest Officers	34,848	24,293	27,461	47,534	79,962
(b) " by Civil " ...	41,494	92,676	1,19,963	96,425	52,796
III. Confiscated drift and waifwood	129	604	782	826	3,597
IV. Revenue from forests not managed by Government.	468	1,070	1,346	5,169	12,669
V. Miscellaneous	661	289	389	1,047	1,205
Total	81,568	1,34,325	1,61,779	1,64,335	1,68,997

This statement shows that the revenue of 1880-81 was not only the largest realised during the last five years, but that it was also the largest under each major head, with the exception of the two sub-heads I.b and II.b, which show the revenue realised by Civil Officers. The receipts under the first of these two heads are shown against the Gáro Hills district only, and represent the price fetched by the rubber collected and brought in to the Deputy-Commissioner at Tura for sale. The receipts under the second head represent mainly the price paid by persons taking up waste land for cultivation on account of the trees and other forest produce standing thereon. The decrease in the amount realised is due chiefly to the depressed state of the tea industry, which prevented the extension of planting operations, and partly also, it may be supposed, to the progressive diminution of the unoccupied area which is specially suitable for tea. In all the valley districts except Darrang there is a great falling off in receipts under this head, the largest being in Sibságar (Rs. 23,707). In Darrang it would seem that the check

experienced elsewhere to the extension of tea-planting has not come into operation, the receipts in 1880-81 having been Rs. 18,114, against Rs. 17,998 in the previous year.

249. The revenue under head I.a represents the profit on departmental timber operations; although larger than in any of the previous four years, it is so only because the stocks in depôt are being quickly sold off. These operations are not profitable in Assam, where the cost of hired labour is extremely high; and they have been carried on for the past few years only experimentally, with a view to determine the cost of extracting timber from the forests. This object has now been attained, and, except for the needs of the department, no more timber will be felled and brought to depôt.

250. The revenue under head II. has largely increased in the amount realised by Forest Officers, and, as already noticed, diminished in that received by District Officers. The net result under both is a revenue of Rs. 1,32,758 in 1880-81, against Rs. 1,43,959 in 1879-80, a decrease of Rs. 11,201. The revenue realised by Forest Officers is made up partly of the payment for trees sold standing in the forests and felled and removed by purchasers at their own expense, partly of the receipts taken at the river revenue stations established in Cachar and the Assam valley, and partly of the fees levied in Cachar for licenses for cutting timber and other forest produce, and for the use of elephants in dragging timber out of the forests.

251. The forest revenue or check-stations, which, as already noticed, are a novel feature in this year's administration, exist at Dibrumukh and Dhubri, in the Assam Valley, and at Sonaimukh, Jafarband, and Siyalték in Cachar. But besides these, there are five stations in the Goálpára district, established on the Lángá, Gorapila, Chámpamati, Gángia, and Gadádhar rivers, for the purpose of checking timber either brought down from Bhutan through that district, or else cut out of the Government reserves. The Bhutan timber pays a fee of eight annas on each log or tree, and receives a pass, at places nearer the frontier, across which it enters. The rules under which these fees are levied and the passes given came into force from the 12th October 1880.

252. The Dhubri and Dibrumukh stations were established with somewhat different objects. The rules in force regarding the felling of timber on Government lands (whether of the first, second, or third of the classes mentioned above) require payment of the amount due as royalty before the timber is taken possession of by the purchaser. All timber taken out of the Valley districts must pass Dhubri; and at that place a check-station was established under rules which came into force on the 1st October 1880, for the purpose of verifying the fact that the amounts due to Government have been paid on all timber and forest produce removed, or that such timber and produce is derived from private lands. A small fee is taken on the passes granted after verification, and the rules provide for the levy of royalty, should it be found that it has not been paid

already: but no occasion seems to have arisen for the levy of royalty during the year. The fees on passes realised Rs. 705-8-0 in the six months to the close of the year. The work is done, without any expense to the Forest Department, by the registration establishment maintained to record the general traffic on the river; and the Chief Commissioner has since the close of the year decided that the trifling income derived from fees shall be given up. Its levy is a source of delay and inconvenience to persons bringing down timber: it is not, as already observed, needed for the purpose of meeting the cost of the river-station; and the purpose served by the check-station of verifying the payment of royalty in the districts above, or the private origin of the articles floated down, does not demand the imposition of any further toll.

253. The Dibrumukh station had its origin in a proposal to levy a royalty on timber (chiefly in the shape of boats) brought down from the forests in the part of the Lakhimpur district above Dibrugarh, and principally from the forests beyond the Inner Line, whence the boats are brought out by Miri woodcutters. In this district, where population is sparse and the forests very extensive, it is difficult or impossible to ensure the payment of royalty, as in other districts in the valley, to manzadárs or other fiscal officers before the trees are cut. At Dibrumukh, therefore, royalty and fees for passes are both taken on the timber and produce floated by. Royalty realised Rs. 444 up to the close of the year, and fees for passes Rs. 314-12. Some defects in the rules in force at this place have attracted the Chief Commissioner's notice, and measures are in progress for remedying them.

254. In Cachar the system of forest management differs from that in force in other forest divisions. In the first place, fees are levied on licenses to cut timber, bamboos, canes, and grass in the forests, and to use elephants for dragging timber out of the forests to the rivers, at fixed rates. The payment of the royalty, or price charged by Government for this timber and other produce (unless landed above the toll-station), is not taken till the produce extracted passes the revenue-station, when it is charged with this royalty, and also with a fee for a pass granted on payment (if the produce be not derived from private land), after which it proceeds on its journey down stream without further obstruction. Until June 1880 there was only one toll-station in the district, at Siyaltek, near the Sylhet frontier, a point formerly occupied in the time of the native Rájás by a *ghát* for levying *sáir*, or miscellaneous revenue, and no rules existed requiring royalty to be paid for timber, &c., landed within the district above Siyaltek. On the other hand, a practice had gradually grown up of taking duty at Siyaltek, not only on the produce of Government forests, but on that also of private lands, the owners of which might either have expressly paid for their timber, or acquired their lands without any reservation of the timber by Government. In June 1880 rules came into operation by which a toll-station was established at Sonaimukh, some distance above Silchar, at the junction of the Sonai river with the Barák. Another was established at Jafarband, on the Katakhál, to

intercept the produce brought down the Hailákánda valley. The station at Siyaltek was maintained as a check upon the working of the stations above, and to catch any produce which came down by other routes than those commanded by Sonaimukh and Jafarband. The levy of royalty and fees for passes on the produce of private lands was abandoned; and the rules provided that anyone wishing to land timber or produce before reaching the river-stations must apply to the Forest Officer and prove payment of the amount due to Government thereon. In 1879-80 Rs. 31,049 were realised as fees at Siyaltek alone. The new rules came into force on the 1st June 1880, and in the financial year 1880-81 the following amounts were realised:—

	Rs.
At Siyaltek	10,971
„ Jafarband.....	3,857
„ Sonaimukh	27,696
Total	<u>42,524</u>

The exemption of private timber from duty (an obviously just measure, since such timber had either already been paid for or had not been reserved when the land was alienated) made the receipts a good deal less than they would otherwise have been: thus, at Jafarband, out of 2,564 logs brought down, 2,020 were declared as private; at Sonaimukh, out of 9,045 logs, 4,959 were so claimed. It is probable that the exemption of private timber leads to fraud, and that several of the “certificates of origin” which the rules require in such cases are fictitious; but this can only be guarded against by vigilance on the part of the forest establishments, and systematic testing and enquiry on the spot into the authenticity and honesty of the certificates collected at the revenue-station. In all future alienations of wooded land, payment for the trees should be exacted before the land is made over.

255. The amounts above stated also include the duty on foreign timber imported from Manipur and the Lushai country. This duty, which is levied at the rates applicable to the produce of Government forests, produced Rs. 7,629 during the year.

256. The amount realised for license-fees in Cachar has not been separately reported. The number of licenses granted to timber-cutters was a little in excess of that of the previous year, 3,199 against 3,123. For elephants the number of licenses fell from 201 to 117.

257. The revenue under heads III. and V. calls for few remarks. The establishment of the river-stations has improved the receipts from drift timber. Under head IV. the revenue of Rs. 12,669 is made up chiefly of the receipts in Cachar just referred to, from duty on Manipur and Lushai timber: besides this, an income of Rs. 2,471 was derived in the Khási Hills from the produce of the Sál forests in the Khási State of Nongspung, which is shared between the British Government and the Seim.

258. The expenditure of the department during the year is thus divided and compared with the figures of the four previous years:—

Expenditure of the department.

A.—Conservancy and Working.

	1876-77. Rs.	1877-78. Rs.	1878-79. Rs.	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.
I.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency.	3,687	7,598	12,981	12,679	9,490
II.—Timber, &c., removed by consumers and purchasers	240	2,690	610	1,060	3,090
III.—Confiscated drift and waif wood	Nil.	Nil.	16	91	109
IV.—Revenue from forests not managed by Government	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
V.—Rent of leased forests	50	50	50	50	Nil.
VI.—Live and dead stock ..	18,667	12,256	16,612	18,277	10,283
VII.—Roads and buildings...	6,941	7,871	6,943	7,352	11,433
VIII.—Demarcation, improvement, and extension.	11,897	16,192	25,980	30,086	32,120
IX.—Miscellaneous	522	2,297	1,327	2,561	2,694
Total A.	42,004	48,954	64,519	72,156	69,209

B.—Establishments.

I.—Salaries.....	41,771	44,263	51,448	52,427	60,501
II.—Travelling allowances	5,117	4,978	6,988	5,665	9,746
III.—Contingencies	1,027	2,091	3,072	2,581	3,269
Total B.....	47,915	51,332	61,508	60,673	73,516
Grand Total	89,919	1,00,286	1,26,027	1,32,829	1,42,725

The total expenditure has thus mounted year by year, and is in 1880-81 Rs. 9,896, or 7·4 per cent. in excess of that of the previous year. But the increase is not equally distributed between the different heads. It is, as compared with 1879-80, confined to the second main division, "B, Establishments," and is due (1) to the increase made during the year in the Conservator's pay, and the addition of an officer to the superior staff, and (2) to the increased rates of travelling allowances sanctioned by the Government of India. Under "A, Conservancy and Working" the only heads which present a notable increase are II. "Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers and purchasers" (an increase which is balanced by a falling off under I. "Timber removed by Government agency," for reasons already explained), VII. "Roads and buildings," and VIII. "Demarcation, improvement, and extension." The increase under VII.A. is due to the building of forest bungalows at Silchar and Sibságar and of an office at Dhubri. That under VIII.A. is chiefly attributable to the constitution of the new forest division in Lakhimpur.

259. The most important heads of forest expenditure under the title of conservancy proper are VIII., "Demarcation, improvement, and extension of the forests," and VII., "Communications and buildings." Under the former come all operations of demarcation and survey, compensation for rights extinguished in reserves, working plans, fire-protection, and plantations; and under the latter the roads and bridges which are needed to make the forests accessible and to ensure their proper watching, and the buildings upon which the health and comfort of the forest employes, in this Province especially, mainly depend; and the Chief Commissioner is glad to notice a steady advance in the annual expenditure under these two divisions of work. Judicious outlay in this direction is the best object to which the increasing receipts of the department can be devoted. The forests of the Province cannot for the present be expected to yield a revenue commensurate with the greatness of their resources, since they are, generally speaking, situated at a distance from the markets where their produce is most valuable, and they have between them and the consumers of Lower Bengal large unexhausted wooded tracts in private hands. Year by year, however, as the private forests are worked out, and buyers find their way up the river valleys, the forests of Assam will become more valuable: and it cannot be doubted that the expenditure now devoted to their protection from fire, to rendering them easier of access, and to regulating the timber-fellings and clearances according to the received laws of reproduction, will in time be amply repaid.

260. The experimental plantations of Teak and India-rubber-trees are of more doubtful value, and, though the Chief Commissioner is hopeful that they will succeed, and would not wish to see them abandoned, still he is of opinion that they should not be greatly extended: work of this kind should be looked on as a toy, to occupy the leisure hours of officers whose main task it is to explore and utilise the immense existing resources of the forests, to make them accessible to the public, and to prevent excessive and indiscriminate destruction of the trees. The Balipára plantation has cost from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 during the year under report, and not much less than a lakh of rupees during the last ten years, without returning anything to the treasury. It may possibly be a mine of wealth some twenty-five or thirty years hence, but, on the other hand, it may turn out a total failure; and the Chief Commissioner feels bound, in the interests of the present generation, to discourage such speculative expenditure, and has expressed his desire that the plantation should not be enlarged, and that its cost should be curtailed as much as possible.

261. The season, like that of the previous year, was an extremely favourable one for fire-protection; though the total rainfall of the year was somewhat below the average, the rain fell at convenient times. In December, which is usually a dry month, 2·78 inches were registered at the Kulsí plantation, and 1·33 inches at Balipára. In March and April also there was a good deal of rain, and the dry season which followed was of short duration. Fire-protection is apparently more essential in the lower divisions of the

Assam Valley, Goálpára, Gauháti, and Tezpur, and in the Khási Hills, than in the moister forests of Sibságar and Lakhimpur: and in those divisions also the forest establishment is weaker, the officers have been more disabled by fever, and very little work of any kind has been accomplished. The area brought under protective operations was 104,325 acres, or 163 square miles, of which 102,940 acres, or 98·6 per cent., were successfully protected, at a cost of Rs. 6,030. The failures, only 1,385 acres in extent, were due, except in one instance (that of the forest near the Shillong Farm), to accidents while burning the fire-lines; and it is satisfactory to notice that, with the exception already mentioned (where the cause of the fire was not ascertained), there were no malicious attempts to set fire to the forests.

262. Forest offences were, as usual, few in number. 40 prosecutions were instituted, exactly the same number as that of last year: 121 persons were charged and 105 convicted, against 135 put on their trial and 97 convicted in 1879-80. No case of injury to forests by fire was prosecuted. The greatest activity in proceeding against offenders was shown in the Cachar district, where 20 out of the 40 cases occurred, and in Nowgong, where 13 of the remainder were prosecuted.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND MINERALS.

Lime-quarries.

263. The demand on account of lime-quarries during the past two years is compared as follows:—

	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.
Sylhet	4,000	4,050
Khási Hills	41,755	33,055
Gáro „ .....	.....	555
	<hr/> 45,755	<hr/> 37,660

The increase of Rs. 50 in the district of Sylhet represents the annual rent of the lease granted to one Ram Sing Khási for collecting limestone from streams in the *khás* land of pargana Borakhia for three years. The falling off in the Khási and Jaintia Hills is due mainly to the low prices fetched by the lime-quarries leased during the year; and this, again, is to be ascribed to the great fall in the price of lime in the markets of the plains.

Since the close of the year the Chief Commissioner has decided, in consultation with the Deputy-Commissioner, to maintain the policy begun in 1878 by Sir Stenart Bayley regarding the leasing of the lime-quarries in this district, with the modifications that the term of the lease shall be extended from three to seven years, and that the restriction regarding the minimum output be withdrawn, only the condition that the lease shall be liable to resumption if *bona-fide* quarrying operations are not commenced within a year being retained. The restriction regarding the number of quarries to be held in one interest has also been relaxed; but, in order to guard against the creation of a monopoly, power has been reserved to refuse sanction to the lease of any quarry to a competitor who may already be in possession of others. Mr.

Elliott has further instructed the Deputy-Commissioner to try the experiment of inviting tenders by advertisement published in the *Assam and Bengal Gazettes*, and in the leading Dacca and Calcutta advertising mediums, instead of selling the quarries by auction in the local market, where competition is almost necessarily confined to speculators on the spot; but, if satisfactory tenders are not received within the time fixed, the leases will be disposed of by public auction before the working season commences. The results of these measures will be reported hereafter.

In the Gáro Hills the limestone tract near the Moheskhali river was settled with one Har Kishor De Sarkar and two others for a period of ten years from 1880-81 at an annual rent of Rs. 500. Besides the rent, the lessees are required to pay a royalty of Rs. 20 per 1,000 maunds of stone quarried. It is further stipulated that the minimum outturn of the quarry shall be 40,000 maunds of limestone per annum, that the rent shall be paid in half-yearly instalments in advance, and that the lease will be resumed if these conditions are not complied with, or if quarrying operations are not commenced within two years of the sale of the lease. The amount of royalty on the quantity of limestone actually quarried during the year was Rs. 55 only, and the Deputy-Commissioner reports that "the clause relating to the minimum outturn was apparently overlooked."

264. The lease applied for by the Assam Mineral Oil Company of the right to search for and extract petroleum and other mineral oils in the Jaipur sub-division of the Lakhimpur district has not yet been concluded, on account of the failure of the Company to furnish information concerning the boundaries of the tracts selected for working.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

265. The only manufacture of importance in this Province is that of tea.

266. The subjoined abstract gives the area under tea-cultivation in the Province, and that taken up but not yet planted, for the last four years:—

Year.	Under mature	Under immature	Taken up, but	Total
	plants.	plants.	not yet planted.	Acres.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1877	99,171	40,975	398,815	538,961
1878	109,577	38,263	439,569	587,409
1879	112,685	37,925	454,369	604,979
1880	120,512	33,145	412,620	566,277

The figures showing the planted areas are in all probability fairly accurate, and they indicate an increase of 7,827 acres under mature plants, and a decrease of 4,780 acres under immature plants. With regard, however, to the area not yet planted, no reliance can be placed on the figures submitted. The tea-planters can often only make a vague guess at the areas of waste and grass or forest land within their boundaries, and do not trouble themselves to make accurate estimates. An enquiry made in the Cachar district has disclosed the fact that from almost every garden the total area returned this year has been different

from that returned last year, although it is known that in almost every case no alteration in the boundaries has occurred. It must not, therefore, be supposed that the decrease in these figures indicates any falling off in the prosperity of the tea industry. Steps have, however, been taken to secure more correct returns of the area of land taken up, and the District Officers have been called on to furnish statistics on this point, instead of leaving the matter in the hands of the planters themselves.

267. The yield during the year is reported to have been 34,013,583 lbs., as compared with 31,386,636 lbs. in 1879 and 28,509,548 lbs. in 1878, showing an increase of 2,626,947 lbs. over the outturn of the preceding year, and an increase of 5,504,035 lbs. over that of 1878. These figures (which are supplied by the tea-planters themselves) must of course be taken only as approximations, more or less faithful, to the true outturn. That they are not very far from the truth may be gathered from comparing them with the returns published by Messrs. Moran & Co. in the *Tea Gazette* for 2nd May 1881, where the outturn is estimated at 37,079,257 lbs., viz., 24,021,375 lbs. for the Brahmaputra Valley and 13,057,882 lbs. for the Surma Valley. The difference between these two estimates is only 9 per cent., which is a very moderate amount, when the speculative character of the figures is considered. Both these estimates, however, fall short of the amount actually produced, as evidenced by the registered exportations, as will be seen from the section treating of the trade of the Province.

The following statement shows the outturn of each district during the last three years, together with the increase and decrease of outturn during the year under report, as compared with that of the two preceding years. It will be seen that the greatest increase has occurred in Cachar, while the districts of Sylhet and the Khási Hills exhibit a falling off of 267,208 lbs. in 1880, as compared with 1879. The gardens in the last-named district are situated on its southern margin, where it adjoins Sylhet, and form but one tea-producing tract with those in the latter. The figures for this tract show such a great decrease as to be hardly credible; but in all other districts there is a fair proportion of increase shown in the outturn:—

District.	Outturn in pounds.			1880, compared with 1879.		1880, compared with 1878.	
	1878.	1879.	1880.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cachar	8,095,275	9,146,989	10,198,329	1,061,340	.....	2,103,054	.....
Sylhet	1,366,114	2,470,823	2,290,024	.....	180,799	923,920	.....
Goalpara	19,356	25,190	28,088	2,896	.....	8,732	.....
Kamrup	682,032	733,522	1,012,600	279,078	.....	330,568	.....
Dufrang	3,536,073	3,517,359	3,925,111	407,752	.....	389,038	.....
Nowgong	1,626,395	1,566,738	2,000,199	433,461	.....	378,804	.....
Sibsagar	8,282,198	9,721,824	10,152,765	430,941	.....	1,870,567	.....
Lakhimpur	4,677,548	4,088,191	4,374,876	288,685	.....	.....	802,672
Khási Hills	224,557	118,000	81,581	.....	86,419	.....	192,976
Total.....	28,509,548	31,386,636	34,013,583	2,894,155	2,67,208	5,999,683	495,648
Net.....				2,626,947	.....	5,504,035	.....

268. On receipt of the despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 167 (Statistics and Commerce), dated the 30th November last, a Circular was issued to all District Officers, directing them to include in their Administration Reports a full account of all manufactures (especially those of any artistic merit) carried on in their districts.

The replies received in response to this call are, so far as necessary, given in full below. Some of the District Officers have not, however, been able to comply with the request, in consequence of the Circular having been received by them too late this year.

269. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet has given the following account of the manufactures in his district:—

Manufactures in Sylhet.

“One of the chief articles of manufacture in the Sylhet district is lime, which gives employment to a very large number of persons in the Sunámganj sub-division.

“The limestone is brought chiefly from quarries in the Khási Hills. From Chháatak down to a certain distance below Sunámganj, all along the river side, is the place where limestone is burnt. The process is very simple. Big hollows are dug out in the banks of the rivers, of depths of about nine or ten feet; the sides are made sloping, and the circle becomes narrower and narrower as it goes towards the bottom. The figure very nearly resembles a cone reversed, with only this difference, that the base, instead of being a point, is a small circle. Stones are then skilfully piled one over another till the structure rises about five feet above ground. The portion above ground is covered with straw and then plastered with mud. A hole is left at the bottom towards the river, at the mouth of which the lime-burner takes his seat and puts in dry bundles of *Ikar* and reeds. After fire is applied the burning process takes about 12 or 14 days, the fire being kept on continually during this period. When burnt, some water is sprinkled over the lime and the manufacture becomes complete. It is then stored in godowns close by or sold at the spot. This lime forms the main supply of all Bengal. The sub-divisional station Sunámganj (probably Chunámganj was the original name) takes, I think, its name from this lime or ‘*chunám*.’

“The quantity of lime and limestone exported annually may be stated at 10 or 12 lakhs of maunds.

“Manufacture of molasses (*gur*) is another industry of the district. We have about 5,000 or 6,000 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation in the east and south of the district, and produce probably 2,00,000 or 2,50,000 maunds of *gur* a year, that is, at the rate of 40 maunds per acre. The local production of sugar is, however, far from equal to the demand. We import a very large quantity both for eating and smoking purposes. The fine light coloured molasses called *lali* is said to be peculiar to the south of the district. This *lali* is exported beyond the district. The date-palm trees, from which so much *gur* is produced in several districts in Bengal, are rare in Sylhet.

“Wood-sawing is carried on in many parts of the district, specially at Bhangra, a place on the eastern border of the district, at the town of Sylhet, and at Habiganj. The sawyers generally come from the Habiganj sub-division. From the wood thus prepared, beams, rafts, and posts of houses are made, as well as platforms, bedsteads, benches, stools, wardrobes, desks, almirahs, chairs, tables, &c. Some of these are made after Calcutta models. The wages of a carpenter vary from 8 annas to 12 annas a day. The carpenters make also agricultural implements, namely, clod-crushers, ploughs, and yokes. The Manipuris make the sandals or wooden shoes which are so universally worn by the natives; as also *baulás*, or pegs, which pass between the great toe and the toe next to it, to prevent the sandal from slipping off the foot. These shoes and pegs are exported to some extent. Dhákádakshin, a pargana in the east of the district, is famous for the wooden plates, *khanchas* or *barkoses*, and vessels, *charis* or *tagaris*, made there. Sylhet has a reputation for children's toys, also made of wood covered with lac of different colours, and neatly turned. These are largely exported to Calcutta.

"The *sola* weed, which grows wild with the *aus* and *aman* rice, and which is manufactured elsewhere into hats or *topis* worn by Europeans, is manufactured here into artificial flowers, ornaments, and crowns for the native ceremonies. *Abir* or *fagua*, a red powder so much used by the Hindus at the festival of Doljâtrâ, is prepared in pargana Taraf. It is made from a weed called *sunti*, and barks of certain trees. Chessmen and dice are also made of wood in the station of Sylhet. The manufacture of wooden beads, which are worn as necklaces by the lower orders of the Hindus, is also an occupation. A large number of tea-boxes are required in the gardens every year; these are manufactured in the district. As the neighbouring district of Cachar is chiefly supplied with tea-boxes from this district, this is an important branch of manufacture. I suppose we make more than a lakh of boxes a year. The preparation of charcoal for use on the tea-gardens and by blacksmiths, &c., is also a manufacture. The manufacture of *tikiyas*, which are made from plants, twigs, or *nal* reeds, and are used for smoking purposes, affords occupation to a large number of inhabitants, especially in parganas Dhâkâdakshin and Barâyâ, and also in and about Ajmiriganj, a market situated in the west of the district. *Palanquins* and *mâpas*, a sort of conveyance used exclusively by native ladies, are made at Lashkarpur, Rajnagar, Langla, and Chapghat.

"Boat-building, of course, is an important industry in a water district like Sylhet. Under the Mogul Government vessels for the royal *Nawrah* used to be built here and at Comillah, formerly called 'Jahâz Nagar,' the capital of the adjoining district of Tipperah. There were three parganas in this district, called *Nawrah mahâls*, which, instead of paying revenue in cash, had to supply boats for the Royal Navy. One of these parganas, Baniyachang, is still attached to the district. The other two parganas, Sarâil and Juansahi, no longer belong to Sylhet. Mr. Sheristadâr Grant, in his view of the revenues of Bengal, referring to Sylhet, writes:—'It is of more importance from its natural growth of ship-timber, built into vessels of different sizes, formerly for the royal *Nawrah* and now on account of the private traders of Dacca.' The sub-division of Habiganj possesses at least two kinds of boats not found elsewhere, the *Lakhai Pahwar* and the *Khawâi* boat. The *Khawâi* boat is, however, only a flat-bottomed '*saranga*,' the simplest development of the dug-out canoe. The bed of a *saranga* is simply a carved dug-out, on which the sides of the boat are built up. The more elaborate boats are built on the lines of an imaginary keel, the two ends, or '*galais*,' of which are propped up at the beginning, in the places they will occupy when the boat is finished. Great quantities of keels and half-finished boats of *Jurul* (*Lagerstrœmia Reginae*) wood are made at Habiganj for sale at Phândauk Bazar, in the Tipperah district, where there is a great mart for timber. The '*Bârki*' boat of Pânduâ, which plies in the river from Chhâtak to Thariaghat, at the foot of the Khâsi Hills, is also peculiar to the district. The boats built in the Balaganj quarter of the district are more spacious, as they are much wider than the Habiganj boats, though not so long.

"Mats are made here from bamboos and reeds called *murtâ*, *nal*, and *huglâ*. The superior sort of mat known as *sitalpâti* is manufactured from *murtâ*, which grows wild in the district. *Sitalpâti* is much appreciated for its coolness and smooth glazed texture. *Sitalpâtis* vary in size from 6 to 24 feet in length and from 3 to 6 feet in breadth, and are sold at from 12 annas to Rs. 8 each. The best description of *sitalpâtis* are made in pargana Chauâlis. The village of Akhâilkurâ, in pargana Itâ, and some places in other parganas also manufacture *sitalpâtis*. The very fine *sitalpâtis* are, however, only made to order, and command fancy prices. There is a considerable sale for *sitalpâti* at Balaganj, one of the largest markets in the district, situated about 16 miles to the south of the town of Sylhet. Another description of mats, called *neuli* mats, made from bamboos, is also very fine. These mats are made in the east of the district, and are more durable than *sitalpâtis*. Those made in pargana Chapghât are the finest, being hardly distinguishable from a coarse *sitalpâti*. A Chapghât *neuli* mat measuring 5 by 3 feet sells at Re. 1. After these, in point of fineness, come the mats called *charis*, or *maluâs*, made from *nal*. *Sitalpâtis* and *maluâs* are chiefly used for sitting and sleeping on, and occasionally for matting the floor of houses occupied by gentlemen. *Neuli* mats are made in small quantities, and are used generally for constructing walls of catcha houses. The bamboo mats, called *dharis*, are

manufactured extensively. So are the coarser description of mats made from *nal*, which pass by the names of *dharás* and *katias* or *cháches*. The *katias* are made into *dols*, locally called *táils*, to hold paddy and rice. The *huglá* mats, or *máduls*, are but occasionally made. Mats called *sitalpátis*, bamboo *dharás*, *maluás*, and *katias*, are exported. Baskets of different sizes, for which there is a great demand in a community so much given to agriculture, are also extensively woven from bamboo and *nal*. The bamboo baskets made at Habiganj deserve to be noticed specially.

Fans (*Bichun*) are another manufacture from these materials. Palm-leaf and bamboo umbrellas are specially manufactured in the town of Sylhet, and are exported in large quantities. There is an extensive trade in them. Handsome bamboo baskets in great varieties are made in the town of Sylhet. European gentlemen have a great fancy for them. *Murás*, or cane and bamboo chairs and stools of Sylhet, have acquired some celebrity. These are sometimes made with plain and sometimes with coloured rattans. Lacquered bamboo blow-pipes and arrows are made in the town of Sylhet. *Petárás*, or trunks for clothes, &c., are manufactured from *jáli* and *sindi* rattans. These are of various shapes—circular, quadrangular, and oval. The value of *petárás* varies from 12 annas to Rs. 7. These *petárás* and *murás* are exported. Nice hand *pankhas* of different sizes come from Jaintia. They are made of single leaves of palm tree called *tál* by the natives. They are nearly round in shape. The price varies from eight annas to Re. 1-8.

“Iron work inlaid with brass, and such articles as *talwars*, *daos*, *khargas*, *patkatalis*, and betelnut cutters, are manufactured at Rajnagar. Rajnagar is also noted for its iron pans.

“Shell bracelets (*sankhas*) are manufactured in the town of Sylhet and at Birat, a village near Ajmeriganj, but the *sankhas* used in the district are largely imported from Dacca. These bracelets are cut out as solid rings from large white conch-shells obtained from various places on the sea-coast in and near India.

“A portion of the lac produced in the district is worked up into bracelets by the females of Muhammadan families, and the remainder is exported to Calcutta and elsewhere. At Lashkarpur, in pargana Taraf, lac is manufactured into a variety of elegant objects, known as *parkala* work, which has obtained a high reputation. In some specimens, such as boxes, walking-sticks, &c., the lac is tastefully inlaid with the blue feathers of the kingfisher and with talc.

“One of the Lashkarpur artificers, since dead, exhibited a japanned box, thus ornamented, at the London Exhibition of 1852.

“Sylhet is one of the districts the forests of which abound in elephants. During the Muhammadan Government the revenues of several parganas used to be absorbed by khedda establishments, so Sylhet had a *specialité* in ivory ware. There is still a carver of ivory in the town of Sylhet. His work is characterised by much ingenuity and taste. The work consists of ivory mats, which are sold at from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,600 each; fans from Rs. 25 to Rs. 75; sticks from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30; chessmen from Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 a set; dice from Rs. 12 to Rs. 16 a set; bracelets from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per pair; and *baulis* for the wooden shoes from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8 per pair. Combs and *baulis* are made from buffalo horns too. Shields of buffalo-hide used to be made to some extent.

“In pargana Pathariya a kind of *attar* is prepared of wood called *agar*, which is exported to Calcutta for despatch to Arabia and Turkey, where it is said to be held in high estimation. The *agar* is found on trees called *Pitakara* (*Aquilaria Agallocha* Roxb.) growing wild in the jungle. The wood is cut into small pieces and placed in water in a copper vessel and boiled, and from this infusion the perfume is distilled. To the existence in the district of the *agar* tree allusion is made in the *Ain Akbari* of Abul Fazl, according to whom the *agar* trees abound in the forests of Sylhet.

“The vegetable oils manufactured in the district are:—

1. Mustard oil.
2. Linseed or *tisi* oil.
3. Sesamum or *til* oil.
4. Radish or *mula* oil.
5. *Bherenda* or *erenda* oil.

"The *mula* from which oil is made differs from the ordinary *mula* grown for food. The *mula* for oil is sown thickly, and has scarcely any tubercular root. From the seed an oil is extracted which nearly resembles mustard oil, which it is used to adulterate; *mula* oil as it is is never sold. *Til* oil is used chiefly for medicinal purposes and the lincseed oil as an ingredient for painting. The mustard oil manufactured in the district is scarcely sufficient to supply its wants. The *bherenda*, or castor, oil is used for food and as a medicine for *itch*. There are other oil-seeds in the district, but no oil is known to be extracted from them; *Chalmugra* trees are said to exist in the Pathariya forests. There is another description of trees called variously '*Baidraj*,' '*Titraj*,' or '*Pithshul*,' from the seeds of which oil can be extracted. It is extracted in the district of Tipperah. Oil can also be extracted from the seeds of *Nagesvar* (*Mesua ferrea*).

"Weaving and manufacture of cotton thread were once the occupation of a large number of inhabitants. The Census of 1872 showed 18,000 persons employed in weaving and spinning cotton in the district. Many helpless widows in the district carry on cotton-spinning as their only means of livelihood. The manufacture is, however, falling off. The extensive imports of cloth from England and the establishment of machinery in this country, have seriously affected the local manufacture. The Manchester piece-goods are fast usurping the place of the country-made articles, and many of our weavers, the *Tantis* and *Jogis*, have given up the loom and taken to other professions. Fine cloths after the *Dacca* patterns, and with thread imported from that celebrated city of muslins, are still made at *Laahkarpur* in the south of the district, and some coarse cloth is also manufactured here and there in the district. The native cloth, though dearer and coarser, is more durable than the Manchester cloth. The cloths the *Tantis* make vary in size from 4½ to 15 feet in length and from 1½ to 3 feet in breadth. The pieces are sold at from 12 annas to Rs. 3 each, according to size and quality. The cloth made by the *Jogis* is still coarser, and is used by the common people only. Each piece varies from 7½ feet to 13 feet in length, and the price varies from 6 annas to Re. 1 each. They also weave a thick description of cloth, called *than*, used in winter for dress or for sleeping in. The price varies from Re. 1-4 to Rs. 3. A description of the processes followed in the manufacture of cotton cloth may not be uninteresting. The raw cotton has to pass through three stages before it is fit for spinning. First it is put in the sun to dry, so that the seeds may be easily separated. The process of separation is effected with a rude instrument called *charuki*, which consists of two small wooden cylinders placed parallel to each other at a distance slightly less than the diameter of a seed. The raw cotton is placed between the cylinders, which are set in motion by the turning of a handle; the cotton is thus forced through, leaving the seeds behind. After the seeds have been separated, the cotton is then made soft and thin by striking it two or three times against a bow-string with the hand. It is next rolled up into *panjis* or balls in the following manner. A small quantity of the cleaned and thinned cotton is spread out upon a board and a stick about a foot long and as thick as a goose quill is placed over it; the cotton is rolled round the stick by hand; the stick is then withdrawn and the *panjis* laid aside as ready for spinning. The spinner fixes the *panji* on the point of a long iron rod, which supplies the place of a spindle. With the left hand he draws out a thread by a rotary movement given to the instrument, and with the right hand guides the thread drawn from the *panji* round the spindle or iron rod. When a sufficient quantity of thread has been thus wound, it is removed and again coiled round an instrument called *natai*. The spun-yarn is now ready for weaving. The common Indian loom is used. It is placed obliquely against the ground, and the weaver sits at the lower end. The main thread or warps are first placed lengthwise in the loom and the cross-threads or woof are shot in between by means of a shuttle.

"The Manipuris, specially those living in the town of Sylhet, weave a peculiar sort of cotton cloth called *khesb*, used as coverlets for beds, and at times for screens and table-cloths, from white or coloured country thread. They are generally made from five to nine feet in length by from three to six feet in breadth, and are sold according to size and quality at prices varying from Re. 1 to Rs. 12 each. The Manipuris produce most lovely dyes. The production of these dyes for cloth is said to be guarded with the strictest secrecy, so that no Bengali has hitherto succeeded to produce them. The Manipuris also weave handkerchiefs, mosquito curtains,

and common dusters. They embroider the edges of the more expensive cloths very skilfully with silk. Handkerchiefs of fine quality are sold at from four annas to six annas each.

"Hemp (*san*) is cultivated to some extent in the district; it is grown for the purpose of making fishing nets, which is of course not an unimportant industry in a district possessing such extensive fisheries.

"The following are the miscellaneous manufactures of the district: *hukkas* from cocconut-shells and dolls for girls are made in the station of Sylhet. Fire-works are also manufactured. *Ghi*, or clarified butter, is exported in considerable quantities from Sukhair, Selbaras, and other parganas in the west of the district. The cheese known as *Dacca* cheese is also manufactured in the west of the district, specially in pargana Bansikundá. It is made from buffalos' milk, and is exported in large quantities to *Dacca*. Some also finds its way to Mymensingh."

270. The following report on the manufactures of the Native State of Manipur has been drawn up by the Political Agent:—

"Owing to Manipur remaining as a Native State, the Chief of which has always had a large quantity of labour at his disposal, **Manufactures in Manipur.** many arts have been kept up and fostered which would otherwise have languished and died out for want of supporters and patrons, and the present Rája has done, and is doing much to encourage and improve art of all kinds.

"Like much oriental work, the manufactures of Manipur combine the useful and ornamental, and this may be said to hold good in even the meanest manufactures, as the commonest cloths have much artistic merit, while an effort is made to impart an air of elegance even to the spinning-wheels in use among the poorest people.

"The Manipuris possess much natural taste and ability, are remarkably quick in taking in a new idea, and after once thoroughly explaining what is required to a Manipuri workman, it is seldom that he makes a mistake.

"The carpenters of Manipur have long been celebrated in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and they can copy anything they see in a very creditable manner. Their craft is chiefly utilised here for making bedsteads and chests, the latter somewhat similar to the old oak chests still seen in England, minus the carving. The bedsteads have turned legs and a low back and foot piece, with slips of wood at the sides to keep the mattress in its place; the side slips are generally carved. The legs of the bed are often highly ornamented with carving. The above kind of work can be done by any carpenter in Manipur, but there are very many who can achieve much greater results, and can turn out excellent glass and panelled doors, make tables and chairs from patterns,—in fact, make anything in wood that is required, the only drawback being that they are very slow workers, and have seldom good seasoned wood to work on. I have omitted to mention one thing peculiarly Manipuri that is included in carpenters' work, that is the 'doolai,' or dooly used here, an article quite different to the vehicle of the same name used in India, and slung more like a jhampan.

"Iron-workers exist both in Manipur and among the hill tribes, and the work turned out is good. Some of the iron is imported from Cachar, some from the Kubo Valley, and some produced in Manipur itself. The ordinary work of the country consists of axes, daos, knives, hoes, ploughshares, spoons for cooking, oil-lamp-stands, tripods for cooking vessels, and spear heads; but, as in the case of wood-work, almost any article can be copied, though it is found cheaper to import articles of complicated workmanship, such as hinges, carpenters' tools, &c., from Cachar.

"The brass-workers of Manipur are chiefly descended from people who came from Bengal, though there were always some of this craft in the valley. The articles manufactured are chiefly cooking utensils of the same pattern as those seen in Cachar; also a few ornaments, chiefly thin hollow bracelets of *repoussé* work, similar to those in silver and gold, which will be hereafter described. The Kukis also make exceedingly handsome tobacco-pipes of brass, highly and tastefully ornamented, also, occasionally,

pipes with figures of animals on them in full relief, through which they suck their beer. Besides the above, there is little to be said on the subject of brass work: as it is, I believe that by far the largest portion used in Manipur is imported from Cachar, from whence in any case the raw material would have to come.

"Very little ivory-carving is done in Manipur, but small mats made of thin strips of ivory plaited together are occasionally made by the Mahārāja's workmen; but they are exceedingly expensive.—a small one, made at the request of Lord Northbrook, cost, I believe, over Rs. 600. This art is said to have been introduced from Sylhet.

Silver work.

"The silver work of Manipur is peculiar to the country, but the style has much more in common with that of Burmah and the Shan States than with that of India, and though some of the silver-smiths are descended from Bengali immigrants, the latter seem to have introduced no patterns from the west, unless it be in the case of a few articles of jewelry. The latter, however, are not very numerous in Manipur, and require little notice, with exception of the gold and silver bracelets, the former of which are given as marks of distinction by the Mahārāja. These bracelets, which are made in gold, silver, and brass, are made of a tube of metal about three-fourths of an inch in diameter and open all along and bent into the shape required, and covered with figures in high relief; they are made in many different patterns and are exceedingly light, seldom weighing over four tolas each. No Manipuri cares to wear these unless made of gold, but Muhammadans sometimes wear silver ones, while the brass ones are generally used by children as playthings.

"By far the most effective silver and gold work in Manipur are the gold and silver *pán-dáns* (the former only used by the Mahārāja), which, being of handsome *repoussé* work, are exceedingly quaint and beautiful, and entirely different to anything of the kind seen elsewhere. Besides the above articles, ornaments of spear-heads are made of silver, and almost any pattern not requiring high finish can be copied. Indeed, the native Manipuri products in gold and silver have an appearance generally of barbaric splendour, and are exceedingly effective and possess great artistic merit, but they lack the finish that would be considered a first requisite by a European silversmith.

Saddlery.

"The manufacture of saddles of a style peculiar to Manipur has long been one of the manufactures of the valley; these saddles have leathern seats and large leather flaps lacquered with the varnish imported from Kubo suspended from the sides with the ends turned out and projecting so as to protect the legs. With the exception of the above, I am not aware that any leather work was done in Manipur before the present Rája's time, since when efforts have been made to extend the manufacture, and now any rough leather work can be done.

Glass-work.

"Two years ago, the Mahārāja engaged two men to come from Calcutta to teach the art of glass-making, as, having an immense stock of broken glass in hand, he thought it would be a great saving if he could have it made up again here, and so save the expense of buying new articles from Calcutta. Since then several Manipuris have learnt the work, and, considering all things, wonderful progress has been made, and glass articles of all kinds, cut and moulded, are turned out, though of course they are, and always will be, inferior to similar things from a good European manufactory, so that it is questionable whether it is worth while continuing the work. At the same time, the Mahārāja deserves much credit for his spirit of enterprise, and, after all, introducing a new manufacture, though it be one not likely to benefit the country to any extent, is better than wasting money on frivolities.

Basket-work.

"Basket-work forms one of the most useful and at the same time ornamental trades of Manipur, and as within the limits of the country so many different tribes are gathered together, each having its own peculiar pattern, the variety is very great. The most noteworthy are the round baskets with semi-spherical lids of the Murring Nágas, which are really works of art. Almost equally good are the Kuki '*tappas*' or '*kittas*,' some of which are very finely worked and ornamented.

"Besides the above, there are the Manipuri *tappas*, the square basket of the Tangkhule, with a variety of others of more or less merit, down to the commonest *kitta* made in an hour by any Nága.

"The mats of Manipur do not come up to the baskets, though here again the Murrings take the first place, as they make neat and tolerably smooth shiny mats of a flexible reed, which are used by the better classes in Manipur.

"The Nāgas to the north, and also the Kowpooees, make good useful mats of black and white colour, but they are not equal to those of the Murrings. The small bamboo mat common throughout Assam, and called there *dari*, is also made in Manipur, but is high priced in proportion to its value. In addition to the above good rush mats can be procured in Manipur, which are excellent for many purposes. It is strange that the manufacture of the '*sitalpati*' has never been introduced here, and the article is never imported.

"The manufacture for which Manipur is chiefly famed is that of different kinds of cloths, which, besides being used in the valley, are exported to Cachar and Assam, and eagerly bought up by all the surrounding hill tribes. Not only has Manipur obtained a ready sale for her own particular kind of cloths, but the people have, with an energy worthy of all commendation, imitated the different cloths of the adjoining hill tribes, and succeeded in many cases in taking the trade out of their hands. Thus, the peculiar cloth, blue with a red border, used by most of the Angamis living between Mao and Kohima, are made in Manipur, and sold at a price with which the Angamis cannot compete. The same is the case with other tribes nearer Manipur. The cloths of Manipur are generally well made, and many of the patterns are exceedingly tasteful. Besides the different tribal patterns, several coloured ones are made, some of which are worn, while others are used as curtains; these last are often exceedingly handsome, and compare well with English repps. The cloths most universally used and exported are plain coarse white ones used as *chudders*; these vary from 6½ feet by 4 feet to 9 feet by 6 feet, and the price in Manipur from 14 annas to Re. 1-8. As a rule, any pattern can be imitated, and excellent towelling, honey-combed or ribbed, can now be purchased.

"Besides coarse cloths, various kinds of fine cloths and muslins are made of imported thread, which, though not quite so cheap as Manchester goods, wear much better. Every woman in Manipur weaves, so the price of cloth is kept down, but the taste for the inferior products of Manchester is increasing. Still, the coarse articles for which Manipur is chiefly famed are not likely soon to be driven out of the market, though some of the peculiar patterns may be lost as civilisation advances. A complete collection of the textile fabrics of Manipur would be of great interest.

"Silk is also one of the manufactures of Manipur. In quality, it resembles the so-called *Kora* silk of Bengal, but it is often ornamented with embroidery. I do not think the silk manufacture needs any special notice, as it is produced in very small quantities, and, being a State monopoly, the price is enormous."

271. The manufactures in the Khási and Jaintia Hills consist principally of various articles of bamboo and cane-work, some cotton and silk fabrics, a few articles of iron, gold and silver ornaments, and a few musical instruments. The gold and silver ornaments, consisting chiefly of earrings, necklaces, and bracelets, are of some artistic merit. The designs appear to be confined to these hills, but the manufacture is now principally in the hands of naturalised Bengalis living at Cherra Punji.

Manufactures in the Khási and Jaintia Hills.

272. The following is extracted from the report of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division :—

"Mustard-oil is one of the manufactures which deserves notice; but, with the exception of the Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong, District Officers have given no information under this head. The extent of this manufacture can only be inferred from the area under mustard cultivation, and it would be well if District Officers in future reports gave some information as to what the cultivation is in their respective districts. The

Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong is the only officer who supplies this information for the past year. He gives the area under cultivation in his district as 27,574 acres, against 26,956 acres in the previous year, the average yield being about 9 maunds, or 720 lb, per acre, and the average price about Rs. 2-8 a maund. Colonel Lamb observes—'This is a very profitable industry, and would pay Europeans to take up. But for some reason or other it has hitherto passed unnoticed. Most of the produce or seed is exported to Bengal by Kyahs or Marwari merchants chiefly, who advance funds for the cultivation, or buy up the seed from those who can carry on their operations without advances and export it.'

"During the last three years the number of oil-mills in the Nowgong district is said to have increased considerably, and the oil expressed in the district is sold at the *hâts* at 5 annas 6 pie per seer. The oil is all cold-drawn and the yield is about 14 seers of oil to the maund of seed. The oil is used for both burning and cooking purposes.

"The manufacture of sugar may also be referred to, though it is never carried beyond the treacle and *gur* stage. Colonel Lamb is the only officer who notices it, but he does not give much information on the subject. District Officers will be requested to give some information regarding this manufacture in future reports, to state whether it is on the increase or decrease, and also to give the area of land under cultivation of sugarcane, as compared with previous years. Enquiries are already being made in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsâgar to ascertain how far this area has been affected by the establishment of the *sadr* distilleries at Dibrugarh and Golâghât. The Golâghât distillery is believed to have given a very considerable stimulus to sugarcane cultivation.

"The manufacture of *mugâ*, *pât*, and *eri* silk still continues, but to a very limited extent. In some parts of the Kâmrûp district professional weavers manufacture the *eri* and *pât* silk, but the chief manufacturers are women, the finer cloths being prepared by women of respectability and position. *Dhutis* (waist-cloths), *mekhlâs* (petticoats), and *rihas* (scarves), are made from the *muga* and *pat* silks. The borders of the *rihas* are often embroidered either with coloured thread or with a texture of silk and gold or silver. The *eri* silk is manufactured chiefly by Cacharis. These cloths are generally coarse and are used by all classes, while the *muga* and *pat* cloths, which are more expensive, are used only by the upper and middle classes. In former days the silk industry was in a prosperous condition. The decline of the trade commenced with the import of cheap fine fabrics of silk and cotton.

"Cotton manufacture is almost entirely in the hands of females of all classes. The cloths manufactured from cotton are *dhutis*, *chudars*, *borkapors* (wrappers), *Ekaniya kapors* (shawls), *gamchas*, *rihas*, and *mekhlâs*. These cloths are worn by all classes. In the manufacture of these cloths the Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong says that Bengali thread is fast displacing the local production. Respectable women manufacture only the finer yarns, but the manufacture has been now all but supplanted by the importation of the better description of cotton cloths from Manchester. Indeed, the total extinction of the cotton industry is only a question of time. Weaving and embroidering, however, are still held in very high estimation by the respectable Assamese. Assamese mothers teach the art of weaving and embroidering to their daughters from a very tender age.

"There is another kind of silk noticed by the Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong, called *mezankuri*. It is the most costly silk produced, and is only procurable in very limited quantities in the eastern portion of the Nowgong district. The other District Officers do not notice this silk.

"The manufacture of gold and silver ornaments is very rough, which is not surprising, considering the rudeness of the tools employed. The Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang and Babu Fatik Chandra Bâruâ have given a list and description of the principal ornaments manufactured. The Assamese still adhere apparently to their local patterns. The *Hâris* are the principal workers in gold and silver. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibsâgar reports that in his district the manufacture of jewelry has declined considerably of late years; ornaments of fine filigree work, which were formerly common, cannot now be made, and the articles of the present day

are as a rule coarse and rude, possessing the sole merit of being substantial and valuable.

“Workers in brass (*Moriás*) travel about the several districts in batches, and remain in villages that give them occupation, and making whatever is required of them. In the *Kámrúp* and *Sibságar* districts this trade is said to be very extensive.

Brass-work.

“Workers in bell-metal (*Kahárs*) remain and work at home. Both *Moriás* and *Kahárs* are said to be able to turn out fair work when they find it worth their while to do so.

Bell-metal work.

“Blacksmiths (*Kámárs*) turn out much ruder work than the brass and bell-metal workers. They make *daos*, knives, axes, adzes, spear-heads, hoes, spades (*khanti*), ploughshares, and sickles. A superior class of *dao*, however, has been imported into the *Sibságar* district from the *Khámpti* and *Mishni* Hills. Iron bars, imported from Bengal, are generally used for the manufacture of the locally-made instruments; these are heated and beaten into the necessary shapes.

Iron-work.

“Ivory-carvers are to be found in Upper Assam only, but the industry, though much patronised in olden days, is now nearly extinct. Back-scratchers, fine combs, and paper-cutters are the principal articles manufactured under this head.

“Potters (*Kumárs* or *Hirás*) are to be found in every district, but their work is thin and poor, and bears no comparison with the manufacture in Bengal.

Pottery.

“Carpenters are also to be found everywhere, but their workmanship is of a most inferior order. In *Kámrúp*, however, it is said that considerable improvement has taken place recently in this trade. There certainly is much room for improvement.

Carpentry.

“The tanners and shoemakers are mostly men from Bengal who have settled in the country, and supply the local markets with shoes, bags, &c., and do any job-work they can get. The Assamese *jhápi*, or umbrella made of bamboo, is the only other manufacture which need be noticed. It is peculiar to Assam, and is too well known to require description. Every man of substance, unless he prefers the English article, has his *borjhapi*, or big umbrella, while no cultivator is without his *sarujhapi*, or little umbrella.”

Miscellaneous.

Extract from the report of Babu Fatik Chandra Barua, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, Kámrúp.

“The following ornaments are manufactured in this district:—

Gold and silver jewelry.

- “ (1) Gold and silver *kharus*, or bracelets. These are prepared in moulds, and the gold ones are sometimes richly decorated with rubies and other valuable stones, which are set in a style remarkable for its neatness and symmetry. A bracelet is about 3 inches wide, and is oval-shaped, composed of two portions, one turning upon the other on a hinge. Each portion is made of two plates, the interior being filled with lac. The inner plate is plain, while the outer one contains devices of ornamental designs. The silver ones are sometimes inlaid with gold.
- “ (2) *Kerus*, a broad-faced cylindrical-shaped ornament made of thin gold, the interior being filled with lac. This is worn by the women in the lobe of the ear. The front side is inlaid with rubies, and its body is sometimes very tastefully enamelled.
- “ (3) Gold and silver *biri* or *maduli*. This is made of thin gold or silver beaten into the shape of a drum and filled with lac. A gold *biri* is sometimes enamelled, and sometimes tastefully decorated with rubies and other precious stones.
- “ (4) *Jon biri*, or crescent, a gold pendant of high polish beaten into the shape of a crescent and filled with lac. Rubies and stones are also set on this ornament.

"(5) Gold and silver beads of different sizes. The large ones are made of thin gold or silver beaten into the shape of beads and filled with lac or sand. The smaller ones are of solid gold or silver. These latter have now entirely taken the place of China and Birmingham glass beads in the higher circles of native society.

"(6) *Koria*, a golden earring, either plain or filigreed.

"(7) Rings, or *Angothis*. These are either plain or inlaid with rubies and other stones. English rings imported from Calcutta are now in much favour amongst the educated Assamese, and they are generally preferred to those manufactured locally.

"The Assamese workers still follow the local patterns, and the Bengali styles of ornaments are not in much favour in the district.

"A bead necklace is made up by the women in the following way: Nine to forty strings of silk thread of a desired length are at first prepared. A *biri*, or a pendant, is then passed through to the middle of the strings, and on each side of it are strung two large corals and a golden bead, every alternate bead being a coral. The small beads (either gold, silver, pearl, or glass) are then passed through each of the strings on both sides to the length of about 2 inches, when two large corals and a gold bead are again strung on each side in the same way as in fixing the *biri*, or the pendant. The same process is again repeated until the desired length has been strung, representing three divisions of small beads on either side of the pendant, or *biri*.

"This necklace is worn by the Assamese woman round her neck. The Cachari women also have commenced to wear these bead necklaces."

Extract from the General Administration Report of the district of Darrang
for 1880-81.

"Jewelry.—Gold and silver work. The following patterns of gold and silver work are peculiar to Assam:—

"(a) The *monee* is a bead-and-gold necklace consisting of coral beads strung with gold balls of various sizes. The *monee* has generally a drum-shaped gold ornament fixed in the centre, called a *madoli*. The value of a *monee* and *madoli* as generally worn is from Rs. 40 to 50.

"The *golpota* is a gold necklace varying greatly in value, according to the weight and workmanship of the gold. It seldom costs under Rs. 100. The *jonhiri* is a necklace with a centre-piece shaped like a quarter moon. This centre-piece consists of gold set with precious stones or coloured beads. The necklace consists either of coral beads or of gold filigree work. The common kinds cost about Rs. 30.

"(b) Earrings. The *thuriah* consists of a star-shaped top made of gold set with precious stones or beads attached to a long circular tube of amber or of gold. The tube is forced into the lobe of the ear. This ornament is, I believe, peculiar to Assam. Its other name is *phuti*. The ordinary kind is worth about Rs. 20 a pair. The other patterns of earrings are known by the names *koreeya*, *kanphul*, *bola*, but are not unlike those found in other parts of India. There is nothing peculiar in the workmanship of bracelets (*kharus*), nose-rings, finger-rings, or head ornaments (*sitipatee*)."

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

273. The total value of the trade between Assam and the adjoining foreign countries during the year 1880-81, as given in the returns submitted by the District Officers, amounted to Rs. 8,36,385, against Rs. 6,76,708 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 1,59,677 in the transactions of the year under report. The following comparative statements will show the value of the imports and exports of each foreign country and fron-

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tier tribe trading with the Province of Assam during the two years 1879-80 and 1880-81:—

Imports into Assam from	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhutan	32,300	22,070	.....	10,230
Towang	99,940	60,524	.....	39,416
Dafra Hills	11,396	18,639	7,243	.....
Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Naga Hills	69,713	1,21,122	51,409	.....
Hill Tipperah	1,71,268	2,25,672	54,404	.....
Lushai Hills	96,458	78,200	.....	18,258
Manipur	22,509	26,110	3,601	.....
Total.....	5,03,584	5,52,337	1,16,657	67,904
Exports from Assam into				
Bhutan	17,457	7,280	.....	10,177
Towang	31,313	37,981	6,668	.....
Dafra Hills	2,032	3,049	1,017	.....
Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Naga Hills	35,112	47,178	11,066	.....
Hill Tipperah	20,947	21,826	1,779	.....
Lushai Hills	43,233	40,696	.....	2,537
Manipur	22,960	1,26,038	1,03,108	.....
Total.....	1,73,124	2,84,048	1,23,638	12,714

From the above statements it will be seen that the foreign countries and tribes whose trade with Assam has increased both in imports and exports during the present year are the Nagas, the Mishmis, the Khámptis, and the Abors, the Dafra Hills, Hill Tipperah, and Manipur.

The trade with Towang exhibits a slight increase of exports, but a larger decrease in the imports. There has been a falling off on both sides of the account in the trade with the Lushai Hills and Bhutan.

The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal articles of import and export of the whole Province, as compared with the preceding year:—

IMPORTS.

Name of article.	Denomination.	1879-80.		1880-81.		Result.			
						Increase.		Decrease.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Timber	Number	13,078	1,22,269	10,060	1,10,484	.....	.....	3,018	11,785
Bamboos	"	3,054,099	45,386	5,039,075	66,587	1,984,976	21,201	.....	.....
Blankets	"	6,392	17,412	4,315	11,652	.....	.....	2,077	5,760
Rubber	Maunds	3,092	1,28,868	3,809	1,90,312	717	61,444	.....	.....
Cotton, raw	"	4,233	24,438	8,241	50,640	4,008	26,202	.....	.....
Horses and ponies	Number	639	39,875	334	21,021	.....	.....	305	18,854
Wax	Maunds	159	5,925	181	7,699	22	1,765	.....	.....
Gold	Value	.....	42,815	.....	3,740	.....	.....	.....	59,075
Ivory	Maunds	20	6,372	16	5,472	.....	.....	4	900
Cotton piece-goods (Indian)	Yards	21,554	4,857	12,986	3,295	.....	.....	8,568	1,562
Salt	Maunds	2,325	12,447	1,661	14,599	.....	2,152	664	.....
Spices	"	1,473	10,104	1,789	10,014	316	.....	.....	90

EXPORTS.

Name of article.	Denomination.	1879-80.		1880-81.		Result.			
						Increase.		Decrease.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Silk manufactures	Yards.	6,282	9,522	17,970	17,662	11,688	8,140	.....	.....
Betel-nuts	Maunds	627	2,072	4,657	16,036	4,030	14,034	.....	.....
Cotton piece-goods (European).	Yards	104,154	21,354	203,036	98,971	98,882	77,617	.....	.....
Ditto (Indian)..	"	33,871	14,683	28,007	8,995	.....	.....	5,864	5,688
Cotton twist and yarn (European).	Maunds	61	3,946	167	12,724	106	8,778	.....	.....
Ditto (Indian)..	"	13	730	1	103	.....	.....	12	627
Opium.....	"	12	17,360	19	27,468	7	10,108	.....	.....
Salt.....	"	3,606	18,182	3,857	17,898	251	.....	.....	284
Brass and copper manufactures.	"	276	16,404	403	10,111	127	3,707	.....	.....
Rice.....	"	16,979	28,969	8,541	13,438	.....	.....	8,438	15,531

There has been a considerable falling off in the imports of timber, blankets, ponies, gold, native cotton piece-goods and spices, and in the exports of Indian cotton piece-goods and rice. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the imports of bamboos, rubber, raw cotton, and wax, and in the exports of silk, betel-nuts, European cotton piece-goods and yarn, opium, and brass and copper manufactures.

INTER-PROVINCIAL TRADE.

274. No returns exhibiting the complete statistics of the river-borne traffic of Assam have hitherto been published in this Province. Until the close of the year 1877-78, however, the Government of Bengal maintained registering stations on the Brahmaputra and Megna rivers, and included the traffic entering Bengal from Assam, and leaving the former for the latter Province, in the Provincial Trade Report. At the end of that year these stations were discontinued by the Bengal Government, though the returns of steamer-borne traffic furnished by the Steamer Companies were still maintained; and it was not till several months of the year 1879-80 had elapsed that the river stations for the registration of country boat traffic were re-established on the part of this Administration. Consequently, for 1879-80 no complete returns of traffic are available for Assam, and the present report is the first in which it has been practicable to give statistics for the whole river-borne trade of the Province. It aims at being little more than a brief compilation of the returns of the trade by the different routes during the year, supplemented by such criticisms as it has been found possible to deduce from the figures shown in the statements. Efforts will be made to secure a better registration of the boat traffic in future years, and it is hoped that these statistics will gradually become more valuable.

275. The trade of Assam with Bengal is carried on principally by the steamers plying between Calcutta and Dibrugarh, on the Brahmaputra river, and between Calcutta and Sylhet and Cachar, on the Surma river. The steamers of the Eastern Bengal Railway Company also ply at frequent intervals between Goalundo and Cachar. The statistics of the traffic carried to and from Assam by these steamers have been obtained from the different companies owning the steamers, and compiled by the Government of Bengal. These statistics, therefore, so far as regards quantities carried, may be considered completely accurate.

276. During the year 1879-80 two stations, one on each main route, were selected for registering the traffic of Bengal with Assam carried by native boats. On the Brahmaputra route the station of Dhubri, which is the first important place in Assam after the Bengal boundary is crossed, was considered the most suitable point for registering the trade of Assam Proper; while Bhairab Bazar, which is a position of great importance on the Megna river, at the place where that river is joined by the old Brahmaputra flowing south through the district of Mymensing, was chosen for recording the boat traffic of the Surma Valley with Bengal. At each of these points a small registering establishment is maintained. The statistics of this traffic, cannot, however, be considered complete, as no night-watch is maintained at the stations, and many country boats (especially on the Megna) travel down stream at night. The traffic is therefore probably understated.

277. Values have been calculated for the steamer traffic by the Government of Bengal on the average prices ruling in twelve selected districts of that Province. Statements are obtained from these districts at the end of every six months, showing the wholesale prices of all articles of trade ruling in these districts on the 30th September and 31st March of each year; and the average of these prices is adopted in the returns. These steamer traffic values have simply been incorporated in the statistical tables appended to this report. In some cases there is reason to believe that they are not very accurate: but for the present year no correction has been attempted, as to effect it would involve delay, too much of which has already occurred in the preparation of the report. For the same reason the local values reported from Dhubri and Bhairab Bazar have been accepted for the present: but attempts will be made hereafter to get the whole question of values placed on a more satisfactory footing.

278. Trade in the Valley of Assam Proper is mostly in the hands of Kaiya or Marwari merchants and Muhammadan dealers, chiefly from Dacca. The former are scattered through the length and breadth of the Valley, while the latter generally confine their operations to the towns. The Assamese, as a rule, never trade.

In the Surma Valley the Marwari element is almost entirely wanting, and the trade in Sylhet and Cachar is mostly in the hands of Muhammadan and Hindu traders.

The inhabitants of the Khási and Jaintia Hills are keen traders, who themselves reap the profits of their increasing trade with the plains.

279. The entire value of the exports of the Province by water during the year amounted to Rs. 3,58,52,975, against an import trade valued at Rs. 1,68,65,376. The great excess in the value of exports over imports (Rs. 89,87,599) shown by the above figures is partly due to the omission from the returns of the import of opium. All the opium is imported by steamer, and it is not clear why the Bengal Government have omitted it from the statements showing the steamer traffic, while they have included ganja therein. The consumption of opium in Assam during the year under report was 1,685 maunds 34 seers 6 $\frac{1}{6}$ chittaks, the Government selling price of which, at Rs. 26 a seer, was Rs. 17,53,295. If this sum is deducted from the excess value of the exports shown above, there still remains an excess of Rs. 72,34,304. This difference is probably larger than the true figure, but the excess is no doubt considerable. A large amount of money is annually remitted in various ways to the tea-gardens (principally by supply-bills), which is spent in the Province and hoarded up by the people.

280. The following table shows the value of the Bengal trade with Assam during the past year, compared with the trade of the years 1876-77 and 1877-78. The figures of these two years have been taken from the report of the internal trade of Bengal for 1877-78:—

Year.	Imports.		
	Value. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
1876-77	1,22,99,456	.....	.....
1877-78	1,50,42,255	27,42,799	.....
1880-81	1,68,65,376	18,23,121	.....
Exports.			
1876-77	3,62,17,878	.....	.....
1877-78	3,94,53,843	32,35,965	.....
1880-81	3,58,52,975	.....	36,00,868

These figures show that the trade of Assam with Bengal is subject to considerable fluctuations from time to time.

281. The trade of Assam with Bengal in the principal staples registered on the different routes during 1876-77, 1877-78, and 1880-81 is shown in the accompanying statements:—

Imports from Bengal into Assam.

List of articles.		By boat. Rs.	By steamer. Rs.	Total.	
				Quantity.	Value. Rs.
Cotton piece-goods (European).	1876-77 ...	7,05,000	35,67,000	.....	42,72,000
	1877-78 ...	3,01,767	43,67,379	.....	46,69,146
	1880-81 ...	3,96,675	39,10,927	.....	43,07,602

List of articles.	By boat.	By steamer.	Total.		
			Quantity.	Value. Rs.	
Cotton twist (European) ...	1876-77...Mds.	761	2,818	3,579	2,50,530
	1877-78...	943	3,822	4,765	3,33,550
	1880-81...	34	5,404	5,438	3,52,674
Salt	1876-77...	3,78,200	58,355	4,36,555	21,82,775
	1877-78...	3,27,072	59,856	3,86,928	17,41,176
	1880-81...	4,14,634	72,480	4,87,114	19,78,988
Rice.....	1876-77...	3,10,700	2,12,666	5,23,366	10,46,732
	1877-78 ..	75,961	4,12,153	4,88,114	14,64,342
	1880-81...	1,70,535	3,38,483	5,09,018	12,49,773
Gram and pulse.....	1876-77...	1,32,400	64,630	1,97,030	3,44,873
	1877-78...	75,809	78,316	1,54,125	3,85,312
	1880-81...	1,32,050	86,724	2,18,774	6,07,623
Sugar (refined)	1876-77...	19,800	10,730	30,530	3,66,360
	1877-78...	8,165	8,325	16,490	1,97,880
	1880-81...	14,059	13,298	27,357	4,16,925
Ditto (unrefined)	1876-77...	86,900	.....	86,900	3,47,600
	1877-78...	53,448	1,068	54,516	2,18,064
	1880-81...	94,453	5,283	99,736	5,66,180
Iron	1876-77...	13,972	35,609	49,581	4,95,810
	1877-78...	19,234	34,513	53,747	5,37,470
	1880-81...	10,632	32,441	43,073	2,71,967
Brass and copper	1876-77...	2,966	7,439	10,405	4,16,200
	1877-78...	2,095	8,803	10,898	4,35,920
	1880-81...	643	10,270	10,913	4,35,904
Liquors	1876-77...Rs.	42,940	4,33,394	.....	4,76,334
	1877-78...	13,484	5,22,175	.....	5,35,659
	1880-81...	.....	5,87,891	.....	5,87,891
Spices	1876-77...Mds.	50,251	.....	50,251	2,51,255
	1877-78...	17,155	4,696	21,851	1,09,255
	1880-81...	75,153	7,914	83,067	5,34,978
Betel-nuts	1876-77...	41,553	.....	41,553	2,49,318
	1877-78...	21,867	888	22,755	1,36,530
	1880-81...	7,554	1,083	8,637	1,24,513
Tobacco	1876-77...	56,500	83	56,583	2,82,915
	1877-78...	55,807	704	56,511	2,82,555
	1880-81...	89,845	1,183	91,028	5,98,745
<i>Exports from Assam into Bengal.</i>					
Tea (Indian) ...	1876-77...Mds.	11,870	2,66,585	2,78,455	2,22,76,400
	1877-78...	12,496	3,18,432	3,30,928	2,64,74,240
	1880-81...	2,267	4,69,178	4,71,445	2,82,86,700
Mustard-seed	1876-77...	9,41,557	92,522	10,34,079	41,36,316
	1877-78 ..	7,22,834	1,32,684	8,55,518	34,22,072
	1880-81...	6,33,417	2,57,071	8,90,488	28,24,767
Linseed	1876-77...	38,300	140	38,440	1,53,760
	1877-78...	29,630	67	29,697	1,18,788
	1880-81...	5,225	420	5,645	26,603
Timber	1876-77...	11,17,369	.....	11,17,369	33,52,107
	1877-78...	6,96,242	20	6,96,262	20,88,786
	1880-81...Rs.	7,22,885	4,267	.....	7,27,152
Cotton, raw	1876-77...Mds.	64,900	.....	64,900	9,73,500
	1877-78...	38,882	195	39,077	5,86,155
	1880-81...	19,335	692	20,027	1,85,016
Rice	1876-77...	2,15,800	.....	2,15,800	4,31,600
	1877-78...	3,14,902	2,577	3,17,479	9,52,437
	1880-81...	2,155	5	2,160	6,476
Paddy	1876-77...	4,42,500	.....	4,42,500	4,42,500
	1877-78...	16,14,908	.....	16,14,908	24,22,362
	1880-81...	1,63,487	.....	1,63,487	1,63,373

List of articles.	By boat.	By steamer.	Total.		
			Quantity.	Value. Rs.	
Lime and limestone	1876-77...	10,54,199	1,960	10,56,159	7,42,118
	1877-78...	7,94,393	4,892	7,99,285	5,99,464
	1880-81...	10,17,285	48,630	10,65,915	11,96,115
Stick and other kinds of lac.	1876-77...	23,806	3,727	27,533	4,12,995
	1877-78...	800	3,321	4,121	61,815
	1880-81...	289	10,847	11,136	3,85,636
Lac-dye	1876-77...	11,279	.....	11,279	1,69,185
	1877-78...	17,015	.....	17,015	2,55,225
	1880-81...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rubber	1876-77...	522	9,690	10,212	5,10,600
	1877-78...	771	9,972	10,743	5,37,150
	1880-81...	574	8,558	9,132	2,46,564
Jute, raw	1876-77..	1,35,878	12,116	1,47,994	4,43,982
	1877-78...	1,60,431	25,827	1,86,258	4,81,293
	1880-81...	48,579	20,457	69,036	3,00,842

282. From the figures given in the section dealing with the trade between Assam and the adjoining foreign countries, it appears that the following articles were exported to the hill tribes who inhabit the countries bordering on Assam during the last two years:—

Name of article.	Denomination.	1879-80.		1880-81.	
		Quantity.	Value. Rs.	Quantity.	Value. Rs.
Silk manufactures	Yards	6,282	9,522	17,970	17,662
Betel-nuts	Maunds	627	2,022	4,657	16,056
Cotton piece-goods (European)	Yards	104,154	21,354	203,036	98,971
Ditto (Indian) ...	"	33,871	14,683	28,007	8,995
Cotton twist and yarn (European)	Maunds	61	3,946	167	12,724
Ditto (Indian) ...	"	13	730	1	103
Opium	"	12	17,360	19	27,463
Salt	"	3,606	18,182	3,857	17,898
Brass and copper manufactures	"	276	15,404	403	19,111
Rice	"	16,979	28,969	8,541	13,438

Of these, the cotton piece-goods (European), cotton twist and yarn (European), opium, salt, and brass and copper, were imported from Bengal; the silk, betel-nuts, native piece-goods, and yarn, and rice were the produce of the Province.

283. During the same time these tribes imported the following articles into the Province:—

Name of article.	Denomination.	1879-80.		1880-81.	
		Quantity.	Value. Rs.	Quantity.	Value. Rs.
Timber	Number	13,078	1,22,269	10,060	1,10,484
Bamboos	"	3,054,099	45,386	5,039,075	66,587
Blankets	"	6,392	17,412	4,315	11,652
Rubber	Maunds	3,092	1,28,868	3,809	1,90,312
Cotton, raw ..	"	4,233	24,438	8,241	50,640
Horses and ponies	Number	639	39,875	334	21,021
Wax	Maunds	159	5,925	181	7,690
Gold	Value	.....	42,815	.....	3,740
Ivory	Maunds	20	6,372	16	5,472
Cotton piece-goods (Indian)	Yards	21,554	4,857	12,986	3,295
Salt	Maunds	2,325	12,447	1,661	14,599
Spices	"	1,473	10,104	1,789	10,014

Of these articles, it is probable that only the rubber, a portion of the raw cotton, and possibly the ivory, were exported to Bengal.

284. Examining now the various articles of traffic in a little more detail, we find that the most valuable article of import is piece-goods:—

IMPORTS. Piece-goods.	Value. Rs.
Cotton piece-goods, English	43,07,602
Ditto Indian	45,630
	43,53,232
Deduct re-exported	1,07,966
	42,45,266
Total consumption	

The supply of piece-goods sent from Calcutta to Assam, according to the Bengal Trade Report for 1879-80, amounted in value* in that year to Rs. 32,29,128, against a value of Rs. 42,59,669 in 1878-79. The figures for the present year show a large increase over those of 1879-80, and a fair increase over those of 1878-79.

The total population of Assam at the last Census, in February 1881, was 4,908,275, and this number therefore consume among them imported piece-goods at the rate of 14 annas 1 pie per head. This figure approximates closely with the Bengal figure, which for 1879-80 is 14 annas 6 pie, against 15 annas 5 pie in the previous year.

The piece-goods imported into Assam consist chiefly of grey shirtings, jaconets, madapollans, and dhoties, coloured jaconets and mulls, and coloured prints, chintz, and cambrics.

The Province also took during the year cotton twist and yarn to the value of Rs. 3,52,674 and woollen piece-goods to the value of Rs. 1,39,904.

285. The total value of the imported rice was Rs. 12,49,773. In 1877-78 it was Rs. 14,64,342, and in 1876-77 Rs. 10,46,732. The registered rice traffic between Bengal and Assam for the years 1876-77, 1877-78, and the year under report is shown in maunds in the following table:—

Specification of routes.	Exports from Assam into Bengal.			Imports from Bengal into Assam.			
	Rice.	Paddy.†	Total in rice.	Rice.	Paddy.†	Total in rice.	
By boat	1876-77..	2,15,800	4,42,500	4,92,362	3,10,700	27,300	3,27,762
	1877-78..	3,14,902	16,14,908	13,24,319	75,961	7,283	80,519
	1880-81..	2,155	1,63,487	1,05,334	1,70,535	1,314	1,71,027
By steamer....	1876-77..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,12,666
	1877-78..	2,577	.....	2,577	4,12,153	289	4,12,315
	1880-81..	5	.....	5	3,38,483	18	3,38,494
Total	1876-77..	2,15,800	4,42,500	4,92,362	5,23,366	27,900	5,40,428
	1877-78..	3,17,479	16,14,908	13,26,796	4,88,114	7,582	4,92,834
	1880-81..	2,160	1,63,487	1,05,339	5,09,018	1,332	5,09,521

* NOTE.—The Bengal valuation of piece-goods is Rs. 75 per maund.

† A maund of paddy is reckoned as equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

This table, however, yokes together the two Valleys, whose conditions are essentially different. Sylhet is a great rice-producing country, and would export in abundance if it could find a profitable market. About half the area of Cachar is occupied by tea-gardens, the population of which has chiefly to be fed by importation. But upon the whole the Surma Valley is not an importing tract, while the Brahmaputra Valley imports food for about 70,000 persons, or 3 per cent. of the population. In 1877-78, when the famine in Southern India vastly enhanced the price of rice in Bengal, there was a large exportation from Sylhet, and the people thrived upon the high prices. The depleted stocks in Bengal having since 1879-80 been replenished by abundant harvests and the cessation of famine, the export trade from Sylhet has nearly ceased, low prices in the adjacent Bengal districts rendering it unremunerative. This has produced a great fall in prices in the Surma Valley, and considerable difficulty in the realisation of agricultural rents.

The district of Pubna* furnishes a great deal of the rice imported into Assam from Bengal. The importations from Dacca and Faridpur are also large.

	Maunds.
• 1876-77	2,10,412
1877-88	3,35,918

The exported rice goes principally from Sylhet to Dacca, Calcutta, and Backergunge. Out of the large amount of exports in 1877-78, Dacca took 8,29,357, Calcutta 1,57,846, and Backergunge 1,07,158 maunds.

286. The amount of salt imported during the year was 4,87,114 maunds, valued at Rs. 19,78,988. Of this amount only 3,857 maunds, valued at Rs.

17,898, again left the Province.

The supply of salt sent to Assam from Calcutta during 1879-80 amounted to 255,000 maunds, against 270,000 maunds in 1878-79.

The export from Assam beyond the frontier was—

For 1878-79	2,450 maunds.
„ 1879-80	3,606 „

Deducting these amounts from the total amount shipped from Calcutta, we find the consumption of salt in Assam per head of the population, consisting of 4,908,275 souls, was in—

	Srs.	Cks.
1878-79	2	3
1879-80	2	1
1880-81	3	15

Taking the figures for the two Valleys separately, the consumption is—

	Srs.	Cks.
In the Brahmaputra Valley	4	11½
„ Surma Valley	3	4

The Bengal Trade Report for 1879-80 shows that the average rate of consumption in Calcutta, the suburbs, Hooghly, and a part of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs was during 1879-80 5 seers 14 chittaks, or 12lb 1½ oz., of salt per head of the population, against 5 seers 11 chittaks, or 11lb 10¼ oz., per head according to the figures of 1878-79.

It has already been noticed that there is a trifling importation of salt from the hills north of the Brahmaputra Valley. There are also

some local salt wells, or *pungs*, in Cachar and Lakhimpur. Those in the latter district are, it is believed, not worked. One well in the former is annually leased, but fetches a very small sum. The salt water is not boiled down into salt, but is sold by the lessee to the neighbouring householders for use in cooking in place of salt. The average import of salt during the last five years is 3,67,119 maunds, which gives the rate of consumption per head of the population as 3 seers 1 chittak, or 6lb 2 oz.

287. Brass and copper, principally in a manufactured form in the shape of cooking utensils, were imported to the value of Rs. 4,35,904; iron to the value of Rs. 2,71,967; and "other metals" worth Rs. 9,48,230 found their way from Bengal to Assam. The iron is mostly for building purposes, in the shape of corrugated iron for tea factories, private houses, and public buildings; and amongst "other metals" is classed lead for tea-boxes.

288. The other noticeable articles of import are oils (of which a very large proportion is kerosine oil, generally American) Rs. 8,39,144; provisions (including *ghi*) Rs. 4,71,670; spices Rs. 6,59,491; sugar Rs. 9,83,105; tobacco Rs. 5,98,745; gram and pulse Rs. 6,07,623; and liquor Rs. 5,87,891.

289. Tea comes first on the list of exports with 4,71,445 maunds, valued at Rs. 2,82,86,700. This gives a total crop for the Province of 37,715,600lb. The crop of the year was estimated by Messrs. Moran & Co., in the *Tea Gazette* of the 2nd May 1881, at 37,079,257lb, *viz.*, 24,021,375lb for the Brahmaputra Valley and 13,057,882lb for the Surma Valley. In the annual statement illustrative of the state of tea culture in the Province, the approximate yield is stated at 34,013,583lb. As already noticed, these figures are supplied by tea-planters, and considerably understate the true outturn.

The exports of Assam tea to Bengal for the last four years are compared below. It will be seen that, with the exception of the year 1878-79, in which there appears to have been a slight check in production, the progress of the trade is steady:—

	Mds.	Rs.
1877-78	3,26,100	26,088,600
1878-79	3,18,000	25,440,000
1879-80	4,06,400	32,432,000
1880-81	4,71,445	37,715,600

290. The lime trade is one of some antiquity in Sylhet, and was a monopoly of the Moghul Governors before British rule commenced. By our early treaties* with the Nawabs of Bengal the East India Company obtained a half share in this monopoly, the whole of which eventually passed over to them when the Nawabs ceased to be more than titular rulers. For many years after the commencement of the present century the Company maintained a lime agent in Sylhet; but in process of time they allowed the monopoly to pass into the hands of middlemen, and in 1828 one Mr. Inglis was established at Chhátak, on the Surma river, as an extensive

* *Vide Aitchison's Treaties, Volume I., pp. 43, 45, 46, and 51.*

manufacturer of lime. The late Dr. Oldham, in his sketch of the economic geology of the Khási Hills (Calcutta, 1854, page 53), writes as follows of the lime trade in those days:—

“The principal localities of the manufacture are at Chhátak and at Sunámganj‡ and along the banks of the river Surma between these two villages. The rude kilns in which the stone is burnt stretch for miles along either bank of the river, and the many large and well-constructed buildings in which the lime is stored until required for market, give an aspect of wealth, comfort, and prosperity to the district, which contrasts forcibly with the almost unlimited extent of marsh and jheel that bounds the view on either side lower down the river.

‡ *Sunámganj*, the local pronunciation of *Chunámganj*, or lime-market.

“Almost the entire range of the limestone quarries along the base of the hills, eastward from Cheyla, belong to the firm of Inglis & Co., whose principal establishment is located at Chhátak. Westward, the quarries in the neighbourhood of Laour, and some smaller quarries between, are in the hands of Mrs. Stark, Mr. Sarkies, and of some native merchants.

“The extent and importance of the trade will be more evident from a consideration of the quantity of stone raised annually, and of the quantity of lime produced. On an average of ten years, ending in November 1851, the amount of limestone quarried on the borders of the Khási Hills is stated to have been—

	Maunds.
By Messrs. Inglis and Co.	14,48,850
By Mrs. Stark, Mr. Sarkies, and native merchants	2,81,500
Total average amount quarried annually	16,80,050

“Equal to 60,000 tons of limestone yearly. From this stone there have been burnt—

	Maunds.
By natives, who have for the most part purchased the stone from Messrs. Inglis & Co., on the average of ten years annually ..	12,34,000
By Messrs. Inglis & Co.	1,57,000
By Mrs. Stark, and Messrs. Sarkies, &c.	80,000
Giving a total average amount of lime	14,71,000

“The whole of this very large amount is quarried from the several places along the foot of the hills, where the limestone occurs close to the level of the plains, and from whence it can be removed by water. The quarrying of the stone is carried on at all seasons, but chiefly during the spring and cold months, and the stone, broken into pieces of convenient size, is piled up in suitable localities until the rains in May, June, and July fill the little streams from the hills sufficiently to float the small dinghies, or canoes which are here used. As soon as this takes place, every available boat is at once employed for the removal of the stone into the larger streams. It is scarcely possible to conceive a busier scene than the neighbourhood of some of these large quarries presents after a good fall of rain. Hundreds of men and women are busily engaged loading their canoes, and then rapidly shooting down the narrow stream, while others are hastily poling the returning empty boats up the current, again to load and shoot down the rapids with their freight of stone. The whole place seems alive with eager workmen, who know well, from experience, the necessity of taking advantage of the sudden rise of the waters. So sudden is the fall sometimes of these little nullahs, that even these light canoes, which draw only a few inches of water, are frequently left stranded in the middle of their course.

“In this way the greater portion of the stone is removed from the quarries, these small dinghies carrying the limestone only into the larger streams, where all is quickly thrown on the bank, or into the water near the bank, to be again reshipped into larger boats for conveyance to the place of manufacture.

“In that portion of the hills which lies more immediately to the south of Cherra Poonjee, the largest quarries are near the village of Tungwai or Tingye, from which the stone is brought to the neighbourhood of Pondua, to be again removed

from thence to Chhátak. Other very large quarries are in the vicinity of the great orange groves between Teriaghát and Lacat, from which also the stone is conveyed to Chhátak for burning."

This description, though penned nearly thirty years ago, is still accurate in most particulars. The monopoly possessed by the firm of Inglis and Co. in 1854, though much impaired by competitors who have obtained leases of limestone tracts from Government or the Khási Seims, is still the most powerful interest in the trade. All the best quarries, whence the limestone can be most cheaply floated to the river banks, where it is burnt with the reeds and grasses of the swampy country under the hills, are in their hands. But the export, estimated by Dr. Oldham at 14,71,000 maunds annually, has not increased, and this year shows only a total amount of 12 lakhs of maunds exported. It is unnecessary here to discuss the causes which have prevented the development of the trade, some of which are still obscure. The question has formed the subject of prolonged correspondence between this Administration and the Government of India.

291. 9,132 maunds of rubber, valued at Rs. 2,46,564, were exported to Bengal. In 1876-77 the export of this article was 10,212 maunds, valued at Rs. 5,10,600.

The value adopted in the Bengal steamer returns, Rs. 27 a maund, is most certainly too low. From Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 a maund is actually paid for the article in the Assam markets by the Kaiyas, who buy it from the hill tribes; and in Calcutta the market value of the raw rubber cannot be less than from Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 a maund.

The routes by which the rubber left the Province are shown below:—

	Mds.
By steamer from the Brahmaputra Valley	7,756
Ditto ditto Surma "	802
By boat ditto ditto "	574
Total.....	9,132

No rubber was exported by boat from the Brahmaputra Valley.

Of this quantity 3,809 maunds were reported as having been imported into the Province from beyond the frontier. This, if the figures could be trusted, would leave a balance of 5,323 maunds produced in the Province, most of which is probably stolen from Government forests. Rubber was lawfully gathered within the Province during the year only in the Gáro Hills, the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and the Nága Hills. In the other districts its collection on Government land was till recently prohibited. From the present year the *maháls* have again, where they seemed likely to fetch a reasonable price, been put up to sale; and it remains to be seen what the effect will be on the export trade.

292. Hides, amounting to 99,246 in number, valued at Rs. 1,25,836, were exported. These are principally collected in the district of Sylhet, chiefly by muchis from Behar, who form a very unpopular class of immigrants. The trade is, however, very profitable.

293. 327 maunds of shell-lac, valued at Rs. 7,515, and 11,136 maunds of stick-lac, valued at Rs. 3,85,636, were also exported. This lac is principally produced on private lands, and is grown by the villagers on two species of fig (*Ficus cordifolia* and *Ficus laccifera*), which are planted on a large scale for the purpose in the Kámrúp and Darrang districts. It does not pay speculators to take leases of the Government forests for the purpose of raising lac, and the value of the lac *maháls* has been declining for some years past, until now they are almost unsaleable.

294. The exports of mats, amounting in value to Rs. 1,03,673, is confined to the district of Sylhet. Several fine kinds of mats are woven in this district.

295. So also is the export of provisions, *ghí*,* fish† (dry), and other kinds‡ (chiefly potatoes). Under this head Sylhet exports in comparatively small quantities the so-called Dacca cheeses, which are made of buffaloes' milk in the marsh lands of West Sylhet and in Sitgaon and Kaliajuri in the Mymensing district.

Provisions.

Rs.
*71,328
†11,128
‡4,13,832

Ghí is naturally manufactured only where milch kine are numerous and the habit of drinking milk common. In the Assam Valley milk is with difficulty procurable, and most of the non-Aryan tribes who inhabit or adjoin the Valley never use milk or butter as food.

Fish-drying is a great industry of Sylhet, but the produce is used chiefly to barter for the valuable staples of the Kháasi Hills. Excluding tea, these hills supply about three-fifths of the export trade of Sylhet, nearly the whole of this value is obtained by the Sylhet traders in exchange for rice and dried fish, which are carried into the hills.

296. The potato trade is a great source of wealth to the Kháasis, who now cultivate the tuber in all the upland country from Cherra Punji to Shillong. It was introduced by Mr. D. Scott, Commissioner of Assam and the North-East Frontier, about the year 1830, and this benefit conferred by him upon the natives of the hills is commemorated upon his monument at Cherra Punji. Bholagunj, a market belonging to the Seim of Cherra, and Chhátak, are the chief places where the potatoes are shipped for export, and in the months of October and November hundreds of coolies are employed in conveying the produce of the inner table-land to the foot of the hills.

297. The orange trade, like that in lime, was for many years a monopoly of Inglis & Co., who held leases of the vast groves of orange-trees which stretch for miles along the skirts of the Kháasi Hills, and are the property of the Kháasi Communities. The fruit ripens towards the end of October and in November, and is exported in immense quantities to the south and west. The Sylhet oranges have long been famous as one of the best varieties produced in India, and the groves are carefully kept and constantly renewed by the Kháasi proprietors.

Oranges, Rs. 2,40,796.

298. The total export of mustard and rape-seed from the Province amounted to 8,90,488 maunds, valued at Rs. 28,24,767. This was nearly all† the produce of the Assam Valley, very little of it coming from the Surma Valley.

Rape and mustard-seed.

† 8,55,286 maunds.

299. The timber trade, too, has all been registered on the Brahmaputra only. The timber floated down the Surma is, it is believed, generally converted before it leaves the Sylhet district; but further enquiries will be made into this point. There is a very large local demand for such timber as is floated down the Manu and other hill streams running into the Khusiyara. But the rafts rarely bring down timber of much value, and the best wood is usually bought up by the builders of the thousands of boats, which form the only mode of travelling in the floods of August and September. There is now a rapidly increasing trade in tea boxes, for which the soft perishable and cheap local woods do very well. While in the Assam Valley the points whence the supply is drawn are situated at the entrance to the Valley, in the Goálpara district, in the Surma Valley the timber is nearly all brought down from Cachar.

Timber.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

300. There were no violent storms or extraordinary floods during the past year, but a somewhat severe earthquake occurred on the night of the 30th June, followed by a slighter one the following night. The course was from east to west, and its extent very considerable, being felt all along the line of the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and in the valleys north and south. Some damage was done to one or two buildings in Cachar, and also in Golághát. On the whole, the year was a favourable one for out-door work, and no severe epidemic of cholera occurred (as was the case in 1879-80) to cause panic among the coolies, or put a stop to any important work.

General.

301. There have been several changes in establishment, and in its distribution during the year. Mr. D. E. H. Noyes, Executive-Engineer, fourth grade, who was in charge of the special works in the Nága Hills, resigned his appointment, and was relieved of his duties on the 5th August by Mr. J. Rollo, who was transferred to Assam from Rajputana. The works in connection with the Nága Hills, including the road from Golághát to Kohima, buildings and lines for Commissariat and Transport Departments, had been definitely formed into a separate division, called the Nága Hills Division, from the 1st April, and have since August been under Mr. Rollo's charge. The Sylhet Division had been, since Colonel Forbes left, under charge of Assistant-Engineer B. Borah, there being no other officer available. He was relieved on the 1st October 1880 by Executive-Engineer Bhola Nath Das, whose former appointment in the Lower Assam Division was taken up on the 13th September by Mr.

Establishment.

Jewett, who again was relieved by Mr. Winckler on the 18th February. These two officers were transferred from Bengal and Mysore, respectively, to Assam.

There were no other changes of divisional charge during the year, but, besides those noted above, the following changes in the engineer establishment took place:—

Increase of establishment—

Mr. A. B. Todd, Assistant-Engineer, second grade...	22nd May	1880.
" A. R. Lilley, " " first " ...	3rd October	"
" H. Kench, " " second " ...	17th November	"
" W. McM. Sweet, " " " " ...	8th December	"

Decrease—

Mr. P. P. Rogers, Assistant-Engineer, third grade	22nd May	1880.
Lieut. E. Raban, R E., " " first grade (left for England)	14th March	1881.

Mr. F. Hutchinson, Deputy-Examiner, was granted furlough out of India for one year from 23rd October 1880. He was relieved on the above date by Mr. A. Wilson, who has since been in charge of the office.

302. The following abstract shows the outlay under the main heads of service as compared with the budget grants:—

Accounts.	Original grant. Rs.	Final grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.	Saving or excess. Rs.
IMPERIAL—				
Military	86,962	79,562	72,448	7,114
Other services.....	13,000	18,000	15,511	2,489
Establishment	24,990	25,545	21,990	3,555
Tools and plant	1,500	1,500	1,320	180
Barrack Department works	1,023	1,023	853	170
Barrack Department establishment	102	102	85	17
Total	1,27,577	1,25,732	1,12,207	13,525
PROVINCIAL—				
Civil Buildings	1,61,800	2,28,479	2,01,068	27,411
Communications	4,75,000	3,90,069	3,28,851	61,218
Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments	200	4,000	— 28	4,028
Establishment	2,64,000	2,62,910	2,82,600	—19,690
Tools and plant	24,000	23,935	19,267	4,668
Suspense balances	13,000	12,392	32,033	—19,641
Total	9,38,000	9,21,785	8,63,791	57,994
PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION—				
Works		14,360	2,567	11,793
Repairs		700	604	96
Establishment		1,090	642	448
Tools and plant		65	22,349	—22,284
Total		16,215	26,162	—9,947

	Original grant, Rs.	Final grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.	Saving or excess. Rs.
LOCAL INCORPORATED FUNDS—				
Communications .....	.....	.....	7,408	—7,408
Establishment .....	.....	.....	258	—258
Total.....	.....	.....	7,666	—7,666
LOCAL EXCLUDED FUNDS—				
Repairs, Civil Buildings	600	600	650	—50
Total	600	600	650	—50
Grand Total	10,66,177	10,64,332	10,10,476	53,856

The figures given above for Local Funds are only those which concern work done by the Public Works Department, the accounts of which are audited in the Public Works office.

The total charge for establishment is Rs. 3,05,575, and the total expenditure on work, exclusive of "Tools and plant" and "Suspense balances," is Rs. 6,29,932, thus giving for establishment a percentage of 48·5 on the outlay on works and repairs. This is a considerable increase on last year, but in the statement above, figures relating to Local Fund expenditure, which were formerly included, have been omitted. The establishment has during the year been increased above the normal scale, and several considerable sums have been paid for salaries and travelling allowance of officers joining the Province from a distance. The percentage has also been somewhat augmented by the lapses under the several budget heads noted later on.

The budget estimate for establishment has been exceeded by Rs. 15,883, but provision had not been made in it for the Nāga Hills Division, in which the charge for the year amounts to Rs. 24,392.

The percentages of establishment under its three main heads have been as follows:—

Direction	7·4
Construction	36·5
Accounts	4·6

IMPERIAL SERVICES.

MILITARY.

303. Under this head the expenditure on roads and buildings in the Nāga Hills claims the first notice.

Nāga Hills.

The budget allotment was Rs. 20,000, and there has been an excess outlay of Rs. 2,567, the total expenditure up to the end of the year having been Rs. 72,310.

Some of this was incurred by Civil Officers, and on emergencies, when neither estimates could be prepared nor any detailed account be given of the expenditure.

This has all been already explained and accepted by the Government of India. The difficulty of labour along the line of communication with Kohima has been much felt. Local labour is scarce, and can

only be induced to come in occasionally, and when there are no agricultural operations going on. Some coolies were collected just after the rains, in October, but a few cases of cholera which occurred frightened most of them away, and they only returned very gradually. 100 Khásis from Jowai were engaged and sent down by Gaubáti, and thence by river to Nigrítting. These men did useful work, but many of them got sick, and they were allowed, according to agreement, to return in April. An attempt was made later in the year, in December, to get more men from Jowai or Shillong, but they were all engaged in cultivation, or in other places, and not a man could be got except at most exorbitant rates, and even then only a few were willing to go.

None of these men will remain in the plains later than March or April, and so fail as a source of labour-supply just when there is most difficulty in procuring it.

Along the road from Golághát to Dimapur much was done, considering the labour available, in renewing the timber bridges and cutting away the jungle on both sides to allow the entrance of the sun's rays. The effect of this was most beneficial, as many portions thus cleared were soon passable after rain, while those in the shade of the forest were still wet and swampy. No attempt has been made as yet to raise and embank the road throughout, the whole strength of the establishment having been devoted to filling in and draining some of the worst places, and putting into temporary passable order those parts of the road which from time to time got into the worst state, and were most complained of by the Commissariat cartmen.

304. *New gorge road.*—A trace though the gorge below the Samaguting Hill, above the bed of the river, which had been begun in the previous year, was opened up, and was passable (till the rains began in 1881-82) for laden coolies, but not for ponies. The Zumha has to be crossed twice, and as the temporary bridges are liable to be carried away by moderate freshets in the river, another line has since been found on the left bank avoiding both these bridges, and it is expected that a path will be made through, on a better alignment than the present one as to gradients, as soon as the weather permits of work being put in hand.

The trace through this gorge, about six miles in length, as well as the road beyond, was much improved by a working party of the 44th Regiment under Lieutenant Boileau, and the line from the Zumha entrenchment below, and south of the Samaguting Hill, has been kept in fair order for pony traffic throughout the year, though many of the gradients are too steep, and if it is to be the permanent road and to be used by carts, much of it will require complete re-alignment.

305. *Proposed New Doyong Route.*—It was intended that the proposed Doyong route to Kohima, avoiding most of the dreaded Námbar Forest, should have been examined this year, and a trace marked out sufficiently to ascertain its suitability as a cart-road. The first and easiest portion of the distance from Golághát to the crossing of the Doyong river itself, 44 miles, has been examined sufficiently to ascertain that there are no difficulties, and no heavy work, and the appearance of

the Unro Valley, so far as it can be judged by looking up and down it from the two ends, favours the belief that a good trace can be found from that crossing up to Kohima. Mr. Rollo, Executive-Engineer, accompanied by Mr. Hinde, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, started in April 1881 to explore the Unro Valley, which is quite uninhabited and covered mostly with dense grass jungle; but unfortunately it was too late in the season when they started: heavy rain came on at an unusually early date; and, after an ineffectual attempt to push through, they were obliged to give it up, and the exploration of this route has been unavoidably postponed till next season.

Of the other items in the budget, there has been short outlay in almost every case.

306. *Water-supply to 42nd Regimental Lines.*—At Shillong the water-supply to the 42nd A. L. I. lines was completed, with the exception of a few small fittings. The project consists of the construction of a reservoir with filtering beds on a convenient plateau commanding the sites of cantonment, general hospital, &c. From this the water is brought by a four-inch main to iron tanks in the sepoy's lines fitted with brass cocks, the overflow being taken off by a one-inch pipe (as a municipal work) to the village of Maukhar, where another tank has been fixed. It is proposed to extend this pipe still further to the police lines.

It is also contemplated to put another tank in the military lines on the opposite side of a small strip of land for the convenience of another row of sepoy's huts situated there. Small drainage lines remain to be constructed to carry off spill-water, but the project, as first designed, has been completed, and has proved most successful and useful.

307. *New Commissariat Godown at Shillong.*—Provision had been made for the improvement to the water-supply of the 44th L. I. (old Artillery) lines, but as these lines are not now used the money was diverted to the construction of a new commissariat godown in the 42nd lines, which was much needed, as the old godown being in the 44th lines, involved the carting of all stores across the Umshirpi and up the hill on the other side, from whence all had to be brought down again as required. This godown was begun in December and partly completed during the year.

308. *Cachar Frontier Roads.*—On the Cachar frontier roads there has been an expenditure of Rs. 7,478 only, against a grant of Rs. 10,500. This work has been carried out by the Deputy-Commissioner in connection with the military authorities.

309. *General Repairs.*—The several military buildings, lines, cantonment roads, and outposts have had the usual repairs executed.

310. *Makum Block-house.*—The roof of the block-house at Makum has been for some time in a very unsatisfactory state, and was found in December last, on inspection, to be so bad that it was necessary to completely renew it. This was begun, but, owing to the scarcity of labour, was not completed during the year.

311. *Quarter-guard at Golághát.*—It was also necessary to provide for complete re-roofing of the quarter-guard at Golághát, chiefly on account of the damage it received in the earthquake mentioned above. It was shaky before, and this brought down a large portion over the centre room, and made the rest quite unsafe. This work was also unfinished at the end of the year.

OTHER SERVICES.

312. *New Post-office, Cachar.*—A new post-office at Cachar, estimated to cost Rs. 7,100, was finished and handed over to the Postal Department, the total cost of the building having been Rs. 7,463.

313. *New Telegraph-office, Dhubri.*—The new telegraph-office at Dhubri was begun and completed at a cost of Rs. 5,881; of this sum Rs. 4,800, the amount sanctioned in the budget, was debited to Imperial Funds, "Provincial" supplying the balance, and taking over the old telegraph-office as sanctioned by the Government of India. This building was much wanted as a private residence, and is now occupied by the Civil Surgeon.

314. *Political Agent's Residence, Manipur.*—The Residence for the Political Agent at Manipur has been completed, the expenditure during the year having been Rs. 3,037, making a total cost of Rs. 7,767 to the end of 1880-81. Further expenditure for office, guard-room, &c., is necessary, as has been already reported to Government.

315. *Minor Works.*—The following are the principal works under this head:—

- (1) Addition to post-office, Sylhet, to provide quarters for postmaster.
- (2) Additions and alterations to post-office, Tezpur.
- (3) Ditto ditto, Nowgong.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

CIVIL BUILDINGS.

316. *New Civil Buildings.*—*Dhubri.*—Owing to the removal of the head-quarters of the Goálpára district from Goálpára to Dhubri, considerable additions were required to the civil buildings at the latter place. Designs were sanctioned in October last for enlarging the cutcherry at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,355, and for a new combined record-room and treasury, estimated at Rs. 16,420: fair progress was made during the year on both.

317. *Barpeta Cutcherry.*—A design had been sanctioned in May 1878 for a new roof to the cutcherry at Barpeta, but complaints were made of the lowness of the building, subjecting it to flooding when the river rose beyond the ordinary flood-level in the monsoon, and small additions were also required. The place was inspected in the rains by the Superintending Engineer, and subsequently the Chief Commissioner sanctioned a new cutcherry being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,707. Some materials have been collected, but, owing partly to

change of Executive-Engineers, arrangements were not made sufficiently soon for burning bricks, and no great progress has been made with the work.

318. *Sub-Divisional Cutcherry, Mangaldai.*—A new shingle-roof to the sub-divisional cutcherry at Mangaldai has been completed, and advantage taken of the opportunity to introduce more light and ventilation into the building, which is now very commodious.

319. *New Sub-Divisional Court-House, Hailákánda.*—A project had been sanctioned in July 1879 for a new sub-divisional court-house at Hailákánda, in Cachar, for which a revised estimate was prepared in December last, amounting to Rs. 12,778. During the year bricks and other materials were prepared, and the work is now in progress.

320. *New Civil Buildings in Sylhet*—Last year it was decided to erect more permanent buildings for some of the sub-divisional court-houses and lock-ups in Sylhet, where the *kutchas* buildings formerly in use deteriorated quickly from damp and the ravages of white-ants.

It was therefore determined to put up the following buildings with corrugated-iron roofs on angle-iron framing, avoiding all woodwork as far as possible in the important parts of the building:—

Cutcherry at Sunámganj.
 Lock-up at ditto.
 „ at Habiganj.
 „ at Karimganj.

The iron-work was got up complete from Calcutta, and good progress has been made with all, except the lock-up at Karimganj, where there was some uncertainty about the best site for the new building. This will shortly be decided, and the work put in hand.

321. *Sylhet Jail.*—This work, which has been in hand for some time, and is carried on almost exclusively with prison labour, has been nearly completed so far as the sanctioned works are concerned, including a new iron-roofed hospital designed and commenced within the year. There still remains a portion of the accommodation originally contemplated to be carried out, *viz.*, two new criminal wards for 600 prisoners. An estimate has since been received, and the matter is under consideration.

322. *Cachar Lock-up.*—This work was sanctioned for Rs. 14,516, and instructions issued in November 1880 to push on with the enclosure wall. This has made fair progress, the buildings were sanctioned later on, and some materials collected during the year. The work was somewhat delayed by the failure of some brick-making operations undertaken by the Superintendent of the lock-up.

323. *Central Jail, Gauháti.*—The progress on the jail wall has not been what was hoped for, but it has been more than usually difficult to get bricklayers, and the supply of lime ran short. The brick-making operations have again this year been carried on by convict labour.

Of the new criminal wards proposed, one only was under construction in the course of the year. These buildings are designed with floors

raised seven feet from the ground on masonry pillars, carrying wooden-framed uprights and trusses; the walls will be of bamboo and mats, and the roofs corrugated-iron.

The question of the better utilisation of convict labour on public works has engaged the Chief Commissioner's attention, and orders have been issued to retain more convicts in the jail at Dibrugarh and elsewhere. The construction of two of the wards in Gauhati Jail (out of the four originally designed) is therefore in abeyance for the present.

324. *Sub-Divisional Residences.*—A new sub-divisional residence for the Assistant-Commissioner at Golághát was finished during the year, at a total cost of Rs. 6,154, and one was purchased at Jowai for Rs. 6,000, which had been built by the Assistant-Commissioner in the previous year. It was taken over at a valuation on his leaving the station.

325. *Furnishing Circuit-houses.*—The question of furnishing the several circuit-houses was taken up, and a scale drawn out of what should be supplied for each room. Detailed estimates were prepared and sanctioned, and most of the furnishing completed within the year. Owing to the delay in getting things from Calcutta, and in making on the spot what would be too bulky and costly to carry, all the buildings were not fully furnished during the year. The supply of furniture has, however, subsequently been completed and the matter disposed of.

326. *Public Works Offices, Shillong.*—This work, which had been in abeyance for some time for want of funds, was again taken up on a somewhat modified design as to superstructure, the plinth having been previously completed. The revised estimate, including work already executed, amounts to Rs. 24,057, and the building will provide accommodation for the Offices of the Public Works Secretariat and Accounts, and for the Inspector of Schools. Consequent on the difficulty of getting masons, the progress has been slow, but it is hoped that the building will now progress more rapidly. The saving in rent hitherto paid for the offices to be accommodated will well re-pay the outlay.

Of other works in hand during the year, the following may be mentioned:—

Alteration of old jail buildings at Sibságar.

Re-roofing Zilá School, Sibságar.

Enclosing new cemetery at Gauhati.

Ditto ditto at Golághát.

327. *Minor Works.*—The expenditure on Minor Works during the year amounted to Rs. 25,820. The principal items were:—

Addition of iron-roofed verandah to Sub Divisional Court-House, North Lakhimpur.

Protective works to the bank of the River Dibru, which runs past the town and cantonments, Dibrugarh.

Alterations to Treasury at Jorhát.

Additions and alterations to Treasury at Mangaldai.

Re-roofing thána, Gaubáti.

COMMUNICATIONS.

ROADS.

328. *Assam Trunk Road.*—The work on the portion of this road (160 miles) from Kherbari to Gauhati is complete so far as it has been hitherto sanctioned, and the road is drivable throughout. On the remaining portion of the road the sum originally allotted for expenditure during the year was Rs. 40,000, exclusive of the metalled portions, against which the expenditure was Rs. 37,486. In the upper portion of the road east of Gauhati, and more especially in the Sibsagar district, the work done has not been up to the estimate, and as this was also the case with "repairs" the road has hardly been in so good a state as before. The chief cause has been want of labour, an attempt having been made to avoid any further importation of coolies, but the local supply has proved inadequate.

The metalled portions of the above road are the first eleven miles out of Gauhati (being part of the Shillong Road) and a small length out of Dibrugarh. The former has hitherto only had brick metal obtained from old Assamese buildings, but arrangements are being made for stone metal, which has been collected for the first seven miles. On the other portion north-east of Dibrugarh, where the road gets very badly cut up during the rains, and is in very bad soil, not much progress has yet been made, but many difficulties have to be contended with. Metal has to be brought in boulders from Sadiya, 45 miles, by boat, and then by cart to site, and the work of stone-breaking is quite new in the district.

329. *Metalling Shillong Cart-road.*—The year's allotment was Rs. 47,500, which was expended. Six miles, hitherto unmetalled, were completed, and final layers put on other portions. Good metal is only obtainable in certain places, and much of the metalling, which had to be done at first with what metal was available, has been greatly improved. A new bridge was also begun over the Umiam, nine miles below Shillong, to replace the present trussed girder bridge, which is in an unsatisfactory condition.

330. *Cart-road to Cherra.*—Fair progress has been made with a portion of this road as far as the Boga Pani River, about 16 miles from Shillong, where a bridge of about 75 feet span will be required. A trace has been cut almost the whole way to Cherra, on very favourable gradients, by which the whole distance from Shillong to Cherra will be only a mile or so longer than by the existing bridle-path. It is intended now to push this work vigorously, and to try the experiment of working on it a gang of convicts from the Sylhet Jail.

MISCELLANEOUS.

331. *Kokilamukh Tramway.*—This project, which had been contemplated for some time, was definitely sanctioned and work put in hand during the year. The object was to secure permanent communication between Jorhat and the Kokilamukh landing-place, the present road being submerged in time of ordinary floods, and, except in the driest weather,

very bad for carts. It was calculated that the tramway would more than pay its way, and be a great boon to the country and the numerous tea-gardens around and near Jorhát, and plans and estimates amounting to Rs. 1,11,320 were made out for a two-foot gauge tramway, its total length being $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The earthwork has been about five-sixths completed, rails got out from England, and a considerable proportion of sleepers cut in the Námbar forest, and sent down to Jorhát. Unfortunately, the early setting in of the rains (since 31st March) stopped the earthwork in the low-lying lands, and the project has received a check. It will not be possible to ascertain until after the rains what damage may have occurred.

This tramway is partly an experimental line, which it may possibly be advisable to continue hereafter to Golághát, or even further along the route to Kohina.

332. *Floating Landing-stages.*—These were projected chiefly in connection with the proposed accelerated steamer service, and, as that scheme is still under consideration, only one such landing-stage has been put in hand. This was nearly completed, but has not yet been fitted ready for use as a dák-bungalow, as is intended. It is proposed now to build two or three more at once, as they will probably be very useful at the landing-places near Sibságar and Dibrugarh, where the points which steamers can reach vary so much from year to year. But experience is yet wanting as to the best method for mooring them, and for moving them from place to place as required. Sufficient establishment cannot be kept on board on account of the serious expense that would be entailed; but probably the river steamers will be willing to give the occasional help required.

333. *Bicycle Tramway at Dibrugarh.*—To meet the requirements of traffic from the steamer ghat at Dibrumukh to Dibrugarh, it was determined in December last to try, as an experiment, a "bicycle tramway" on a plan worked out by Mr. Ewing, who had been engaged previously by Messrs. Shaw, Finlayson, & Co., in connection with the Dibru and Makum Railway.

The project is to run trucks on two wheels ranged longitudinally under the centre on a single wooden rail, the trucks being kept from falling by cross-bars, held by four men, who also give the motive power. It had been tried in the Gauháti Jail for earthwork, with a lead of 100 to 200 yards, and was so far successful that it was determined to give it a further trial. An estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 11,120, and the work put in Mr. Ewing's hands, who was very sanguine about having it finished in February. He has, however, quite neglected it, and the work is not nearly completed. The expenditure was Rs. 6,393 to end of March, partly covered by work done and materials at site. It is doubtful whether it will not be necessary to take the work out of his hands and to carry it on departmentally.

334. *Travellers' accommodation.*—During the year one new dák-bungalow was built at Jorhát at a cost of Rs. 4,570. The dák-bungalows and serais have had the usual repairs executed, and the former have, in

accordance with the orders of Government, been handed over to the Deputy-Commissioners of the several districts in which they are situated.

335. *Bullock Train and Tonga Services.*—There has been a considerable increase in the receipts of the Tonga Service, the total being Rs. 8,300, against an estimate of Rs. 5,280, which the Executive-Engineer attributes chiefly to the improvement in running the tongas up to Shillong in one day since January last. But this arrangement, most convenient to the public as it undoubtedly is, was only in force for three months of the year, and can only account in a small degree for the increase. The alteration in running has been possible in consequence of the improved state of the road. Since January the tongas have carried banghy parcels at no extra cost, and with advantage to the public, the post-office paying a subsidy of Rs. 200 per mensem. The estimated loss on the service for the year was Rs. 6,100, and the actual Rs. 3,666, which would have been less, but for the loss of several ponies in August and September from the so-called "Manipuri disease." The loss on the Bullock Train Service was Rs. 7,300, according to the account, which is Rs. 400 or so in excess of the actual loss, owing to difference of outstanding balances at the beginning and end of the year. This includes Rs. 4,500, paid for the purchase of bullocks. The anticipated loss was Rs. 3,690, and one chief cause of the additional loss was the removal of one regiment from Shillong in November, and the cessation in the despatch of the commissariat stores from Calcutta till the following February.

336. *Lime manufacture*—The operations of the year were 1,11,330 maunds stone (part previously quarried) sent from quarries to Chhátak; 60,900 maunds stone burnt at Chhátak. Over Rs. 6,000 were expended on a permanent kiln, a small tramway for shipping stone, shed and godowns for lime, a bungalow for the Superintendent at Chhátak, &c., &c. But there were various complaints made about the lime sent to Calcutta, as to difficulties of landing and storing, deterioration of lime kept in stock before use, &c., and the experiment was tried of sending unslaked lime. After some correspondence, however, the Government of Bengal has decided now to take only unburnt stone, and several of the arrangements noted above are in excess of present requirements. The lime, which was sent to Calcutta, was delivered there at a lower rate than in former seasons.

337. *Gauhati Workshops.*—There has been much difficulty about getting an efficient foreman, which had not been overcome at the end of last year, though it is hoped that the man whose services have now been engaged will prove satisfactory. The estimated value of the work turned out of the shops was Rs. 15,077, but the cost was considerably in excess of this. Among the chief items of work may be mentioned the floating landing-stage noticed above, and a small steel-wire suspension-bridge erected over the Umshirpi at Shillong. A bolt-and-nut machine was added to the plant during the year, and has been working satisfactorily. The yard has been fenced in with a light cheap fencing, and some huts built in the rear for the workmen.

338. *Dibrugarh Workshops.*—There has been considerable increase of work here during the year, and the style of work has improved. There

is no steam-power used, and the tools which are there had been allowed to get into disorder and disrepair. Everything has been got into much better order and system, and the Executive-Engineer deserves credit for the improvements effected. During the year a drilling machine was added, and has been of much use. Some other machines have since been added, and, considering the distance from Gauháti, the nearest shop with steam-power, it may ere long be advisable to introduce some steam machinery, especially as skilled, and indeed all, labour is scarce and dear.

339. *Imported labour.*—The question of imported labour is one which affects chiefly the Upper Assam and Nága Hills divisions. Of the coolies imported under the old "imported labour account" there remained at the beginning of the year 246, which number, from abscondings, discharges, &c., was reduced at the end of the year to 150. The year opened with a debit to the account of Rs. 10,727, which, partly by writing off to works on which the men had been employed, and partly by increasing the daily charge to works from 6 annas to 8 annas per head per diem, was reduced at the close of the year to Rs. 3,816. It was hoped that it might be possible to avoid any further importation, but the experience of the year shows that we cannot yet do this. The works suffered in Sadiya and near Sibságar, and it has been decided to arrange for the importation of 300 men for next season.

340. *Tools and Plant.*—The large increase in this head, under Irrigation and Navigation, due to the payment of Rs. 10,625 for the steamer *Dove*, now in Sylhet, and Rs. 11,683 for a new steamer expected to be ready shortly, in lieu of the *Hawk*, for the use of the Inspector-General of Police.

341. *Suspense Balances.*—The increase in these is due partly to the lime manufactured at Chháta, but chiefly to the stocks of Government coal at Gauháti and Dhubri, which have by order of Government of India been taken over as provincial stock.

342. *Stock Balances.*—These have been considerably reduced during the year, but most of the stations in Assam are too far from the Calcutta markets to allow of keeping no stock in hand except that immediately required for use. The stocks in some divisions were no doubt excessive, and have been reduced considerably. Limits have since been laid down, which, however, cannot in all cases be arrived at at once, as excess stock could only be sold off at very considerable loss.

343. *General Progress.*—The general progress of work in the Province has not been very rapid, but the labour question must for years to come prevent Assam from comparing favourably with other parts of India in this respect. Some delays were caused by unavoidable changes of establishment, though not at all to the same extent as last year, while some, it must be admitted, were partly due to want of attention as well as want of experience of the country on the part of the officers in immediate charge of the works.

POST-OFFICE.

344. During the year four new sub-offices were opened at Messa, Disangmukh, Maulavi Bazar, and Kanairghat, respectively, and the Biswanath office was converted from a district to an imperial office.

Changes of offices and establishments. Five village postmen were discontinued and eight fresh ones entertained, two for newly-opened offices and the rest where the correspondence for delivery rendered additional men necessary.

345. In the month of April 1880, after three months' trial, money-orders were issued for Rs. 1,06,291-7, while in April 1881 money-orders were issued for Rs. 1,55,566-12, an increase of over 46 per cent. A comparison of the money-orders paid shows Rs. 34,128-15 for the same month of 1880, and Rs. 40,632-14 in April 1881, or an increase of over 19 per cent.

The number of articles delivered in 1880-81 shows an increase of nearly 13 per cent. over the number delivered in the preceding year.

A comparative table, such as was given last year, is given below, showing the operations of the Postal Department in Assam:—

District.	2		3		4		5		6	
	Number of post-offices, - Imperial		Number of village postmen, Imperial.		Number of covers passing through the post-office.		Number of covers passing through the police.		Posted.	
	1879-80.	1880-81.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1879-80.	1880-81.
Kámrúp	7	7	10	10	198,628	194,414	....	....	....	....
Darrang	7	7	11	11	172,645	175,330	....	....	....	....
Nowgong	9	10	8	9	139,403	107,883	....	....	....	....
Sibságar	20	21	24	26	349,444	492,761	....	....	....	....
Lakhimpur	12	12	14	14	282,588	344,064	....	....	....	....
Khási Hills	3	3	1	1	154,828	161,199	....	....	....	....
Nága Hills	2	2	....	....	25,215	82,177	....	....	....	....
Sylhet	31	34	55	55	580,135	6,1525	21,854	39,569	20,240	39,974
Cachar	16	16	22	22	341,898	370,566	....	....	....	....
Goalpara	17	17	16	16	220,861	237,377	5,334	3,549	4,068	2,962
Gáro Hills	1	1	....	....	13,505	11,471	....	782	....	803
Total....	125	130	161*	164	2,479,176	2,829,067	27,188	43,900	24,308	34,739

* There was a mistake in the return for last year.

From this it appears that correspondence has decreased in Kámrúp Nowgong, and the Gáro Hills, but has increased in all other districts. The increase has been most marked in Sibságar, Lakhimpur, and the Nága Hills.

346. The department was under the superintendence of Mr. J. W. Pilkington, Deputy-Postmaster-General, throughout the year.

Charge.

TELEGRAPHS.

347. During the year the Superintendent, Mr. W. McGregor, has inspected the Nága Hills Field Telegraphs, and reports that the difficulties met with during

Nága Hills extension.

the Nāga Expedition are rapidly disappearing, and there is now less trouble in providing men both for office and line establishments. This line has been extended from Piphima to Kohima, in the Nāga Hills, a distance of 14·5 miles, and the whole of the line from Golāghāt to Kohima has been thoroughly repaired and properly insulated and strengthened, the result being the better working of the line and reduction in the number of interruptions. The jungle has been considerably cleared by the Department of Public Works, and the stoppages caused by trees falling are not now of so frequent occurrence as formerly. The permanent loops, Dergaon and Bokakhat to Dhansirimukh, which for want of labour and time could not be entirely completed last year, have been finished. The erosion of the east bank of the river Brahmaputra opposite Dhubri continues to an alarming extent, and steps have been taken by the Superintendent to lengthen the cable to a spot where it is hoped the end will be safe (since the close of the year this has been done by adding cable received from Calcutta).

348. It is probable that the telegraphs in Assam will be much extended, as applications have been received for connecting Mangaldai and Tezpur with Gauháti, Nazira and the other tea-gardens in the neighbourhood with Sibságar, and Tura, in the Gáro Hills, with Dhubri.

Owing to a portion of the old road between Dhubri and Agamoni having been abandoned, the line has been brought on to the new road. The Public Works Department having cut earth from near the base of posts on a portion of the Sylhet-Silchar line, and water flowing there having cut a canal, the alignments had to be partially altered.

Between Bokakhat and Koliabar a large number of diversions in the road have been made during the past two years, and, as the old road was becoming impracticable for travelling, owing to broken bridges and growth of jungle, orders were issued to bring the line on to the new road. In carrying out this, fully 25 miles of the line were dismantled and re-constructed. Fifteen miles of this were actual diversions, and the alignment of the remaining ten was improved, so as to bring the line out of the dense jungle through which it ran.

Two new bamboo masts were made and erected at the crossing of the Kullung river.

The widening and straightening of the road on the section from Gauháti to Nowgong is imbedding the posts 4 feet deep in many places, and it will be necessary to alter the line in this place next season.

The following table shows the offices (all in the Nāga Hills) opened, re-opened, and closed during the year:—

Name of office.	When opened.	When closed.
Harriajan .....	.....	20th May 1880.
Borpathar .....	.....	30th November.
Nichu Guard.....	.....	28th April.
Pherrima (re-opened)...	1st May 1880	2nd May.
"	15th June	15th June
Piphima .....	.....	27th April..
Re-opened.....	15th June .....	.....
Keruphima	21st April	30th April.
Kohima	30th December .....	.....

The offices now in existence in the Naga Hills are Dimapur, Piphima, and Kohima, and these are still being worked under Field Rules.

There being no proper accommodation, a temporary office was departmentally built at Dhansirimukh, at a cost of Rs. 194-3-9, and at Golághát at Rs. 249.

Permanent buildings at these places have already been sanctioned, and the Superintending Engineer has been requested to take up the work at an early date. A temporary building has also been erected at Golághát for the accommodation of signallers.

The departmental building at Silchar being in a very dilapidated state, the old post-office building is being converted into a telegraph-office.

The new building at Dhubri has been completed since the close of the year under report, and the office has been transferred to it. The ventilation of this building is faulty, and will have to be remedied.

The departmental building at Sylhet has also undergone repair.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(a).—*Imperial Finance.*

349. The following is a statement of the Imperial revenue and expenditure compared with that of 1879-80:—

Summary of revenue and expenditure.

Imperial.	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Land revenue	30,64,140	29,98,090	.....	66,050
Tributes, 4-5ths .....	.....	200	200	.....
Forests	1,64,335	1,68,997	4,662	.....
Assessed taxes	7	.....	.....	7
Opium	4,69,452	4,89,423	19,971	.....
Stationery and printing .....	.....	85	85	.....
Interest	14,548	18,325	3,777	.....
Pensions	1,144	1,179	35	.....
Miscellaneous	3,051	1,164	.....	1,887
Gain by exchange.....	715	26	.....	689
Contributions from				
Provincial	3,946	.....	.....	3,946
Special contribution from Provincial.....	1,50,000	1,50,000	.....	.....
Total	38,71,338	38,27,489	28,730	72,579
			Net decrease.....	43,849

Imperial.	Payments.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Interest, service funds	6,116	12,781	6,665	.. ..
Refunds	18,039	10,392	.....	7,647
Land Revenue	3,18,610	3,44,648	26,038	.....
Forests	1,31,581	1,41,182	9,601	.....
Administration.....	40,160	41,306	1,146	.....
Minor Departments.....	2,170	10,517	8,347	.....
Frontier Police.....	.....	46,607	46,607	.....
Ecclesiastical	18,396	17,326	.....	1,070
Medical	57,127	58,964	1,837	.....
Political	41,447	63,612	22,165	.....
Allowances, &c.	58,330	72,165	13,835	.....
Superannuation	91,839	44,768	.....	47,071
Miscellaneous	13,108	11,580	.....	1,528
Total ...	7,96,923	8,75,848	1,36,241	57,316
			Net increase... ..	78,925

RECEIPTS.

350. The decrease under "Land revenue" is owing to the alteration of the date for the realisation of the last *kist* in Sylhet, by which it became due in April instead of March.

The increase of Rs. 200 in "Tributes" represents the amount of succession fees realised in the Khási Hills.

The increase of Rs. 4,662 under "Forests" is derived principally from the sál forests in Goálpára and Kámrap.

The increase under "Opium" is due to increased sales.

Rs. 85 under "Stationery and Printing" is for stationery supplied to Local Funds by the Superintendent of Stationery, Calcutta.

The increase under "Interest" is under the head "Interest on the unpaid portion of purchase-money of waste lands."

The decrease under "Contributions from Provincial" is due to the Accountant-General, Bengal, not having yet claimed the amount due for the Assam lunatics at Dacca.

EXPENDITURE.

351. The increase under "Interest" is due to the facilities afforded to the public for making deposits in saving banks under the rules of February 1880, which have since been cancelled.

The decrease under "Refunds" is due to an abnormal refund in 1879-80.

The increase under "Land revenue" is due to increased charges for commission to mauzadárs, and Rs. 5,000 on account of the Gáro Hills and Goálpára boundary settlement.

The increase under "Forests" is due to extended operations and increase in the forest staff.

The increase under "Minor Departments" is due to the Census.

The increase under "Medical" is due to the allowances granted to the Military medical officer in charge of the Civil duties at Kohima.

The increase under "Political" is due to the Nága Hills Expedition.

The increase under "Allowances" is due to the transfer of the Political Agency of Manipur from India to Assam.

The charges in 1879-80 under "Superannuation" were abnormal, owing to the grant of special bonuses to Public Works and Civil officers.

In receipts there was a net decrease of Rs. 43,849, as compared with the previous year, and in expenditure a net increase of Rs. 78,925 affecting Imperial finance adversely by an aggregate of Rs. 1,22,774. Rs. 1,50,000, on account of special contribution, to meet the needs of the Imperial Government, was given this year, making up, with the contribution given in 1879-80, a total of 3 lakhs.

352. Supply-bills were granted without restriction to tea-planters throughout the year, and 1880-81 is the first year in the history of Assam since it was separated from Bengal that cash assistance was not required from outside the Province.

Supply-bills.

This was, however, due to large balances, and, as these have been reduced, it cannot be expected to happen again, and assistance will, at all events for some years, be required to admit of the free issue and encashment of supply-bills of about sixteen lakhs a year.

The supply-bill payments since 1874-75 have been as follows:—

	Rs.
1874-75	44,45,000
1875-76	55,51,000
1876-77	63,19,000
1877-78	41,48,000
1878-79	52,83,000
1879-80	54,58,000
1880-81	49,37,000

The falling off in 1880-81 was no doubt mainly due to the depression in the tea industry.

353. Currency notes, as a rule, cannot be cashed by Assam treasuries except for travellers, because of the heavy demands for cash for supply-bill payments, but all treasuries are obliged to receive them in payment of Government dues.

Currency notes.

The planters import notes, and exchange them with the mauzadars and others for coin; they are thus saved the cost of obtaining coin from the treasury and the mauzadars are saved the cost of conveying their dues to Government in coin to the treasury. The number of large notes remitted to Calcutta, not being required by treasuries in Assam, aggregated Rs. 9,09,000, and, roughly, the coin supplied to planters during the year might be taken at the amount of these notes and the supply-bills, viz., Rs. 58,46,000.

354. The two coin depôts at Dhubri and Cachar, which were opened in February 1880, have proved most useful in supplying the needs of treasuries without increasing the Provincial cash balance. The delays, moreover, which were complained of when the remittances had to be obtained from Calcutta or Bengal have been avoided.

Coin.

Pies do not circulate generally in the Province, and in Sylhet there is a prejudice against double pice.

Two small currency chests of half a lakh each were established during the year at Cachar and Shillong to facilitate the supply of small notes at those treasuries, where there is a large but fluctuating demand, which it was found difficult to meet with due regard to the economy of the cash balances.

(b).-- Provincial Finance.

355. The year 1880-81 was the third year of the present financial contract.

Summary of receipts and charges.

356. The following statement compares the receipts and charges with those of the previous year:—

	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Land Revenue	7,66,035	7,49,522	.....	16,513
Excise	18,59,202	19,56,348	97,146	.....
Provincial Rates	191	2,83,471	2,83,280	.....
Stamps	6,19,498	6,22,497	3,089	.....
Registration	36,767	35,849	.....	918
Minor Departments	1,501	178	.....	1,323
Law and Justice	1,52,988	1,66,123	14,035	.....
Police	65,913	64,560	.....	1,353
Education	23,867	22,775	.....	1,092
Medical	2,738	689	.....	2,049
Stationery and printing	1,482	1,637	155	.....
Interest	3,763	671	.....	3,092
Miscellaneous	36,319	42,398	6,079	.....
Public Works	17,666	20,685	3,019	.....
Contributions, Local to Provincial.	411	66,397	65,986	.....
Total	35,87,351	40,33,800	4,72,789	26,340
Net increase				4,46,449

	Payments.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Refunds	40,602	34,088	.....	6,514
Land revenue	5,33,837	5,46,889	13,052	.....
Excise	9,285	9,917	632	.....
Provincial rates .....	.....	5,405	5,405	.....
Stamps	24,623	20,899	.....	3,724
Registration	26,383	23,831	.....	2,552
Post-office	1,408	890	.....	518
Administration	1,06,123	1,81,078	74,955	.....
Minor Departments	13,472	6,036	.....	7,436
Law and Justice	6,46,206	5,96,082	.....	50,124
Police.....	7,36,231	7,55,201	18,970	.....
Education	1,95,135	1,52,623	.....	42,512
Ecclesiastical	620	626	6	.....
Medical services	38,670	39,064	394	.....
Stationery and Printing	46,654	44,600	.....	2,054
Political Agencies .....	.....	250	250	.....
Miscellaneous	50,623	61,053	10,430	.....
Famine Relief .....	.....	116	116	.....
Irrigation and Navigation.	.....	26,162	26,162	.....
Public Works ordinary	7,42,712	8,63,791	1,21,079	.....
Special Contributions to Imperial.	1,50,000	1,50,000	.....	.....
Contributions to Imperial	3,946	.....	.....	3,946
Ditto to Local...	1,43,136	2,28,757	85,621	.....
Total.....	35,09,666	37,47,358	3,57,072	1,19,380
Net increase.....				2,37,692

RECEIPTS.

357. Under "Land revenue" there was a decrease of Rs. 16,513, due chiefly to the alteration of the date of payment of the *kist* in Sylhet.

Under "Excise" the increase is due to the elasticity of the excise revenue. Since Assam was separated from Bengal there has been a steady increase under this head—

	Rs.
In 1874-75 it amounted to	13,79,000
" 1875-76 " "	14,15,000
" 1876-77 " "	14,46,000
" 1877-78 " "	16,26,000
" 1878-79 " "	18,38,000
" 1879-80 " "	18,59,000
" 1880-81 " "	19,56,000

The increase under "Provincial rates" is due to the introduction of the Assam Local Rates Regulation.

The increase under "Law and Justice" is due chiefly to increase in Magisterial fines and under Jail receipts.

The decrease under "Medical," is due chiefly to decrease in the value of medicines sold by Civil Surgeons.

There was an unusual receipt under "Interest" in 1879-80.

The increase under "Miscellaneous" is due chiefly to increase in the amount of unclaimed deposits.

The increase under "Contributions" is due to the lapse of the District Fund balances to Provincial on the 31st March 1881.

EXPENDITURE.

358. In 1879-80 there was an unusual refund, which accounts for the decrease under that head.

The increase under "Land revenue" is due to increase in mauzadars' commission.

Rs. 5,405 under "Provincial rates," is the cost of the collection of the Assam local rate.

The decrease under "Stamps," is under "Stamps" supplied from central stores.

The decrease under "Registration" is due to reduction in district charges.

The increase under "Administration" is chiefly due to the salary the Judge and Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, having been charged to this head as a Commissioner instead of to "Law and Justice" as hitherto.

The decrease under "Minor Departments" is under "Model farms" and "Gazetteers and Statistical memoirs."

The decrease under "Law and Justice" is chiefly due to the transfer of the salary of the Judge and Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, to "Administration."

The increase under "Police" is due to the charges caused by the Naga Hills Expedition.

The decrease under "Education" is due to the transfer to district committees of the expenditure on account of primary schools.

The increase under "Miscellaneous" is due to increases under all heads.

This was the first year the head "Irrigation and Navigation" was opened as an independent head: it had hitherto been subordinate to Public Works Department.

The increase under "Public Works" is due to there being more funds available for Public Works expenditure than in the previous year.

The increase under "Contributions to Local" is on account of the contributions of the five-eighths of the Assam Local Rate to the District Funds.

A special contribution of Rs. 1,50,000 was made to Imperial, and is noticed under "Imperial Finance."

The net increase in receipts was Rs. 4,46,449, the net increase in expenditure Rs. 2,37,692, so that the Provincial balances was increased by Rs. 2,08,757 during the year.

(c).—*Local Finance.*

359. As mentioned in last year's report, the District Improvement and District Post Funds at the close of 1879-80 were amalgamated, and became one fund, termed the District Fund, which is the only incorporated Local Fund in the Province.

Other important changes were also made.

All charges for primary education were made over to the different District Funds, and, owing to the introduction of the Assam Local Rates Regulation, the district dāk and other local cesses were abolished, and each District Fund was granted five-eighths of the net receipts realised in the district in lieu of them, and of the contributions which had hitherto been made by Provincial Services.

The following account shows the state of the funds as compared with 1879-80.

Incorporated Local Funds.

	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Provincial rates.....	38,733	8,586	.....	30,147
Minor Departments .....	.....	150	150	.....
Education .....	.. ..	369	369	.....
Miscellaneous	6,463	4,958	.....	1,505
Public Works	63,054	81,451	18,397	.....
Contribution from Provincial...	1,43,136	2,28,757	85,621	.....
Debt Accounts .....	.....	19,842	19,842	.....
Total	2,51,386	3,44,113	1,24,379	31,652
Net increase.....	.....	.....	.....	92,727

	Payments.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Refunds		6,847	6,847	.....
Post-office	13,904	15,942	2,038	.....
Minor Departments		100	100	.....
Education		60,034	60,034	.....
Medical.....		360	360	.....
Miscellaneous		3,968	3,968	.....
Irrigation and Navigation ...		2,166	2,166	.....
Public Works	2,71,303	2,49,648		21,655
Contributions to Provincial ...	411	66,397	65,986	.....
Debt Accounts		38,353	38,353	.....
Total	2,85,618	4,43,815	1,79,852	21,655
Net increase				1,58,197

The audit of the District Fund Public Works expenditure had heretofore been conducted by the Deputy-Examiner, Public Works Accounts ; but from the commencement of 1880-81 this was made over to the Comptroller, who thus became responsible for the entire audit of the District Fund Accounts.

360. The excluded Funds were five in number, viz., Assam Williamson Educational Endowment, Cantonment Funds at Cachar, Shillong, and Dibrugarh, and Dispensary Fund, Nowgong.

Excluded Local Funds.

The receipts and expenditure were as follows:—

	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	7,318	4,380	.....	2,938
Cantonment Funds	2,414	4,011	1,597	.....
Dispensary Fund	105	1,218	1,113	.....
Total	9,837	9,609	2,710	2,938
Net decrease				228

	Payments.		Difference.	
	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund.....	7,444	4,293	.....	3,151
Cantonment Funds	2,916	4,630	1,714	.....
Dispensary Fund	184	322	138	.....
Total	10,544	9,245	1,852	3,151
Net decrease				1,299

The decrease under the Assam Williamson Fund is due chiefly to the loan of 1872, at 4½ per cent., in which the notes were invested, having been converted into a loan at 4 per cent. in 1879.

Since the commencement of 1880-81, the audit of Cantonment Funds has been conducted by the Comptroller.

1.—Statement of Imperial, Provincial, and Local Receipts and Expenditure during the year 1880-81.

Heads of Revenue.	Imperial. Rs.	Provincial. Rs.	Local. Rs.	Total. Rs.
Opening balance .....	.....	3,11,379	99,702	.....
I. Land Revenue	29,98,090	7,49,522	.....	37,47,612
II. Tributes	200	.....	.....	200
III. Forests	1,68,997	.....	.....	1,68,997
IV. Excise .....	.....	19,56,348	.....	19,56,348
VI. Provincial Rates .....	.....	2,83,471	8,586	2,92,057
IX. Opium	4,89,423	.....	.....	4,89,423
X. Stamps .....	.....	6,22,497	.....	6,22,497
XI. Registration .....	.....	35,849	.....	35,849
XIV. Minor Departments ..	.....	178	150	328
XV. Law and Justice .....	.....	1,66,123	.....	1,66,123
XVI. Police .....	.....	64,560	.....	64,560
XIX. Education .....	.....	22,775	369	23,144
XX. Medical .....	.....	689	.....	689
XXI. Stationery and Printing	85	1,637	.....	1,722
XXII. Interest	18,325	671	.....	18,996
XXIII. Superannuations	1,179	.....	.....	1,179
XXIV. Miscellaneous	1,164	42,398	4,958	48,520
XXVII. Other Public Works ..	.....	20,685	81,451	1,02,136
XXXI. Gain by exchange	26	.....	.....	26
Contributions, Provincial to Imperial	1,50,000	.....	.....	1,50,000
" " Local...	.....	.....	2,28,757	2,28,757
" Local to Provincial...	.....	66,397	.....	66,397
Incorporated Local Fund Debt Accounts.	.....	.....	19,842	19,842
Total receipts	38,27,489	40,33,800	3,44,113	82,05,402
		43,45,179	4,43,815	
Heads of Expenditure.	Imperial. Rs.	Provincial. Rs.	Local. Rs.	Total. Rs.
2. Interest	12,781	.....	.....	12,781
3. Refunds	10,392	34,088	6,847	51,327
4. Land Revenue	3,44,648	5,46,889	.....	8,91,537
5. Forests	1,41,182	.....	.....	1,41,182
6. Excise .....	.....	9,917	.....	9,917
8. Provincial Rates .....	.....	5,405	.....	5,405
12. Stamps .....	.....	20,899	.....	20,899
13. Registration .....	.....	23,831	.....	23,831
15. Post-office .....	.....	890	15,942	16,832
17. Administration	41,306	1,81,078	.....	2,22,384
18. Minor Departments	10,517	6,036	100	16,653
19. Law and Justice .....	.....	5,96,082	.....	5,96,082
20. Police	46,607	7,55,201	.....	8,01,808
22. Education .....	.....	1,52,623	60,034	2,12,657
23. Ecclesiastical	17,326	626	.....	17,952
24. Medical	58,964	39,064	360	98,388
25. Stationery and Printing ..	.....	44,600	.....	44,600
26. Political Agencies	63,612	250	.....	63,862
27. Allowances, &c.	72,165	.....	.....	72,165
29. Superannuations	44,768	.....	.....	44,768
30. Miscellaneous	11,580	61,053	3,968	76,601
31. Famine Relief .....	.....	116	.....	116
33. Irrigation and Navigation ..	.....	26,162	2,166	28,328
34. Other Public Works .....	.....	8,63,791	2,49,648	11,13,439

Heads of Expenditure.	Imperial. Rs	Provincial. Rs	Local. Rs	Total. Rs
Contributions Provincial to Imperial.	1,50,000	.....	1,50,000
Ditto Local	2,28,757	.....	2,28,757
Contributions Local to Provincial.	66,397	66,397
Incorporated Local Funds Debt Accounts.	38,353	38,353
Total Expenditure.....	8,75,848	37,47,358	4,43,815	50,67,021
Closing balance.....	5,97,821 ^o	.. ..	.....
Total.....	43,45,179	4,43,815	.....

^o The closing balance is still liable to alteration on account of adjustments which may have to be made under orders of the Comptroller-General.

II.—Account of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the Treasuries in the Province of Assam for the year 1880-81.

Receipts.	Amount.	Disbursements.	Amount.
	Rs	IMPERIAL.	Rs
Cash balance of last year	35,74,622	Expenditure	3,07,461
IMPERIAL.		Miscellaneous advances and advances to cultivators.	4,61,710
Net revenue	32,59,102	Re-payments of deposits	7,96,680
Re-payment of miscellaneous advances ..	3,58,620	Bills discharged { Local.....	5,38,299
Deposits	9,07,858	{ Foreign (i.e., other Governments)	49,93,759
Deposits { Local.....	4,93,456	Local cash remittances	44,98,525
{ Foreign (i.e., other Governments.)	49,97,677	Public Works Department	11,23,240
Local cash remittances	44,27,922	Telegraph ditto	1,31,399
Public Works Department.....	10,42,003	Post-office ditto	1,17,366
Telegraph Ditto	86,158	Marine ditto	31,697
Post-office Ditto	9,92,043	Other Governments Civil	63,18,159
Marine Ditto	29,509	Military Department	16,91,147
Other Governments, Civil	32,26,781	Total Imperial.....	2,09,89,422
Military Department	2,41,835	Provincial Service Expenditure.....	31,30,160
Total Imperial.....	2,00,62,944	Incorporated Local Funds	4,36,968
Provincial Service Receipts	34,16,602	Excluded Local Funds	9,245
Incorporated Local Funds	3,37,266	Municipalities	1,07,055
Excluded Local Funds	9,609	Total Disbursements ..	2,46,72,850
Municipalities.....	1,06,701	Cash balance at close of the year	28,34,894
Total Receipts.....	2,39,33,122	Grand Total.....	2,75,07,744
Grand Total.....	2,75,07,744		

1.—LAND REVENUE.

361. There were 50,184* permanently-settled estates on the revenue-roll during the year, as compared with 50,349 in 1879-80, showing a decrease of 165 estates, all in the district of Sylhet. Five of the estates which were reported as undiscoverable at the time of the revenue survey of 1859—1865 were struck off the revenue-roll, and the revenue of 160 estates (the aggregate annual payments upon which amounted only to Rs. 52-12-5) was redeemed at 25 years' purchase.

* Number of permanently-settled estates.

	1879-80.	1880-81.
Sylhet.....	50,329	50,164
Goalpara ..	19	19
Garo Hills ..	1	1
Total	50,349	50,184

362. The number of temporarily-settled estates during the year was 499,737, as compared with 509,917† in 1879-80, showing a net decrease of 10,180 estates. There was an increase of 1,027 estates in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Goálpára, and the Gáro Hills, and a decrease of 11,207 estates in the other districts. The increase in the number of temporarily-settled estates is due, in those districts where it occurs, to extension of cultivation and to the assessment of certain New Lease Rule grants in the district of Sylhet after the expiration of their revenue-free term. The large falling off in the districts of Assam Proper occurred almost entirely among holdings under annual leases and *nisf-khiráj* estates, and was due, in the case of the former, to the amalgamation of small holdings. This is satisfactory, as it is the large number of these holdings, and the necessity which at present exists for resettling them every year, which throws so much work on the District Officers and their subordinates, the mauzadárs and mandals. The decrease in the *nisf-khiráj* holdings is found entirely in Kámrup. In this district the large estate of the Parbattia Gosains was in 1879-80 under the management of a sarbarálikár appointed by the Deputy-Commissioner, who issued *pattas* direct to the cultivating ryots, each ryot's holding being treated as a separate *nisf-khiráj* estate. Under recent orders of the Chief Commissioner, this estate has been settled with a single representative of the Gosains under one *patta*, and is now regarded as one estate only.

363. The current demand on account of land revenue amounted to Rs. 35,22,617, viz., Rs. 3,78,195 on account of permanently-settled estates and Rs. 31,44,422 on account of land under temporary settlement, against a total demand of Rs. 34,37,801, of which Rs. 3,78,275 were on account of permanently and Rs. 30,59,526 on account of temporarily-settled estates. It will be observed from the above that there was a decrease of Rs. 80 in the revenue of permanently-settled estates, and an increase in the revenue of temporarily-settled estates of Rs. 84,896 over the current demand of the preceding year. The decrease of Rs. 80 in the permanently-settled revenue is due to the reduction by 165 in the number of estates referred to above. The increase of Rs. 84,896 in the temporarily-settled revenue, which occurred in all the districts except Goálpára, is due to extension of cultivation and assessment of previously-settled estates, including Thirty-year Lease Rule grants at progressive rates; and in Sylhet and Darrang to the re-settlement of certain estates at enhanced revenue. The decrease of Rs. 1,005 in the revenue of temporarily-settled estates in Goálpára is nominal, and is due to a mistake in the figures of the previous year for some mauzas in the Eastern Duárs.

364. The total balance of revenue outstanding at the close of the year 1879-80 was Rs. 1,32,320. A further sum of Rs. 10,764 was added after the 1st April 1880,

Arrear demand.

† The figure reported last year was found afterwards to be incorrect.

on account of the revenue of former years ascertained to be due in 1879-80, as well as owing to the settlement of certain estates with retrospective effect, and a sum of Rs. 531* had to be deducted on account of the removal from the revenue-roll of certain estates in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar with effect from 1879-80. The corrected arrear demand for the year was therefore Rs. 1,42,553, of which Rs. 17,867 were on account of permanently-settled estates and Rs. 1,24,686 on account of those under temporary settlement.

365. The total demand, including arrears, amounted to Rs. 36,65,170 (*viz.*, Rs. 3,96,062 from permanently-settled estates and Rs. 32,69,108 from temporarily-settled estates, of which Rs. 33,83,566, were collected, Rs. 4,994, or '14 per cent., remitted, and Rs. 2,76,610*, or 7·55, remained outstanding at the close of the year, *viz.*, Rs. 67,643 from permanently-settled estates in Sylhet, and Rs. 2,08,967,† from temporarily-settled estates. The bulk of the arrear was due from the district of Sylhet. A portion, Rs. 60,732, of this balance was, however, not realisable within the year, the latest dates of payment in some parts of the district having been altered during the year from the 15th March to the 5th and 12th April.

Of the balance of Rs. 2,76,610 due on the 1st April 1881, a sum of Rs. 1,89,075 has been since collected, Rs. 5,731 remitted, and Rs. 81,804 are still due from the districts named in the margin. Of the amount outstanding in the district of Sylhet, Rs. 3,945 are on account of permanently-settled estates, Rs. 5,388 on account of *ilám* and other temporarily-settled estates, Rs. 16,238 on account of the Partabgarh tahsil, and Rs. 55,097 on account of the Jaintia parganas. Nearly the whole, or Rs. 3,757, of the amount due from the permanently-settled estates is on account of the estates in which the minor Har Kumar Pal has a share. Steps are being taken for the realisation of this amount under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1880 (which has since the close of the year been extended to this district) and Act XI. of 1859. Of the amount due from *ilám* and other temporarily-settled estates, Rs. 2,213 are in process of recovery under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1880, and Rs. 1,249 will be recovered by *khás tahsil*. Notices have been served upon the managers and proprietors of waste land grants for the payment of Rs. 761, and the greater portion of the remainder has been found to be irrecoverable. Rs. 11,569 of the sum due from the ryots of the Partabgarh tahsil have also been found to be irrecoverable. The remaining balance is partly disputed and partly in the course of realisation under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1880. The Chief Commissioner has since the close of the year directed the revision of the assessment in Partabgarh, the present rates of revenue being excessive, and has also instructed the Deputy-Commissioner that all arrears, except those for 1880-81, should be wiped off

	Rs.
* Cachar.....	230
Sylhet.....	301
Total	531

	Rs.
* Current.....	2,48,251
Arrear.....	28,359
Total.....	2,76,610
Sylhet.....	1,93,269
Cachar.....	9,518
Other districts.....	5,890
Total ..	2,08,967

	Rs.
Sylhet.....	80,668
Cachar.....	414
Khasi Hills.....	16
Garo ..	706
Total ..	81,804

and remitted. The arrears in the Jaintia parganas are due to the revision of settlement now going on, which will end in a partial reduction of the demand. Of the total amount due, about Rs. 50,800 will most probably be found to call for remission. Some of the remaining balance is in course of realisation under Act XI. of 1859. The settlements of some *maháls* have been cancelled, and the sale of certain estates has been postponed, pending enquiry into their circumstances. The amounts still outstanding in the other districts are small, and are in course of realisation.

366. The remissions granted during the year amounted to Rs. 4,994½ as compared with Rs. 2,845 in 1879-80. The

Remissions.	
	Rs.
‡ Cachar.....	468
Sylhet.....	4,392
Lakhimpur.....	126
Khási and Jaintia Hills.....	8
Total.....	4,994

sum of Rs. 468 remitted in Cachar represents the revenue of two estates wrongly assessed for two years from 1st April 1878. Of the amount remitted in Sylhet, Rs. 2,375 represent the difference between the former revenue and the actual assets when brought under *khás* management of certain estates; Rs. 953 was the arrear revenue of certain Jaintia tenures (according to the settlement which expired in 1876) which are now covered with jungle, and in the possession of no-one; Rs. 67 represent the revenue of certain *maháls* twice assessed; Rs. 263 represent the revenue of 9 estates since transferred to the waste land register; Rs. 92 are due to deaths and desertion of ryots; Rs. 225 could not be realised for various reasons; and Rs. 417 were remitted with a view to encourage the ryots of the *khás maháls* in pargana Partabgarh to pay the arrears of rent due from them. Of the sum of Rs. 126 remitted in the district of Lakhimpur, Rs. 111 represent the revenue of lands found to be situated within the boundaries of certain waste land grants, and Rs. 15 were on account of the revenue of lands the holders of which had absconded, and which could not be re-settled. The sum of Rs. 8 remitted in the Khási Hills district is the revenue of a portion of an estate which has been taken up by Government for the sub-divisional office at Jowai.

367. The current demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted during the year to Rs. 2,92,740, as compared with Rs. 2,69,293 in 1879-80, showing a net increase of Rs. 23,447, or 8·71 per cent. The increase mainly occurred under the heads of "Elephants," "Fisheries," and "House-tax," while there was a falling off under "Lime-quarries," "Miscellaneous," "Hoe-tax," and "Fines on fiscal officers." The variation in the receipts from "Elephants" and "Lime-quarries" has been separately explained. The increase in the revenue derived from "Fisheries" is explained to be mainly due to the comparatively higher bids obtained at auction sales, and that in "House-tax" to the assessment of several new villages in the Nága Hills during the year. The falling off under the head "Miscellaneous" occurred principally in the district of Cachar, and was owing to a decrease in the receipts on account of survey-fees levied on lands settled under the ordinary settlement rules of the district. The Deputy-Commissioner attributes this decrease to the depreciation of land consequent on the fall in the price of food-grains, and to the people

having been too busily engaged in the re-settlement of their lands to apply for new settlements.

The decrease in the hoe-tax is nominal, being due to the fact that in the district of the Gáro Hills the hoe-tax was abolished during the year, and the villages which used to pay it assessed to house-tax.

The diminution in receipts from fines on fiscal officers is reported to be due to the exercise of greater discretion in the imposition of fines during the year by District Officers.

368. The arrear demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue on the 1st April 1880 was Rs. 44,755. A further sum of Rs. 7,315* was ascertained during the year to be due on account of previous years, while, on the other hand, Rs. 261, the greater portion of which is on account of certain fisheries in Sylhet, had to be remitted; thus, the corrected arrear demand on the 31st March 1880 was Rs. 51,809.

Arrear demand.	Rs.
* Elephants	5,725
Fisheries	103
House-tax	1,485
Total	7,315

369. Of the total demand of Rs. 3,44,549 (*viz.*, Rs. 2,92,740 current and Rs. 51,809 arrear), Rs. 2,83,187, or 82·19 per cent., were collected, Rs. 4,530, or 1·31 per cent., remitted, and Rs. 56,832, or 16·49 per cent., remained unrealised at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 17,671 was paid in advance for future years.

The collection was most backwards in the two districts in the Surma Valley and in the hill districts. In Assam Proper also the balance was large, when compared with the remarkable punctuality with which the land revenue is got in. The lessees of elephant *maháls* are the chief defaulters in the Assam Valley, and the arrear shown against them is in most cases owing to the capture of elephants, upon which royalty is due, towards the end of the hunting season, which closes on the 31st March.

370. All settlements in the Assam Valley or for a term of years, are effected in precisely the same fashion. The established rates on the three recognised classes of soil are applied to the area found in the possession of the actual settlement-holders at the time of settlement, except in the case of a few petty estates in Goálpára, which are annually leased to the highest bidder by public auction. The settlements effected during the years were—

- (1) Annual settlements under the Assam Settlement Rules.
- (2) Ten-year settlements at full rates under the Assam Settlement Rules.
- (3) Five-year settlements in the district of Kámrup.
- (4) Ten-year settlements of *nisf-khírúj* estates.
- (4) Annual settlements of *nisf-khírúj* estates.

371. In the district of Goálpára the Eastern Duárs, including Bijni and Sidli, are settled annually on the basis of the Assam Settlement Rules, in accordance with the orders of the Government of India. The offer of settlement of the

Annual settlements in the Eastern Duárs.

Bijni Duár to the Rája of Bijni for a period of seven years was withdrawn last year, pending the demarcation of the boundary of Government forests, which is now in course of completion. In the meantime, the Rája submitted a memorial, praying for a permanent settlement of the duár, which was rejected by the Chief Commissioner. The Sidli estate is still under direct management, in accordance with the request of the Rája, who feels himself unfit for the charge.

The following statement gives particulars of the settlement of the Eastern Duárs during the past two years:—

Years.	Basti. Acres.	Rupit. Acres.	Faringhati. Acres.	Total. Acres.	Revenue. Rs.
1879-80	4,931	36,991	24,740	66,662	82,711
1880-81	4,536	36,662	24,656	65,854	81,710
Decrease	395	329	84	808	1,001

This statement shows an apparent decrease of 808 acres under cultivation, and of Rs. 1,001 in revenue assessed; but there was an error of 2,635 acres under cultivation, and Rs. 2,966 in revenue assessed, in the figures for the year 1879-80; there has therefore been an actual increase of 1,827 acres under cultivation, and Rs. 1,965 in revenue assessed, as compared with the previous year.

372. Besides the settlements of the Eastern Duárs, the only other annual settlements made in the Goálpára district were of the three small Government estates of Dhubri, Kasha Jamera, and Latka, the settlements of which are made on the principles laid down in the Settlement Rules of Assam Proper, and of five Government *chars*, the lease of which it is the practice to put up annually in two lots to public auction. The revenue of these *maháls* amounted to Rs. 797, against Rs. 801 in the previous year.

373. The following comparative statement shows the number of annual settlements at full rates made during the past as compared with the previous year. Some *nisf-khiráj* estates were also settled for one year in the districts of Kámrup and Lakhimpur, but these are noticed below separately:—

Districts.	1879-80.	1880-81.
Kámrup	131,327	131,806
Darrang	70,886	70,378
Nowgong	111,850	109,861
Sibságar	86,112	84,530
Lakhimpur	29,981	27,912
Total	430,156	424,487

This statement shows annual settlements only.

There has thus been a decrease of 5,669 cases, which is distributed over all the districts of Assam Proper, and is due, as already explained, to amalgamation of small holdings.

374. During the year under report 2,708 acres of land were settled at full rates on decennial leases, as compared with 2,551 acres in the previous year. The

on-year settlements at full rates.

number of such leases existing in the five districts of Assam Proper during the past two years is given in the margin, from which it will be seen that there has been an increase of only 27 estates in 1880-81. This increase would have been larger, but for the fact that in Darrang 47, and in Nowgong 2, such leases were resigned.

The following statement shows the area taken up in each district under these leases for ordinary crops and for the cultivation of tea:—

District.	Area taken up in 1880-81 for the cultivation of				Total area settled up to 31st March 1881 at full rates for the cultivation of			
	Ordinary crops.	Tea.		Total.	Ordinary crops.	Tea.		Total.
		By Natives.	By Europeans.			By Natives.	By Europeans.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Kamrup	1,679	.....	.....	1,679	8,157	168	217	8,542
Darrang .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,979	15	2,766	13,700
Nowgong	20	.....	.....	20	4,161	323	252	4,736
Sibsagar .....	.....	.....	855	85	21	323	2,542	2,886
Lakhimpur .....	.....	.....	154	154	.....	.....	1,363	1,363
Total	1,699	.....	1,009	2,708	18,318	829	7,080	26,227

In Kamrup 31 decennial leases were taken during the year, covering an area of 1,679 acres, in Nowgong 38 leases covering an area of 20 acres only, in Sibsaagar 6 leases covering an area of 855 acres, and in Lakhimpur 1 lease covering 154 acres. In these two latter districts, however, the leases were all taken by planters for the cultivation of tea.

It will be noticed that the area taken up last year in Kamrup under these leases is nearly half the total area taken up to date since the year 1870, when ten-year leases came into force.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Kamrup reports that the leases taken up in his district were for land formerly held under annual leases, the settlement-holders having applied for long leases in preference to having their annual leases renewed. The Deputy-Commissioner has not explained the cause of the preference thus shown last year for long-term leases in his district, but it is believed to be due to certain rulings given in the Judge's Court during the past three years, pointing out that annual holdings are not legally heritable and transferable, and that therefore the purchasers of such holdings, or those who claim as heirs of the last recorded Government tenant, cannot in the Civil Court claim as against Government the legal right to be recognised as Government tenants in respect of such holdings, as they might do if the land were held under ten-year leases. The leases taken out in Nowgong were all for small plots of homestead land situated within the limits of the town.

Darrang, it will be observed, shows by far the largest area (13,700 acres) now covered by these leases, notwithstanding that 47 leases, covering 255 acres, were resigned during the year. The land relinquished has not been yet taken up by anyone else, it being unfit

for cultivation. Out of the above 13,700 acres 10,979 acres are cultivated with ordinary crops, the rest having been taken up for tea. As stated in last year's report, a considerable portion of the area settled in Darrang for the cultivation of tea was previously held by planters from the Rájas of Darrang; on expiry of the settlement with the Rájas the land was settled directly with the planters at full rates for ten years.

The total area in Assam Proper held under ten-year leases at full rates is 26,227 acres, of which 18,318 acres are cultivated with ordinary crops and the rest with tea.

375. Settlements for five years are only made in the district of Kámráp. During the year under report 18 leases, covering an area of 25 acres, were granted for five years in North Gauháti within the municipal limits. The total number of leases issued up to the end of 1880-81 is 75, covering an area of 136 acres. Two out of these 75 leases are said to have been surrendered; the total number of five-year leases at the close of the year was therefore 73 only.

376. The following statement shows the number of *nisf-khíráj* estates in each district which have been settled in the past year for ten years under the orders of the Government of India. It shows also the number of estates still remaining to be settled:—

District.	Number and area of <i>nisf-khíráj</i> estates in the district.		Number and area settled in 1880-81.		Total number and area settled to close of 1880-81.		Number and area remaining to be settled.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
Kámráp	1,528*	203,546	....	....	....	....	1,528*	203,546
Darrang	80	17,548	30	4,344	79	17,543	1†	6
Nowgong	25	5,041	....	....	25	5,041	....	....
Sibsagar	327	5,136	146	2,218	323	5,089	4	47
Lakhimpur	41	2,445	....	....	....	....	41	2,445
Total	2,001	233,716	176	6,562	427	27,673‡	1,574	206,043

* Total number is liable to alteration after completion of survey.

† This estate, being waste, could not be settled.

‡ Of these, 11,021 acres, being uncultivated, have remained unassessed.

377. From the above statement, it will be seen that nothing has yet been done by the Deputy-Commissioner of Kámráp towards effecting ten-year settlements of *nisf-khíráj* estates in his district in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, notwithstanding that a large number of these estates have been already demarcated and mapped by the special survey officers who since the year 1876-77 have been demarcating these estates in the district. *Nisf-khíráj* estates accordingly continue to be settled annually in this district. It appears that the Deputy-Commissioner was under the impression that the settlements were not to be effected until the entire work of the survey party had been completed. He has now

been informed that this was a mistake, and directed to rectify it by assessing the estates as fast as they are measured.

378. In Darrang the ten-year settlements of *nisf-khiráj* estates have now been completed. In this district *nisf-khiráj* estates may be classified under four heads :—

- (1) Ordinary *nisf-khiráj* estates.
- (2) Estates of the Darrang Rája alienated prior to the year 1859.
- (3) Estates of the Darrang Rája alienated since the year 1859.
- (4) Estates of the Darrang Rája which are still in his possession.

The ten-year settlements of ordinary *nisf-khiráj* estates were completed before the end of the year 1879-80, with the exception of two estates alluded to in paragraph 78 of the report for 1879-80. The settlement of these two estates was completed during the year under review. The total number of estates of this class is 51.

379. With respect to the estates of the Darrang Rája alienated prior to the year 1859, the orders of the Government of India are that these are to be assessed like ordinary *nisf-khiráj* estates, *i.e.*, at half rates on cultivation only, the waste land being exempted from assessment during the currency of the present settlement, the term of which is to be ten years, the settlement-holders being informed that on expiry of the present settlement the waste will be assessed at one-eighth of the ordinary rates on *rupit* land, *i.e.*, at 1 anna and 3 pie per *bigha*.*

* From Government of India to Chief Commissioner No. 284, dated the 6th June 1879.

† These 30 estates were originally 23 estates only, and are those alluded to in the last portion of paragraph 77 of the report for 1879-80. During the occupancy of the alienees these 23 estates were split up, and, when the recent settlement was made, the number was found to be 30.

Ridsdale, amalgamated with the mauza in which it is situated. In this latter case the occupant failed to establish his title to hold the land; and, rather than give the land up, he consented to take a *patta* for it at full rates on expiry of the previous twenty-year settlement, on the 31st March 1880.

380. There are seven *nisf-khiráj* estates originally belonging to the Darrang Rája, but which were alienated since the year 1859. These were all amalgamated in 1879-80 with the mauzas in which they are situate, and have been settled with the occupants, some for ten years and others for one year, cultivation having been assessed at full rates and the waste at $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna per *bigha*. They have therefore really ceased now to be *nisf-khiráj* estates, and will not be referred to again under this head in future reports.

They are noticed here, as paragraph 77 of the Report for 1879-80 did not clearly distinguish between the settlements made of estates

alienated by the Rájás prior to 1859 and of those alienated subsequent to that date.

381. In regard to the fourth class of *nisf-khiráj* estates in Darrang mentioned above, *i.e.*, estates of the Rája still in his possession, the settlement of these, under orders of the Government of India, for twenty years on cultivation only was completed in 1879-80, and no settlement of such estates was made in the year under report.

The number of these estates is 14. The 23 estates referred to in the last portion of paragraph 77 of the Report for 1879-80 are not in the possession of the Rájás. These are estates alienated prior to 1859, and it has already been explained how these have been settled.

382. In the district of Nowgong the number of *nisf-khiráj* estates is small, and all settlements of such estates for ten years were completed before the year under report.

383. In the district of Sibságar the Deputy-Commissioner reports that all *nisf-khiráj* estates have been settled in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, with the exception of 47 acres in the sub-division of Jorhát, the settlement of which has been completed since the close of the year. The settlements made in the year under report were made for a term of nine years, in order to make them conterminous with the settlements completed in the previous year.

384. In Lakhimpur the orders of the Government of India have not yet been carried out, no ten-year settlements having been yet completed in this district. At a recent inspection, however, the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts discovered that in 1879 the Sub-Divisional Officer at North Lakhimpur had completed several such settlements in his sub-division, and reported them to the Deputy-Commissioner for sanction. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been directed to the matter. In last year's report the Deputy-Commissioner reported that the survey of the *lá-khiráj* and *nisf-khiráj* holdings on the north bank of the Brahmaputra had been completed. In the year under notice he reports 16 out of 21 *lá-khiráj* and *nisf-khiráj* holdings on the south bank to have been completely surveyed, but no action appears to have been yet taken towards settling the surveyed *nisf-khiráj* estates on the south bank.

385. As already stated, no ten-year settlements of *nisf-khiráj* estates in the districts of Kámrup and Lakhimpur have yet been effected. These estates were settled in the year under report for one year only. In no other districts were any such estates settled for one year.

Survey of *la-khiraj* and *nisf-khiraj* holdings in Kámrap.

386. The following statement shows the progress of the survey of *la-khiraj* and *nisf-khiraj* estates in Kámrap:—

1		2		3		4		5	
Total number of estates in the district.		Number and area of estates surveyed up to 31st March 1880.		Number and area of estates surveyed in 1880-81.		Total number and area of estates surveyed up to 31st March 1881.		Number and estimated area of estates remaining to be surveyed.	
Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.
<i>Nisf-khiraj</i> 1,528 ^a	208,546	639	54,785·48	483	41,287·29	1,122	96,072·77	406	107,473·23
<i>La-khiraj</i> 35 ^a	29,375	26	11,817·77	1	8,314·63	27	19,632·40	8	9,742·60
Total .. 1,563	232,921	665	66,103·25†	484	49,601·92	1,149	115,705·17	414	117,215·83

^a Number of estates is liable to alteration after completion of survey.
 † Revised figures.

From the above, it will be seen that 484 estates, covering an area of 49,601·92 acres, were surveyed during the year. In the previous year 175 estates only, with an area of 21,206·97 acres, were surveyed.

The work has hitherto progressed very slowly. The Chief Commissioner has authorised the Extra-Assistant-Commissioner in charge of the survey to enlarge the number of amins to 20, if good men can be found early in the season, so that he may be able to complete the survey work by the end of the calendar year 1882, and the whole settlement by the 31st March 1883.

Out of the total number of estates surveyed, 639 *nisf-khiraj* estates, as shown in column 2 of the foregoing statement, are ready for ten-year settlement, and, as already stated, orders have been issued for effecting the settlement during the present year. The estates shown in column 3 will be ready for settlement as soon as the tabulation of areas has been completed.

387. It has already been stated that in the district of Lakhimpur only 21 holdings on the south bank of the Brahmaputra remained to be surveyed at the close of the year 1879-80. Of these, 16 holdings were completely surveyed during the year under report. The survey of the remaining 5, the Deputy-Commissioner says, will be completed as soon as possible.

388. The following table shows the comparative area and revenue of the different descriptions of lands brought under assessment up to the close of the last two

Changes in cultivation in Assam Proper.

years at full and half rates. It does not include waste land grants or lands held by tea-planters on ten-year leases at favourable rates:—

	Basti. Acres.	Rupit. Acres.	Faringhati. Acres.	Total. Acres.	Revenue. Rs.
1879-80	105,388	712,898	600,590	1,418,876	2,471,526
1880-81	110,075	737,214	613,114	1,460,403	2,556,676
Increase ...	4,687	24,316	12,524	41,527	85,150
Percentage of increase	4.25	3.30	2.04	2.92	3.44

There has thus been an increase of 41,527 acres, or 2.92 per cent., in the area under settlement, and an increase of Rs. 85,150, or 3.44 per cent., in the revenue assessed. Unlike the previous year, the percentage of increase in 1880-81 was largest in *basti* or homestead land. *Faringhati* land is now assessed as *basti* and *rupit* as soon as it is used for home-stead or cultivation. Formerly, the rule was to wait for three years before re-classifying and re-assessing the lands so used.

II.—SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

SECTION I.—SALT.

389. Cachar is the only district in which any revenue is derived from this source. The particulars of the salt-wells in this district were given in paragraph 279 of the Report for 1878-79. As reported last year, there is at present only one salt-well in use, which yields a revenue of Rs. 88 per annum. The water of the well is not boiled down into salt, but is sold to the neighbours for use in cooking.

SECTION 2.—EXCISE.

390. The various systems under which the excise revenue in this Province is administered were described in the Administration Reports for the years 1877-78 and 1878-79. The following changes were made during the year under report:—

- (1) The experimental introduction of the auction system for the sale of licenses for the retail vend of imported liquors in some of the districts.

- (2) The system hitherto in vogue of issuing separate licenses for the vend of *chandru* and *madat* was discontinued, and these monopolies are now sold along with the licenses for the retail vend of opium.
- (3) The license-fee for the wholesale vend of imported spirits and fermented liquors was increased from Rs. 16 to Rs. 50 per annum.

A Commissioner of Revenue for the Assam Valley Districts was appointed during the year. Till then the Commissioner of Excise had exercised the powers and authority of a Commissioner of Revenue as defined in the Bengal Excise Act 1878, for the control and direction of the officers having charge of the excise revenue in all the districts of this Province, but from the date of the appointment of a Commissioner of Revenue for the Assam Valley Districts the Commissioner of Excise ceased to exercise such powers in the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley.

The total demand of the year was Rs. 19,47,636, inclusive of an arrear demand of Rs. 1,755. Of the current demand of Rs. 19,45,881 the sum of Rs. 1,20,733 was realised in advance in 1879-80, and Rs. 18,23,414 was collected during the year under report, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,734, of which Rs. 994 has been collected since the close of the year, and Rs. 50 remitted as irrecoverable. This loss was due to the neglect of a District Officer in not taking security from a country-spirit vendor for the due fulfilment of the conditions of his license, as required by the rules. Of the arrear demand of Rs. 1,755, Rs. 1,079 was collected during the year and Rs. 577 has since been recovered, as also a sum of Rs. 1,32,449, as advance for the current year; thus the total collection of the year under report amounted to Rs. 19,56,942.

Of the total demand of the year, Rs. 19,45,881, opium and its preparations yielded Rs. 16,33,619, or 83.95 per cent.; *ganja* Rs. 1,75,947, or 9.04 per cent.; country spirits Rs. 1,13,091, or 5.81 per cent.; imported wines Rs. 8,518, or .44 per cent.; rum, Rs. 11,643, or .60 per cent.; *pachwāi* Rs. 1,824, or .10 per cent.; *tāri* Rs. 375, or .02 per cent.; and Rs. 864, or .04 per cent., was realised under the heading "Miscellaneous."

The marginal table shows the revenue derived from all sources for each year since the formation of the Chief Commissionership. The increase of revenue during the year under report over that of the preceding year was Rs. 1,29,727, and over that for 1874-75 Rs. 5,65,268. In 1879-80 there was a falling off of Rs. 51,241, as compared with 1878-79, owing to the excessive competition for the opium *mahāls* in the year 1878-79; but it would appear from the figures of the year under report that these *mahāls* have not only reached the revenue obtained in 1878-79, but have surpassed it by Rs. 78,486.

	Rs.
1874-75	13,80,613
1875-76	14,12,216
1876-77	14,23,603
1877-78	15,86,834
1878-79	18,67,395
1879-80	18,16,154
1880-81	19,45,881

The following table analyses the total demand of the excise revenue obtained from the different sources in each district of this Province:—

District.	Country spirits.	Rum.	Imported wines.	Tári.	Pachwal.	Ganja.	Opium and its preparations.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Cachar.....	29,900	197	1,784	....	1,200	32,580	43,156	256	1,09,023
Sylhet.....	23,067	1,243	2,172	....	624	1,01,503	42,305	184	1,71,098
Goálpára.....	2,706	....	409	....	....	15,935	45,569	19	64,638
Kámrúp.....	7,726	37	379	23	....	12,145	1,68,486	14	1,78,810
Darrang.....	5,786	....	736	....	....	5,255	2,66,797	39	2,78,613
Nowgong.....	4,081	95	890	....	....	1,328	2,79,326	....	2,85,720
Sibságar.....	33,158	5,468	700	....	....	3,585	4,30,122	52	4,73,065
Lakhimpur.....	5,967	4,507	1,150	352	....	2,707	3,58,408	61	3,73,142
Khási Hills.....	....	....	800	....	....	762	5,986	239	7,287
Nága ".....	240	....	....	....	....	....	3,305	....	3,545
Gáro ".....	470	96	48	....	....	147	159	....	920
Total.....	1,13,091	11,843	8,518	375	1,824	1,75,917	16,33,619	864	19,45,881

From the above it will be seen that Sibságar occupies the foremost place in the collection of revenue from opium and its preparations, Sylhet from *ganja*, and Cachar from country spirits. Comparing the above figures with the population according to the last Census, the incidence of excise taxation per head appears to be as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Cachar.....	0	4	10
Sylhet.....	0	1	4
Goálpára.....	0	2	3
Kámrúp.....	0	4	5
Darrang.....	1	0	5
Nowgong.....	0	14	9
Sibságar.....	1	4	8
Lakhimpur.....	2	2	8
Khási Hills.....	0	0	8
Nága ".....	0	0	7
Gáro ".....	0	0	1½

The high rate of incidence in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibságar, Darrang, and Nowgong is mainly due to the large consumption of opium by the Assamese population of those districts. The high rate in Cachar is due to the large proportion of foreigners (tea-coolies) in that district. Cachar, with a population of 356,705 souls, paid for country spirits and *pachwái* Rs. 31,100, against Rs. 23,691 in the adjoining district of Sylhet, which has a population of 1,973,000.

The charges of the department, inclusive of the cost of carrying opium, amounted during the year to Rs. 15,242, against Rs. 15,858 in the preceding year, or a decrease of Rs. 616. There are separate excise establishments only in Cachar, Sylhet, Goálpára, and Kámrúp. A saving of Rs. 963 was effected in Sylhet by the abolition of the Rajnagar excise division, and the general revision of the whole district excise establishment.

The net revenue of the year, after deducting the above charges from the gross revenue, was Rs. 19,30,639, against Rs. 18,00,296 in the preceding year.

391. The receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 1,13,091, against Rs. 1,00,976 in the preceding year, giving an increase of Rs. 12,115. The decrease of revenue in 1879-80 was only temporary; the revenue in the current year has not only reached its height in 1879-80, but has surpassed it. This increase is due to improved excise administration, and to brisk competition.

The following statement shows the number of shops and the revenue derived from this head in the several districts of this Province during the years 1880-81 and 1879-80:—

	Shops.		Revenue.	
	1879-80.	1880-81.	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.
Cachar	72	72	26,800	29,900
Syihet	45	41	16,820	23,067
Goálpára	12	11	3,509	2,706
Kámrúp	27	23	5,856	7,726
Darrang	18	18	5,841	5,786
Nowgong	9	10	3,843	4,081
Sibságar	26	28	31,975	33,158
Lakshmipur	11	11	5,390	5,957
Nága Hills	2	1	198	240
Gáro "	3	3	744	470
Total	225	218	1,00,976	1,13,091

From the above it will be seen that there was an increase of revenue in all districts, with the exception of Goálpára, Darrang, and the Gáro Hills.

In Goálpára there was a decrease of Rs. 803 in revenue, as compared with the previous year. Last year the Deputy-Commissioner was directed to make enquiries whether the decrease of revenue was not really due to illicit distillation. He reported that there was no ground for suspecting the existence of such distillation, the purchasers of shops were on the alert, and illicit distillation within their farms would be to their direct disadvantage. The Deputy-Commissioner gives as his reason for the decrease that in previous years large works were carried on by the Department of Public Works, and from 2,000 to 3,000 coolies from the North-West were employed on these works. These men proved good customers, and the sale of country spirits was considerable. There are scarcely any public works being carried on now in the district of Goálpára, and the consumption is less.

The decrease in Darrang was due to the cancelment in the middle of the year of three licenses for non-payment of license-fees. One of these licenses had to be re-sold at a considerably reduced price, while the other two shops had to be closed for want of bidders.

Some tea-planters having taken objection to the establishment of country-spirit shops in the neighbourhood of their gardens, offers have been made to them to buy up the licenses on favourable terms, but these offers have hitherto been very rarely accepted. Another proposal has been made to close the existing shops in the neighbourhood of tea-gardens, and to allow the planters to take out licenses for their own

gardens at such an average rate of incidence per head of the coolies employed as will, without causing loss to the Government revenue, enable them to retain control over the consumption of liquor.

392. During the year the revenue from rum amounted to Rs. 11,643 against Rs. 2,778 in the preceding year. Of the amount of Rs. 11,643, Rs. 6,543 was realised as duty on rum manufactured in the distilleries at Dibrugarh and Golághát and Rs. 5,100 on account of license-fees. In the year 1879-80 the fees for licenses amounted only to Rs. 1,560. The number of licenses, both wholesale and retail, issued during the year was 69, against 35 in the preceding year.

The revenue derived from the sale of imported liquors is only obtained in the form of license-fees, as the liquors pay duty in Calcutta. The licenses are of four kinds: those for wholesale vend are charged with a fee of Rs. 50, for hotel retail sales Rs. 100 is charged, and for steamer sales Rs. 32. For general retail sales licenses were given at the rate of Rs. 100 each in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibságar, and the Khási Hills, and Rs. 48 in the Gáro Hills. In other districts of the Province they were put up to auction and realised a considerable increase. Under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, issued on the 6th November 1880, these licenses will be put to auction for a three years' term everywhere, except in the hill districts, beginning from the 1st April 1881.

The number of licenses of each description issued during the last two years is shown below:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.
Wholesale	40	31
Hotel retail .....	...	3
Steamer retail	2	2
General ,,	47	51
	89	87

The revenue from license-fees amounted to Rs. 8,518, against Rs. 4,043 in the preceding year, or an increase of Rs. 4,475. This increase is partly due to the enhanced rate of license-fees for the wholesale vend of imported liquors, and to the opening of the increased number of retail shops.

393. The number of licenses for the sale of *tári* issued during the year under report was 6 (the same number as in the preceding year), but the revenue increased from Rs. 101 in 1879-80 to Rs. 375 in 1880-81. At present, Kámrup and Lakhimpur are the only districts in this Province which yield a revenue under this head.

394. Under Notification No 25, dated the 19th October 1880, the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to exempt, from and after the 1st April 1881, from the operation of Section 5 of the Bengal Excise Act, 1878, the manufacture of *pachwái* for home consumption in quantities not exceeding twelve seers. As in 1879-80, licenses for the sale of *pachwái* were taken out only in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar, and the number of licenses remained the

same as in the preceding year. The revenue realised from license-fees was Rs. 1,824, against Rs. 1,956 in the preceding year.

395. The total number of shops opened for the sale of *ganja* in the several districts of this Province was 282, against 251 in the preceding year, and 299 the average of the five preceding years. The consumption of the drug has increased from 570m. 26s. 12½c. in 1879-80 to 583m. 13s. 5c. in 1880-81, giving an increase of 12m. 26s. 8½c. The revenue from the drug has risen from Rs. 1,52,618 in 1879-80 to Rs. 1,75,947 in 1880-81, as shown by the following details:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Duty on <i>ganja</i>	82,921	84,566	1,645
License-fees on <i>ganja</i>	69,697	91,381	21,684
	<u>1,52,618</u>	<u>1,75,947</u>	<u>23,329</u>

The increase of revenue is partly due to the enhanced rate of duty and partly to the higher prices obtained from the auction sale of *ganja* shops.

The proposal made to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to amend the Bengal Excise Act, VII. (B.C.) of 1878, has met with His Honour's approval, and the Amendment Act, IV. (B.C.) of 1881, has been passed during the year

The following table shows district by district the consumption of *ganja*, and the revenue derived therefrom, during the year under report and that preceding it:—

	Consumption.			Revenue.		
	1879-80.	1880-81.	Net result, plus or minus.	1879-80.	1880-81.	Net result plus or minus.
	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	87 31 1	96 38 15½	+11 7 14½	30,924	32,580	+ 1,656
Sylhet	353 35 3½	331 7 10	-22 27 9½	86,629	1,01,563	+ 14,874
Goalpara	57 13 4	59 10 6½	+ 1 87 2½	15,320	16,935	+ 615
Kamrup	37 11 4	43 24 4	+ 6 13 0	8,336	12,145	+ 3,809
Darrang	16 15 4	16 23 0	+ 0 7 12	6,123	5,255	- 868
Nowgong	1 31 0	2 37 0	+ 1 6 0	844	1,328	+ 484
Sibsagar	3 7 0	16 30 9	+13 23 9	735	3,585	+ 2,850
Lakhimpur	8 37 12	9 28 8	+ 0 30 12	2,607	2,707	+ 100
Khasi Hills	3 10 0	4 0 0	+ 0 30 0	782	762	- 20
Garo "	0 35 0	0 13 0	- 0 22 0	318	147	- 171
Total.....	570 26 12½	583 13 5	+12 26 8½	152,618	175,947	+23,329

From the above, it will be seen that there was during the year 1880-81 an increase of consumption in all the districts of this Province, with the exception of Sylhet and the Gáro Hills.

In Darrang there was an increase of 7 seers 12 chittacks in consumption, accompanied by a falling off in revenue to the amount of Rs. 868, and in the Khási Hills an increase of 30 seers in consumption, but a decrease of Rs. 20 in revenue. Regarding the decrease of consumption

in the Gáro Hills, the Deputy-Commissioner surmises that illicit *ganja*-growing is practised. As to the large decrease of consumption in Sylhet, the Deputy-Commissioner remarks that it is very doubtful whether the decrease is a real decrease in consumption.

396. From the commencement of the year 1880-81 the issue of separate licenses for the sale of *madat* and *chandu* was discontinued, and the monopolies of the retail vend of opium and its preparations are now sold in one lot.

The amount of opium sold from the treasury in 1880-81 was 1,685 m. 34 s. $6\frac{1}{8}$ c. against 1,618 m. 32 s. in the preceding year, and 1,715 m. 18 s. 1 c. the average of the preceding five years. In the year 1876-77, the last year of the fixed duty system, the sale was 1,793 m. 38 s., and in the year 1875-76 the sale was 1,874 m. 38 s., which is the highest quantity sold since the separation of Assam from Bengal. The introduction of the auction system has somewhat checked the consumption of opium, but has increased the revenue. In 1875-76 the revenue from opium and its preparations was Rs. 12,23,510, and during the year under report the revenue was Rs. 16,33,619.

The consumption of opium during the year 1880-81 increased by 67 m. 2 s. $6\frac{1}{8}$ c. over the consumption of the year 1879-80, and by 30 m. 15 s. $6\frac{1}{8}$ c. over the consumption for the year 1878-79. The rate charged by Government per seer was the same as in 1879-80, viz., Rs. 26 per seer.

The following table shows the sale of the drug in the several districts of this Province during the past two years.

District.	1879-80.			1880-81.			Increase.			Decrease.			
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	
Cachar	32	7	0	30	27	0	.....				1	20	0
Sylhet	40	24	0	37	2	$4\frac{7}{16}$	.....				3	21	$11\frac{9}{16}$
Goálpára	28	24	0	34	2	0	5	18	0				
Kám-rúp	234	17	0	139	35	0	.....				94	22	0
Darrang	275	8	0	305	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$	29	32	3				
Nowgong	179	5	0	272	16	9	93	11	$9\frac{1}{2}$				
Sibságar	463	24	0	484	0	0	20	16	0				
Lakhimpur	329	5	0	355	33	3	26	28	3				
Khási Hills	3	11	0	6	34	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	23	$2\frac{1}{2}$				
Nága „	31	27	0	18	37	0	.....				12	30	0
Gáro „	1	0	0	1	7	0	0	7	0				
	1,618	32	0	1,685	34	$6\frac{1}{8}$	67	2	$6\frac{1}{8}$				

From the above, it will be seen that there was a noticeable increase during the year 1880-81, as compared with the preceding year, in the sale of opium in the districts of Goálpára, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, Lakhimpur, and the Khási Hills, and a decrease in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Kám-rúp, and the Nága Hills. There is a heavy falling off in the sales of opium in Kám-rúp, and a corresponding increase in the adjoining district of Nowgong. In 1879-80 there was a large decrease in the

district of Nowgong to the extent of 141m. 12s., owing to the increased rate in the retail price of opium charged by the opium mahaldárs, and a corresponding expansion in the sales of Kámrup and Darrang of 72m. 30s. and 60m. 33s. respectively, as compared with the year 1878-79. The mahaldárs of Nowgong made a considerable reduction in the retail price, and the result has been a large increase of consumption in that district, and a corresponding decrease in Kámrup. The higher price charged in Kámrup induced many of the consumers in mauzas bordering on Nowgong to purchase opium from the Nowgong shops.

The decrease in Sylhet is probably due to the low price of rice, which left the cultivators, who are the chief consuming class, with but little spare cash for luxuries.

The abnormally high increase of consumption of opium in the Nága Hills in the year 1879-80 was probably due to the military expeditions conducted in those hills in that year, the sepoys, and especially the camp-followers, being consumers of the drug.

With regard to the increase of consumption in Lakhimpur, the Deputy-Commissioner says that it is partly due to the prosperous condition of the people and partly to an increase in the number of consumers among the foreign population.

The following table shows the total revenue obtained during the year 1879-80 and 1880-81 from opium and its preparations, such as *madat* and *chandu*, in the several districts of this Province:—

District.	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	42,231	43,156	925	.....
Sylhet	42,553	42,305	.....	248
Goálpára	42,697	45,569	2,872	.....
Kámrup	2,48,710	1,58,486	.....	90,224
Darrang	2,61,488	2,66,797	5,309	.....
Nowgong	1,85,121	2,79,326	94,205	.....
Sibságar	4,13,059	4,30,122	17,063	.....
Lakhimpur	3,11,402	3,58,408	47,006	.....
Khási Hills	3,591	5,986	2,395	.....
Nága „	1,830	3,305	1,475	.....
Gáro „	279	159	.....	120
Total	15,52,961	16,33,619	80,658	.....

From the above, it will be seen that the revenue during the year amounted to Rs. 16,33,619, against Rs. 15,52,961 in the preceding year, giving an increase of Rs. 80,658. The revenue obtained during the year was the highest amount ever obtained from this source.

In all the districts of this Province there was an increase of revenue with the exception of Sylhet, Kámrúp, and the Gáro Hills.

397. During the year under report there were prosecutions under the Excise Laws in all the plains districts, and in the hills districts of the Khási Hills. Out of 349 persons arrested, 310, or 88 per cent., were convicted, against 302 persons arrested during the year 1879-80, of whom 237, or 78 per cent., were convicted. The percentage of convictions was more favourable during the year than in 1879-80.

Of the 310 persons convicted during the year, 4 were imprisoned, 2 in Kámrúp and 2 in the Khási Hills, and the rest were fined in the sum of Rs. 9,192, against 15 persons imprisoned and Rs. 5,387 fines imposed in 1879-80. Of the amount of fines imposed, Rs. 8,472, or 92 per cent., was realised during the year, and of this Rs. 4,908 were distributed as rewards to informers and apprehenders. A sum of Rs. 26 was distributed as a reward under the special order of the Chief Commissioner. The results of the prosecutions indicate that the police have been more vigilant than formerly in detecting offences against the Excise Laws during the year under report.

SECTION 3.—STAMPS.

398. The most noticeable feature in the stamp revenue of Assam during the year of report is the falling off, to the extent of 5·8 per cent., in the receipts in Sylhet. This district, which, roughly speaking, contains about one-half the population of the entire Province, yielded Rs. 20,055 less as stamp revenue than it yielded in the year preceding. The apparent causes of this falling off will be treated of hereafter.

On the whole, the Province shows an increase of Rs. 3,276, the figures for 1879-80 and 1880-81 being, respectively, Rs. 6,10,343 and Rs. 6,13,619. Figures are marginally given for the past seven years. The slow but steady increase noticed in last year's report continues. The falling off in 1876-77 was due, as the comparative smallness of the increase is now, to a decrease in Sylhet. That year is described in the report as an abnormal one, and the number of deeds of sale executed in Sylhet is stated to have decreased.

	Rs.
1874-75	4,74,622
1875-76	5,06,115
1876-77	4,87,322
1877-78	5,48,178
1878-79	5,84,571
1879-80	6,10,343
1880-81	6,13,619

The subjoined table shows the gross receipts of stamp revenue of each district during the past two years :—

District.	Total revenue under the Indian Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act.				
	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.	Percentage of increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Cachar	56,555	60,849	4,294	.....	7.5
Sylhet	3,45,699	3,25,644	.....	20,055	.....
Goálpára	30,492	35,107	4,615	.....	15.1
Kámrúp.....	54,551	59,034	4,483	.....	8.2
Darrang	25,779	26,148	369	.....	1.4
Nowgong	27,545	29,608	2,063	.....	7.4
Sibságar.....	38,903	45,812	6,909	.....	17.7
Lakhimpur	25,395	26,510	1,115	.....	4.3
Nága Hills.....	1,715	101	.....	1,614	.....
Khási ".....	3,122	4,294	1,172	.....	37.5
Gáro ".....	587	512	.....	75	.....
Total.....	6,10,343	6,13,619	3,276	.....	.....

399. As in former years, and as is only to be expected from the extent of its population, Sylhet contributed more than half the revenue. The hill districts continue to yield but nominal results, natives of these districts not being compelled to use stamps. Taking the population of the Province as ascertained by the Census of 1872, the incidence per head of stamp revenue, excluding the hill tracts, is 2 annas 6 pie. The Census of 1881 shows (approximately) a population of 4,537,000, excluding the hill districts, on which the incidence is 2 annas 2 pie. Four of the plains districts in the Assam Valley,—Kámrúp, Goálpára, Darrang, and Nowgong,—which are very similarly situated as regards the character and pursuits of their inhabitants, show very similar results as regards their stamp revenue, the incidence varying only from 1 anna 3 pie in Goálpára to 1 anna 10 pie in Darrang and Nowgong, while in Kámrúp it is 1 anna 8 pie. The tea district of Sibságar gives the increased incidence of 2 annas 6 pie, and this mounts in Lakhimpur, which is comparatively still more occupied by planters, to 3 annas 6 pie, while in Cachar, which probably manufactures about one-fourth of the tea exported from India, the incidence is 4 annas and 9 pie. The flourishing district of Sylhet bears an incidence of 3 annas, although its tea manufacture is not very extensive. These figures follow closely what might, from a knowledge of the economy of the several districts, have been *à priori* expected.

The pressure of this taxation on the class that actually pays it cannot, however, be gathered from these figures. The greater part of the burden falls on those who are well able to afford it, as the higher *ad valorem* court-fees affect only the owners of comparatively large estates,

or people who have extensive business dealings. The poorer classes are hardly affected at all, or, at all events, not to any unjust or vexatious extent.

400. The large decrease in the revenue of Sylhet adverted to in the opening paragraph is ascribed by the District Officer to the great fall in the price of food-grains, owing to good harvests in the district and low prices in the neighbouring districts of Bengal. This same cause is given for the decrease of registration work in Sylhet and Cachar, and no doubt it is the true one. The main produce of Sylhet being rice, it follows that when the price of rice is very low there is no money in the market for investment on the part of purchasers; on the other hand, the owners of land, being well off, are not compelled to sell: hence all such transactions as the sale, mortgage, &c., of land, cease. The people will not sell, but hold on their stocks for a rise, and, in fact, almost all trade comes to a standstill.

There is a considerable increase in Sibságar, which is attributed, by the Deputy-Commissioner to the fact of one of his Assistants having pointed out to the ryots the advantage of having their *pattas* in their own names instead of in the names of former holders, since deceased. This caused a large number of mutations to be applied for, and in the whole Assam Valley the number of mutations rose from 2,000 in 1879-80 to 6,000. A large number of stamps was also used for agreements with time-expired labourers on tea-gardens. All the other districts, except the Nága and the Gáro Hills, show a fair increase.

401. The following table shows the gross revenue of the Province from the sale of the different kinds of stamps used under the Indian Stamp Act during the year under report. For the sake of comparison, the sales of the six preceding years are also exhibited in the statement. Duty and penalties levied under Sections 34 and 37 of the Act (total for the Province, Rs. 2,834) are omitted from this table:—

Year.	Non-judicial or docu-	Adhesive re-	Hundi or bill	Total.
	ment stamps.	ceipt, &c.	of exchange.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1874-75	1,31,752	3,541	1,469	1,36,762
1875-76	1,36,799	3,951	1,467	1,42,217
1876-77	1,29,462	4,390	1,296	1,35,148
1877-78	1,58,530	4,753	1,517	1,64,800
1878-79	1,89,292	5,164	1,402	1,95,858
1879-80	2,04,335	5,474	1,300	2,11,109
1880-81	1,89,459	6,101	1,512	1,97,072
Net results in 1880-81, as compared with 1879-80	—14,876	+627	+212	—14,037

Appended is a statement dividing the revenue district by district, including penalties and duties levied under Sections 34 and 37 of the Act:—

	Total revenue under the Indian Stamp Act 1879.			
	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	24,471	22,277	.....	2,194
Sylhet	1,29,270	1,13,983	.....	15,287
Goalpára	9,539	10,241	702	.....
Kámrúp	15,802	16,882	1,080	.....
Darrang	4,873	4,970	97	.....
Nowgong	5,675	5,422	.....	253
Sibságar	14,578	15,179	601	.....
Lakhimpur	7,987	9,097	1,110	.....
Khási Hills	1,489	1,660	171	.....
Nága "	50	54	4	.....
Gáro "	127	141	14	.....
Total.....	2,13,861	1,99,906	.....	13,955

The revenue from the sale of non-judicial or document stamps contrasts somewhat unfavourably with the receipts for 1879-80. The chief decrease was in the district of Sylhet. It amounted to Rs. 15,454. The Deputy-Commissioner ascribes it to the fall in the price of rice, as above explained, and to the fact that the pleaders and mukhtars had for the first time to renew their certificates from the beginning of the calendar year 1880, and not when the terms of their certificates expired, as had been the case before, so it happened that many of the legal practitioners had to renew their certificates twice during the year 1879-80; several mukhtars, moreover, had in that year at first purchased eight-rupee certificate stamps, not knowing that the fee had been raised by Act XVIII. of 1879, and had afterwards again to purchase ten-rupee stamps. The next largest decrease, viz., Rs. 2,344, occurred in the district of Cachar. This is attributed by the Deputy-Commissioner to the smaller demand for stamps for agreements executed in favour of tea companies by time-expired coolies.

The increase of revenue in Lakhimpur is said to be due to the increase of money transactions, and possibly to the re-engagement of time-expired coolies, to which cause it is attributed also in Sibságar. The increase in Kámrúp was chiefly due to the action of one landed proprietor, who gave a large number of leases during the year, contrary to his usual practice.

The increase or decrease of revenue in other districts is small, and calls for no special remark.

402. It appears that in the sales of these stamps there was an increase of Rs. 627, or 11 per cent. as compared with the receipts for 1879-80. The increase was spread over all the districts.

Adhesive receipts.

Hundi.

403. The revenue derived from the sale of hundi stamps is almost stationary. Lakhimpur was the only district in which there was a trifling decrease (Rs. 4).

404. The revenue under this head represents duties and penalties realised by the Civil Courts and Collectors under Sections 34 and 37 of the Indian Stamp Act, I. of 1879, on unstamped or insufficiently-stamped documents. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 2,834, against Rs. 2,752 in the preceding year. The large increase in Sibságar has more than counterbalanced the heavy decrease in Sibságar. In Goálpára the increase under head "Duty and penalty realised under Section 37 of the Stamp Act by Collector" is said to have been caused by the recovery of stamp duty from the agents of contractors on a large number of unstamped coolie agreements. As to the decrease of revenue under this head the Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar says that it is principally due to the fact that in the preceding year a large number of title-deeds and leases of waste lands were paid for.

405. The total collections from the sale of judicial or court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 4,13,713, against Rs. 3,96,482 in the preceding year, the increase of Rs. 17,231 being spread over all the districts of the Province, except Sylhet, Nága Hills, and Gáro Hills. In Sylhet, the decrease was Rs. 4,768, which is said to be mainly due to the diminished number of civil suits and to the diminution in the average values of the suits instituted, as compared with the figures of institution and valuations for 1879-80. The average values of each suit and of each appeal in 1879 were Rs. 84 and Rs. 117, as compared with Rs. 72 and Rs. 119 for 1880. The numerical falling off of suits in 1880 amounts to 814 and of appeals to 135.

The subjoined table shows the fluctuations in the several districts:—

District.	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	32,084	38,572	6,488	.....
Sylhet	2,16,429	2,11,661	.....	4,768
Goálpára	20,953	24,866	3,913	.....
Kámrúp	38,749	42,152	3,403	.....
Darrang	20,906	21,178	272	.....
Nowgong	21,870	24,186	2,316	.....
Sibságar	24,325	30,633	6,308	.....
Lakhimpur	17,408	17,413	5	.....
Nága Hills	1,665	47	.....	1,618
Khási "	1,633	2,634	1,001	.....
Gáro "	460	371	.....	89
Total.....	3,96,482	4,13,713	17,231	.....

406. The gross receipts from the sale of plain paper used for court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 8,283, against Rs. 8,152. Including this, the total stamp revenue of the Province rises to Rs. 6,21,902, against Rs. 6,18,495 in the preceding year.

407. The charges of the department amount to Rs. 16,531, exclusive of discount to the amount of Rs. 510 on the sale of plain paper, against Rs. 16,702 in 1879-80, thus showing a decrease of Rs. 171. Deducting the above charges from the gross revenue of the two years, the following net result is obtained for the Province:—

	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.
Gross revenue	6,18,495	6,21,902
Deduct charges	17,206	17,041
Net revenue.....	6,01,289	6,04,861
		6,01,289
Net increase		3,572

408. In accordance with the orders of the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, contained in the Resolution No. 299, dated the 30th April 1879, the following table is submitted, showing separately the net receipts on account of general and court-fee stamps. The net revenue from each class of stamps is shown by the apportionment to it of the total charges in proportion to the amount of revenue realised from each, so far as such charges could not be traced directly to either source of revenue:—

	General stamps. Rs.	Court-fee stamps. Rs.
Gross revenue.....	1,99,906	4,13,713
Refunds and other expenditure	8,273	8,258
Net revenue	1,91,633	4,05,455

The difference between the total net receipts shown above and those given here is owing to the inclusion in the former statement of receipts and charges on account of plain paper used for court-fee stamps.

409. The figures entered in the subjoined table represent the realisations from the sale of postage, service, and telegraph stamps during the past two years, from which it will be seen that there has been, on the whole, an increase of Rs. 8,647 over the receipts for 1879-80. The revenue from the sale of these stamps is not credited to Provincial Funds:—

	1879-80. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Postage	91,857	82,932	.....	8,925
Service	19,806	23,293	3,487	.....
Telegraph	68,546	82,631	14,085	.....
Total	1,80,209	1,88,856	17,572	8,925
Deduct.....	.....	.....	8,925	.....
Net increase.....			8,647	

The receipts from the sale of ordinary postage stamps fell from Rs. 91,857 to Rs. 82,932. This decrease is partly due to the introduction of quarter-anna post-cards, and partly to the new money-order system, under which money-orders are despatched on postal service to the payees, whereas in previous years remitters had to send counterparts of the orders at their own cost.

The sale of service stamps shows an increase of Rs. 3,487. This may be looked on as an ordinary fluctuation.

There has been an increase of Rs. 14,085, in the sale of telegraph stamps, which is partly due to the service messages despatched in connection with the Nāga Hills Expedition and partly to the opening of telegraph-offices at Dhansirimukh, Kohima, and Dimapur. The statistics supplied do not distinguish between receipts for service and those for private telegrams.

410. Sixty-four prosecutions were instituted for offences against, or arising out of, the Stamp Act during the year, against 177 in the preceding year. The following table shows the details:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.
Cachar	138	16
Sylhet	18	25
Kāmrup	2	4
Nowgong	3	10
Sibsāgar	11	6
Lakhimpur	5	3
Total.....	177	64

As in 1879 80, there were no criminal prosecutions under the Stamp Act in the districts of Goālpāra and Darrang.

Of the 25 prosecutions instituted in Sylhet, 21 were for executing documents liable to stamp duty on unstamped or insufficiently-stamped papers; 2 were against two stamp vendors for selling stamps at rates higher than the actual price, but, the charges not having been established to the satisfaction of the Magistrates trying the cases, both of them were discharged. One of these vendors was, however, dismissed. One of the remaining 2 cases was for selling stamps without a license, *i.e.*, by a person other than a licensed stamp vendor. The accused was convicted and fined Rs. 10. The other was for using a half-anna postage stamp which had already been used once before: the accused, being a servant boy, was fined Rs. 5 only. This was the only case of fraudulent re-employment of a cancelled stamp. No other case of misuse of any sort of stamps came to light during the year under review.

411. Section 54 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1879, provides that for allowance for stamps not required for use an application should be made to the Collector within six months from the date of purchase of such stamps; but instances having occurred in which this limit has operated as a serious hardship, the Government of India, in the Department of Finance and Commerce, in their Resolution No. 125, dated the 14th January 1881, have authorised the Local Governments and Administrations to allow refunds or

Changes in existing rules made during year.

renewals of spoiled or useless stamps or the re-purchase of stamps not required, provided that application for renewal or refund be made within one year from the date of purchase of the stamp, or one year from the date on which the stamp has been spoiled or rendered useless.

During the year an attempt was made to facilitate the distribution of stamps to the public by licensing postmasters to retail them. As, however, under the orders of the Government of India, such licenses can only be given subject to the same rules and restrictions as are observed in the case of ordinary licensed vendors, very few postmasters have taken licenses, and but few of those who have taken licenses have applied for stamps to sell. On the whole, however, it is not considered probable that any difficulty is felt by the public in procuring stamps, and therefore the refusal of the postmasters to take licenses is not much to be regretted.

SECTION 4.—ELEPHANTS.

412. The subjoined statement shows the current demand on account of the revenue of elephant *maháls*, inclusive of the royalty levied on captures, in each district

Demand. District.	1879-80.	1880-81.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar .....	.....	2,525	2,525	.....
Sylhet .....	.....	1,050	1,050	.....
Goálpára	2,075	200	.....	1,875
Kámrúp	500	2,418	1,918	.....
Darrang	700	10,975	10,275	.....
Nowgong	4,100	900	.....	3,200
Sibságar	3,200	4,800	1,600	.....
Lakhimpur	23,250	32,590	9,340	.....
Khási Hills.....	4,051	2,850	.....	1,201
Nága „	1,700	.....	.....	1,700
Gáro „	5,601	4,800	.....	801
Total	45,177	63,108	17,931	.....

It will be observed from the above that there was a net increase of Rs. 17,931, or 39.69 per cent., in the revenue derived from this source. The causes of the variation in each district are explained below :—

Two elephant *maháls* in North Cachar were for the first time leased during the year. The amount realised in Sylhet represents the value of the Government share in the elephants caught by the lessee of the Singla and Langai Valley elephant *mahál*, which was not worked in 1879-80. The license was granted by the Deputy-Commissioner, at the instance of the Superintendent of Kheddass. The decrease in the districts of Goálpára, Nowgong, and the Nága Hills is owing to the elephant *maháls* having been allowed the usual rest after two years' operations. The demand shown against the district of Goálpára represents royalty on captures which was leviabie after the close of 1879-80, and that shown against Nowgong represents royalty on elephants captured between the 1st April and the 30th June 1880, by

one Ratnesvar Dás, who was allowed an extension of three months' time by the Chief Commissioner, as compensation for the loss sustained by him, owing to his elephants having been taken for Government service during the Nága Hills Expedition. The increase of Rs. 23,133 in the districts of Kám-rúp, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, is due partly to the higher prices obtained at auction for the *maháls* in Darrang and Lakhimpur, and partly to the large number of captures effected in Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. In Kám-rúp two *maháls* were leased during the year for Rs. 1,578, and Rs. 900 were received on account of royalty on captures. In 1879-80 only one *mahál* was leased in this district, for Rs. 500, which was not worked, in consequence of the elephants belonging to the lessees having been hired for the Nága Hills Expedition. In Sibságar the entire demand of Rs. 4,800 represents royalty. The lessee of three out of the four *maháls* in this district which were leased for 1878-79 and 1879-80 having suffered considerable loss on account of his elephants having been taken for the Nága Hills Expedition during the hunting season, the Chief Commissioner allowed him to hold these three *maháls* from October 1880 to March 1881, and to practise *mela shikar*. The falling off in the Khási Hills is accounted for by the fact that only two *maháls* were leased during the year under review, as compared with three *maháls* in 1879-80, and one of these realised Rs. 700 less than in the preceding year. The decreased yield in the Gáro Hills is attributed to the exclusion from *mahál* No. 3 of the land owned by the Mechpára zemindárs, and to the unsuccessful hunting operations in *mahál* No. 4 during the previous year.

As noticed last year, the income from this source fluctuates much from year to year; the fluctuations being mainly due to the intervals of rest which are periodically given to each *mahál*.

413. The arrear demand on 1st April 1880 amounted to Rs. 12,185, to which a further sum of Rs. 5,725 was added during the year, thus making the corrected arrear demand on 31st March 1881 Rs. 17,910. Of the total demand, including arrears (Rs. 81,018), a sum of Rs. 68,615 was collected, Rs. 928 remitted, and Rs. 11,475 remained unrealised at the close of the year, in the districts noted on the margin. Of this, a sum of Rs. 2,300 has been realised from the four first named districts since the close of the year, and the remainder is reported to be in course of realisation. The amount due in the Gáro Hills has since been collected in full. As regards the balance outstanding in the Nága Hills district from previous year, the Political Officer explains

	Rs.
Kám-rúp	100
Darrang	1,300
Sibságar	2,400
Lakhimpur	3,500
Nága Hills	3,400
Gáro "	775
Total	11,475

that there has been a dispute between the lessee and the Superintendent of Kheddás about three elephants taken by Government, which has delayed the realisation of the revenue. No security was taken by the former Deputy-Commissioner, Mr. Damaut, and the lessee is at present without means.

SECTION 5.—LAC.

414. A sum of Rs. 68 was realized during the year on account of lac *maháls* in the districts noted on the margin, as compared with Rs. 203 received from this source in the preceding year from the districts of Nowgong and Sibságar. No lac *maháls* in any other districts of the Province were leased during the year, either inadequate bids or no bids at all having been made for them.

	Rs.
Kámráp	8
Sibságar	60
	—
	68

SECTION 6.—RUBBER.

415. In November last a separate report on Mr. Brandis's proposals for raising a revenue from rubber was submitted to the Government of India in the Home Department. In this report the Chief Commissioner expressed his concurrence with Mr. Brandis's proposal to put up the rubber *maháls* to auction sale in those parts of the Province where the article is most largely produced, but he has on several grounds dissented from the suggestion to impose a transit duty on foreign rubber imported across the border. These views have been accepted by the Government of India, and the action taken upon them will be related in next year's Report.

As reported last year, a sum of Rs. 535 was realised on account of two rubber *maháls* in the Jaintia Hills, which were leased for two years from the 1st April 1879. In the Gáro Hills, the receipts from this source amounted during the year to Rs. 1,447-8, as compared with Rs. 332 in 1879-80 and Rs. 1,783 in 1878-79.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SECTION 1.—CENSUS.

416. The Census of the Province was taken on the night of the 17th February 1881, simultaneously with that of the rest of the Indian Empire. Supervision. The officer appointed to superintend the Census operations took charge of his office in October 1880, previous to which date the work of superintending the preliminary operations was carried on in the Secretariat. Early in the year general instructions were issued to the several District Officers to obtain complete lists of all villages, to divide districts into circles and blocks, and to select the agency to be employed.

417. The areas which came under the Census operations differed widely in their conditions. First, the permanently-settled districts of Sylhet and Goalpara, with the former of which Cachar, though not permanently-settled, in a great measure corresponds as to its conditions of occupation and the *mufassal* agency available; secondly, the plains districts of Assam Proper; thirdly, the hill tracts, the Gáro, Khási and Jaintia, North Cachar, and Nága Hills, with various outlying tracts in the districts of Nowgong (Mikir *maháls*) and Kámrúp (Dewangiri, on the Bhutan frontier). Besides these, the native State of Manipur and the independent Seimships in the Khási Hills were also included in the operations of the Census. Description of area, and agency employed.

In the first-named tract, owing to the absence of regular *mufassal* revenue establishments, it was necessary to rely almost entirely on the police and rural chaukidárs. These were supplemented by all available Government officers and employés, as well as by unpaid enumerators appointed by the Deputy-Commissioner. In the second of the areas named the work was done chiefly by the mauzadárs, mandals, and gáonbúras; while in the third of the areas a synchronous enumeration was not generally attempted, and the work of counting was performed by the local authorities, with the assistance of the village headmen and paid enumerators, and in the Khási Hills by the Seims and Dollois, while in Manipur the agency used was supplied by the Durbar.

Throughout the Province tea-planters were employed to enumerate the people on their own estates.

418. By the end of December 1880, all the preliminary arrangements had been completed, every house had a number allotted to it, the districts had been divided into circles and blocks, and the different superintendents, supervisors, and enumerators had been appointed. While this work was progressing, the requisite forms were being printed in Calcutta, and were distributed to the different districts direct from the press. The preliminary entries in the Census schedules were begun immediately the supply of forms were received from Calcutta, and were completed by the end of January 1881. On the night of the 17th February the enumerators went round to each house, scored through the names of persons who were absent, and entered the names of any who were present, but had not been there at the time of the preliminary Census.

Process of enumeration.

The following heads of information were required to be recorded regarding each person:—

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 7. Mother tongue. |
| 2. Conjugal condition. | 8. Birthplace. |
| 3. Sex. | 9. Occupation. |
| 4. Age. | 10. Education. |
| 5. Religion and sect. | 11. Bodily infirmities. |
| 6. Caste (of Hindus). | |

The agency employed in the work of enumeration is given below:—

Superintendents.....	253
Supervisors.....	1,078
Enumerators	14,369

The Police, Revenue, and Educational Officers were largely employed in the work of supervision. Private schedules in English were only issued to Europeans, and in a few instances natives who knew English were allowed to supply the information regarding themselves.

419. At the close of the operations rough totals of each district were struck. These, totalled up for the whole Province, with the exception of Manipur and the Nāga Hills, give the population as follows:—

Results of enumeration.

Males	2,465,453
Females	2,349,704
Total.....	<u>4,815,157</u>

These figures, on comparison with the results of the Census of 1872, give an increase of 18·71 per cent.

The population of the State of Manipur, obtained after the close of the year, is as follows:—

Males	72,688
Females	74,657
Total.....	<u>147,345</u>

Owing to the disturbances in the Nága Hills, and the military expedition which had recently been brought to a close, the native population of the Nága Hills district was not censused. The result of the Census of the Military and Civil population in that district was—

Males	1,351
Females	29
Total.....	<u>1,380</u>

These figures are not included in the total population of the Province given above.

SECTION 2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

420. The vital statistics of the year, as exhibited in the tables appended to this Report, are calculated upon the figures of the Census of 1872, and show a registered death-rate of 13·61 per mille, against 15·25 in 1879. The recent Census, however, has ascertained the population of the districts where those statistics are rendered (that is, all except the three Hill Districts) to be about 700,000 more than it was in 1872; and the following table has accordingly been drawn out, comparing the mortality of the two years upon the basis of the figures of population as determined in February last:—

District.	Population by Census of February 1881.	Total deaths.		Ratio per mille.	
		1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Goálpára	444,689	4,647	4,540	10·45	10·21
Kámrup	644,843	8,373	3,911	12·95	6·06
Nowgong	308,889	4,487	4,287	14·52	13·87
Darrang	271,485	7,899	5,020	29·09	18·49
Sibságar	365,300	6,303	7,077	16·99	19·37
Lakhimpur	172,079	1,743	1,738	10·12	10·10
Sylhet	1,973,000	22,131	23,085	11·21	11·70
Cachar	334,326	2,261	2,008	6·79	6·00
Total	4,514,611	57,844	51,666	12·81	11·44

From this table it would appear that, so far from any improvement having been effected, there has been a retrogression in the completeness and accuracy with which statistics of deaths are recorded in the Province. Such a conclusion, however, would not be correct unless it could be shown that, while the registered mortality had decreased, the actual mortality of the two years was identical. The totals of 1879 were abnormally swelled by a very fatal and widespread epidemic of cholera, which caused much loss of life in four districts of the Assam Valley and in Sylhet. In 1880 there was no such epidemic. The registered cholera deaths of 1879 were 17,415, of which number 12,658 occurred in Goálpára, Kámrup, Darrang, and Nowgong, and 3,535 in Sylhet. In 1880 the total number of deaths due to cholera was only 2,803, and of these only 1,083 happened in the four Assam districts named and 732

in Sylhet. Excluding deaths from cholera in both years, the total registered deaths were 40,489, or 8.95 per mille in 1879, against 48,863, or 10.82 per mille, in 1880. If, therefore, it may (as is most probable) be assumed that cholera when it takes an epidemic form causes an exceptionally large mortality, and that many die of it who would not in ordinary years have fallen victims to other diseases, an improvement in death registration to the extent of nearly 2 per mille may be claimed for 1880, as compared with 1879.

421. This improvement, it is true, is but trifling; and the registration generally throughout the Province remains very unsatisfactory. Although an improvement is visible in the returns from Sibságar, Darrang, Nowgong, and especially Sylhet, where there has been a real and successful effort to bring the statistics more into accordance with facts, still it cannot be doubted that even these figures represent very inadequately the total mortality of the year. Kámruþ and Cachar are pre-eminent for their defective registration, and show probably about one-fifth of the true number of deaths that occurred.

422. Upon the whole, the year appears to have been a healthy one: the rainfall was below the average, but it fell at the most convenient seasons, and the outturn of the harvests was exceptionally large; food was therefore cheap and abundant. An unusually large proportion of the rain fell in March and April, and the temperature throughout the hot weather was comparatively low. This generally healthy character of the year, as well as the absence of severe mortality from cholera, points to a slight improvement in the registration.

423. The reform in registration generally, which it was hoped would be introduced early last year, was through various circumstances delayed. It applied only to the five upper districts of the Assam Valley, where there are no village police, and where the report of deaths had until its introduction, been made by the regular police, a body with no close acquaintance with the rural population. It consisted in utilising the agency of the village elders, or *gáonbúras*, who were supplied with printed forms, to be filled in weekly with entries of births and deaths, and transmitted to the mauzadár, who sends them to the district office. As a motive to induce the *gáonbúras*, hitherto not officially recognised as representatives of their communities, to undertake the duty of filling in and transmitting these forms correctly, they were appointed by a *parwána* signed by the District Officer, and received the privilege of exemption from the supply of contributed labour. By this means it was hoped that not only deaths (which had always been more or less imperfectly recorded), but also births (which outside the "selected areas" had not been recorded at all) would in future be registered with a progressive approximation to accuracy. But the needful forms, the printing of which had been entrusted to the American Mission Press at Sibságar, were not fully supplied till July

1880, and after they had been issued it was discovered that the instructions of the Government of India regarding the record of vital statistics required precise information as to ages at death and as to circles and villages in which deaths occurred, which the forms did not admit of. Revised instructions were therefore issued in September 1880, and Dr. Clarke, the Sanitary Commissioner, reports that the new system of returns was brought fully into operation in the Assam Valley from the beginning of 1881. It is to be hoped that the results expected from it will be realised, and that next year's Report will show some progress towards accurate registration of births and deaths in Assam.

424. In the Hill Districts, the Gáro Hills, the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and the Nága Hills, no attempt is made to register vital statistics. The Chief Commissioner thinks that in the first two districts a beginning might now be made, and the Deputy-Commissioners have been addressed accordingly.

425. Cholera was very much less fatal in 1880 than in 1879, and hardly anywhere assumed an acute or epidemic form. Only 2,808 deaths from this disease were registered during the year, against 17,415 in 1879. In the districts of Kámrup, Darrang, and Nowgong, where it had been exceptionally fatal in the previous year, the mortality from it in 1880 was trifling. In Sylhet also a similar quiescence was manifest. There were, it is true, a few sharp but isolated outbreaks in the latter half of the year at various points in the Province; and it is remarkable that, whereas in 1879 the disease was most virulent and fatal in the hot-weather months, the outbreaks which approached the epidemic character in 1880 took place in the cold season. Thus, in Nowgong there were two sharp outbreaks, at Jági and Koliabor, in November and December, which caused 330 deaths; in Sibságar there were similar outbreaks in October, November, and December, causing 412 deaths; and in Sylhet, after four months in the course of which only one death was reported, the number suddenly rose in December to 125. These sudden and localised attacks, it appears, were the only occasions on which the disease assumed a particularly virulent and fatal character. The sporadic cases which occurred throughout the year were of the ordinary type, such as are found annually in the area in which cholera is (as in Assam) endemic.

426. Small-pox was slightly more fatal during 1880 than in 1879, the number of deaths from it recorded being 2,239, against 1,418 in the previous year. The districts in which most cases occurred (in proportion to population) were Nowgong and Lakhimpur, in the former of which it prevailed with greatest severity in the period from August to December. Prevalence of small-pox at this season is, the Chief Commissioner believes, unusual, it being most commonly observed during the dry months.

427. Fevers are recorded as having been the cause of 31,272 deaths, or 50·5 per cent. of the total mortality of the year. Under this head, however, it is probable that several distinct diseases are included by the inaccurate diagnosis of

the people. Dr. DeRenzy thought that lung disease was most generally returned as fever, the attendant symptoms being mistaken for the organic cause. There can, however, be no doubt that Assam is a malarious country, and that a very large proportion of deaths is due to this cause alone. The apparent progressive increase in the number of deaths recorded from fever (higher in 1880 than in any previous year) is possibly due to improved registration, and not to any real increase in the mortality.

SECTION 3.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

428. The most important event of the year has been the general re-consideration of the law regulating immigration and the relations between employers and labourers in the tea district (Act VII. [B.C.] of 1873).

The appointment of a Commission to amend Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.)

On the 6th April 1880, the Chief Commissioner was addressed by the Chairman of the Indian Tea Districts Association (an Association formed in London of gentlemen interested in the Indian tea industry), who forwarded a Memorial addressed to the Governor-General of India in Council, praying that some measures might be taken to improve the position of the tea industry by the amendment of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873.

The Memorial, while stating in general terms the nature of the objections to the present Labour Law, did not criticise the law in detail or make many specific recommendations for its amendment. The Chief Commissioner, therefore, thought it desirable to call for the opinions of District Officers, directing them also to invite the Managers of tea-gardens in their districts to give their views on the subject. At the same time, the Memorial of the Indian Tea Districts Association was forwarded to the Government of India, with a report on the steps which had been taken by the Chief Commissioner. That Government, in reply, suggested that the general question of the promotion of immigration into Assam might be considered at the same time as the question of the amendment of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873, and proposed that a Commission should be appointed to deal with both of these questions. To this proposal, however, the Chief Commissioner demurred, thinking that to combine the consideration of the specific amendments necessary in the Immigration and Labour Law with that of the larger question of the encouragement of the settlement of agriculturists in the Province (in promoting which he doubted whether Government could legitimately or successfully take action) would delay unreasonably the introduction of the former. He therefore urged that the Commission should confine their attention to the concrete questions of the improvement of the existing law. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who had also been addressed, expressed similar views. The Government of India accordingly, on the 18th October 1880, approved and sanctioned the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the working of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873. The Commission was constituted and commenced its

sittings at Calcutta on the 20th December 1880. It consisted of the following members:—

- MR. A. MACKENZIE, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, President.
 „ W. AITCHISON, Manager of the Doloo Tea-garden, Cachar.
 „ H. F. BROWN, representing Messrs. Schöene, Kilburn, & Co.
 DR. J. G. G. GRANT, Superintendent of Emigration, Bengal.
 MR. L. HARE, Assistant-Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
 „ A. B. INGLIS, representing Messrs. Begg, Dunlop, & Co.
 „ A. WILLSON, „ „ Jardine, Skinner, & Co.

The opinions collected locally were laid before the Commission, as well as the recommendations of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and those of the Chief Commissioner, and, after successive meetings, the Commission submitted its final report, with a draft Bill embodying the amendments proposed in the law, on the 20th January 1881.

This draft Bill was laid before the Government of India by the Government of Bengal in a letter which expressed the joint views of Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Steuart Bayley, and it was decided to take up the revision of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 in the Legislative Council of the Governor-General. A Bill based generally on the lines of the draft framed by the Commission, was prepared and introduced, and was eventually passed into law as Act I. of 1882.

429. As has been shown in previous reports, the Dhubri route to the Assam Valley continues to be more popular than the boat journey from Goalundo. The proportion of immigrants using this route to the total number imported into the Valley Districts is steadily increasing. In 1877 and 1878 the proportion was 36 per cent.; in 1878-79, 40 per cent.; in 1879-80, it was 57·7 per cent. In 1880-81, 7,366 persons embarked at or marched up from Dhubri for Upper Assam, against 3,394 from Goalundo, or 68·4 per cent. of the number imported under the Act.

430. Since the close of 1880 a tramway has been opened from the river Teesta to the river Dharla, on the Kaunia-Dhubri route, which will save those who travel by it a day's march, and thus still further diminish the risks of transit. Beyond Dhubri nothing has yet been accomplished for the establishment of a more rapid and efficient steamer service. The steamer companies plying on the Brahmaputra have, however, reduced their fares very considerably for the shorter journey, and the order recently issued by the Government of Bengal, dated the 3rd March 1881, under which the emigrants will be fed by the steamer companies while on board the steamers, instead of by the contractors, will, it is expected, lead to still further reduction in the cost of the journey.

431. Continued care and attention have been paid to the sanitary arrangements on board the steamers and in depôts throughout the year. All steamers proceeding up the Brahmaputra with emigrants have been carefully inspected. The improved system of water-supply on board the steamers has been in force throughout the year, and, so far as the returns collected by the Superintendent of Emigration at Dhubri show, immigrants travelling by steamer from Dhubri have been remarkably free from illness. Of 6,974 persons

conveyed to the tea districts by steamer from Dhubri in the official year 1880-81 only 20 died, or .28 per cent., while in the previous official year, out of 6,580 persons conveyed, 39 died, or .59 per cent. The returns of immigrants shipped at Goalundo exhibit similar results. Of the 3,886 persons embarked at this place for the districts of Assam Proper and for Cachar and Sylhet during the year 1880-81, only 17 persons, or 0.43 per cent., died, as compared with 111 deaths among 4,139 persons, or 2.68 per cent., in 1879-80.

At Dhubri a good well was made during the year close to the depôts where coolies are lodged till they can be put on board the upward-bound steamers. In the official year 1880-81, out of 7,478 persons who stayed at the Dhubri depôts on their way to the tea districts, only 2 died, while in the previous year out of 8,041 persons 35 died. The quarantine and debarkation depôts throughout the Province were kept in an efficient state of repair during the year.

432. Little use was made of the land route during 1880, owing to ^{Marching by the land route in Assam Proper.} the reduction already mentioned in the fares charged by steamers. Only 392 persons marched to the tea districts from Dhubri during the official year 1880-81, as against 1,419 in 1879-80, and 3,265 in 1878-79. Four persons died on the way in 1880-81 against 3 in 1879-80. The Superintendent of Emigration at Dhubri reports that the form of waybill which has been introduced for immigrants marching works satisfactorily. The average time actually taken to reach the tea districts from Dhubri by the steamer and land routes respectively is shown in the accompanying statement:—

	Kámrúp. Days.	Darrang. Days.	Nowgong. Days.	Sibságar. Days.	Lakhimpur. Days.
Route taken by land	9	14	18	21	...
" " steamer ...	3	5	5	8	11

The immigrants who travel by land are said to arrive in a much better condition, and to be able to begin hard work sooner, than those who travel by steamer, so that the increased time spent on the land journey is not wholly a loss to the employer. But with the diminution of the cost of the journey by steamers, and the improvement in the health of the immigrants travelling by them, the land route is not likely to be much resorted to.

433. The question of returns to be furnished by employers is a subject which has not ceased to occupy the attention of the Chief Commissioner. Registers were prepared early in the year, and were circulated to a few employers of labour, who had consented to try the new system of nominal-rolls referred to at paragraph 13 of last year's Immigration Report. The registers were made as simple as possible, consistently with supplying all the information required by the Government of India. It was found that for this purpose no less than four nominal-roll registers, each containing 11 or 12 columns, would have to be maintained, viz., one for Act-VII. coolies, one for non-Act adults, one for children, and one for infants, and it was proposed to keep the first two of these separately for men and women. Four supplementary registers, for registering births, deaths, imprisonments, and desertions, were also proposed, as it was

thought that in practice they would much facilitate the preparation of the monthly reports which under the new system each manager would be required to furnish. The initial labour of entering the names of all the persons on a large estate was found to be very great, and deterred some employers, who had consented to try the system experimentally, from carrying it out completely.

434. A table is annexed, showing the number of gardens which employ Act-VII. labourers, and of those which employ no such labourers, and the number of gardens of each of these classes which have been visited by inspecting officers once, twice, and thrice, respectively:—

Name of district.	Number of existing tea-gardens.						Number of tea-gardens visited once only in the year.						Number of tea-gardens visited twice in the year.						
	Tea-gardens employing Act-VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers.			Tea-gardens not employing Act-VII. labourers.			Tea-gardens employing Act-VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers.			Tea-gardens not employing Act-VII. labourers.			Tea-gardens employing Act-VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers.			Tea-gardens not employing Act-VII. labourers.			
	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879	1880	1879
Sylhet	50	43	41	42	91	85	25	30	4	8	29	38	13	4	1	..	..	14	4
Cachar	100	129	84	52	184	181	84	82	29	23	113	105	11	21	2	..	2	13	23
Kāmrup	8	8	96	96	104	104	8	6	..	..	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	64	63	60	60	124	123	3	8	..	..	3	8	60	48	..	..	..	60	48
Nowgong	33	30	44	101	77	131	30	7	..	..	30	7	3	15	..	..	3	15	..
Sibsagar	147	143	117	73	264*	216	102	106	20	33	122	139	37	27	1	7	88	34	3
Lakhimpur	130	135	81	65	211	200	94	89	26	14	120	103	15	26	1	1	16	27	27
Total	532	551	523	489	1,055	1,040	346	328	79	78	423	406	139	141	5	10	144	151	..

Name of district.	Number of tea-gardens visited thrice in the year.						Number of tea-gardens not visited during the year.					
	Tea-gardens employing Act-VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers.			Tea-gardens not employing Act-VII. labourers.			Tea-gardens employing Act-VII. labourers, either exclusive of, or together with, other labourers.			Tea-gardens not employing Act-VII. labourers.		
	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.
Sylhet	2	7	..	..	2	7	10	2	36	34	46	36
Cachar	2	3	1	..	3	3	3	23	52	27	55	59
Kāmrup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	96	96	96	98
Darrang .....	..	4	..	..	..	4	1	3	60	60	61	163
Nowgong .....	..	6	..	..	..	6	..	2	44	101	44	93
Sibsagar	3	10	..	1	3	11	5	..	96	32	101	32
Lakhimpur	5	1	..	..	5	1	16	19	54	60	70	69
Total	12	31	1	1	13	35	32	51	438	400	472	451

* Includes 12 coolie depôts.

It will be seen that the number of gardens employing Act-VII. coolies has decreased; there are now 532 such gardens, compared with 551 last year. 346 of this class of gardens were visited once, 139 twice, and 12 three times, as against 328, 141, and 31 respectively in 1879, or a total of 660 visits paid in 1880 to 703 visits paid in 1879.

523 gardens not employing Act-VII. coolies existed in 1880, against 489 in 1879. Of these, 79 were visited once, 5 twice, and 1 three times, against 78, 10, and 1 in 1879. There were thus 92 visits paid to these gardens in 1880, against 101 paid in 1879.

The large decrease in the number of gardens in Nowgong and the large increase in the number in Sibságar, as shown in the above statement, is due to a re-classification of gardens, and to the fact that out-gardens have been treated as one with, or distinct from, the parent garden, according as convenience has dictated. It is not due to a corresponding decrease or increase in the area occupied by the tea industry in these districts.

The number of gardens employing Act-VII. labourers which have remained unvisited in Cachar has fallen from 23 last year to 3 this year. In Sylhet there were 10 gardens of this class unvisited, but there has been no exceptionally high mortality on any gardens in that district.

The absence on leave of the special Inspector for Upper Assam, Dr. Partridge, during half the year, has made it difficult to arrange for the inspection of all the gardens employing Act-VII. labourers in Lakhimpur and Sibságar; nevertheless, while 19 gardens remained unvisited in Upper Assam in 1879, there were only 22 unvisited in 1880.

435. The falling off in the number of imported coolies of all classes which was noticed in 1879 is again a feature of the year under report. The decrease has been principally among Act-VII. coolies, and among children and infants. The importations of non-Act adults do not show so great a decrease, but the children and infants accompanying their parents are less than half the number of 1879. A statement is given below, which shows the importations under each class for the last four years:—

Statistics of importation.

	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.
Act-VII. { Garden-sirdars	7,414	11,161	19,972	14,382
Act-VII. { Contractors	3,381	4,458	7,390	8,286
Non-Act { Adults	2,046	2,667	4,827	3,095
Non-Act { Children	2,229	4,541	8,299	4,760
Non-Act { Infants.....	843	1,885	2,573	1,374
Total.....	15,913	24,712	43,061	31,897

The largest importations during this period occurred in 1878, and since then the numbers have rapidly decreased. The importations of 1879 were only 57 per cent. of those of 1878, and the importations of 1880 are only 64 per cent. of those of 1879. The importations of 1880 are only 36 per cent. of those of 1878.

436. The principal reasons alleged for this decrease are the depression of the tea industry, which has induced managers to reduce their establishments to the lowest possible point, the increased cost of imported labour, and the unwillingness of the coolies to emigrate, owing to the good harvests in the recruiting districts. Besides these causes, it is probable that the demand for tea-coolies was much relaxed, as, when no increase is being made in the area cultivated with tea, the number who sufficed for working the gardens last year should be sufficient this year also; and it must be remembered that the work done by permanently-engaged coolies is to a certain, and perhaps an increasing, extent supplemented by local labour. The disproportionate falling off in the number of children and infants imported may perhaps be explained by the hypothesis that the scarcity which occasioned an abnormal emigration in 1878 stimulated whole families to abandon their homes, and that in years of prosperity a smaller proportion of labourers bring their families with them.

The quality of the labourers imported may be assumed to have been satisfactory, as no complaints on this score, which had formerly been not uncommon, were made during the year.

Statistics of the labour force in the Province.

437. The following table shows the changes which have taken place in the tea-garden population of the Province during the year:—

Number remaining at end of 1879	184,825
Add new importations	15,913
Transfers from other gardens	6,905
Otherwise added	50,146
Total	257,789
Deduct deaths.....	6,657
Desertions	5,142
Otherwise	58,690
	<hr/>
	70,489
	<hr/>
Balance at end of 1880	187,300

This shows an increase during the year of only 2,475.

438. The number of desertions of adults has fallen from 5,885 in 1879 to 4,550 in 1880, showing a decrease of 1,335, or 22·5 per cent. For Act-VII. coolies, the percentage of desertions to annual strength is 4·14 in 1880, as compared with 6·20 in 1879; for non-Act coolies it is 3·48 in 1880 to 3·82 in 1879. The improvement under both classes is satisfactory, although the decrease under Act labourers is no doubt principally due to the smaller number imported, since desertions are naturally most numerous among newly-introduced coolies, who suffer most from the effects of climate and home-sickness.

Every class of Act-VII. coolies shows an improvement in respect of desertions, an improvement which is more particularly marked in the case of those from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar. Among non-Act coolies there is no very material change as compared

with 1879; unlike last year, the Bengalis this year show a higher percentage of desertions than the Chota Nagpuris, both among the Act-VII. and non-Act coolies. The order in which the three principal nationalities stand this year in respect of the proportionate number of desertions is, first North-Western Provinces coolies, next Bengalis, and lastly Chota Nagpuris. As is always the case, the proportion of desertion is much smaller among women than among men.

439. There were in 1880, 6,657 deaths amongst all classes of persons employed on tea-gardens, including infants and children, as compared with 9,450 in 1879, or a decrease of 2,793, or 29·5 per cent. There is a very marked improvement in health, the percentage of mortality for 1880 being 3·52 and that for 1879 5·09.

Mortality.

The improvement in the health of the imported labourers has been general in all districts, and is not confined to a few districts only. It is more particularly marked in Nowgong, where the percentage has fallen from 9·08 to 5·07, and in Darrang, where it has fallen from 8·36 to 4·81.

440. If adults alone be considered, it appears that in the present year there were 2,398 deaths among Act-VII. coolies, against 3,759 last year, and that the percentages according to annual strength for these years are 5·88 and 7·86 respectively. Among non-Act coolies there were in 1880, 2,012 deaths, and in 1879, 2,936; the percentages are respectively 2·45 and 3·86. Taking all adults together, there were 4,410 deaths in 1880, against 6,695 in 1879, or 3·58 and 5·03 per cent. respectively. There is thus a great improvement in the health of both Act-VII. and non-Act adults; and the improvement is greater in the former class, where it was most needed. The recorded rate of mortality among tea-coolies is now no greater than the rate at which it is estimated that the population of India generally die under normal circumstances, or 35 per mille.

Mortality among adults.

Cholera and dysentery account for nearly half the deaths among Act-VII. coolies, but these diseases have been less fatal among non-Act coolies.

441. The great improvement in the health of the labouring population shown by the returns of 1880 (which, as already noticed, is the year of least mortality since 1877) is due mainly to the absence of any severe epidemics of cholera or fever, but partly also to the smaller proportion of newly-introduced coolies and partly to improvements effected in the sanitation of tea estates, more especially in the water-supply. Reduced prices, which enabled the labourers to obtain food more cheaply than in previous years, and the greater attention which has of late been given to the dieting of newly-imported coolies, who are most apt to suffer from a sudden change of food, have both no doubt contributed to this satisfactory result; but as the vital statistics of the general population show a similar falling off in the mortality, it must be admitted that the healthiness of the year was not largely due to any causes affecting the immigrant population alone.

Reasons for improved mortality.

442. The tale of gardens which show an annual mortality exceeding 7·0 per cent. has somewhat diminished this year, except in Sibságar and Lakhimpur.
Unhealthy gardens.
443. There are no such gardens in Sylhet and Kámrup. In Cachar there were four such gardens last year, and this year there are two. Of the four unhealthy gardens of last year none re-appear in the list for the present year.
Sylhet, Cachar, and Kámrip.
444. In Darrang there were eight gardens the annual mortality in which exceeded 7·0 per cent. Three of these re-appear in the list for the present year, and seven other gardens, which were not exceptionally unhealthy last year, have a mortality exceeding 7·0 per cent. this year. Such a statement is, however, in a manner misleading, as the mortality on some of these gardens during 1880 was not really severe, except on four or at most five gardens, and in the other cases the high percentage is due to a few deaths occurring among a small garden population.
Darrang.
445. In Nowgong there were three gardens with a mortality exceeding 7·0 per cent. last year, and only one of these gardens shows such a high mortality this year. There are, however, four other gardens with a high percentage of mortality in 1880. In regard to two of these gardens, the high percentage is due to a small number of deaths among a small garden population, and in only two is the mortality at all severe.
Nowgong.
446. In the district of Sibságar there were nine gardens with a mortality exceeding 7·0 per cent. in 1880. Only one of these was reported as specially unhealthy in 1879.
Sibságar.
447. In the Lakhimpur district there were twenty-two gardens with a mortality exceeding 7·0 per cent. in 1880, of which one only was reported as especially unhealthy in 1879.
Lakhimpur.
448. There has been a considerable increase in the recorded birth-rate, as compared with 1879. The birth-rate calculated on the total immigrant population is still low, *viz.*, 31·3 per mille, whereas, after making all allowances for the excess of males, it should probably be as much as 45 per mille, or nearly 50 per cent. larger than it is recorded to be. The deficiency may possibly be due in part to imperfect registration, and orders will again be issued directing special attention to the subject for the future.
Recorded birth-rate.
449. Forty-one new gardens were opened during the year, and 11 old ones were closed, making a net increase of 30 gardens. These figures, collected from the district reports, are unaccompanied by any explanations. A statement is given below, showing the new gardens opened and old gardens closed, district by district. The largest number of new gardens opened has been in Sibságar, while the largest decrease is in Nowgong :—
Opening new gardens.

District.	New gardens opened in 1880.	Old gardens closed in 1880.	Remarks.
Sylhet.....	6	...	
Cachar	3	2	
Kámrúp .....	...	...
Darrang	4	2	
Nowgong .....	...	7	Two old gardens abandoned and works of five gardens stopped.
Sibságar	22	...	
Lakhimpur	6	...	
Total	41	11	

450. Only the offences of labourers on contract under Act VII. of 1873 (B.C.) are reported. The statement below shows, district by district, the number of Act-VII. labourers judicially punished, and the offences of which they were guilty:—

District.	Desertion.	Rioting.	Theft.	Assault.	Culpable homicide.	Counterfeiting coin.	House trespass.	Unlawful assembly.	Causing hurt.	Other offences.	Total.
Sylhet	18	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cachar	20	...	1	5	...	...	2	5	...	2	35
Kámrúp .....	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	29
Darrang	25	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	29
Nowgong	16	2	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	31
Sibságar	29	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	35
Lakhimpur .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	128	2	20	11	...	...	2	7	1	7	178

It will be seen that only 178 judicial punishments were inflicted on Act-VII. labourers in the whole Province during the year 1880, and out of these punishments 128 were for desertion. Considering that the annual mean strength was 40,950, this is a very small table of offences.

451. The following table shows the area of land taken up by time-expired immigrant labourers in the several districts of this Province during the last three years, so far as it can be ascertained. The figures now given for the year 1879 do not agree exactly with those given for that year in the last Report. According to the present estimate, 2,658 acres were taken up for cultivation in 1879, and according to last year's Report 2,457 acres were taken up. It is impossible to obtain precise information on this subject in all districts, and for the district of Sylhet no information has been furnished at all:—

District.	1880. Acres.	1879. Acres.	Remarks.
Sylhet .....	.....	.....	Information not available.
Cachar	1,467	1,033	
Kámrúp	56	.....
Darrang	1,254	756	
Nowgong	77	37	
Sibságar	990	832	
Lakhimpur	739-86	.....
Total	4,583-86	2,658	

The amount of land taken up in 1880 by time-expired labourers was 4,583·86 acres, as compared with 2,658 acres in 1879—a very large advance, which shows an increase in the tendency on the part of time-expired labourers to settle down in this Province.

452. Continued attention has been paid to the subject of improving the sanitary condition of tea-gardens, and especially to the supply of pure drinking-water. Sanitary improvements and dicting. A modified system of rationing newly-arrived coolies has been tried in some gardens in Sibságar with satisfactory results. The power which the new Act gives Inspectors to enforce a system of rationing in the case of newly-arrived coolies, where the necessity for such a course is established, will probably be productive of much benefit. Under the former law it was difficult for a manager, even should he desire it, to carry out such a system successfully, opposed as it generally is to the wishes of the labourers. The new legislation will much strengthen the hands of managers in this respect. Rationing will probably always be unpopular with coolies, but it will enable many newly-imported immigrants to maintain their health during the first few months after their arrival, and it will form an incentive to the coolie to put himself into a position of independence of such assistance.

453. The District Officers' reports show that the tea-labouring population is in a satisfactory and steadily improving condition. Conclusion. If importations have diminished in number they have improved in quality, and the labouring force has not only been maintained at its former strength, but has even slightly increased; desertions have largely decreased; the health of the labourers has much improved; the rate of mortality has fallen very considerably; and the recorded birth-rate has increased. Very few offences are recorded as having been committed by Act-VII. labourers, and more land than in former years has been taken up for cultivation in the Province by time-expired labourers. Owing to the continued depression of the tea industry, there have been but few new gardens opened out, but at the same time but few old gardens have been closed, and, on the whole, the tea industry is maintaining its ground.

SECTION 4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

454. There were 23 dispensaries in the Province at the end of 1880, two (at Karimganj and Habiganj, in Sylhet) Dispensaries. Number of patients. having been opened towards the close of the year. The total number of patients treated was 44,428, against 37,197 in the previous year, an increase of 7,231, or, excluding the two newly-opened, 6,496. The increase is entirely under out-door patients, those treated in the dispensaries having fallen from 3,083 to 2,665. This decrease is mainly attributable to the diminished importation of tea-coolies, who in most dispensaries form the bulk of the in-door patients. Thus, at Silchar (the largest dispensary in the Province) there were only 532 in-door patients in 1880, against 963 in 1879; nearly all in both years were immigrants. The increase in the total number of patients

treated is satisfactory. It is curious to note that dispensary treatment appears to be more popular with Muhammadans than with Hindus. In the two districts, Sylhet and Cachar, where the two religions are nearly equally represented, 9,649 of the former were treated, against 7,950 of latter. In the rest of the Province the Musalman population is insignificant, yet 5,537 persons of this religion attended the dispensaries, against 17,665 Hindus. The Chief Commissioner is glad to see a total of 3,223 "other classes" treated, against 2,521 in the previous year; these, it is presumed, are nearly all Hill people,—Gáros, Khásias, Nágas, &c.

455. In last year's Report the small proportion of women and children among the patients in the dispensaries was noticed, and it was observed that an increase in the ratio would be gratifying, as an indication of growing confidence on the part of the people in the value of the treatment. In 1879 women were 16·42 and children 9·90 per cent. of the average daily attendance. In 1880, women are only 15, and children 9·64 per cent. Except in tea-districts, where the coolie population supply the great bulk of the patients, the proportion of these classes to the whole continues very small.

456. The diseases treated were generally of much the same character as in the previous year; cholera, however, is represented by only 90, against 281 cases in 1879. Fevers, notwithstanding the greater number of registered deaths from this cause shown in the mortuary returns, were fewer than in 1879 (8,380, against 8,792). The lower temperature of the year produced a larger number of cases of rheumatic affections (2,092 against 1,432), diseases of respiration (1,643 against 97), and phthisis (41 against 23). Under dysentery and diarrhœa the numbers vary little. Under goitre there is a considerable increase (1,352 against 1,150); although this disease is believed to be most prevalent in the regions which lie to the north of the Brahmaputra and under the Himalayas, the patients who come to the dispensaries to be cured of it belong almost exclusively to the Nowgong and Sibságar districts, which together yield 1,043 out of the total number of cases.

457. The number of major operations performed was 93 only, against 98 last year. Of minor operations there were 1,522, against 1,293. Mr. Elliott shares the regret expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner at the small number of the former, and hopes that future reports will show more successful results.

458. The total income of the dispensaries is returned at Rs. 33,547-1-4, made up as follows :—

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Government contribution—						
Salaries	7,551	5	10			
Forms and registers	146	4	6			
European medicines	2,708	8	8			
Diet of police cases	27	11	8			
Special grants	1,952	7	8			
				12,386	64	

	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Brought forward		12,386 6 4
Local or Municipal Funds		9,507 0 2
Interest		55 7 1
Subscriptions—		
European	6,586 8 0	
Native	5,011 11 9	
	11,598 3 9	
Grand Total		33,547 1 4

It is observed that while the subscriptions from Natives have risen from Rs. 4,964 to Rs. 5,011, those from Europeans have fallen from Rs. 7,227 to Rs. 6,586.

The expenditure was Rs. 30,224-4-5, made up thus:—

	Rs. As. P.
Establishment	15,541 15 2
Bazar medicines	1,262 6 3
European medicines	2,693 4 0
Diet	6,320 5 3
Miscellaneous	2,687 9 3
Buildings and repairs	1,618 13 6
Invested	100 0 0
Total	30,224 4 5

There was therefore a surplus during the year of Rs. 3,322-12-11, which, added to the initial surplus of Rs. 4,783-5-2, shows the dispensaries to have ended the year with a balance of Rs. 8,116-2-1.

The average cost of each diet is stated to have been only 2 annas $7\frac{1}{2}$ pie: in some dispensaries, notably Sibsagar (1 anna 2 pie), Lakhimpur (1 anna $2\frac{1}{2}$ pie), Goalpara (1 anna $9\frac{1}{4}$ pie), and Dhubri (1 anna 11 pie), it fell far below this.

459. The Sanitary Commissioner suggests that when funds are available separate accommodation might be provided where the better class of people might be treated on payment. This plan was originally introduced in the North-Western Provinces by Sir William Muir, and it is believed that it has been found to be fairly successful there. An arrangement of this nature, though still somewhat rudimentary, has been started at Sunámganj, in Sylhet. The trial of the experiment will be encouraged, in a tentative and inexpensive way, wherever it is likely to succeed, and the suggestion will be commended to the attention of Dispensary Committees.

460. The number of visits of inspection to branch dispensaries paid by Civil Surgeons is very slightly greater in 1880 than in 1879; only one dispensary (North Lakhimpur, very remote from head-quarters, where the Civil Surgeon is also Military Surgeon) remained entirely unvisited during the year, while last year there were two (North Lakhimpur and Sunámganj).

The Chief Commissioner has suggested, for the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner, whether the limited use to which dispensaries are

put by the natives of this Province may not be partly due to want of skill of the Hospital-Assistants by whom the dispensaries are generally managed, and whether in some cases it might not be feasible to employ Assistant-Surgeons, and has expressed his willingness to increase the contribution from Provincial Funds wherever there is ground to hope that a commensurate advantage will be reaped by the suffering population of the Province. He has also suggested that some of the private medical practitioners of the Province, if they are found to be men of any skill, might be assisted by Government, with medicines or in other ways, due precautions being taken to prevent waste or misappropriation.

SECTION 5.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

461. The only Lunatic Asylum in the Province is that at Tezpur.

There were at the end of 1879, 44 lunatics in this Asylum. During 1880 22 lunatics were admitted, of whom 2 were re-admissions; 12 lunatics were discharged and 7 died. The average population of the Asylum was 45·85. At the end of the year there were 11 male and 4 female criminal lunatics only. Of the lunatics in the asylum at the close of 1880 22 were natives of Assam, 18 were coolies who had been imported from other Provinces, and 6 were free immigrants.

462. There were 33 admissions to hospital, against 89 of the previous year. The daily average of sick was 1·23, against 6·23 and 4·30 of the two previous years. Under

Health. the chief headings of sickness there were also fewer admissions, viz., fevers 7, dysentery 1, diarrhœa 2: and this low sick-rate compares most favourably with former years. But, although the sick-rate was low, the death-rate was comparatively high, viz., 15·26 per cent. of total daily average population, and this exceeded either 1878 or 1879, though it was not so high as 1876 or 1877. The explanation offered by the Superintendent is—

“The reversed position taken up in 1880 by the figures of admissions to hospital and deaths as compared with 1879 is not that in one year more than another greater care was shown in the selection of those fit for hospital, but it is to a great extent due to the fact that of seven weakly subjects who increased the sick list for 1879, five of these, viz., 4 males and 1 female, died during the year under review, and that whilst these chronic cases increased the sick list for 1879 they swelled the death-rate for 1880.”

463. The total cost of the Asylum was Rs. 6,874-6-3, against the total cost, Rs. 6,776-9-10½, of 1879. The cost

Cost. of diet was Rs. 53-11-1 per head, against Rs. 60-8-8 in 1879. Provisions were cheaper during the past year, and there has been, in consequence, a decrease of Rs. 6-13-7 in the average cost per head of dieting; but under the head of clothing, bazar medicines, and contingencies, there has been a slightly increased expenditure. The total cost per head of population was Rs. 143-9-6.

464. It has been under consideration to abandon the present site of the Asylum, and to transfer the patients to a ward about to be vacated in the jail. It has, however, now been decided that it would not be advisable to enclose the lunatics within the solid and gloomy walls of the jail buildings, and that the present situation is far more suitable for this class of patients. The site is high, and the place bright and airy. The dormitories are well planned, with dry floors and plenty of ventilation above. The hedge encircling the enclosure has been completed, and the drainage is good. The Asylum, therefore, will not be moved from its present position.

465. The lunatics were employed, as in former years, on gardening and basket-weaving, which are very suitable employments. The women only are found difficult to manage in this respect, as they cannot be induced to spin, and further efforts will be made to teach them this easy art.

Site of the Asylum.

Employment of the lunatics.

SECTION 6.—SANITATION.

466. At Shillong a valuable improvement has been effected in the water-supply of the military lines and Maokhár, and a scheme for supplying the rest of the station through pipes, in substitution for the present open channel, has been approved, and the plan is under consideration. Steps have been taken at Goálpára to improve the sanitary condition of the place. At Dhubri the chief sanitary work was the construction of an excellent well at the coolie depôt. At Gauháti there is great scope for the expenditure of money in reclaiming the unwholesome tanks with which the place abounds, and on a better system of drainage. An extensive project for the drainage and reclamation of the swamps at the back of the town, which lie outside the municipal limits, is now being carried out by the Public Works Department. Neither at Nowgong nor at Tezpur is there any system of municipal government; the assignment made to the stations from Provincial funds is the sole source of the improvements which have been effected. The Deputy-Commissioners have been directed to consider whether, as at Sibságar, the Municipal Act might not with advantage be introduced, and these places constituted "stations" under it. In Sibságar the Station Committee has been overburdened with the task of keeping up the embankment which protects the town from the overflow of the river Dikhu, and which that river has been busily employed in undermining; but of this care they have now been relieved, and will thus be able to devote more attention to conservancy proper. The towns of Jorhát and Golághát, in this district, have recently been made "unions" under the Municipal Act. In Dibrugarh the expenditure of the year was chiefly on roads. In Sylhet a well-planned system of drainage has been carried out by the committee, and something has been done to improve the water-supply by appropriating and clearing some of the tanks with which the town area abounds; this, however, is an expensive process, and the work proceeds but slowly. At Silchar a fair proportion of the income was

Sanitary improvements in towns.

spent upon drainage, and the town is upon the whole well-drained; the tanks which yield the water-supply, however, here also require to be cleaned and deepened. Special attention has been called to the importance of the proper disposal of the dead and the necessity of insisting on proper cremation for Hindus and of burial in judiciously-selected graveyards for Muhammadans and Christians.

467. It was noticed in last year's Report that continued attention was being paid to improvements in the water-supply and dietary of tea-plantations. The Sanitary Commissioner bears testimony from his own inspection of many gardens in the Province to the careful attention now generally paid to these subjects by managers of tea-plantations and to the attendant improvement in the health of the labourers. This improvement will, it is hoped, be continued and permanent.

SECTION 7.—VACCINATION.

468. The number of primary vaccinations alleged to have been performed during the year 1880-81 was 24,163, of which 13,215 were performed by seventeen paid vaccinators, 2,283 by Civil Surgeons, Hospital-Assistants, and compounders, and 8,665 by 58 ex-inoculators. There has thus been a decrease of no less than 10,366 primary operations. The falling off is confined to four districts, viz., the Gáro Hills, less by 9,046; Kám-rúp, less by 5,855; Goálpára, less by 542; and Sylhet, less by 349. In all other districts there has been an increase in the number of cases, and in Darrang (increase 2,200) and Lakhimpur (increase 1,224) very creditable progress.

469. The reduction in the total number in the first two districts mentioned is apparently due in the case of Gáro Hills to the omission of all statistics of the work performed by the ex-inoculators; in Kám-rúp it is accounted for partly by the same cause, no statistics having been given of the work done by 36 ex-inoculators, and partly by the greater concentration of the activity of the department, the operators whose work is recorded (all but one of whom are ex-inoculators) having been confined to an area within reach of inspection from the sadr station. The falling off in Goálpára is not explained, nor is that in Sylhet; in the latter district, however, bad lymph is complained of as the cause of failure in a large proportion of the operations performed, and the same cause may have led to diminished activity in operating. At the same time, Dr. Clarke, the Sanitary Commissioner, gives reasons for believing that much of the want of success ascribed in Sylhet to bad lymph was really due to carelessness and want of skill in performing the operation; for a vaccinator entertained at a private dispensary near Karianganj (where bad lymph is said to have been supplied) used lymph obtained from the Government vaccinator at that place with considerable success.

In last year's Report the evil done to the cause of vaccination by the employment of ignorant persons as vaccinators without any inspection or control was pointed out. It was shown that their returns were entirely untrustworthy, that their work could not be supervised, and that the distrust in the benefits of vaccination caused by their proceedings much outweighed the possible advantage which might result from a few successful cases here and there. There is, therefore, no reason to regret that the returns are not artificially swelled by the addition of the thousands of more or less fictitious cases reported by ex-inoculators, and it may be hoped that the great majority of the operations reported this year were really performed. All the vaccinations referred to above were primary vaccinations, only 12 re-vaccinations having been effected, none of which were successful.

470. The proportion of success is 87·61 per cent., against 92·75 per cent. in 1879-80. The latter figure, however, is quite untrustworthy, while some confidence may be placed in the former. The work of the vaccinators was inspected more or less in every district except Goálpára. In Goálpára the illness of the late Civil Surgeon, and his duties as medical officer in charge of the emigration depôts, prevented him from leaving the station on inspection.

471. The year shows a considerable amount of good work done; the limitation of the operations to defined areas where they can be kept under proper control, and the frequent inspection of the work carried out by the majority of District Medical Officers, are important steps in advance; the further utilisation of Hospital-Assistants throughout the Province as vaccinators, the encouragement of vaccination by Native Doctors employed on tea-gardens, where European medical supervision is frequently available to check the character of the work done, and the extension of the Vaccination Act to municipalities throughout the Province, are measures of progress which should be steadily kept in view. The last-mentioned improvement is, however, one which can only be attained with the consent of the people, which, through their representatives, must be given before the Act is extended to any municipality.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

See Chapter III., Section 3, of Part II.A. of Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76.

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

472. The expenditure on education in Assam has risen from Rs. 2,64,910 last year to Rs. 2,87,410 in 1880-81; of this, the State provided Rs. 1,90,849 (or 66·4 per cent.) against Rs. 1,74,448 in 1879-80; and the public contributed Rs. 96,561 (or 33·6 per cent.) against Rs. 90,462 in 1879-80. Of the State contribution, Rs. 59,678 proceeded from the local rate, imposed for the first time during the current year; this was 21 per cent. of the amount produced by the rate; the rest was Provincial. In 1871-72, the total expenditure on this department was Rs. 1,40,398, and the State contribution was Rs. 95,275. Both the total and the State expenditure have more than doubled during the last ten years.

473. The contribution of the public consists of fees paid by the scholars or their parents, fines, interest on endowments, and voluntary subscriptions. The following table compares the different heads of receipt in the two last years:—

	1879-80.	1880-81.
	Rs.	Rs.
Fees and fines	43,815	48,976
Endowments	6,637	3,925
Subscriptions .....	.....	13,208
Municipal grants	170	250
Other sources	39,840	30,202
Total.....	90,462	96,561

This table is imperfect, because the large amount shown under "Subscriptions" in 1880-81 was in the previous year lumped with "Other sources." It represents almost entirely the contribution of the missionary bodies, chiefly towards the education of the hill tribes.

The increase in fees is a satisfactory evidence of the value placed on education as shown by the willingness to pay for it.

474. The following table shows the distribution of the expenditure over the different classes of schools for the last two years, as well as the budget grant for the year under report:—

1	1879-80.			1880-81.			8	9
	Average number of boys.	Expenditure.	Cost per head.	Average number of boys.	Expenditure.	Cost per head.			Budget grant, 1880-81.	Expenditure from State funds.
		Rs.	Rs. As. P.		Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs.
Inspection		44,039			45,459		46,000	45,459
High Schools	1,311	41,165	31 6 4	1,663	44,237	26 7 7	43,000	23,464
Middle English	2,015	26,838	13 5 1	2,232	28,610	12 13 1	28,000	9,305
" Vernacular	2,681	26,581	9 14 8	2,879	26,894	9 6 5		12,988
Primary	25,048	85,046	3 6 4	29,225	90,264	3 1 5	57,500	55,159
Normal and Special	371	23,604	63 3 11	349	16,685	47 12 11	12,000	12,156
Scholarships		10,963			19,555		23,500	19,186
Building		2,647			7,736		10,000	5,266
Miscellaneous		4,027			7,970			7,867
Total		2,64,910			2,87,410		2,20,000	1,90,849

There is a slight difference in the mode of preparing the accounts, part of the charges for repairs and miscellaneous and the cost of stipends to the pupils at normal schools being debited in 1879-80 to the head of the class of the schools under which they occurred, while in 1880-81 they have been debited to the respective heads of "Buildings," "Miscellaneous," and "Scholarships." But, making allowance for this, the tables show a decided reduction in the cost of instruction per head in all the classes of schools, the numbers under tuition having increased in greater proportion than the cost of instruction. With regard to the expenditure on buildings, it should be explained that the cost here shown includes only the minor repairs done to, or rent paid for, the houses in which the middle and lower schools are located, not those buildings which are borne on the list of the Public Works Department, as is the case with all, or almost all, the high schools.

475. The number of schools and scholars shows a very satisfactory result as compared with last year:—

	1879-80.		1880-81.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
High.....	10	1,351	11	1,930
Secondary { Middle English	32	2,431	32	2,463
{ Vernacular ...	53	2,989	51	3,199
Primary { Boys.....	1,028	27,635	1,115	31,555
{ Girls.....	63	1,072	66	1,136
Special.....	14	413	12	388
Total ...	1,200	35,89	1,287	40,671

The advance is most perceptible in the number of scholars at the high and at the primary schools. Every district shows an increase in the number of scholars; but in the Cachar, Goálpára, and Sibságar districts there has been a slight diminution in the number of schools. There is now a school to every 23 square miles in the two valleys, and to every 28½ square miles, including the hill districts, in the Province; but only .84 per cent., or less than one in a hundred of the population, is under instruction. The number of boys of a school-going age may be estimated at 800,000, so the country will not be fully educated till the schools contain more than twenty times their present numbers. And, if this ideal seems unattainable, it should be remember-

Year.	Number of scholars in primary schools.
1871-73.....	4,395
1869-81.....	33,691

ed that there are now nearly eight times as many pupils in primary schools as there were nine years ago. In Assam, as elsewhere in

India, our education is least popular among the Muhammadans, but even among them it is making progress. The number of Muhammadan boys in our schools is 5,498 (the total population may perhaps be estimated at 1½ millions), against 4,783 in the previous year: 277 of these are pupils in the high schools, against 164 in 1879-80.

476. There is a Government high school in each of the eight Valley districts and at Shillong; also one aided and one unaided school of the same class. The number of scholars on the rolls of the Government high schools at the close of the year was 1,582, against 1,225 at the close of 1879-80: this increase took place mainly in the months of January to March 1880, being due, in Mr. Willson's opinion, to the encouragement afforded to the classes desirous of education by the extreme leniency of the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University in December 1880; whereas the examiners had passed 41 per cent. of the candidates from all India in 1878 and 40 per cent. in 1879, they passed 61 per cent. in 1880, and of the Assam candidates, 46 in number, 34, or 74 per cent., were successful. Higher education instantly waxed largely in popularity. The Sylhet High School won itself especial credit in this competition: it sent up fourteen candidates, all of whom passed, and one of them was first of all the contingent from Assam. Ten junior scholarships, in value Rs. 15 and Rs. 10 a month, are given yearly to boys belonging to these schools to enable them to carry on their university course at one or other of the Bengal colleges: of the ten, eight have gone to Calcutta, one to Dacca, and one to Kishnagar. These scholarships are tenable for two years.

477. The high school which is most favourably reported on is that at Sylhet, where the Inspector gives great praise to "the careful and efficient manner in which the Head-master manages the school." Out of the 46 boys sent up to the Entrance Examination by the Province, 14 were sent from this school, and all passed. Next after Sylhet comes Dibrugarh, where the roll number has doubled in three years, and more than three-quarters of the cost of the school (Rs. 3,804, out of Rs. 4,844) is paid from the fees of the scholars. The Tezpur school suffered from changes of

masters, and the Sibságar one from being burnt out of its house and uncomfortably lodged till its new building was ready. Gauháti, Dhubri, and Silchar have all done well. The only school of which nothing good can be said is that at Shillong, which is, relatively to the number of its pupils, far the most expensive in the Province, and has the worst average attendance. This school has since been reduced to a middle class English school.

478. The number of middle English schools has remained unaltered, and the number of scholars has increased from 2,431 to 2,463. The average attendance in these schools has much improved. Of the 32 schools of this class 14 sent up 25 candidates for the Minor Scholarship Examination; of these 16 passed and 10 received scholarships in value Rs. 5 each, the object of which is to enable them to prosecute their studies at the high schools.

479. In last year's report the propriety of the rule under which English instruction is given at these schools through the medium of the Bengali language was discussed. That great educational authority, Sir William Muir, was the first to enforce the principle that it is idle to teach a foreign language like English in English; the medium of instruction should be the vernacular of the student. This principle, when once adopted, was perfectly applicable to Sylhet, Cachar, and Goálpára, where Bengali is spoken; but it has not yet been enforced in the Assam Valley Proper, where Bengali is not much less foreign than English itself, and the scholars are obliged to encounter a double difficulty in having to learn Bengali first, in order to acquire English. On the other hand, it is alleged that Assamese teachers of English can hardly be found, and that there are no school-books in Assamese and English through which English can be taught to Assamese-speaking boys. This difficulty, however, is susceptible of an easy remedy, as a sufficient reward is pretty sure to secure the compilation of the required literature. Mr. Elliott hopes that some well-matured project may shortly be proposed by the Inspector of Schools to meet the difficulty.

480. The middle vernacular schools are 51 in number, of which 18 are supported by Government alone, 30 are aided, and 3 unaided. There were 53 in 1879-80, of which two expired in the Goálpára district, one on the death of the zemindár who supported it, the other through the dissensions of its managers. A third school in this district, at Goálpára itself, has decreased in numbers, and this may have been partly due to the malarious epidemic which prevailed there. In spite of these casualties, the total number of pupils on the rolls of these schools has increased from 2,989 to 3,199. Of the 51 schools, 34 sent up candidates for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination, in which also 17 middle English schools competed. Altogether, 121 candidates appeared, 66 passed, and 23 obtained scholarships. The value of these scholarships is Rs. 4 a month, and they are tenable for four years at any high school.

481. The number of primary schools inspected by Government officers has risen from 1,091 to 1,181; of these, 1,088 are aided and 93 unaided. The number of scholars on the rolls was 28,707 in 1879-80, and is 32,691 now. The average attendance was 77 per cent. of the average number on the rolls in 1879-80, and 75 per cent. in 1880-81. Of the boys, about half are able to read and write and understand easy sentences in their mother tongue, and the rest are beginners. Among the girls 225 are in the former class and 1,307 in the latter. Sixty-six of the schools are girls' schools with 1,136 scholars, and, besides these, 396 girls attend boys' schools. More than half these girls are inhabitants of the Khási Hills, and it is not surprising that in that district, where the independence of women, and in some respects their superiority to men, is most established, female education should be most popular: elsewhere it is but a sickly exotic.

482. The indigenous, *i.e.*, the unaided and uninspected, schools of the Province are of two kinds. Those properly so called, which are the natural outgrowth of the habits and traditions of the people, are schools in which the instruction is principally religious, imparted orally and by rote, and which are known as *tols* and *maktabs*. The Sanscrit sacred books are taught to Brahman boys and the Koran to Musalmans. Schools of this kind are, however, rare in this Province, and are probably not increasing in numbers. 287 such schools in Sylhet and 11 in Sibságar are known to be in existence; the aggregate attendance is not recorded. There are probably some schools of this class in other districts which have not been registered, and it is undoubtedly difficult to obtain accurate statistics regarding them. Thus, Mr. Johnson, in his Administration Report on Sylhet, estimates that there are 350 unaided inspected schools in his district, which probably are of the same class as the 287 schools mentioned above. It is found impossible to induce the teachers of these schools to use the Government text-books or to conform to the Government course of instruction, and an attempt has been made this year to encourage a more practical kind of secular education among them by offering to give grants at certain rates for every pupil who comes up to certain fixed standards in reading and writing his own vernacular and in simple arithmetic. Only eight schools have as yet received grants under these rules; but, wherever such schools are found, it is desirable that the system of payment by results should be offered to their acceptance.

483. The other class of indigenous schools are the direct product of our administration. Their genesis is thus described by Mr. Willson, the Inspector of Schools:—

“This class of schools is started by pupils from middle-class schools and from the first class of *páthshalas*, the course of instruction adopted being the same as that taught in the aided schools. The guru, as soon as he collects a fair number of pupils, applies to the Deputy-Inspector for Government aid, which is usually given if the school shows fair promise of success, and is situated in a locality remote from existing aided schools. If timely aid be not given, the school usually closes

within a few months. These unaided schools can scarcely be said to be indigenous, as they are started for the sole purpose of obtaining Government aid."

How effectually the system has worked is shown by a comparison between the figures of 1871-72 and those of the year under report. There were then 204 primary schools and there are now 1,241, and the number of scholars has risen, as already shown, from 4,395 to 33,978. There are now 46 schools of this description in Sylhet, all recently started (mostly by boys who, having passed through the primary or middle-class schools, have set up as teachers), and all applicants for Government assistance at the next distribution of the grant-in-aid.

484. There has been a decrease since last year in the number of primary schools in Cachar, Goalpara, and Lakhimpur, and an increase in all other districts; the decrease seems to have arisen in all these cases from a mistaken impression that financial difficulties necessitated the closing of schools, but the contraction appears to have been unnecessary, and ought not to occur again. The number of scholars has increased in every district, except Lakhimpur, where it has fallen off only by 13.

485. Examinations are held every year in reading and writing the vernacular, geography, arithmetic, and simple mensuration. To these examinations 494 schools sent up 1,187 candidates, of whom 657 passed; only 103 scholarships were allotted to the best amongst the successful candidates. The value of these scholarships is Rs. 3, and they are tenable for two years at any school of a higher grade. A certain number of these scholarships is allotted to each district, and the District Committee distribute these to the successful candidates, with the stipulation that not more than one scholarship should be given away to any one school. The rest who passed received pass certificates, and the Inspector reports that it was the hope of obtaining these certificates that caused so great and brisk an increase in the number of candidates, which in the previous year had been only 827.

486. Mention was made last year of the system of education among the Khámptis in Lakhimpur, who are Buddhists by religion, and are said to receive from the "Bápus," or monks, the same kind of universal instruction as is given in Burmah by the Phoongyees of the monasteries, through which all the youth of the country pass in their turn. On this subject, Mr. McWilliam, the Deputy-Commissioner, writes as follows:—

"Very little is known of the state of the Khámpti and Phakial *páthás*. Instruction is given in the Khámpti language, and is understood to be principally of a religious nature. The boys are taught to multiply and divide numbers, and to read and write the Khámpti character. The instruction is given by Bápus, who are Buddhist monks from the Bor Khámpti country. Their attendance, however, is not regular, and most of the schools are closed at times for months together. When the Deputy-Inspector visited the temple and school at Ineu in January there was no Bápu there, but at the end of February I found it in a flourishing condition, with two or three Bápus. A little higher up the Dehing there is another Phakial settlement, where an Assamese from Jaipur has a school of twenty boys. This school will receive a grant-in-aid immediately. It is worthy of remark that the Bápu in the village near Jaipur is a Burmese from Burmah."

In the Government schools there were 28 Khámpti boys in 1879-80, but none in 1880-81.

487. The normal schools are the least satisfactory part of the working of the department. There are nine of these schools, six Government and three aided, and the number on the rolls was 293, against 324 in the previous year. An attempt is also being made to train teachers at ten primary schools in the Goálpára district, and 32 pupils are under tuition there. The object of these institutions is to educate teachers for the primary schools, and the course of instruction lasts for two years. A large number of the pupils receive allowances from Government, but the returns do not show how many. Stipends are given to all actual village teachers who may be induced to come to the normal schools for professional training, also to young men of the same class who may wish to qualify themselves as village teachers. A certain number of stipends is also allotted to students in the higher normal schools, who are qualifying and may engage to become teachers in middle-class vernacular schools. The amount of the stipends thus paid in 1880-81 was Rs. 4,748. But, in spite of the encouragement thus given, the results were very disappointing; the number who qualified for certificates was only 18, but 94 were sent out as teachers, of whom the Inspector writes:—"Though nearly all of them failed to obtain teacherships' certificates, still they were a much better educated class of men than could be had if these schools did not exist, and as the local supply of qualified teachers for primary schools is still far short of the requirements, we must accept the necessity of maintaining this class of schools for some years to come." Of this there can be no doubt, but the necessity of *improving* this class of schools is equally obvious. The ideal of the department should be that every master of a primary school should have obtained a certificate at a normal school. Supposing a schoolmaster's average tenure of office to be ten years, then, to supply 1,200 schools, there ought to be 120 teachers turned out qualified each year, instead of, as at present, 18. With the view to effect some improvement, the Chief Commissioner has proposed to the Inspector that besides the stipend, some permanent inducement should be given; and that a certificated teacher should always receive higher pay than an uncertificated one, as is the usual practice now, but not the universal rule.

488. The special schools in this Province are the Williamson Artizan School at Jorhát and the Williamson Survey Class at Sibságar. In the former there were 14 names on the rolls on the 31st March, with a daily average attendance of 12.34. It is encouraging to note that at last boys other than stipend-holders have been induced to attend. The receipts of the school were Rs. 1,092, and the expenditure Rs. 2,909, as compared with Rs. 969 and Rs. 3,518 in 1879-80 respectively. Besides the above receipts, there were also outstanding debts and articles in hand estimated at Rs. 370.

The survey class attached to the Sibságar Zila School has 69 pupils, against 64 in the previous year. This class seems to have worked well during the year, and the head-master reports that the result of the annual examination was satisfactory.

The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 582, and the receipts from fees and fines Rs. 57.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

489. During the year 1880 only 10 books were registered, against 12 in the preceding year. Of the 10 books registered, 5 were educational and 5 non-educational works, 9 were original works, and 1 was a translation.

The number of copies of educational works issued fell from 14,800 in 1879 to 4,580 in 1880, but the number of copies of non-educational works issued was 3,050, against 2,250 in 1879.

The works registered in 1880 are classified under the heads of I. Fiction, II. Religion, III. Poetry, IV. Language, V. Miscellaneous.

- I. Fiction is represented by a work entitled *Rukmini Haran*, an account of the elopement of Rukmini, and her subsequent marriage with Krishna.
- II. Religion.—This title includes two works: one is an Assamese version of the *Srīmad Bhāgavata*, and the other is an original work entitled "*Bhrānti gyāpan*" *nāmak slok sangraha*, a collection of aphorisms on the frailties of mankind.
- III. Poetry.—Under this head only one book was issued, named *Brajabadhu Kābya*, on the subject of Krishna and the milk-maids.
- IV. Language.—The books registered under this head are four, and include primers and works on Grammar. One was in Sanskrit, one in Bengali, and two in Assamese.
- V. Miscellaneous—Two books are thus described. One is a collection of forms for drawing up different kinds of documents, such as leases and bonds, &c., and the other contains an account of the miracles of Krishna in different incarnations.

Of the ten books four are in Assamese, four in Bengali, one in Sanskrit, and one in Sanskrit and Bengali.

The expenditure incurred under Section 10 of Act XXV. of 1867 in the purchase of books during the year 1880 was Rs. 7-10-3, against Rs. 8-12-3 in the preceding year.

The fees levied under Section 18 of Act XXV. of 1867, for the registration of copyright amounted to Rs. 2, against Rs. 6 in the previous year. No necessity arose for any prosecution under Section 16 of Act XXV. of 1867.

490. Only three newspapers were published in the Province during the year under review, viz., the *Srihatta Prakās* and the *Paridarsuk* at Sylhet, and the *Asām Bilāshini* at Majulipur. The *Arunoday*, a paper formerly published at Sibsāgar, has been discontinued from January 1880. The number of presses was seven, the same as in the preceding year.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

491. As reported in previous years, no ancient monuments of much interest or importance are believed to exist in this Province. A short sketch of the existing archæological remains is, however, given below:—

ARCHÆOLOGICAL REMAINS IN THE SURMA VALLEY.

A few ancient buildings of lesser importance exist in the district of SYLHET, but none have as yet been discovered in the district of CACHAR. A list of such buildings in the district of SYLHET is given below:—

- (1). Rámesvar Temple.—In mauza Dhupi, pargana Jaintiapuri-Ráj. This building was erected by Rám Singh, a former Rája of Jaintiapur, in 1719 Saka (1798 A.D.) It is in good preservation.
- (2). Bichánábári buildings.—These buildings are under ground, and were constructed by Rája Bara Gosain, of Jaintia, who reigned between the years 1653 and 1696 Saka (1674 and 1717 A.D.)
- (3). Dulmáncha.—In the above pargana and mauza. This building is outside the Rájábári walls. Rája Bara Gosain commenced building it for the Doljatra festival, but it was never completed.
- (4). Bath-house.—In the town of Sylhet, on the south bank of a large tank called Nawáb Táláb. This is a pukka building, with domes on the roof, erected in the time of the Muhammadan rulers. It is in good preservation.
- (5). Magazine.—A small tomb and mosque at Chadnighát, in the town of Sylhet. It is in good preservation.
- (6). Idgáh or Namázgáh.—In the town of Sylhet. This was erected in the time of the Muhammadan rulers as a place for holding religious services.
- (7). Sháh Jalál's Dargáh.—In the town of Sylhet. This Dargáh consists of two mosques, two entrances or gateways, one tank, and a well surrounded with pukka walls. It is said that Sháh Jalál, who was an inhabitant of Yemen, in Arabia, travelled through Hindustan on a religious mission, and in 561 Hijri came to Sylhet with 360 followers, and conquered the country from Rája Gaur Govind. He died in 591 Hijri, or about seven centuries ago, and was buried here. The mosques were erected by the Emperors of Delhi at different times, but appear to have assumed their present form about two centuries ago. The buildings are all in good repair.
- (8). Mosque at Bania Chang.—Not in good preservation.
- (9). Mosque at Brahmangráh, in the outpost Laur.
- (10). Old palace at Brahmangráh, six miles west of the outpost at Laur.
- (11). Krishnapur temple, in thána Mádhampur.—In good preservation.
- (12). Old temple at Dákha Dakhin.—Is in repair.
- (13). Basudev's math.—In pargana Panchakhanda. It is in good preservation.
- (14). Jugal Kishor's temple, in the town of Sylhet. It is in good condition.

IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY.

In the Brahmaputra Valley there are the following ancient remains:—
In the district of GOÁLPÁRA. In pargana *Huabraghat*—

- (1). Tarkeswari temple.
- (2). Temple of Dasabluja.
- (3). Ramparts.—Sidhigarh and Ráni Rája garh.

In pargana Khuntaghát—

(4). Jogirghopa.—In the hill called Jogirghopa there are six caves, which were most probably hewn out of the rock as watch-places to keep guard over the passage of boats, this being a point at which tolls are said to have been levied. But it is said that these caves (*ghopas*) were cut by hermits, and hence the place is called Jogirghopa.

(5). Bhairab.—In a hill called Bhairab cherra there is a pucca enclosure where the effigy of a deity called Bhairab, hewn in stone, is placed.

(6). Mahadeoghopa.—On Salmará Hill.

In pargana Mechpára—

(7). Temple of Mahadeo, in Goálpára.—It was erected during the lifetime of Rona Ram Chaudhuri, grandfather of the present Zamindár of Mechpára.

(8). Temple of Gauri and Siva.—On the hill "Pancharatan," which derived its name from a temple with five turrets erected on the hill, and consecrated to the above Hindu deities.

(9). A cave hewn in a huge stone and of a size capable of containing a man. This cave is in Hurka Kuchi Hill. It is not known whether this cave was made to place a watch over the traffic on the river or for some other purpose.

In pargana Parbatjour—

(10). Dhuggata is a level piece of land surrounded by walls. It is said to have been a camping ground of the Nawábs.

(11). A masonry well and a tank attached to a building (Atharokota) existing on a hill in mauza Dakhin Sukhi.—It is said that this place was a temporary residence of Rája Parikshita.

(12). A building with masonry walls without any roof, and a tank, on the top of a hill in mauza Kantbalbári. It is said to have been built by one of the ancestors of the Parbatjour Zamindárs.

In pargana Jamira—

(13). There are an Idgáh, a mosque, and a masonry hall situated in an extensive plain tract of land called "Maruha Maidan." This place was occupied by one of the Nawábs about 300 years ago.

In pargana Kalumalupára—

(14). Temple of Siva.—In the villages of Farshaturi and Charupara there are many large tanks and remains of some edifices and temples, dedicated to Siva. These were erected by Rája Bishun Dai, who probably was a Kám-rúp or Kuch Behar King.

In mauza Kasbaghilla there are two pucca buildings, erected side by side in the village Matherghur. One is said to have been the treasury room of Rája Parikshita and the other the residence of his treasurer. There are also images of Hindu idols.

Dhubri.—In the station of Dhubri there is an earthen mound, said to have been erected by Rája Mánsingh, when he came to conquer this part of the country, during the reign of the Emperor Akbar. It is said that it was erected for the purpose of watching the movements of enemies from a distance. There are also stones of different sizes with ornamental mouldings lying close to the mound. This place is stated by the Sikhs to be their *gurudoar* (a place of worship). Connected with this there is another mound, on the top of which there is a seat of a deity, and under it there are several stone rooms with masonry walls.

KÁMRÚP.—A large stone bridge in Madartola, 9 miles from Gauháti. Colonel Lamb wrote of it in 1872 as follows :—

"It is said to be the bridge spoken of by Bakhtyár Khilji in the *Ain-i-Akbari*. It consists of stone slabs, which form the platform, resting on cross beams also of stone, supported by some 60 columns of about 16 feet high of grey granite, but the ends had given way years ago. It was in a tolerably good state of preservation till the great earthquake in 1868."

SIBSÁGAR.—The fine temples at Sibságar, Jaiságar, and Gauriságar are works of art, in bad repair. The materials of which these buildings are composed are, however, tenacious enough, and, if efforts had been made to destroy the

growth of trees and creepers on these temples, they might have been preserved for ages. Now the evil has literally taken such root that it would be impossible, save perhaps by chemical means, to clear the growth out of the buildings into which it penetrates.

DARRANG.—The ruins of the temples near Tezpur, described in Mr. Hunter's "Statistical Accounts of Assam," Volume I., pages 121-124, were visited by the Chief Commissioner during his recent tour, and he is of opinion that the account given by Captain Westmacott is not very accurate. There is a temple to the north of Tezpur in good preservation, but it seems to be modern. One, to the west of Tezpur, on Oguri Parbat, lately explored by Colonel Comber and Mr. Cornish, is in ruins, and only a few stones are observable. There are two temples to the east of Tezpur; one on the Pora Parbat, an existing temple quite modern and uninteresting, which was built by Mr. Martin, an Executive-Engineer, for the owner, who is a *nisf-khirájdár*; the other, on the Bahmani Parbat (as the hill was called by the two natives who accompanied the Chief Commissioner's party), is very interesting. The ruins are of large size, and carved stones are lying about, as described in Mr. Hunter's book. It is much overgrown with jungle, and the Chief Commissioner has sanctioned Rs. 100 for the purpose of clearing the site.

No monuments have as yet been discovered in the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur.

IN THE HILL DISTRICTS.

Such monuments as exist are for the most part megalithic structures like the cromlechs, menhirs, and dolmens of Western Europe. They are chiefly sepulchral, and are found in great numbers throughout the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and in less numbers in the Nága Hills. In the Gáro Hills, no monuments of any kind have yet been reported to exist.

The following monuments are in the KHÁSI AND JAINTIA HILLS :—

- (1) Stone bridges.—Some remarkable stone bridges, built of huge rough hewn slabs of stone, exist on the road from the hills to Jaintiapur, which tradition states to have been erected about 100 years ago by the Rája of Jaintia.
- (2) Temple of Siva below Sankar.—It is said that this temple was built by one of the rulers of Assam who ruled the Jaintia Hills. Tradition is quite silent as to the age of this building. Pilgrims in great numbers from various parts of Bengal continue to visit this temple annually.

The most important archæological remains in the NÁGA HILLS are the ruins of Dimapur, which was a former capital of the Kachári Kings of Upper Assam. These ruins are described at pp. 24-26 of Major John Butler's "Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam," London, 1855, and his description is illustrated with three drawings, which are still substantially accurate. They have also been described by Major Godwin-Austen in a paper communicated to the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," some time between 1873 and 1876. In Hunter's *Gazetteer* they are only incidentally referred to (Volume II., page 394). The site of the city is now overgrown with dense jungle, and till recently (when a small bazar was started for the supply of the Nága Hills) was entirely uninhabited. There are several splendid tanks of clear water, and a walled enclosure, supposed to have been a fort. The walls of this enclosure can be distinctly traced, and must originally have been upwards of twelve feet in height by six in width. It is built of burnt brick of excellent quality throughout. The enclosure is entered by a solid brick-built gateway with some pretensions to architectural beauty; it has a Moorish arch, and the stone hinges of the door are still visible, though all traces of woodwork have vanished. Much of the wall has fallen into decay, and the bricks falling on either side form a mass of *débris*, which, being now covered with vegetable mould, resembles in many places an earthen mound. It has, however, been ascertained that the structure was originally brick throughout. The enclosure is as nearly as possible a perfect square, each side being about 800 yards in length. Two faces are further protected by a deep moat, and it is noticeable that these two are those furthest from the river: indeed, it seems probable that the builders of the structure refrained from continuing the moat on the

two faces nearest the river, lest, in the event of the river cutting into them, the moat should become a running stream, and thus undermine the foundations of the wall, which is built in a light and friable soil.

The fort was originally built with one of its angles towards the River Dhansiri, which has now encroached upon it, and cut off a considerable portion. It would seem likely that there was originally another gate at the angle of the fort, with steps leading down to the river.

Inside the fortification are three small ruined tanks, one of which has a flight of brick steps leading to where the water once was, and immediately to the back of it, a ruined mass of brick and earth, with the remains of brick steps leading up to it. This is supposed to have been either an altar or else a "*chabutara*," where the Rájás used to sit after bathing.

In addition to the above, there is a brick drain, which seems to have drawn off water from a lowlying portion of the fort and discharged it into the moat.

The most interesting relics in the fort are, however, the large monolithic pillars, one group of which, ranged in four rows of 15 each, stands not far from the gateway on the left hand, and another smaller group at a little distance from the others, on the right. Of the first group, two rows consist of mushroom-shaped pillars with rounded heads, and the other two of square pillars of a very peculiar V-shape. There are fragments between the latter of what may have been a cornice, supported on the arms of the V-shaped pillars. All are richly covered with tracery of some artistic merit.

For what purpose the round-headed pillars were erected it is impossible to say. They cannot have supported a roof, because they are of unequal heights (especially in the second and smaller groups), and the tracery with which they are covered extends over the whole head. The site has been so long deserted, and the people whose capital it once was so widely scattered, that no trustworthy traditions have survived to explain the uses of the building. There is nowhere any trace of inscriptions or written character of any kind, and the Cacharis are not known to have ever possessed such a character.

At present, with the exception of the site of the pillars, where the trees have been cut down, the whole interior of the fort is covered with dense jungle, so that when the underwood is cleared it is possible that more relics may be brought to light.

Parallel to one of the faces of the fort is an old embanked road running for about a mile, which now forms part of the Government road; and there are many fine tanks in the vicinity.

A small brick fort, enclosed in a larger mud one, is situated near the Dhansiri river about 3 miles from Dimapur; it was discovered in February 1875 by Mr. Chennell, of the Survey, but possesses no remarkable features.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

492. For ecclesiastical purposes the Province forms part of the diocese of Calcutta, and is visited by the Bishop once in every four years. One of the Bengal Chaplains has ecclesiastical charge of Lower Assam. His orders are to reside for four months in the year at Gauháti, and eight at Shillong. He visits Goálpára once, Tura once, and Dhubri four times a year. In Upper Assam there are three clergymen, who receive allowances from Government, but are not borne on the establishment of Chaplains. One of these, who is paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, superintends the operations of the Tezpur Mission, and itinerates in the districts of Nowgong and Darrang, holding services for Europeans at convenient centres. Another clergyman ministers to the Christian population in Sibságar, Názira, Amguri, and Rajmai. At Dibrugarh there is a Chaplain of the Additional Clergy Society, who visits Sadiya, Lakhimpur, Jaipur, and Tingri. There are also five American Missionaries working in the Gáro and Nága Hills, and in two of the Valley districts.

In the Surma Valley there is provision for a Planters' Chaplain, paid by the Additional Clergy Society, who itinerates among the gardens in Cachar and receives Rs. 150 a month from Government. This office was, however, filled for only a few months of the official year. Sylhet and the neighbourhood is visited four times a year by the Government Chaplain stationed at Dacca.

There are five Missionary Societies belonging to various Christian denominations prosecuting their labours in the Province. The most widely extended is that established by the American Baptists in 1832. The chief station of this Society is at Tura, in the Gáro Hills. Two Missionaries (Rev. M. C. Mason, Rev. E. G. Phillips) have charge of the local training school and printing press, and itinerate by turns throughout the hill villages. Three more American Missionaries and two American lady teachers are working at Nowgong, Sibságar, Jaipur, and in the Nága Hills district. The small mission at Gauháti is in charge of a native preacher.

The Welsh Methodists have a mission in the Khási and Jaintia Hills under the charge of 6 European and 41 Native agents. Their congregations number nearly 1,500 souls, and are rapidly increasing.

The mission at Tezpur was established by the Lutherans in 1853, and on their retirement from the Province ten years later was taken over by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The Society's Missionaries itinerate in the Kachari country on the Himalayan frontier, in the district of Darrang. According to the last S. P. G. Report, there

were 200 baptised persons in this mission, exclusive of immigrant Kols in the Balipára and neighbouring tea factories. In the mission schools there are 204 children under instruction, of whom 15 are Christians.

The only Roman Catholic Mission in the Province is a branch of that at Dacca. It is under the care of Father DeBroy, and is limited almost exclusively to the spiritual supervision of the Roman Catholic Europeans and Eurasians resident at Gauháti and the other stations in the Brahmaputra Valley.

The youngest, but by no means the least promising, of the Assam Christian Missions is that styled by the promoters the Indian Home Mission. It was established in the Guma Duár (Goálpára district) last cold season by two Norwegians, Messrs. Skrefsrud and Boerresen. In October Mr. Boerresen brought with him 25 Sonthals and commenced building the necessary sheds on the spot selected. Two months later came 42 families. Another immigration took place in February. There are now altogether composing the colony 58 families, consisting of 237 souls. Advances have been made to each family from Provincial Funds to enable them to meet their expenses, until they have reaped their crops.

The following table gives the number of Christian Clergy, churches, and congregations in the Province. The census of European and Native Christians given in the third column is taken partly from the Census of 1872 and partly from the latest reports of the Missionary Societies above specified. The accuracy of the returns for Lower Assam has been carefully tested by the Chaplain during his out-station tours:—

Denominations.	Clergy.	Churches, permanent and temporary.	Christian population.	
			European and Eurasian.	Native.
Church of England	6	10	927	389
" of Scotland .....	...	...	83‡	...
" of Rome.....	1	3	137	21
American Baptists.....	6	14	17	1,785
Welsh Methodists	6	15	19	1,489
Indian Home Mission	2	2	2	237
Total.....	21	44	1,185	3,621

The contributions for church purposes in the Assam Valley during the year 1880 were as follows:—

Stations.	Voluntary Contributions.	Government subsidy.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Shillong.....	1,484	6,192	Including the Chaplain's pay.
Gauháti	228	143	
Dhubri	116	...	
Subsidies to clergymen at Tezpur, Sibságar, and Dibrugarh.....	...	4,200	
Total.....	1,828	10,535	

‡ A Clergyman of the Scotch Church occasionally holds services in the gardens of Upper Assam and Oachar in the cold season.

493. During the year under review, one marriage was solemnised in this Province under Act III. of 1872, in which the bridegroom was of full age and the bride a minor. The parties were members of the Brahma persuasion.

Working of the Brahma Marriage Act.

SECTION 2.—STATIONERY.

494. The total value of the stationery supplied to the Assam Administration during the year under report, as compared with the figures of the preceding year, shows an increase of Rs. 5,383-13-0, of which Rs. 2,180 represent the value of water-marked papers for court-fee stamps issued to the Treasury Officers. No charge on account of these papers appears to have been included in the account for 1879-80. Excluding, therefore, this item of Rs. 2,180 from the total increase of Rs. 5,383-13-0, the net increase during the last year comes to Rs. 3,202-13-0. This increase appears to be due chiefly to the omission from the account of 1879-80 rendered by the Superintendent of Stationery of the value of stationery articles supplied to the departments noted in the margin and also to the creation of certain new offices which were supplied with stationery for the first time last year, viz., the office of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts and that of the Executive-Engineer of the Nāga Hills Division. The subjoined table shows the expenditure for stationery under the different heads of account during 1879-80 and 1880-81 :—

Medical Registration.
Commissioner of Excise and Supt. of Stamps.

Settlement Officer, Cachar.
Law and Justice.
Jails.

Department.	1879-80.		1880-81.	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Revenue	6,004	10	5,166	4
Administration	1,028	8	1,865	12
Commissioner of Excise and Stamps			220	8
Forests	176	1	454	4
Settlement			1,061	12
Law and Justice			173	12
Jail			354	4
Minor Departments	445	12	68	8
Police	265	12	705	14
Education	111	12	415	10
Registration			328	4
Medical.....			103	4
Printing	1,465	0	1,795	0
Public Works Department	1,361	0	1,348	4
Total.....	10,858	7	14,061	4

It will be seen from the above statement that the figures shown opposite "Forests," "Police," and "Education," were disproportionately low during 1879-80. The value of stationery supplied to the Police and Education Departments during 1878-79 amounted to Rs. 616 and Rs. 389, and that supplied to these two departments during 1880-81 is shown at

Rs. 706 and 416 respectively, whereas the account of 1879-80 shows that stationery to the value of Rs. 266 and Rs. 112 only was issued to these departments. Again, in the account for 1880-81, Rs. 68 have been charged against Minor Departments, whereas Rs. 446 were shown opposite that department in the account for 1879-80.

ERRATA.

In the 2nd line of paragraph 172, page 88—*For* “admitted to jail,” *read* “admitted to hospital.”

In paragraph 178, page 91, *dele* “Rs.” at head of first two columns of the statement.

Trade Tables Nos. 3 and 4, showing the Inter-Provincial Trade of Assam, are printed at the end of the rest of the Statistical Tables.

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P A R T I.

**STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL
GEOGRAPHY.**

PRINCIPAL GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY.

	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.				UNAPPROPRIATED CULTURABLE WASTE IN ACRES.				COMMUNICATIONS—MILEAGE OF					REMARKS.	
	WASTE.		Total.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at close of the year.	Navigable rivers.	Canals.	MADE ROADS.			Third-class.	Hailroads.		
	Culturable.	Unculturable.							First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.															
Burma Valley Districts { Sylhet	3,000	1,000	1,440	5,440	256,000	391	955,609	150	a The area shown in this column differs from that shown in column 5 of the previous year's return on account of removal of certain estates from the revenue roll.	
{ Cachar	470	2,481	799	3,750	1,846,675a	9,396	1,866,080	401	....	13	243	300	....	
{ Goalpara, includ- ing Eastern Districts Kamrup	880	1,757	1,250	3,897*	....	....	....	600	....	74	193	300	....	
{ Brahmaputra Valley Districts, { Darrang	894	1,486	1,231	3,631	913,864	7,003	906,861	595	....	145	62	130	....	
{ { Jowai	389	2,577	442	3,418	1,377,008	2,402	1,324,606	230	....	143	364	60	....	
{ { Nowgong	449	2,067	911	3,417†	....	....	....	169	....	116	106	....	....
{ { Sibsagar	573	2,080	192	2,855	1,345,633	8,015	1,337,618	720	....	115	368	121	....	
{ { Lakhimpur ..	168	3,365	190	3,723	2,113,155	3,209	2,109,946	940	....	119	468	312	....	
Hill Districts .....	....	....	....	3,653‡	....	....	....	156	....	37	31	....	....
{ Garo Hills	126	1,321	713	2,160	845,545	....	845,545	....	....	53	51‡	....	....
{ Khasi "	2,000	2,300	2,100	6,400§	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total	8,969	20,484	9,288	42,344	8,646,380	30,615	8,615,265	3,711	....	701	1,946¶	1,373	....	
NATIVE STATES.															
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	176	2,561	1,260	3,997	1,639,040	....	1,639,040	....	....	45	195¶	....	....
GRAND TOTAL.....	9,145	22,995	10,548	46,341	10,285,920	30,615	10,255,305	3,711	....	746	2,141	1,373	....	

a This excludes 536 square miles transferred to Rangpur and Garo Hills.
 † Represents the true area of the districts according to last survey. The figures given in the previous year's return were incorrect.
 ‡ Includes 478 square miles transferred from the district of Goalpara.
 § This area is according to the sketch map of the Naga Hills of 1877. The area shown in the previous year's return were incorrect.

A 2.—CHARACTER OF THE SURFACE.

[2] [For details of this Table, see Chapter I. of this office Administration Report for the years 1874-75 & 1875-76.]

A 3.—CLIMATE (1880).

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.
Sibsagar.....	29.56	60.39	9.11	99.06	88.8	72.6	95.0	65.8	89.8	76.9	98.3	78.5	70.6	60.1	77.4	44.3	67.1	79.4	6.40
Goalpara	26.10	80.44	7.29	118.76	86.8	72.1	93.2	68.9	87.2	77.2	92.9	73.7	70.6	64.5	76.7	49.3	3.57	6.61	2.90
Silchar	49.52	55.04	6.90	111.46	90.1	72.5	95.8	67.3	89.8	76.5	96.6	73.7	76.2	63.2	82.9	48.7	4.65	7.48	4.95
Sylhet	55.35	111.06	7.86	173.77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ganahi.....	21.62	39.21	8.64	70.07	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tespar	21.29	51.01	7.20	79.50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	16.39	50.12	3.01	69.53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dibrugarh.....	38.23	70.00	10.86	120.09	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shillong.....	30.55	73.82	2.66	96.93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bamangting*.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tura	81.01	122.11	11.82	164.44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General Average ..	30.96	71.39	7.41	109.76	88.5	72.4	96.0	66.6	88.9	76.6	95.6	73.6	72.4	62.6	79.0	46.4	4.97	7.81	4.93

* Rainfall not recorded.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1. Native States for the year 1880-81.

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.		Military force.	Transit duties or not.	Principal articles of production, including manufactures and mines.		
				Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated besides personal service	Rs. A. P.			Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
MANIPUR. (Consists of Manipal Valley Proper, and a large tract of hill country tributary to it.)	Independent but protected State: it has and exercises its own laws.	None.	Population of the valley .. 70,000 Hills .. 80,000 Total .. 150,000	Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated besides personal service { 40,000 0 0 to 50,000 0 0	Rs. A. P. 0 0 0 0 0 0	Infantry 6,348 Artillery 501 Cavalry .. 400 { Kuki irregu- } lars 700	Duties levied both on exports and imports.	Rice, dal, and vegetables of varieties, Indian rubber, ivory, wax, ponies, buffaloes, and elephants, &c.	Coarse cloths, yarns, brass, and hard ware.	Iron ore, limestone, salt, copper, &c.
KHASI HILLS. Bhowal ..	Subsidiary alliance.	Ditto.	565 ..	Market fines .. 10 0 0 Malikana on lime quarry .. 2,011 0 0 Total .. 2,021 0 0	None ..	None ..	None ..	Rice, millet, bay-leaves, black pepper, pepper nigrum.	None ..	Lime.
Cherra ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	9,311 ..	Market fines .. 7,000 0 0 Judicial fines 160 0 0 Zamindari holding in Sylhet .. 1,300 0 0 Total .. 8,450 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Cotton, millet, betel-nuts, pan, oranges, black pepper, "pepper mirran," chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey.	Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets.	Lime, iron, and coal.
Shella ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	6,032 ..	Market fines .. 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.

1. Native States for the year 1880-81.—(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.	24,425	Rs.	..	None	Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, caoutchouc, cinnamon, sophiang (a kind of esculent), betel-nut, Indian-corn, botei, oranges, lac, Hammers, Crowbars, potatoes, black pepper, pepper nigrum, "chilles, turmeric, ginger, honey.	Cotton cloth, Eriah silk cloth, Dhacos, Kodalies, Knives, Hammers, Crowbars, Wedges, Bamboo baskets, Bamboo mats.	Lime, Coal, Iron.
				A. P.					
Myllim	.. Ditto	Ditto.	12,351	Pension allowed by Government, Rs.	..	Ditto	Rice, potatoes, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sophiang, (a kind of esculent), sugarcane, ginger, millet.	Dhacos, Baskets.	Iron.
				150 per mensem .. 1,800 0 0					
Langrin	.. Ditto	Ditto.	1,152	Market dues .. 5,000 0 0	..	Ditto	Rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, ginger.	None	Lime, Coal.
				Judicial fines .. 400 0 0					
				Contributions for State purposes .. 1,000 0 0					
				Malikana on lime-quarry .. 5 0 0					
				Total .. 8,205 0 0					
				Market dues .. 250 0 0					
				Judicial fines .. 225 0 0					
				Forest rent .. 15 0 0					
				Contributions levied for State purposes 1,200 0 0					
				Total .. 1,690 0 0					
				Market dues .. 150 0 0					
				Malikana on lime-quarries .. 1,500 0 0					
				Forest rent .. 60 0 0					
				Fisheries .. 50 0 0					
				Total .. 1,760 0 0					

Muzam ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,470	Malikana on lime quarry ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Job's-tears, black-pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, bay-leaves, honey, rice, sugarcane, potatoes, ginger, millet, Indian-corn, sobphlang (a kind of esculent), cinnamon, cautchouc.	Dhacs, volalins, hammers.	Iron and lime.
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..		226 4 0				
				Market dues ..		400 0 0				
				Forest revenue ..		120 0 0				
				Judicial fines ..		55 0 0				
				Total ..		120 0 0				
						921 4 0				
Maoyang ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,661	Malikana on lime quarry ..		65 4 0		Honey, bees'-wax, cotton, rice, millet, job's-tears, sobphlang (a kind of esculent).	Mats ..	Lime.
				House-tax ..		9 0 0				
				Rent of fisheries ..		50 0 0				
				Judicial fines ..		100 0 0				
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..		90 0 0				
				Total ..		315 4 0				
Maoynam ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,102	Market dues ..		180 0 0		Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, ginger.	None ..	Lime, coal, iron.
				Contributions for State purposes ..		150 0 0				
				Total ..		330 0 0				
Malasobmat ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	450	Market dues ..		50 0 0		Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay-leaves, betel-nut, oranges.	Ditto ..	Lime.
				Malikana on lime quarry ..		200 0 0				
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..		50 0 0				
				Forest revenue ..		50 0 0				
				Total ..		350 0 0				
Marrio ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	3,682	Market dues ..		25 0 0		Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, sobphlang (a kind of esculent), Indian-corn, sugarcane.	Ditto ..	None.
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..		100 0 0				
				Total ..		125 0 0				
Nobosobph ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.	841	Market dues ..		100 0 0		Rice, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sobphlang (a kind of esculent), turnips, potatoes.	Ditto ..	Ditto.
				Judicial fines ..		30 0 0				
				Total ..		130 0 0				

1. Native States for the year 1880-81.—(Concluded.)

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.	7,389	Rs. A. P.	None	None	Potatoes, rice, millet, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent), turrip, caoutchouc, cinnamon.	Cotton, kodalies, dhaos, crow-bars.	Lime.
				Market dues ..					
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..					
				Judicial fines ..					
Nongsyung	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,506	Rs. A. P.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, potatoes, honey, bees'-wax.	Dhaos	Iron.
				Forest rent ..					
				Commission as man-zadar in Kamrup district ..					
				Judicial fines ..					
Nongstain	Ditto ..	Ditto.	8,473	Rs. A. P.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Lac, honey, bees'-wax, cotton, caoutchouc, bay-leaves, rice, millet, job's-tears, sugarcane, chillies, sohphlang (a kind of esculent), turrip.	Earth enware, pottery, cotton cloth, dhaos, spades.	Lime and coal.
				Market dues ..					
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..					
				Judicial fines ..					
Bambal	Ditto ..	Ditto.	2,202	Rs. A. P.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, millet, Indian-corn.	Cotton cloth ..	None.
				Market dues ..					
				Judicial fines ..					
				Forest rent ..					
				Total ..					
				Total ..					

Jerang	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..	Ditto
Duara Nong- Yrman.	494	..	..	Malikana on lime- quarry	..	261	8	0	..	Small net
				Total..		<u>261</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		
Meodon	806	..	..	Malikana on lime- quarry	..	8	8	0	..	None
				Total..		<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		Lime and coal.

2.—Native Chiefs and Principal Male Members of their Families for the year 1880-81.

Name of individual and State, and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has <i>amand</i> authorising adoption or not.	Family follows primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.
<i>Maniyar.</i> Chandra Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Nowjongelli, Khombah; Sany Manipur; family Lalpnum.	Maharaja.	Caste Khettri, religion Boinab.	49 years	Fair (no English education).	.....	Has no <i>amand</i>	Succession devolves upon eldest son.	Has ten sons; the eldest, named Soor Chunder Singh, at present Joubraj, will succeed to the Gaddie.
Dharma Satri Singh; family Lalpnum.	Senapati General.	Ditto	55 "	Ditto	Tries all military cases.	Ditto	Ditto	Has thirteen sons.
Sar Chandra Singh; family Lalpnum.	Joubraj	Ditto	28 "	Educated in Bengali and Hindue.	Tries all civil cases, and is a Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	Has two sons.
Koal Chunder Singh, <i>alias</i> Golap Singh.	Osang Rakpa.	Ditto	26 "	Reads and writes Bengali.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Jhallo Kirti Singh, <i>alias</i> Pysowbah.	Samu Hanjabah	Ditto	25 "	Ditto	Has charge of all the elephants.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Tepondra Singh, <i>alias</i> Kolrang.	Katwal	Ditto	25 "	Ditto	A Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> or High Court	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
<i>Adari Wala.</i> U Raman Singh; State Bhabwal.	Seim	Khasi	21 "	Uneducated	As Seim	Adoption is not allowed according to Khasi custom.	Not	In the Khasi States the succession is hereditary, but the heir must have the approval of the Darbar. The Seim's or Chief's own brother or cousin brother, i.e., Mother's sister's son, or falling these nephew, i.e., sister's son, succeeds to the chieftain. Father's brother's sons or brother's sons are not deemed relatives. Relationship through mother or sister alone is recognised.
U Rajan Manlok; State Cherra.	Ditto	Ditto	47 "	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

In the Chelvi confederate villages the Waddians are elected from the people. The office is not hereditary, and is subject to re-consideration every three years. In the Khalid states the succession is hereditary, but the heir must have the approval of the Durbar. The Selma or Chief's own brother, cousin brother, i.e., mother's sister's son, or falling there, nephew, i.e., sister's son, succeeds to Chieftainship. Father's brother's sons or brother's sons are not deemed relatives. Relationship through mother or sister alone is recognised.

Wahadars	Ditto	Wahadars	Ditto	As Wahadars	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
V Hain Manlok; State Mylilm.	Ditto	37	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Bor; State Laangrin	Ditto	30	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Kison Sing; State Marriaw.	Ditto	21	..	Can read and write Khalid.	..	Ditto	..
V Ramman; State Maoyram.	Ditto	34	..	Uneducated	..	Ditto	..
V Jit Singh; State Maoyang	Ditto	38	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Shongnam Singh; State Malai Sohmat.	Ditto	39	..	Uneducated	..	Ditto	..
V Jeel Sing; State Marriaw.	Ditto	31	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Ksan; State Nobosopho..	Ditto	33	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Syntoo Slugh; State Nongspung	Ditto	49	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Kine Slugh; State Nongkhalaw.	Ditto	37	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Borsom; State Nongstoin.	Ditto	37	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Amor Singh; State Rambral.	Ditto	43	..	Can read and write Assamese a little.	..	Ditto	..
V Moit Singh; State Jirang	Sirdar	38	..	Uneducated	..	As Sirdar	..
V Jantrai; State Duara Nongtyrmen.	Ditto	34	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
V Mohor Singh; State Maodon.	Ditto	34	..	Ditto	..	Ditto	..

C.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY (1880-81).

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; Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts; Conservator of Forests; Deputy-Surgeon-General, who is also Sanitary Commissioner; Inspector of Schools; Inspector-General of Police and Jails, who is also in Charge of Registration and Commissioner of Excise and Stamps; and Deputy-Commissioners.

Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is also Judge of the Assam Valley Districts.

Name of Chief Commissioner.	Names of 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.	REVENUE.	
												Land.	Gross.
Surma Valley Districts.	Sylhet	4	5,440	1,972,000	Town Sylhet..... 14,281 Kashba Bamdachang 24,061	9,517	10	10	chief court 79 civil court 69	24	755	Total cost of officials and M. police of all kinds.	Rs. 81,86,484
	Chachar.....	2	3,760	356,705	Silchar..... 6,689 Dhobri..... 4,774	556*	10	11	70	9	621		
	Goalpara.....	2	3,897	444,689	Goalpara..... 4,618 Gaurpar..... 1,865	1,324	....	7	70	30	322	
	Kamrup.....	2	3,631	644,843	Ganhadi..... 11,700 Barpeta..... 18,720	1,649	7	20	45	22	340		
Assam Valley Districts.	Darrang.....	2	3,418	271,504	Tezpur..... 2,015 Maugaldai..... 692	2,419	5	12	70	25	289	Rs. 87,47,612	81,83,291
	Nowong.....	1	3,417	308,389	Nowong..... 2,888 Silbagar..... 4,867	1,725	3	7	62	22	165		
	Silbagar.....	3	2,555	365,300	Tezpur..... 8,689 Golaghat..... 2,074	1,900	13	12	50	33	210		
Hill Districts.	Lakhimpur.....	3	3,728	172,079	Dibrugarh..... 2,925	834	5	5	100	32	344	Rs. 17,47,612	81,83,291
	Garo Hills.....	1	3,653	109,034	Shillong..... 3,640	929	1	3	71	25	334		
	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.....	2	6,107	160,113	Jowai..... 3,229 Cherra Poonjee..... 2,318 Mokhina..... 2,760 Wokha..... 680	1,541	3	4	65	25	168		
	Naga Hills.....	1	6,400	98,100	.....	....	3	3	90	51 to 70	459
Total		23	46,341	4,508,278	22,643	80	94	4,107		

ASSAM CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

DISTRICTS.	POPULATION.					CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION.													OCCUPATION.		Prevailing language.							
	Of the better sort.	Of the inferior sort.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Number per square mile.	Christians.						Hindus.	Mohammedans.	Paras.	Buddhists and Jains.	Aparigees.	Others.	Agriculturists.		Non-agriculturists.						
								Europeans.	Americans.	Armenians.	East Indians.	Natives.																
Burma Valley Districts.																												
Sylhet																												
Cochin																												
Total.....																												
Assam Valley Districts.																												
Goalpara																												
Kamrup																												
Darrang																												
Nowgong																												
Sibsagar																												
Lakhimpur																												
Total.....																												
Hill Districts.																												
Garo Hills																												
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.																												
Naga Hills																												
Total																												
GRAND TOTAL ..																												

NOTE.—Particulars according to the Census of 1881 for filling up other columns are not available.

[8]

F.—FISCAL (1880-81).

1. *Survey and Settlement.*

SURVEY.

Area previously surveyed in square miles.			Cost per mile.		Surveyed during the year, with cost per mile.	
Topographically.	Revenue.		Topographical.	Revenue.	Topographical.	Revenue.
	By villages.	By fields.				
43,767	Rs. As. P. 24 4 2	.....	349 square miles, cost Rs. 143-4-3 per sq. mile.	....

SETTLEMENT.

Nature of Settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of Settlement.	Remarks.
		Rs.		
Settled in perpetuity	6,116	3,78,195		
" for thirty years or upwards	461-73	81,378		
" " ten years and under thirty	692-95	3,01,475		
" " under ten years	4,177-18	27,61,569		
" in progress .....	....	....
Total	11,447	85,22,617	.....
Settlements previously made, including full record of rights	8,707-78	7,17,607	.....
Settlements without such records	2,920	2,67,152	.....
Settled during the year } Detailed	1,595-9	88,544	.....
} Summary	2,217-23	24,49,314	.....

2.—Surveyed and assessed Area in Acres (1880-81).

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	ASSESSED.							
													CULTIVATED.				UNCULTIVATED.			
													Irrigated.		Unirrigated.		Grazing lands.		Un-culturable.		Total area assessed.	Gross amount.	Rate per acre of cultivation.	Rate per acre of culturable land.	Rate per acre of total area of settlement.
By Govern-ment works.	By private individuals.	Total.	Total.					Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.								
Cochar.....	257,285	257,285	15,000	146,905	.....	419,190	2,01,579	.....	.....	.....	0 7 8			
Sylhet.....	1,920,000	1,920,000	.....	384,000	518,400	2,822,400	6,25,880	0 3 8	0 3 2	.....	0 3 6					
Goalpara.....	569,600	.....	1,124,480	800,000	2,484,080	98,918	.....	.....	.....	.....			
Kamrup.....	553,761	553,761	.....	.....	.....	553,761	9,09,561	1 10 5	.....	.....	1 10 5		
Darrang.....	42,375	.....	199,859	242,234	.....	13,484	.....	255,718	4,55,675	1 12 0	0 4 0	.....	1 12 0			
Sibsagar.....	362,646	362,646	.....	.....	.....	362,646	6,19,234	1 11 3	.....	.....	1 11 3		
Lakhimpur.....	107,395	107,395	.....	.....	.....	107,395	1,90,795	1 8 0	.....	.....	1 8 0		
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.....	4,798	4,798	.....	.....	.....	4,798	1,733	.....	.....	.....	.....			
Naga Hills.....	793	896	.....	.....	.....	.....			
Garo ".....	10,983	.....	.....	.....	.....			
Nowgong.....	6,860	282,000	287,860	.....	19,083	.....	806,443	4,52,013	2 2 3	1 8 3	.....	2 2 3				
Total.....	47,735	3,687,744	4,306,079	15,000	1,687,832	1,318,400	7,827,224	35,22,617	.....	.....	.....	.....			

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.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
Great zemindary, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....
Large zemindary, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue.	.....	....	....	.....	....	.....	.....	.....
Small zemindars other than those of cultivating communities.	603	....	3,101	217,900	361	.....	.....	.....
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common.	9,741	366	89,625	387,536	40	.....	.....	.....
Proprietary cultivators paying separately, including all small estates paying less than Rs. 100.	539,171	5,406	986,121	6,640,249	12	.....	.....	.....
Holders of revenue-free tenures.	914	65	2,672	85,835	93	.....	.....	.....
Grants held under the rules of 1838 and 1854.	45	8	16	19,750	438	.....	.....	.....
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue.	2,424	96	3,765	279,724	115	.....	.....	.....
Purchasers of waste lands	330	193	251	205,792	629	.....	.....	.....
Waste land leased under the Thirty-years' Lease Rules.	448	56	295	163,804	365
Total.....	553,748	6,201	1,065,918	8,001,989	4,183

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4.—FISCAL (1880-81).

Varieties of Tenure not held direct from Government.

NATURE OF TENURE.	Number of holdings.	Average area of each holding.	Average rent of each holding.	Average rent-rate per acre.
Intermediate holders between { semindars and ryots. {	On permanent tenure	254	Rs. 9	.....
	On farming leases	4,193	25	.....
Byots holding at fixed rates .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Byots with right of occupancy at variable rates.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cultivating tenants with no permanent rights
Holders of service grants
Total	4,446	84

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E.—FISCAL (1880-81).

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.	.....	.....	.....
Shares in ditto.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Large semindaries .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shares in ditto .....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small semindaries	175	24	.....	.....	28	.....	.....
Shares in ditto	2,158	461	150	2,111	.....	1,500	.....
Villages owned by cultivating communities.	3,828	69	26-1-12	179-3-23	.....	.....	.....
Shares in ditto .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Holdings of proprietary cultivators	2	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....
Intermediate holdings of a transferable character.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Holdings of ryots at fixed rates	3,760	1	154	3,973-09	13	3,297-79	.....
Holdings of ryots with right of occupancy.	284	58	27	1,790-03	11	958-66	.....
Revenue-free tenures	26	42	.....	4,800-2-18	.....	.....	.....
Waste land grants.....	4	.....	2	266	.....	107	.....

E.—FISCAL (1880-81).
6.—Land Revenue.

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE.	Revenue last year.		Revenue this year.		Cost of collections.	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 realised in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realised.	Assessed.	Realised.						
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.						
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years.	5,30,973	6,08,353	Increase is chiefly due to re-settlement and new cultivation.
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during the present year.	1,28,698	.....	11,043	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year.	51,348	.....	856	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collections from Government estates.....	6,08,353	5,12,414	6,19,040	4,02,900	3,790	3,89,110	2,10,140	237	1,487	Ra. 29,546 were realised in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
Income from sale of Government estates.....	28,29,448	28,05,498	29,03,577	28,71,340	2,86,557	26,68,914	32,111*	241	1,808	
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2,69,293	2,30,684	2,92,740	2,46,274	6,573	2,40,701	46,466	.....	.....

* Ra. 126 remitted.

PART II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A.—LEGISLATIVE 1, 2, & 3.

Serial Nos. 14, 15, and 16 see Blank

3. (Crimes).—Summaries of offences reported under various sections of the Penal Code, as they appear in the year 1880.

Nomenclature of offences, with Chapter and Section of the Penal Code or other law applicable.	Number of head of crime.				Number of cases.					Number of persons.						
	Offences reported.	Complaints received under Section 147, C. P. C.	Other cases struck off as false.	Balance returned as true.	Brought to trial during the year.	Under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, or transferred.	Remaining under trial at the close of the year.	I.—Offences under the Penal Code.					
											1	2	3			
<i>Offences against the State.</i>																
Chapter VI. Sections 121 to 130.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Offences against the Army or Navy.</i>																
" VII. Sections 131 to 140.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Offences against the public tranquillity.</i>																
" VIII. Sections 143 to 149, 151, 157, 158. Unlawful assembly.	3	124	19	18	87	68	83	258	1	11	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 147, 148, 152, and 153 to 156. Rioting, &c.	4	200	19	34	237	168	191	547	.....	117	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 160. Affray.	5	104	4	5	95	78	35	257	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Offences by or relating to public servants.</i>																
" IX. Sections 161 to 169. By public servants.	6	27	5	1	21	21	12	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 170, 171, and 171. Relating to public servants.	7	14	.....	2	12	12	4	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 172 to 190.	8	293	11	1	281	283	527	376	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 193 to 200. False evidence or subornation, &c., of public servants.	9	78	5	.....	73	73	97	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 201 to 229. Offences against public justice.	10	221	10	6	205	193	265	175	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 231 to 254. Offences relating to coin.	11	29	.....	5	26	17	19	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 255 to 263. Offences relating to stamps.	12	6	.....	2	4	5	6	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 264 to 267.	13	19	2	.....	17	17	20	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 268 to 278. Offences affecting public health, safety, convenience, decency, and morals.	14	45	.....	2	43	37	44	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 279 to 289. ditto safety.	15	48	11	.....	37	34	42	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 290 and 291. ditto convenience.	16	22	6	.....	16	15	36	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 292 to 294. ditto decency and morals.	17	4	1	1	2	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 294A. Keeping a lottery office, or publishing proposals for lottery.	17A	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 295 to 295. Offences relating to religion.	18	8	3	1	4	3	6	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 302 and 303. Murder.	19	31	1	1	29	28	57	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 307. Attempt at murder.	20	7	.....	7	7	10	2	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 304. Culpable homicide.	21	31	.....	3	28	26	41	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 304A. Causing death by rash or negligent act.	21A	18	1	1	16	12	14	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 308. Attempt at culpable homicide.	22	2	.....	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 305 and 306. Abetment of suicide.	23	25	.....	1	24	19	4	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 309. Attempted suicide.	24	84	1	11	22	7	14	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 311. Thuggery, &c.	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Sections 312 to 315. Causing miscarriage.	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " Section 316. Injury to unborn children.	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

Nomenclature of offences, with Chapter and Section of the Penal Code or other law applicable.	Number of head of crimes.				Number of cases.				Number of persons.			
	Offences reported.	Complaints registered under Section 141, P. O.	Other cases struck off as false.	Balance returned as true.	Brought to trial during year.	Under trial during the year.			Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, or transferred.	Remaining under trial at close of the year.
						4	3	4				
<i>Offences affecting the human body.</i>												
Chapter XVI. Section 318. Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body.....	29	6	.....	4	3	4	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
" Sections 325 to 331, and 333. Hurt, with aggravating circumstances	30	65	.....	55	46	61	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 323, 324, 332, and 334 to 338. Other cases	31	333	96	671	830	815	.....	164	637	.....	.....	14
" Section 341. Wrongful restraint	32	142	6	79	52	82	.....	30	52	.....	.....	.....
" Sections 342 to 348. Wrongful confinement	33	636	216	221	124	284	.....	124	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 352 to 358. Criminal force or assault	34	6,374	233	3,636	2,017	2,663	.....	1,098	1,745	.....	.....	20
" " 564, 566, 567. Kidnapping or forcible abduction, with aggravating circumstances	35	27	6	10	8	23	.....	16	4	.....	.....	.....
" " 363, 365, 368, and 369. Other cases	36	80	17	88	23	32	.....	18	14	.....	.....	.....
" " 370 and 371. Slavery	37	8	.....	2	2	3	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 372 and 373. Buying or selling a minor for the purpose of prostitution	38	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 376. Rape	39	14	2	1	1	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 377. Unnatural offence	40	51	24	20	10	13	.....	7	5	.....	.....	.....
" "	41	21	6	14	9	8	.....	3	5	.....	.....	.....
<i>Offences against property.</i>												
XVII. Section 382. Theft, with aggravating circumstances	42	3,846	.....	2,174	1,262	2,022	.....	715	1,377	.....	.....	29
" Sections 379 to 381 and 401. Other cases	43	.....	901	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
" " 386 to 389. Extortion with aggravating circumstances	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 384 and 385. Other cases	45	127	19	49	38	60	.....	88	20	.....	.....	.....
" Section 391. Robbery	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 392. With hurt	47	20	7	7	3	11	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 393. Attempts	48	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 396. With murder	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 397. With attempt to cause death	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 397. With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt	51	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 397. With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt, with aggravated circumstances	52	9	.....	7	5	17	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 398. Dacoity	53	430	13	169	92	112	.....	59	53	.....	.....	.....
" " 398, 399, 400, 402, 403, and 404. Other cases	54	428	171	57	260	180	.....	78	76	.....	.....	.....
" " 408 to 409. Criminal misappropriation of property	55	237	8	230	215	878	.....	111	248	.....	.....	.....
" " 411 to 414. Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen or plundered property	56	406	16	161	124	154	.....	86	64	.....	.....	.....
" " 417 to 420. Cheating	57	4	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 421 to 424. Fraudulent debts or disposition of property	58	255	48	147	78	102	.....	56	49	.....	.....	.....
" " 425 to 428 and 429 to 440. Forgery	59	1,240	102	583	364	847	.....	250	393	.....	.....	.....
" " 441 to 443 and 444 to 446. Miscellaneous	60	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	....	Y'	Y	1	....
..... Sections 472 to 476. Counterfeiting or making or possessing a counterfeit seal, &c., for purposes of forgery. Section 477. Fraudulently destroying or detaching a will or other document. Sections 482, 486, 487, and 488. Using a false trade or property mark, and knowingly selling property so marked. " " 483 to 485. Counterfeiting or making or possessing a die, plate or instrument for counterfeiting a trade or property mark. " " Section 489. Removing, destroying, &c., a trade or property mark with intent to cause injury. " " Criminal breach of contract of service. " XIX. Sections 490 to 492. " XX. Sections 493 to 498. <i>Defamation.</i> " XXI. Sections 500 to 502. " " Criminal intimidation, insult, or annoyance. " XXII. Section 506. The threat being to cause death or other grievous hurt. " " Sections 504 to 510. Other cases. TOTAL OF OFFENCES UNDER THE PENAL CODE.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	19,872	6,017	2,211	11,644	7,065	11,870	4,064	7,401	18	342	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	459	175	14	300	161	441	182	311	1	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	118	7	13	98	92	188	71	65	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	78	.....	5	78	70	123	20	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	406	1	.....	405	404	425	18	405	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	818	294	55	469	265	462	226	226	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	4	.....	.....	4	4	4	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	809	115	14	680	481	645	134	515	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	358	24	15	319	251	482	39	390	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	72	.....	1	71	63	79	18	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	94	9	.....	85	70	83	25	57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	46	.....	1	45	40	104	21	82	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	11	.....	.....	11	10	61	6	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	3	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	20	.....	.....	20	20	82	8	74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	7	.....	.....	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	232	.....	.....	232	232	387	11	325	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	125	1	5	123	114	166	41	123	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	281	.....	.....	281	277	377	21	356	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	14	.....	.....	14	13	17	2	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	182	.....	.....	182	175	263	23	230	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	2	.....	.....	2	2	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	4,177	636	125	3,426	2,755	4,223	798	3,399	5	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	24,049	6,643	2,336	15,070	9,810	16,093	4,862	10,350	18	363	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....

TOTAL OF OFFENCES UNDER SPECIAL LAWS.....
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL OFFENCES.....

3. (Criminal).—Statement showing the general result of Criminal Trials in

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.		Number of persons under trial.						Total.		
		Remaining at the end of the previous year.	Brought to trial during the year.							
			Under arrest by police.	Upon warrant.	On summons.	Voluntarily.	Received on commitment or reference.		Received by transfer.	
I.—MAGISTRATES.										
Village Officers	.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Subordinate Magistrates	Special Magistrates under Section 42	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
	Honorary Magistrates { 2nd and 3rd class sitting singly.	..	15	52	756	11	..	834		
	Stipendiary Magistrate, { 1st class	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Stipendiary Magistrate, { 2nd and 3rd class sitting singly.	..	18	536	168	878	71	1,671		
	Benches of Magistrates	..	197	5,869	1,503	4,065	847	12,481		
District and Divisional Magistrates—Cases referred under Section 46	.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chief Magistrates { under ordinary powers of Districts	.. .. .	..	11	509	165	163	124	973
	{ „ special powers under Section 36	..	1	36	6	3	1	48		
Total..		..	233	6,965	1,894	5,932	1,054	18	16,096	
II.—COURTS OF SESSION.										
Assistant Judges	.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Judges, Joint and Additional Judges	.. .. .	..	11	..	..	..	..	222
Judges	Cases referred by Deputy-Commissioners under Section 36, C. P. C.	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
	Cases referred by Assistant Judges under Section 18, C. P. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases referred by Magistrates under Section 507, C. P. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total..		..	12	229	1	242
III.—SUPERIOR COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION.										
High Court	(Cases under Sections 64, 75, and 76, C. P. C., and Section 147, High Court's Act	
	Cases committed by the Presidency Magistrates	
	Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 267, C. P. C.	
	Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 287, C. P. C.	..	1	6	..	
Total..		..	1	6	..	7
GRAND TOTAL		..	246	6,965	1,894	5,932	1,054	253	1	16,345

STATEMENT.

the Tribunals of various classes in the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

Persons whose cases were disposed of.										Number of cases.					
Died, escaped, or transferred.	Discharged or acquitted.	Convicted.				Committed or referred.	Total of columns 11 to 16.	Persons under trial at the end of year.	Number of cases.				Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses examined.	
		On regular trial.		On summary trial.					Brought to trial during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Remaining at the close of the year.	Number of cases disposed of which were tried summarily.			
		Appealable sentence passed.	Non-appealable sentence passed.	Appealable sentence passed.	Non-appealable sentence passed.										
..
..	13	54	..	..	..	67	..	12	12	..	..	..	6.8	..	..
..	383	418	29	..	..	830	4	442	439	3	..	..	4.4	1,732	..
1	565	1,004	74	..	..	2	1,645	25	1,042	9	..	..	5.9	4,121	..
13	3,639	1,833	3,457	194	2,864	210	12,197	271	7,661	7,632	140	2,743	7.8	31,681	..
..
..	3	6	13	..	..	..	22	..	9	10	..	..	25.8	23	..
..	186	101	289	26	336	25	963	10	618	617	6	268	5.0	1,521	..
1	11	25	3	..	..	7	46	1	37	36	1	..	9.6	199	..
15	4,800	3,441	3,865	220	3,200	244	15,770	311	9,821	9,789	159	3,011	7.3	39,315	..
..
3	60	96	17	..	..	7	180	51	111	98	19	..	46.7	699	..
..	1	7	..	..	..	..	8	..	5	6	..	..	9.5	..	..
..
..
3	61	103	17	..	..	7	188	51	116	104	19	..	44.5	699	..
..
..
..	1	..	4	..	..	..	5	1	6	6	1	..	60.0	..	..
..	1	..	4	..	..	..	5	1	6	6	1	..	60.0	..	..
18	4,862	3,544	3,886	220	3,200	251	15,963	363	9,943	9,899	279	3,011	7.7	40,014	..

[19]

4. (Criminal).—Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by the

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Persons sentenced to										Persons ordered to find or give			Persons imprisoned in default of security for good behaviour.		
	Death.	For life.	For a term.	Transportation.	Imprisonment.		Fine.		Whipping.	In addition to other punishment.	In lieu of other punishment.	Sureties of the peace.	Recognizance to keep the peace.	Sureties for good behaviour.	One year and under.	Three years and under.
					Rigorous.	Simple.	With imprisonment.	Without imprisonment.								
I.—MAGISTRATES.																
Village Officers
Sub-Magistrates.
Special Magistrates under Section 42	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly.
Stipendiary Magistrates sitting singly.
2nd and 3rd class
1st class
2nd and 3rd class
1st class
Benches of Magistrates
District and Divisional Magistrates—cases referred under Section 46
Chief Magistrates of Districts.
Under ordinary powers
Under special powers under Section 36
Total
4	2,995	79	1,015	6,311	49	455	11	334	65	38	..	..	..	..	..
II.—COURTS OF SESSION.																
Assistant Judges
Judges, Joint and Additional
Judges
Cases referred by Deputy-Commissioners under Section 36, C. P. C.
Ditto ditto by Assistant Judges under Section 18, C. P. C.
Ditto ditto by Magistrates under Section 507 C. P. C.
Total
16	9	1	86	28	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	
..	
16	9	2	92	29	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
III.—SUPERIOR COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION.																
High Court.
Cases coming before the Court under Sections 64, 75, and 76, C. P. C., and Section 147, High Court's Act
Cases committed by the Presidency Magistrates
Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 263, C. P. C.
Ditto ditto Section 287, C. P. C.
Total
4
GRAND TOTAL	4	16	9	6	3,087	79	1,044	6,312	51	455	11	334 ^(a)	65	38	..	..

N. B.—Besides the persons entered in this statement 405 were required to (a) Of these, 34 persons were ordered to give recognizance under Section 489 C. P. Code

STATEMENT.

various Criminal Tribunals in the exercise of Original Jurisdiction in the year 1880.

Detail of punishment.

Fine.										Imprisonment.					Whipped.			Number of boys whose sentences were commuted to detention in a Reformatory School.
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 imposed during the year.	Total amount of fines realised during the year.	Amount paid by way of compensation.	15 days and under.	6 months and under.	2 years and under.	7 years and under.	Above 7 years.	10 stripes and under.	20 stripes and under.	30 stripes and under.		
Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	Rigorous.	Simple.	10 stripes and under.	20 stripes and under.	30 stripes and under.		
53	1	..	..	..	..	462	462	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
365	64	..	..	..	..	2,490	2,481	195	13	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
698	158	11	3	..	..	8,643	8,516	1,817	99	4	198	2	..	..	..	..	..
4,941	1,323	128	29	1	1	69,502	66,430	7,218	499	40	1,551	28	365	..	..	..	..
..	
..	2	..	..	..	..	60	60	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
347	74	6	9	2	..	7,545	8,068	821	35	3	143	1	43	..	..	..	..
..	7	1	1	1	..	1,669	766	..	1	..	4	..	11	..	..	..	..
5,504	1,629	146	42	4	1	90,371	86,783	10,051	647	48	1,911	31	425	..	16	..	..
..	
7	21	1	..	..	..	855	506	..	1	..	28	..	22	..	32	..	4
..	1	..	..	..	..	49	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	..
..	
..	
7	22	1	..	..	..	904	558	..	1	..	28	..	22	..	38	..	5
..	
..	
..	
5,511	1,691	147	42	4	1	91,275	87,321	10,051	648	48	1,939	31	447	..	54	..	5	

1111 contracts under Act XIII. of 1859, and one was ordered to pay wages. In addition to the other punishments to which they were sentenced.

5. (Criminal).—Statement showing the result of Appeal and Revision

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.		Total number of appellants and applicants for revision, including pending from previous year.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Appeals or applications rejected.	Sentence or order confirmed.
APPEALS					
To	FROM				
District Magistrates	Subordinate Magistrates....	168	....	10	92
Courts of Session	{ Magistrates.....	596a	....	127	195
	{ Assistant Judges .....	....	....	....	....
Superior Courts {	Presidency Magistrates ....	....	....	....	....
	by persons convicted. { Deputy-Commissioners acting under Section 36, C. P. C. Sessions Judges	21	....	13	4
	by Government from judgments of acquittal, Section 372. {	73	....	45	14
	All Courts.....	....	....	....	....
Total.....		768	....	195	305
REVISION					
By	OF ORDER OF				
District Magistrates	Subordinate Magistrates....	161	....	88	....
Courts of Session	Magistrates	64 b	....	45	....
High Court (cases referred for orders under Section 296)	{ Magistrates.....	87	....	....	7
High Court (cases dealt with under Section 294.)	{ Magistrates	81	....	21	....
	{ Courts of Session	11	....	9	....
Total.....		304	....	163	7
Grand Total.....		1,072	....	358	312

STATEMENT.

in Criminal Cases in the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

Sentence enhanced.	Number of persons.							Number of cases.			REMARKS.
	Sentence reduced or order otherwise altered.	Reversed.	Proceedings quashed.	New trial or further enquiry ordered.	Referred to the High Court for revision.	Total whose cases were disposed of, including entries in columns 4 to 11.	Remaining at the end of the year.	Preferred during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Remaining at the close of the year.	
13	30	18	3	1	167	1	104	104	1	a The appeal of four persons was withdrawn.
1	52	82	1	7	....	465	37	282	282	17
....	
....	
....	....	1	....	....	....	18	3	15	13	3
....	....	7	....	2	....	68	5	54	52	5
....	
14	83	108	4	10	718	46	455	451	26	b The application of one person was withdrawn.
....	....	....	....	43	27	158	3	139	138	3
....	....	....	....	2	9	56	7	48	44	5
4	....	18	....	5	....	29	8	16	13	4
....	....	6	1	3	....	31	....	12	14	....
....	1	1	....	....	....	11	....	3	3	....
4	1	20	1	53	36	285	18	218	212	12	
18	83	128	5	63	36	1,003	64	773	663	28	

6. (Civil).—Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits in the year

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	Suits for money or movable property.										TOTAL.	
	Contract in writing.	Contract not in writing.	On account stated.	Money had and received.	Goods sold.	Wages, work, and materials.	Rent not falling under the Rent Law.	Movable property or value thereof.	Damages.	Other suits for money or movables not included above.		
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.												
I.—CIVIL COURTS.												
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village Courts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paid Subordinate Tribunals.	Under ordinary procedure.	6,032	643	683	405	518	218	72	986	697	266	10,532
		Under Small Cause Court powers.	2,130	635	386	112	319	145	93	576	495	312	5,206
Small Cause Courts.	As Small Cause Court Judges.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Under powers of Subordinate Judge.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.	Under ordinary procedure.	34	3	12	10	2	1	..	6	1	..	53
	Under Small Cause Court powers.	227	25	117	4	12	13	13	38	67	31	533
Chief Courts of Districts .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL ..	..	8,424	1,306	1,199	531	852	377	178	1,606	1,260	599	16,532
II.—REVENUE COURTS.												
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Subordinate Courts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District Courts—Collectors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL FOR COURTS IN THE INTERIOR. }	..	8,424	1,306	1,199	531	852	377	178	1,606	1,260	599	16,532

EMENT.

ated in the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the

Suits under the Rent Law.		Title and other Suits.																									
Enhancement or abatement of rent.	Relating to distraint.	Damages for extortion or withholding receipts, or on account of illegal restraint, or other cause.	For <i>pattas</i> or <i>kabuliyatts</i> .	For ejectment or recovery of possession.	For recovery of money or accounts from agents.	All other suits under the Rent Law not included above.	TOTAL.	Suits for immovable property.	Suits for declaratory decrees.	Other suits under the Specific Relief Act.	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.	Administration suits.	Interpleader suits.	Dissolution of partnership.	Suits under Section 261, Act X. of 1865 (also Hindu Wills Act).	Other suits not falling under any of the previous heads.	Total.	GRAND TOTAL.
8	4	2	1	89	12	..	1,750	2,541	26	190	222	79	27	7	9	5	202	3	16	..	..	..	..	14	25	3,366	21,448
1	..	..	4	25	..	5	215	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
..	..	..	7	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
1	..	..	11	25	..	5	228	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	228
9	4	2	12	114	12	5	1,978	2,541	26	190	222	79	27	7	9	5	202	3	16	..	..	..	..	14	25	3,366	21,676

7. (Civil).—Statement showing number and value of Suits instituted in the

CLASS OF COURTS.	NUMBER OF					
	Value not exceeding Rs. 10.			Value not exceeding Rs. 50.		
	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.						
I.—CIVIL COURTS.						
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Village Courts .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals. { Under ordinary procedure	810	764	579	3,914	811	1,503
{ Under Small Cause Court powers	1,287	....	....	3,916	....	....
Small Cause Courts { As Small Cause Court Judges .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
{ Under powers of Subordinate Judge .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts. { Under ordinary procedure .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
{ Under Small Cause Court powers	115	....	....	422	....	....
Chief Courts of Districts .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total ..	2,212	764	579	8,252	811	1,503
II.—REVENUE COURTS.						
Unpaid Local Tribunals .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Other Subordinate Courts .. .. .	....	73	....	....	191	....
District Courts:—Collectors .. .. .	....	10	....	....	2	....
Total ..	....	83	....	....	193	....
GRAND TOTAL FOR COURTS IN THE INTERIOR ..	2,212	847	579	8,252	914	1,503

STATEMENT.

Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

SUITS INSTITUTED IN THE DIFFERENT COURTS.												Total value of Suits.	
Value not exceeding Rs. 100.			Value not exceeding Rs. 500.			Value not exceeding Rs. 1,000.	Ditto Rs. 5,000.	Ditto Rs. 10,000.	Ditto Rs. 1,00,000.	Value exceeding Rs. 1,00,000.	The value of which cannot be estimated in money.		Total.
Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.								
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Rs.
....
3,273	116	663	2,363	53	433	193	1	....	....	....	109	15,585	11,70,514
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,203	1,24,371
....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	91	9	4	....	1	105	3,42,964
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	537	12,506
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	....	....	....	14	18	10,594
3,273	116	663	2,363	53	433	193	96	9	4	....	124	21,448	16,60,949
....
....	18	....	....	12	....	2	....	....	....	....	9	215	7,551
....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13	182
....	19	....	....	12	....	2	....	....	....	....	9	228	7,733
3,273	135	663	2,363	65	433	195	96	9	4	....	133	21,676	16,68,682

8. (Civil).—Statement showing the general result of the trial of Civil and Assam in

PART I.—

CLASS OF COURTS.	Number of Suits before the Courts.						Total for disposal.
	Pending from last year.	Instituted in 1880.	Received by transfer from other Courts.	Remanded under Section 682, Act X. of 1877.	Reviews under Section 624.	Revived under Sections 691, 103, 108, or 371.	
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.							
I.—CIVIL COURTS.							
Unpaid Tribunals.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Village Courts.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals. { Under ordinary procedure	3,116	15,585	608	29	19	166	19,513
{ Under Small Cause Court powers..	17	5,203	101	1	3	28	5,352
Small Cause Courts. { As Small Cause Court Judges ....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
{ Under powers of Subordinate Judge.	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts. { Under ordinary procedure	41	105	20	2	3	....	170
{ Under Small Cause Court powers..	8	537	....	..	..	....	545
Chief Courts of Districts	9	18	1	..	..	....	28
Total of each class { Suits for money or movables	1,783½	16,332	355	16	17	165	18,666
for Civil Courts. { Suits under the Rent Law	272	1,750	118	1	3	6	2,144
{ Title and other suits	1,186	8,366	264	15	4	13	4,798
Total.....	3,191	21,448	730	52	33	184	25,666
II.—REVENUE COURTS.							
Unpaid Local Tribunals.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Other Subordinate Courts	18	215	9	8	1	....	251
District Courts—Collectors .....	....	13	....	..	..	....	13
Grand Total for Courts in the interior	3,209	21,676	739	40	34	184	25,873

STATEMENT.

Revenue Cases in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction in the Province of the year 1880.

CIVIL SUITS.

		Number of Suits disposed of														Average number of days the suits were pending.		
Transferred to other Courts.	Plaint rejected or returned.	Without trial.				Without contest.				On reference to arbitration.		With contest.		Total disposed of, omitting transfers.	Pending at close of year.	Of these pending over three months.		
		Dismissed for default or want of prosecution.	Withdrawn with leave.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed <i>ex parte</i> .	Dismissed <i>ex parte</i> .	For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.	Contested.	Uncontested.					
..
629	31	2,203	355	1,801	1,600	4,574	824	63	22	3,286	1,823	16,582	2,302	701	91	45	..	
101	2	1,013	138	576	604	1,061	110	8	5	823	492	4,832	419	1	28	26	..	
..
..	2	1	4	8	15	29	..	..	..	48	18	120	50	36	147	85	..
..	2	73	11	68	38	181	1	..	..	103	49	525	20	..	14	13	..
..	..	2	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	8	8	22	6	3	144	218	..
553	25	2,737	281	1,673	1,916	5,186	713	41	19	2,684	1,408	16,683	1,630	159	51	84	..	
113	2	232	77	295	105	438	86	1	1	441	143	1,821	210	69	97	53	..	
284	10	323	150	481	237	223	136	29	7	1,143	838	3,577	957	513	126	80	..	
730	37	3,292	508	2,449	2,258	5,847	935	71	27	4,268	2,389	22,081	2,797	741	78	40	..	
..	5	83	..	46	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	40	83	227	24	..	98	26	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	47	55	..
730	42	3,326	508	2,496	2,302	5,869	939	71	27	4,308	2,424	22,312	2,821	741	78	40	..	

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

9. (Civil).—Statement showing the Business of the Civil and Revenue Appellate Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

PART I.—APPEALS FROM DECREES.

Class of Courts.	Appeals remaining from last year	Instituted in 1880.	Received by trans- fers from other Courts.			Reviews under Sec- tion 626, Act X. of 1877.			Reviews under Section 562, of 1877.			Total for disposal.			Transferred to other Courts.	Appeals summarily re- jected, Section 551, of 1877.	Dismissed for default, Sec- tion 556, 557, or other- wise not prosecuted.	Heard <i>ex parte</i> .			Contested.			Total disposed of, omit- ting transfers.	Pending.	Of these pending more than three months.	Average number of days the appeals were pending.	Objections under Section 661, Act X. of 1877.
			Received from other Courts.	Reviews under Sec- tion 626, Act X. of 1877.	Reviews under Section 562, of 1877.	Reviews under Section 562, of 1877.	Reviews under Section 562, of 1877.	Reversed.	Modified.	Confirmed.	Reversed.	Modified.	Confirmed.	Reversed.				Modified.	Confirmed.									
			410	2	7	1	872	8	7	9	15	4	3	492				72	127	19	739	125	16						102	24
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																												
I.—APPEALS FROM ORIGINAL DECREES.																												
<i>A.—Civil Courts.</i>																												
Chief Appellate Courts other than Chief Court of District	172	980	410	2	7	1	872	8	7	9	15	4	3	272	39	52	16	417	222	129	176	30	661, Act X. of 1877.					
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts	245	188	8	2	8	1	1,045	410	10	5	13	4	3	272	39	52	16	417	222	129	176	30	661, Act X. of 1877.					
Superior Appellate Courts other than Chief Court of Province	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of each { Appeals from decisions in suits for money or movables	119	448	168	2	3	..	740	168	6	8	15	..	4	300	36	67	15	452	129	33	85	14	..	..		
class for Civil { Appeals from decisions in suits for money or movables	73	169	..	..	..	..	236	..	3	1	6	..	2	102	19	6	9	151	85	46	181	19	..	..		
Courts. { Ditto in suits under the Rent Law	..	..	..	..	..	..	345	250	2	5	7	2	1	362	66	106	11	553	142	66	151	21	..	..		
{ Ditto in title and other suits	225	468	230	2	4	2	345	250	2	5	7	2	1	362	66	106	11	553	142	66	151	21	..	..		
{ Total	417	1,065	418	4	15	2	1,921	418	11	14	28	4	7	764	111	179	35	1,156	347	145	129	54	..	..		
Collectors' Appellate Courts	1	27	..	..	..	..	28	..	1	1	3	2	4	6	..	3	6	26	2	..	34	..	..	..	
Grand Total for Courts in the interior	418	1,092	418	4	15	2	1,949	418	12	15	31	6	11	770	111	182	41	1,182	349	145	127	54	..	..		
COURTS AT THE PRESIDENCY.																												
APPEALS FROM ORIGINAL DECREES.																												
Chief Court of { From decisions by Courts in the interior	9	10	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	6	17	17	1,030	..	..	..	
Province. { From decisions on the Original Site	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Total	107	129	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	2	..	..	..	27	..	2	..	40	198	168	667	2	..	..		
APPEALS FROM APPELLATE DECREES.																												
Chief Court of { From decisions by Appellate Courts in the interior.	107	129	..	..	..	..	228	..	..	2	..	..	..	27	..	2	..	40	198	168	667	2	..	..		
Province. { From decisions by a single Judge or Bench on appeal in the Chief Court.	116	139	..	..	..	..	261	..	..	3	..	..	..	29	2	2	10	46	215	175	628	2	..	..		
{ Total	116	139	..	..	..	..	261	..	..	3	..	..	..	29	2	2	10	46	215	175	628	2	..	..		

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

10. (Civil).—Statement showing the result of proceedings on applications for the execution of the decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

Class of Courts.	Number of applications dealt with.						Applications disposed of						Details of entries in Column 9.					
	Pending at the end of 1879.	Filed.			Restored to the file for any cause.	Total.	Transferred.	Wholly or partly satisfied.		Wholly infructuous.	Total.	Pending at the end of 1880.			Of these pending more than three months.	Satisfaction obtained in full.	Satisfaction obtained in part.	Satisfaction obtained through the Court.
		The decrees being taken out.	The decrees being transferred for execution.	The decrees being taken out.				To another Court.	To the Collector.			12	13	14					15	16
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																		
I.—CIVIL COURTS.																		
Unpaid Tribunals.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Village Courts.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals.....	1,701	10,132	279	69	12,181	150	1	4,605	5,837	10,593	1,888	271	2,857	1,748	3,298	.....	.....	.....
Small Cause Courts.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.....	60	410	18	3	486	16	.....	180	297	403	83	20	104	76	87	.....	.....	.....
Chief Courts of Districts.....	4	12	17	.....	33	14	.....	5	6	25	8	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	1,765	10,554	309	72	12,700	180	1	4,750	6,050	11,021	1,679	296	2,966	1,824	3,316	.....	.....	.....
II.—REVENUE COURTS.																		
Unpaid Local Tribunals.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Sub-divisional Courts.....	7	44	.....	.....	51	.....	.....	25	17	42	9	.....	.....	23	2	.....	.....	.....
District Courts,—Collectors.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	7	44	.....	.....	51	.....	.....	25	17	42	9	.....	.....	23	2	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total for Courts in the interior.....	1,772	10,598	309	72	12,751	180	1	4,815	6,067	11,063	1,688	296	2,989	1,826	3,337

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B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued).

10.—(Civil). Statement showing the result of proceedings on applications for the execution of the decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

Class of Courts.	Details of entries in Column 3.—(Continued.)				Amount realised.		Number of applications.											
	Adjusted under Section 258.	Satisfaction obtained with the issue of process.	Satisfaction obtained without the issue of process.	Without the issue of process.	With the issue of process.	On which the judgment-debtor was imprisoned.	On which he was arrested under Section 336, but released without imprisonment.	Was sold.	Was attached, but subsequently released under Section 275.	Was sold.	Was attached, but subsequently released under Section 275.	Was dealt with under Sections 305, 322, or 326.	Was attached, but subsequently released under Section 275.	On which specific performance was enforced.	Of movable, Section 259.	Of immovables, Section 261.	On which partition was effected, Section 263.	On which execution was effected otherwise than in the preceding columns.
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																		
I.—CIVIL COURTS.																		
Unpaid Tribunals.....	1,474	4,003	787	2,64,325	69,134	164	464	311	219	666	30	486	11	40	947	1	820	33
Village Courts.....																		
Faid Sub-divisional Tribunals.....	1,377	3,858	747	1,91,962	19,776	156	441	303	213	634	20	477	11	40	987	1	811	32
Small Cause Courts.....	93	140	40	69,102	19,353	8	23	8	6	32	10	16			10		9	
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.....	4	5		261								3						
Chief Courts of Districts.....																		
Total.....	1,474	4,003	787	2,64,325	69,134	164	464	311	219	666	30	486	11	40	947	1	820	33
II.—REVENUE COURTS.																		
Unpaid Local Tribunals.....	4	26		1,580			6	1		1							17	
Other Subordinate Courts.....																		
District Courts—Collectors.....		26		1,580			6	1		1							17	
Total.....	4	4,028	787	265,905	69,134	164	470	312	219	667	30	486	11	40	947	1	837	1
Grand Total for Courts in the Interior.....	1,478	4,028	787	265,905	69,134	164	470	312	219	667	30	486	11	40	947	1	837	1

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

11. (Civil).—Statement showing the use of Assessors in the Civil Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

Classes of Courts in which Jurors or Assessors are employed, distinguishing Original from Civil Courts.	Established or average number of Jurors or Assessors in each case, and prescribed qualification.	Number of cases tried by Jury.	Number of cases with Assessors.	Cases in which the Judge approved of the verdict.			Jury trials.		Assessors' trials.			REMARKS. (Note in what classes of cases Jurors and Assessors have been principally employed.)
				Wholly.	Partially.	Cases in which the Judge did not approve of the verdict.	Number of persons of whom the Judge disapproved.	Number of cases in which Judges agreed with Assessors.	One Assessor.	Both Assessors.		
I.—CIVIL COURTS.												
Chief Court of District (or officer specially empowered) acting under Act X. of 1870.	2	3	2	1	
Total.....	2	3	2	1	

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B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.

12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1879-80 and 1880-81.

District.	Register a in s a t e n g i m m o v a b l - p r o p e r t y. B o o k I.													
	Compulsory.							Optional.						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Number of Registration Offices.	Instruments of gift (Section 17, Clause a).	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 17, Clauses b & c.	Perpetual leases (Section 17, Clause d).	All leases (other than perpetual leases), which have been compulsorily registered under Section 17, Clause d.	Total of compulsory registrations.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.	Instruments of sale of the 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.	
1	1879-80.	2	6	683	208	11	49	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1880-81.
	1880-81.	2	5	688	306	14	3	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1879-80.
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.	23	150	182	6,066	4,904	1,197	1,288	8,008	8,137	10,814	0	10,333	8	2,196
Cachar	2	5	683	208	11	1	2	98	1,114	1,086	0	1,263	12	782
Sylhet	2	6	119	148	4,098	3,942	33	852	6,088	7,965	4	7,507	12	1,203
Goalpara	2	4	2	44	47	50	2	250	343	457	4	315	8	42
Kamrup	2	2	10	133	129	41	21	29	302	423	0	423	4	149
Darrang	2	1	1	8	13	11	2	3	35	32	98	4	8	9
Nowong	2	1	7	13	8	11	3	3	70	42	183	12	113	4
Shibsagar	3	2	22	34	10	35	26	8	100	303	0	328	12	36
Lakhimpur	3	3	32	34	10	35	80	24	160	303	0	328	12	36
Khasi Hills	1	1	35	20	12	9	10	9	59	61	220	8	6	8
Garo "	1	1	2	8	27	16	1	1	36	25	77	0	60	4
Naga "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.....	23	150	182	6,066	4,904	1,197	1,288	1,369	8,008	8,137	10,814	0	10,333	8
	1879-80.	2	6	683	208	11	49	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1880-81.
	1880-81.	2	5	688	306	14	3	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1879-80.
	1879-80.	2	6	683	208	11	49	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1880-81.
	1880-81.	2	5	688	306	14	3	938	1,114	724	99	7	14	1879-80.

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B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.—(Continued).

12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1879-80 and 1880-81.

District.	Registrations affecting immovable property, Book I.—(Contd.)										Registrations affecting movable property, Book IV.												
	Optional.—(Contd.)					Registrations affecting immovable property, Book I.—(Contd.)					Registrations affecting immovable property, Book IV.					Registrations affecting movable property, Book IV.							
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	1879-80	1880-81	1879-80	1880-81	1879-80	1880-81	1879-80	1880-81	1879-80	1880-81		
	Awards (Section 17, Clause f).	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees 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.	Total value of immovable property transferred.	Instruments of sale of movable property.	Obligations for the payment of money (Section 18, Clause f).	All other documents registered under Section 18, Clause f.	Total of registrations in Book IV.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.												
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.	1	3	6	1,868	716	4,55,844	16	80	88	184	147	173	8	147	173	8	147	173	8	147	173	8	147
Cachar	132	103	1	1,868	1,742	2,500,889	21	185	438	642	753	760	0	753	760	0	753	760	0	753	760	0	753
Sylhet	3	1	1	60	49	1,106,877	2	36	148	74	86	118	216	8	118	216	8	118	216	8	118	216	8
Goalpara	3	1	1	178	146	1,756,848	7	29	32	136	123	169	166	220	169	166	220	169	166	220	169	166	220
Kamrup	4	1	1	14	14	1,818,839	8	20	18	121	32	106	33	108	33	108	33	108	33	108	33	108	33
Darrang	2	1	1	22	15	1,883,839	9	10	12	191	215	210	334	424	334	424	334	424	334	424	334	424	334
Sowkong	1	1	1	40	35	1,222,862	6	199	148	496	707	769	861	863	769	861	863	769	861	863	769	861	863
Shoogor	1	1	1	7	11	2,071,262	2	5	68	21	53	28	125	39	8	140	0	39	8	140	0	39	
Lakhipur	5	3	6	7	13	1,072,022	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Khasi Hills	1	1	1	1	1	40,966	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garo "	1	1	1	1	1	40,966	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Naga "	1	1	1	1	1	40,966	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.....	147	123	7	3,069	2,731	37,75,597	67	539	476	1,492	2,065	2,062	2,821	12	2,764	0	2,062	2,821	12	2,764	0	2,062	

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.—(Concluded.)

12. Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1879-80 and 1880-81.

Districts.	Receipts.										Total expenditure.																		
	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35																			
	Number of sealed covers deposited, Book V.	Number of wills registered, Book III.	Number of written authorities to adopt other than those conferred by wills, Book III.	Number of registrations under Section 24.	Number of registrations under Section 24.	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, 19, and 26, and the total fees paid for registration under columns 27 and 28.	Total extraordinary fees and fines.																			
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1879-80	1880-81	1880-81	1880-81	1880-81	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.										
Cachar	2	7	1	51	173	10	38	72	76	65	120	1,806	2,290	4	574	1	0	708	5	0	1,899	5	11	1,809	6	9			
Sylhet	23	15	1	41	173	172	78	91	282	191	353	732	10,492	8	9,198	10	0	9,314	12	0	8,833	10	4	7,320	4	4			
Goalpara	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	24	24	750	600	8	317	1	0	316	15	0	1,193	1	6	1,197	15	9			
Kamrup	37	26	1	1	1	1	3	34	33	22	54	956	865	12	355	12	0	385	15	0	1,003	2	0	1,041	1	3			
Darrang	34	37	1	1	1	1	1	32	37	14	3	357	315	4	117	13	0	70	4	0	760	14	11	781	10	11			
Nowgong	11	2	1	6	1	1	5	33	17	13	7	667	366	4	152	12	3	77	7	6	577	15	6	633	4	9			
Sibsagar	1	22	2	1	1	1	15	7	71	58	28	17	1,284	8	1,275	0	0	414	5	6	329	11	0	1,280	10	6			
Lakhimpur	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	72	42	13	15	273	0	388	12	183	4	0	174	14	0	348	6	3	377	14	1		
Khasi Hills	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	2	3	98	12	80	12	18	8	0	33	10	0	40	11	0	23	1	6		
Garo "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	0	1	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Naga "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total	2	4	133	116	1	49	60	177	178	106	144	630	485	534	954	16,668	12	11,333	1	9	11,600	13	6	18,982	0	3	17,116	11	10

[28]

C.—PRISONS.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all Classes confined in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

C.—PRISONS—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all Classes confined in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

Stations.	Place of confinement.	Class of prisoners.	4		5		6		7		8		9		10					
			Remained at the commencement of the year 1880.		Received during the year 1880.		Total.		Discharged from all causes.		Remaining at the end of the year 1880.		Daily average number of each class.		Total daily average of the whole jail.					
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Goālpāra	Goālpāra ..	Convicts ..	29	83	91	112	8	120	8	106	8	114	6	1342	299	1690	409	1789		
		Under-trial	11	11	104	106	9	115	106	9	115	6	6	..	299	49	318	49	318	
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dhubri ..	Dhubri ..	Convicts ..	27	164	174	191	11	202	174	11	185	17	3	2027	57	2442	88	2530		
		Under-trial	1	140	1	141	1	142	138	..	138	3	1	4	316	30	346	30	346	
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kāmrup ..	Gautiādi ..	Convicts ..	264	424	18	442	688	24	712	404	12	416	284	12	27298	784	27854	878	28732	
		Under-trial	5	236	13	249	24	14	265	237	14	251	4	4	554	94	628	94	628	
		Civil	1	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	..
Barpetā....	Barpetā....	Convicts ..	9	88	4	92	97	4	101	83	4	87	14	14	687	14	912	15	927	
		Under-trial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang ..	Teapur	Convicts ..	178	4	182	303	14	317	481	18	499	330	12	342	151	6	157	585	18518	
		Under-trial	3	3	188	8	146	141	8	149	136	7	143	5	6	240	24	264	24	264
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mangaldai	Mangaldai	Convicts ..	5	166	8	174	171	9	180	155	9	164	16	16	1190	24	1309	36	1375	
		Under-trial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong ..	Nowgong ..	Convicts ..	26	191	15	206	217	15	232	186	14	200	31	32	2874	86	3391	106	3497	
		Under-trial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsāgar ..	Sibsāgar ..	Convicts ..	14	15	186	8	194	200	9	209	174	9	183	26	205	68	2095	192	2434	
		Under-trial	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jorhāt	Jorhāt	Convicts ..	13	203	25	228	216	25	241	207	23	230	9	11	1351	149	1500	166	1649	
		Under-trial	2	2	103	16	119	105	16	121	100	16	116	5	5	132	17	149	17	149
		Civil

[29] C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)
Showing the Number and Disposal of the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

2	3		4		5		6		7		8		9										
	Remained at the close of the previous year.		Imprisoned during the year.		Total.		Received from other jails.		Grand Total		Transferred to other jails.		Released during the year.										
Jails	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.									
	To undergo sentence.		In transit for transportation, or to other jails.		Total.		To undergo sentence.		Grand Total		To undergo sentence.		On appeal.		On expiry of sentence.								
	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.							
Gauhati	264	6	219	7	483	13	199	11	6	..	688	24	712	11	..	4	..	34	..	269	9	22	..
Tezpur	178	4	169	8	337	12	141	5	3	1	451	18	499	4	2	4	..	9	..	285	8	12	1
Sylhet	603	18	437	11	940	29	255	4	..	..	1,195	33	1,228	39	2	5	..	81	1	400	19	204	2
Shillong	39	3	46	6	85	9	8	2	3	..	96	11	107	2	..	3	..	1	..	42	7	..	..
Total of Jails.....	984	31	861	32	1,845	63	603	22	12	1	2,460	86	2,546	56	4	16	..	125	1	996	43	238	3
Add for Subsidiary Jails	283	14	2,600	160	2,843	174	97	2	146	10	3,086	186	3,372	761	35	3	..	49	..	1,704	121	178	6
Grand Total.....	1,267	45	3,421	192	4,688	237	700	24	168	11	5,546	272	5,818	817	39	19	..	174	1	2,700	164	416	9

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)—(Concluded.)

Jails.	9			10			11			12			13			14			15			16					
	Released during the year.						Transported beyond sea.						Transferred to Insane Asylum.			Escaped.			Died.			Remaining at the end of present year.			Daily average number.		
	C.		D.		By order of Government.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.			F.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		Total.	
	Under remission rules.		(a)		(b)		On account of sickness.		On other grounds.																		
Gauhati	36	28	3	284	12	296	277	98	784	280	82			
Tezpur	12	4	1	161	6	167	179	33	686	186	18			
Sylhet	20	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	13	..	481	9	440	462	50	1163	474	08	
Shillong	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	88	4	42	86	57	819	39	76	
Total of Jails ..	77	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	46	4	904	31	835	951	38	2841	979	79	
Add for Subsidiary Jails	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	18	..	364	22	386	333	75	1693	349	68	
Grand Total..	80	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	64	4	1,268	53	1,321	1,285	13	4434	1,328	47	

2.—Showing the Religion, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam on the 31st December 1880.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4		Age.														
	Religion.						Age.																
Jail.	A			B			C			D			E			A		B		C		D	
	Christian.			Muhammadans.			Hindus.			Buddhists and Jains.			All other classes.			Under sixteen years.		Sixteen to forty years.		Forty to sixty years.		Above sixty years.	
	Europeans.			Natives.												M.		F.		M.		F.	
	a	b	c																				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	49	2	195	10	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	233	8	45	4	6	..	
2	1	..	21	1	91	4	..	..	..	..	38	1	..	..	128	4	22	2	1	..	
3	314	5	76	2	..	..	..	..	41	2	..	..	313	9	101	..	17	..	
4	5	..	..	..	..	..	33	4	..	..	36	4	2	..	..	..
Total of Jails.....	1	..	384	8	367	16	..	..	..	..	152	7	..	..	710	25	170	6	24	..	
Add for Subsidiary Jails	1	..	167	8	123	6	..	..	..	..	71	13	..	2	314	20	45	..	5	..	
Grand Total	2	..	551	11	492	22	..	..	..	..	223	20	..	2	1,024	45	215	6	29	..	

Showing the Religion, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam on the 31st December 1880.

Serial No.	Previous occupation.													Total.			
	Males.													M.	F.	Total.	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Professionals.	Persons employed under Government or municipal or other local authorities.				
		Professional persons.	Persons in service or performing professional offices.	Persons engaged in agriculture or with animals.	Persons engaged in commerce and trade.	Persons engaged in mechanical arts, manufactures, and engineering operations, &c., &c.	Miscellaneous persons not classed otherwise.	Married.	Unmarried.	Widows.	Prostitutes.						
1	Ganháti	20	7	159	8	...	90	10	...	2	...	284	12	296			
2	Tezpur	18	20	39	6	...	8	5	...	1	...	151	6	157			
3	Sylhet	9	37	358	16	...	...	8	...	...	...	431	9	440
4	Shillong	6	4	11	...	1	16	4	...	...	...	38	4	42
	Total of Jails	53	68	627	30	1	114	27	...	3	1	904	31	935			
	Add for Subsidiary Jails	24	27	267	9	4	29	13	2	7	...	364	22	386			
	Grand Total	77	95	894	39	5	143	40	2	10	1	1,268	53	1,321			

4. *Showing the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam on the 31st December 1879, who had been previously convicted.*

1	2	3		4				5		6															
		Number of convicts on the last day of the previous year.		Number previously convicted				Ratio of column 4 D to column 3.		Juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age, Section 215, Criminal Procedure Code.															
Serial No.	Jails.	M.	F.	A	B	C	D	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	A		B											
		M.	F.	Once.	Twice.	More than twice.	Total.					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	T.						
1	Gauhati	264	6	60	1	13	...	4	...	...	77	1	78	29-16	16-66	28-88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Tezpur	178	4	20	...	8	3	3	...	3	31	...	31	17-41	...	17-03	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Sylhet	503	18	59	1	24	3	...	...	3	86	1	87	17-09	5-55	16-69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Shillong	39	3	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	5	...	5	12-82	...	11-90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total of Jails	984	31	1,015	2	48	10	...	...	199	2	201	20-22	6-45	19-80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Add for Subsidiary Jails.	283	14	297	...	11	1	...	...	48	...	48	16-96	...	16-16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Grand Total	1,267	45	1,312	2	59	11	...	...	247	2	249	19-49	4-44	18-97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[32a]

C.—PRISONS.—(JUDICIAL.)

4a. Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880 who had been previously convicted.

Serial No.	3			4						5			6					
	Number admitted during the year.			Number previously convicted.						Ratio of Column 4 D, to Column 3.			Juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age (Section 318 of the Criminal Procedure Code).					
Jails.	M.	F.	Total.	A		B		C		D		M.	F.	Total.	A		B	
				Once.	Twice.	More than twice.	Twice.	More than twice.	Total.	Number admitted during the year.	Number previously convicted.				M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1 Gauhati	219	7	226	14	5	1	20	20	19	9	9	13	85	20	9	20	19	85
2 Tezpur	169	8	167	14	4	1	19	19	19	11	11	95	37	19	11	37	19	113
3 Sylhet	437	11	448	42	17	3	62	62	62	14	14	18	84	62	14	62	62	1384
4 Shillong.....	46	6	52	3	1	...	4	4	1	6	6	52	66	4	6	4	4	769
Total of Jails	861	32	893	73	26	5	104	104	1	12	12	08	75	105	12	105	105	1175
Add for Subsidiary Jails.	2,560	160	2,720	162	38	4	204	208	4	2	2	50	64	208	4	208	4	250
Grand Total	3,421	192	3,613	235	64	9	308	313	5	3	3	00	66	313	4	313	4	866

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

6. Showing the Offences committed by the Convicts, and the Punishments inflicted on them, in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7						
	Average number of convicts.		Criminal offences.		Breaches of Jail Rules.				A				B				C		D
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Ratio of column 6C to column 6D.
1	272.98	7.84	...	...	8	7	56	...	72	1	...	...	...	...	42	93	8	144	51.27
2	179.33	5.85	1	...	13	...	53	...	23	...	1	...	...	...	59	20	...	90	48.60
3	462.50	11.53	...	...	66	...	25	3	36	1	...	...	...	...	54	51	1	131	27.63
4	36.57	3.19	...	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	7	17.60
Total	951.38	28.41	1	...	89	7	136	3	134	2	1	...	...	...	157	169	9	372	37.96
Add for Subsidiary Jails.	333.75	15.93	3	...	29	...	56	1	39	4	3	...	...	...	91	28	3	132	37.70

Showing the state of Education of the Convicts imprisoned in, and released from, the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

1	2	3		4			5	6	7		8			9				
		M.	F.	Unable to read or write.	Able to read and write.	Of those in column 3, there were			Daily average number of convicts.	Daily average under instruction.	Number released during the year who had been under instruction in jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.	Of those in column 7, there were when they entered jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.
	Jails.																	
Serial No.		Number imprisoned during the year.		Of those in column 3, there were			Daily average number of convicts.	Daily average under instruction.	Number released during the year who had been under instruction in jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.	Of those in column 7, there were when they entered jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.		
		M.	F.	Unable to read or write.	Able to read and write.	Of those in column 3, there were	Daily average number of convicts.	Daily average under instruction.	Number released during the year who had been under instruction in jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.	Of those in column 7, there were when they entered jail.	Unable to read and write.	Able to read and write a little.	Able to read and write well.		
1	Gauhati ...	219	7	190	7	27	272.98	7.84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Tezpur ...	159	8	130	8	16	179.33	5.85	5.49	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Sylhet	437	11	377	11	52	462.50	11.53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Shillong ...	46	6	48	6	...	36.57	3.19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total of Jails.	861	32	745	32	95	951.38	28.41	5.49	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Add for Subsidiary Jails.	2,560	160	2,414	160	131	333.75	15.93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Grand Total	3,424	192	3,159	192	226	1,285.13	44.34	5.49	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...

10.—Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the new jails, of

Serial No.	2	3				4		5	
	Jails.	Average number of prisoners.				Rations.		Establishment	
		Convicts.	Under trial.	Civil.	Total.	A	B	A	B
						Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners.	Total cost.	Cost per head average strength.
					Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. P.	
1	Gauhati	280'82	6'28	22	287'32	9,218	82 1 8	3,823	13
2	Tezpur	185'18	2'64	1'73	189'55	5,620	29 6 2	3,933	29 1
3	Sylhet	474'03	22'03	3'66	499'72	17,142	34 8 10	4,557	9
4	Shillong	39'76	1'79	.....	41'55	2,155	51 13 10	1,548	27
	Total of Jails.....	979'79	32'74	5'61	1,018'14	34,035	38 9 9	13,861	13
	Add for Subsidiary Jails	349'68	52'13	11'35	413'16	11,967	29 12 6	3,960	9
	Grand Total.....	1,329'47	84'87	16'96	1,431'30	46,002	32 8 4	17,821	13

(FINANCIAL.)

Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880, excluding the cost of building, alterations, and repairs.

6		7			8		9		10	11
Police guards.		Hospital charges.			Clothing.		Contingencies.		Grand total expended.	Total cost per head of average strength.
A	B	A	B	C	A	B	A	B		
Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Cost per head of average number sick.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.		
Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
4,338	15 1 6	415	1 7 0	29 13 4	1,197	4 2 8	1,842	4 10 8	20,333	70 12 3
2,728	11 12 10	566	2 15 9	46 9 4	553	2 15 1	670	8 8 6	12,480	71 1 10
4,989	9 15 8	176	0 6 7	11 6 1	2,115	4 4 2	931	1 13 9	29,910	59 13 7
1,800	43 5 1	350	8 6 9	166 10 7	45	1 1 3	593	14 4 4	6,491	156 3 6
11,263	13 2 3	1,507	1 7 8	34 8 9	3,910	3 13 9	8,536	3 7 6	70,214	68 15 4
11,998	31 10 2	347	0 13 5	34 15 1	398	0 15 11	3,335	8 1 1	33,905	82 1 0
5,263	19 0 9	1,854	1 4 8	34 3 9	4,308	3 0 8	6,871	4 12 9	1,04,119	72 11 10

11.—Showing the employment of Convicts in the Jails a

1	2	3	4	5	6	On prison duty.									
						Serial No.	Jails.	Average number not sentenced to labour.	Average number under sentence of labour on working days.	Average number sick.	Average number convalescent and infirm.	A	B	C	D
												On unremunerative labour.	Prison officers.	Prison servants.	Gardening.
1	Gauhati	27	282.48	12.94	5.35	.....	8.50	26.58	13%					
2	Tezpur	1.12	183.83	12.24	5.88	14.52	12.04	23.37	11%						
3	Sylhet	1.07	480.23	14.36	18.15	.....	12.82	53.78	15%					
4	Shillong.....	.....	39.63	2.03	.70	.06	2.48	7.18	5%					
	Total of Jails... ..	2.46	986.17	41.57	30.08	14.58	35.84	110.91	46%						
	Add for Subsidiary Jails	4.77	341.98	14.80	5.31	1.09	6.15	39.14	25%						
	GRAND TOTAL.....	7.23	1,328.15	56.37	35.39	15.67	41.99	150.05	72%						

FINANCIAL.)

Accessory Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

7							8			
Average number employed on working days.							Ratio per cent. of column 4 of those employed on working days.			
A	F	On Jail buildings.				K	L	M	N	O
		Additions and alterations.		New Jails.						
		G	H	I	J					
	Jail repairs.	Under Superintendent.	Under Public Works Department.	Under Superintendent.	Under Public Works Department.	Manufactures.	Public Works.	As prison officers.	As prison servants.	On manufactures (JK).
28	.....	11·64	.....	.....	174·02	9·19	1·21	3·00	9·40	3·25
28	.....	·71	·44	2·04	.....	82·71	17·78	6·55	12·71	44·99
33	3·71	.....	.....	.....	286·35	54·91	19·56	2·67	11·20	11·43
	1·36	5·54	.....	.....	.....	12·58	2·30	6·25	18·11	31·74
051	5·07	17·89	·44	2·04	460·37	159·39	40·85	3·63	11·24	16·16
017	9·65	16·86	3·73	.....	.....	98·45	110·64	1·79	11·44	28·78
068	14·72	34·75	4·17	2·04	460·37	257·84	151·49	3·16	11·29	19·41

13.—*Showing the net cost of the Prisoners in the Jails*

1	2	3
Serial No.	Jails.	Cost of mainten- (column 10 of States No. X.)
		Rs.
1	Gauhati	20,333
2	Tezpur	13,480
3	Sylhet	29,910
4	Shillong	6,491
	Total of Jails	70,214
	Cost of general supervision .....	.....
	Add for Subsidiary Jails	33,905
	GRAND TOTAL	1,04,119

(FINANCIAL.)

Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

4	5	6	7		8	
Sum of payments, drawings from any (cash profit).	Excess of drawings over payments (cash loss).	Net cost to Government.	Net cost per head of all convicts.		Net cost per head of convicts sentenced to labour.	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
780	.....	19,553	69	10	69	3
4,267	.....	9,213	49	12	50	1
929	.....	28,981	61	2	60	5
.....	131	6,622	166	8	167	1
5,976	131	64,369	65	11	65	4
.....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6,205	.....	27,700	79	3	80	15
12,181	3,131	95,069	71	8	71	9

14. Showing the Sickness and Mortality among the Prisoners of all classes in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Jails.	Number of persons that can be accommodated in the parts of the jails devoted to convicts, under-trial, and civil prisoners respectively.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Kámrúp	Daily average strength.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Terpur	Maximum population on any one day.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Sylhet	Daily average number of sick.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Shillong	Number of deaths in and out of hospital.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Total of jails	Deaths from fever.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Add for Subsidiary Jails.	Number admitted into hospital.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.
Grand Total	Daily average number of sick.														
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.

C.—Prisons.—(VITAL.)—(Continued.)

Jails.	9		10		11		Ratio per cent. of average strength.								
	Deaths from bowel-complaints.		Deaths from cholera.		Of deaths from all causes both in and out of hospital.										
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	A	B	C	D	E				
							Of admissions into hospital.	Of daily average number sick.	Of deaths from cholera.	Of deaths from other causes.	Of deaths from all causes both in and out of hospital.				
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Kamrup	{ Convicted	17	....	....	....	....	80-86	140-30	52-61	4-87	7-27	4-94	....	....	....
	{ Under-trial	....	....	....	....	....	18-72	15-92	0-37	....	....	0-81	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tezpur	{ Convicted	2	....	....	....	....	239-77	256-41	240-30	6-44	6-49	6-44	....	....	....
	{ Under-trial	....	....	....	....	....	41-86	4-16	75-75	6-66	25-00	8-33	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sylhet	{ Convicted	3	....	....	....	....	76-48	....	76-57	3-06	....	2-99	....	....	....
	{ Under-trial	....	....	....	....	....	23-57	2-43	31-77	4-00	51-22	5-76	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shillong	{ Convicted	....	....	....	....	....	166-80	183-98	168-51	5-74	....	5-28	....	....	....
	{ Under-trial	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total of Jails	{ Convicted	22	....	....	....	....	112-99	112-63	112-98	4-32	3-34	4-29	....	....	....
	{ Under-trial	....	....	....	....	....	22-80	147-95	30-54	3-35	25-53	4-61	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Add for Subst. diary Jails.	{ Convicted	7	....	....	....	....	172-88	56-49	167-58	3-18	2-38	3-14	29	....	....
	{ Under-trial	3	....	....	....	....	58-99	202-02	67-13	1-07	5-72	1-34	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Grand Total	{ Convicted	29	....	....	....	....	28-54	92-46	127-34	4-02	2-99	3-99	0-8	....	....
	{ Under-trial	3	....	....	....	....	43-07	179-64	53-02	1-95	12-97	2-60	....	....	....
	{ Civil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

18.—*Showing Particulars regarding Prisoners under the*

1	2	3		4			5			6	
Serial No.	Jails.	Number remaining at the close of previous year.		Number received during the year.			Total.			Daily average number	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
1	Kámrúp ...	5	1	236	13	249	241	14	255	5·34	·94
2	Tezpur	3	...	139	8	147	142	8	150	2·40	·24
3	Sylhet	10	...	389	23	412	399	23	422	21·21	·82
4	Shillong ...	...	...	35	5	40	35	5	40	1·75	·04
	Total of Jails	18	1	799	49	848	817	50	867	30·70	2·04
	Add for Subsidiary Jails.	46	...	1,865	145	2,010	1,911	145	2,056	49·16	2·97
	Grand Total	64	1	2,664	194	2,858	2,728	195	2,923	79·86	5·01

PRISONS.

Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

7			8			9			10			11		12		
Released.			Convicted and sentenced.			Transferred.			Escaped.			Died.		Remaining on the 31st December 1880.		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.
102	4	106	81	5	86	53	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	4
64	2	66	71	4	75	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	7
155	14	169	201	7	208	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	37	1	38
8	1	9	20	4	24	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	5
329	21	350	373	20	393	61	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	52	2	54
712	58	770	985	77	1,062	158	8	...	3	...	...	4	...	49	2	51
1,041	79	1,120	1,358	97	1,455	219	13	...	3	...	...	6	2	101	4	105

Showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class of

Serial No.	Names of Jails.	Description of accommodation.	Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the 31st							
			Hospital.		Observation cells.		Civil prisoners.		Under-trial.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	P.
1	Kāmrup....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	30	....	....	....	19	....	15	....
		Average population	13.91	....	....	....	0.22	....	6.26	....
2	Tezpur	Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	48	....	1	....	4	....	29	....
		Average population	12.15	....	....	....	1.73	....	2.24	....
3	Sylhet.....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	67	....	....	....	39	....	101	....
		Average population	15.46	....	....	....	3.66	....	20.36	....
4	Shillong....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	13	....	....	....	....	....	5	....
		Average population.....	2.10	0.07	....	....	....	....	1.75	....
Total of jails		Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	68	....	1	....	62	....	15	....
		Total of average population.....	43.62	0.07	....	....	5.61	....	30.61	....
Add for subsidiary jails.		Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	108	....	....	....	109	....	283	3
		Average population.....	9.93	....	....	....	11.34	....	48.63	....
Grand Total		Barracks with sleeping accommodation without cells.	156	....	1	....	171	....	433	3
		Total average population	53.55	0.07	....	....	16.95	....	79.24	....

NT

Prisoners in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1880.

13		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Prisoners in the part of the jail devoted to						Superficial area per prisoner within enclosing wall in square yards.	Spent on jail buildings during the year.		Remarks.	
Europeans.	Juvenile convicts.	Female convicts.	Male convicts.	Grand Total.	By Jail Department.		By Public Works Department.	A	B	
					F.		Works ordered by Inspector General of Jails.	Works executed and paid for by Public Works Department.		
....	14	199	277	Not given	119	940	Alteration in existing jails.		
....	7-27	259-66	287-32	The jail is at present in a transition state. <i>Sibsagar</i> .—The criminal ward formerly attached to the jail was converted into hospital, hajut, and criminal wards. The room occupied by police guard has been converted into civil ward. <i>North Lakhimpur</i> .—A corner of the hospital was fenced off for accommodation of female prisoners. <i>Sunānganj</i> .—Construction of a new jail is under contemplation. <i>Habiganj</i> .—The present lock-up is to be replaced by a new building with an iron roof.		
....	23	201	306	.....	65	1,272		
....	5-65	167-78	189-65	.....	....	....
....	15	468	690	Not given	302	2,291			
....	11-98	448-81	499-72	.....	....	....
....	9	49	76	Not given	863	...			
....	3-16	24-47	41-55	.....	....	....
....	61	917	1,349	.....	1,339	4,503		
....	28-01	910-22	1,018-14	.....	....	....
....	142	1,314	1,989	.....	2,067	1,776		
....	18-49	824-77	418-16	.....	....	....
....	203	2,281	2,508	}.....	2,406	6,279			
....	46-50	1,234-99	1,431-30						

[41]

D.—P.

1.—General Statement of Crime showing the result of Police operations in the detection
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.	
					Number of cases not enquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under enquiry during the year.	By Police, <i> suo motu</i> .	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 enquire.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c.	2	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	A betting commission of offence by public, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence, &c.	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	-2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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.	30.0	32	..	1	26	2	..	12	2	..	..
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender	3.8	3	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	69.0	72	..	4	56	5	..	42	2	2	..
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly...	375.4	407	4	14	243	54	..	187	36	8	13
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier.	2.9	5	..	..	4	..	..	3	..	..	..
		Total	481.1	519	4	19	331	61	..	245	41	10	13
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.													
8	302, 303, 396	Murder	by thugs .....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9			by dacoits .....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10			by robbers	7	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
11			by poison	1.5	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
12		Other murders	29.2	29	..	3	27	..	..	11	1	7	
13	307	Attempts at murder	4.7	8	..	..	8	..	..	5	1	..	
14	304, 308	Culpable homicide	29.0	30	..	1	29	..	..	10	3	..	
15	376	Rape	60.9	49	5	2	39	3	2	3	28	7	
16	377	Unnatural offences	19.8	21	1	..	16	4	..	5	7	..	
17	317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	11.8	12	..	..	8	..	..	3	1	..	
18	305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide.	31.1	26	..	1	25	..	..	14	1	..	

ICE.

and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1880.
Return of Cognizable Crime.

Persons.															Property.							
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.			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.	Total.				By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of, <i>e.g.</i> , 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			
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Rs	Rs	..
....			
....			
....			
28	5	33	..	9	24	7	..	14	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	24
3	....	3	..	..	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
63	24	89	1	..	88	19	..	63	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	55
1,122	245	1,398	..	12	1,386	243	6	987	19	2	..	..	114	15	..	..	..	..	223
6	....	6	..	..	5	2	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
1,222	274	1,629	1	21	1,506	273	6	1,068	21	2	..	1	121	15	..	..	..	..	307
....			
....			
8	....	3	..	..	3	....	..	....	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	260	232
7	....	7	..	..	7	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	1
29	1	47	..	1	46	1	14	..	14	3	..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	19
10	....	10	..	..	10	1	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
20	....	37	..	..	37	8	4	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
15	1	16	..	4	12	8	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	16
13	....	13	..	5	8	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
8	4	12	..	..	12	7	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
19	....	19	..	..	19	4	..	14	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

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 enquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under enquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>suo motu</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.	Received by transfer.	
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
19	329, 331, 333.....	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	325, 326, 335.....	Grievous hurt	72.1	70	..	..	54	2	..	30	5	5	..
21	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	2.1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
22	327, 330, 332.....	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant	2.6	1	..	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon ..	119.7	89	3	1	62	1	..	44	8	3	..
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	74.7	85	4	..	40	12	..	12	21	1	..
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	40.8	28	..	..	10	6	..	1	9	..	..
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	2.8	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves ..	1.6	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	353, 354, 356, 357..	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	124.6	128	4	..	70	12	..	33	19	7	..
29	304A, 338	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	12.6	16	..	..	14	1	..	8	..	1	..
		Total	642.9	599	17	..	409	41	2	182	104	31	..
		CLASS III.— <i>Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i>											
80	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	9.0	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
81	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.	3.4	5	..	1	6	..	..	..	2	1	..
82	394, 397, 398	Robbery with { by poisonous or stupefy- ing drugs. { by other means in dwelling-house on the highway between sunset and sunrise other robberies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
83	392, 393	Robbery {	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	56.2	17	..	1	9	1	..	..	6	..	..
34a	428, 429	Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animal.	214.0	120	..	1	94	10	..	7	31	1	..
			166.6	291	11	4	120	52	2	41	34	..	..

—(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>eg.</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.		Otherwise disposed of, <i>eg.</i> 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		
..		
51	15	71	..	..	70	21	5	36	4	..	1	..	3	1	....	....	....	..	..	41
1	....	1	..	..	1	....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....	....	..	..	1
62	22	87	..	1	86	18	..	65	2	..	..	..	1	..	....	....	....	..	..	56
51	8	60	..	..	60	30	5	13	6	..	3	..	3	..	....	....	....	..	..	32
7	8	15	..	1	14	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....	....	..	..	8
....		
166	33	146	..	..	146	75	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	9	....	....	....	..	..	60
15	1	17	..	1	16	4	1	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....	....	..	..	13
438	93	562	..	13	548	193	29	220	50	9	1	..	30	17	....	....	....	260	232	308
9	....	9	..	..	9	2	8	....	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	....	1	1,527	406	1
1	7	9	..	..	9	1	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	....	..	....	..	2
....		
....		
....		
2	10	12	..	..	12	9	..	....	7	1	1	..	3	..	2	....	147	..	..	7
32	9	42	..	4	38	23	3	7	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	....	....	..	..	31
74	54	128	..	8	125	59	..	64	..	..	..	..	2	..	....	....	....	..	..	101

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.								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>pro mochi</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 enquire.				Number of cases in columns 6 to 8 in which conviction was obtained.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house trespass, or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	846.5	1,016	22	29	926	9	3	69	136	..	..
36	449 to 452	House-trespass with view to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	27.8	9	2	1	7	..	..	4	1	..	..
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	9.0	3	..	2	3	..	..	2	..	2	..
		Total	1,333.2	1,466	35	39	1,170	72	5	123	211	4	..
		CLASS IV.— <i>Minor offences against the person.</i>											
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	9.2	6	..	1	6	..	..	6	..	1	..
38a	323	Voluntarily causing hurt	487.2	792	50	13	359	28	1	294	69	8	..
39	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	761.1	672	15	22	286	85	..	65	205	10	..
40	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	2.3	3	..	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..
41	374	Compulsory labour	11.4	11	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..
		Total	1,271.2	1,484	65	36	656	114	1	367	275	10	..
		CLASS V.— <i>Minor offences against property.</i>											
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking.	89.5	110	4	3	79	9	3	23	16	2	..
43	379 to 382	Theft .. } of cattle.....	330.4	157	4	8	144	22	..	52	22	4	..
		} ordinary	4,119.7	3,588	144	106	2,418	278	11	851	861	41	..
44	406 to 408	Criminal breach of trust	439.8	381	3	4	81	34	..	34	49	2	..
45	411, 414	Receiving stolen property	173.3	204	2	10	184	11	..	125	5	14	..
46	447, 448	Criminal or house-trespass ..	897.8	928	24	12	225	66	1	111	101	6	..
47	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle ..	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
		Total	6,042.2	5,369	181	143	3,132	405	15	1,312	1,055	80	..

(Continued.)

Persons.																			Property.				
Number arrested and appeared on other process during the year.	By order of Magistrate.	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., 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 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.									
11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
164	6	170	..	23	147	42	2	97	3	..	..	..	3	..	764	122	43,828	5,930	158	
8	1	7	..	1	6	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
4	1	7	7	1	1	2	3	1	1	11	4	2			
202	88	384	..	81	353	139	9	172	6	1	..	..	11	15	771	124	45,513	6,340	308		
5	1	7	..	..	7	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
456	282	746	1	3	742	148	..	573	7	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	509
243	102	355	..	7	348	162	..	176	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	231
3	....	3	..	..	2	....	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
...				
767	385	1,111	1	10	1,099	311	..	757	7	..	..	..	1	24	..	..	..	..	749
88	15	75	..	..	75	30	1	37	2	1	..	..	4	..	1	..	1	1	64
116	18	188	..	..	188	57	..	73	..	1	..	..	7	..	125	104	4,513	3,737	95
480	890	2,011	1	108	1,901	657	5	1,203	15	2	..	1	19	..	1,779	859	55,362	20,859	1,797				
50	105	157	8	1	148	76	..	69	..	1	..	..	2	..	62	8	1,090	101	129		
310	37	361	..	1	360	91	10	237	10	..	..	..	11	1	170	160	9,626	7,995	154	
309	292	607	..	8	599	229	..	356	..	1	..	..	13	..	1	..	60	..	319		
2	....	2	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	25	25	1
438	857	3,351	9	118	3,223	1,141	16	1,976	27	6	1	56	1	2,129	1,133	70,677	32,718	2,559			

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.	Recovered by transfer.		
					Number of cases not enquired into under Section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code.	Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	By Police, <i>pro motu</i> .	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 enquire.	
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	6	7	8	9	9a	10	10a	
CLASS VI.— <i>Other offences not specified above.</i>														
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	Chapter XXXVIII, C. P. C., and Act IX, of 1871.	Vagrancy and bad character ..	193.9	111	..	22	10	91	..	38	5	26	..	..
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion	7.6	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
51	Cognizable offences under the Acts specified.	Gambling Act	17.8	11	..	..	9	..	..	10	..	..	..	..
52		Excise Laws	200.9	283	2	3	231	7	..	192	14	4	..	..
53		Railway Laws .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54		Salt and Customs Law .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55		Stage Carriage Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
56		Stamp Act .....	..	6.8	16	..	..	5	..	..	7	..	..	..
57	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	436.7	319	6	..	250	4	..	208	2	..	..
		Total	864.1	743	8	26	507	104	..	456	22	30	..	
58	Other special and local laws cognizable by police.	Arms Act	160.1	104	..	..	45	..	..	38	..	..	..
		.....	..	389	..	..	127	36	..	158	1	..	..
		Grand Total.....	10,793.8	10,673	310	283	6,377	832	23	2,780	1,709	163	13	

(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
....	....	..	..	..	..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Rs.	Rs.	..
37	70	133	..	1	132	70	..	58	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	85
3	....	3	..	..	3	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	11	51	..	..	51	5	..	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
224	42	370	..	1	369	80	..	288	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	240
....
....
....	24	24	..	..	24	7	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
377	30	407	..	2	405	36	..	369	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
781	177	958	..	4	954	198	..	778	..	2	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	590
80	128	208	..	..	208	23	..	185	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
174	231	407	..	..	407	16	..	390	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	377
6,131	2,233	8,540	11	197	8,328	2,294	60	5,546	111	20	1	8	249	48	2,901	1,258	1,16,450	89,290	5,248	

[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 1880.
PART II.—Return of Non-Cognizable Crime.

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.			Persons.								
			Average institutions of preceding years.	Instituted by complaint during the year.	Taken up by Magistrate's motion.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Number of cases in which Police were employed to make enquiry.	Number of persons against whom process issued.	Actually appearing before the court, including pending.	Discharged after appearance.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Waiting trial at close of year.	
						By Magistrate's Court.	By High Court.	By Magistrate's Court.	By High Court.	By Magistrate's Court.	By High Court.	By Magistrate's Court.	By High Court.	
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed, &c., &c.	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	117	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	118, 119	Concealing design to commit offence .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	121 to 130, 505	CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	137	Offences against the State	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	172 to 190, 201 to 204, 213 to 215, 227, 228,	Harbouring deserters by master of ship .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	161 to 169, 217 to 223	Offences against public justice	441	6	331	38	282	529	8	138	2	425	4	6
6	193 to 200, 205 to 211, 421 to 424	Offences by public servants	46	4	51	15	25	41	2	12	..	35	..	3
7	465 to 477	False evidence, false complaints, and dis-claims, and fraudulent deeds, and dis-position of property.	135	1	164	14	104	148	21	65	1	88	3	9
8	264 to 267	Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents.	25	8	29	..	10	16	7	..	..	1	9	3
9	482 to 489	Offences relating to weights and measures	21	7	19	6	15	19	4	5	..	10	..	..
10	149, 154 to 156, 160	Making or using false trade-marks	9	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	39	4	128	37	56	121	4	20	..	225	..	..
		Total	713	0	724	110	492	874	46	240	3	784	16	23
11	312 to 316	CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	370	Causing miscarriage	4	8	37	20	5	13	3	8	..	2	2	1
		Buying or disposing of slaves	10	2	2	..	2	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
		Total	60	0	39	20	7	16	19	9	..	2	2	1
13	384 to 389	CLASS III.—Serious offences against the property.	108	2	123	3	126	14	50	23	..	21	..	2
		Extortion	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	345	CLASS IV.—Minor offences against the person.	5	4	3	129	2,983	3,752	1	767	..	1,670	..	12
15	352, 355, 358	Wrongful confinement	5,947	2	5,949	129	2,983	3,752	2,741	292	767	1,670	..	12
		Criminal force	5,948	2	5,950	129	2,983	3,752	2,741	292	767	1,670	..	12
		Total	369	4	373	16	128	165	156	19	70	1	62	4
16	417 to 420	CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.	335	1	336	43	76	91	111	25	43	43	..	4
17	403, 404	Cheating	11	2	13	6	10	10	10	1	1	1	..	..
18	409	Criminal misappropriation of property	41	4	45	7	408	260	489	62	163	272	..	3
		Criminal breach of trust by public servants, bankers, &c.	1,092	2	1,094	75	408	260	489	62	163	272	..	3
19	426 and 427, 434	Mischief (simple)	1,299	15	1,314	140	627	886	766	97	277	384	..	6
		Total	3,620	19	3,639	240	1,027	1,566	1,666	97	277	384	..	6

Special Laws.	Offences under which are not cognizable by the Police.	Total	One absconded from bail.	Two absconded from bail.	One died.	Total	One absconded from bail.	Two absconded from bail.	One died.			
Regulation VI. of 1819.	230	84	84	1,902	89	747	1,196	186	24	709	1	12†
Act I. (B.C.) of 1866	8-2	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	6
" VIII. of 1854	631-0	843	843	3	617	742	702	28	93	575	575	6
" XXXI. of 1867.	2-2	10	10	7	6	6	12	1	1	11	11	1
" XIII. of 1870	538	48	53	15	20	30	64	2	2	60	60	5
" XXV. of 1878.	3-2	5	5	1	3	3	6	1	1	5	5	5
" VII.(B.C.)of1878
" L. of 1859
" XIII. of 1859
" L. of 1878
" V. of 1861
" I. (B.C.) of 1864
" XXII. of 1864.
" VII.(B.C.)of1864
" L.(B.C.) of 1873
" IV. (B.C.) of 1885.
" XX. of 1865.
" V. (B.C.) of 1866
" XIV. of 1868
" XVIII. of 1869.
" VII. of 1870.
" L. of 1871.
" VI. of 1871
" XI. (B.C.) of 1871.
" X. of 1872.
" Chapter XXXII.
" IV. (B.C.) of 1873.
" 1873.
" V.(B.C.) of 1876
" VIII. of 1876
" XIX. of 1876
" III. of 1877
" VI.(B.C.) of 1870
" L.(B.C.) of 1871
" VIII. (B.C.) of 1878.
" IX. of 1878
" XVII. of 1878
" Native Press Acts
" Mutiny Act
" Other special Laws
Total.....	1,716-2	2,472	2,496	86	1,714	2,283	2,235	121	315	1,783	5	9†
Grand Total.....	11,645-9	12,963	13,081	607	6,620	9,021	8,059	712	1,872	84	5,353	19

One died. † One absconded from bail. ‡ Two absconded from bail.

2. Comparative Statement of Cognizable Crime

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.		
			1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	
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.....	....	....	....	....
<i>CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.</i>							
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.	29	28	....	....
4	212, 216.....	Harbouring an offender	3	2	....	....
5	224 to 226.....	Other offences against public justice	67	61	....	....
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly	275	297	....	....
7	140, 170, 171.....	Personating public servant or soldier	6	4	....	....
		Total.....	380	392	57.5	79.6	
<i>CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.</i>							
8	802, 803, 896	Murder { by thugs .....	....	....	....	....
9			{ dacoits	1
10			{ robbers	2	2
11		{ poison	2	1	....	....
12		Other murders	43	27	....	....
13	307.....	Attempts at murder	2	8	....	....
14	304, 308.....	Culpable homicide.....	41	29	....	....
15	376.....	Rape	52	44	....	....
16	377.....	Unnatural offences	19	30	....	....
17	317, 318.....	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth..	7	8	....	....
18	305, 306, 309.....	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide.....	21	25	....	....
19	329, 331, 333.....	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession.	1	....	....	....
20	325, 326, 335.....	Grievous hurt	60	56	....	....
21	328.....	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt	1	1	....	....
22	327, 330, 332.....	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession.	1	1	....	....
23	324.....	Hurt by dangerous weapon	88	63	....	....
24	363 to 369.....	Kidnapping or abduction	63	52	....	....
25	346 to 348.....	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purposes of extortion.	31	16	....	....
26	372, 373.....	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a woman for prostitution.	3	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.	93	82	....	....
29	304A, 338.....	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	12	15	....	....
		Total.....	619	462	25.5	59.6	
<i>CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i>							
30	395, 397, 398.....	Dacoity	13	4	....	....
31	399, 402.....	Preparation and assembly for dacoity .....	....	6	....	....
32	394, 397, 398.....	Robbery with { by poisonous or stupefying hurt. { drugs.....	....	....	....	....
		{ by other means .....	....	....	....	....
		{ in dwelling-house .....	....	....	....	....
33	392, 393.....	Robbery { on the highway between sunset and sunrise.....	....	1	....	....
		{ other robberies.....	16	10	....	....

LIC E.

with result of Police operations for the year 1880.

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.	
1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	....	....
....
....
....
27	23	23	24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	2	5	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
102	89	102	88	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,218	1,298	1,211	1,286	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	6	6	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,348	1,529	1,347	1,506	77.3	71.2	78.	72.3	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
....	3	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	260	....	232	....	....
2	7	2	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
66	47	59	46	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
2	10	2	10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
40	37	47	37	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
12	16	12	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	13	8	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
6	12	6	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
20	19	19	19	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
82	71	81	70	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	1	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
74	87	74	86	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
44	60	40	60	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
26	15	25	14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
146	146	145	146	....	....	....	....	15	....	....	....	....	....
11	17	8	16	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
554	562	532	548	47.2	24.0	49.2	49.4	15	260	....	232	....	89.0
26	9	26	9	....	....	....	....	5,512	1,527	807	406	....	....
....	9	....	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....
....
....
....
8	12	8	12	....	....	....	....	170	147	181	....	....	....

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.	
			1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences	140	104	.....	.....
25	426, 429	Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animals.	185	174	.....	.....
26	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	887	938	.....	.....
27	449 to 452	House-trespass with a view to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt	40	7	.....	.....
28	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	11	3	.....	.....
		Total	1,292	1,347	17.7	40.3
<i>CLASS IV.—Minor offences against the person.</i>						
39	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation	14	6	.....	.....
40	323	Voluntarily causing hurt	354	388	.....	.....
41	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement	462	371	.....	.....
42	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt, or endangering life ..	2	3	.....	.....
43	374	Compulsory labour .....	.....	3	.....	.....
		Total	882	771	30.9	48.9
<i>CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.</i>						
44	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking ..	68	91	.....	.....
45	379 to 382	Theft.. { of cattle	323	166	.....	.....
		{ ordinary	3,322	2,702	.....	.....
46	406 to 438	Criminal breach of trust	231	115	.....	.....
47	411, 414	Receiving stolen property	196	195	.....	.....
48	447, 448	Criminal or house-trespass	470	282	.....	.....
49	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle .....	.....	1	.....	.....
		Total	4,610	3,552	29.7	47.2
<i>CLASS VI.—Other offences not specified above.</i>						
50	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves	1	.....	.....	.....
51	Chapter XIX., C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad characters	203	101	.....	.....
52	296 to 297	Offences against religion	2	2	.....	.....
53	} Cognizable offences under the Acts in force in the Province.. {	Cognizable offences under the Gambling Act..	2	11	.....	.....
54		— Excise Laws	187	238	.....	.....
55		— Stamp Act .....	.....	5	.....	.....
56	269, 270, 277, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 285 to 287, 289, 291 to 294, Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws	Public and local nuisances	261	254	.....	.....
		Total	677	611	66	77.1
		Other special and local laws cognisable by Police	158	207	65.1	48.6

LICE.

Crime, with result of Police Operations for the year 1880.

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.	
1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
80	42	81	38	....	....	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
125	128	115	125	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
228	170	221	147	....	....	....	....	23,133	43,828	3,500	5,930	....	....
30	7	30	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
37	7	27	7	....	....	....	....	....	11	....	4	....	....
384	384	418	353	51.6	46.8	65.2	50.4	28,815	45,513	4,438	6,340	15.4	13.9
21	7	21	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
612	746	609	742	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
412	356	392	348	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1	3	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	....	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,962	1,111	1,028	1,099	60.8	68.7	62.2	69.5	....	....	....	....	49.1	....
55	75	46	75	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....
218	138	203	138	....	....	....	....	11,474	4,513	9,764	3,787	....	....
2,057	2,011	1,934	1,901	....	....	....	....	47,292	53,363	17,047	20,859	....	....
292	167	194	148	....	....	....	....	1,199	1,090	787	101	....	....
300	361	358	360	....	....	....	....	7,631	9,626	5,628	7,996	....	....
305	607	794	699	....	....	....	....	....	60	....	....	....	....
....	2	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	25	....	25	....	....
3,099	3,351	3,529	3,328	57.9	59.7	60.7	62.1	67,596	70,677	33,226	32,718	....	46.2
3	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
180	133	179	132	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
9	3	9	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15	31	13	61	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
306	370	305	369	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5	24	5	24	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
406	407	405	405	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
623	608	621	664	75.1	73.7	75.3	79.0	....	....	....	....	....	....
303	615	300	615	92.3	93.5	94.	93.5	....	....	....	....	....	....

3.—Thuggee and Dacoity, Administration of Stupefying Drugs for criminal purposes, and other Professional Crimes.

Description of Crime.

Description of Crime.	Cases.		Persons.						Comparative return.								
	Committed during the previous 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 supposed to be concerned in cases in columns 2 and 3.	Arrested.	Brought to trial.	Convicted.	Brought to trial.	Convicted.	Property stolen.	Property recovered.					
Thugges	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
{ By strangulation By poison																	
{ With murder Dacoity on land { With wounding; { Simple.....																	
{ With murder Dacoity on water { With wounding { Simple																	
Robbery by administration of poisonous or deleterious drugs. { With murder .. { Without																	
Other professional crimes, viz.— Kidnaping																	
Cattle-theft																	

NIL.

4.—Statement of Additional Police collected for the protection of persons and property, or quartered as a punitive measure.

1	PART I. ADDITIONAL POLICE COLLECTED FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.										PART II. ADDITIONAL POLICE QUARTERED AS A PUNITIVE MEASURE.																			
	2 Names of fairs or places of large assembly, where additional Police have been collected during the year.	3 Duration of fair or assembly.	4 Estimated number of persons assembled.	5 Strength of Police usually located at the place.			6 Detached from the regular force.			7 Specially employed in addition to columns 5 to 8.			8 Total cost under columns 9 and 10.	9 Number of offences against person or property during assembly.	10 Property.	11 Recovered.	12 In which conviction followed.	13 Investigated by the Police.	14 To local or private funds.	15 To Government.	16 Men.	17 Sub-Inspectors.	18 Head-Constables.	19 Men.	20 Total cost of additional Police, including all contingencies.	21 Period for which quartered.	22 Number of offences committed in or traced to a village or place in which the additional Police was established.			
				Officers.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Officers.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Officers.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.																Strength of additional Police.		
District.																														
Godpara ..	15 days..	20,000	1	1	4	20	5	24	2	0	24	2	0	1	8*	462	8	6	..		
Kamrup ..		5,000		
Darrang	
Nowgong
Sibsagar
Lakhimpur	
Sylhet Fair.	2	29 days	25,000	
Cachar Fair.
Total....
Rs. A. P.	NIL.																													
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. Rs.A.P.																													
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P. Rs.A.P.																													
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P. Rs.A.P.																													

* This strength of the punitive Police was entertained under Section 15 of Act V. of 1861 at the cost of the villagers and located at Algaon, but it has been abolished in 1880.

[45]

D.—POLICE.
5.—Showing Strength, Cost, Distribution, and Employment of Police for 1880.

District.	Sanctioned strength of Police Force.													Cost of Police.				Average pay of Foot and Water Constables.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19
	Inspectors-General, Deputy, and Assistant-Inspectors-General.	Number of District and Assistant Superintendents.	Number of Subordinate Officers on Rs. 100 and upwards. (1)	Number of Subordinate Officers on less than Rs. 100. (1)	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. 2), and pay and travelling allowances of their establishments.	Total pay of District Superintendents and District Superintendents (col. 3). (2)	Travelling Allowances of District and Assistant Superintendents.	Other expenses of col. 3.	Total pay of Subordinate Officers (col. 4 and 5). (4)	Total pay of Constables of all classes (columns 6, 7 and 8).	Horse and travelling allowances, permanent or otherwise, not included in cols. 11, 12, and 14.	Mounted Constables.	Foot and Water Constables.
1																		
Goalpara .....	..	1	2	48	..	275	2	..	6	..	8,400	1,200	2110	16,200	25,044	..	..	8 0 0
Kamrup .....	..	1	2	39	..	248	2	4	36	..	7,200	1,200	1,035	15,480	22,348	..	..	7 8 0
Darrang .....	..	1	2	38	..	247	2	..	..	..	8,400	1,200	1,318	13,776	22,740	..	..	7 8 0
Nowgong .....	..	1	1	19	..	144	1	..	..	..	4,800	900	1,278	8,169	12,792	..	..	7 8 0
Sibsagar .....	..	1	3	37	..	264	2	1	6	..	4,800	1,200	1,348	15,624	24,316	..	..	8 0 0
Lakhimpur .....	..	2	3	59	..	300	2	..	..	10,200	1,200	1,240	15,456	32,028	..	..	8 0 0	
Sylhet .....	..	1	6	99	..	618	..	2	20	..	8,400	1,800	2,128	38,976	56,688	..	..	8 0 0
Cachar .....	..	2	4	69	..	525	8	..	9	..	11,400	1,200	1,696	25,128	53,218	..	..	8 0 0
Khasi Hills .....	..	..	1	17	..	150	..	2	7	..	..	500	1,070	8,580	17,400	..	..	10 0 0
Jaintia " .....	..	..	2	30	..	300	2	..	..	..	4,800	500	1,000	13,344	32,028	..	..	8 0 0
Naga " .....	..	..	3	48	..	400	8	..	..	10,200	1,000	692	19,272	46,608	..	..	8 0 0	
Total .....	..	13	29	483	..	3,471	29	10	100	..	78,600	11,900	14,015	1,89,996	3,47,640	..	..	8 8 0
Office of Inspector-General of Police, Assam.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,600	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Police Branch attached to the Chief Commissioner's office.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chief Commissioner's personal staff.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,440	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	1	13	29	483	..	3,471	29	10	100	25,000	78,600	11,900	14,015	1,89,896	3,47,640	..	..	8 8 0

District.	Cost of Police.										Distribution of Force.										Proportion of Police (officers and men).										
	Contingencies, and all expenses other than included in columns 11 to 17.					Payable from other sources.					In districts.					In cantonments.					Area of whole district, in square miles.		Population of whole district.		To area (square miles).		To population.				
	Total cost.		Payable from Imperial revenues.		Payable from other sources.		Officers.		Men.		Officers.		Men.		Officers.		Men.		Of the whole district.		Of district, exclusive of towns.		Of towns.		Of the whole district.		Of districts, exclusive of towns.		Of towns.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Godipara	7,141	60,629	60,695	534	1	4	4	23	45	250	..	6	..	4,433	407,714	1 to 13:27	1 to 12:06	1 to 40	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29	1 to 1:29		
Kamrup	5,782	57,875	53,245	4,630	2	33	4	16	35	195	4	36	..	3,631	561,681	1 to 10:93	1 to 12:46	1 to 1	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91	1 to 1:91		
Darrang	4,942	52,376	52,376	..	2	20	4	25	33	189	..	..	..	3,415	236,069	1 to 11:70	1 to 11:67	1 to 34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	1 to 1:34	
Nowrang	3,664	31,594	31,594	..	1	6	2	20	17	119	..	..	..	2,855	296,390	1 to 20:57	1 to 22:81	..	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	1 to 1:54	
Sibsagar	7,045	54,820	54,633	287	1	6	5	35	33	220	1	6	..	2,855	296,389	1 to 9:09	1 to 9:2	1 to 1	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02	1 to 1:02		
Lakhimpur	6,152	67,032	66,276	756	1	9	4	19	37	274	1	6	..	3,723	121,261	1 to 10:57	..	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1		
Sylhet	22,143	1,32,157	1,30,135	3,022	3	52	13	100	90	466	2	30	..	5,440	1,79,639	1 to 7:18	1 to 7:51	1 to 6	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27	1 to 2:27		
Cachar	22,130	1,17,735	1,16,802	933	2	18	3	49	64	460	..	9	..	3,750	240,027	1 to 6:07	1 to 8:1	1 to 33	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	1 to 3:31	
Khasi Hills	4,038	39,808	31,688	8,220	1	13	3	27	14	110	2	7	..	6,157	141,838	1 to 33:82	1 to 34	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	
Garo "	4,671	55,443	55,443	..	..	..	..	58	28	237	..	..	..	5,890	68,918	1 to 13:82	..	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1
Naga "	30,755	1,08,527	1,08,527	..	..	..	..	3	19	30	158	..	..	3,180	80,000	1 to 6:89	..	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1
Total.....	1,18,463	7,78,896	7,60,614	18,382	14	161	54	391	426	2,676	10	100	..	45,297	4,129,972	1 to 10:95	..	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	
Office of Inspector-General of Police, Assam.	4,008	25,608	25,608
Police Branch attached to the Chief Commissioner's office.	..	1,980	1,980
Chief Commissioner's personal staff.	..	1,440	1,440
Total.....	4,008	29,008	29,008
Grand Total.....	1,22,471	8,08,004	7,89,622	18,382	14	161	54	391	426	2,676	10	100	..	45,297	4,129,972	1 to 10:95	..	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

District.	Rewards.		Education.						Of one year's service, and under ten years.		Of ten years' service and upwards.		Number who have left the force during the year.						Percentage of deaths during the year to total strength of force.	Percentage in hospital during the year to total strength of force.	
	19	20	Number of Police who can read and write.		Number of Police under instruction during the year.		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35			36
			Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.															
Godhra	2	8	31	30	67	182	68	8	..	38	9	..	4	4	4	4	31	1.2			
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kamrup	6	9	25	40	55	217	10	1	1	20	15	..	..	..	..	..	6	176.9	
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	7	8	97	93	78	143	68	1	3	35	12	..	..	..	..	..	3	24.8	
Nowong	..	1	15	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sivasagar	89	3	7	25	80	56	172	84	2	20	9	5	..	..	..	..	1	38.78	
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	17	3	7	24	28	183	121	1	1	16	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	3	7	63	118	106	384	218	7	..	30	23	2	9	14	272	1.93	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar	32	14	4	51	12	13	6	4	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hills	4	..	9	130	101	158	158	5	1	13	9	8	9	13	861	2.14	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hills	5	1	4	12	90	40	83	39	3	2	17	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills	19	2	3	17	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Regular	35	154	29	80	293	628	894	28	9	217	109	20	22	60	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal	2	..	7	16	45	54	7	..	..	18	14	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..

• There were 3 deaths in the Naga Hills Provincial Police, but the percentage of deaths has been calculated on the total strength paid from both Imperial and Provincial Revenues.

7. Showing the Race and Religion, or Caste, of Officers and Men employed in the Police in the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

District.	Race.						Religion or Caste.																						
	Europeans.			Eurasians.			Muhammadans.						Hindus.																
	District or Assistant District Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.	Constables.	District or Assistant District Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.	Constables.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	District or Assistant District Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.	Constables.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	Christians.	Assamese.	Bengali.	Hindustani.	Panjabi.	Brahmans.	Chetras and Rajputs.	Gurkhas.	Sikhs.	Assamese Koltas.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris and Burmese.	Hindus of all other castes.			
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	26	27	28	29	30
Goalpara.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	48	267	2	6	..	1	8	2	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kamrup.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	38	242	1	4	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	34	36	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowong.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	145	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsagar.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	36	265	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	39	249	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	95	606	3	14	..	1	17	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	67	519	..	1	2	2	7	7	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi Hills.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16	114	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	29	283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga ".....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	19	179	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Regular.....	..	13	1	..	..	2	..	..	26	438	3,183	20	12	4	6	48	22	48	15	4	47	23	137	..	..	..	..	..	..
" Municipal.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	99	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

District.	Religion or Caste.—(Continued.)																			Grand Total of Officers and Men.							
	Officers.									Men.																	
	Other religions.									Muhammadans.					Hindus.						Other religions.						
	Nāgas.	Kukis.	Garos.	Khasias.	Chacharis, Rabhas.	Khasias.	Christians.	Assamese.	Bengali.	Hindustani.	Panjabi.	Brahmans.	Chetras and Rajpoots.	Goorkhas.	Sekhs.	Assamese Koltas.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris and Burmese.	Hindus of all other castes.		Nāgas.	Kukis.	Garos.	Cacharis and Rabhas.	Khasias.	Mikirs.	Bhutias.
Goālpāra Municipal	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Kāmrup Municipal	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	3	..	..	5	3	1	16	..	..	11	96	..	..	..	318
Darrang Municipal	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Nowgong Municipal	1	32	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	283
Sibsāgar Municipal	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Lakhimpur Municipal	6	46	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	282
Sybet Municipal	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164
Cachar Municipal	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	307
Khāsi Hills Municipal	31	114	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Garō Hills Municipal	5	303	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	333
Nāga " Municipal	3	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total Regular	1	6	..	60	8	5	49	140	41	..	96	168	627	18	33	260	35	751	1	26	135	742	58	..	..	3,666
" Municipal	1	1	..	4	15	1	..	1	5	2	1	..	3	1	53	..	..	2	7	2	..	..	107

* Information regarding the race, religion, or caste of the Nāga Hills Imperial Police force has not been received, owing to the enlistment of the officers and men at Dhubri and Cachar, where they are still learning their drill.

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

1. Statement showing the strength, cost, and other particulars of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

ARM OF SERVICE.	Total number of fighting officers and men.							Detail of Force at the end of year.						Average amount 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 guns.	European com-missed officers.	Native com-missed officers.	Native com-missed officers.	Non-commissioned officers.	Fighting men.	Camp-followers.	Total cost, including contingents.					
34th Regiment, Native Infantry.	706	167	8	12	888	34	10	844	..	10	16	80	748	49	7,832	810	312	95	64	9,213	2,04,330
42nd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	839	100	20	25	61	43	48	781	..	9	16	74	601	35	64,908	13,560	15,480	68,310	2,874	2,08,167	14,300
45rd Regiment, Native Infantry.	859	102	9	27	36	13	40	872	..	8	13	79	780	32	64,353	13,079	17,081	1,04,672	2,028	2,18,157	14,196
44th Regiment, Sylhet Light Infantry	796	106	16	19	35	18	47	792	..	9	16	80	696	50	63,685	14,196	14,300	99,669	6,267	2,08,174	14,300

2. Statement showing the distribution and employment of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1880.

Arm of Service.	EMPLOYMENT ON LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.					EMPLOYMENT DURING THE YEAR.					Average number of days devoted to musketry instruction, &c.			
	Number of regiments, batteries, &c., on active service.	Name of permanent component 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.	Number of divisional or station parades during the year.	Number of regimental parades during the year.				
				On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.							
84th Native Infantry, Cachar....	1	Cachar.....	6	524	.....	168	.....	207	1724	.....	NIL	229	1403	
42nd Native Infantry, Shillong ..	1	Kohima ..	6	180	96	421	84	233	52	80	NIL	15	500	60
43rd Native Infantry, Dibrugarh...	.....	Dibrugarh ..	5	46483	.....	28975	.....	3314	7000	290	500	.....	156	52
44th Native Infantry, Shillong	Shillong ..	10	17	135	9	38	3272	176	186	11	15	200	139

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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.

Classification according to religion, races, &c.		Number.	AVERAGE			General physiol- ogy and characteristics of caste, race and clique.
			Age.	Height.	Weight.	
34th N. I.	Christians	5	22 0	5 8	1 13	
	Muhammadans.	78	34 0	5 0(?)	1 23	
	Hindus	761	26 0	5 11	1 26	
42nd N. I.	Christians	1	33 0	5 7	1 34	
	Muhammadans.	68				
	Hindus	522				
	Sikhs	190				
43rd N. I.	Christians	3	22 0	5 2	116	
	Muhammadans.	45	31 0	5 6	130	
	Hindus	824	23-15	5 5	125	
44th N. I.	Christians	9	27-85	5 7	1 30	Caucasian type.
	Muhammadans.	17	33-83	5 8	1 29	Ditto ditto.
	Hindus	766	29-83	5 6	1 26	Goorkhas, Mongolian, Hindus, Cas- cassian.

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F.—MARINE. 1.—[Blank.]

[52]

F.—MARINE. 2.—[Blank.]

PART III.

STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[53, 54, 55.]

A.—FINANCE.

See Chapter V.—Finance.

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[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 1880-81.*

(See Chapter IV., Section 7).

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[57]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS.

2. *Statement showing the Income and Expenditure on reproductive works for 1880-81.—[Blank.]*

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C.—RAILWAYS.

[Blank, there being no Railway in the Province.]

D.—MARINE, I.

1. Statement showing the various Government Ships and Vessels employed in the Province of Assam in the year 1880-81.

DETAILS 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 earnings of the vessel.	(REMARKS) — in this column should be stated the nature of the duties or which each vessel was employed. (?)
	Ton.	N.-H.P.			Rs.	Rs.			
Steamer <i>Koladyne</i>	200	90	5	39	30,105	Nil.	} Under orders of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.		
Steamer <i>Jaboona</i>	271	90	5	49	13,853	"			
Yacht <i>Sunamukhi</i>	30	..	1	16	6,297	"			
Setamer <i>Condor</i>	37	30.8	...	1	5,967	"			
Flat <i>Konai</i>	267	...	1	22	6,968	"			
Steamer <i>Gogra</i>	360	...	1	22	2,032	"			
Steam-launch <i>Hawk</i>	12.6	...	1	2,900	"			

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D.—MARINE, II.

2. Statement showing the number of Officers and Men employed otherwise than in Government Vessels in the Province of Assam in the year 1880-81.

Description of establishment.	Number of officers.	Number of men.	Total annual cost.	Total annual earnings.	REMARKS.
			Rs.		
Goálpára coal depot	2	162	.....	} To September 1880, after which date the depôts became Provincial charges.
Kámrup ditto	2	112	.....
Darrang ditto	1	42	.....
Goálpára pilot establishment.	3	900	.....

1. Crops cultivated, in acres (1880-81).

Districts.	Area of rainy-season crops in acres.										Area of dry-season crops in acres.					Total.	Grand Total.		
	Rice.	Indian-corn.	Other food.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Cotton.	Sugar-cane.	Tea.	Potatoes.	Indigo.	Silk.	Total.	Wheat.	Rice.	Other food.			Oil-seeds.	Pulse & others.
Surma Valley districts.	1,448,834	..	....	..	20,000	5,000	8,000	18,866	..	..	..	1,500,000	....	....	300,000	20,000	420,000	1,920,000
Cochar ..	246,800	..	....	..	100	2,500	300	44,960	..	..	..	294,650	....	....	1,000	5,300	6,300	300,950
(Goolpatra	361,312	..	2,143	..	74,425	19,885	1,742	342	..	500	..	460,359	9,765	....	61,198	....	109,883	669,942
Kamrup	122,501	..	4,243	..	....	3,653	4,944	8,876	..	..	..	144,217	....	308,106	36,402	22,011	365,192	609,409
Darrang	11,600	142	1,838	165	422	897	2,631	14,658	..	..	..	32,273	....	150,680	6,137	2,188	160,077	192,350
Nowgong	124,882	1,850	10,322	3,990	2,963	3,249	3,809	8,627	..	..	..	159,782	....	66,784	22,371	33,166	127,678	287,360
Sibsagar	282,785	..	....	..	15	28	4,555	37,608	..	..	..	274,641	....	....	7,280	64,839	63,119	331,760
Lakhimpur.	86,572-690	..	325-930	219-480	6-930	6-330	569-930	19,707	..	..	389-600	107,791-800	1-710	1-00	....	....	2-710	107,794-510
Garo Hills*	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Khasi "	59,880	9,460	46,360	..	....	1,076	224	33,880	..	..	..	142,780	....	....	....	....	....	142,780
Naga "	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

* Deputy-Commissioners have reported their returns blank.
 a June. b Riba.

E.—AGRICULTURE.

2. Stock (1880-81).

Districts.	Cows and bullocks.	Horses.	Ponies.	Donkeys.	Sheep and goats.	Pigs.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Boats.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	400,000	25	1,300	.....	60,000	200,000	35	225,000	150,000	Guess figures.
Cachar	95,647	20	1,200	.....	10,000	600	50	30,000	1,250	
Goalpára	291,000	50	645	50	75,000	19,000	100	91,500	5,700	
Kámrúp	327,262	172	1,251	8	32,443	36,065	213	111,530	5,167	
Darrang	25,300	65	1,600	9	119,500	16,000	500	27,000	2,400	
Nowgong .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	20,000	20	600	.....	3,000	1,000	392	8,388	2,500	
Gáro Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khási and Jaintía Hills ...	35,258	10	120	.....	10,219	12,388	20	2,115	50	
Néga Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

E.—AGRICULTURE.
3. Rates of Rent and Produce (1880-81).

DISTRICTS.	AVERAGE RENT PER ACRE FOR LAND SUITED FOR										AVERAGE PRODUCE OF LAND PER ACRE IN POUNDS.														
	Rice.	Wheat.	Interior Grain.	Indigo.	Cotton.	Opium.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Rice.	Wheat.	Interior food-grain.	Indigo.	Cotton.	Opium.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Tea.	Coffee.	Sp. &c.	Potatoes.	
	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.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Sirma Valley. { Cachar Sylhet.	1 13 8	....	....	..	....	....	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	2,000	..	..	320	..	400	160	800	50	280	..	..	..	..
	2 13 0	....	1 1 0	..	1 9 0	....	1 9 0	....	5 3 0	....	1,000	..	733	200	..	424	..	2,400	..	192	..	..	..	..
Godipara	2 0 0	2 0 0	1 8 0	..	....	....	1 8 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	1,440	400	..	..	..	640	15	480	720	129	..	..	..	..
Kamrup	1 9 10	....	....	..	1 8 2	....	1 8 2	....	1 8 2	1 8 2	1,800	..	..	120	..	615	..	615	240	174	..	..	..	..
Darrang	1 14 0	....	1 8 0	..	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	850	..	160	230	..	550	20	600	700	344	..	..	..	..
Nowong	1 11 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	..	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,120	800	640	240	..	320	240	250	160	293	..	..	..	..
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	174	60	325	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur ..	1 14 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	..	....	....	1 8 0	....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,200	..	..	..	..	160	..	..	640	317	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills ....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi " ....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	640	..	240	160	..	..	..	..	..	148	..	..	..	..
Naga "	1 1 7	....	0 14	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,400

1. Produce.

Districts.	Price of produce per maund of 80lbs.										11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	Rice.	Wheat.	Linsced.	Jute.	Cotton.	Sugar.	Sambur salt.	Rock salt.	Molasses.	Plough-bullocks, each.														
Sylhet	Rs. A. P. 1 4 9	Rs. A. P. 4 0 6	Rs. A. P. 3 1 0	Rs. A. P. 3 2 11	Rs. A. P. 5 11 8	Rs. A. P. 5 8 4-5-3	Rs. 4-5-3	Rs. 4-5-3	Rs. 7 6 0	Rs. 25 0 25	Rs. A. S. P. 5 8 2 0	Rs. A. P. 6 8	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	Rs. A. P. 8 0 0	
Cachar	2 8 0	.....	7 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	0 17 0	0 7-0-0	.....	5 0 0	25 0 4	6 0 20	0 20 0	.....	35 0 0	60 2 8	0 3 12	0 14 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Goalpára	2 8 0	2 8 0	.....	4 0 0	10 0	0 15 0	0 0	.....	15 5 0	20 0 2	8 2 0	7 0 0	5 0 0	42 0 0	80 4 0	5 0 0	15 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Kámrúp	3 0 0	.....	.....	4 0 0	8 0	0 17 0	0 0	.....	.....	25 0 4	0 0	7 0 0	5 0 0	.....	25 0 0	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	2 8 0	.....	.....	5 0 0	10 0	0 20 0	0 0	.....	7 8 0	25 0 3	0 2 0	7 4 5	8 0 40	0 0 80	4 8 0	5 0 0	15 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Nowgong	3 0 0	5 0 0	.....	5 0 0	5 8 0	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0	20 0 3	0 4 0	7 0 0	.....	40 0 0	35 0 0	3 0 0	15 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Sibságar	4 6 0	.....	.....	6 12 0	3 7 0	19 8 0	0 0	.....	6 3 0	35 0 3	0 4 0	7 8 6	5 0 37	4 0 82	5 4 0	4 8 0	18 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Lakhimpur.	2 8 0	.....	2 to 3	.....	.....	16 0 0	0 0	.....	.....	30 to 40	4 to 6	8 0 10	0 6 0	35 0 0	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gáru Hills.	2 to 2-14	.....	.....	3 to 4	7 to 14	20 0 0	0 0	.....	12 0 0	12 to 20	6 to 8	0 0 4	per 5 0 0	6 0 0	20 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Khásl "	3-8 to 5-8	.....	.....	.....	7 0 0	.....	0 0	.....	.....	15 to 30	5 to 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nága "	5 8 0	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0	40 to 50	0 0	.....	.....	30 to 40	6 to 10	8 to 12	10 0 15	20 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

[65] F.—PRICES OF PRODUCE AND LABOUR AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1880-81.

2. Labour.

Districts.	Wages per diem.		Cart per day.	Elephant per day.	Donkeys per score per day.	Boat per month.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.				
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.
Sylhet	0 10 0	0 6 0	....	....	....	42 0 0
Cachar	0 12 0	0 6 0	0 13 0	....	....	Rs. 37 to Rs. 48
Goalpara	As. 6 to 8	0 4 0	....	1 to 1-8	....	" 30 to 90
Kamrup	0 8 0	0 4 0	....	2 0 0	....	7 8 0
Jarrang	0 12 0	0 5 6	1 4 0	....	....	7 8 0
Nowgong	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 0 0	....	....	15 0 0
Sibsagar	0 12 0	0 4 0	2 0 0	8 0 0	....	Rs. 7-8 to Rs. 15
Lakhimpur	As. 8 to 1	As. 6 to As. 8	2 to 2-8	8 0 0	....	" 15
Garo Hills	0 8 0	" 3 to " 5	1 0 0	....	....	" 30 to 60
Khasi "	8 to 1-4	" 5 to " 8	1 8 0	....	....	" .....
Naga "	Nil.	" 4 to Re. 1	....	....	....	" 17-12 to 37-8

* Skilled labour such as that of smiths, bricklayers and carpenters is not procurable here, and when required has to be obtained from the plains at a very high rate of wages.

[66] G.—MINES AND QUARRIES (1880-81).

Where situated.	Mineral produced.	Number of mines.	Annual produce.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
Sylhet— In pargana Jáflang, in Jaintia	Limestone	1	Maunds 50,000	The figures in column 4 is the estimated capacity of the quarry, but the present holder of the quarry says that he could not extract so much in the year under report.
Khasi Hills	Lime	25	Nil.	
Ditto	Coal	11	Nil.	
Jaintia Hills.....	Lime	7	Nil.	
Ditto	Coal	5	Nil.	
Garo Hills— Mosheshkhali	Limestone	1	2,743	A coal-mine discovered in pargana Karaibári, belonging to the zemindar Babu Nilkomal Lahery and others.
Goalpara— In pargana Karaibári	Coal	Nil.	Nil.	
Kamrup— In Mataikhar	Iron	Nil.	Nil.	Not worked. Ditto.
" Chapaguri	Limestone	Nil.	Nil.	
Lakhimpur— Namdang and Terrap	Coal	2	No data.	

H.—MANUFACTURES (1880-81).

[67]

Class of Manufactures.

	Silk.	Cotton.	Wool.	Other fibres.	Paper.	Wood.	Iron.	Brass and copper.	Building.	Tea.	Gold smith.	Remarks.
1. Number of mills and large manufactories.	2	.....	.....	.....	103	..	
2. Private looms or small works...	2,000	.....	.....	.....	52	100	10	.....	.....	..	Cachar only.
3. Number of work- men in large works. { Male Female	
4. Number of workmen in small works, or independent artisans.	18,000	.....	21	.....	2,205	1,853	368	159	.....	1,632	Syhet and Cachar.
5. Number of European Superintendents.	2,000	.....	.....	.....	200	300	20	500	.....	2	
6. Value of block in ditto	
7. Estimated annual outturn of all works.	10,000	.....	.....	.....	30,000	6,000	500	10,000	10,152,765 lb	..	Cachar.

]

I.—TRADE.

1.—*Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into Assam from non-British Territories during the year 1880-81.*

Showing the quantity and value of articles imported

1	2	3	4		5
			Bhután. Town		
			Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.			
				Rs.	
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—				
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number	80	5,981	254
	2. Cattle	"	135	405	26
	3. Sheep and goats	"	11	33	81
	4. Other kinds	"			
I.(a)	Betel-leaves	Maunds			
II.	Borax	"			
III.	Canes and rattans	"			
IV.	Caoutchouc	"	110	5,221	103
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Value ..			
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds			
VI.(a)	Corals, real	lb.			
VII.	Cotton, raw	Maunds			
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—				
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"			
	2. Ditto (Indian)	"	1	20	
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Maunds, equal to yards.			
	4. Ditto (Indian)	"			
IX.	Drugs and medicines—				
	1. Asafetida	Maunds.			
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating	"			
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	"			
X.	Dyeing materials—				
	1. Indigo	"			
	2. Madder or manjit	"	8	39	285
	3. Safflower	"			
	4. Turmeric	"			
	5. Other kinds	"			
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	Value ..		15	
XII.	Fibrous products—				
	1. Jute, raw	Maunds			
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny-bags and cloths)	Number			
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds			
	4. " manufactured	"			
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—				
	1. Coconuts	Number			
	2. All other kinds	Maunds	4	80	186
XIII.(a)	Glass—				
	1. Beads and false pearls	Maunds			
XIV.	Grain and pulse—				
	1. Wheat	"			
	2. Gram and pulse	"			
	3. Other spring crops	"			
	4. Rice, husked	"			
	5. Rice, unhusked	"			
	6. Other rain crops	"			
XV.	Gums and resins	"	5	67	18
XVI.	Hides and skins—				
	1. Hides of cattle	Maunds			
	2. Skins of sheep, goats and small animals	"			
XVII.	Horns	"			
XVII.(a)	Ivory	"			
XVIII.	Lac—				
	1. Dye	"			
	2. Shell and button	"			
	3. Stick	"	92	1,104	43

[68]

Showing the quantity and value of articles imported into

1 No.	2 List of Articles.	3 Denomi- nation.	4		5	
			Bhutan.		Towang.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
XIX.	Leather—					
	1. Unmanufactured	Value ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XX.	Liquors .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXI.	Mats .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—					
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Iron .....	"	.....	4	36	.....
	3. Other metals .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXII.(a)	Musk	Ozs	2	16	75	890
XXIII.	Oils	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXIV.	Opium .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXV.	Paints and colours .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXVI.	Provisions—					
	1. Ghee	"	5	220	40	1,600
	2. Fish (dry) .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Other kinds .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXVII.	Salt	"	136	680	1,279	12,421
XXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.—					
	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	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXI.	Spices—					
	1. Betel-nuts	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Other kinds	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXII.	Stone and marble	"	234	3,388	1,550	7,576
XXXIII.	Sugar—					
	1. Refined .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Unrefined .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXIV.	Tea—					
	1. Indian .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Foreign .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXV.	Tobacco .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXV.(a)	Wax	"	80	1,163	61	2,040
XXXVI.	Wood—					
	1. Timber	Number	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Firwood	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Bamboos	Number	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXVII.	Wool—					
	1. Raw	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Shawls	Maunds	.....	.....	.....	.....
	4. Blankets	Number	.....	.....	19	480
XXXVII.(a)	Yaks' tails	"	1,272	3,528	2,043	7,534
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—	"	52	16	274	274
	1. Unmanufactured	Value ..	.....	367	.....	896
	2. Manufactured .....	"	.....	217	.....	425
XXXVIII.a	Treasure—					
	Gold .....	"	.....	220	.....	3,520
	Silver .....	"	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	Value ..	.....	22,070	.....	60,524

[69]

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1	2	3	4		5	
			Bhutan.		Towang.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.		Rs.		Rs.
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—					
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number.	..	..	..	..
	2. Cattle	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Sheep and goats	"	..	..	..	..
	4. Other kinds	"	60	42	137	418
I. (a)	Betel-leaves	Maunds.	35	69	67	208
II.	Borax	"	..	..	..	..
III.	Canes and rattans	"	..	..	..	..
IV.	Caoutchouc	"	..	..	..	..
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Value.	..	..	..	..
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds,	..	..	..	..
VI. (a)	Corals, real	b.	..	..	..	..
VII.	Cotton, raw	Maunds	..	..	..	..
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—					
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"	..	..	..	..
	2. Ditto (Indian)	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Maunds, equal to yards.	..	..	..	..
	4. Ditto (Indian)	Maunds, equal to yards.	29	40	4,385	
IX.	Drugs and medicines—		5,080	912	3,859	
	1. Asafetida	Maunds.	..	..	..	..
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	"	..	..	..	..
X.	Dyeing materials—					
	1. Indigo	"	..	..	..	..
	2. Madder or manjit	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Safflower	"	..	..	..	..
	4. Turmeric	"	..	..	..	..
	5. Other kinds	"	..	..	..	..
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	Value.	..	4	..	40
XII.	Fibrous products—					
	1. Jute, raw	Maunds	..	..	..	..
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny bags and cloths)	Number.	..	..	..	..
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds.	..	..	..	..
	4. Ditto manufactured	"	..	..	..	..
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—					
	1. Cocoanuts	Number.	..	..	..	..
	2. All other kinds	Maunds.	..	..	..	..
XIII. (a)	Glass—					
	1. Beads and false pearls	Value	..	..	..	..
	2. Other kinds	"	..	..	..	..
XIV.	Grain and pulse—					
	1. Wheat	Maunds.	..	..	..	..
	2. Gram and pulse	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Other spring crops	"	..	..	..	..
	4. Rice, husked	"	992	543	2,459	4,918
	5. " unhusked	"	289	272	4,235	3,990
	6. Other rain crops	"	..	..	..	..
XV.	Gums and resins	"	..	..	..	..
XVI.	Hides and skins—					
	1. Hides of cattle	"	..	..	..	..
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals	"	..	..	..	..
XVII.	Horns	"	..	..	..	..
XVII. (a)	Ivory	"	..	..	..	..
XVIII.	Lac—					
	1. Dre	"	..	..	..	..
	2. Shell and button	"	..	..	..	..
	3. Stick	"	..	..	92	730

PORTS.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CV

from Assam into non-British Territories during the year 1880-81.

6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		
Dafu Hills.		Abor Hills.		Naga and Mishmi Hills.		Hill Tipperah.		Lushai Hills.		Manipur.		Khampti Hills.		Total.		
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	..	Rs.	
..	9	2	270	670	..	..	..	..	270	670	
..	1sr.	1	..	820	..	..	..	..	214	780	
..	102	277	
..	1sr.	1	
..	
..	
..	10	965	157	11,759	167	12,724
..	..	1	103	..	..	25	1,668	121	..	345	28srs.	42	..	491m.28s	103
..	10,545	6	29,282	5,949	1,63,092	91,312	117	..	203,036	98,971	
1	40	..	45	3,295	860	2,406	6	48.	3	..	..	..	120m.4s.	8,995	
126	16,538	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,007	..		
..	1sr.	6	..	..	1sr.	6	
..	
..	1sr.	8	..	..	22srs.	71	..	..	23srs.	74	
..	
..	1	2	..	4srs.	10	..	..	1m.4s.	12	
..	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	
..	135	414	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	414	
..	
..	6,575	250	..	..	499	42	..	..	7,074	292	
1ch.	21srs.	24	39	3,618	..	..	..	1	598	..	..	..	..	40m20s1c	4,245
..	
..	4	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	20	
..	631	1,553	..	..	..	..	..	..	631	1,553	
1sr.	559	..	..	..	..	6	7	1,080	8,140	..	..	..	..	4,024	9,167
..	4,517	4,271	
..	8ch.	3	..	..	8ch.	3	
..	
..	2	55	1 sr.	2	2	40	..	..	2m. 1s.	55	
..	82	42	
..	720	

[69]

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1	2	3	4		5	
			Bhutan.		Tawang.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.				
XIX.	Leather—					
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	..	....	..	....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	..	....	..	....
XX.	Liquors .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXI.	Mats .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—					
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds.	34	2,200	141	57
	2. Iron	"	35	479	24	8
	3. Other metals	"	2	150	19	3
XXII. (a)	Musk	Ounces.	..	....	..	....
XXIII.	Oils	Maunds.	..	....	..	....
XXIV.	Opium .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXV.	Paints and colours .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXVI.	Provisions—					
	1. Ghee .....	"	..	....	..	....
	2. Fish (dry)	"	40	400	452	23
	3. Other kinds	"	32	64	852	13
XXVII.	Salt .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.—					
	1. Saltpetre .....	"	..	....	..	....
	2. Other saline substances .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXIX.	Seeds—					
	1. Oil-seeds—					
	(a) Linseed .....	"	..	....	..	....
	(b) Mustard and rape .....	"	..	....	..	....
	(c) Til or gingelly .....	"	..	....	231	1,1
	(d) Other oil-seeds .....	"	..	....	..	....
	2. Other seeds—					
	(a) Indigo-seed .....	"	..	....	..	....
	(b) Tea-seed .....	"	..	....	..	....
	(c) Other seeds .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXX.	Silk—					
	1. Raw	"	1	150	..	....
	2. Manufactured	Maunds.	16	..	103	..
XXXI.	Spices—					
	1. Betel-nuts	Maunds.	2,626	..	11,190	..
	2. Other kinds	"	62	166	172	4
XXXII.	Stone and marble .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXIII.	Sugar—					
	1. Refined .....	"	..	....	..	....
	2. Unrefined .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXIV.	Tea—					
	1. Indian .....	"	..	....	..	....
	2. Foreign .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXV.	Tobacco	"	20	200	121	1,5
XXXV. (a)	Wax .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXVI.	Wood—					
	1. Timber	Number.	..	....	..	....
	2. Firewood	Maunds.	..	....	..	....
	3. Bamboos	Number.	..	....	..	....
XXXVII.	Wool—					
	1. Raw	Maunds.	..	....	..	....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Maunds, equal to yards.	..	....	..	....
	3. Shawls	Number.	..	....	..	....
	4. Blankets .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXVII. (a)	Yaks' tails .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—					
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	..	....	..	....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	..	....	..	....
XXXVIII. (a)	Treasure—					
	Gold .....	"	..	....	..	....
	Silver .....	"	..	....	..	....
	Total	Value.	..	7,280	..	37,3

[70]

K.—COINAGE 1.

[Blank, there being no Mint in this Province.]

[71]

K.—PAPER CURRENCY, 2.

[Blank, there being no separate Currency Circle for Assam.]

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Income.

No.	Name of Dispensary.	A.		B.										C.		D.		E.		F.	
		Balance on 1st January.		From Government.										From Local or other Funds.		Interest on Investments.		Subscriptions.			
		Invested.	Floating.	Total.	As salaries.	As registers and forms.	As European medicines.	For diet of police cases.	Sale of medicines.	Special allowance given by Government.	Total.	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.
1	Shillong	292 6 3	15 1 9	307 8 0	Rs. A. P.	640 11 4	Rs. A. P.	159 6 4	Rs. As. P.	1,100 1 8	Rs. As. P.	177 0 0	Rs. As. P.	11 2 9	Rs. As. P.	1,265 0 0	Rs. As. P.	214 14 0	Rs. As. P.	3,015 9 11	
2	Tura	169 0 0	235 4 0	404 4 0	Rs. A. P.	632 14 6	Rs. A. P.	28 2 8	Rs. As. P.	1,574 13 8	Rs. As. P.	10 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	169 0 0	Rs. As. P.	17 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,996 3 8	
3	Dibruti	169 0 0	169 0 0	338 0 0	Rs. A. P.	16 11 6	Rs. A. P.	213 0 9	Rs. As. P.	229 12 3	Rs. As. P.	367 0 0	Rs. As. P.	27 7 0	Rs. As. P.	367 0 0	Rs. As. P.	183 13 0	Rs. As. P.	1,971 8 3	
4	Gwalpara	331 3 9	51 13 0	382 5 0	Rs. A. P.	1,059 0 0	Rs. A. P.	71 1 3	Rs. As. P.	1,130 1 3	Rs. As. P.	308 1 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	38 0 0	Rs. As. P.	546 9 0	Rs. As. P.	1,874 8 3	
5	Gandpur	161 0 3	131 0 3	292 0 6	Rs. A. P.	240 0 0	Rs. A. P.	59 7 3	Rs. As. P.	521 15 3	Rs. As. P.	4 12 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	720 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,377 13 0	
6	Lakhipur	265 14 1	37 5 10	303 3 11	Rs. A. P.	645 0 0	Rs. A. P.	163 4 5	Rs. As. P.	968 6 54	Rs. As. P.	338 5 9	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	402 0 0	Rs. As. P.	660 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,166 0 0	
7	Barpeta	35 11 3	88 11 3	123 2 6	Rs. A. P.	551 4 0	Rs. A. P.	134 6 1	Rs. As. P.	133 13 81	Rs. As. P.	180 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	211 8 0	Rs. As. P.	2,223 7 11	
8	Nowgong	316 4 4	316 4 4	632 8 8	Rs. A. P.	637 0 0	Rs. A. P.	108 11 6	Rs. As. P.	634 15 6	Rs. As. P.	274 6 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	416 0 0	Rs. As. P.	386 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,770 0 0	
9	Tezpur	350 0 0	388 7 7	738 7 7	Rs. A. P.	420 0 0	Rs. A. P.	89 5 0	Rs. As. P.	855 4 0	Rs. As. P.	694 6 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	673 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,784 14 4	Rs. As. P.	2,784 14 4	
10	Mangaldai	100 14 8	60 1 2	160 15 10	Rs. A. P.	420 0 0	Rs. A. P.	68 1 3	Rs. As. P.	95 9 0	Rs. As. P.	230 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	420 0 0	Rs. As. P.	375 12 0	Rs. As. P.	1,277 12 7	
11	Subsagar	234 6 4	234 6 4	469 2 8	Rs. A. P.	1,083 0 0	Rs. A. P.	30 0 0	Rs. As. P.	82 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	386 0 0	Rs. As. P.	199 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,291 1 14	
12	Jorhat	19 2 8	19 2 8	38 5 0	Rs. A. P.	565 0 0	Rs. A. P.	129 12 2	Rs. As. P.	180 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,203 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,178 0 0	Rs. As. P.	48 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,481 13 7	
13	Kohima	150 0 0	146 4 6	296 4 6	Rs. A. P.	44 11 1	Rs. A. P.	44 11 1	Rs. As. P.	120 0 0	Rs. As. P.	814 12 2	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	70 0 0	Rs. As. P.	16 4 0	Rs. As. P.	3,263 14 10	
14	Dibrugarh	521 10 6	33 0 9	554 11 3	Rs. A. P.	595 0 0	Rs. A. P.	95 10 6	Rs. As. P.	102 3 5	Rs. As. P.	374 13 0	Rs. As. P.	5 7 6	Rs. As. P.	212 0 0	Rs. As. P.	218 8 0	Rs. As. P.	718 12 4	
15	N. Lakhimpur	97 11 6	97 11 6	194 2 8	Rs. A. P.	39 5 6	Rs. A. P.	142 7 4	Rs. As. P.	39 5 6	Rs. As. P.	381 1 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	10 0 0	Rs. As. P.	395 14 0	Rs. As. P.	632 15 0	
16	Sylhet	670 0 6	670 0 6	1,340 0 6	Rs. A. P.	42 12 0	Rs. A. P.	26 14 3	Rs. As. P.	42 12 0	Rs. As. P.	80 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	20 0 0	Rs. As. P.	437 13 0	
17	Habiganj	259 8 0	259 8 0	518 6 0	Rs. A. P.	426 1 9	Rs. A. P.	42 12 0	Rs. As. P.	438 6 3	Rs. As. P.	3,759 2 10	Rs. As. P.	11 6 4	Rs. As. P.	571 0 0	Rs. As. P.	6 13 9	Rs. As. P.	5,495 13 8	
18	Sticher	229 8 0	229 8 0	458 6 0	Rs. A. P.	208 8 3	Rs. A. P.	208 0 0	Rs. As. P.	208 8 3	Rs. As. P.	617 6 7	Rs. As. P.	0 0 0	Rs. As. P.	125 8 0	Rs. As. P.	2 0 0	Rs. As. P.	1,412 14 10	
19	Hailakandi	2,200 3 11	2,563 1 3	4,763 5 2	Rs. A. P.	7,561 5 10	Rs. A. P.	2,708 8 8	Rs. As. P.	12,386 6 44	Rs. As. P.	9,507 0 2	Rs. As. P.	55 7 1	Rs. As. P.	16,586 8 0	Rs. As. P.	5,011 11 9	Rs. As. P.	38,330 6 64	
20	Total	2,200 3 11	2,563 1 3	4,763 5 2	Rs. A. P.	7,561 5 10	Rs. A. P.	2,708 8 8	Rs. As. P.	12,386 6 44	Rs. As. P.	9,507 0 2	Rs. As. P.	55 7 1	Rs. As. P.	16,586 8 0	Rs. As. P.	5,011 11 9	Rs. As. P.	38,330 6 64	

NOTE.—Tura Dispensary.—The difference between the balance in hand on the 31st December 1879, viz., Rs. 274-6, and the balance brought forward on the 1st January 1880, viz., Rs. 293-4, is made up by the difference, viz., Rs. 39-2, having been paid into the Treasury.

Shillong and Dibruti dispensaries also show discrepancies between their respective balances on the 31st December 1879 and those brought forward on the 1st January 1880. In 1879 the value of the medicines in store was included in the total balance, but this year only cash in hand has been shown.

L.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.—(Continued.)

No.	Name of Dispensary.	Expenditure.											Balance in hand on 31st December.	Average cost of each diet.	Percentage of total cost paid by Government.
		4													
		A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	6		7			
On establishments.	On bazar medicines.	On European medicines, whether from Government store or purchased.	On diet.	On miscellaneous charges.	On buildings or repairs.	Invested during the year.	Total expenditure during the year.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		
1	Shillong	1,102 11 4	74 11 0	159 6 4	251 0 14	222 0 10	198 13 0	.....	2,118 11 5	806 14 6	0 5 7	51 22		
2	Tura	632 14 6	72 9 0	38 10 8	33 6 3	324 15 3	16 18 0	.....	1,884 13 8	171 4 6	0 2 14	83 30		
3	Dhubri	384 0 0	26 9 0	913 1 3	362 6 0	128 1 0	140 13 0	.....	1,968 3 9	71 2 6	0 1 11	13 30		
4	Goalpara	1,201 0 0	80 11 8	75 1 3	182 4 6	108 7 9	9 0 0	.....	1,377 8 11	153 16 4	0 1 8	49 27		
5	Guwahati	850 8 6	10 15 6	59 0 3	162 13 6	104 7 0	.....	1,027 14 3	340 0 8	0 2 7	49 17			
6	Lakhimpur	1,165 10 4	84 12 7	135 2 1	114 1 0	294 13 6	14 3 0	.....	1,820 5 8	296 0 0	0 1 2	40 54		
7	Garhat	1,192 0 0	84 13 2	106 2 0	246 5 8	6 5 8	.....	1,738 5 8	345 2 3	0 1 7	61 55			
8	Barpeta	946 3 0	23 10 2	103 11 6	445 9 9	131 3 9	.....	1,639 6 6	84 8 0	0 2 0	60 09			
9	Norging	1,113 0 0	136 5 0	150 11 0	635 12 0	163 12 3	41 14 3	.....	2,304 11 6	75 10 3	0 3 3	38 53		
10	Tezpur	480 12 5	15 14 0	85 9 0	33 16 0	53 12 6	.....	1,178 10 8	428 1 11	0 3 8	11 25			
11	Masaidal	748 0 0	45 14 6	100 1 3	173 6 7	62 13 4	100 0 0	.....	1,112 13 4	0 1 2	44 13			
12	Sibsaga	268 3 0	89 15 9	82 0 0	60 6 9	41 15 0	.....	540 8 6	646 5 10	0 3 0	16 17			
13	Jorhat	1,669 10 11	148 10 0	218 15 7	189 0 0	50 7 0	14 10 0	.....	1,417 3 3	64 12 4	0 3 5	100 90		
14	Kohima	.....	.....	173 2 2	369 4 6	175 12 6	19 8 0	.....	2,456 0 1	806 14 9	0 3 11	83 17
15	Dibrugarh	21 4 0	.....	44 11 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	71 15 1	69 0 0	.....	62 17
16	Tezpur	105 13 9	47 12 3	95 10 6	49 11 6	44 7 9	78 0 0	.....	611 7 9	207 4 7	0 3 0	10 88		
17	North Lakhimpur	1,192 12 0	31 4 6	142 7 4	302 1 2	70 15 9	59 4 6	.....	1,738 13 3	611 12 6	0 3 0	56 84		
18	Sylhet	205 14 6	4 9 3	39 5 6	.....	75 11 0	144 7 3	.....	407 12 4	63 15 6	.....	8 36
19	Bamanganj	23 8 0	2 15 6	9 11 10	.....	43 7 0	328 2 0	.....	407 12 4	30 2 11	.....	6 59
20	Karimganj	6 10 6	7 7 9	15 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	38 5 3	107 6 9	.....	39 63
21	Kahlganj	1,235 8 0	16 1 3	431 4 9	1,825 3 1	387 6 9	229 11 3	.....	4,196 2 7	1,299 11 1	0 3 2	10 39		
22	Sohar	516 0 0	44 13 0	290 0 0	68 12 6	205 9 10	170 11 6	.....	1,196 14 10	216 0 0	0 3 0	17 43		
23	Bishahadi	15,541 15 2	1,962 6 3	2,693 4 0	6,390 0 3	2,687 8 2	1,018 13 6	100 0 0	30,224 4 5	8,106 2 1	0 3 7	40 98			
Total.....															

PART IV.—STATISTICS OF INSTRUCTION.

[73] A.—Ecclesiastical.—Return of persons according to religious denominations in the Province of Assam in the year 1880-81.

1 Denomination.	2 Number of persons.		3 Number of ministers or priests.	4 Number of churches or buildings designed or used for worship.	5 Total annual income from Government.	6 REMARKS.
	a. Natives.	b. Others.				
	RE.					
Church of England	839	770	7	8	5,382	
Church of Scotland .....	....	189	....	....	....
Protestant Dissenter	2,763	59	10	71	....
American Baptist Mission	520	1	14	9	....
Roman Catholics	9	68	1	1	....
Greek Church .....	....	....	....	....	....
Armenians	20	2	....	....	....
Syrian .....	....	....	....	....	....
Jew	10	....	....	....	....
Parai .....	....	....	....	....	....
Hindu	1,283,068	....	....	....	....
Mubammadan	939,158	....	....	....	....
Buddhist	291	....	....	....	....
Jain	30	....	....	....	....
Sikh	80	....	....	....	....
Other sects	129	....	....	....	....

1.—Return of Schools and Scholars in

Area and population of the Province.			Schools and Scholars.	Secondary Education.		
Number of Districts.	Total area.	Total population.		High Schools.	Middle Schools.	Lower Schools.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	46,341 square miles	Male..... 2,465,453 Female 2,349,704 Total.... * 4,815,157	Institutions .. { For males For females Total	11 11	83 83	....................
			Scholars .. { Males Females Total.....	1,930 1,930	5,613 49 5,662	..... ..... ..... 32,000

* Exclusive of Naga Hills.

UNIVERSITY.

Province of Assam for the official year 1880-81.

Special or Technical Education.					Percentage of schools and scholars to population.				REMARKS.
Surveying Schools.	Normal Schools.	Industrial Schools.	Madrasahs.	Other Schools.	High Schools.	Middle Schools.	Lower Schools.	Primary Schools.	
9b	9c	9d	9e	9f	10	11	12	13	14
1	10	1	....	....	·0004	·0033	....	·0463	
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	·0028	
1	10	1	....	....	·0002	·0017	....	·0245	
69	300	12	....	....	·0782	·2276	....	1·2638	
....	7	....	....	....	....	·0020	....	·0652	(a) Of these, 396 girls attended primary schools for boys.
69	307	12	....	....	·0401	·1175	....	·6789	

2.—Return of Schools and Scholars in

Class of Institutions.	Government Institutions.												
	Number of Institutions.	Number of Scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of scholars on 31st March learning			Number of Institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.		
					English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
High and Middle Schools—													
Secondary Education {	For Boys {	High Schools English.....	9	1,582	1,292	1,100	1,575	641	1,233	1	122	123	1
		Middle Schools {	English.....	1	61	50	33	21	..	61	26	2,161	1,987	1,4
			Vernacular ..	18	1,353	1,259	1,003	1,353	30	1,703	1,514	1,1
Primary Education. {	For Boys {	English.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	48	1,002(c)	1,033	6
		Vernacular ....	..	....	....	....	..	....	97	28,024(d)	24,859	18,6
	For Girls {	English.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	10	375	397	2
		Vernacular ....	..	....	....	....	..	....	51	699	668	4
Schools for special or Technical Training—													
Engineering and Surveying Schools .....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Normal Schools for Masters	6	207(e)	189	158	88	26	205	3	86	77	7	7	
Industrial Schools.....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total.....	34	3,203	2,790	2,294	1,634	667	2,852	1,148	34,172	30,658	22,53		

(a) 40 girls
 (b) " "
 (c) 116 " "
 (d) 280 " "
 (e) 7 " "
 (f) Guru
 (g) 462 girls

Province of Assam for the official year 1880-81.

Institutions.			Unaided Institutions under regular inspection.									Grand Total of scholars on 31st March learning				Classification according to race or creed of the scholars on 31st March.			
Number of scholars on 31st March learning			Number of Institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of scholars on 31st March learning			Grand Total of Institutions.	Grand Total of scholars on 31st March.	English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Native Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadians.	Others.
English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.					English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.										
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28a	28b	28c	28d	28e
119	28	94	1	226	248	150	207	87	205	11	1,930	1,901	756	1,532	5	31	1,584	277	33
184	..	1,923	5	241	195	148	93	13	231	32	2,463(a)	1,298	13	2,215	..	156	1,720	266	310
..	51	1,699	3	143	106	90	..	..	143	51	3,199(b)	....	51	3,195	..	9	2,620	517	53
239	..	603	..	....	....	....	..	..	....	48	1,002	399	..	603	..	172	....	....	820
25	913	27,829	88	2,529(d)	2,204	1,827	11	75	2,529	1,067	30,553	36	988	30,358	..	400	24,015	4,433	1,705
143	..	232	..	....	....	....	..	..	..	10	375	143	..	232	..	150	....	....	225
..	..	699	5	62	64	54	..	..	62	56	761	....	..	761	..	54	511	4	192
..	..	....	1	69	61	49	67	..	2	1	69	67	..	2	..	..	64	5	..
..	..	86	1	14(f)	12	8	..	..	14	10	307	38	26	305	4	63	169	28	43
..	..	....	1	12	14	12	..	..	12	1	12	....	..	12	..	..	12	....	..
870	992	33,165	105	3,296	2,904	2,338	378	175	3,198	1,287	40,671(g)	3,882	1,834	39,215	9	1,035	30,695	5,530	3,391

Classification of 11 pupils not known.

Learning class.
Classification of 11 pupils not known.

3.—Return of Expenditure on Educational Est

Class of Institutions.	Government Institutions.							A			
	Provincial Revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Fees.	Municipal grants.	Other sources.	Total.	Provincial Revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Endowments.
1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2	3a	3b	3c
HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS—											
Secondary Education.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
For Boys { High Schools.. English	22,157	....	755	..	17,008	..	14	39,934	1,307	.....	..
For Boys { Middle ditto .. English	483	....	..	..	218	..	..	701	8,822	.....	136
For Boys { Middle ditto .. Vernacular..	7,792	....	18	..	4,141	..	..	11,951	5,196	.....	522
PRIMARY SCHOOLS—											
Primary Education.											
For Boys { English .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	1,667	.....	..
For Boys { Vernacular .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	5,039	46,298	..
For Girls { English .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	363	.....	..
For Girls { Vernacular .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	206	1,386	16
SCHOOLS FOR SPECIAL OR TECHNICAL TRAINING—											
Engineering and Surveying Schools .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..
Normal Schools for Masters	10,192	.....	..	..	81	..	187	10,460	1,963	.....	..
Industrial Schools .....	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..
Inspection	45,459	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	45,459	.....	.....	..
Scholarships	9,939	9,247	..	..	.....	..	369	19,555	.....	.....	..
Buildings	3,338	1,928	..	..	.....	..	2,470	7,736	.....	.....	..
Miscellaneous	7,248	619	..	..	.....	..	103	7,970	.....	.....	..
Total	1,06,608*	11,794	773	..	21,448	..	3,143	1,43,766	24,563*	47,384	732

* Exclusive of Rs. 1,750 re-granted by the

CATION.

ments in the Province of Assam for the official year 1880-81.

Institutions.			Unaided Institutions under regular inspection.							Total Government expenditure.	Total expenditure from other sources.	Grand Total of expenditure.	Average annual cost of educating each pupil.					
Fees.	Municipal grants.	Other sources.	Total.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Fees.	Other sources.	Total.	Government Institutions.				Aided Institutions.		Unaided Institutions.			
									Total cost.				Cost to Government.	Total cost.		Cost to Government.	Total cost.	
2c	2f	2g	3	4a	4b	4c	4d	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A.		
1,387	..	9	2,708	....	60	1,540	....	1,600	23,464	20,773	44,237	30 14 6	17 2 5	21 15 7	10 10 0	6 7
6,383	..	6,187	26,477	....	1,189	198 45	1,432	9,305	19,305	28,610	14 0 4	9 10 6	13 5 2	4 7 0	7 5		
3,062	130	74	13,545	....	1,271	127	....	1,398	12,988	13,906	26,894	9 7 10	6 3 0	8 15 2	3 6 11	13 3
....	..	6,467	8,134	....	....	....	....	....	1,667	6,467	8,134	.....	.....	7 14 0	1 9 10	.....	
13,896	120	10,077	76,211	77	75	863	119	1,134	51,337	26,008	77,345	.....	.....	3 1 0	2 1 0	0 8
....	..	1,427	1,790	....	....	....	....	....	363	1,427	1,790	.....	.....	4 8 2	0 14 7	.....	
15	..	772	2,976	....	....	....	19	19	1,792	1,203	2,995	.....	.....	4 7 3	2 10 11	0 4
....	525	....	57	....	582	.....	582	582	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 8		
....	..	772	2,735	....	....	....	....	....	12,155	1,040	13,195	55 5 6	53 14 10	35 8 4	25 7 11	.....	
....	1,817	....	....	1,091	2,908	.....	2,908	2,908	.....	.....	.....	.....	207 11		
....	45,459	....	45,459	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
....	19,186	369	19,555	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
....	5,266	2,470	7,736	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
....	7,867	103	7,970	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24,743	250	25,785	1,33,571	2,419	2,595	2,785	1,274	9,073	1,90,849	96,561	2,87,410	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Commissioner for the mission schools in the Gáro Hills.

[77]

4. Return showing the result of prescribed Examinations.

Nature of Examination.	Number of institutions sending examinees.			Number of examinees.			
	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Total.	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Matriculation	9	2	11	37	8	1	4
{ Boys ..							
{ Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Middle English Scholarship Examination	...	14	14	...	25	2	2
{ Boys ...							
{ Girls ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination.	14	37	51	48	83	7	138
{ Boys ...							
{ Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lower Vernacular Scholarship Examination.	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
{ Boys ...							
{ Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Primary Scholarship Examination	...	494	494	...	1,186	...	1,186
{ Boys ...							
{ Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TION.

in the Assam Province during the official year 1880-81.

Number passed.				Percentage of passed scholars on total number on rolls at beginning of the year.		REMARKS.
Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.	Total.	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
31	2	1	34	2.5	0.5	<p>Note.—Percentage has been calculated on total number of scholars on rolls of each class of schools sending up candidates, instead of the competing schools of the several classes.</p> <p>• Includes one girl.</p>
...	
...	16	...	16	.....	0.6
...	
27	39	...	66	2.1	2.2	
...	
...	
...	
...	657 [•]	...	657 [•]	4.1	
...	

[78]

C.—EDUCATION.

1.—Return of Scientific and Literary Societies for the official year beginning
1st April 1880, ending 31st March 1881.

(BLANK.)

[79]

C. 2.—Statistics of Instruction.—The Press, 1880-81.

1 District.	2 Name of Press.	3 Names of Proprietors.	4 PUBLICATIONS THEREAT.	
			Newspapers.	Periodicals.
Sylhet	Srihatta Prokash Press	Babu Grish Chandra Dás, " Loknath Sarma, " Sanat Kumár Dás, " Krishna Govind Dás, " Jay Chandra Dás.	Weekly newspaper in Bengali.	....
Ditto	Paridarsak Press	Sylhet United Company Limited.	Ditto .....	....
Kámrúp	* Chidananda Press	Babu Chidananda Chow- dhori.	.....	....
Sibeágar	American Mission Press ..	Rev. A. K. Gurney .....	.....	....
	Dharma Prokash Press	Auniháti Gossain	<i>Adm Biláshini</i> (monthly)	....
Khási and Jaintiá Hills.	Assam Secretariat Press ..	Her Majesty's Government	<i>Assam Gazette</i> (weekly)	....
Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh Press	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	....

* The Chidananda Press is in existence, but no newspapers and periodicals were issued from it in 1880-81.

PART V.—STATISTICS OF LIFE.

[80] A.—*Deaths registered from different causes in the Districts and Towns of the Province of Assam during the year 1880.*

[80]

Annual Form No. VI.—Deaths registered from different causes in t

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No.	Districts and Towns.	Population according to Census of 1872.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Small-pox.
A.—DISTRICTS.						
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY—						
1	Goálpára	401,653	136	39	3,205	35
2	Kámurúp	539,845	312	112	2,498	50
3	Nowgong	253,507	533	504	2,114	55
4	Darrang	232,977	56	172	3,355	95
5	Sibságar	291,389	483	215	3,632	2,04
6	Lakhimpur	117,997	259	133	727	45
SURMÁ VALLEY—						
7	Sylhet	1,702,693	730	1,033	13,782	2,65
8	Cachar	201,298	232	15	1,135	14
Total of Districts.....		3,740,759	2,741	2,223	30,448	7,55
B.—TOWNS.						
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY—						
1	Goálpára, district Goálpára	6,061	30	5	385	1
2	Gauháti, „ Kámurúp	11,492	8	.....	73	.....
3	Nowgong, „ Nowgong	2,883	5	2	43	.....
4	Tezpur, „ Darrang	3,032	3	.....	17	.....
5	Sibságar, „ Sibságar	5,200	7	1	51	.....
6	Dibrugarh, „ Lakhimpur	3,870	3	.....	82	.....
SURMÁ VALLEY—						
7	Sylhet, district Sylhet	16,846	2	7	155	.....
8	Silchar, „ Cachar	3,729	4	1	18	.....
Total of Towns.....		53,113	62	16	824	25
Total for the Province.....		3,793,872	2,803	2,239	31,272	7,80

Districts and Towns of the Province of Assam during the year 1880.

8		9	10	11											
Injuries.				Total.	All other causes.	Total deaths from all causes.	Ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population.							From all causes.	
Suicide.		Wounding or accident.	Snake-bite or killed by wild beasts.				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Bowel-complaints.	Injuries.	All other causes.	For the year.	Mean of previous five years.	
M.	F.														
2	1	44	41	88	299	4,089	·34	·09	7·98	·80	·22	·74	10·18	9·8	
3	5	15	36	59	210	3,692	·57	·21	4·63	·93	·11	·39	6·84	10·8	
2	1	49	24	76	450	4,206	2·10	1·99	8·35	2·09	·29	1·77	16·59	11·5	
3	5	54	26	93	354	4,950	·24	·74	14·40	3·95	·39	1·52	21·24	25·6	
8	1	43	10	62	492	6,938	1·66	·74	12·46	7·05	·21	1·69	23·81	22·4	
1	1	22	3	27	34	1,600	2·20	1·13	6·19	3·58	·23	·29	13·63	13·8	
4	4	246	99	353	4,170	22,700	·43	·61	8·09	1·55	·20	2·45	13·33	5·7	
4	...	71	10	85	360	1,974	1·15	·07	5·64	·73	·42	1·79	9·80	9·0	
32	18	544	249	843	6,369	50,155	·73	·59	8·14	2·01	·23	1·71	13·41	10·2	
...	2	3	.....	5	15	451	4·95	·83	63·52	1·81	·83	2·47	74·41	36·6
...	...	5	.....	5	38	219	·69	...	6·36	8·27	·43	3·30	19·05	20·7
...	...	1	.....	1	9	81	1·74	·69	14·90	7·29	·35	3·12	28·09	24·6
1	...	.....	.....	1	16	70	·99	...	5·61	10·88	·33	5·27	23·08	43·2
...	...	1	.....	1	42	139	1·35	·19	9·81	7·11	·19	8·08	26·73	29·6
...	1	1	.....	2	12	138	·78	...	21·19	10·08	·51	3·10	35·66	46·2
...	...	.....	.....	.....	157	379	·12	·41	9·20	3·44	...	9·32	22·49	34·4
...	1	.....	.....	1	10	34	1·07	·27	4·83	...	·27	2·68	9·12	14·2
1	4	11	.....	16	299	1,511	1·17	·30	15·51	5·53	·30	5·63	28·44	30·6
22	22	555	249	859	6,668	51,666	·74	·59	8·24	2·06	·23	1·75	13·61	10·5	

[81] B.—Showing the diseases of the In-door and Out-door Patient

1	2	General diseases.																									
		Order A. Febrile or Zymotic diseases.				Order B. Constitutional diseases.										Ophthalmia.	Inflammation of the external ear.										
		Small-pox.	Malarious fever, ague, and remittent.	Cholera.	Other diseases of this order.	Rheumatic affections.	Syphilitic affections.	Scrofula.	Anæmia.	Leprosy.	Pithisis.	Dropsy.	Other diseases of this order.														
No.	Name of Dispensary.																										
1	Shillong .....	..	322	..	8	54	22	..	13	..	1	10	39	8	21											
2	Tura	9	346	1	171	149	14	..	2	8	9	23	2	64	15												
3	Dhubri .....	..	397	3	9	31	21	..	3	..	3	10	..	14	10											
4	Goalpara .....	..	296	13	4	50	39	..	..	3	3	10	10	7	6									
5	Gauripur .....	..	223	..	5	80	21	1	2	4	1	7	..	14	29											
6	Lakhipur	3	127	..	10	32	16	..	23	4	..	4	20	11	26												
7	Gauhati .....	..	400	1	14	79	20	..	32	3	..	14	..	39	45											
8	Barpeta .....	..	190	..	4	33	15	7	13	..	..	4	65	8	27									
9	Nowgong .....	..	312	1	..	65	9	..	13	4	2	11	1	11	12											
10	Tezpur .....	..	285	..	31	8	13	..	..	1	..	6	106	14	8									
11	Mangaldai .....	..	207	16	37	41	14	..	2	2	..	10	66	19	30											
12	Sibsagar	1	846	..	..	49	21	1	16	5	..	7	11	30	31										
13	Jorbát	9	1,056	2	27	225	70	..	13	31	3	24	7	32	26												
14	Kohima .....	..	243	..	..	10	5	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	4						
15	Dibrugarh .....	..	574	..	..	50	40	..	22	1	1	55	4	19	29									
16	Jaipur .....	..	108	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..									
17	North Lakhimpur	1	113	3	13	20	7	..	..	1	4	12	28	5	7										
18	Sylhet .....	..	710	5	139	354	185	7	1	28	2	33	28	158	103											
19	Sunámgarj .....	..	149	14	2	47	14	..	..	8	2	4	7	15	20									
20	Karímgarj .....	..	48	..	..	23	17	..	..	..	..	2	8	6	3					
21	Habiganj	3	53	2	10	4	9	..	..	1	..	2	55	4	7										
22	Silchar .....	..	796	29	12	289	171	3	16	8	6	40	60	39	57											
23	Hailakánda	1	579	..	1	399	56	1	19	12	3	8	..	19	112												
	Total	27	8,380	90	497	2,092	804	20	191	124	41	299	517	538	648												

treated in the Dispensaries in Assam during the year 1880.

Diseases.													4	5				
Local diseases.													Total number of indoor and out-door patients treated in each dispensary.	Operations				
Respiratory affections.	Heart diseases.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Worms.	Liver diseases.	Spleen diseases.	Gonorrhœa and its complications.	Abcesses, boils, and whitlows.	Skin diseases.	Ulcers.	Labour, premature, natural, and difficult.	Other local diseases.		Debility and old age.	Poisons and poisoned wounds.	Injuries.	Major.	Minor.
103	..	53	46	26	6	85	43	62	86	54	5	190	25	12	68	1,312	6	6
156	6	81	163	14	15	111	15	49	275	147	6	279	12	1	178	2,274	1	15
57	..	79	76	13	3	65	12	19	55	58	..	442	25	2	52	1,486	..	45
56	..	29	67	114	16	202	13	14	62	36	..	276	6	1	47	1,393	..	20
46	1	22	24	9	3	32	25	25	250	48	..	349	34	..	15	1,296	2	4
27	4	18	16	25	..	41	17	16	29	36	..	85	16	16	5	627	..	..
62	..	176	172	101	18	97	20	125	83	37	..	600	59	5	123	2,342	14	25
19	..	26	22	114	9	62	13	29	88	23	8	227	2	2	44	1,056	..	..
29	..	24	28	14	1	28	5	10	126	53	..	139	22	..	31	1,501	1	1
24	..	47	30	147	1	56	11	18	26	10	1	59	20	..	28	975	2	2
76	..	24	44	47	2	64	25	18	127	31	..	133	30	12	94	1,188	..	..
174	1	342	219	132	6	84	16	136	489	64	..	602	21	..	110	3,780	2	18
193	..	185	126	394	13	93	35	79	497	112	..	592	47	..	266	4,298	..	28
27	..	52	31	3	1	18	4	11	28	108	..	17	15	..	21	603	1	14
28	..	133	154	19	..	49	8	50	170	56	..	151	30	2	58	1,742	15	6
1	..	51	1	..	2	10	..	6	2	..	4	14	5	10	..	227	..	..
35	..	40	42	14	9	23	8	21	35	29	..	54	3	1	39	657	1	21
201	1	140	227	94	24	154	138	185	1,297	375	..	1,429	169	5	427	6,626	27	198
..	..	51	64	7	8	32	22	30	262	55	1	368	41	..	82	1,305	..	3
7	..	7	17	9	1	5	8	17	35	8	..	74	18	..	9	323	..	..
13	..	13	31	6	..	14	28	6	21	12	..	90	5	22	..	412	..	..
103	3	183	77	527	7	156	111	103	685	177	1	788	209	13	162	4,855	11	99
206	..	215	108	187	3	66	41	20	1,266	41	..	664	45	..	77	4,150	..	12
1,643	16	1,941	1,785	2,020	148	1,477	618	1,049	5,994	1,570	26	7,622	859	104	1,936	44,428	93	1,521

[82] C.—Statement showing the total of all Vaccination Operations in the Province of Assam during the year 1880-81.

Towns.	Districts.	Number of Dispensaries in each district to which a vaccinator is employed.	Average number of vaccinators attached to Dispensaries during the season.	Total number of persons vaccinated.	Average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator.	Primary vaccination.			Re-vaccination.		Percentage of successful cases.	
						Successful.			Total.	Successful.		Primary.
						Under one year.	One and under six.	Total of all ages.				
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1. Shillong	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1	2	1,610	805	316	956	1,279	.....	.....	79.00
2. Tura	Garo Hills	1	4	3,708	927	326	1,793	2,981	.....	.....	80.89
3. Dhubri	" Ex-inoculators*	1	1	477	477	40	423	463	.....	.....	97.07
4. Gauhati	Ex-inoculators	1	9	2,002	222	829	1,594	1,929	6	.....	96.05
5. Nowgong	Kamrup	1	40	5,516	141	1,450	1,182	5,432	.....	.....	96.04
6. Tezpur	Ex-inoculators	1	3	204	117	33	186	131	.....	.....	65.98
7. Sibsagar	Ex-inoculators	2	2	88	44	88	88	84	.....	.....	95.45
8. Kohima	Darrang	2	3	2,098	1,049	818	1,792	1,981	.....	.....	97.04
9. Dibrugarh	Ex-inoculators	2	2	839	279	839	839	679	.....	.....	80.93
10. Sylhet	Sibsagar	2	2	2,089	1,644	665	1,903	1,909	.....	.....	93.69
11. Sibsagar	" Ex-inoculators	2	6	438	71	426	.....	389	.....	.....	100.00
	Hospital-Assistants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91.31
	Naga Hills	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Lakhimpur	.....	.....	1,454	.....	.....	.....	1,251	.....	.....	85.04
	Sylhet By Hospital-Assistants	1	2	630	315	57	583	585	.....	.....	92.85
	Compounders	3	3	403	134	33	562	188	.....	.....	46.85
	Cachar	1	1	1,785	1,785	.....	.....	1,230	.....	.....	70.02
	Total	14	58	24,163	..... †	4,955	10,764	21,170	12	.....	87.61

NOTE.—Three compounders and six hospital assistants are not included among the 17 vaccinators.

* Nothing is known of the work of these men.

† No vaccinator procurable, work carried on.

The average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator cannot be accurately calculated, the space † is therefore left blank.

III.—TRADE.

*Statements showing the River-borne Traffic of the Province of Assam for
the year 1880-81.*

These Statements should follow Statement [No. 69.]

III.—TRADE.

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into Assam from Bengal during the year 1880-81.

No.	List of articles.	Denomination.	Traffic carried along the Brahmaputra River.						Traffic carried along the Megna River.						Grand Total.			
			By Boat.		By Steamer.		By Boat.		By Steamer.		Total traffic carried by Boats.		Total traffic carried by Steamer.		Quantity.	Value.		
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.				
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—																	
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules ..	Number	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Cattle ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Sheep and goats ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
II.	Borax ..	Maunds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
III.(a)	Building materials ..		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1. Lime and limestone ..	Number	1,024	1,088	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Bricks and tiles ..	"	4,064	40	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Coal and coke ..	Maunds	56,652	45,450	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
VII.	Cotton, raw ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"	34	1,414	3,23,635	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Piece-goods ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	4. Ditto ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
IX.	Drugs and medicines—	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Other sorts, not intoxicating	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	than opium) ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
X.	Dyeing materials—	Maunds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	4. Turmeric ..	"	161	682	1,819	7,276	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	5. Other kinds ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XII.	Fibrous products—	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1. Jute, raw ..	"	5	27	124	568	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	bags and cloths) ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	3. Other fibres, raw ..	Number	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	4. Ditto ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	4. Ditto ..	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—	"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1. Cocoanuts ..	Number	3,26,525	19,404	2,015	101	8,99,052	40,457	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	2. All other kinds ..	Maunds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CXXIX

XXV.	Green seed paddy	35,577	74,639	1,06,078	2,01,258	18,184	19,901	1,70,536	4,56,180	66,784	8,38,733	5,28,650	7,01,267	6,07,626
XVII.	Other sowing crops	17,531	1,55,038	94,714	5,55,178	8,845	.....	1,314	1,263	.....	.....	650	13,407
XVIII.	Rice, unhusked	1,064	1,018	.....	260	.....	.....	243	513	.....	18	.....	1,298
XIX.	Other rain crops	245	519	.....	.....	78	1,092	.....	.....	107	1,498	107	1,498
XX.	Grains and straws	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXI.	Hides of cattle	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	76	.....	.....	28	76	28	76
XXII.	Dye	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	885	.....	.....	11	885	11	885
XXIII.	Leather	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXIV.	Manufactured	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXV.	Liquors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXVI.	Mats	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXVII.	Metals and manufactures of metals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXVIII.	Brass and copper	207	7,664	2,77,720	456	3,327	1,33,080	643	26,104	10,270	410,890	10,918	4,38,904	
XXIX.	Iron	2,138	9,769	1,84,650	8,444	10,016	60,086	10,632	77,321	32,411	1,94,646	43,073	2,71,967	
XXX.	Other metals	205	2,390	6,05,010	11,361	340,830	235	2,380	31,923	94,580	81,763	845,280	6,87,891	
XXXI.	Oils	83,694	3,35,068	39,612	37,268	3,050	19,278	70,862	7,80,264	9,653	38,890	80,514	8,39,144	
XXXII.	Paints and colours	.....	.....	.....	.....	148	11,840	.....	.....	478	38,240	.....	38,240
XXXIII.	Provisions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXIV.	Ghee	98	5,640	1,65,600	.....	825	26,400	98	3,640	6,000	1,92,000	6,098	1,96,640
XXXV.	Fish (dry)	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXVI.	Other kinds	2,032	3,520	1,85,625	.....	5,779	86,685	2,092	200	200	200	200	200
XXXVII.	Salt	2,12,338	7,56,386	64,940	2,02,096	7,640	32,516	4,14,634	16,66,418	72,480	2,72,310	20,306	2,76,880	
XXXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXIX.	Saltpetre	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	660	.....	.....	86	688	86	688
XXXX.	Other saline substances	.....	.....	.....	.....	142	710	.....	.....	248	1,240	248	1,240
XXXXI.	Seeds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXII.	Oilseeds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXIII.	Linseed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXIV.	Other oilseeds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXV.	Tea-seed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXVI.	Other kinds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXVII.	Silk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXVIII.	Manufactured	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXIX.	Spices	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXX.	Peel-nuts	1,574	12,888	608	9,120	475	7,125	7,554	1,08,288	1,088	16,245	8,637	1,24,513	
XXXXXI.	Other kinds	8,114	10,207	22,753	67,039	3,235	22,645	75,133	4,70,580	7,914	55,398	83,067	5,34,973	
XXXXXII.	Stone and marble	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXIII.	Sugar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXIV.	Refined	1,503	16,659	11,714	12,516	1,684	23,760	14,069	2,17,455	18,998	1,98,470	27,357	4,16,925	
XXXXXV.	Unrefined	35,704	95,941	3,769	58,749	1,514	11,355	94,453	5,26,588	6,383	39,622	99,736	5,66,180	
XXXXXVI.	Foreign	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXVII.	Tobacco	22,783	1,55,151	1,084	67,062	4,35,903	99	643	89,845	1,183	7,691	91,028	5,98,745	
XXXXXVIII.	Wood	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXIX.	Timber	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXX.	Bamboos	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXI.	Manufactured (piece-goods)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXII.	Shawls	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXIII.	All other articles of merchandise	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXIV.	Unmanufactured	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXV.	Manufactured	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXXXXVI.	Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

IV.—TRADE.

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported from Assam into Bengal during the year 1880-81.

1	2	3	4		5		6		7		8		9		10		
			Quantity.	Value.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	By Boat.	By Steamer.	Quantity.	Value.
No.	List of articles.	Denomi- nation.	Traffic carried along the Brahmaputra River.		Traffic carried along the Megna River.		Total traffic carried by Boats.		Total traffic carried by Steamers.		Grand Total.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
II. (a)	Buildings material—																
	1. Lime and limestone	Mauuds.	230	3,679	486	516	10,17,285	11,44,446	48,144	51,153	10,17,285	11,44,446	48,630	51,669	10,65,915	11,96,115	
III.	Canes and rattans	"	...	...	...	...	665	10,640	...	...	...	...	...	...	895	14,319	
IV.	Caoutchouc	"	...	...	...	...	7,796	15,498	802	...	...	...	...	...	9,132	2,46,664	
V.	Coal and coke	"	...	...	...	...	400	275	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	275	
VI.	Cotton, raw	"	14,221	86,314	688	11,356	5,114	86,938	24	408	19,235	1,73,252	692	11,764	20,027	1,85,016	
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—																
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	450
IX.	Drugs and medicines—																
	2. Other sorts, not intoxicating.	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470
X.	Dyeing materials—																
	2. Madder or manjit	Mauuds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,552
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	379
XII.	Fibrous products—																
	1. Jute, raw	Mauuds.	88,792	1,60,963	20,457	94,614	9,787	45,265	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,00,842
	2. Jute, manufactured (gunny- bags and cloths)	Number.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,442	391	...	...	...	...	1,442	391	
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—																
	2. Other fibres, raw	Mauuds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
XIV.	Grain and pulse—																
	1. Wheat	Mauuds.	400	800	1,204	3,010	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,40,800
	2. Gram and pulse	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,810
	3. Rice, husked	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,902
	4. Rice, unhusked	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,476
	5. Rice, unhusked	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,63,373
XVI.	Hides and skins—																
	1. Hides of cattle	Number.	4,099	4,472	24	66	84,808	92,939	10,315	28,359	88,907	97,411	10,339	28,425	99,246	1,25,886	
	2. Skins of small animals, goats, and horns	Mauuds.	2,725
XVII.	Horns	Mauuds.	1,250

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

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XVIII.	Lac—	327	7,515	10,659	3,73,065	327	7,515	10,847	3,79,645	327	7,515
	2. Shell and button.....	289	6,991	10,659	3,73,065	289	6,991	10,847	3,79,645
XIX.	3. Stick and other kinds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Leather—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Unmanufactured .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XX.	2. Manufactured .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXI.	Liquors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXII.	Mats .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXIII.	Metals and manufactures of me-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Brass and copper	24	688	68	2,320	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	688	449	.....	17,960	.....	478	18,548
	2. Iron .....	.....	.....	131	786	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	162	.....	972	.....	.....	972
	3. Other metals	20	1,360	78	2,340	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	1,300	288	.....	7,140	.....	268	8,440
XXIV.	Oils .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Fish (dry) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Other kinds†	60	180	2	64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXV.	Seeds—	1,958	7,155	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	(a) Linseed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	(b) Mustard and rape .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	(c) Til or gingelly .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Other seeds—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	(a) Tea-seeds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	(c) Other kinds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXX.	Silk—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Raw .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXI.	Spices—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Betel-nuts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Other kinds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXII.	Stone and marble .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXIV.	Tea—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Indian .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXV.	Wood—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Timber .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Firewood .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3. Bamboos .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXVII.	Wool—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods) ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1. Unmanufactured .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* Oranges. † Of these, 86,068 maunds of potatoes, valued at Rs. 8,44,231, were exported by boat along the Megua River.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE
YEAR 1881-82.



SHILLONG :
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1883.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. The office of Chief Commissioner was held by Mr. Elliott throughout the year, and during its course he visited all the districts in the Province. In April 1881 he was in the Gáro Hills, where a slight rising, narrated in last year's report, had taken place. In July and August he made a tour by water through Sylhet and Cachar. Between October and December he marched through the Nowgong, Darrang, Kám-rúp, and Goál-pára districts. In January 1882 he travelled by land through South Sylhet, through Cachar and the North Cachar Hills, thence to Manipur and the Nága Hills, from where he descended to Golághát and marched by Jorhát and Lakhimpur to Dibrugarh and Sadiya, returning by river to Gauháti, and reaching Shillong, after six months' absence, towards the end of April. During these tours he made the acquaintance of all his District Officers, and acquired some knowledge of the special questions with which the Administration of Assam has to deal.

2. The political events of the year have been of considerable interest. They comprise the occupation of two new outposts on the Abor frontier, the settlement of the disputed boundary between Burma and Manipur, the Lushai famine, and the fanatical rising in North Cachar.

3. The tract on our north-east frontier, between the Brahmaputra and the foot of the Himalayas, north of our stations of Dibrugarh and Sadiya, is one over which we claim by treaty a dormant sovereignty, but do not exercise any active authority; in technical language it lies between the Inner and the Outer line. It is hardly to be expected that the wild tribes across the frontier, the Abors and Mishmis, should understand this theory of a dormant sovereignty; and, as a matter of fact, they fish,

hunt, and catch elephants freely in this tract, and the Abors have of late years made a settlement called Bomjur within it, on the banks of the Dibong, some miles from the hills. Our communications with the Abors and Mishmis are nearly confined to the visits they pay to Sadiya for purposes of trade and to receive their *posa*, or payment for keeping the police of the marches; and for some time the Mishmis, who live nearest to Sadiya and are more frequent visitors, have been treated with greater friendship, while the Abors, their enemies, observing this, have held more and more sullenly aloof. In the spring of 1881, news was received that some of the frontier Abor villages, pressed on by increasing population, intended to cross the Dibong and settle on the east of it, within our political jurisdiction, and close to the village of the Mishmi Chief, Lako, who had been friendly to the British. It was held that their object could only be to attack and harry the Mishmis, and that this would lead to disturbances along the border and to raids by the Abors, elated at the thought of having punished our friends, and it was decided that the enterprise should be nipped in the bud. Intimation was sent accordingly to the Abors that they would not be allowed to cross to the east of the Dibong, though they might settle at will in the great unoccupied tract to the west of it; and an expedition was sent out to erect and hold two outposts at commanding places on the left bank of the river, one opposite to Bomjur, and one at Nizamghat, where the Dibong debouches from the hills. Dibrugarh, which is usually occupied by one regiment, was reinforced by a wing of another, and part of this force was pushed on to Sadiya and beyond it. The expedition, however, encountered no other difficulties than that of cutting its way through the pathless jungle. Two strong stockades were constructed, and a broad road made from Sadiya, which was constantly patrolled. The Abors were at first much alarmed, anticipating an attack from us; but their agitation gradually quieted down, and the force of sepoy and frontier police who had occupied the outposts in November, was withdrawn in May, when the unhealthy season began, without a shot having been fired. The only untoward circumstance on the frontier arose, not from this advance, but from the old subject of quarrel, the escape of a fugitive slave. His rendition was demanded by the chief to whom he belonged, and was of course refused: whereon, the Chief's son, falling in with a sepoy, who against orders went out to shoot in the jungle, treacherously wounded him and carried off his rifle. He thus satisfied the

barbaric theory of revenge, which is tribal rather than personal, and requires that punishment should be inflicted, not on the person who has injured you, but on any man of his tribe.

4. The rifle has since been returned, and deputations Relations with the Abors. have at different times come in protesting that the Abors had no intention of infringing orders, and would not have proposed to cross the Dibong had they known we should object. There can be no doubt that our prompt advance surprised and paralysed their intentions, and it is proposed for the present to reoccupy the outposts each year during the dry season, abandoning them in the rains, when all movement is precluded. But our efforts now are being directed to cultivating more friendly terms with the Abors, with whom we can afford to be cordial after having shown them that we are strong enough to resist their attacks.

5. There has long been trouble on the Manipur frontier The boundary between Manipur and Burma. by reason of the raids and murders committed by a Kuki clan, called Chasáds, living under Burmese protection. The chief power in the Kubo Valley (which lies to the east of the boundary), rests with the Tsawbwa (or Rája) of Sumjok, a hereditary chieftain over whom the Court of Mandalay exercises a distant and intermittent authority through the Pagan Woon, a high official who governs this part of the kingdom; and the Chasád Kukis are more or less subordinate to Sumjok. By the treaty of 1834, the boundary (known as Pemberton's line) which ran northward from the Kubo Valley to the Shiroi-ferar range, was a purely imaginary one, a straight line having been drawn on the map: the country had not been explored, and was not inhabited. Now, the Kukis had pushed up into it from the south, and were subject to little or no authority. The object of the Boundary Commission was therefore to establish a good natural boundary instead of the imaginary one, and to define the position of the Kuki villages and the responsibility of the Government to which they belonged. Colonel Johnstone, c.s.i., the Political Agent of Manipur, was President of the Commission, and was assisted by a Survey Officer, and an Assistant-Commissioner from the British Burma Province, and was escorted by two companies of the 12th Khelat-i-Ghilzais under a British Officer. A botanist and a geologist and an officer of the Military Intelligence Department also accompanied the party. The Court of Mandalay refused to recognise the

boundary question as in any way open, or to send a representative to meet the British Commission; the Sunjok Tsawbwa held sulkily aloof, and the Pagan Woon and the Phoongye (or Bishop) of Tummoo, though friendly and courteous, expressed their inability to move in any way. This being the case, it was the more incumbent on the Commission to act in an independent judicial spirit and not to give any colour to the suspicion that they were partisans of Manipur. Fortunately, it was found easy for them to do this. The "Pemberton line" on the map turned out to be more favourable to Manipur than the treaty intended, as it gave over to that State a portion of the Kubo Valley which the treaty declared to belong to Burma. The intentions of the treaty were accordingly adhered to: and a line agreeing closely with its terms, and following a good natural boundary along the crest of the Angoching Hills, to the Shiroi-ferar Peak, was fixed, surveyed, and demarcated by the Commissioners and approved by the Government of India. The Sunjok Tsawbwa and the Chasád Kukis offered no serious obstructions to the surveying parties, and most of the latter have since entered into amicable relations with the Manipur authorities, agreeing to remove into the Rája's territories and to own allegiance to him.

6. In the Lushai country the usual intestine disturbances and fights among the chiefs went on, till they were quelled towards the end of the rains by a new danger. In the previous season the bamboos had seeded over a large extent of country, and the supply of food thus provided caused an immense multiplication in the number of the rats, who, when they had devoured the bamboo-seed in the forests, fell upon the crops. Famine then began to threaten the Lushais, who have seldom got much grain stored up for the future: the western clans, who are weakest, suffered most, as the eastern villages possessed some accumulation of grain and other property, the plunder of past raids. A few migrated southwards towards Chittagong, but only to find that the Kuki clans to the south of them, the Syloos and Howlongs, were in a worse plight than themselves. The majority immigrated into Cachar, and caused at first a considerable panic among some of the tea-gardens, where the planters and coolies remembered the raid of 1870, and doubted their intentions. It soon became manifest, however, that they came to beg, and were prepared to work if work could be provided, and this alarm subsided. Arrangements were made for employing

The Lushai famine.

them in clearing roads through the Government forests ; places were given them to settle in temporarily ; facilities were afforded for bringing down bamboos and forest produce from their hills for sale ; and supplies of rice were sent up to two marts established in their country, either through Government agency or through that of traders who were guaranteed against loss. These measures were successful, and, as far as is known, the time of greatest distress was tided over with little suffering and loss of life. When the rains came, the immigrants returned to their hills : they had been told from the first that they would not be allowed to stay permanently in Cachar, both because they are not desirable companions to the existing population of the district, and because it was known that their chiefs would resent the permanent loss of their followers, who constitute their fighting strength. The Mahárája of Manipur, acting on a different principle, thought the opportunity a favourable one for inviting the Lushais to settle in his country ; and considerable bitterness has arisen in the minds of the chiefs in consequence, which may result in border raids and disturbances, the boundary between Manipur and Lushai lands being quite indeterminate.

7. The rising in North Cachar was a very remarkable instance of what fanaticism can effect among an ignorant population. The

The North Cachar rising.

mainspring of the revolt was a Cachari named Sambhudán. He first set up as a worker of miraculous cures, and presently went on to claim divine inspiration, and took the title of a god, or "*deo*." Among the credulous population of the hills followers were soon attracted to him ; the afflatus of his inspiration extended to them, and they too became "*deos*," though Sambhudán was still the principal god. He took up his abode at Maibong, the ancient capital of the Cacharis, and lived at free quarters on the forced contributions of his neighbours. At length, a man brought a complaint against him in the court, having been beaten by him and his followers for resisting the expropriation of a buffalo ; and it was found that the dread of him was so great that no one could be induced to serve a summons on him. The Sub-divisional Officer then called in the Deputy-Commissioner, Major Boyd, who went to his assistance with a force of some 30 police. On the way, some huts erected for a camping-place were burnt down by Sambhudán's party, but no other impediment awaited him on his road to Gunjong, the head-quarters of North Cachar. Maibong is some six

or eight hours' march from Gunjong. On the 15th January, Major Boyd, accompanied by Mr. Soppitt and some 25 police, marched to Maibong and found it deserted, except for three or four men, who ran away, and two women. Sambhudán and his party, supposed to be about 20 men, had countermarched him on the same day, and about noon fell upon Gunjong, where only a weak police guard had been left: they were panic-stricken, and fled without firing a shot; and the "*deos*" burnt down all the houses at Gunjong, killed two servants and a sick policeman, but left precipitately, neither plundering the small amount of treasure that was left there, nor carrying off the police rifles or ammunition. Though Maibong was so near to Gunjong, the police were too disorganised to send any news of the disaster to Major Boyd, who, with his party, passed the night there in the houses of the "*deos*," unaware of what had occurred. Soon after dawn on the morning of the 16th they were awakened by the shouts and drums of Sambhudán and his followers, who had marched straight back from Gunjong and passed the night in the jungle. The insurgents were persuaded that Sambhudán's spells had made them invulnerable by bullets, and that hailstones would fall from heaven and overwhelm their opponents. The police (who were mostly Goorkhas) formed up in line with bayonets fixed, but did not fire at first, not believing it possible that this could be an attack in earnest, till the enemy advanced right up to them, striking at them with their *daos*, and wounding one man on the shoulder. Then they fired: one man, the boldest of all, was shot dead at their feet, but not till he had struck at Major Boyd, and inflicted a deep cut between the forefinger and thumb: three others were killed about five yards off, and four others within 100 yards or so, as they ran away. Two or three more were found dead in the jungle afterwards. It is believed that the actual attack was made by about six men, and that about ten more were in reserve, ready to come on if the police had wavered at all. Sambhudán himself, it is said, did not join in the attack, but remained praying in a little temple, from the door of which the final rush was made. The fugitives were not pursued, as the jungle and grass are thick, and it was not known how many the assailants were, or from what quarter the attack might be renewed. Major Boyd, who was faint from loss of blood, was carried into Gunjong, which he only reached the next day: the arm was tied up, to prevent the bleeding, so tightly that before any medical aid

could reach him (on the 22nd) mortification had set in. He was brought into Silchar, and it was hoped that amputation of the arm might save his life, but tetanus supervened, and on the 30th January he died. In him the Government lost a valued and zealous servant, and the news of his death was received with profound sorrow both by the European and Native population of the district.

Several of the accomplices in this insane rising have been captured, but Sambhudán, who evaded arrest for a long time, was at last surrounded by night, on the 1st January 1883, and killed in attempting to cut his way through. The station of Gunjong was immediately re-occupied after the Maibong attack, the houses re-built, and a stronger fort erected; and the sub-division at once relapsed into complete quiet.

8. The Nága Hills district was free from any disturbances of a political nature, and made

The Nágas.

a distinct advance towards a peaceful and settled condition. Only one of the old familiar class of murders took place, some Sema Nágas from across the border having raided on a Lhota Nága village in British jurisdiction and carried off two heads. The Deputy-Commissioner and an officer of the 42nd Native Infantry led a party of sepoys and police to the village, skilfully avoided an ambuscade, and so overawed the villagers that they gave up the leader of the murderers, who was brought into Kohima and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. This is the first instance in Nága history in which punishment has been inflicted on the actual offender without the barbarous and indiscriminate process of burning the whole village. In other respects the prospects of sound and settled Government in these hills are improving. The visit of the Commander-in-Chief to Kohima, in November 1881, gave a great impulse to the construction of the road to that place; a wing of the Pioneer Regiment, as well as a company of Sappers, were sent down, and the sepoys of the 42nd Native Infantry were largely employed in road-making, so that now a good open bridle-path exists, up which the supplies required for the troops are carried by mule transport, and the great sickness which formerly prevailed along this line almost came to an end. The sites of the different public buildings in Kohima, and of the central fort, were settled on, but nothing could be done towards their construction, as all hands were concentrated on the road as being the work of first importance. The Nágas have now become convinced that we intend to stop

at Kohima, and that resistance is useless, and they have begun to offer voluntary labour on making and clearing the road in considerable numbers. Work of this kind, when liberally and promptly paid, is not unpopular, but the carrying of loads is their aversion. The Chief Commissioner believes that the general feeling is one of acquiescence in British rule, and of satisfaction in peace and security; and he noticed when traveling through the district in March 1882 that the Nágas wore a look of greater friendliness and contentment than when he visited this country in the preceding year.

9. Nothing else of political importance occurred in the Assam Province during the year. The other frontier and wild tribes. Bhutias, Dafflas, Akas, Singphos, and Khámptis on our frontier were as quiet and friendly as in the past. Within the border, the Gáros exhibited no signs of disquiet, and there is reason to believe that the disturbance of March 1881 was, in its inception, nothing but a *ruse* got up to frighten away a Bengali Babu from the line of road he was laying near certain villages, though it ultimately grew, as numbers adhered to the movement, to have a more serious significance.

10. The subject of village-burning was a good deal discussed during the year, in consequence of the fact that resort was had to this mode of punishment both in the Gáro and Nága Hills, in the expeditions of March 1881, when the actual culprits could not be caught. There is a natural reluctance to return from such an expedition without having done something to mark displeasure; and in some sense it may be said that the whole village has thrown in its lot with the offenders and deserves punishment. But the Chief Commissioner, with the approval of the Government of India, laid down for the guidance of District Officers that he looked with the utmost disfavour on the practice, regarding it as a harsh and barbarous course of action, which can only be justified under special circumstances, and should only be resorted to when all other measures have failed, not, as hitherto, as the first and easiest mode of inflicting punishment. Officers were given to understand that in ordering a village to be burnt they would take on themselves a grave responsibility, and would be liable to incur severe displeasure, unless they could show that some punishment was absolutely necessary, and that they were precluded from inflicting any other penalty than that of conflagration.

11. Much thought and attention have necessarily been given to the question of local self-government ever since the question was first raised by the Government of India in its Circular of the 10th October 1881. As, however, there was no practical outcome of these discussions during the year, and a new turn was given to them by the fresh departure taken in the Government of India's Circular of the 18th May 1882, it is not necessary to refer further to the subject in this Report. But an important preliminary step was taken during the year by the orders which placed the officers of the Public Works Department more directly under the Deputy-Commissioners in all but professional questions. Departmentalism is the ally of centralisation, and the foe of local self-government. As long as the Executive-Engineer was able to hold himself apart from the Civil officer, treating him as a separate and equal authority, to be aided no doubt if his intentions were right, but to be snubbed and sneered at if they were wrong, so long hearty and zealous co-operation were impossible. The Chief Commissioner's Resolution of the 18th January 1882 decided that the Executive-Engineer was to be called a District Engineer in future, and to have a jurisdiction conterminous with the civil district, ranking as an Assistant to the Deputy-Commissioner. Provision was made for saving his independence in professional engineering matters, and for settling any questions about which a dispute might arise. By these orders a foundation was laid for the scheme subsequently introduced, under which the authority of the Local Boards has been extended to almost all Provincial Public Works in Assam. Similar measures were also taken with regard to the Forest Department, the officers of which were declared by a Resolution dated the 29th December 1881 to be Assistants to the Deputy-Commissioner in their own department. By this order a division of authority, which had hitherto caused much inconvenience, was done away with: instead of the reserved and protected forests being wholly under the Forest Department and the district forests wholly under the Deputy-Commissioner, all forests are now under the management of the Forest Officer, and all are equally under the general control of the Deputy-Commissioner.

12. Turning now from political affairs to matters belonging to the general administration, a brief mention must be made of a serious disaster which befel the Government in the burning of the

Burning of the Shillong Secretariat.

Secretariat Office in Shillong in February 1882. The fire originated in an imperfect flue, a stove having been lighted before the repairs were completed, and, having once caught the roof when a high wind was blowing, no efforts availed to put the fire out. A large quantity of correspondence and, what was worse, the indices and registers for many years, were burnt; and, though copies of the lost letters are for the most part being gradually procured, a great delay and check in the disposal of business occurred. Temporary shelter was found for the office, and the restored building was re-occupied in October 1882.

13. In two places an important advance was made towards improving the communications of the Province. A Company for constructing a railway from Dibrugarh to the Mákum coal-mines, and for working those mines, was formed, and operations were commenced directly after the close of the rains. Before the year ended the rails were laid over about 10 miles of road, and Dibrugarh was connected with the Brahmaputra; and since then the work has been rapidly pushed on.

The Mákum Railway and Gáro Hills reconnoissance.

A reconnoissance party of Engineers was sent to survey a line through the Gáro Hills to connect Gauháti and the Assam Valley with Mymensingh by the line of the Somesari Valley, which passes through the Darangiri coal-field. This route was examined and estimates made out, showing that the line was a practicable one, but would be expensive, costing over £12,000 per mile for the portion traversing the hills. No decision has yet been come to regarding this project, as an alternative route through North Cachar is being surveyed this year.

14. Negotiations were set on foot in December 1881, with Messrs. Macneill and Co., of the Rivers Company, and were practically completed, for starting a daily line of steamers on the Brahmaputra to run from Dhubri to Dibrugarh, but it will take a considerable time to procure the vessels and start the service. The convenience which will be afforded to passengers and light traffic by the establishment of a punctual daily steamer service is very great; and nothing, except the construction of a railway up the valley, can be of greater benefit in opening out the country to intending immigrants.

15. The trade of the Province with Bengal is almost entirely conducted by water. On the *Provincial trade.* Brahmaputra it is mostly in the hands of the steamer companies, as few native boats ply above Gauhati. On the network of rivers which constitute the Surma Valley only a few steamers ply, and the native craft take most of the carrying trade. Their traffic is registered at two stations, one where the Brahmaputra leaves the Province at Dhubri, the other on the Megna above Dacca. The steamer companies send in their own returns. The chief articles of export are tea from all parts, lime, oranges, and potatoes from Sylhet and the Khasi Hills, and oil-seeds (chiefly mustard) from the lower half of the Brahmaputra Valley. The chief articles of import are English cotton, piece-goods, and metals, tobacco, sugar, salt, and silver. As far as regards necessary consumption, the Surma Valley feeds itself, but the Brahmaputra Valley imports 15,851 tons of rice, or sufficient to feed about 74,000 of its population. The total value of the exports is calculated at Rs. 36,260,691, and that of the imports at Rs. 18,875,247. The details of the traffic will be found in the special section of the report which deals with this subject.

16. The attention of the Chief Commissioner having *Crop experiments.* been drawn to the want of any accurate information as to the outturn of crops and the productive power of the land, he directed that a series of careful experiments should be made under the eyes of District Officers and officials of the higher grades, by selecting fields in which the crops were ripe, cutting areas not less than a quarter of an acre in size, and causing the crops to be threshed and weighed in their presence. This laborious task was very efficiently carried out, and no less than 366 experiments were made. The Chief Commissioner, in summing up the results of these experiments, observed that it is undesirable to attempt to draw any positive conclusion from the figures, until the experiments should be repeated for several years. The chief function of such statistics as those obtained is a negative one, tending to show that the estimates hitherto officially submitted in certain districts were impossibly high; and also proving how wide the variations are between the outturn of a good crop and a bad one. They indicate in a general way that the average outturn in the Assam Valley must probably be somewhere about 10 maunds of rice an acre, a quantity which is considerably below what is believed to be

the average crop in Bengal, and which explains to some extent the reason why the Assam Valley cannot feed itself.

17. Another subject, to which great importance is attributed, is the tours of District Officers. District Officer's tours. The Chief Commissioner early came to the conclusion that in many cases these tours were not sufficiently prolonged, and that in most cases they were not planned with a definite purpose, and a prearranged intention. He drew attention to the fact that the mildness of the Assam climate makes it possible and pleasant to remain on tour till late in April, a season when in almost every other Province the weather is intolerably hot; and that between November and April, whatever duties may call him to his head-quarters, it is not too much to expect of an officer that he should spend about 120 days in the interior of his district. He laid down the principle that tours should be so planned that every village, or at least every group of villages, should be visited by a superior officer of covenanted rank once in two years. In order to effect this it is necessary that a record should be kept of past tours; and the best way of doing this is to prepare at the close of each year a tour map, to be hung up in office, a reference to which will at once show what part of the district has been visited in any particular year. The tour statistics of the cold weather of 1881-82, and the attention paid to this subject in the annual district reports, show that these instructions have been carried out in a loyal and zealous way.

18. An Act of great importance to the chief industry of the Province, the Inland Emigration Act, The Inland Emigration Act. was passed in January 1882. It had been for some time on the anvil, a special committee of officials and persons interested in tea having been appointed in 1880 to revise the old Act (Act VII. of 1873) and fit its provisions to more recent exigencies. They presented their report in the beginning of 1881, and their draft was considered and revised by a select committee sitting in Simla during the rains. The draft Bill, thus altered, was not received till October, and a very short time was allowed for forming and submitting opinions upon it, as the Tea Companies were urgent for early legislation, and the Government desired to pass the law during the Calcutta session. Partly from this reason, and partly from other causes, several details in which the law has been found not quite suited to the wants of the Province were overlooked. However,

the Bill was passed in January, but did not take much effect during the year under report, as the draft Rules to be passed under it were not prepared, and it always takes some time before the changes in procedure which a new law requires become generally known. The principal changes in principle were four: free emigration, which had always been legal, was more definitely encouraged than before; recruitment through garden-sirdárs was treated with greater favour than recruitment through contractors; the maximum period for which a contract can be made was raised from three to five years; and it became lawful for the first time to make local contracts in the labour districts under the Act.

19. Next to the Emigration Act, the most important legislative business affecting this Province is the Land Revenue Regulation, in which it is proposed to codify all existing laws which affect the status of landowners and the mode of collecting the land revenue, and to give the force of law to the existing practice in the Assam Valley, which has for the most part grown up under executive orders. The first draft of this Bill was prepared by Mr. W. E. Ward, Commissioner and Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, and was examined in 1880 by the then Chief Commissioner and by a Committee appointed by him. In 1881 it was again gone through twice by the present Chief Commissioner and Mr. Ward, and considerable alterations were introduced, especially in the Chapter on Settlements, and it was then submitted to the Government of India for general approval. No further advance was, however, made with it during the year under report, as the sanction of the Supreme Government was not received till a later date.

20. With the year 1881-82 the contract made with the Government of India regarding the share of the Local Government in the revenues and expenditure of the Province came to an end, and this will be a convenient place in which to take a brief retrospect of the financial history of Assam. When the Province was first constituted, in 1874, the arrangements made under Lord Mayo's original "decentralisation scheme" of 1870 were put in force; certain spending and receiving departments were transferred to Provincial management, and a lump sum was added to cover the excess expenditure over income. On the 1st April 1878 a new contract was made, under which no lump sum was given, but two great receiving departments, Excise and

Stamps, were provincialised, some other minor changes were made, and a one-fifth share in the land revenue was given to balance the account.

21. The result of this arrangement has been highly favourable to the finances of Assam. Result of the contract from 1878 to 1882. The sources which were estimated on the 1st April 1878 to produce an income of Rs. 32,88,000 actually produced in 1881-82 Rs. 40,83,000, or Rs. 7,91,000 above the estimate, while the Provincial expenditure rose from an estimate of Rs. 32,83,000 to Rs. 39,34,000 in the year now expired. Three lakhs of rupees were contributed by the Provincial to the Imperial exchequer during the Afghan war, but were repaid at the close of this year, so that the Provincial balance (which was on 1st April 1878 only Rs. 3,35,000) amounted on the 1st April 1882 to Rs. 10,50,000 or 10½ lakhs.

22. When these figures (a detailed statement of which will be found at the end of the Chapter on this subject) are looked into, it will be seen that the increase of the income is of three kinds. It is partly due to increased taxation: a local cess at the rate of one anna in the rupee of revenue was imposed for the first time in 1880-81, and, though the full rate was not collected in the Sylhet district, it produced Rs. 3,22,000 in 1881-82, or an increase of Rs. 2,82,000 over some small local cesses which it superseded. The next great cause of increase is improvement in the administration of taxes, and to this cause the growth of the excise revenue by Rs. 2,93,000 (or 18 per cent.) is mainly due. The sale of opium is the chief item from which this revenue is derived. There has been no increase in the quantity sold, but the price has been raised, and licenses granting a monopoly of vend have been sold under a new system. The third source of increase is the natural and steady growth of the revenue, and to this source an increase of Rs. 2,20,000, or 13 per cent., is attributable. Land revenue has risen by only Rs. 30,000, or 4 per cent., but for the smallness of this rise two reasons exist: one is that in Sylhet district the payment of the land revenue has been thrown back from February and March to April and May, so as to enable the people better to meet the land tax after disposing of their harvested crops, and this alone reduced the demand for 1881-82 by about three lakhs of rupees. The other is that the produce of the sales of waste lands are credited to this head, and these, which amounted in 1877-78 to Rs. 1,86,000, have nearly come to an

end, since the low price of tea has discouraged the expansion of that industry. But, looking at the land revenue proper, which is the mainstay of all finance in India, the figures are fairly satisfactory. In the Brahmaputra Valley the receipts rose by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, or 14.5 per cent., in the four years. In most of Sylhet the revenue is permanently assessed, and no increase can be looked for; but in the temporarily-settled parts, and in Cachar, there has been a rise of Rs. 1,80,118, or 61.63 per cent. As regards other sources of income, stamps produced more by Rs. 47,000 (7 per cent.), Registration more by Rs. 8,000, or 32 per cent., Law and Justice (that is to say, fines and jail labour) more by Rs. 37,000, or 30 per cent., Police (that is pounds and deductions on account of clothing) more by Rs. 23,000, or 46 per cent., Public Works (that is to say ferries) more by Rs. 45,000, or 66 per cent., and Education (or fees paid by pupils in Government schools) more by Rs. 3,000, or 12 per cent. On the whole, these figures show a fairly elastic revenue, though the totals under each head are rather insignificant. The important point is that in no single case has the income decreased, except the medical receipts, which are altogether accidental.

23. On the expenditure side five departments show a decrease, under the rest there has been an increase;

Sources of increase in the expenditure.

but in most cases the increase has been due to a deliberate policy, selecting the most useful ways of laying out the growing revenue, not to that slow and stealthy growth of expenditure in establishments and contingencies, which more than anything else saps the vitals of finance and fritters away revenue, with nothing useful to show for it. There has been some shifting of charges from one head to another which disturbs comparisons, but, taking Administration and Law and Justice together, the joint increase is only Rs. 3,000. Land revenue appears less by Rs. 9,000, but that is owing to a postponement of payments due in 1881-82, and there has really been an increase, though not a very large one. Refunds have risen, as is natural, with larger receipts. Stamps also show an increase, as more discount is payable when more stamps are sold, and a new charge for stamped papers is now made against the Province which was not made in 1878-79. Excise, Registration, and Minor Departments all cost less, and the decrease is due to economical administration. Provincial rates are a new charge—the cost of collecting and accounting for the new local cess. The Police Department costs more by Rs. 1,72,000, partly because the strength of the force was increased by 294 men and

two officers in 1878, costing about Rs. 80,000, and partly owing to the charge for Snider rifles supplied to the Frontier Police (Rs. 86,000) having fallen due in 1881-82, a charge which will not recur in other years. The expenditure on education has increased, owing to the opening of more primary schools; and the medical expenditure is also larger, because a larger staff of doctors and vaccinators is employed. The charge under "Irrigation and Navigation" indicates the cost of three small steam-launches, which are found very useful in a country so profusely supplied with waterway, and this charge will be considerably enlarged in future years. But the chief increase is shown under the head of "Public Works," and amounts to Rs. 3,62,000. This is the expenditure which of all others is most useful to the Province, and no sign can be more indicative of prosperity than a steady growth of the outgoings of this department. It is by no means the policy of Government to accumulate a large surplus. The existing surplus of 10½ lakhs has been amassed partly by the windfall of the three lakhs of rupees contributed for the Afghan War and unexpectedly returned, and partly by inability to spend up to budget allotments on public works by reason of the scarcity of labour. Every nerve is now being strained to procure labour, to mature important projects for roads and bridges, and to expend the surplus in a permanently useful manner.

24. From the 1st April 1882 a new five-years' contract was entered into between the Provincial and Imperial Government, the character of which will be fully explained in the report for 1882-83. It is sufficient here briefly to say that the principle of the former contract was followed and enlarged, the Forest and some other less important departments were provincialised, the Government of India resumed a half share in the Excise and Stamp Departments, which had hitherto been wholly Provincial, and made over a much larger proportion (63 instead of 20 per cent.) of the land revenue to the Province. The Chief Commissioner accepted the new contract with much satisfaction, and welcomed it as a wise extension of the principles laid down in 1870, and of the policy which more than anything else has given fresh life and energy to Provincial administration.

25. The Census statistics, of which a brief sketch was given in the last report, were fully worked out during the year, and the prescribed tables printed, but various circumstances have delayed the preparation

Statistics of the Census of 1881.

of the Provincial Report, which is not yet completed. The total population of the Province is now given at 48,81,426: of these, 2,258,434 live in the Surmá Valley, 2,249,185 in the Brahmaputra Valley, and 373,807 in the hill districts. The latter figure is, however, mainly an estimate: for the Nága Hills it is a pure guess, and has since been shown to be an inadequate one; in the Gáro Hills the figure is obtained by counting the houses, and applying an average rate to them; only in the Khási Hills and in North Cachar was a regular census taken, and that not a synchronous one. All the hill figures are therefore sure to be under the mark, as it is always found that nothing but a synchronous and regular census brings all the floating population into account. The number of houses in the plains districts (excluding the hill tracts) is returned as 803,254, giving an average rate of 5.61 persons per house. The density of the population varies much: in Sylhet it is 362, and in the Surmá Valley (Sylhet and Cachar together) 335.8 per square mile; in the Brahmaputra Valley it is only 105 per square mile; in the Gáro and Khási Hills it is returned at about 27 per square mile.

26. Comparing these figures with those of the previous Census, and omitting the Cachar, Gáro, and Nága Hills, where no Census was taken in 1872, the increase in nine years is from 3,946,054 to 4,676,979, or 730,925, or 18.52 per cent. The increase is greatest in the Lakhimpur district (48.34) and in Cachar (41.16); it is least in Sylhet (14.50) and in Kámrúp (14.83). Of the number now censused, about 280,000 were born out of the Province, but there are no corresponding figures to show the number of foreigners in Assam in 1872. There has been no immigration worth speaking of, except on the tea-gardens, and the cultivation of tea has not been very greatly enlarged since 1872. Perhaps about 100,000 of the increase is due to this cause; the rest is the natural growth of the indigenous population, in a country which has room enough to receive more than double its present number, and to give each one of them as much land as he can cultivate.

27. Of the 4,701,412 censused persons (omitting the estimated tracts), 2,412,502 are males and 2,288,910 females, making a ratio of 51.32 males to 48.68 females. There is an excess of males in every district except the Khási Hills, where females predominate; the excess is lowest in Sylhet (50.78 to 49.22) and

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highest in Cachar (53·41 to 46·59), which are the two districts with the largest Muhammadan population. So that the difference cannot be attributed to any special desire on the part of the Muhammadans to conceal their females. In the Khási Hills the women are to men as 52·44 to 47·56,—a singular phenomenon not peculiar to this Census only, for in 1872 the same proportions existed. Nor can this preponderance of females be attributed to the peculiar characteristics of the hills, for in North Cachar males exceed females by 50·62 to 49·38, and the same ratio is found in the estimated figures of the Gáro Hills. It is a well-known fact that in the Khási Hills the woman is the head of the house, and is considered to be of superior authority to the man; and it is a remarkable fact that in the only district in India where this is the case the number of females should exceed that of males. There is no reason to suppose that more girls are born than boys: up to the age of 14 the numbers of the sexes are exactly equal; above that age females greatly surpass males. This lends colour to a hypothesis which has before been started to explain the excess of males above females in Upper India: that where one sex is more valued and honoured than the other it has a better chance of survival in the struggle for life. In Upper India girls are far less prized than boys; in some castes they are (or were) deliberately killed, in others they are let die through want of tenderness and care: hence, the deficiency of females is due not to concealment but to greater mortality. In the Khási Hills, on the other hand, the daughter when she comes to marriageable age is more valued than the son: it is she who will become the head of the house, and through whom property will descend; hence she is better fed, better treated, less exposed, and has a better chance of life than her brother.

28. The three great religious divisions are Hindus, Muhammadans, and hill tribes, who can hardly be said to have any definite religious system. The Hindus number 3,062,148, the Muhammadans 1,317,022, and the hill tribes 488,251. In Sylhet the Muhammadans are more numerous than the Hindus (1,015,531 against 949,353); in Cachar they are about half the number of the Hindus, and in Goálpára about one-third; in no other district do they form a considerable percentage. The hill tribes are principally the Khásis, Gáros, and Nágas; next to them come the Mikirs, the Kukis in Cachar, and the Miris in Sibságar and Lakhimpur. The other hill tribes within our borders,

Daflas, Abors, and Mishmis, do not number a thousand each. The difference between the religious returns in 1872 and 1881 is a most interesting question, and will no doubt be fully treated in the Census Report, but can only be briefly alluded to here. The Muhammadans have increased by 19·2 and the Hindus by 14·3 per cent.: in other words, the Muhammadans show the greatest increase, and their numbers have grown a little faster than the general growth of the population, and considerably faster than that of the Sylhet district as a whole. This seems to indicate that proselytism has been more active among them than among the Hindus; but we know that the process of turning the non-Hindu Cachari into the Hindu, Sorania, Rabha, and Koch, is actively going on, and we must perhaps suspend judgment on this comparison, holding that the religious classification of 1872 was not very carefully made. Besides these three main divisions, there are a few Budhists (remnants of the Burmese invasion), Jains (traders from Rajputana). Brahmos from Bengal, and Christians. The latter are 7,093 in number, and have risen to this figure from 1,947 in the Census of 1872. They are most numerous in the Khási Hills, where 2,107 converts attest the success of the Welsh Missionaries.

29. To the student of Ethnology and Philology no field can be more interesting than Assam, for

Castes.

here we have to deal with no less than eighteen distinct languages within our border, besides the multitude spoken by the wild tribes beyond the frontier, and we are able to watch a greater number of aboriginal races in the hills and in the valley, partly keeping to their native creeds and habits, partly sliding by gradual steps into Hinduism, while among those who hold themselves to be of pure Hindu blood caste prejudice and mutual exclusiveness are heightened to the utmost, and food is considered to be defiled if touched by the hands even of a Brahmin, whose touch confers purity in all other parts of India. Among the pure aboriginal tribes who reside wholly or partially within our territory may be numbered the Abors, the Ahoms, who claim to be the ancient inhabitants and rulers of the Assam Valley, Bhutias, Daflas, Gáros, Hajongs, Khámptis and Singphos, Khásis and Santengs, Kukis, Máns, who are the relics of the Burmese invasion, Manipuris, who are half Kukis, half Nágas, by origin, and now profess to be Chattris of the purest blood and the tenderest scruples, Mikirs and Lalungs who are Mikirs of the plains, Miris, Mishmis, Nágas (a generic name for several distinct races), and

Tipperahs, from the independent territory on the south. We have also the great caste of Cacharis, who, with their ramifications, are by far the most numerous of the indigenous races: they are hardly distinguishable from the Mech caste, and both Cacharis and Meches hold aloof from all Hindu worship: but as their blood and their faith get mixed they become Koches, Soranias, Rabhas, Rajbansis, and Hajongs. These castes amount to a million and a half. Then there are a million and three-quarters of men who consider themselves to be Hindus by origin, though but few of their names are recognisable to a Hindu ear, and where the names are unchanged the character and calling are different, as, for example, the Doms, who in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces are the lowest of scavengers but here are wealthy and respected fishermen. Of Brahmins there are but 6,000, of Rajputs or Chattris but 10,000, and these are either vain pretenders to those venerated names or else foreigners and immigrants. Of the real aboriginal tribes and their variations and gradual absorption into the Hindu creed, little as yet is thoroughly known, and the subject is one which offers an almost virgin field to the scientific enquirer.

30. The statistics of civil condition have brought out some unexpected results as to the large number of old bachelors in the country and of young widows among the Muhammadans, where no religious prohibition against remarriage exists. The extraordinary fact that the Census returns only 84,802 widowers, against 368,742 widows, is no doubt due to a misconception, many persons who are really widowers having returned themselves as married.

31. The only other result of the Census that need be mentioned here is the occupation table. Out of 2,503,723 males 1,517,184 returned themselves as of some occupation, the balance, 986,519, nearly corresponding to the number of boys below 14. The occupations are distributed thus:—

Professional class	26,619	2 per cent.
Domestic service	14,500	1 "
Commercial class	50,572	1 "
Agriculturists	1,339,386	88 "
Artificers	45,095	3 "
General labourers	41,012	3 "
Total	1,517,184	100

These figures show the extraordinary deficiency of the Province in a literary, commercial, and industrial class, and its complete dependence on agriculture for employment and support. The occupations of the women and children are of course, with few exceptions, the same as the men, that is, they assist in the vocations of the husband and father as far as strength and the cares of the house admit. Of the whole population, therefore, about 90 per cent. depend directly on the land, and it is a fortunate thing for them that the climatic conditions of Assam are such that drought is unknown, and they are not subject to the same risk of famine which attends the population of most other parts of India.

32. The year was a prosperous one for the Assam Province, and the crops were generally good.

Weather, crops, and prices.

In the Surmá Valley they were very good. The price of rice fell from 20 to 25 and 28 seers per rupee in Silchar, and in the remote parts of Sylhet it sold at a maund for the rupee. One result of this cheapness was that it was less difficult than usual to procure labour for road-making. Such work was still unpopular, but the people felt there was something to be said for it, when one day's labour could procure twenty days' food. In the Brahmaputra Valley, the rice crop was quite up to the average, but the rains of September were unusually heavy, and the late floods prevented the sowing of as large an area with mustard-seed as in ordinary years, so this crop which is mostly exported, was a short one. Prices remained pretty steady, common rice selling at from 20 to 22 seers per rupee in the lower, and 14 to 17 seers in the upper, districts of this valley. The hill districts also had good average harvests, and the potato crop of the Khási Hills was above the average.

33. The health of the population was good, and the year was free from any severe epidemics. Cholera lingered in Sylhet from January to

Health and vital statistics.

May 1881, and in the Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sibságar districts from June or July to December 1881, but it was nowhere violent, and in only two districts did the number of deaths exceed 1,000. The immigrant population of tea-coolies entirely escaped the disease, only two deaths on the river having been reported during the year. Small-pox claimed very few victims: only in one district, Nowgong, did the number exceed 100 in the worst month of the year, April. But in spite of the acknowledged healthiness of the year, the system of registration has

so much improved that the recorded death-rate rose from 11·52 to 16·04 per mille. This, though still far below the real mortality, is a great improvement, and it is hoped that the registration will continue to increase in accuracy every year. In towns, where there are greater facilities for ascertaining the facts, the death rate was 29·67. Statistics of births were registered in 1881 for the first time in the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, and reached the comparatively high ratio of 19·5 per mille, which is satisfactory for a beginning. In Cachar the ratio was 18·8. In the Sylhet district the system of registering births had not been introduced during the year under report.

34. The number of Government dispensaries was the same as the year before, 23, but two dispensaries kept by Medical Missionaries in the Khási Hills submitted returns and received a slight assistance from the State. Dispensaries. The number of in-door patients increased moderately (from 2,665 to 2,853) and the number of out-door patients considerably (from 42,763 to 55,148). The outlay by Government on the dispensaries also rose from Rs. 12,386 to Rs. 16,105. There is manifestly an increased desire to obtain medical aid and advice at dispensaries as an out-door patient, but the dislike of being taken into the hospital as a resident remains as strong as ever. The in-door patients number very few Assamese and still fewer voluntary paying patients. What Assamese there are are generally patients suffering from wounds, whose cases are before the courts. The great majority of the cases are foreigners, either travellers who have fallen sick by the way or tea-coolies who have served out their time and have no further claim on the gardens. The Chief Commissioner has observed that in many cases valid reasons exist why residence in the hospital should be unpopular; sometimes no sufficient or proper attendance is provided, and often the buildings have a forlorn and desolate look, which cannot but be depressing and repulsive. It is hoped that the Local Boards will make their influence felt here: if native gentlemen can give useful counsel on any matter it should be on the measures required to make hospitals efficient and attractive in the eyes of their countrymen.

35. The number of vaccinations performed in 1881-82 was 40,309, against 24,175 in 1880-81. Vaccination. This total not only exceeds that of the previous year by 66 per cent. but is in excess of the number

performed in any previous year in the Province. Besides these, 5,102 vaccinations were performed by private practitioners in tea-gardens. The number of paid vaccinators was raised from 17 to 36, and half the operations were performed by them; the rest were done by Civil Surgeons, Dispensary Doctors, and ex-inoculators. Owing to the fact that they have no high hill region of their own in which the *tubes* can be kept safe from putrefaction during the hot season, the staff in Assam find a great difficulty in getting good lymph, and this has been a main reason why the practice has not become more popular among the people.

36. Tea, the chief and peculiar industry of the Province, had for once a prosperous season, the crop was a good one, and prices ranged from three

Tea cultivation.

to four annas per lb above the low rates of the preceding year. The area under mature crop is returned (partly on accurate data and partly on estimate) at 133,293 acres, in the previous year it had been 120,512. The outturn of tea was about 38 million lb (it was 34 millions in 1880), or an average of 282 lb per acre of mature plants. The Cachar district stands first, with an outturn of 10½ millions; Sibságar, however, was almost equal to it. The other districts came in the following order:—Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sylhet, Nowgong, Kámrup, Goálpára, Khási Hills. There are 1,058 gardens, of which 781 lie in the Brahmaputra and the rest in the Surmá Valley. The average cost of cultivating an acre of tea may be roughly put at Rs. 50, the average cost of manufacture at about 5 annas per lb, or, if an acre produces 250 lb, nearly Rs. 80 per acre. Thus, the total cost of a lb of tea is a little over 8 annas, and the average selling price may be roughly put at 12 annas, or 28½ million of rupees for 38 million lb. From this, however, must be deducted the cost of freight and agency charges. The amount actually spent in the Province is about 19 millions of rupees. Of this, it is estimated that about 60 per cent. is expended in wages of labourers, the rest going to the pay of the higher establishment and to machinery. The tea-coolies, therefore, earn about 11½ million of rupees in actual wages. This sum divided among a population of 200,000 tea-coolies (men, women, children, and infants all told) gives an average of 57½ rupees per head, or for a family of four Rs. 230 per annum and Rs. 19 per mensem. Such wages are far beyond the wildest dreams of any of these people in their native districts.

37. The number of tea-coolies imported during the year 1881 was 17,116, against 15,913 in 1880; of these 12,173 were imported under the Act, and the rest were mostly dependents, too old or too young to work. Of those under contract, 6,630 were recruited through garden-sirdárs and 5,543 through contractors. Of the immigrants into the Assam Valley, 74 per cent. used the Dhubri route and 26 per cent. embarked at Goalundo. Chota Nagpur is still the chief recruiting area, but the North-West Provinces and Behar begin to press it close, and Bengal comes third in order. The total labour force in the Province is returned as 195,782, of whom 125,000 are adults or nearly one adult to each acre of tea. The year's death-rate among this population was the lowest ever yet attained, or 31·7 per mille, which is less than the assumed average rate of mortality throughout India (35 per mille). The lowness of this ratio, which is a subject for sincere satisfaction, is partly due to the healthiness of the year and the cheapness of prices, and partly also to the gradual improvement in all sanitary arrangements on the gardens, and in knowledge of the best way to preserve the coolies from disease. While the death-rate thus decreased, the birth-rate was higher than it has ever been before, and stood at 36·6 per mille; the probable normal birth-rate in India is 45 per mille, but the disproportionately small number of women among the tea-coolies (46 female adults to 54 males) is a sufficient reason for falling somewhat below the normal rate. On the whole, these statistics as to birth and death-rate, and as to the average wages earned by the tea-coolies, place his condition in a very favourable light, and justify any attempt that can be made to encourage a judicious emigration from countries where the population is already overcrowded, and is still increasing.

38. What the area is that is still available for such emigration, may be seen from the following figures, which are extracted from a report by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, and apply only to the Brahmaputra Valley. The total area of the six districts (excluding the greater part of Goálpára, which is permanently settled) is nearly 12 million acres: of this 1,855,906 acres are settled with proprietors who pay land revenue and 421,717 acres are revenue free: adding in the reserved forests, about 3 millions of acres are appropriated. Nine millions remain available for occupation by the first comer, and this not thin and

rocky land, like the soil of many parts of Central and Southern India, nor overgrown by forest which has to be felled and the roots stubbed before the fields are clear for crops, as in many parts of the Central Provinces, but good flat alluvial land, covered only with grass and reeds, which require nothing but the sickle and the match to turn them into excellent ash manure, and to make room for the plough, while the abundance of bamboo and cane makes building a comfortable hut the work only of a few days. At present there has been a lull in the demand for waste land : the large output of tea has brought the price down close to the cost of production, and there is little inclination to open new gardens ; similarly, the cheapness of food has checked the extension of ordinary rice cultivation. During the year 1881-82 only eight leases of waste lands have been given, involving an area of 1,384 acres. Ordinary cultivation did not increase at all in the Assam Valley districts, but 3,268 acres were taken up in Cachar.

39. The land revenue, which in Assam, as in the rest of India, is the mainstay of finance, is assessed and collected on different systems in the different parts of the Province, and varies with the varying tenures on which land is held. The greater part of Sylhet and of Goálpára are under the permanent settlement of Bengal, with this difference, that in Sylhet the land is owned by 50,000 petty holders, in Goálpára by 19 large zemindárs. The revenue they pay is 3½ lakh of rupees, a mere peppercorn rent compared to the value of their property. In the rest of Sylhet and in Cachar temporary settlements are made for a long period, generally for 20 years, on much the same system as prevails in Upper India; though these settlements are now being effected, no new assessment came into force during the year; but the revenue paid in these districts rose from Rs. 4,61,000 to Rs. 4,71,000, owing to sundry small causes of increment. In the great bulk of the Assam Valley, the settlements are for a term of only one year, and as far as written law or contract are concerned, the people who hold the land have no proprietary title to it. But here, as in many other simple communities, tenure by status confers all the privileges of contract or law, and such land as is capable of permanent rice or garden cultivation is held from year to year, and from father to son, without break or change. A large area of light soil remains, subject to inundations or to changes

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of the courses of rivers, which is considered only capable of temporary cultivation, and which the people are wont, after two or three years' occupation, to abandon, transferring their labour to fresh plots of similar land in the neighbouring grass jungle. There are about 430,000 of these holdings in the Assam Valley, paying a revenue of nearly 27 lakhs of rupees: to speak precisely, Rs. 26,83,597. The remarkable point to notice is that this revenue, which in the five years since 1876 has increased by 13 per cent., seems for a time to have lost its power of expansion and only exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 2,000. Late rains and heavy floods in September and October 1881 are alleged as the cause of this stationariness, but no satisfactory explanation has been given, and none can be given till it is seen what is the course of events in subsequent years. The area settled on these tenures is 1,370,000 acres.

There are several classes of special tenures existing in the Assam Valley, but the only ones which are of sufficient importance to be mentioned here are those which may be grouped together as waste land tenures. From early times it has been the policy of Government to encourage people to take up waste lands by offering them grants at easy or nominal terms, with a gradually progressive rate of assessment; and this policy has been accentuated by the activity of the tea industry and the desire of Government to foster and assist it. Waste land has been given on grants under different sets of rules, issued between 1838 and 1876; under some of these rules the land revenue can be redeemed; and for some years land could be bought in what is called "fee-simple," meaning thereby that it is free of all demands for land revenue. Almost all of this land has been bought or leased by British capital for the purposes of tea cultivation; the total number of such holdings is now 2,283, and their area about 965,000 acres. Of this, as already stated, 133,000 acres are under "mature crop," and are in full bearing; perhaps the total area planted with tea may be set down as nearly 150,000 acres. Though hardly any new tea-gardens were opened during the year, small extensions are constantly being made by tea-planters on their existing grants, to round off their blocks of cultivation.

40. Regular settlement is in progress in two parts of the
 Settlements. Surmá Valley. In one of these, the
 Jaintia parganas (a tract taken from the
 Jaintia Rája when he was deposed for permitting human sacri-

fices, and added to the district of Sylhet) the new assessment was framed by a special Settlement Officer, now deceased, but was found too high for sanction by the Local Government, and the rates and amount have been under revision during the year. The whole of the Cachar district, which is divided into three tahsils, is under re-settlement: in one tahsil the assessment has been completed; in the second the records and village papers have been prepared for assessment; and the field survey of about half the third (which is the largest in area) has been completed. The assessment of the first tahsil had, like that of the Jaintia parganas, been pitched too high, and was, under Mr. Elliott's orders, carefully revised and considerably lowered before it was announced to the people and put in force. It only begins to take effect from the year 1882-83.

41. After land revenue, the chief source of income in the Province is excise. This income

which had only once before, as the marginal table shows, received a check to its steady and regular expansion, fell off by Rs. 40,000.

	Rs.
1874-75	13,80,613
1875-76	14,12,216
1876-77	14,22,603
1877-78	15,36,884
1878-79	18,67,395
1879-80	18,16,154
1880-81	19,45,891
1881-82	19,05,493

There was a slight increase under the head of spirits and ganja, but a decrease under opium, which swallowed up the increase and left a deficit. Country spirits and rum are mainly consumed by tea-coolies and other foreigners. *Ganja* is the chief indulgence of the Sylhet people. Opium is the favourite drug of the Assamese in the Brahmaputra Valley. This last is the mainstay of the excise revenue, producing $15\frac{1}{2}$ out of the total 19 lakhs of revenue, and the decrease is due to the lessened consumption of opium by 100 maunds. The cause of this decrease is probably to be found in quarrels and competition among the licensed vendors rather than in any change of habits among the people. The Chief Commissioner has issued strict injunctions that the consumption of opium is not to be encouraged among the hill tribes who have not yet taken to it, but it is impossible to restrict it among the Assamese where the habit has grown inveterate, nor is there any sufficient evidence to show that opium is generally consumed to an extent which is injurious to health. It is usually drunk dissolved in water, not smoked. The daily dose of habitual consumers varies from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tola, or from $5\frac{1}{2}$ grains to 22 grains, and the average dose may be put at $9\frac{1}{2}$ grains per diem, or 1lb per annum. The total number of habitual consumers is

estimated at about 120,000 persons, or 7 per cent. of the population of the Brahmaputra Valley. The incidence of the excise revenue on the population is 9 annas 1 pie per head, and rises as high as Rs. 2-9-8 in Lakhimpur, and Re. 1-14-2 per head in Sibságar, where the largest consumption of opium prevails. Enquiries have been made as to the retail price paid by the actual consumers, which tend to show that nearly 28 lakhs of rupees are annually expended on this form of indulgence, or 9 annas 10 pie per head, the highest rate of expenditure being Rs. 3-3 per head in Lakhimpur, Rs. 2-0-3 in Sibságar, and Re. 1-5-3 in Darrang. It is not altogether a cause for satisfaction that people should be found willing to expend so much on liquors and drugs, but it is at any rate a sign of great material prosperity that they are able to do so.

42. The only other considerable receiving department is that of stamps: the revenue from which has steadily increased year by year, from Rs. 4,74,622 in 1874-75 to Rs. 6,37,120 in 1881-82. There was a decrease in the sale of non-judicial stamps, due perhaps to stagnation in business, and in the sales and transfer of property, by reason of the low prices, and an increase in court-fee or judicial stamps, which is explained by the fact that an unusual number of civil suits for large amounts were brought into court during the year.

43. The great expending department is naturally the Public Works, and it is to be desired that more money could be spent usefully on roads and bridges, which are the great want of the Province. But, limited as allotments are by the state of the Provincial finances, it was found last year, as always, impossible to spend them because of the difficulty of procuring labour, which, in the Brahmaputra Valley at least, was more accentuated than ever. It so happened that most of the work which it had been planned to carry out lay in the two worst districts: in the Nága Hills, where the unhealthiness of the Terai deters all applicants, and in the Dibrugarh district, where the construction of the Makum Railway created a new competition, and caused wages to rise to a fabulous height. Efforts were made to import labourers, but the contracts for Dibrugarh were faultily drawn up, and, even if the contracts had been ever so stringent, the coolies would have broken them and defied the law under the temptations offered them. In

the Naga Hills there was no such competition, and high wages secured a certain number of coolies, but they were sickly and lazy, and work was much delayed. Out of $17\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs allotted altogether, only $12\frac{3}{4}$ were spent. Establishment alone was the head under which there was no lapse, and on this Rs. 3,42,239 were spent, or 27 per cent. of the total expenditure. This is a high ratio, and specially so when the establishment is compared only with the work classed as "Provincial," where it cost one rupee to pay the establishment for spending two. Great distances, difficult communications, and high rates of pay account for this. It is necessary to have more officers than usual where the works are scattered and the roads bad, and they must be paid higher than elsewhere to induce them to serve in Assam. Something, however, can and will be done towards reducing this ratio, and the Chief Commissioner hopes to show a better proportion in 1882-83.

The chief work carried out was the construction of the road to Kohima, costing Rs. 1,40,515, on which a great improvement was effected, so that a practicable bridle-path now exists; and the cart-road to Cherra Punji from Shillong, which was about half done at an outlay of Rs. 1,39,728; the Gauhati and Sylhet Jails were advanced a stage; the Dhubri Treasury and Cutcherry and the Shillong Account offices were finished; and the Sylhet Judge's Cutcherry nearly completed. Improvements were made on the Shillong and Gauhati cart-road and on the Trunk Road, especially in the Nowgong district, though no large work or important bridge was undertaken, and the trainway from Kokilamukh to Jorhat was pushed on and the rails laid down.

44. During the year an additional Assistant-Conservator of Forests was posted to the Province, and this made it possible to appoint a separate officer to the charge of the Garo Hills district. There is now a separate Forest Officer to each district, except in four cases where the forest area is too small to be made a separate charge, and, as already mentioned, each Forest Officer has been made directly subordinate to the Deputy-Commissioner of the district in which he works. Three additions were made to the list of Government reserved forests, the area of which now is 2,066 square miles. The felling of timber by Government agency has been abandoned, as it could not be done economically, and the chief work of Forest Officers in the districts nearest to Bengal is to clear the

boundary-lines, protect the forests from fire, and supervise and assist the traders who are engaged in felling and exporting trees after payment of the royalty to Government. Considerable plantations are also made in the Kámrúp and Darrang districts, the latter of which contains a large plantation of India-rubber trees, which may become a very valuable property thirty or forty years hence. In the upper Assam Valley the timber trade has not extended as yet; the Forest Officers have little to do except to explore and survey the large tracts under their care. In Lakhimpur, however, the introduction of the Makum Railway, to which a timber concession has been made, gives some work, and this railway and the tramway in the Sibságar district are creating a new demand for sleepers. The receipts of the year were Rs. 1,66,053, a sum slightly less than the receipts of 1880-81: of this about Rs. 20,000 was due to the sale of the right to cut the rubber-trees in the open forests, a practice which had been prohibited for many years, though it was carried on in a clandestine manner. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 1,65,361, or almost the same as the receipts. The main difficulty of the Forest Department in Assam consists in the immense area of private forests, which compete with those of Government: and, while officials are bound to manage the Government property with forethought and economy, private owners are apt to think only of the present, and undersell Government by charging extremely low prices. At the same time, it must be admitted that officials have a tendency to impose rigid rules, and to transact business in a way which traders do not like, and Mr. Elliott has found it necessary to warn them against this tendency, writing as follows in the Resolution on the Departmental Report, 1881-82:—

“The one most important lesson to be deduced from the report of the year 1881-82, and to be impressed on the minds of all Forest Officers, is that the prosperity of the department depends on the increased sale of the timber with which the forests abound, and that it is their special business not to discourage traders by checks and passes and toll-stations and official delays, but to encourage them by making the trade easy and profitable, and by offering every facility which is consistent with the prevention of fraud.”

45. The total expenditure on Education was Rs. 3,11,095, against Rs. 2,87,410 in 1880-81, an increase of 8·2 per cent.: of this sum Rs. 2,04,716, or 65·8 per cent., was contributed by Provincial and Local Funds, and Rs. 1,06,379, or 34·2, by the public in the shape of fees for children's schooling, subscriptions, and endow-

ments. The number of schools was 1,455, an increase of 168 over the preceding year, and the number of scholars on the rolls stood at 46,771 at the end of the year, an increase of 6,100. Eleven are high schools, teaching up to the Entrance Examination and containing 2,264 boys; from them 45 boys went in for the Entrance Examination and 24 passed. All boys who pass in the Brahmaputra Valley, and a certain number of those who pass from Sylhet and Cachar, receive a scholarship of Rs. 20 or 15 per month, to enable them to continue their education at one of the Presidency Colleges. There are 28 middle English schools with 2,938 pupils, of whom only 1,438 learn English; 44 Middle Vernacular schools, 69 lower Vernacular, and 1,282 primary schools with 35,319 pupils, of whom 1,209 are girls. A regular gradation of scholarships exists, given as the reward for success in the annual examinations, by which the best pupils of the primary schools pass to the middle schools and the best middle school boys go on to the high schools. The number of school-goers is 1 in 100 of the population, not a high ratio, but double that which exists in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh; and there is one school to every 16 square miles in the plains districts. Assam, therefore, as Indian populations go, is not far behind in the spread of the elements of instruction; its backwardness is rather in the higher forms of culture. The subjects which were pointed out in this year's Resolution, as those most requiring attention were the improvement of the normal schools, the establishment of boarding-houses in connection with the high schools, and the encouragement of physical training and a taste for athletic exercises.

46. The number of cognisable crimes reported to the police was nearly the same as in 1880, 12,856, and of these 8,132 (against 8,964 in 1880) were considered to be true, the rest being rejected either as maliciously false or as being based on mistake of law or of fact. There was 1 reported crime to 350 of the population, a proportion much larger than that of Bengal (1 in 585), but less than in the North-Western Provinces (1 in 232). Looking to cognisable crime only, 38 per cent. of the true cases and 70 per cent. of the cases brought into court were prosecuted to conviction. Of persons actually tried, 72·8 per cent. were convicted, a proportion which was slightly exceeded by the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces, but which was considerably better than that of Madras, Burma, Bengal, and Bombay. The districts in which the greatest success in the prosecution of

Police.

crime was attained by the police were Lakhimpur, Darrang, and Sibságar. An examination of the statistics in detail shows that heinous crime is rare in Assam, and that the minor kinds of vulgar crime are by no means prevalent, and show no tendency to increase: they are, however, decidedly most abundant in the districts where there are most tea coolies. The simple Assamese is too comfortable, and perhaps too lazy, for crime. The cost of the police was Rs. 8,90,955, of which nearly 90,000 are a quite exceptional charge on account of Snider rifles supplied from the Ordnance Department, an expenditure which will not occur again.

47. The returns of criminal justice show the total number of offences reported in 1881 as 22,882 or 1 in 196 of the population, a slight decrease from the number of the preceding year, and of these 36·3 complaints were rejected as false. The number of cases brought to trial was 9,284, and in these cases 10,240 persons, or 1 to every 438 of the population, were convicted, figures which correspond very closely with those of 1880. The average duration of cases before Stipendiary Magistrates was 8·4 days, and out of 49,293 witnesses examined only 18 per cent. were detained for more than one day; only 690 persons appealed to District Magistrates or the Court of Sessions, and in the case of 62·5 per cent. the order appealed against was confirmed, so that it may be fairly said that the criminal work was disposed of with efficiency and despatch. The amount of Rs 72,419 was realised in fines. The well-being of the Assam ryot is marked by his ability to pay a larger fine than his fellow in Bengal. Each person fined in Assam paid Rs. 10-13-1, while in Bengal each person paid Rs. 5-11-7.

48. The number of persons sent to prison during the year was 3,427, or less by 186 than the year before, and the average number of persons confined in the jails was 1,462 in 1881, against 1,431 in 1880. The total cost of guarding, maintaining, and employing the prisoners was Rs. 1,20,594, and Rs. 81,133 were spent on constructing new buildings. The gross cost of a prisoner was Rs. 100, the net cost was Rs. 87 per annum: prices being cheaper, the cost of dieting a prisoner fell from Rs. 32-8-4 to Rs. 29-10-3. There was an improvement in the general health of the prisoners, and deaths decreased from 76, with a ratio of 53·1 per mille, to 63, with a ratio of 43·1 per mille. In the Gauhati

Jail alone the ratio was excessive, 110 per mille, and it was partly accounted for by an outbreak of cholera there. The labour of prisoners was, in consequence of orders issued in August 1881, employed as largely as possible in extramural work, and a temporary jail was established on the Shillong-Cherra Road, where the Sylhet prisoners were huttet out and usefully worked. This experiment was made under several disadvantages, but was quite successful both as to the prisoners' health and as to the value of their labour, and the system is now being more generally applied. The number of punishments inflicted for breaches of jail discipline was 364, and in 141 cases, or 40 per cent., flogging was the punishment. There is no doubt that the proportional number of floggings may be still further reduced without any relaxation of real discipline.

49. The number of civil suits instituted in 1881 was 22,549 (against 21,448 in 1880), or 1 to each 198 of the population. The proportion in Bengal is 1 to 169, in the North-Western Provinces 1 to 360. The value of these suits was extraordinarily high, Rs. 50,24,206, or Rs. 219 per suit: in 1880 it had been Rs. 77 per suit. This great increase was due to the institution of 5 cases valued at 26½ lakhs in the Court of the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, and one case, value 3 lakhs, in the Court of the Sub-Judge of Cachar. Of the suits instituted, 65 per cent. do not exceed Rs. 50 in value, and only 16 per cent. exceeded Rs. 100. The average duration of contested cases was 75 days, a period which might well be reduced. The number of cases appealed against was 1,180, and in 66 per cent. of these the decision of the lower courts was upheld, a very good proportion when compared with that of other provinces. But, when consideration is paid to the cost and labour involved in fighting a case in a civil court and obtaining a decree, it is remarkable to see how infructuous for the most part these decrees are. Out of 13,273 cases in which application was made for the execution of decrees the number of cases in which satisfaction was obtained in whole or in part was only 4,365, or 39 per cent., and the amount realised was but Rs. 3,44,704, or 6·8 per cent. of the amount litigated. This was hardly more than the sum spent in court-fees and process-fees, which amounted to Rs. 3,14,470.

50. Registration is not an important department in Assam. Only 12,163 documents were registered during the year, on which a sum of Rs. 25,135 was paid and an expenditure of Rs. 16,620

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was incurred. The number registered was less than in any year since 1876-77. The receipts and the surplus were less than in either of the two years preceding 1881-82. Comparing this year with 1880-81, the decrease in compulsory registration was 16·2 per cent., in optional registration 11·5 per cent., and in other registration 7·6 per cent. The explanation generally given is the cheapness of prices, which makes this a bad time for selling or mortgaging property.

51. Two new municipalities were formed during the year, raising the total number in the Province to nine. The receipts from taxation were Rs. 46,406, or less by Rs. 2,461 than in the year before, and the total income from all sources (including a grant of Rs. 16,800 from Provincial Funds) was Rs. 92,769. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 89,123, so that the year closed with a small balance. The municipal taxation consists chiefly of the tax on houses and lands and of ferries: no octroi is levied in Assam. The incidence of taxation ranges from 2 annas 10 pie per head in Sibságar to Re. 1-10-10 in Shillong. The details of the expenditure show that construction and repairs of roads occupy the first place; the charges for collection, police, and conservancy establishments come next in order, and are nearly equal to each other in amount. The population of the nine Municipalities is only 58,000, for Assam is not a Province of large towns.

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PERMANENT CHAPTERS.

See Administration Report for 1874-75 and 1875-76, Part II.A.

PART II.B.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1881-82.

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Administration Report for 1881-82.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION 1.—CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

1. (a) *General*.—Mr. C. A. Elliott, c.s.i., was confirmed in the appointment of Chief Commissioner by Notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 178, of the 10th May 1881. Mr. Elliott was in charge of the administration of the Province during the whole of the year under report.

2. (b) *Administrative*.—During the year the local limits of the jurisdictions of the munsifs in the district of Sylhet were fixed as follows :—

Munsif.	Thána.	Sub-division.
I. Sadr.....	1. Sylhet.....	Sylhet or Sadr.
	2. Kanáirghat	
	3. Balaganj	
	4. Hingájiya	
	5. Rájñagar	
II. Nawákháli	6. Nawákháli	Ditto.
III. Sunámganj	7. Sunámganj	Sunámganj.
	8. Chhátaak	
	9. Dirái	
	10. Dharpásá	
IV. Habiganj	11. Nabiganj	Habiganj.
	12. Habiganj	
	13. Baniáchung	
	14. Mádhuppur	
V. Karimganj.....	15. Karimganj	Karimganj.
	16. Jaldhup	

This revision was necessary in consequence of the rearrangement of the thánas of the district, and the revision of their boundaries, noticed in paragraph 6 of last year's report. The changes were duly notified in the *Gazette*, and came into operation on 1st July 1881.

3. A munsifi was established, with effect from the 25th October 1881, at Jorhát, in the district of Sibságar, with its jurisdiction conterminous with that of the sub-division. Previously, the area of the Jorhát sub-division had been

divided, for the purpose of civil jurisdiction, between the sadr and Golághát munsifs. The jurisdiction of the munsifs of Sibágar and Golághát was at the same time restricted to the areas of those sub-divisions.

4. The following rules came into force in the Province during the year :—

Rules made during the year.

- (1) Rules issued by the Chief Commissioner under Section 20, Act XXV. of 1867 (an Act to provide, amongst other things, for the preservation of copies of books printed in British India and for the registration of such books), published in General Department Notification No. 79, dated the 6th May 1881.
- (2) Revised rules for Government Savings Banks, published by the Government of India in Notification No. 461, dated the 9th May 1881.
- (2) Rules regarding the grant of licenses for the possession and transport of gunpowder and fuses required by cultivators for purposes of blasting, published by the Government of India in Notification No. 1,555, dated the 30th September 1881, in the Home Department.
- (4) Certain amendments in the Rules for the administration of Civil Justice in the Eastern Duárs, which had been published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 8th March 1879. These amended rules were published in Judicial Department Notification No. 64, dated the 14th October 1881.
- (5) Rules for the storage of coin, published by the Government of India Notification No. 4,028, dated the 4th November 1881, in the Department of Finance and Commerce.
- (6) Rules for the guidance of depositors in Savings Banks in India, published by the Government of India in Resolution No. 4,161, dated the 11th November 1881, in the Department of Finance and Commerce.
- (7) Rules framed under Section 17 of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 by the Government of India in substitution for Rules 9 and 10 of the rules previously published in notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 1,892, dated the 25th November 1881.
- (8) Rules issued and framed by the High Court under Section 6, Act XVIII. of 1879 (the Legal Practitioners Act), and published on the 17th January 1882.
- (9) Rules under Sections 9, 15, 17, 32, 51, and 56 of the Indian Stamp Act of 1879, published in Notification No. 1,283, dated the 3rd March 1882, by the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce.
- (10) Rules framed by the Chief Commissioner for the Departmental examination of Assistant-Commissioners, Extra-Assistant-Commissioners, Deputy-Collectors, and Sub-Deputy-Collectors, Police Officers, Civil Surgeons, and Officers of the Education Department, published in General Department Notification No. 75, of the 25th March 1882.

5. During the year an amended description of a portion of the boundary defining the limits of the Shillong Cantonment was published in the *Assam Gazette*, (General Department Notification No. 32, dated the 8th June 1881). By notification in the *Gazette of India* and in the local *Gazette*, a modification of the Inner Line laid down under the provisions of Section 2, Regulation I. of 1873, in the district of Sibságar, was made (Foreign Department Notification No. 330E.P., dated the 24th February 1882).

6. During the year the Governor-General in Council delegated to the Chief Commissioner the following powers, to be exercised within the limits of the territories forming the Chief Commissionership of Assam :—

- (1) Powers vested in the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by Section 10 of Act I. (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals) and Section 3 of Act III. (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act to enable Police Officers to arrest without warrant persons guilty of cruelty to animals).
- (2) The powers which at the time of the formation of the Chief Commissionership of Assam were vested in the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by Section I., Act IV. (B.C.) of 1873 (an Act for registering births and deaths).

SECTION 2.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

MANIPUR.

7. Colonel Johnstone held charge of the Manipur Agency till the 28th January 1882, when he took furlough, and was succeeded by Major Trotter. The Political Agent was absent on privilege leave, combined with some special duty, from the 1st June to the 4th November 1881, the current duties of the office being discharged by the head-clerk.

8. The rainfall of the year was ample, amounting to 90 inches, and contrasts remarkably with the deficient quantity recorded in 1880-81, which was only 32.50 inches. The crops are stated to have been fairly good, and the outturn of the pulses was above the average.

9. The year appears to have been a very healthy one; the epidemics of cholera and small-pox noticed in last year's report had entirely disappeared, and were not repeated. Dr. Watt, who was deputed to attend the party appointed to demarcate the boundary between Manipur and Burma, and was retained in the State for the remainder of the year on special duty, has given an interesting account of the diseases to which Manipuris are specially liable, so far as they came under his observation. Venereal diseases, ringworm, ulcers, the same as are common in the Nága country, and stone in the bladder, appear to be very prevalent. The

origin of the last named is attributed by Dr. Watt either to the large quantity of fish consumed by the people, or else perhaps to the lime supposed to exist in the drinking-water. The presence of this mineral has not been tested by actual analysis, but is conjectured from the frequent occurrence of limestone in the immediate vicinity of the Valley. More than 1,000 persons are reported to have been vaccinated, but the success or otherwise of the operations is not known, as the Hospital-Assistant was unable to revisit the villages after vaccinating the inhabitants.

10. The Chief Commissioner on his recent visit to Manipur traversed the two most important roads in the country, those connecting Manipur with Cachar on the west and with Kohima on the north, and was satisfied with the condition in which the former is kept. The latter is a new line, and in some parts is as yet little wider than a trace, but it is the intention of the Mahārāja to improve and broaden it gradually from year to year. As yet nothing has been done to carry it on from the Manipur boundary to Kohima. The two other chief roads in the country, connecting the capital with the Kangal thána on the south-east and with Chattik thána on the east, are said to be in good order. There are also capital broad roads through the town itself.

11. The internal trade of Manipur is carried on by means of numerous open *hâts* at various intervals along the main roads. The sellers at these *hâts* are almost exclusively women. Vegetables, fish, cloth, and sweetmeats are the principal articles sold. Rice is rarely seen at these places, as each family grows enough for its own consumption, and only enough for that. The chief medium of exchange at these markets is the small coin called *sel*, made of bell-metal at the Manipur Mint, of which six go to the pice. The rupees and smaller silver of the Indian Mint are commonly used, but the *sel* is the only copper coin of the markets of Manipur.

12. The external trade of the country lies under the same restrictions as heretofore. The export of rice, the principal product of the country, is forbidden. A full account of the various articles of import and export was given last year. To these might be added ducks, the rearing of which has been established in Manipur for the supply of the force at Kohima. Trade with Burma has been entirely stopped.

13. There has been no renewal during this year of the disturbances on the Burma frontier, which looked so threatening in the beginning of 1881 that a body of native troops was kept prepared to start from Silchar at a day's notice in order to assist the Mahārāja against aggression. But these aggressions were so grave that the British Government determined on appointing a Commission to lay down a definite boundary to replace the imaginary line drawn northwards from the Kubo Valley in 1834, and known as Pemberton's line. Colonel Johnstone, the Political Agent, was selected as Boundary Commissioner, and Mr. R. Phayre, c.s., of the British

Burma Commission, was associated with him as his Assistant, it being deemed advisable to have an officer acquainted with the Burmese language for the purpose of communicating with the officers of the Mandalay Government stationed on the frontier. Major Badgley, of the Topographical Survey, was sent with the party to survey the country and to map the boundary selected, and two scientific gentlemen were also attached to the expedition,—Dr. Watt, who combined the duties of botanist and of medical officer to the party, and Mr. Oldham, of the Geological Survey. The escort consisted of 200 men of the 12th Khelat-i-Ghilzai Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Angelo, and of 50 men of the Frontier Police. The Mahárája of Manipur deputed one of his Ministers, Balarám Major, to go with the Commission, and insisted on providing at his own expense all the supplies needed for the expedition.

In order to carry out the survey as rapidly as possible, two parties were sent out: one undertook the northern part, travelling eastward through Chattik thána, and the other the southern, beginning their work from Kangal Thána. The latter party, with Colonel Johnstone himself, left Manipur on the 10th December; and the survey work was accomplished rapidly and effectually, meeting with no resistance, except that two parties sent to clear survey points in the Angoching range were turned back by armed followers of the Tsawbwa, or Chief of Samjok. It was, however, found possible to dispense with these points.

Colonel Johnstone's hopes that he would be met by Burmese officials to act in concert with the British Commissioners in laying down the fresh boundary were disappointed. The Pagan Woon and Phoongyee of Tummoo both wrote letters saying they had no authority to discuss the boundary question, and throughout the whole of the subsequent operations there was no representative of the Burmese Government.

The Tsawbwa of Samjok showed himself unfriendly on more occasions than one, and tried to stir the Chasád Kukis to attack the expedition, but in vain: and no hostile action interrupted the work of the Commission.

Remonstrances were addressed to the Pagan Woon, to whom the Samjok Tsawbwa is subordinate, complaining of the obstructive attitude of the latter official, and the Woon replied by urging Colonel Johnstone to come to Tummoo to talk matters over, although he had previously intimated that he had received no authority from the Court of Mandalay to discuss the boundary question. Mr. Phayre was accordingly deputed by Colonel Johnstone to visit Samjok and Tummoo, and Major Badgley accompanied Mr. Phayre as far as Samjok, to take what observations he could without exciting suspicion. Mr. Phayre was to go on from Samjok to visit the Pagan Woon at Tummoo, and to return to Manipur viâ Moreh Thána and the Aimole Pass. Mr. Phayre's visit was quite fruitless: the Samjok Tsawbwa refused to have anything to do with the settlement of the boundary, saying he was without authority from Mandalay. Mr. Phayre went on to Tummoo, where he was received with great ceremony by the Phoongyee (Bishop) and by the Pagan Woon. The Woon, however, though

showing a friendly disposition, declared himself powerless to act. During Mr. Phayre's stay at Tummoo he received news from Colonel Johnstone that the demarcation had been completed ; on which, after impressing upon the Woon the advisability of the acceptance by himself and by the Samjok Tsawbwa of the new boundary, he rejoined Colonel Johnstone, and the party, after completing their work, left for Manipur, which they reached on January 10th. The result of the demarcation may be summed up as follows.

It was found that the imaginary boundary known as Pemberton's line had been incorrectly drawn on the map, for it neither agreed with the actual condition of things, nor did it carry out the terms of the treaty of 1834 : for, instead of following the eastern slopes of the Yomadoung or Malain Hills, and curving round the head of the valley, it cut off from Burma and handed over to Manipur a large portion of the Kubo Valley. The Commission, however, laid down a boundary which agrees as nearly as possible with the terms of the treaty, while it gives a fair and clearly-marked frontier. The boundary thus fixed follows the base of the eastern slopes of the Malain range, crosses the river Namía a few hundred yards south of Kangal thána, thence turns east to the Talain river, follows that river upward to its source, and then proceeds down the Napanga river to where it passes through a gorge in the Kusom range. From thence it runs northward along the crest of that range. The points where the boundary intersects the Namía river and touches the Talain river have been marked with pillars, and a road has been cut connecting these two points.

This boundary has not yet been accepted by the Burmese Government ; but its settlement has already produced a good effect. Some of the Chasád villages situated on the frontier formerly debated have moved westwards and peaceably settled down as quiet subjects of Manipur, and thus removed the possibility of dispute as to whether they belong to Burmese or Manipur territory.

14. Two events in the internal history of Manipur during the year call for notice. One of these, which Other events of the year. occurred early in May, was the homicide of a servant by the fourth son of the Mahárája. For this act the offender was tried, and, though acquitted by the Court of Justice, was banished by his father, who disagreed with the verdict, to a lonely island in the Logtak lake. In this matter the Mahárája behaved with justice and dignity, and the severe penalty inflicted was not relaxed till May 1882.

15. The second important event was the rising of a man called Erengha during the latter part of June, while the Political Agent was absent on privilege leave. This person, who claimed descent from one of the former Rájás, gave out that he was warned in a dream that he was to become Rája, and soon collected a heterogeneous party of followers. Among these he selected 18 persons to receive letters of dignity as his principal Ministers of State and chiefs of his army. The band, numbering less than three hundred in all, proceeded towards the capital on the 23rd June 1881, but were easily put down

by the Mahárája's troops. Eighteen of the ringleaders were tried and executed, and the remainder were either imprisoned, or compelled to work at the manufacture of salt, or whipped and let go. The rising never had the slightest support among the general population, and it was thought that when the ringleaders, who knew the risk they incurred, had been put to immediate death, the rest of the following might have been treated with scornful clemency. Accordingly, the Government of India, in reviewing the proceedings, expressed their displeasure at the disproportionate severity with which this miserable *émeute* was suppressed.

16. The Chief Commissioner visited the Manipur State in the months of February and March, and thus became personally acquainted with the Mahárája. He was received with much ceremony and friendliness, and was pleased to find that the country was much more advanced in civilisation than might have been expected from its isolated position.

Chief Commissioner's visit.

BHUTIAS.

17. *Bhutias of Bhutan*.—Our relations with the Bhutias of Bhutan Proper, north of the Goálpára and Kámrup districts, have not been altogether satisfactory during the year. Information was received of the commission of a murder on the night of the 31st July 1881, by five Bhutias on British territory. The place of the occurrence was a village named Simla, within the jurisdiction of the Bojali police-station, in the Barpeta sub-division of the Kámrup district. The victims were three persons, shopkeepers, in whose shop the Bhutias put up for the night; during their stay the Bhutias attacked and wounded the shopkeepers, of whom two died. The murderers at once escaped to the hills. An enquiry into the occurrence was held by the Sub-divisional Officer of Barpeta, and it was ascertained that the murder was committed at the instigation of two men named Tirpoo and Sirpoo (*alias* Dojey), brothers of one Pachang Rája, lately Chief of the Bhutanese village of Norbagan. It is said that Tirpoo had borrowed money from the shopkeepers who were murdered, and that the murder was committed by him and his confederates to escape their demands for payment and to cancel the debt. The names of the three others are not known. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi division was requested to move the Deb Rája to order the extradition of the suspected murderers, with a view to the case being further enquired into. On the 17th January last, the Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrup reported that two Bhutias, calling themselves Sanje Pambar, Gaon-Rakhiya, and Chai Neru, Zincaff, had on the previous day brought him a letter purporting to come from the Tongso Penlow, the substance of which was, that whereas before the Bhutan War the writer used to receive "the rent of the lands extending from this side of Amdatolla on the east to this side of the Chirang Duár on the west," since the conclusion of peace the subsidy to Bhutan had been paid from Buxa, which was out of the Tongso Penlow's jurisdiction, and he had not received the share which he claimed of the subsidy (the amount stated being Rs. 10,390.) He therefore asked that in future his share of the

subsidy might be paid to him at Dewangiri, and offered to deliver up at that place the two persons concerned in the murder in Barpeta, whom he stated that he had arrested. As the Tongso Penlow apparently wished to make the concession of his demands the condition of the surrender of the murderers, the instructions of the Government of India were solicited in the matter, which led to a correspondence with the Government of Bengal, but up to the close of the year the extradition of the offenders had not been obtained.

18. *Thibetan Bhutias*.—Our relations with the Thibetan Bhutias bordering on Darrang have been as satisfactory as in the previous years. The Deputy-Commissioner was encamped at Udalguri on the 19th and 20th February, and some three days previous to his arrival there the Commissioner of the Division visited the place and had an interview with the Sáth Rájas. Colonel Comber received the Rájas in open Durbar on the morning of the 20th, when their annual pensions were paid them. They stated that, with the exception of a few cases of small-pox, everything was quiet in their country. It was noticed that there were fewer ponies brought down by them this season than in former years, but they were of a superior class.

19. *Sáth Rájas of Charduár*.—The Rájas of Shergaon and Rupraigaoon, commonly known as the Sáth Rájas of Charduár, arrived at Tezpur somewhat later this year than usual, after the Deputy-Commissioner had left the station for the interior. They were, however, received in open Durbar by the Extra-Assistant-Commissioner in charge, who paid them their pension, on which occasion they mentioned that everything was quiet in their country, and continued to evince the same friendly feelings towards Government. Two of the Chiefs subsequently visited Colonel Comber early in January on his return from tour in the eastern portion of the district, and expressed a wish that a vaccinator might be deputed to their country, as their people were suffering from small-pox, a request which was complied with by the Civil Surgeon. This is a hopeful sign, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the visit of the vaccinator will be productive of beneficial results.

20. *Thebengia Bhutias*.—The Chiefs of the Thebengia Bhutias arrived at Tezpur a few days before the return of the Deputy-Commissioner, and they were therefore received by the Extra-Assistant-Commissioner in charge, who paid them their pensions on the 10th March. Two of them, however, subsequently visited Colonel Comber, on which occasion they evinced their usual friendliness to Government.

BHUTIA FAIRS.

21. The usual fairs were held at Udalguri, Khagrapára, and Daimára.

Udalguri Fair.

The value of the trade at this fair for the last five years is shown below:—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
1878	1,16,189	50,677
1879	81,694	61,492
1880	87,069	22,573
1881	51,970	36,631
1882	2,35,308	78,504

The number of hill people who visited the fair was 1,763, against 1,449 in the previous year. The fair was visited by the Commissioner of the Division and a good number of Europeans. It was held in February, and lasted about three weeks.

22. This fair was held, as usual, in February near Bengbári, in the Darrang district, to the west of Udalguri. **Khagrapara.** It was attended entirely by hillmen from Bhutan Proper, and the number of Bhutias estimated to have attended the fair was 1,615, against 621 in the previous year.

The value of the trade done at this fair during the last five years is shown below:—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
1878	16,542	16,106
1879	21,829	23,740
1880	13,364	14,228
1881	11,526	6,974
1882	36,561	16,009

Daimara.

The value of the trade done is given below:—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
1878	7,324	5,683
1879	4,992	4,022
1880	15,800	8,912
1881	8,554	1,350
1882	27,057	3,357

The trade at this fair has increased, according to the figures, but there is nothing particular to note regarding it.

AKAS.

23. The Western or Hazárikhowa Akas did not come down till very late in the season, after Colonel Comber had made over charge of the district to Mr. H. C. Williams. After their departure from the plains last year, a complaint was preferred against them by one Tillain Kachari, that they had taken some things from him by force as they were on their way back; but it appeared from enquiry that there had been some commercial dealings between the Chiefs and the Kachari. Subsequently, both the Akas and Tillain came before the Deputy-Commissioner, and it was found that the commercial transactions between them related to India-rubber, each party thinking the other had wronged him. Besides, the Kachari had been recognised as the interpreter of the Akas for some years. Both parties withdrew their claims against one another, and the Akas were warned not to take the law into their own hands in future.

The Kapaschor Akas, with their Chief, Medhi, had not arrived during the time the Deputy-Commissioner was at head-quarters; but in the middle of January, when encamped at Balipára, the Sub-Assistant-Conservator of Forests reported that his forest guards had informed him that a large body of Akas and Daflas, numbering some 200, had erected boundary-marks at Potashali, Diyu, and Namirimukh, and stated that they would not permit anyone to pass these places. As all these places are within British territory, the Deputy-Commissioner at once despatched Kotokis to bring in their Chief, Medhi. The messengers sent arrived too late, as the men had left for the hills, but there was every sign of a recent encampment of a large body of hillmen at Namirimukh. The Kotokis were, however, sent up to the hills to the Chief Medhi to ask for an explanation of the conduct of his men. Medhi came down in obedience to the call, and denied that his men had put up boundary pillars in British territory. In consequence of there being cholera in the station at the time, Medhi returned to his country, promising to come in later on for his pension. Colonel Comber did not attach much importance to this matter. On his tour in the northern portion of the district he found large groups of Nepalese encamped along the Balipara road, who wanted passes to go into the Aka Hills to cut rubber. Their request was refused, in consequence of the impending sale of the rubber *maháls*, and, as the Nepalese are very reckless in the tapping of the rubber-tree, this movement on the part of the hill people may have been due to their desire to prevent the Nepalese going up into their hills.

The brother of the Chief Medhi, who had been studying in the zila school at the cost of the State since 1876, suddenly discontinued doing so. The Deputy-Commissioner endeavoured to dissuade the lad from giving up his studies, but to no purpose, he having evidently imbibed the idea that he knew quite enough and did not require to be taught any further.

DAFLAS.

24. The behaviour of the Paschim or Western Daflas has been satisfactory during the year.

The Tagin Daflas have been reported by the Sub-divisional Officer of North Lakhimpur to have given no trouble.

MIRIS.

25. The conduct of the Miris bordering on the North Lakhimpur sub-division has been good, and no complaints have been made against them during the year.

ABORS AND MISHMIS.

26. It was stated in last year's report that the Abors of certain villages had expressed their intention to cross the Dibong and to occupy land now claimed by the Chulikáta Mishmis. As a result of some correspondence on the subject, the Government of India agreed with the Chief Commissioner and the local officers that it was undesirable to permit such a settlement, and it was accordingly decided to occupy the outposts of Bomjur and Nizámghát, and thus frustrate their

intentions. The advance to these posts was very successfully and quickly carried out under the command of Major Beresford, of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry. A detachment of the 37th Native Infantry, under Major Madden, and a force of Frontier Police under Mr. Livesay, assisted in the movement. Two very strong and well-built stockades were erected, and a road, rideable throughout, except for the want of good bridges, was constructed by the Military and Frontier Police, and by coolies collected by the Political Assistant, Rai Labmon Bahadur. The Abors offered no opposition whatever, and a deputation of them which the Deputy-Commissioner received at Sadiya professed that if they had known what the ideas of the Government were, they would at once have given up their project of crossing the river. This may be taken *cum grano salis*, as there is little doubt that, if we had not advanced when we did, the Abors of Membo and Pado would have crossed over into Mishmi territory. The result would have been a conflict with the Mishmis, in which if the latter had been worsted, the domination of the Abors would probably have been established over the plains land east of the Dibong, almost down to Sadiya. However, as has been said, our advance was made in time, and the Abors showed no opposition. It may be mentioned that the Pasi Meyong Abors had expressed their dislike of the Bor Abors going through their lands *en route* to the Mishmi country, and probably we should have found the Pasi Meyongs at least neutral, if there had been any opposition on the part of the Bor Abors to the demands of Government. The Chulikáta Mishmis, in whose interests the advance was made, behaved tolerably well in the matter. At first they confined themselves to a benevolent neutrality, but afterwards, when satisfied that we really meant to stay at Nizámghát, they gave active help, though in a desultory way, to the officer engaged in building the stockades.

Towards the end of the year difficulties of quite another origin arose between us and the Abors and Mishmis. In one case two slaves of Borkheng, Chief of Pado (Bor Abor), ran away with some money of their master's, and one of them reached British territory. In the second case, the wife of one Ato Mishmi (of the Lingi khel of Chulikátas) ran away with a slave of her brother-in-law's, and the couple reached our territory. In both cases demands for restitution were made; but hitherto the Mishmis have confined themselves to vague threats of retaliation in case the runaways are not given up. The Abors have not been so passive. In the first instance the people of Pado seized and detained a Miri messenger sent to them to explain the advance on Nizámghát. Next, a son of Borkheng, who was on his way to Sadiya to make further representation of his grievances, met a sepoy of the 43rd Regiment on the north or right bank of the Dibong (which stream there constitutes the Inner Line, which the sepoy had no right to cross). The sepoy was out shooting with two Miris. Apparently without provocation, he was attacked and severely wounded by the Abors (five in number) his rifle taken away, and the Miris with him carried off in captivity. The sepoy managed with difficulty to escape to his guard at Dibong (some two miles off), and the Miris were ultimately released by the Abors of Bomjur and Dambuk, who did not desire a quarrel between us

and the Bor Abors, fearing that their land would be the battle-field. Eventually the Miri messenger first referred to was released by Borkheng, on giving security to appear again, if any proof of his complicity in the escape of Borkheng's slave should appear, but at the same time another Miri was seized, and is still detained by Borkheng on the charge of having harboured the slave, who did not reach British territory, and who is now back again at Pado. Some of the Abors have received their "*posa*." They did not come to Sadiya for it at the Mela, but some came immediately afterwards. Others were coming, when the news of the outrage on the sepoy reached them, and, fearing that we should instantly retaliate, they retreated precipitately to their hills. No *posa* has been given since that time. The Digaru Mishmis were quite quiet, and came down as usual to trade, and a few of them attended the Sadiya Fair.

KHÁMPTIS AND SINGPHOS.

27. The Khámptis and Singphos and other allied tribes have given no trouble, and our relations with them have been most cordial. One of the Singpho Chiefs, hearing that we had a quarrel with the Abors, sent up a contingent of 40 men, armed and equipped. He has been duly thanked for his loyalty. Nothing more has been heard of the Khámpti Chowmangthi, who went to Burma in 1878, and tried to stir up that country to war with us. Many scattered families of Khámptis seem to be coming into our jurisdiction, and, so far as they settle on the borders of tracts inhabited by doubtful tribes like Abors and Mishmis, they may be considered an element of strength to the State. But the movement requires to be watched.

SADIYA FAIR.

28. The gathering of hill people at the Sadiya Fair was made the occasion for a formal and ceremonial surrender of the charge of the district to Major Peet by Mr. McWilliam, with a view to explain to the Mishmis and to such Abors as were present at the Durbar that the change of officials indicated no change of policy, and that the desire of the British Government to continue on terms of amity with the Chiefs had suffered no decrease.

Mr. McWilliam and Major Peet reached Sadiya early on the 6th February. They were met by several Singpho and Khámpti Chiefs on the north bank of the Brahmaputra at Saikwa, who crossed over with them in boats decorated with gilt standards and gorgeous flags. On the 7th a procession was got up, headed by Mr. McWilliam and Major Peet on a large elephant. They were followed up by a Miri band and dancing-girls. Then came the principal Singpho and Khámpti Chiefs also on elephants. Then a miscellaneous crowd of their retainers and one or two more bands and sets of dancing-girls. The rear was brought up by Rai Lahmon Bahadur on an elephant. The Mishmis would not join this line, but elected to march in a compact body in a line of their own parallel to the main one. In this formation they proceeded to the race course to witness the horse-racing and the usual games and sports got up for the wild tribes. Competition was not brisk, and Major Peet was

struck at the almost total absence of the hilarity and general *abandon* which are usually supposed to be exhibited at fairs.

On the 8th the Durbar was held in a large tent, and the Chiefs present were called up one by one and presented their *nazars* of arms and received their return presents. After the interchange of *nazars* and presents the Chiefs were asked if they had anything to say. The Ningro Samon, Chief of the Singphos, began to descant on the mistake that had been made in calling on him for coolies. He was told that the affair had been settled and need not be referred to any more. Lako Mishmi made some observation to the effect that he wished to have the title of "Rája of all the Mishmis" and to be granted some breech-loading guns, and he ended by expressing amity with us. He received suitable replies, and then Mr. McWilliam formally made over charge to Major Peet, and introduced the Chiefs to him, after which the Durbar was closed. There were some twenty Europeans in attendance at the fair, including the Brigadier-General Commanding the North-Eastern Frontier District and his staff, and other military officers of the 43rd A. L. I. and the 37th N. I. The attendance of hillmen at the fair was, as had been expected, in view of the recent advance of our outposts to Bomjur and Nizamghát, and of the unsettled state of the Abor country, considerably less than usual. The proportion of men of the different tribes who came to the fair did not widely differ from that which was observed last year, the Chulikáta Mishmis being, as before, in a large majority, though their numbers fell from 935 to about 400. Commercially, the result of the fair was even less encouraging than might have been expected as a result of the decreased attendance. The value of the articles sold to the tribes at the fair is estimated at Rs. 26,414, against Rs. 53,240 in the preceding year.

NÁGAS.

29. The Eastern Nágas living on the borders of, and partly within, the Lakhimpur district, have, as far as we are concerned, been perfectly quiet. Many of them seem to be rapidly becoming civilised, and wear the same clothes as the Assamese, and those near Makum supply labour to the railway people in considerable numbers. The feud between the Námsangias and Borduárias, however, still exists; the fighting is of a very insignificant character, but the feeling of insecurity on both sides cannot but be prejudicial to their progress. If time will admit, the Deputy-Commissioner proposes to visit their country, with a view to see what judicious mediation may do. There is no doubt that both parties are by this time heartily tired of their long-standing quarrel. One of the Borduária Chiefs is said to have been killed this year.

No complications have arisen with the various tribes of Nágas bordering on the Sibságar district, and our intercourse with them continues friendly. It is reported that the number of Nágas who visited the plains during the year under report has been smaller than usual, and this is attributed to the great dread existing among the tribes of small-pox, which disease was prevalent in parts of the district.

A daring theft was committed on the night of the 28th March at the Sonari garden, it is supposed by Nágas. An iron safe weighing 9½

maunds was taken from the verandah of the bungalow, and was subsequently found in a *bil* about a mile away unopened, and the contents intact, the brass handle and plate only having been broken off. With a view to restrain the Nágas who come down from the hills from the commission of thefts and other offences in the plains, and to secure the surrender of those of them who may thus offend, it was suggested by the Chief Commissioner that a blockade should be applied in the case of any village or tribe the members of which might be proved to have been guilty of theft or any other offence, either until a fine is paid by the village or an accused person delivered up. In the present case, however, there was no evidence to prove what tribe of Nágas committed the theft, but the Deputy-Commissioner has sent to the Jaboka Nága Rája to see if he can furnish information with regard to this outrage.

During the year the Rev. E. Clark, a Missionary in the Nága Hills, reported that the Tangsa Nágas had murdered a man of Nowgong, or Murangkong, a Christian village in the neighbourhood of the village in which he resides, and suggested that Government should punish the Nágas for the offence, or else that the Nowgong people should be supplied with firearms. Mr. Clark was informed that the Chief Commissioner could not sanction any such measure as he proposed. The policy hitherto pursued towards these people has been to abstain from interference in their internal feuds, and the fact that Mr. Clark had been permitted to settle in their midst, and that some of them had embraced Christianity, made no difference in the principles which should govern our intercourse with them. If Mr. Clark was able by the exercise of moral influence to appease discord among them, so much the better, but to employ force would embark us on a policy the results of which could not be foreseen, and which would certainly lead to much expenditure and loss of life. As there was not the same objection to Mr. Clark's proposal that the Christian Nágas of Nowgong should be allowed to purchase four or five guns and a sufficiency of ammunition for their protection against wild beasts and human enemies, the Deputy-Commissioner was authorised to permit the purchase by them of these weapons, with ammunition, on Mr. Clark giving a written guarantee that they would be used only for defensive purposes, and that he accepted the responsibility for the Nágas adhering to the conditions imposed.

The employment of Nágas on tea-gardens is rapidly extending, and will no doubt act beneficially in training the people to regular habits of industry and discipline.

MIKIRS.

30. No trouble has been experienced during the year from the Mikirs, who have continued to trade in cotton, mats, &c., and to work as labourers on roads and tea-gardens adjoining the hills.

A Mission School under the care of a Mikir has been established at Kaziranga, in the Golághát sub-division of Sibságar; and the American Mission at Nowgong continues to spread its influence among the Mikirs in that district with satisfactory results.

NÁGA HILLS.

31. The year was one of well-distributed and apparently copious rainfall, and the outturn of the crops and the public health were both, so far as can be ascertained, satisfactory. The main cereal crops are rice and millet, with *kachus* (*colocasia*) and different kinds of gourds as vegetables. On the outer hills, in the Lhota, Rengma, Mikir, and Cachari country, a good deal of cotton is grown, and disposed of in the markets of the Assam Valley. The rice is either grown in embanked and irrigated fields, carefully constructed along the course of the streams (*sáli*), or on sloping ground, where it has to depend on the rainfall for the necessary moisture. The former style of cultivation is confined to the Central Angami country, and is seen in perfection in the great *arrahs*, or terraced fields, of Mozeima, Khonoma, Jotsoma, and Kohima. The labour and skill displayed in these beautiful works of irrigation have been often admired, and the reason which caused this style of cultivation to be adopted only by these particular villages and their neighbours, while others of the same tribe, and nearly all the other Nága tribes in the hills, practice only *jhúming*, or shifting axe-and-hoe cultivation on the hill slopes, has formed the subject of much speculation. There can be no doubt that much of the terracing in the neighbourhood of Japvo is very old: in some cases, as, for instance, round Khonoma, it has prevented the tendency of hill streams to cut deep, so that the valleys are wide and flat, instead of sloping rapidly into precipitous gorges, as elsewhere. There is little doubt that this kind of cultivation can be practised in most parts of the hills, and it is thought probable that it chiefly depends on the ratio of population to space. Where there is room to cover large areas with *jhúms* on a rotation system of about ten years, it is less laborious to *jhúm*; but where space is wanting, the people are driven to the more regular, and in the end more profitable, labour of terracing, and the continuous cultivation of the same land. The great villages about Khonoma have probably for generations been the most populous in the hills, and therefore the most powerful; they are grouped closely together, and the necessities of their military predominance required that their food-supply should be under command of the fortified village site. In these situations, therefore, little or no roaming in search of new land to *jhúm* was practicable, and in the course of ages the scientifically laid out embankments of stone and careful distribution of the water which are now so surprising, have come into being.

32. Of the health of the people there is as yet little known. Mr.

Health.

McCabe says that it was good during the year. Ulcers are the chief disease among the Angámis, but are stated to be almost unknown among the Kutcha, Lhota, and Sema Nágas, the Eastern Angámis, and the Kukis who live among the first named. Fevers are common, also skin diseases, diarrhoea, and dysentery. The health of the police, as well as of the military, was good, which is ascribed to the better food-supply, and especially to the greater abundance of vegetables.

33. The boundaries of the district have now been finally settled, and a notification defining them has appeared in the *Gazettes of India and Assam*. On the south and north these are identical with those laid down in 1875, with the exception of the portion between the Doyong and the north-east corner of the district, which had then been left unsettled; on the west they are also the same as were determined seven years ago, with a slight modification whereby a triangle inhabited by Kukis and Cacharis, and bounded on the south by the Langting and Langreng rivers, on the north-east by the Lunding, and on the north-west by the Diyung, has been transferred from the Nāga Hills to North Cachar; on the east the frontier is that proposed by Sir Steuart Bayley in March 1880, and follows generally the course of the Doyong to where that river abandons its northward direction and flows south-west; thence the line is drawn to the Sibsāgar border in such wise as to include all the villages of Lhota Nāgas, and exclude all those of Hathigorias, who are here the neighbours of the former.

34. Almost the whole of the land revenue of the district is taken in the form of house-tax, which is paid at the rate of Rs. 2 a house by the Angāmi and Kutcha Nāga villages and of Re. 1 a house by the Rengmas, Lhotas, and Semas. When Mr. McCabe assumed charge, in January 1882, he found that none of the revenue of the year had been collected, while a heavy arrear demand of Rs. 6,176 was outstanding. The report shows the progress made with the collections up to the date of its submission, three months after the close of the year. In this interval Rs. 28,383 had been collected; of the arrears Rs. 5,997 had been paid, and Rs. 62 determined not to be due, the villages assessed lying beyond our boundary. The Lhotas, Semas, and Rengmas were assessed for the first time, bringing in Rs. 8,954, the whole of which was paid in rice at Rs. 3 a maund. Eight villages which had not been assessed for 1880-81 were brought under assessment, and paid the amount due, Rs. 524. The outstandings when the report was written were Rs. 3,104 on account of the demand of 1881-82 and Rs. 150 on account of 1880-81. This very successful result was brought about chiefly by the energy and activity of Mr. McCabe himself. During his tours he realised the revenue in person from the villages visited and their neighbours, carefully counting the houses in each, and thus in many cases obtaining a considerably increased revenue, owing to houses having previously escaped assessment; and this, notwithstanding the fact that all houses occupied by widows and extremely poor families were exempted. The condition that Government may demand rice instead of cash from the Angāmi, Kutcha Nāga, and Lhota villages at a maximum price of Rs. 3 a maund (though as yet only enforced, at their own request, in the case of the last-named tribe) was accepted by the Chief Commissioner as the best solution of the question of grain payments which had been mooted at the close of the expedition in 1880. It had then been stipulated in the case of the Angāmi villages that each house should pay 1 maund of rice and 1 rupee as revenue. Sir Steuart Bayley was induced, on Major

Michell's representation of the hardship which this burden would impose on the people under the circumstances then existing, to consent to the substitution for this assessment of a rate of Rs. 2 a house. Mr. Elliott had wished, on the setting-in of better times, to revert to the original half-grain assessment; but Mr. McCabe represented very forcibly the objections to a change, and the arrangement just described was finally adopted by the Chief Commissioner as a compromise, and has been willingly accepted by the people.

35. Criminal work in this district is of a peculiar character. Of regular cases there were very few during the year, only 46 in all, mostly petty thefts and assaults; one was an attack by two Nágas of Koruma on a convoy of provisions, for which the culprits were sentenced to six months' imprisonment; and another was an assault by a Nága on the sentry at the door of the barracks, where the former had entered for the purpose of committing theft, and, when stopped by the latter, attempted to spear him. But the most important were the "political cases," which are not dealt with by ordinary trial in court, but disposed of in a less technical and more satisfactory manner. Of such events, the year's record is fortunately brief. An attack by certain Lhotas of Lakhuti on the Hathigoria village of Nungatung, where they killed two persons, was punished by sentencing the guilty parties to two years' rigorous imprisonment. An intertribal dispute at Kigwema, in which one man was killed, was settled by demolishing the defensive works raised by the *khels* and the house of the murderer, compelling the guilty *khel* to work off a fine of Rs. 200 in labour contributed to the Public Works Department, and posting a police guard at the village till the murderer was hunted down. A man of Mozema, who was accused of having sold a girl of Keruma to the Kukis, was compelled to procure her restoration, and did so. There was an undiscovered murder on the North Cachar frontier at Langtingbra, where a Kaiya's shop was plundered and six men killed. The place was solitary, and the crime remained undetected till it was too late to track the murderers, regarding whom nothing is as yet known. But the most successful and satisfactory exploit performed in this branch of the administration was the reparation exacted from a Sema village named Philimi, which had raided on the Lhota village of Chingáki, killing two persons. An expedition, consisting of about 50 men of the 42nd Regiment under Captain Abbott and some Frontier Police, was skilfully and suddenly led against the aggressors by Mr. McCabe, the resistance of the village anticipated, and the site occupied. The inhabitants were kept out of their houses for two days, and finally the Deputy-Commissioner threatened to burn the village unless the principal culprit, a headman named Kenilhi, was surrendered. This demand was complied with, and the man brought into Kohima and sentenced to ten years' rigorous imprisonment. The Chief Commissioner regards this result with peculiar satisfaction, as showing that prompt and ready action, backed by sufficient force, is adequate to procure respect to law and authority, and that the barbarous expedient of village-burning, which confounds the innocent and the guilty, is not essential to the enforcement of order in these hills.

36. Much has been done during the year to make the district more accessible, and to improve the roads between Kohima and Golághát. This is chiefly due to the visit in November last of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who permitted a company of Sappers and a wing of the 23rd Pioneers to be employed on the hill portion of the road, the 42nd Regiment also taking the parts nearest to Kohima. For this service, the Chief Commissioner's thanks are specially due to His Excellency. The road through the Námbar Forest has also been widened and raised by the Public Works Department, good bridges built, and the forest cleared. The effect of this improvement was seen in the lower rates of freight between Golághát and Dimapur: last year Rs. 2-8 a maund was insufficient to procure carters: in 1881-82 they gladly came forward for Re. 1-8 a maund. The benefit to the Commissariat and Transport Department from these important works was seconded by the import of a large number of mules, by means of which, under the able supervision of Captain Elliston, the whole of the supplies brought up by river during the rains to Dimapur were safely landed at Kohima. This officer, by his good arrangements and unsparing inspection along the road, reduced the sickness and mortality among men and animals, which in the previous year had been most lamentable, to a very trifling amount. By Mr. McCabe's judicious arrangements, the need of impressment for the purpose of obtaining boat transport from Dhansirimukh to Dimapur was entirely obviated, and the necessary carriage was procured by contract at reasonable rates. The result has been that in the present year more contractors for the boat transport during the rains offered themselves than were needed, and this once anxious portion of the transport operations has now become an easy task.

All these measures have contributed, in a degree which can hardly be overrated, to the better administration of the district by securing a much cheaper and more abundant supply of food than has heretofore been possible. The troops have had all that they required, and the police, who previous to the reforms effected last cold weather had to pay exorbitantly for their support, are now cheaply and sufficiently fed, either by supplies from Golághát or from local purchases. The effect in producing contentment and efficiency in all the civil establishments has been very marked.

37. Besides this work on the main entrance to the hills, a good deal was done to improve the access from Golághát to Wokha, the road from Wokha to Kohima, and the path from Kohima to Mao, on the Manipur frontier.

The sites for the military cantonments and of the civil station at Kohima have been finally settled, and plans have been sent up for the construction of a strong fort, in which all the public buildings will be situated, and a refuge provided for non-combatants in case of an attack. This work will be undertaken when the rains have ceased, and it is expected that there will be great activity in building operations during the current year.

38. Mr. McCabe's policy in dealing with the possession of arms by the Nágas has the Chief Commissioner's full concurrence. Here, as elsewhere, the public safety demands that the district authorities shall possess full information regarding the ownership and locality of the firearms in the hands of the people: but neither here nor elsewhere should such possession, when declared and authorised, be treated with harshness and suspicion. These principles have been well understood and carried out by the Deputy-Commissioner, and the result has been that many weapons have been voluntarily produced by their owners with a view to the issue of licenses. The search for stolen and concealed arms has been very successful. Eight stolen Government rifles and sixteen Nága guns and rifles have been recovered, chiefly by the exertions of Inspector Mima Ráin.

39. On the subject of the disposition of the people, Mr. McCabe makes the following remarks, which give a candid and dispassionate view of the position:—

Disposition of the people. "The peaceable character of the year under report, the ease with which the revenue was collected, and the friendly reception given me while on tour, would lead to an optimistic view of the situation being taken.

"There is no doubt, however, but that the smaller Angami villages appreciate the advantage of the security they enjoy under our rule. The Kutcha Nágas, who were formerly oppressed by the Manipuris and Kukis and looted by the Angámis, told me repeatedly that they much preferred the fixed assessment of the British Government to the constant demands for tribute made by the Angámis, and requested that an outpost might be fixed in their country, so that they might feel sure of protection. The powerful villages of Kekrima and Viswema were the first to pay in revenue, and have expressed the desire for closer connection with us.

"The village of Khonoma has settled peaceably in its new site, and has evinced by the quietness of its conduct and the ready obedience given to all orders a desire to efface the memory of its misconduct in 1879-80.

"The knowledge of the Nágas that our power cannot be lightly contemned was shown in the comparative ease with which eight Government rifles and a considerable number of guns were recovered from them. The information which led to the recovery of these rifles was given by the Nágas themselves, and so great was the fear displayed by men who had trafficked in them that on two occasions Nágas who had sold the rifles returned the purchase-money and personally brought them in.

"I think I am justified in accepting acts of this character as a sign that the disposition of the people towards us is improving. No doubt the young men of the villages on occasions of festivals talk boldly of what they will do some day; but as these same individuals turn out the following morning freely to work for us, and greet our appearance with a pleased smile, I do not attach much importance to these utterances."

The Chief Commissioner agrees with Mr. McCabe in not being too sanguine as to what might happen in a sudden passionate outbreak, or upheaval of half-stifled instincts of savagery and memories of blood-feuds: but has no doubt that he is right in thinking that the general feeling is one of acquiescence in the British rule, and of satisfaction in peace and security, especially among the weaker races who were oppressed before. Mr. Elliott certainly formed the impression during his recent tour that the Nágas wore a look of more friendliness and contentment than when he visited the district the year before.

KHÁSI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

40. As regards health, weather, and crops, the year was an average one, and prices were generally low.

Climate and crops.

The rainfall was rather less than usual: there was a trifling decrease of 140 inches at Cherra Punji and of 75 inches at Jowai; but a deficiency which would be equal to several years' drought in the North-Western Provinces or in Madras is hardly noticed in these favoured regions, and made no impression either on the crops raised in the hills or on the floods in the valley below. The potato crop, which is the principal article of export and trade from the higher hills, is reported to have been exceptionally good. The Executive-Engineer has reported that the extraordinary output caused so unusually large a demand for coolie labour to carry it down to the water's edge that the rates of hire were materially raised, and that skilled masons left their walls, and even clerks deserted their desks, to share in the enormous wages earned by carrying loads down the hill. The traffic returns at Blairab Bázár record an increase of 50 per cent. in the export of potatoes over the preceding year.

41. The dryness of the grass is a persistent check to afforestation and orchard plantation in the hills. From December to March a high south-west wind blows

Fires in the hills.

continually, and in these months fires are common and destructive. For the last two or three years fires have swept over the fruit-trees in the old Shillong Farm and stopped their growth; and this year a more tremendous fire threatened the destruction of the station itself, and was averted with great difficulty. Colonel Clarke's attention had been specially drawn to this subject at the close of the rains, but his efforts to check the evil were not attended with success. It is not an easy matter to keep out fires. The measures taken must be both offensive and defensive. For defence there must be fire-lines carefully burned down and kept clear, and wide enough to check the on-rush of the flames. But no one who has not seen it could conceive the rapidity with which the fire leaps from pine-tree to pine-tree, and the distance to which the burning cones and needles are carried by the wind; and the experience of this year has shown the Forest Department that the fire-paths must be much wider than was thought necessary before. For offence, there must be a sufficient patrolling establishment to catch and punish the guilty authors of the fire, and to attack and stamp it out before it has gathered head. If it comes from an adjacent village, where a cultivator has lit the grass in order to clear a space for cultivation, it is not hard to detect the offender; but when it is due to a passing traveller, or to a man herding cattle, he can generally escape conviction. The Chief Commissioner has again given warning that nothing must be left undone to stop these fires; and that should they break out again next year on the same scale as in 1882, it will be considered a serious blot on the administration of the district. The responsibility of the Seims (or Khási Chiefs) must be more generally enforced, and the plea of besotted drunkenness must not be allowed to cover a total neglect of their obligations.

42. Among the cases tried this year were three murders of singular atrocity, two of them committed on inoffensive old women, and one on a boy: in none of them was any adequate cause alleged, and at least two of them are believed to have been connected with the very remarkable superstition of the "*Thlen*." The tradition is that there was once in a cave near Cherra Punji a gigantic snake, or *Thlen*, who committed great havoc among men and animals. At last, one man, bolder than his fellows, took with him a herd of goats and set himself down by the cave and offered them one by one to the *Thlen*. By degrees the monster became friendly, and learnt to open his mouth at a word from the man, to receive the lump of flesh, which was then thrown in. When confidence was thoroughly established, the man heated a lump of iron red hot in a furnace, induced the snake, at the usual signal, to open his mouth, and then threw in the red hot lump and so killed him. He then cut up the body and sent pieces in every direction, with orders that the people were to eat them. Wherever the order was obeyed the country became free of the *Thlen*: but one small piece remained which no one would eat, and from this sprang a multitude of *Thlens*, which infest the residents of Cherra and its neighbourhood. When a *Thlen* takes up its abode in a family there is no means of getting rid of it, though it occasionally leaves of its own accord, and often follows property of the family when given away or sold. The *Thlen* attaches itself to wealth, and brings prosperity and wealth to the family, but on the condition that it is supplied with blood. Its craving comes on at uncertain intervals: and manifests itself by sickness among the family, by misadventure, or increasing poverty. It can only be appeased by the murder of a human being. The murderer takes the hair, the tips of the fingers, and a little blood from the nostril, caught in a bamboo tube, and offers these to the *Thlen*. The belief is that the demon then appears in the form of a snake and devours the body of the murdered person, which is materialised from the portions thus offered. After this, its craving is satisfied for a time, and the affairs of that house prosper. Many families in these hills are known or suspected to be *Ri-thlen*, or keepers of a *Thlen*, and are dreaded and avoided in consequence. Whenever a dead body is found which has been treated as is indicated above (and particularly if it is killed with no wound, but by twisting the neck), it may be presumed with almost absolute certainty that the object of the murder was to appease a *Thlen*. This happened in one of the three instances referred to: in the others these marks were not found, but in the absence of any other cause for the murder, it was more than probable that it was due to this dreadful superstition. In each of the three cases one or two persons (though perhaps not all the accomplices) were convicted; one man was hanged, and the rest were sentenced to transportation for life or for a term of years.

GÁRO HILLS.

43. The year was prosperous to agriculturists, the rains were seasonable, and the crops abundant. Prices were a little lower than last year. There was no cattle-disease, and no special visitation of the

“*kala hazar*,” or local fever. There was, however, an outbreak of small-pox, which carried off 158 people, and the history of which presents remarkable conclusions as to the security afforded by inoculation and vaccination. A Hospital-Assistant was deputed to the spot, and these are the statistics he compiled:—In 11 villages 142 houses were attacked, containing 1,111 persons; of these, he found that 467 had been inoculated, 572 vaccinated, and 72 were not protected. Of the 1,111 persons, 362 were attacked with the disease: 25 out of the inoculated, 314 out of the vaccinated, and 33 out of the unprotected. Of these 362, 96 died, or nearly 25 per cent., of whom 7 had been inoculated, 79 vaccinated, and 10 were unprotected. Thus, while of the persons attacked by the disease the proportions of those who died were nearly the same whether they had been inoculated, vaccinated, or unprotected, the proportion of the inoculated who escaped attack was far greater than among the vaccinated, and, indeed, the latter fared even worse than those totally unprotected. Such statistics, however, cannot be fully accepted, unless they are based on the investigations of a more credible and competent officer than a Hospital-Assistant, and it is *a priori* very improbable that in any average area in the Gáro Hills so large a number of the population should have been vaccinated. But they deserve further enquiry, since, even if only partially true, they go far to explain the distrust popularly felt in vaccination as a prophylactic. At any rate, it would be impossible, in the face of such a report, to take any active steps towards putting down the practice of inoculation.

44. The boundary difficulties with the zemindárs of the Goálpára district, which have been so long pending, are now settled; but, though the survey maps have been made and accepted, the demarcation of the boundary-lines is not quite completed. On the northern side the line between the two districts is marked off; so is that between the A and B villages, except for a gap of two miles, where the trace is reported lost; that between the B villages and the Government lands is not yet begun. The demarcation of the Karaibári estate, on the west, and of the small portion cut off the Bijni estate on the north-east, has not yet been begun.

45. The purely judicial work in the Gáro Hills is not heavy. There were 68 criminal cases disposed of in the year, two of which were murder cases. The culprits were convicted, but in one case both escaped from custody, and in the other the chief criminal committed suicide. Captain Maxwell explains that

“the Gáro has a very wholesome dread of the lock-up. Did not one know to the contrary, one might suppose his treatment there to be inhuman and cruel. I think his being so accustomed to a free and wild life is the cause of his feeling so greatly the restriction to liberty which life as a convict assures. This fear of imprisonment should not be discouraged, and is illustrated by a Gáro never passing near convicts working on the road, but making a détour and turning away his head, for fear he should recognise an acquaintance.”

The small number of cases brought into court is partly accounted for by the extent to which money payments are accepted in compensation for all offences committed:—

“The law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is not recognised by these people, and revenge is satiated by the possession of wealth. It is

satisfactory to know, however, that, although the system is unauthorised, the fines inflicted on evil-doers are usually absurdly severe, and in most cases of serious offences place the offender in a subservient position for the rest of his life; thus, possibly this code does form a sufficient check on crime."

46. In the Civil Court there were only 24 cases instituted in the year and 21 decided:—

"The cases brought by Gáros are remarkable for the extraordinary character at times of the cause of action, and the disregard paid by them to the reasons assigned by law officers for passing a Limitation Act. Causes of action occurring 30, 40, and even 100 years back are brought forward for adjudication as if of yesterday. A grandson is unhappily responsible for an act of omission on the part of his grandfather. Twenty-five years ago a man, then a boy of ten, struck a girl of the same age in the course of a children's quarrel, and is now called upon to pay compensation by the relatives of the girl, who possibly by this time is a grandmother. Greybeards leave the Court sorrowfully shaking their heads when cases of this nature are thrown out as frivolous. How they would settle the matter themselves is not very easy to foretell. Many of the Gáro cases, where the cause of action is clearly defined and justice calls for a decision, are settled by *pancháyats*. These suits are not included in the return."

47. With regard to agricultural improvements, the Deputy-Commissioner mentions an attempt he is making to introduce the art of terracing lands, with a view to permanent cultivation, among the Gáros, who at present are wholly addicted to the fluctuating cultivation called *jhúming*. He has reclaimed some land near the station of Tura from jungle, and intends to make it the scene of this experiment, the results of which will be watched with interest. A native gentleman of Sylhet also proposes to introduce the cultivation of potatoes and oranges, two crops which, though extremely popular and successful in the Khási Hills, are at present unknown among the Gáros.

48. The party of Engineers who were engaged since January 1882 in a *reconnaissance*, to see if a railway can be carried across the hills into the Assam Valley, along the line of the Someswari, have submitted their report; they consider the line to be practicable, though in parts it is very expensive. The researches of the Assistant Superintendent of the Geological Survey, who accompanied the party, have resulted in the preparation of a useful report on the Darranggiri coal-field on the Someswari river.

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

49. The political events in which Cachar was more or less involved were of considerable importance. Though not first in point of time, the first place should be given to the rising in North Cachar, a rising which seemed contemptible in its origin, but which was lamentable in its conclusion. The mainspring of the revolt was a Cachari named Sambhudán. He first set up as a worker of miraculous cures, and presently went on to claim divine inspiration, and took the title of a god, a "*deo*." Among the credulous population of the hills followers were soon attracted to him; the afflatus of his inspiration extended to them, and they too became "*deos*," though Sambhudán was still the principal god. He took up his abode at Maibong, the

Political events. The rising in North Cachar.

ancient capital of the Cacharis, and lived at free quarters on the forced contributions of his neighbours. At length, a man brought a complaint against him in the court, having been beaten by him and his followers for resisting the expropriation of a buffalo; and it was found that the dread of him was so great that no one could be induced to serve a summons on him. The Sub-divisional Officer then called in the Deputy-Commissioner, Major Boyd, who went to his assistance with a force of some 30 police. On the way, some huts erected for a camping-place were burnt down by Sambhudán's party, but no other impediment awaited the District Officer on his road to Gunjong, the head-quarters of North Cachar. Maibong is some six or eight hours' march from Gunjong. On the 15th January, Major Boyd, accompanied by Mr. Soppitt and some 25 police, marched to Maibong and found it deserted, except for three or four men, who ran away, and two women. Sambhudán and his party, supposed to be about 20 men, had counter-marched him on the same day, and about noon fell upon Gunjong, where only a weak police guard had been left: they were panic-stricken, and fled without firing a shot; and the "*deos*" burnt down all the houses at Gunjong, killed two servants and a sick policeman, but left precipitately, neither plundering the small amount of treasure that was left there, nor carrying off the police rifles or ammunition. Though Maibong was so near to Gunjong, the police were too disorganised to send any news of the disaster to Major Boyd, who, with his party, passed the night there in the houses of the "*deos*," unaware of what had occurred. Soon after dawn on the morning of the 16th they were awakened by the shouts and drums of Sambhudán and his followers, who had marched straight back from Gunjong and passed the night in the jungle. The insurgents were persuaded that Sambhudán's spells had made them invulnerable by bullets, and that hailstones would fall from heaven and overwhelm their opponents. The police (who were mostly Goorkhas) formed up in line with bayonets fixed, but did not fire at first, not believing it possible that this could be an attack in earnest, till the enemy advanced right up to them, striking at them with their *daos*, and wounding one man on the shoulder. Then they fired: one man, the boldest of all, was shot dead at their feet, but not till he had struck at Major Boyd, and inflicted a deep cut between the forefinger and thumb: three others were killed about five yards off, and four others within 100 yards or so, as they ran away. Two or three more were found dead in the jungle afterwards. It is believed that the actual attack was made by about six men, and that about ten more were in reserve, ready to come on if the police had wavered at all. Sambhudán himself, it is said, did not join in the attack, but remained praying in a little temple, from the door of which the final rush was made. The fugitives were not pursued, as the jungle and grass are thick, and it was not known how many the assailants were or from what quarter the attack might be renewed. Major Boyd, who was faint from loss of blood, was carried into Gunjong, which he only reached the next day: the arm was tied up, to prevent the bleeding, so tightly that before any medical aid could reach him (on the 22nd) mortification had set in. He was brought into Silchar, and it was hoped that amputation of the arm might save his life, but tetanus supervened, and

on the 30th January he died. In him the Government lost a valued and zealous servant, and the news of his death was received with profound sorrow both by the European and Native population of the district.

50. Sambhudán, the leader of this insane and murderous revolt, has not yet been arrested. Such a failure necessarily casts discredit on the police: but it must be urged on their behalf that the very language of the hill Cacharis is hardly known to anyone, and that they are a race famed for clannishness and for their readiness to support each other. It is not at all an easy matter to obtain any information or evidence to implicate a man of this race. Some of the minor actors in the conspiracy have been secured, and are now awaiting trial.

51. No people came worse out of this affair than the so-called Kuki Militia. This was a force composed of the Kukis who live on the eastern border of the district, and who, while subjected to but little discipline, were well paid, in order that they might serve as a source of information as to what was going on, especially in case of a raid by the Angami Nágas. They totally failed to perform any of the objects of their existence. They gave no information beforehand of the probability of a Cachari rising, and they have been of no use after it in hunting down the fugitives or collecting any evidence against them. They were the first to run away at Gunjong, and the only Kuki sentry there was at Maibong ran away. They have now been disbanded by the orders of the Chief Commissioner.

52. The other class of political events in which the district was concerned occurred in the south of the district, among the Lushais. In the early part of the year there were incessant hostilities among the Chiefs inhabiting the eastern and central tracts. In the beginning of April three Chiefs, Lengkám, Chunglena, and Poiboi, attacked and burnt the village of Thangula, which contained about 450 people, killing 150 of them and taking 39 prisoners. The Deputy-Commissioner gives the following account of their subsequent proceedings:—

"The raiders carried with them forty heads of the slain as a trophy, and it is curious to note what they did with these heads on their return to the *punjis*. They all assembled in the village of Chunglena, and there the heads were arranged in a row, and an earthen vessel filled with rice, curry, and boiled eggs, and a bamboo "*chunga*" containing liquor, were placed by each head, while the victors drank and danced round them. This food was given, not out of derision, but in order that the disembodied spirits might not haunt the victors, but travel in peace to the city of the dead that lies in the far south. Subsequently, a small tree was planted in front of the Rája's house, and the heads hung on its branches; the soldiery then proceeded to dance round the tree, firing blank ammunition at the heads. After this, the fighting-men who had actually brought away the heads were publicly decorated, each man's hair being bound with a thick white cord, at the ends of which knots of black and red thread were fastened. These threads are highly esteemed by the Lushais, and are carefully preserved and transmitted to their descendants as proofs of the prowess of their ancestors."

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Directly after this, Lengkám attacked a village of Darkang's, and killed many of the inhabitants: 28 people from this village and 22 from Thangula's village took refuge in the Cachar district, and were assigned an asylum in two Kuki *punjis*, or villages, which were willing to receive them. In October Khalkám made an abortive attack on Lalhai; but, these wars not being relished by his people, 400 of them immigrated into the Cachar district, and were settled in a Kuki *punji*. Shortly after this the pressure of famine began to be felt, and the three principal Chiefs, Poiboi, Khalkám, and Lalhai, met and agreed to a cessation of hostilities, and proceeded at once to send men into the Cachar district to obtain supplies of food.

53. The famine arose, according to the concurrent testimony of all persons concerned, from the depredations of the Lushai famine. rats. In the previous season the bamboos had seeded, and the supply of food thus provided caused an immense multiplication in the number of rats, who, when they had exhausted the bamboo-seed, fell upon the rice crops and devoured them. The earliest indication of the distress was the immigration of some eighty families from the village of Khalkám, followed by other subjects of eastern Chiefs first, and afterwards of the western Chiefs. But, though they were later in immigrating, it was the western villages which suffered most, and by far the largest number of refugees came down the valley of the Dhaleswari past Jhálnacherra. At first, their advent created considerable alarm among the tea-coolies and some managers of the gardens near their route; but it was soon found out that they were peaceably inclined, and were only anxious to earn a livelihood, either by the sale of bamboos and forest produce, by labour, or by begging. In order to facilitate the former end, the duty charged at the forest toll-stations on foreign timber and produce was taken off; and employment was offered both by the Forest Officer on clearing forest boundaries and by several Tea Managers on cutting down the jungle on their grants. The Lushais, though not accustomed to hoeing or road-making, are skilful in jungle-clearing, and accepted work readily when offered them on high wages. But, besides this form of relief, it was necessary to make provision for supplying food in Lushai-land to those who were unable or unwilling to emigrate. Traders were encouraged to send up rice to the two chief marts of Tipaimukh in the east and Changsil in the west; the protection of a body of Frontier Police was promised them; and two Government store-houses were opened at Tipaimukh and Guturmukh, a place rather lower down the river Dhaleswari than Changsil, and to the north of it. • These store-houses were not to compete with traders in selling, but to act as reserves in case the traders' stores fell short, and from them loans were to be made to the Chiefs, or to men for whom the Chiefs guaranteed that they were unable to buy from the traders.

54. One visit was paid by the Special Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, Rai Hari Charan Bahadur, to Tipaimukh, and two (on the second of which he was accompanied by Mr. Place, Sub-divisional Officer of Hailákáñdi) to

Visits to Lushai-land by Government officials.

Guturmukh. In the course of these visits it was ascertained that the eastern part of the country had suffered least from the famine; partly no doubt from natural causes, and partly because, being stronger and more warlike, the chiefs had stores of plunder to fall back upon. These Chiefs resented the posting of a guard at Tipaimukh, and professed to be afraid that it would lead to the annexation of the country: so, after ascertaining that the traders were not alarmed for their own safety, the guard was withdrawn, leaving only a head-constable and a native clerk to keep the account of the store-house and to register traffic and report events. On the western side the Chiefs and their people were poorer and the scarcity more severe; and here much gratitude was expressed for the assistance given by Government, and much friendliness shown towards Mr. Place, who was asked to enter and visit the villages, an invitation seldom given to an Englishman, whose visit is believed to be generally followed by cholera. It was ascertained that the Lushais of this tract prevented the Howlongs, who live to their south, from visiting Guturmukh or Changsil, and made a profitable trade by carrying rice to them and retailing it at a higher price.

55. As the season advanced, there was no increase in the pressure felt, but the contrary, and many of the Lushais who had entered Cachar and settled temporarily in Nuki villages there, began to return in order to prepare their own lands for cultivation. Cholera broke out in the spring near Tipaimukh, and carried off one of the Chiefs, Chunglena; and his village, thus weakened, was afterwards raided on by some Manipur Kukis. There has been a considerable emigration, too, from this part into Manipur territory. These events, however, did not affect Cachar, neither increasing the number of fugitives into it nor preventing the return of the famine-immigrants to their own country. It is estimated that not more than 1,000 of these now remain in Cachar.

56. The quantity of rice and paddy exported to Lushai-land was about 18,000 maunds and 2,000 maunds respectively, while nearly 1,000 maunds of rubber and 425,000 bamboos were brought down. The value of the imports is estimated at Rs. 61,800, and of the exports at Rs. 42,700, the difference between the two figures being covered by the cost of freight and the profits of trade. Besides this, Government purchased and sent up about 2,500 maunds of paddy, which was either sold to traders or advanced to the Chiefs and the persons vouched for by them.

57. The total expenditure incurred by Government on famine relief was Rs. 2,240; of this Rs. 1,100 was for purchase of paddy and rice, and Rs. 1,040 for boat-hire, *i.e.*, freight of the paddy and visits of supervising officials. Rs. 1,040 were recovered from the sales to traders, leaving Rs. 1,200, the net expenditure of Government. Some of this, but not much, may be recovered from the recipients of loans. The policy of giving grain only in the form of a loan, and on the guarantee of a Chief, was adhered to, not so much in the hope that much money would be received back, as

in the view of preventing too indiscriminate applications for help from being made.

58. For the present, all apprehension and all signs of distress have ceased; and as the rainy season of 1882 has been an ordinary one in these hills, if the plague of rats does not recur, there is no fear of any re-appearance of famine. The Chief Commissioner considers that the work of relief has been cheaply and successfully carried out by the District Officers concerned.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION 1.—SURVEYS.

59. The work performed during the last field season by No. 6 Topographical Party is as follows. Major Badgley and Mr. Ogle were deputed to accompany the Political Agent of Manipur on the work of demarcating the Manipur-Burma Boundary. In January, when the immediate purpose of the expedition had been accomplished, Major Badgley went on furlough, but Mr. Ogle remained till April, and succeeded in adding largely to the topography already obtained by Major Badgley and himself. The work done was on the scales of 2 miles and 4 miles to the inch: on the former scale 1,604 square miles were mapped, and on the latter scale 594 square miles, besides 563 square miles of rough *reconnaissance*; the whole based on triangulation carried on simultaneously with the plane-tabling. The rest of the party were employed in Hill Tipperah and South Sylhet. The operations of the Department in Hill Tipperah were brought to a close by the survey of 222 square miles on the scale of 2 miles to the inch. In South Sylhet the area surveyed on the scale of 2 inches=1 mile was 251 square miles, in addition to which 47 miles of estate boundaries were traversed with the theodolite and chain. The Topographical Survey operations in South Sylhet will probably be brought to a close next season. The detailed survey of the station of Shillong is progressing, and the fair maps of the portion already completed are in hand.

SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENTS.

60. The settlements in progress in the two districts in the Surma Valley are treated of in this section, those conducted under the Assam Settlement Rules being dealt with in Section 1, Land Revenue, Chapter V. of the Report. The following settlements were in progress during the year :—

- (1) Re-settlement of *ilám* estates in Sylhet.
- (2) Ditto of other petty estates in Sylhet.
- (3) Ditto of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet.
- (4) Settlement of waste lands in Cachar.
- (5) Re-settlement of the district of Cachar.

61. With letter No. 985, dated the 12th June 1882, from this office, the Chief Commissioner submitted Mr. Johnson's report on the re-settlement of the *ilám* estates in the Sylhet district.

These estates may be broadly described as the waste and superfluous lands to which no claim was made, and which were therefore not included in Mr. Willes's decennial settlement in 1789, which afterwards was made permanent. Although a rough survey was made of the decennially-settled land, no maps were prepared, and no boundary-marks set up: there was a natural tendency on the part of the settled zemindárs to encroach upon the unoccupied waste, where no adverse possession came into collision with their advances, and thus the permanently-settled area has increased, and the temporarily-settled or *ilám* area has decreased, to a very great extent. This is a process which has, it may be assumed, been entirely checked by the recent survey of the *ilám* areas, and the vigorous but cautious assertion by Mr. Johnson of the rights of Government.

The settlements of these estates have been made under four different systems. Almost all the cultivated land, that is, all the cultivated land except that under tea, has been settled under the *Ilám* Rules. The waste land was first of all taken up under the Bengal orders of 1864, by which the assessment was to be fixed on common-sense principles, free from any elaborate rules; afterwards it was treated in accordance with the Assam Waste Land Rules of 1876. But where tea-planters had bought *ilám* lands, trusting that at the expiry of the settlement they would obtain re-settlement, not on the *Ilám* Rules, but with the concessions of the Waste Land Rules, a compromise was made: the tea-land was assessed at Re. 1-8 per acre; of the waste, an area equal to one-fifth of the cultivated land was assessed at 8 annas per acre, and the rest at the rates prescribed in the Waste Land Rules.

Regarding these three latter systems of settlement, there is not much to be said. They have been made under rules sanctioned in the first case by the Government of Bengal and in the two other cases by the Government of India. The number of estates, the area cultivated and waste, and their minimum and maximum revenue, are summarised in the following table:—

Class of estates.	Number of estates.	Area.			Assessment.	
		Cultivated.	Waste.	Total.	Minimum.	Maximum.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs. Añ.	Rs. As.
(1) Settled under Bengal order of 1864	7	244	12,931	13,175	2,712 16	20,025 6
(2) Under modified <i>Ilám</i> Rules	46	3,071	16,930	20,001	7,329 8	20,379 10
(3) Under Assam Waste Land Rules	62	.....	45,036	45,036	8,445 3	45,036 8

The *ilám* settlement, strictly so called, that is to say, so far as the *Ilám* Rules of 1876, or former rules, have been applied to cultivated lands with large annexures of waste attached to them, has affected 2,833 estates, and an area of 18,487 acres cultivated and 47,486 acres of waste. It began in 1871, and is not yet quite finished. The inordinate length of time which it has taken was mainly due to the scattered

nature of the estates, and to the want of a regular system for taking them up in geographical order. They have been measured and assessed according as the assessment fell in, one plot here and one plot there, and the work has been going on simultaneously and dispersedly over the whole district, instead of being confined to one "zila," or division, at a time, and finishing that before going on to the next. The arrangement under which all the settlements in one zila are to fall in together, and the periods of the nine zilas are distributed over four years, will prevent the recurrence of such a waste of labour and time.

The former revenue of the 2,833 estates was Rs. 15,504-5-2, and it has now been raised to Rs. 33,383-7, or by more than 100 per cent. The increase is partly due to extended cultivation and partly to the enhancement of rent. The rates of assessment have been fixed in each case by the Settlement Officer with reference to the rents paid by cultivators for similar lands in the neighbourhood. The assessment has been on the whole fair. Though in some cases the rates are high, yet the fact that 15 per cent. deduction from the assessed rental is made for the settlement-holders' profits prevents them from being felt as oppressive, while the addition of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres uncultivated to each acre of cultivated land allows for and encourages considerable expansion of assets during the currency of the settlement. The general incidence of the assessment is Re. 1-11-11 per cultivated acre, a rate somewhat lower than the average rate of the Assam Valley, which is notorious for being lightly assessed, and yet pays almost Rs. 2 per cultivated acre.

The re-settlement has been made generally with the former settlement-holders, as was provided for in the rules. Of the 2,833 estates, 1,954 were re-settled with their former holders, and 658 with the actual cultivators; but 221 had to be settled with outsiders, as neither the former holders nor the actual cultivators would accept the settlements. It is much to be regretted that no steps were taken while the measurement and preparation of the record were in progress to register and protect the rights of the occupancy tenants holding under a middleman. The tenants in Government estates are not, however, worse off than those in permanently-settled estates, and the conditions of the country are such that the tenants are not likely to suffer materially from the omission.

The settlement was at first made for a term of 20 years, expiring in 1891-92; but, in order that the leases of all estates situated in the same pargana or tract, or in the same group of adjacent parganas or tracts, might expire in consecutive years, the following dates of expiry have been fixed for the different zilas, or fiscal divisions:—

Zilas Párkul, Látu	31st March 1893.
„ Hingájiyá	ditto 1894.
„ Rájnagar, Noakháli	ditto 1895.
„ Nabiganj, Sankarpásá, Rasulganj, and Tájpúr.	ditto 1896.

The Government of India has confirmed the settlement of these estates, and has authorised the Chief Commissioner to sanction such subsequent settlement of waste and undisposed of *ilám* lands as may from time to time be made.

	No.	Acres.
(1) Measured but not tested	28	29,089
(2) Tested but not settled	207	161,612
(3) Not yet measured	9	49,130
Total	244	239,781

Mr. Johnson's completion report dated the 25th August 1881 showed that there remained 344* estates, comprising 239,781 acres, for disposal on that date. Of these, 13 estates, comprising an area of 236 acres, were measured; the measurement in 18 estates, covering an area of 8,069 acres, was tested; and 43 estates, with an area of 25,301 acres, were settled during the year. The former revenue of these 43 estates was Rs. 1,359, and the new assessment is Rs. 2,783, or more than double the former revenue. Of the 43 settlements 36 *maháls* have been re-settled with the former holders, and 7 with outsiders on the refusal of the former holders. Besides those settled, 103 estates, covering an area of 59,354 acres, have been transferred to the waste land register, so that 146 estates, comprising an area of 84,655 acres, have been disposed of, and the following work remained to be done on 1st April 1882:—

	Number of estates.	Area in acres.
(1) To be measured	4	48,849
(2) To be tested out of those already measured ...	18	19,148
(3) To be settled, inclusive of headings (1) and (2)	226	158,097

Of the estates remaining to be settled, 204, covering 90,100 acres, were ready for settlement; but, most of them being hardly of any value, people did not come forward to accept the settlement. Some estates could not be settled, pending disposal of certain objections of an intricate nature.

62. During the year under report 12 petty estates, comprising an area of 455 acres, were settled, 2 with former settlement-holders, and 10 with outsiders. The new assessment is Rs. 229, against Rs. 227, the former *jamá*. All the 12 settlements expire in 1313 B.S. (1907-8). No measurement or testing work was done during the year.

63. As stated in paragraph 52 of the last year's report, Babu Sambhu Narain Singh, Extra-Assistant-Commissioner, was deputed to make enquiries into the condition of the Jaintia parganas, with a view to the revision of the rates. These enquiries have been completed, but the final report of the Deputy-Commissioner on the revised assessment did not reach the Chief Commissioner till after the close of the year. The tendency of the Deputy-Commissioner's proposal is to reduce the demand from Rs. 1,68,000 to about Rs. 1,25,000. A full report on the revision of the rates will shortly be submitted to the Government of India. Meanwhile, the following paragraphs show what action has been taken to work out a more equitable assessment.

On the 26th September 1881 Mr. Johnson submitted a report on the three worst parganas,—Dhargám, Piyáingul, and Jáflang. He approved the classification recommended by the Extra-Assistant, Babu Sambhu Narain, who had been especially detailed for this work, and who divided the villages into four classes, according as they lie on the high banks of streams, free from jungle or marsh, or are situated more and

more distant from those banks, on the slopes and in the bottoms of the great basins of which the main part of the country is composed. The first class are the villages lying on high open cultivated ground ; the second class are those of which half the lands are high and above the floods, while half are low down on the slopes of the basins ; the third class are the villages of which only about a third consists of good land suitable for permanent cultivation ; while the fourth-class villages are the tracts, mostly uninhabited, in the lowest parts of the basins, which in the rains are deeply flooded, and in the cold weather are only capable of a little precarious cultivation. These basins, which are locally called *háurs*, cover the greater portion of the country, except where the action of the rivers by depositing silt along their banks has raised the soil above flood level ; and the tracts or villages in the deeply flooded bottoms are known as "*háur bantaks*." It was the assessment of these tracts which mainly discredited and broke down the settlement, since the obtaining of any produce from them, other than grass and reeds, is very precarious, and the persons who accepted the assessment did so as a speculation, which, in consequence of the great fall in prices since 1879, turned out unprofitable.

Mr. Johnson's proposals in regard to these three parganas (in which there are no first-class villages) was to lower the assessment in the second-class villages by one-fourth and in the third-class villages by a half, and to withdraw the fourth-class villages, or "*háur bantaks*," entirely from assessment, leaving them to be managed *khás* by letting them out from year to year, or by collecting revenue from any persons who may cultivate in them. He reported at the same time that, though the Government of India had not directed a revision of assessment in the six parganas of Jaintia first settled, he had satisfied himself that the rates were too high in the low and flooded parts of four out of the six parganas. The Chief Commissioner informed him that he approved of the system of classification adopted, and of the lowering of the rates ; but delayed passing formal orders in the matter till the report on the remaining parganas should be submitted.

That report was considerably delayed through various accidents, and it did not reach the Chief Commissioner till June 1882. Mr. Johnson has now divided the seventeen parganas into four circles according to their distances from the hills and their elevation above the floods. The first class are the two parganas of Sátbank and Cháura, lying on the Barák itself ; these are in every respect the best and most prosperous parganas in the tract. Next come the remaining four of the original six parganas in which revision was not ordered by the Government of India, but in which Mr. Johnson has shown that it is to some extent necessary. The third circle lies further from the Barák river and nearer to the hills, and contains four parganas. The fourth, or submontane, circle lies along the foot of the hills ; it comprises the three parganas first reported on, and four others. Mr. Elliott has accepted the decision of the local officers as to the classification of these tracts.

With regard to the classification of soils, Mr. Johnson does not propose to interfere with the system adopted in Mr. Beckett's settlement. He classified all assessed land into (1) homestead, (2) cultivated,

(3) fallow, and (4) jungle or waste, assessing them respectively at 10, 7, 2, and 1 anna per *bigha* (the *bigha* is almost exactly a third of an acre). Mr. Johnson's scheme is to reduce these rates by fixed proportions, according to the class of villages and the circle in which the villages lie. In the first circle (containing only two parganas) he would make no reduction, nor yet in any first-class villages wherever they occur. But in the three remaining circles and the three poorer classes of villages the reductions proposed per rupee of the former assessment are as follows:—

	Second class.			Third class.			Fourth class.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Second Circle	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	6	0
Third „	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	8	0
Fourth „	0	4	0	0	8	0	0	10	0

The Chief Commissioner would certainly, if the thing had been practicable, have preferred a different mode of treatment. He would have wished to remove the arbitrary and unsound distinction between fallow and waste, and would have preferred to adopt rates which should easily bear comparison with those employed in the adjoining settlements of Cachar and the *ilám* estates. The system proposed brings out extraordinary and inconvenient fractions, as the following table shows:—

Circle.	Class.	Rates on							
		Homestead.		Cultivated.		Fallow.		Waste.	
		As.	P.	As.	P.	As.	P.	As.	P.
Second.	I.	10	0	7	0	2	0	1	0
	II.	8	9	6	1½	1	9	0	10½
	III. ....	.....	.....	5	3	1	6	0	9
	IV. ....	.....	.....	4	4½	1	3	0	7½
Third.	I.	10	0	7	0	2	0	1	0
	II.	8	1½	5	8¼	1	7½	0	9¾
	III.	6	3	4	4½	1	3	0	7½
	IV. ....	.....	.....	3	6	1	0	0	6
Fourth.	I.	10	0	7	0	2	0	1	0
	II.	7	6	5	3	1	6	0	9
	III.	5	0	3	6	1	0	0	6
	IV.	3	9	2	7½	0	9	0	4½

The defence of these rates is that, though they are the rates at which the assessment will actually fall, they are not used for calculating the assessment. Mr. Johnson's object is to apply the decrease of 2 annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, &c., as the case may be, to the entire assessment originally imposed on each *mahál*. The advantages he aims at are two: first, it will be a great saving of trouble, when dealing with over 20,000 estates, to have only to deduct a given proportion from the total assessment, instead of framing the assessment anew by multiplying new rates

into the measured areas of land under each class ; and, second, the proprietors will find it much easier to understand the case when told that a certain number of annas are remitted from their assessment than if they were told that a new assessment had been made. On these grounds the Chief Commissioner has, though sensible of its inconvenience, sanctioned the system proposed.

As regards the question whether the amount of the reduction is suitable or not, the Chief Commissioner thinks that in dealing with rates which are not built up inductively from established data and from a basis of fact, but are worked out deductively from the amount they will produce and their apparent suitability in relation to each other, the only way of testing them is to see what the total assessment comes to, and what the incidence of the assessment on the different classes of land is. Taking the first test first, the following statement shows for the fifteen parganas under revision the original revenue they paid, the amount assessed by Mr. Beckett, and the amount which the present revision brings out :—

Number.	Name of pargana.	Original assessment.	Assessment by Mr. Beckett's settlement.	By Mr. Johnson's revision.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2	Bájeráj	2,561	6,165	5,854
4	Bardes	423	1,063	981
5	Chatul	3,933	10,234	9,015
6	Báurbhag	2,327	5,993	5,501
7	Fáljur	3,046	7,751	4,760
8	Chárkátá	2,914	6,039	3,577
9	Mulágul	2,942	8,397	5,527
10	Barnafaud	6,229	16,094	14,320
11	Panchbhag	6,102	16,967	12,131
12	Kharil	4,460	12,979	9,945
13	Dhargám	5,925	18,340	10,339
14	Jaintiपुरी Ráj	3,311	7,588	3,332
15	Aráikhán	3,640	12,284	8,733
16	Piyaingul	3,453	14,789	7,791
17	Jaflang	3,039	5,753	2,077
	Total of fifteen parganas ...	53,766	1,50,437	1,03,883

The reduction is very considerable, amounting to 31 per cent. on Mr. Beckett's assessment, and yet the reduced assessment is almost double of what the land-owners were paying before. It, however, approximates closely to the revenue which it has been found possible to collect during the past two years of low prices without any severity being exercised; and thus experience appears to show that it is not excessive.

The next point to look at is the distribution of the assessment over the different classes of soil, as illustrated by the following statement:—

Number.	Name of Pargana.	Homestead.		Cultivated.		Fallow.		Waste.		Unassessed land.	Total assessed area.	Total assessed ment.
		Bighas.	Assessment.	Bighas.	Assessment.	Bighas.	Assessment.	Bighas.	Assessment.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.				Rs.
2	Bajeraj	2,692	1,299	10,215	4,266	2,781	294	575	28	13	15,661	5,893
4	Bardis	401	237	1,684	684	566	63	9	1	40	2,660	981
6	Chatul	2,025	1,225	16,904	6,841	10,445	925	2,321	98	2,513	31,701	9,015
6	Baurbhag	1,390	865	9,254	3,875	7,804	666	2,387	107	30	20,855	5,501
7	Fajur	1,574	655	13,355	3,657	3,798	275	5,174	160	1,586	23,899	4,760
8	Charkata	1,198	471	9,972	2,656	4,007	330	4,493	147	6,476	19,670	3,572
9	Mulagul	1,856	921	11,342	3,659	5,619	521	12,339	526	5,418	31,176	5,527
10	Barnafand	3,699	2,151	26,558	10,558	8,930	899	12,217	629	16,954	51,404	14,320
11	Panchbhag	5,335	2,620	23,883	7,840	7,660	692	24,247	1,106	19,487	61,131	12,131
12	Kharil	3,511	1,389	22,364	7,847	7,160	553	4,486	159	13,635	36,559	9,945
13	Dhargam	3,293	1,283	28,088	7,620	9,815	724	16,878	592	77,052	58,070	10,339
14	Jointiapuri Raj	1,567	521	9,311	2,162	5,114	347	10,047	321	27,252	26,039	3,327
15	Araikhan	1,862	942	20,223	7,009	3,984	375	8,009	370	18,114	34,084	8,723
16	Piyangul	1,518	702	25,321	6,443	7,480	615	13,739	448	50,592	48,458	7,791
17	Jadhang	872	272	5,871	1,284	5,012	313	8,846	277	32,043	20,601	2,077
	Total of fifteen pargan: s.....	31,643	15,540	2,34,354	76,423	90,175	7,512	1,25,766	4,969	2,71,205	4,81,938	1,03,922

It appears that of the total Rs. 1,03,922, Rs. 12,481, or about 12 per cent., are due to waste land, the area on which this burden is laid being about 2,16,000 *bighas*, or 72,000 acres; some of this is cultivated in dry years, and most of it produces grass and canes, for which there is a market in Sylhet, so that it does not seem a heavy assessment. On the other hand, the assessment on the cultivated land is certainly light: 31,643 *bighas* of homestead pay 7 annas 10 pie per *bigha*, a class of land which pays Re. 1 per *bigha* in Assam; and of ordinary cultivation, 2,34,354 *bighas* pay 5 annas 3 pie per *bigha*, the Assam Valley rate being from 8 to 10 annas. In the adjoining tahsil of Kátigorá (in the Cachar district) the rates are Re. 1-10 and Re. 1-4 per acre for homestead and for cultivation respectively, or 8½ and 6½ annas per *bigha*. Judging by these comparisons, the rates cannot be unduly severe. Mr. Johnson remarks that the *supári* (areca-nut) trees in the homestead lands are proverbially said to pay the entire rent of a ryot's holding.

On these data, the Chief Commissioner has, subject to the approval of the Government of India, sanctioned the proposed rates of assessment, and has authorised Mr. Johnson to make from the assessments formerly declared, *mahál* by *mahál*, the reductions proposed by him and recapitulated above. As soon as the revised assessment lists are made out (those submitted have been found to contain several errors) they will be submitted for the information of the Government of India. In the meantime, the Chief Commissioner has directed the Deputy-Commissioner to make the reductions widely known to the ryots, and collect the revenue at the reduced rates from the current year, together with the local rate at one anna in the rupee. The remission has also been allowed to have retrospective effect, from the date

when Mr. Beckett's assessment was first introduced, except in the case of estates paying less than one rupee.

64. There were 531 applications made for the settlement of waste lands under the Mirásdári Rules in the district of Cachar, viz., 3 for the cultivation of tea and 528 for ordinary cultivation. Adding to these the 343* applications pending on 1st April 1881, there were 874 applications for disposal, against 870 in the previous year: of these, 559 were disposed of, leaving 315 pending on the 1st April 1882. The area settled was 4,853 acres, against 9,595 acres settled in 1880-81, with a maximum revenue of Rs. 3,356-11, against Rs. 6,703. Of the total area settled, 1,585 acres, with a revenue of Rs. 1,408-11, were taken up by tea-planters, as compared with 3,761 acres in the previous year. The cause of the decrease is explained in paragraph 77. The remainder 3,268 acres, bearing a revenue of Rs. 1,948, were taken up by ordinary ryots.

65. The system of survey and settlement pursued in this district has been described in the reports for the previous years. An account of the progress of the work done by the civil and professional parties during the season 1881-82 is given below separately.

66. Mr. Patterson continued in charge of the professional survey, the duty of which is to prepare polygonal boundary maps of each mauza, and to re-measure and demarcate the boundaries of grants where necessary. His party consisted of an Assistant-Surveyor (Mr. Peters) and 7 Sub-Surveyors. The outturn of work done during the season is furnished in the following table:—

Name of pargana.	Number of mauzas.	Number of subdivisions.	Number of stations.	Distance in chains.	Area in acres.	Remarks.
Banraj	15	13	850	7,263-51	24,967-93	
Banskandi	8	6	265	2,737-40	8,056-32	
Barakpar	4	18	219	2,557-11	3,905-67	
Bhuban Hill	1	..	94	168-73	238-66	
Barkhala	7	10	455	3,560-66	13,073-66	
Chatlahaor	26	4	1,438	8,600-30	17,938-29	
Davidsonabad	3	..	306	1,389-40	7,584-76	
Jainagar .....	..	6	23	229-51	..	
Lakhipur	15	12	790	6,967-73	17,876-64	
Ruparballi	9	17	463	5,136-85	17,207-45	
Sonapur .....	..	..	7	108-62	..	
Udarband	30	6	1,392	9,212-08	38,067-48	
Total	118	92	6,222	47,687-10	138,906-06	Square miles. 217-04

Besides the measurement of 118 mauzas, covering an area of 217-04 square miles, 16-65 linear miles of boundary on 14 waste land grants were relaid during the year according to Mr. Davey's survey of 1864-68. The area surveyed during the year was larger than in any previous

year. The following table shows the comparative figures of area and cost:—

Year.	Square miles.	Cost. Rs.	Cost per square mie. Rs.
1879-80	157·87	16,659	105
1880-81	186·63	15,166	81
1881-82	217·04	20,612	95

The survey party began work during the month of November, and continued in the field till driven in by the rains and the flooding of the low lands in June. They were altogether employed for 1,747 days, of which 1,055 were working days: the balance is accounted for by rains, sickness, Sundays, and leave, time spent in transit, &c. The distance measured was 48,454 chains (inclusive of 767·07 chains in three mauzas the measurements of which have not been completed), being an average of 46 per diem. The time spent in re-laying the boundaries of grants is not included in the above calculation, and is reported to have been 66 days. Mr. Patterson explains that the work was much affected and retarded by the nature of the country. In open country the surveyors could get through as much as 166 chains a day, but in the thick undergrowth on the lower slopes of hills they sometimes only accomplished 14 chains.

The work done during the recess months consisted of miscellaneous computations, mapping, and typing, the particulars of which are given in the subjoined statement:—

Plotted.	Typed.	Traced and inked.	Field numbers typed.	Conventional signs drawn.	Borders, scales, &c. inked in.	Field-notes, &c. typed.	Offsets calculated.	Area of mauzas planimeted.	Field areas calculated.	Number of fields.	Preliminary examination.
Number of sheets.										Number of sheets.	
230	64	9	66	62	68	62	68	187	20	1,376	58

67. During the year under review the demarcation of 36* mauzas which remained to be demarcated at the close of 1880-81 was completed. In all, 25,761 chains in 10,671 stations were measured by the amins. The actual number of working days was 817, so that the daily outturn of each amin's work was 31·53 chains. This is a low average compared with that done by the professional party, and especially when it is observed that there were 553 non-working to 817 working days. The Officiating Deputy-Commissioner explains that this result is "owing to the difficult nature of the mauzas surveyed, many of them containing dense jungle and very steep *tilas* (hills), particularly those in Chatlahaor and Udharband." Detailed measurements were completed in 110 mauzas,

Work done by the Civil party.

* NOTE.—In the last year's report 29 mauzas had been shown as remaining to be demarcated, but it was subsequently discovered that a pargana contained 33 instead of 26 mauzas.

containing 3,331 estates, and 6 manzas, containing 276 estates, were partly surveyed during the year. The total area surveyed cadastrally amounted to 116,955 acres, containing 116,262 fields; the average area of a field is therefore close to one acre. Each amín surveyed 11·8 acres on an average per working day, which is a slight improvement on the area of last year (9·8 acres), but is still extremely small. Mr. Knox Wight urges, in explanation of this, that, besides actual measurement, the amíns have to make out the "Chitta" record, and to plot the measurement on the sheets.

The work remaining to be done is reported as follows:—

	Mauzas.
Polygonal survey	32
Khasra "	53
Compilation of settlement records	161

The case work done by the three Deputy-Collectors is summarised in the following statement:—

Description of cases.	Pending at the close of 1880-81.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	Disposed of.	Pending.
(1) Boundary disputes	137	405	542	455	87
(2) Registration of names as occupants and cases regarding possession	260	1,648	1,908	1,593	315
(3) Settlement of <i>khas</i> lands ...	403	625	1,028	640	388
(4) Enquiries regarding revenue-free tenures	39	124	163	50	113
(5) Miscellaneous	72	491	563	484	79
Total	911	3,293	4,204	3,222	982

The number of pending cases has increased during the year, and the Chief Commissioner fears that sufficient attention has not been paid to his instructions that the Deputy-Collectors should take measures for bringing all disputes in a village to a focus and deciding them on the spot, instead of allowing them to linger on and to come into court one by one after the survey party has left the village and the record of rights has been drawn up. The attention of the Deputy-Commissioner has been drawn to these instructions.

The number of appeals instituted during the year was 78, of which 35 cases were decided and 43 cases remained pending on 1st April 1882. In 14 out of the 35 cases decided, the orders of the Deputy-Collectors were upheld, and in 9 cases they were reversed.

The cost of the Khasra survey was Rs. 184·54 per square mile, including the pay of the Deputy-Collectors and their establishments. Last year it was returned by the Deputy-Commissioner at Rs. 93 per square mile, but in that calculation only the actual pay of the amíns was included. The cost of demarcation of 36 mauzas, taking each mauza at 1,000* acres, comes to about Rs. 60 per square mile. The polygonal survey cost, as stated in the preceding paragraph, Rs. 95 per square mile. The total cost of survey, therefore, taking the three portions of the work together, amounted to Rs. 340 per square mile, which is dearer than it ought to have been. There is a further addition to be made to the

expenditure when the cost of completing the settlement record, &c., is added in.

The total expenditure on account of the civil and professional parties was Rs. 80,702-7-8, distributed as below:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Demarcation	2,026	10	9
Khasra	33,907	9	11
Compilation in recess	18,124	12	9
Surveying <i>khás</i> land	119	11	3
Head-quarters establishment and contingencies...	6,429	0	11
Professional party	20,094	10	1
Total	80,702	7	8

68. The first report on the proposed assessment rates was submitted by Major Boyd on the 31st May 1880, and forwarded to the Government of India on the 6th July 1880. On the 14th September 1880 the Government of India made some comments on the report, bearing chiefly on the want of the proper statistics for elucidating the working of the proposed rates, on the danger of using selling price as a *datum*, on the ratio of the proposed assessment rate to the recorded rent rate in certain cases, and on the greatness of the enhancement proposed, which they considered could hardly be borne if imposed at one blow. In reply to this, Sir Stuart Bayley submitted further information supplied by the Deputy-Commissioner, showing the nature of the information collected as to selling prices and the slightness of the inferences to be drawn from the few cases in which land is sublet by the ryots. He stated that the rates proposed were not excessive, that the increase proposed in the assessment was only 70·12 per cent. on the whole tahsil, and exceeded 100 per cent. in only 12 villages out of 78, and that a progressive imposition of this increase would be undesirable. On the 2nd February 1881 the Government of India sanctioned the originally proposed rates. But now the Deputy-Commissioner began to doubt the possibility of introducing his new rates on account of two reasons—

- (1) the great and sudden fall in prices which had taken place since his first proposals were made;
- (2) the outbreak of cattle-disease.

The revised assessment was therefore postponed for a year.

In August 1881 Mr. Elliott visited Cachar, and, after discussing the question with the Deputy-Commissioner, he came to the conclusion that he could not introduce the new and enhanced rates in face of the low price to which rice had fallen, and at which it seemed likely to remain. He therefore called upon the Deputy-Commissioner to make a revised proposal, and suggested the doubt whether precarious cultivation had not been included under the same rate with permanent cultivation, and asked him to have the area under actual cultivation tested and compared with the field survey returns. Major Boyd's untimely death prevented his furnishing any report on this subject, but

the enquiry was made, and it was found that only about 7 per cent. (or 460 *háls* out of 6,060) was actually unsown, whether through inun-
dation, want of cattle, or any other cause. In February the Chief
Commissioner again discussed the subject with Mr. Knox Wight, Major
Boyd's successor, and instructed him to take up the enquiry, directing
his attention to the desirability of lowering the rates on the great uncul-
tivated area and on the three parganas which he reported to be particu-
larly unhealthy and under-populated. Mr. Knox Wight submitted the
results of his enquiry in his report of 13th March and his subsequent
letters of 28th May and 27th June 1882.

Major Boyd divided his villages into three circles, and in each
village he had three classes of land,—homestead, cultivated, and uncul-
tivated.

The nature of his rates and the areas to which they were to be
applied are shown in the following table: a *hál* is nearly five acres.
The revenue derivable from his rates on each class of land was not
shown specifically in any of his statements, and has been put in approx-
imately in the subjoined table:—

Grade.	Number of vil- lages.	Homestead.			Cultivated.			Uncultivated.		
		Area.	Rate.	Revenue.	Area.	Rate.	Revenue.	Area.	Rate.	Revenue.
1	84	Háls. 863	Rs. As. 8 4	2,995	Háls. 8,368	Rs. As. 7 2 ^a	23,768	Háls. 1,947	Rs. 3, Rs. 3-4, Rs. 3-8	×
2	83	271	7 8	2,032	2,538	6 0 ^b	16,260	2,436	Rs. 2-8, Rs. 3, & Rs. 3-4	×
3	10	21	4 12	100	218	8 12	799	291	Rs. 2-4, Rs. 2-12, & Rs. 3	×
Total..	77 ^d	655	.....	5,127	6,114	.....	39,827	4,674	.....	14,242
										Total revenue, Rs. 59,992c.

a Rs. 6 in seven cases.
b Rs. 7-2 in four cases, and Rs. 3-12 in one case.
c The total includes Rs. 726 on account of tea land.
d The statement shows 78 villages, but one is blank, as it contains no time-expired *mahdl*.

The alterations proposed by Mr. Knox Wight were—

- (1) to make a new or fourth circle of the better villages in the three parganas of Kalain, Bikrámpur, and Gumrá;
- (2) to lower the rate on uncultivated land to Re. 1 uniformly;
- (3) to impose on land cultivated with tea a uniform rate of Rs. 6 per *hál*, not a varying rate according to the circle in which it is situated;
- (4) to make the circles strictly geographical, adhering uniformly to the circle rates, and not imposing on homestead lands of one circle the rate of another circle, as had been done in Major Boyd's original proposals.

The following table enables a comparison to be made between his rates and those proposed by Major Boyd:—

Circle.	Number of villages.	Homestead.			Cultivated.			Tea.			Uncultivated.			
		Area in <i>hds.</i>	Rate.	Assessment.	Area in <i>hds.</i>	Rate.	Assessment.	Area in <i>hds.</i>	Rate.	Assessment.	Area in <i>hds.</i>	Rate.	Assessment.	
														Rs. A.
1	28	294	8 4	2,424	3,026	7 2	21,561	..	..	..	1,583	1	1,583
2	14	65	7 8	485	574	6 0	3,442	44	6	265	640	1	640	
3	24	249	7 8	1,868	2,069	5 0	10,347	59	6	351	2,014	1	2,014	
4	11	27	4 12	131	248	3 12	911	5	6	31	373	1	373	
Total	77	635	..	4,908	5,912	..	36,261	108	..	647	4,610	..	4,610	Total Rs. 46,316.

This assessment would produce an increase of Rs. 11,094 on the revenue of the present settlement, which amounts to Rs. 35,222.

The Government of India has, on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, approved of the assessment proposed by Mr. Knox Wight after a full and careful consideration of all the circumstances, and it will take effect from the current year.

SECTION 3.—WASTE LANDS.

69. The different rules under which waste lands are taken up in this Province have been reported on in previous years, and are not therefore recapitulated here.

70. There were 35 applications pending disposal at the close of 1880-81 (inclusive of one advertised but not sold), and 57 applications were filed during the year under review, thus making a total of 92 applications for disposal, against 169 applications in the previous year. The remaining 5 leases advertised but not sold during the last year were subsequently cancelled.

The large decrease in the number of applications is partly due to the recent depression in the tea industry, partly to the fact that in some districts planters have already got as much land as they require, and partly to the fact that some planters prefer to take up land under the ordinary Settlement Rules.

The 92 applications were disposed of as follows:—

	Number.	Area in acres.
Rejected, withdrawn, and struck off	23	4,672
Leases sold.....	8	1,384
Advertised but not sold	2	613
Pending	59	23,253
Total.....	92	29,922

The two leases shown above as advertised but not sold could not be sold during the year, owing to non-expiry of the requisite three months from the date of publication of the sale notices in the official *Gazette*.

71. The following statement shows the particulars of leases sold under the Waste Land Rules of 1876 during the past two years, and altogether up to the end of 1881-82:—

Leases sold under the Rules of 1876.

District.	1880-81.		1881-82.		Altogether to the end of 1881-82.	
	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.
Cachar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	69
Sylhet	15	2,557	1	528	70	46,370
Kámrúp .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	5,000
Darrang	12	2,402	1	203	103	33,252
Nowgong .....	.....	.....	1	96	112	48,631
Sibságar	12	1,847	4	547	122	45,980
Lakshmipur	9	3,209	1	10	94	34,431
Khási and Jaintia Hills..	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	6,391
Total	48	10,015	8	1,384	537	220,124

The above statement shows that 8 leases, covering an area of 1,384 acres of land, were sold during the year, as compared with 48 leases, comprising an area of 10,015 acres, in the previous year. In the districts of Cachar, Goálpára, and Kámrúp, no leases were sold either during this or the previous year. In Goálpára, however, an application was made by a tea-planter in the course of the year for a plot of waste land in Duár Guma, covering an area of nearly 295 acres. The lease has been advertised for sale since the close of the year. In Cachar the planters prefer taking up lands under the ordinary cultivation leases of the district.

72. In the district of Darrang one lease, covering an area of 288 acres, sold in 1877-78, was relinquished during the year with the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, the land having been found unsuited for the cultivation of tea. In Nowgong one lease, comprising an area of 331 acres, had to be re-sold for non-payment of timber-tax assessed thereon; but, as there were no bidders at the second sale, the lease was bought in by Government. Another lease, covering an area of 149 acres, was allowed to be relinquished, the lessee being unable to cultivate the land owing to his indigent circumstances.

73. Out of the 537 leases now held in this Province under the Rules of 1876, 400 leases, covering an area of 177,663 acres, have been brought under assessment up to the close of the past year in the several districts noted below. The total revenue these leases at present yield is Rs. 33,811:—

Leases brought under assessment.

	Number of leases.	Area in acres.	Revenue. Rs.
Cachar	1	69	13
Sylhet	44	34,863	6,462
Kámrúp	21	4,617	863
Darrang	79	26,387	4,947
Nowgong	107	47,716	8,647
Sibságar	97	39,400	7,387
Lakshmipur	45	20,104	3,987
Khási and Jaintia Hills.....	6	4,507	1,505
Total.....	400	177,663	33,811

74. In the district of Nowgong only was there any competition at the auction sales of leases. One lease, covering an area of 96 acres, was sold for Rs. 108 at the rate of Re. 1-2 per acre. This land was originally applied for by a Marwari trader; but the manager of an adjoining garden belonging to a European Tea Company filed a counter-application for it, and eventually purchased the lease at the price above stated. In other districts all the leases were sold at the upset price of one rupee per acre. The total sum realised on account of the leases sold during the year amounted to Rs. 1,396.

75. The total assessment, including arrear demand, on account of timber-tax assessed on waste lands leased under the Rules of 1876, amounted to Rs. 4,198, of which Rs. 2,094 were collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,104 at its close, as shown below:—

Districts.	Demand.		Collections.		Balances.		Remarks.
	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Darrang.....	6	2,153	6	981	1,172	* Not included in the report for 1890-91.
Nowgong	98	66 ^o	.....	66	98	.....
Sibsagar	558	.....	558	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	1	1,316	1	492	.....	834
Total.....	663	3,535	665	1,529	98	2,006	

There was no valuable timber on the land leased in the district of Sylhet. The rates per acre of the timber-tax levied in the other districts were as shown below:—

	Area leased. Acres.	Price of timber. Rs.	Rate per acre.		
			Rs.	A.	P.
Darrang	203	6	0	0	6
Nowgong	96	98	1	0	4
Sibsagar	547	558	1	0	4
Lakhimpur	10	1	0	1	7
Total	856	663	0	12	5

76. As has been stated in the last year's report, waste land is also taken up in the Assam Valley Division for the cultivation of tea under the ordinary Settlement Rules. The following statement shows the particulars of ten-year and annual leases issued for the cultivation of tea during the year under

Waste land taken up under the Assam Settlement Rules.

report, as compared with the preceding year, and also the total amount of land so leased up to the end of 1881-82:—

	1880-81.				1881-82.				Existing at the end of 1881-82.			
	Number of leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.	Number of fresh leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.	Number of fresh leases.		Area in acres.	Revenue.
	Ten-year.	Annual.			Ten-year.	Annual.			Ten-year.	Annual.		
				Rs.				Rs.				Rs.
Goalpara .....	..	..	160a	225a	..	..	118a	89a	..	1	268	314
Kámrúp .....	..	2	23	34	2	6	392	582	12	65	2,723	4,094
Darrang .....	..	2	4	6	2	6	46	70	21	147	13,042	19,614
Nowgong .....	..	3	74	111	..	..	.....	.....	7	32	1,830	2,803
Sibsagar	1	10	1,251	1,892	2	12	2,042	3,088	18	814	27,904	42,777
Lakhimpur	1	2	820	480	..	1	92	140	8	157	12,010	18,015
Total	2	20	1,822	2,748	6	26	2,680	3,969	66	716	57,777	86,617
		22				31				782		

a Included in one lease.

This statement shows that 31 leases, covering an area of 2,680 acres, were leased during the year to tea-planters under the ordinary Settlement Rules, against 22 leases, covering an area of 1,822 acres, in the preceding year. The total number of leases issued under these rules up to the end of 1881-82 amounted to 782, covering an area of 57,777 acres, and yielding a revenue of Rs. 86,617. Out of the total number of leases issued up to the end of the last year, only 66 were leases for ten years; the rest were annual leases. There is no doubt that planters who apply for leases under the ordinary Settlement Rules are quite as ignorant as the ordinary ryot is of the advantages to be derived from taking out ten-year leases. District Officers will be directed to endeavour to induce planters to take out ten-year leases.

77. In Cachar 11 leases, comprising an area of 1,585 acres, were taken for tea-planting during the year under the ordinary cultivation lease of the district. Waste land taken up under ordinary cultivation leases in Cachar. In the previous year 14 leases, covering an area of 3,761 acres, were taken up. The decrease is explained to be due to the depressed state of the tea industry, and to the fact that the area of land suitable for tea cultivation without a disproportionate outlay on account of labour has become greatly limited. The revenue of the 1,585 acres leased during the year is Rs. 254, and the eventual maximum income Rs. 1,408.

78. In Sylhet 5 leases, covering 2,413 acres, were settled during the year under the modified *Ilám* Rules described in paragraph 61 of this report. For the previous year 11 such leases, containing 3,740 acres, were settled under these rules. The present revenue of the 5 leases granted during the year is Rs. 719, and the eventual maximum revenue is Rs. 2,447. Waste land taken up under the *Ilám* Rules in Sylhet.

79. It has now been ascertained that grants under the rules of 1838 exist in the district of Kámrúp as well as in the Sibságar district. In Kámrúp there are Grants under the Rules of 1838.

two such grants, covering an area of 39 acres, and yielding at present a revenue of Rs. 34. These grants were omitted from the Deputy-Commissioner's report for 1880-81. In Sibságar there are, as stated in last year's report, 16 such grants, covering an area of 5,494 acres and yielding a revenue of Rs. 4,674. These grants are still held by the Assam Company.

Grants under the rules of 1854.

80. The following table shows the particulars of the Old Rule grants still held on the original terms:—

District.	Number of leases.	Area in acres.	Present revenue. Rs.	Eventual maximum revenue. Rs.
Cachar	25	31,351	5,429	8,817
Sylhet	6	9,051	1,832	2,546
Kámrúp	4	1,011	142	284
Darrang	1	293	41	82
Nowgong	5	1,895	265	533
Sibságar	15	10,184	1,432	2,864
Lakhimpur	4	2,035	286	572
Total.....	60	55,820	9,427	15,698

In Cachar one grant under the Rules of 1854, comprising an area of 9,455 acres, was commuted to fee-simple, and two such grants were resigned during the year. In the district of Sibságar one grant covering an area of 429·56, was resumed by the Chief Commissioner for non-fulfilment of clearance conditions. An ordinary *patta*, however, at full rates was subsequently issued to the grantee for 35·31 acres, being the cultivated portion of the resumed grant. In the district of Lakhimpur three grants were shown in last year's report as still held on the original terms. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, now reports that there are four such grants.

81. For the Old Assam Rule grant in the district of Cachar, covering an area of 9,455 acres, which was commuted to fee-simple during the year, the amount of commutation money paid was Rs. 51,907. In Sibságar a sum of Rs. 1,497 was realised during the year on account of grants which were in course of redemption.

The particulars of Old Rule grants commuted to fee-simple up to 1881-82 are given below:—

Districts.	Number of grants.	Area in acres.	Government revenue at the time of commutation. Rs.	Price of commutation paid including past payments for grants sold for arrears. Rs.	Price remaining to be paid. Rs.
Cachar.....	65	130,890	5,157	4,29,006	20,944
Sylhet	1	2,340	.....	7,924	.....
Kámrúp	23	13,178	.....	33,756	9,674
Darrang	15	6,758	347	27,500	.....
Nowgong ...	10	4,673	93	16,721	.....
Sibságar	106	89,370	1,614	3,05,558	14,693
Lakhimpur...	39	28,862	831	85,191	21,153
Total.....	259	276,071	8,042	9,05,656	66,464

82. The following statement gives particulars of fee-simple grants and the amounts realised and outstanding on account of such grants in each district:—

Fee-simple grants.

District.	Number of grants sold.	Area in acres.	Price realised		Price remaining to be realised. Rs.
			Up to the close of 1880-81. Rs.	In 1881-82. Rs.	
Cachar	23	9,587	60,150	.....	.....
Kámrúp	17	3,616	17,612	.....	.....
Darrang	103	52,234	1,76,854	1,709	1,709
Nowgong.....	43	15,900	66,654	2,723	4,838
Sibságar	51	31,373	3,27,292	.....	.....
Lakhimpur ...	103	95,879	No report.	10,872	27,102
Total.....	340	208,589	6,48,562	15,304	33,649

SECTION 4.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

83. As reported in previous years' reports, 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, are treated of in this section. On 1st April 1882 there were 300 of these estates, viz., 86 in Sylhet and 214 in Goálpára, as compared with 93 estates in the former and 137 estates in the latter district in 1880-81. In Sylhet, of the 93 estates in the preceding year 16 estates were settled during the year 1881-82; 9 new estates were bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue, there being no bidders. The increase of 77 estates in Goálpára is due to settlement of certain unoccupied lands in Government estates at Dhubri and Jamira.

The total current demand of the year amounted to Rs. 19,875, against Rs. 19,010 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 865, viz., Rs. 753 in Sylhet and Rs. 112 in Goálpára. The increase of Rs. 753 in the district of Sylhet is attributed chiefly to the revision of assessment of certain estates under the Pratábgarh tahsil. The increase of Rs. 112 in Goálpára is due to the corresponding increase in the number of estates.

The following table shows the total demand, collections, remissions, and balances on account of Government estates in both districts during the year:—

District.	Number of estates.	Demand.			Collections.			Remissions.	Balance.		
		Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.		Current.	Arrear.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet	86	18,966	26,263	45,229	84	11,440	11,524	461	18,882	14,362	33,244
Goálpára	214	909	....	909	900	....	900	....	9	....	9
Total	300	19,875	26,263	46,138	984	11,440	12,424	461	18,891	14,362	33,253

It will be observed that out of the total demand of Rs. 46,138, a sum of Rs. 12,424 was collected and Rs. 461 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 33,253 at the close of the year. Of this balance, Rs. 33,244 appertain to the Sylhet district, and is in great part due from the estates under the Pratábgarh tahsil; Rs. 5,022 of the above balance have been realised since the close of the year, Rs. 10,157 remitted, Rs. 10,662 reported as irrecoverable, and the balance, Rs. 7,403, is reported to be in process of recovery. The arrear of Rs. 9 in Goálpára has been realised since the close of the financial year.

SECTION 5.—WARDS' ESTATES.

84. There are three wards' estates under the management of the revenue authorities, viz. :—

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

85. The Rájá of Sidli continues to receive a proprietary allowance of 20 per cent. on the rents collected on his estate, and his account at the close of the year stood as follows:—

RECEIPTS.		Rs.	A.	P.
Cash balance from last year	.....	504	7	4
Proprietary allowance at 20 per cent. on the collections of 1880-81 and 1881-82	.....	13,387	9	6
Interest on Government securities	.....	82	12	0
Total	.....	13,974	12	10

EXPENDITURE.		Rs.	A.	P.
Maintenance of the Rájá and his family	.....	3,800	10	4
Repairs of houses	.....	420	9	6
Purchase of jewelry	.....	62	9	0
Debts paid	.....	1,050	1	0
Invested in Government securities	.....	6,300	0	0
Commission and other invested charges	.....	145	10	6
Balance in hand at close of year	.....	2,195	4	6
Total	.....	13,974	12	10

It will thus be seen that the Rájá has now a sum of Rs. 6,300 invested in Government securities, besides a cash balance in hand of Rs. 2,195-4-6. The last instalment of the Kuch Behar debt, amounting to Rs. 1,050-1, which fell due in September 1881, was paid off in October, and the bond executed by the Rájá was received back and destroyed by the Deputy-Commissioner.

Rájá Gauri Narain Deb, the present Rájá, continues to express his gratitude to Government for the care taken of him, and has asked that all savings in future years may be invested, as they are now being invested, in Government securities.

86. The property of Har Kumár Pál at present consists of 82 different estates scattered throughout the Habiganj sub-division of the Sylhet district. In 15 of these estates the minor is the sole proprietor. In 10 cases separate accounts have been opened, and mutation of names has been effected in 40 others. In the remaining cases steps have been taken to effect mutations as early as possible.

The increase in the number of estates is on account of portions of certain revenue-paying *maháls* having been newly purchased and taken possession of during the year. Possession has still to be taken of shares in six estates newly purchased.

There is very little waste land in the estate. It consists chiefly of fertile rice lands; sugarcane and other winter crops are cultivated to a certain extent. A sugar-mill of the pattern patented by Messrs. Thomson and Mylne, of Bihia, was purchased during the year at a cost of Rs. 123-4 for the use of the *raiya*s, but, as far as the first experiments went, it could not compete successfully with the ordinary native mill of the country.

The current rental of the estate shows an increase of Rs. 371. This amount represents the revenue of estates purchased and taken possession of during the year.

The demand, collections, and balances on account of the estate for the year under report are exhibited in the following abstract:—

Year.	Demand. Rs.	Collections. Rs.	Remissions. Rs.	Arrears. Rs.
1874-79	10,680	284	8,963	1,433
1879 80	1,692	332	...	1,360
1880-81	4,102	1,983	...	2,119
1881-82	14,978	9,081	...	5,897
	<u>31,452</u>	<u>11,680</u>	<u>8,963</u>	<u>10,809</u>

The collections during the year have been very bad, owing chiefly to the low price of rice, which has affected very seriously all incomes derived from rents. Last year out of the current year's demand Rs. 10,505 were collected within the year, this year only Rs. 9,081. The arrear balance, Rs. 10,809, consists of Rs. 5,897, arrears for 1881-82 and Rs. 4,912, arrears of previous years. Nearly two-fifths of the total balance have been realised since the close of the year, and steps have been taken for the collection of the remainder. The disputed and irrecoverable balances referred to in the last year's report have been written off. During the year under report 5 *raiya*s were committed to the civil jail upon certificates issued under the Public Demands Recovery Act for non-payment of their dues. Three of them paid up their debts while in prison, one was released before his sentence had expired on promising to pay the rent due by him, and the remaining one underwent the whole term of imprisonment, *viz.*, six weeks. Regarding this man, the Sub-divisional Officer of Habiganj, on being asked for an explanation, reported as follows:—

"He had not paid a pice for three years. He is still on the ward's estate.

He has about 5 *powas* of land, including *bári** and *bisrá*.† He was a man of the Napit caste, about 50 years old. I cannot feel much compassion for him. He went to jail

in about 1881, when he could have got earthwork (if he would have consented to

* Homestead.
† Garden land.

demean himself by doing earthwork on the roads), by which he could have paid his rent in two months, working lightly."

This explanation does not seem satisfactory, as it does not appear that the defaulter was offered the alternative of working off his debt or going to jail, and the Chief Commissioner has informed the Deputy-Commissioner that in no case should imprisonment in future be used as a means of collecting arrears in the wards' estates, and has desired him to carry out the order strictly.

No change was made during the year in the establishment entertained for the management of the estate or in the mode of collection. A temporary muharrir was appointed to ascertain the position of certain lands purchased by the minor's father at auction sale in execution of Civil Court decrees. Some of these lands have been ascertained, and civil suits will be instituted for their possession.

The total income of the estate amounted to Rs. 16,248, as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Rents collected	11,680
Interest on Government securities... ..	1,503
Debts recovered	2,713
Miscellaneous	352
Total	16,248

The expenditure during the year was Rs. 19,641, viz. :—

	Rs.
Government revenue paid	2,261
Local rate paid	314
Management of property and cost of collection	2,533
Maintenance of the minor's family	643
Education of the minor	1,466
Law expenses	6,734
Payment of legal claims	1,900
Purchase of lands	2,715
Miscellaneous	1,075
Total.....	19,641

The expenditure thus exceeded the receipts of the year, and had to be met by taking Rs. 3,393 from the cash balance, which fell from Rs. 4,719 on the 1st April 1881 to Rs. 1,326 on the 31st March 1882.

As compared with last year, the expenditure was heavy under the head "Law expenses." A sum of Rs. 1,600 was spent in a case pending before the High Court, in which a speculative pleader bought up the claims of a distant relation of the minor, and is prosecuting them. The institution of 47 cases for the recovery of the minor's rights in the village of Poil cost about Rs. 3,000. Altogether, there were 62 cases in which the minor's interests were involved. Of these, 46 were disposed of in favour of the minor, and 12 against him. Two cases remained pending on the 1st April 1882.

The sum of Rs. 1,900 shown under "Payment of claims" was paid under the following circumstances:—The minor, with 138 others, was defendant in a case which the plaintiffs won. The decree is for Rs.

4,040. As the minor's property is more easily assailable than that of the co-defendants, the decree-holder proceeded against him for the full amount, which the minor will have to pay. The actual amount due from the minor is Rs. 1,600 only.

The charges under the other heads were normal, and do not require any explanation.

Last year the Chief Commissioner desired the Deputy-Commissioner to undertake some measures for the improvement of the estate. Mr. Johnson reports that it is difficult to carry out any material improvements, as the estate consists of many scattered plots of land and undivided shares. The largest parcel is 150 acres in extent. The Deputy-Commissioner is thinking of building a permanent wall round that part of the Habiganj bazar which belongs to the minor, but there is a right of waterway through it, which is enforced with much pertinacity.

When the estate was first brought under the management of the revenue authorities, the sum of Rs. 32,028 was due to it, and Rs. 126 more have been ascertained since then to be due, thus making the total debts due to the estate Rs. 32,154: of this amount Rs. 18,001 have been collected, Rs. 8,507 remitted, and Rs. 5,646 remained unrealised up to the close of the year. The amount of Rs. 8,507 was remitted, as the parties were either dead, or had no property at all, and the decrees were barred by limitation. Of the balance, Rs. 4,000 are also reported to be doubtful and irrecoverable. The remainder, Rs. 1,646, is in process of recovery.

The ward, who is 17 years of age, continues his studies at the Collegiate School, Dacca, where he resides in the head-master's house. The head-master gives him a good character. He appeared at the Calcutta University Entrance Examination in December 1882.

During the year under review Act III. (B.C.) of 1881 (an Act to amend the Court of Wards Act, 1879) was extended to the Sylhet district.

87. The landed property of the estate of the minor Ghulam Armani consists of two entire estates in pargana Jalalpur and of shares in 22 estates in pargana Gumra, both of which are situated in the district of Cachar. The current demand of the estate for the last five years is given in the margin, from which it will appear that the rental of the year under report, though higher than in other years, is less than that of 1880-81 by Rs. 69. This decrease is due to the fall in the price of rice, on account of which some lands belonging to the estate were thrown up by the ryots, and others had to be let out at reduced rates.

Inclusive of Rs. 39 outstanding from the preceding year, the total demand of the estate amounted to Rs. 604, of which Rs. 477 were collected during the year, Rs. 9 remitted, as explained in paragraph 66 of the last year's report, and Rs. 118 remained unrealised on the 31st March 1882. Of this sum Rs. 3 are reported to be irrecoverable, the defaulter having left the district, and the remainder, Rs. 115, is in course of collection. The low price of rice accounts for this large balance.

Estate of Ghulam Armani.

	Rs.
1877-78	510
1878-79	476
1879-80	562
1880-81	634
1881-82	565

The total receipts and expenditure of the year are exhibited in the subjoined abstract :—

RECEIPTS.			
	Rs.	As.	P.
Cash balance from last year	967	4	7
Interest on Government securities	11	15	0
" on Savings Banks deposits [inclusive of interest (Rs. 5-8-8) accrued last year.]	23	12	8
Sale-proceeds of bamboos	4	0	0
Hire of an elephant belonging to the estate	42	14	3
Rents collected	476	8	4
Total.....	1,526	6	10
EXPENDITURE.			
Government revenue paid	223	10	1
Assam local rate	14	0	0
Charges for collection of rent	57	0	0
Maintenance of the minor and his family	96	0	0
Other petty expenses	6	3	0
Cash balance in favour of the estate.....	1,129	9	9
Total.....	1,526	6	10

Of the total amount of the cash balance, Rs. 400 are invested in Government securities, Rs. 723-12-8 deposited in the district savings bank, and the balance is kept with the tahsildár for current expenses of the minor and his family.

The Chief Commissioner has learnt with regret that the minor suffers from a complete loss of memory, and was unable to carry on his studies when sent to school in 1878. The Deputy-Commissioner has been asked to ascertain and report if there has been no improvement in the mental condition of the lad since that time, and if something cannot now be done towards his education.

CHAPTER III.

P R O T E C T I O N .

SECTION 1.—[*Blank.*]

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

88. No new legislative measures framed specially for this Province were enacted during the year.

The following Acts of the Government of India, which had previously been in force in other parts of India, have been extended to portions of the Province of Assam during the year 1881-82.

- (1) Act XII. of 1880 (an Act for the appointment of persons to the office of Kázi) to the district of Sylhet.
- (2) Sections 3 to 12 and 14 to 16 of Act III. of 1867 (an Act to provide for the punishment of gambling and the keeping of common gaming-houses in the North-Western Provinces, Punjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, and British Burma) to the Station of Shillong.

The following Acts or portions of Acts of the Bengal Council were declared to be in force either in the whole or in portions of this Province during the year :--

- (1) Chapter III. of Act V. (B.C.) of 1876 (the Bengal Municipal Act) in the bázárs of Sunámganj, Habiganj, and Balaganj, in the district of Sylhet, and in the towns of Jorhát and Golághát in the district of Sibságar, and Chapter IV. of the same Act in the town of Silchar.
- (2) Act I. (B.C.) of 1876 (an Act to provide for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces), with the omission of Section 1, in the district of Sylhet.
- (3) Act III. (B.C.) of 1881 (an Act to amend the Court of Wards Act) in the district of Sylhet.
- (4) Act IV. (B.C.) of 1881 (an Act to amend the Bengal Excise Act, 1878) in the Province generally.
- (5) Act VII. (B.C.) of 1880 (the Public Demands Recovery Act) in the districts of Sylhet and Goálpára, with the exception of the Eastern Dnárs.
- (6) Act I. (B.C.) of 1861 (an Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals) in all the plains districts.
- (7) Act III. (B.C.) of 1869 (an Act to enable Police Officers to arrest without warrant persons guilty of cruelty to animals in the station of Silchar and the sub-divisional station of Hailákánda, in the district of Cachar, and in the Municipality of Sylhet.

The following Acts of the Government of India came into operation in the Province of Assam during the year 1881-82:—

- (1) Act V. of 1881 (the Probate and Administration Act).
- (2) Act VI. of 1881 (the District Delegates Act).
- (3) Act VIII. of 1881 (the Petroleum Act).
- (4) Act XV. of 1881 (the Indian Factories Act).
- (5) Act XXVI. of 1881 (the Negotiable Instruments Act).
- (6) Act I. of 1882 (the Inland Emigration Act).
- (7) Act II. of 1882 (the Indian Trusts Act).
- (8) Act III. of 1882 (the Seditious Publications Act).
- (9) Act XI. of 1882 (the Indian Tariff Act).
- (10) Act XII. of 1882 (the Indian Salt Act).

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

89. The constitution of the Police force, which consists of two separate bodies of Civil and Frontier Police, besides the usual Municipal constables and village chaukidárs, remained unaltered during the year, and the recruitments kept the actual more nearly up to the sanctioned strength than had been the case in the year before. The Frontier Police, however, were still short of their full strength (255 officers and 2,228 men) by 3 officers and 145 men when at their maximum number, and this deficiency was severely felt when a force of about 150 men had to be got together to accompany the military in occupying the advanced outposts of Nizámghát and Bomjor, on the Abor frontier, in November 1881. A considerable strain was the consequence, and the reserves of several districts had to be drawn upon to make up the number. In future it must be remembered that to maintain the average effective strength required a certain percentage of extra recruitments must be allowed. Half the Frontier Police ought to be Nepalese; these men are chiefly recruited at one time, in the autumn, and if the number then enlisted is only sufficient to fill up existing vacancies, the average number kept up through the year must always, through casualties and retirements, be below the sanctioned strength.

90. The Frontier Police were sent on active service on three occasions in the year: one was the advance on Nizámghát above referred to, another was at the time of the threatened Gáro rising in March 1881, and the third was in the Nága Hills on the occasion of an attack ordered by the Deputy-Commissioner on a village which had murdered a British subject. They were not under fire on any of these occasions, because the threatened resistance collapsed; but the Chief Commissioner understands that they showed an excellent spirit, and appeared ready to do their duty.

91. The Civil Police were short of their full number (257 officers and 1,272 men) by only 13 men when their strength was at the highest. At the close of the year 86 men were sick, on leave, or otherwise ineffective: of the effective, 196 officers and 817 men were distributed at 90 thánas and outposts.

92. The casualties in the Civil Police were somewhat less, in the Frontier Police considerably larger, than in the year before. The mortality was nearly the same, 61 deaths against 60 in 1880, and amounted to 15 per mille on the average strength of the force; but the dismissals and discharges were rather more numerous, and the resignations much more so among the Frontier Police. The latter was chiefly due to an injudicious enlistment of 50 Sikhs, a race of men very unsuited for work in this Province, as they can only subsist on flour, which is always dear, and often unprocurable. Almost all of them resigned the service after a short experience of the work.

93. The number of officers and men punished judicially, *i.e.*, for offences against the law, was 100, and the number punished departmentally, *i.e.*, for breach of rules or discipline, was 499, which is much the same as last year. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that there were no cases of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners. The number rewarded by money or promotion was 198, an increase on the 169 of last year. The Chief Commissioner has noticed with regret the neglect of officers in some districts to grant rewards to men who have done well.

94. In the Civil Police all the officers can read and write (except 3 head-constables), but only 27 per cent. of the constables are educated: District Superintendents should aim at raising this proportion both by enlisting more educated men and by encouraging their men to learn when off duty. The police schools, which were started in 1881, and in which education is compulsory for the children of all members of the police, might be utilised as night schools for the instruction of constables who are thirsting for knowledge. In the Frontier Police it is only necessary that a small number of men, say one or two at each outpost, should be able to read and write, and the Chief Commissioner would be very sorry to see promotion from the ranks made to depend on education.

95. The departmental accounts show the cost of the police for 1881 to have been Rs. 7,11,274, or a decrease of Rs. 78,348 as compared with 1880; but according to the Comptroller's accounts the cost for 1881-82 was Rs. 8,90,955, or more by Rs. 1,79,681 than the department admits. No further explanation has yet been offered of this discrepancy, except that Rs. 89,181 have been charged by the Ordnance Department on account of Snider rifles supplied, only Rs. 2,999 being allowed *per contra* for Enfield rifles returned. The Chief Commissioner has insisted on the necessity for verifying the departmental with the treasury accounts, and hopes that in future years there may be no uncertainty as to the cost to the Province of such an important body as the police.

96. The Civil Police enquired altogether into 7,546 cases, about 38 cases to each officer, or $7\frac{1}{2}$ cases in the year to each officer and constable: it is seldom, however, that a constable is sent out alone to conduct an enquiry. The

heaviest number of cases reported at any police-station was at Silchar, where the number was 409. Silchar and Sylhet are the only two places where there was more than one report a day. There were eight posts which had less than one a month to deal with, and three outposts had only one case in the year to employ their leisure. Thirty thánas and outposts sent up less than one A Form a month, and only four secured over 100 convictions in the year, Dibrugarh being the highest, with 166 cases prosecuted to conviction. It is obvious from these figures that at most of the police-stations investigation of crime is not a heavy burden.

97. The cognisable crime of 1881 will be treated under the following heads,—(1) the amount of crime in the Province as compared with former years and with other Provinces; (2) the manner in which that crime was dealt with; (3) the success of different districts in dealing with crime in general; (4) the chief classes of crime.

98. (1) *The amount of crime in the Province as compared with former years and with other Provinces.*—The accurate presentment of the figures is rendered difficult by the imperfection of the record in the prescribed statement (Appendix 41). A cognisable crime may be reported to the Police or to the Magistrate direct. When reported to the Police, the complaint may be investigated by them or may be refused enquiry (under Section 117), as obviously unsupported by evidence. When reported to the Magistrate after investigation by the police or by the complainant himself, he may decide that the complaint is maliciously false or was made under a mistake of law or of fact, or was true. When the complaint is made to him direct he may order it to be investigated by the Police, or may enquire into it himself on the evidence presented. Cases reported towards the close of last year will come under investigation during this year, and be classified as true, false, or mistaken; cases reported this year will remain over for investigation and classification during the next year; cases which the police have refused to take up may be sent back to them by the Magistrate with an order to investigate, and may thus appear twice over in the statement. All these contingencies should be provided for in a table which aims at giving an exhaustive account of the classification of cognisable cases reported to have occurred during the year, and it is evidently a matter of considerable complication to draw up such a table. Several columns have been added this year to Police Statement A I., with a view to show more clearly the classification of reported crime, but the record is still imperfect, and the subject is under consideration. Again, the comparison with past years is vitiated to some extent by an order issued in the end of 1879, that cases which the Magistrate judged never to have occurred but to have been reported through mistake of fact or law should not be shown at all in the statement, and Arms Act cases, though cognisable by the police, were (under a misapprehension) shown last year as non-cognisable.

This latter error has been corrected, and the former must be allowed for in reading the following comparative statement:—

Description of cognisable cases.	Assam (eight plains districts).		Bengal. 1881.
	1880.	1881.	
a. Number of cases reported....	10,673	12,856	112,834
b. Proportion of reported cases to population.....	1 in 422	1 in 350	1 in 585
c. Number of complaints considered to be true.....	8,964	8,142	96,604
d. Proportion of true cases to population.....	1 in 503	1 in 553	1 in 683
e. Number of false complaints maliciously laid.....	1,709	1,982	7,549
f. Number of erroneous complaints laid through mistake as to law or fact.....	.....	1,997	8,681
g. Number in which Police refused enquiry (Section 117).....	310	377	3,692
h. Number reported last year and investigated this year	283	324	1,550
i. Number reported this year and unclassified, being still under investigation.....	.....	358	.....

99. Of the 12,856 cases reported during the year, 8,236 were reported to the Police and 4,262 to the Magistrate direct, leaving 358 cases unclassified. Of the former complaints, 68 per cent., and of the latter 59 per cent., were held to be true; the fact that a larger proportion of unsubstantiated cases were preferred to the Magistrate than to the police-station indicates that in some instances at least the complainant's reason for not appearing at the thána was the fear that the falseness of his complaint would be detected there. But still it is a singular thing that in so many true cases the complainants should have preferred to go to the Magistrate, and not to the thána, which in most cases lies nearer at hand. As, however, Assam is the only province in which these figures are recorded, it is impossible to compare them with the results shown elsewhere, or to look to the reports of other provinces for a solution of the difficulty.

100. The number of cases reported in 1881 appears larger than in 1880, but is not really so, for if the "erroneous complaints" (head *f*) which were omitted last year were again omitted now, the total would sink to 10,822, which is almost identical with the figure of 1880. The number of true complaints (head *c*) similarly cannot be properly compared with 1880, unless the number unclassified at the end of the year, 358, is added: then we have 8,500 true complaints this year, against 8,964 in 1880, a difference which does not call for remark. In the proportion of reported crime to population, Assam shows a higher figure than Bengal, though much less than that of the North-Western Provinces, which is 1 in 232. It was observed last year that in the district in which there is a large tea-coolie population much more criminality prevails than in those in which there is none; and again in the Jail Resolution for 1881

it was calculated that the tea-coolies supply three times as many prisoners, relatively to their numbers, as the general population. This is illustrated further by the following figures, which show that the districts which have few or no tea-coolies approach closely to the general average criminality of Bengal, while those in which the tea-coolies are most numerous rival, and in three cases exceed, the proportion which obtains in the North-Western Provinces:—

Crimes reported in districts where tea-coolies are a small proportion of the population—	
Goálpára.....	1 in 619
Kámrúp	" " 512
Sylhet	" " 441
Bengal	" " 585
Crimes reported in districts where tea-coolies form a much larger proportion of the population—	
Darrang	1 in 289
Nowgong.....	" " 225
Sibságar	" " 181
Lakhimpur.....	" " 231
Cachar	" " 248
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	" " 232

101. In comparing the proportion of crime reported to population with that of other Provinces except Bengal, the cases reported to Magistrates and not enquired into by police must be thrown out; and it is also the practice in the North-Western Provinces to leave out of the calculation nuisance cases and offences against special and local laws, which do not involve any real criminality. Treated in this way, the comparison stands as follows:—

	Number of crimes reported to police, excluding nuisances and local laws.	Population.	Number of persons to each crime.	Number of crimes per 10,000 of population.
Assam (1881).....	7,841	4,500,000	1 in 574	17·4
Bengal (1881).....	93,954	66,530,000	" 708	14·1
North-Western Provinces and Oudh (1880)	176,103	44,100,000	" 250	39·9
Punjab (1880)	44,280	18,800,000	" 424	23·6
Central Provinces (1881).....	25,660	8,200,000	" 243	41·2
Bombay (1880)	61,778	16,454,000	" 266	37·5
Madras (1880)	52,716	31,170,000	" 591	16·9
Burma (1881)	15,821	3,736,000	" 236	42·4

Such comparisons, however, do not lead to much, unless they are pushed further into detail, and it is seen what classes of crime prevail most in what Provinces. It always open to dispute whether a low percentage means absence of crime or failure to report it. It certainly cannot be presumed in Assam, where about one-third of the complaints in cognisable cases pass by the thána and are reported direct to the Magistrate, that the number of cases reported to the police is a correct index of the prevalence of crime, or the reverse.

102. It has been seen that out of 12,856 cases reported in 1881, 1,982 or 15·4 per cent., were classified by the Magistrate as maliciously false, 1,997, or 15·5 per cent., as erroneously reported or insignificant, while 377, or 3 per cent.

were refused enquiry by the police. The corresponding figures for Bengal were 6·7, 7·7, and 3·3 per cent. The number of false cases in Bengal in which the complainant was prosecuted for his falsehood was 1,416 cases out of 7,549 false reports, or 18·8 per cent.: in Assam the number was only 119 out of 1,982, or 6 per cent. There can be little doubt that this indicates a tendency on the part of the officers in this Province to condemn complaints as false too lightly, and to class under this head cases which are doubtful, or in which they do not believe the complaint to be true, though it cannot be proved to be false. The Chief Commissioner has emphatically condemned this procedure, and has drawn the attention of District Officers and Police Officers to the discussion of the subject in Mr. Munro's Bengal Report for 1881, pages 29-31, and in the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Report, paragraph 15. Mr. Elliott fully adopts the principle laid down by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,—“that it is much better to have few cases declared maliciously false, with the complainants in such cases prosecuted, than to have many doubtful cases shown as deliberately false, with prosecution of complainants sparingly resorted to.” The proportion of false to reported cases in the different districts is as follows:—

Goálpára.....	14·7
Kámrúp	12·1
Darrang	32·1
Nowgong	14·8
Sibságar	7·0
Lakhimpur.....	15·8
Sylhet	14·6
Cachar.....	13·3

The district in which the percentage is most excessive is Darrang, and here it has been shown by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, that the high rate was due to the neglect of the Magistrates to make independent enquiry and their readiness to acquiesce in the police version of the case: on the other hand, Sibsaagar, which shows by far the best percentage, is only on a level with the average of districts in Bengal. On the whole, there can be no doubt that a larger number of cases ought to have been shown as true than were shown in the Police returns; Magistrates should understand that they ought only to enter cases as false and erroneous when it is quite clear to them that they are so. At the same time it does not follow that because fewer cases are recorded as maliciously false, therefore accused persons should be arrested with less discrimination than heretofore. In this respect, the Assam Police appear to have done well, and it is possible that some connection may exist between the smallness of the number of cases declared false in Bengal, and the largeness of the number of cases in which unsuccessful prosecutions and unnecessary arrests were made. What the Chief Commissioner desires is, that doubtful cases should not be returned as false, not that arrests should be rashly made in doubtful cases.

103. (2) *The manner in which cognisable crime was dealt with.*—

In discussing this head, we are met by the main difficulty which affects all treatment of criminal returns, viz., that the division of crime into cognisable and non-

cognisable does not correspond precisely, nor even closely, with the classification of crime as that with which the Police Department does or does not deal. Though all cognisable crime may be investigated and dealt with by the Police, a great deal of it is not : so that the statement prescribed for the Police Report either does not usually show the work of the Police only, or else does not show the result of all dealings with cognisable crime. This latter information can be given for the first time this year for Assam. It cannot be supplied for last year: nor can it be extracted from the reports of Bengal or the North-Western Provinces. It is as follows for 1881:—

Number of true cases.....	8,142
" of cases decided in Court	4,188
" in which conviction was obtained	2,928
" " accused was acquitted	1,260
Percentage of convictions to true cases	38
" " cases decided	70

The Police investigated in the year 7,546 complaints, of which 6,858 were preferred to them and 678 to the Magistrate direct; and 2,802 of these grew into cases which were sent up to the courts for trial. Besides these, 1,386 cases arose from complaints made to the Magistrate direct, and not investigated through the Police. Thus, the 4,188 cases decided during the year were investigated in one of four ways: either by the Police *suo motu*, or by the Police after they had refused to interfere, or by the Police on the Magistrate's order on complaint made to him, or else without the intervention of the Police, in the case of complaints made direct to the Magistrate. The first of these heads is by far the most important, as showing the discretion of the Police in taking up cases, and their acuteness in investigating them. The second head throws discredit on the Police if there are many complaints which they at first refused to investigate, but which turned out on enquiry to be true. The third head indicates acuteness in enquiry, but does not affect, one way or the other, their discretion in taking up cases, since they are taken up under orders from the Magistrate. With the fourth head the Police have nothing to do; and the only conclusion to be drawn from this head is that if there are many cases in which conviction is obtained, but in which the complainants did not care to go to the Police for assistance, the fact shows that the Police have not their confidence. The figures, however, which have been supplied this year do not make it possible to show the success of Police procedure in the first three classes separately. This information will be given in future years. There are, however, sufficient data for showing the work done by the Police under the three heads combined.

104. The tests of success in dealing with crime which were mentioned in paragraph 114 of last year's Report were four,—two referred to cases and two to persons:—

Tests of Police procedure.

- (1) Percentage of convictions to total number of cases enquired into by Police.
- (2) Percentage of convictions to cases disposed of.

- (3) Percentage of convictions to persons whose cases have been disposed of.
- (4) Percentage of convictions to arrests by the Police *suo motu* in cases decided.

Besides these, the Inspector-General in his report on the working of the Police has used four other tests; *viz.*, (1) the percentage of cases convicted to true cases, (2) percentages of property recovered to property stolen, (3) the percentage of cases convicted to cases reported, and (4) of persons convicted to persons arrested. In the Bengal Police Report much stress is not laid on such tests as these: the only ones mentioned, in accordance with which success or failure is predicated, is the percentage of cases convicted to cases investigated (paragraphs 110-113), and the percentage of persons convicted to persons arrested and brought to trial (paragraph 105). In the North-Western Provinces Report for 1880 (paragraphs 14-18) five tests are used: the percentage of enquiries to reports, of convictions to reports, of convictions to cases disposed of, of persons convicted to persons whose cases are disposed of, and of persons convicted to persons arrested by the Police. The Punjab uses two tests (paragraphs 12-13): the percentage of cases disposed of to cases reported, and of persons convicted to persons arrested and whose cases were decided. In preparing these figures, Bengal includes all cases, North-Western Provinces omits nuisances and offences against Municipal bye-laws, and the Punjab omits all cases under head VI., *i.e.*, it includes only offences against the Penal Code.

It is obvious that these tests are of very unequal value. In a province where the Police are ordered to enquire into all reports, the percentage of cases investigated to cases reported is inapplicable. Where they are ordered not to enquire into certain classes of petty cases, it only indicates how numerous the cases in these classes are. The percentage of cases convicted to cases reported is of very little value, if a large number of the reports are false, and a comparison of the ratios in different provinces would not indicate the relative acuteness and success of the Police, unless it can be assumed that the proportion of false complaints in each province is the same. Where, however, pains are taken to sift out the false from the true, the percentage of cases convicted to true cases becomes of extreme importance; some doubt certainly hangs over the classification of cases as true, but, if it is carefully made, not merely to screen the Police from censure for failure in detection, but in order to separate those cases where a wrong was really done, and punishment ought, in an ideal state of society, to overtake the offender, then the proportion of such cases to the cases in which punishment was awarded is the best test that can be given of the efficiency of the Police and of their approximation to an ideal standard. Again, the proportion of cases convicted to cases decided is a valuable one (those cases with which the Police had nothing to do being separated) as showing the soundness of the grounds on which a prosecution was instituted. Lastly, with regard to persons, the proportion of those convicted to those arrested is somewhat fallacious, unless the number who die, escape, or are transferred, or whose cases are pending at the close of the year, are excluded,

but the proportion of those persons who are convicted to those who, having been arrested by the Police, are either released or discharged without trial, or are tried during the year, is highly important. In the North-Western Provinces further distinction is drawn between persons arrested by the Police *suo motu* and those arrested by the order of the Magistrate. The distinction seems hardly worth making, for in cases in which the complaint is made to the Magistrate the fact that he orders the enquiry throws no slur on the Police: only in cases where the Police had first refused enquiry, and have afterwards been ordered by the Magistrate to make it, does any discredit attach to them if the case proves to be true, and these instances are too rare to affect the percentage materially. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen is allowed on all sides to be no certain test of the action of the Police. Mr. Elliott, therefore, inclines to select three sets of figures as the most complete tests of the working of the Police, *viz.*, (1) the ratio of cases convicted to true cases, (2) the ratio of cases convicted to decided, and (3) the ratio of persons convicted to persons arrested by the Police who are released, discharged, or actually tried: it being understood throughout that only those cases are referred to in which the Police make the investigation, and arrest the offenders.

105. Under the first test, comparison can only be made with Bengal, as no other Province separates its reported cases into true and false. Deducting offences against sanitary laws, the figures are as follows:—

First test.—Cases convicted to true cases.

	Assam.	Bengal.
Number of true cases	7,709	79,351
Cases convicted	2,397	23,494
Percentage	31.3	29.6

Of every three offences which were really committed, nearly one was prosecuted to conviction. The Assam percentage is here slightly better than that of Bengal.

106. Under the second test we get the following figures:—

Second test.—Cases convicted to cases disposed of.

	Assam.	Bengal. 1881.	N. W. P., 1880.	Punjab, 1880.	Central Provinces.	Bombay.	Madras.	Burma.
Cases decided	3,102	42,638	45,077	26,321	12,836	33,241	86,474	11,773
" convicted	2,397	23,494	16,161	24,197	9,906	25,130	31,562	8,180
Percentage.....	77.1	55.1	35.8	91.9	77.2	75.6	36.5	69.5

It seems doubtful whether the return can be drawn up on the same principles, so great is the difference between the percentage of the Punjab and that of Bengal. Such a ratio of success as 91.9 per cent. in all cases sent up for trial seems extraordinarily high, especially as the ratio of success in regard to persons tried is not so exceptional.

Third test.—Persons convicted to persons disposed of.

107. Under the third test we stand as follows:—

	Assam.	Bengal.	N.-W. P.	Punjab.	C. P.	Bombay.	Madras.	Burma.
Persons actually tried.....	5,810	77,694	74,893	46,652	18,313	70,172	70,831	18,996
Disso convicted	4,228	42,360	56,038	34,497	13,610	36,472	48,719	12,192
Percentage	72·8	54·5	73·5	73·9	74·3	51·9	68·9	64·2

The Assam rate here agrees pretty closely with the ratio of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, and is much better than that of Bengal. It has not been possible to separate the sanitation cases in Assam, as the Police Report does not supply the necessary data. This will be given next year, but the number is not large, the proportion of persons convicted in such cases to all persons convicted being only 1 in 9, whereas in the Punjab it is nearly 1 in 3, and in the other Provinces also it is comparatively high.

108. (3) *The success of different districts in dealing with crime in general.*—The success of different districts in dealing with crime in general is illustrated by three tests.

109. The first is the ratio of cases convicted to true cases reported to the Police. The figures are as follows:—

	True cases reported to Police.	Cases which, having been reported to the Police, were investigated by Police and prosecuted to conviction.	Percentage.
Goálpára	336	172	51·2
Kámrúp	318	140	44·
Darrang	482	234	48·5
Nowgong.....	467	163	34·9
Sibságar	953	355	37·2
Lakhimpur	388	251	64·6
Sylhet	1,999	666	33·3
Cachar	691	327	36·9
Total.....	5,634	2,308	40·9

The high proportion in Lakhimpur is very remarkable, and may be due to some special cause, such as the extreme simplicity of the offences committed. This explanation also no doubt covers the percentage in Goálpára, which is the second district in this respect. Putting this aside, both Darrang and Kámrúp have done well. Sylhet stands lowest of all.

110. The second test is the ratio of cases investigated by the Police, whether *suo motu* or by the Magistrate's direction, and prosecuted to conviction, to the number of cases decided:—

	Number of cases decided.	Number brought to conviction.	Percentage.
Goálpára	230	179	77·8
Kámrúp	213	147	69·
Darrang	298	250	83·9
Nowgong.....	243	181	74·5
Sibságar	453	367	81·
Lakhimpur	301	254	84·4
Sylhet	1,114	816	73·2
Cachar	250	203	81·2
Total	3,102	2,397	77·2

Here Lakhimpur again stands first and Kámrúp last, while Darrang Cachar, and Sibságar are above the average. The four districts which stand above 80 per cent. must all be held to have done well.

111. The third test is the proportion of persons convicted to those arrested by the Police (whether *suo motu* or otherwise), and whose cases were finally disposed of in the year:—

	Number of persons arrested by Police and finally disposed of.	Number of persons convicted.	Percentage.
Goálpára.....	410	280	68·3
Kámrúp	372	224	60·2
Darrang	501	391	78·
Nowgong	375	268	75·
Sibságar	883	724	81·5
Lakhimpur	520	404	77·7
Sylhet	2,280	1,565	68·6
Cachar	469	372	79·3
Total	5,810	4,228	72·8

The Sibságar district heads the list, and Kámrúp is again last in order. The districts of Cachar, Darrang, Lakhimpur, and Nowgong are above the average of the Province.

112. Putting these three tests together, we have the following results:—

	First.	Second.	Third.	Total.	Order of merit.
Lakhimpur	1	1	4	6	1
Darrang	3	2	3	8	2
Sibságar	5	4	1	9	3
Cachar	6	3	2	11	4
Goálpára	2	5	7	14	5
Nowgong	7	6	5	18	6
Kámrúp	4	8	8	20	7
Sylhet	8	7	6	21	8

113. (4) *The chief classes of crime.*—The fourth head under which crime is treated of is the notice of the chief classes of crime. The same number of murder and attempts at murder cases (41) was reported in 1881 as in 1880, but only

Details of chief classes of crime.—Heinous crime.

nine of the murders were prosecuted to conviction, against 12 last year. In homicide the Police were more successful: out of 21 true cases 20 were disposed of and 14 brought to conviction, a high ratio, and much better than that of 1880: six of these convictions are credited to Sylhet. There were 137 cases of grievous and aggravated hurt, against 148 last year, and of these 72 (against 75 last year) were successfully prosecuted: both Sibságar and Lakhimpur did well under this head. Five dacoities out of 8 true cases and 6 robberies out of 12 true cases were brought to conviction: in 1880 there had been 7 dacoities and 11 robberies, none of which were convicted.

Cases of kidnapping and abduction increased, but it is very rarely that these are the violent crimes they profess to be; and the Inspector-General has rightly warned the Police to be careful in the treatment of these cases. On the whole, it may be said that in all the most serious classes of crime the Police improved on the results of last year.

114. The cases of burglary and lurking house-trespass increased from 982 in 1880 to 1,108 in 1881. The Police were not very energetic in their dealings with these cases: only 183 complaints came to trial, against 228 in the year before, but the number of convictions increased from 101 to 118. Relatively to the number of cases that occurred, Kámrúp was the most successful district in dealing with this crime. Cattle-theft cases increased from 134 to 165, and were dealt with even more successfully than last year, almost half the cases being brought to conviction. There were 2,312 thefts, a decrease on the number of 1880 (2,727), and only 28 per cent. of them (against 31 per cent. the year before) were prosecuted to conviction. More persons were tried and convicted for receiving stolen property (261 against 247) and the Police dealt successfully with these cases. With regard to other minor classes of offences, such as hurt and criminal trespass, there is nothing special to remark.

115. Offences under special laws continue to increase: their number rose from 743 to 1,018. Of these, 433 were nuisances and offences against sanitary bye-laws, a class of cases which is still conspicuous by its smallness in Assam as compared with other Provinces, and which the Chief Commissioner would be very sorry to see largely increased. More than one-third of these cases occurred in the little town of Silchar; it is hoped that, though the introduction of sanitary restrictions had to be enforced with some severity, the lesson thus taught will not need to be repeated. Next in number come excise cases, which also were more numerous than last year: 336 persons were convicted of breaches of the Excise Act. Arms Act cases have fallen from 389 last year to 91, which is a great improvement; the only districts in which such prosecutions were at all numerous were Sylhet and Lakhimpur. There were 95 persons charged with vagrancy or bad character, and 52 were ordered to give security: the number is small, and shows that these sections of the Criminal Procedure Code are not harshly worked,—indeed, in the six Assam Valley districts there

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were only three persons thus convicted, all the rest were in Sylhet and Cachar. Four offences against religion, 14 breaches of the Gambling Act, one stamp case, and 22 opium cases complete the list of special Acts.

116. On the whole, heinous crime is extremely rare in Assam, and the minor kinds of vulgar crime are by no means widely prevalent, and show no tendency to increase.

Lightness of crime in the Province.

117. In the three hill districts, in which the Criminal Procedure Code and the Police Act are not in force, there were but 220 cognisable offences reported (of which 205 were true), against 210 the year before: there was a considerable decrease in the Khási Hills, while the number reported in the Nága Hills was necessarily larger than it had been in 1880, when there was little or no settled Government in the district. The large number of murders is always a feature in the criminal returns of the half savage tribes which inhabit the hills: the more remarkable instances of these have been noticed in the reviews of the district reports. More than half the reported offences consist of ordinary thefts, almost all of which occur among the followers and dependents of the English residents and official employés at the head-quarter stations.

Crime in the hill districts.

118. No remarks can be made on the dealing of the Police with non-cognisable crime in 1881, because the statistics hitherto recorded relate to all cases, and not exclusively to cases worked up by the Police. Such figures belong more properly to a report on criminal justice than to a report on the working of the Police Department. The Chief Commissioner, accordingly, following the precedent of all other provinces except Bengal, has directed that in future years the Police statement of non-cognisable crime shall only deal with offences of this class which have been actually enquired into by the Police.

Non-cognisable crime.

119. The Chief Commissioner is on the whole generally satisfied with the officers and men of the Police Department as to intelligence and efficiency.

Conclusion.

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

120. The most important features of the administration of criminal justice in Assam during 1881 are summarised in the following table.

Columns are added to show the corresponding figures in Assam for 1880 and in Bengal for 1881:—

	Assam, 1881.	Assam, 1880.	Bengal, 1881.
Number of offences reported	22,882	24,049	243,394
Proportion to population	1 in 196	1 in 187	1 in 386
Number accepted as true	14,583	15,070	209,228
Percentage of cases rejected	36.3	37.8	14
Number of cases brought to trial	9,284	8,810	144,558
“ of persons convicted	10,240	10,850	143,779
Proportion to population	1 in 438	1 in 418	1 in 451
Number of persons acquitted or discharged	4,956	4,862	60,314
Percentage of convictions	67.4	69	68.7
Number of cases decided by eight District Magistrates ..	449, or 56 apiece.	363, or 53 apiece.	1,845, or 44 apiece among 42 District Magistrates.
“ of witnesses examined	1,266 or 158 each	1,743, or 218 each.	4,705, or 112 each.
Average duration of cases	8 days.	9 days.	8 days.
Number of cases decided by Stipendiary Magistrates (36 in 1881, 39 in 1880).	8,007, or 211 each.	8,675, or 222 each.	104,639, or 292 each among 356.
“ of witnesses examined	34,180, or 899 „	35,802, or 918 „	334,324, or 939 each.
Average duration of cases	8.4 days.	7.6 days.	11.3 days.
Number of cases decided by 31 Honorary Magistrates ..	782, or 25 each.	451, or 16 each.	.....
“ of witnesses examined by them	3,640 or 118 „	1,770 or 63 „	.....
Average duration of cases	6.8 days.	7.2 days.	.....
Total number of witnesses appearing before the courts..	49,293	48,628	463,681
Total examined	39,960	40,014	400,187
Number detained more than one day	9,045	6,184	72,098
Percentage thus detained	18	13	15
Amount of fines imposed	Rs. 78,994	Rs. 91,375	Rs. 6,86,988
“ realised	„ 72,419	„ 87,321	„ 6,14,153
Percentage of realisations	92	95	89
Number of persons imprisoned	3,051	3,078	25,668
“ „ fined	6,693	7,356	107,284
“ „ flogged	434	506	2,202
“ who appealed to District Magistrate or Court of Session.	690	653	8,733
“ in whose case order was upheld	433	434	5,518
Percentage of confirmation	62.5	67	59.8

121. The decrease in the number of reported cases extended to five districts, and is most noticeable in Sylhet, where the number fell from 8,740 to 7,715. In three districts there was an inconsiderable increase. The proportion of cases accepted as true was nearly the same as in 1880. The usual reasons are put forward in explanation of the decrease in crime, but such reasons are hardly necessary as a difference in reported cases which does not amount to 5 per cent. is only a natural fluctuation, and requires no explanation.

122. Looking into the details of crime, there is little to attract attention in the record of offences under the Penal Code, but the list of those “relating to other laws” requires closer consideration, since, while the former are for the most part offences against the moral law the latter are generally breaches of artificial laws made to support fiscal, social, or sanitary rules, and it may so happen that the occurrence of a large number of these offences would indicate, not the depravity of the population, but the badness or unsuitableness of the law. The following

is a comparative statement of offences of this kind, declared to be true during the last two years:—

	Cases.	
	1881.	1880.
Arms Act	115	404
Cattle-trespass	447	266
Breach of contract	816	481
Inland Emigration Act	248	319
Excise	154	141
Ferries	79	85
Forests	37	45
Gambling	15	11
Municipal bye-laws	273	232
Police Act [V. 1861]	361	281
Opium	156	123
Stamps	52	182
	Persons.	Persons.
Security taken for keeping the peace	215	311
Ditto for good behaviour	53	65

The decrease in prosecutions under the Arms Act may be looked on with satisfaction, and also the diminished number of persons ordered to find security. But the increase in breach of contract cases under Act XIII. of 1859 is much to be regretted. The High Court think that the fluctuations in the number of these cases results from the diversity of practice of different Magistrates; but this can hardly be the case, as these cases are not instituted (like cases under Municipal bye-laws, sanitary clauses of Act V., 1861, Excise or Stamp Acts) by any official instigation, but at the pleasure of the tea-planters, for whose service the contracts are made. The Act is one to whose working general and reasonable objection is taken, and as the Inland Emigration Act is now extended to cover local contracts for labouring on tea-gardens, it seems to be time that the application of the Workman's Contract Act should be withdrawn. The growth of Municipalities and the more careful enforcement of sanitary rules cause an increase in the number of cases under Municipal bye-laws and Act V., 1861, but the increase has been rather excessive in Cachar this year.

123. Turning to the manner in which business has been disposed of it is seen that the proportion of convictions to prosecutions is almost the same as last year: that District Magistrates have done less work and have taken less time over it; but that the duration of cases in the Courts of Subordinate Magistrates has somewhat altered for the worse, and the number of witnesses detained over one day has considerably increased, from 13 to 18 per cent. The variations in this respect are great in different districts; while Darrang heard 97 per cent. of its witnesses on the first day and Nowgong and Lakhimpur heard 93, Sibságar 89, and Cachar 88 per cent., Kámrúp heard only 79 per cent., Sylhet 77, and Goálpára only 70 per cent. The Sylhet officers may plead the extreme heaviness of the criminal work in some courts and at some seasons of the year, and the Chief Commissioner has admitted the validity of that plea by increasing the number of judicial officers; but in Goálpára the work

was extremely light, and yet it was performed with a dilatoriness and unpunctuality which the Chief Commissioner trusts not to see repeated.

124. The trial of sessions cases took an inordinately long time in the Assam Valley, where the average number of days occupied in disposing of cases rose from 36.7 in 1880 to 69.9 in 1881. The High Court have drawn attention to two cases from Sibságar, which occupied a combined duration of 266 days, and three cases from Lakhimpur, which lasted 333 days, or on the average 111 days each. The great length over which the cases from Sibságar extended is partly explained by the fact that one of the cases was sent up to the High Court for confirmation, but was remanded for re-trial. The districts in the Assam Valley are visited by the Judge three or four times in the year, and if a case is committed shortly after one of his visits, it has to wait for trial for his next visit, which may not occur for four or five months.

The well-being of the Assam ryot is marked by his ability to pay a far larger fine than his brother in Bengal. In Assam, each person fined paid Rs. 10-13-1, while in Bengal each person fined paid only Rs. 5-11-7. The ratio of realisations to fines imposed, 92 per cent., is also extremely high.

125. The financial results of the working of the Criminal Courts during the past two years was as follows:—

	1881.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.....	1,04,910	1,25,335
Expenditure	2,01,647	2,29,025
Excess of expenditure	96,737	1,03,690

The decrease of over Rs. 20,000 in receipts was due to the fact that a smaller amount by Rs. 24,000 was derived from fines in 1881 than in 1880, there being, on the other hand, a small increase in the receipts from court-fee stamps. The decrease in the charges shown is almost entirely nominal, for while the number of Judges and Magistrates remained the same, and the ministerial establishments were generally unaltered, a considerable decrease is shown in their cost, which can only be due to a change in the method of distributing the expense between different heads:—

	1881.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Court of Session	20,008	25,256
" Magistrates	1,16,932	1,19,325
Establishment—Court of Session	2,125	3,866
" Magistrates	41,494	50,446
Total salary, paid establishment.....	<u>1,80,559</u>	<u>1,98,893</u>

There was, however, a real decrease of Rs. 8,498 under the head of "Contingencies and refunds." The only district where the receipts of Magistrates' Courts exceeds the expenditure is apparently Sylhet, where the excess of receipts is said to have been Rs. 6,288: though, taking the Magistrates' and the Judge's Courts together, a loss of Rs. 7,439 is shown.

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

126. The salient points in the history of the jail administration for 1881 may be summed up in a few lines. The number of direct admissions to prison was 3,427, or less by 186 than in the year before, and the total population of the jails, including under-trial and civil prisoners, was 1,445 at the beginning and 1,482 at the end of the year. The daily average number in the prisons rose slightly, being 1,461·96, against 1,431·3 in the year before. The total cost of guarding, maintaining, and employing the prisoners, and of ordinary repairs to the buildings, was Rs. 1,20,594, while Rs. 81,133 were spent on constructing new buildings: the corresponding figures of 1880 were Rs. 1,12,522 and Rs. 42,693. Prices being cheaper, the cost of dieting a prisoner fell from Rs. 32-8-4 to Rs. 29-10-3. There was an improvement in the general health of the prisoners, and the number of deaths decreased from 76, with a ratio of 53·1 per mille, to 63, with a ratio of 43·1 per mille.

127. Of the 3,388 convicts admitted, 347 were females, or rather more than 10 per cent., but the proportion of light sentences was larger among them than among the males, as the average daily number of females was only 46·22, or 3·4 per cent. There were 55 female convicts in jail at the end of the year. Twenty juvenile prisoners (under the age of 16) were imprisoned, and one of these was still in jail at the close of the year.

128. Four prisoners were sentenced to death, 22 to transportation for life or for a term of years, and 32 to imprisonment for ten years or more. Most of these criminals were guilty of murder and culpable homicide, for which offences there were 54 convictions during the year. No less than 358 persons, or 10·44 per cent. of all those sentenced to imprisonment, were convicted for the second time. All the sentences except 493 were for offences under the Penal Code: 30 persons were imprisoned for breaches of contract (Act XIII. of 1859), 295 for offences under the Emigration Law, and 168 under other special laws. This shows that the Magistrates (exercising a wise discretion) visit the larger proportion of cases which are not offences against the Penal Code with fine, and not with imprisonment. Of the convict population 958, or 28 per cent., were foreigners, and 672 were tea-coolies. It may be assumed that the 325 convictions under Act XIII. of 1859 and VII. (B.C.) of 1873 were from among this class, leaving 347 tea-coolies convicted of offences under the Penal Code, mostly thefts. The adult tea-coolie population was about 120,000, so that there were nearly three prisoners to every thousand of this class, or three times as many as there were among the native Assamese.

129. The number of under-trial prisoners received for custody was 2,526, against 2,858 in the preceding year, and of these 1,175 were convicted, against 1,455 in 1880. No deductions, however, can be drawn from these statistics, as in two-thirds of the cases the prisoner is either convicted on the day he is

sent up by the police, or else he is let out on bail till the day the case is decided, and so is admitted at once to jail without passing through the under-trial wards. The cases of these prisoners were not disposed of so quickly as last year, for the average time during which prisoners remained under trial rose from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 days, and in the worst instance of all, in Sylhet, it was 27 days.

130. The number of civil prisoners still remains small, but it increased from 231 to 249. The Chief Commissioner observes this increase, and especially that in the number of females imprisoned, which rose from 3 to 10, with regret, as he is strongly opposed to the indiscriminate and mechanical use of the jail as a means for collecting money-lenders' debts; and he thinks that only very special circumstances can justify the imprisonment of a woman for debt. The Chief Commissioner hopes that before long it may be possible to alter the law in such a way as to confine imprisonment to the case of fraudulent debtors. The average period that each civil debtor spent in jail was 22 days: it had been 27 days in 1880.

131. The number of convicts who escaped from jail was larger by one than in the year before, 25 against 24. This is not a large number, considering how generally the prisoners are employed on extramural labour; and yet in almost every recorded case of escape there was distinct and punishable negligence on the part of the guard. Of the 25 runaways 21 were recaptured; and two of those who escaped the year before. Besides these, four under-trial prisoners escaped; three were recaptured, besides one who had escaped in 1880. The fourth, who was not caught, was the only one who showed some cleverness in the manner of his escape, and did not owe his liberty to the connivance or stupidity of his guards.

132. The number of punishments inflicted for breaches of jail discipline was 364, against 500 in 1880: and of these flogging was inflicted in only 141 cases, against 248 cases in the preceding year. This is a decided improvement, and the Chief Commissioner has no doubt that the proportional number of floggings, which was nearly 40 per cent. on all punishments, may be still further lowered without any relaxation of real discipline.

133. Though the total number of persons sentenced to labour (1,354) was slightly larger than the number (1,328) sentenced to labour in 1880, there were fewer sick and convalescents; the number employed on manufactures was slightly less, and on Public Works considerably larger, than in 1880. This was the result of the policy laid down by the Chief Commissioner last year, that as far as possible convicts should be employed on extramural labour. This policy was approved by the Government of India, but the caution was added that care should be taken lest discipline become relaxed at small sub-divisional stations, where no large works are in hand conveniently near the jail. This caution was by no means superfluous, and the Chief Commissioner has desired it to be understood that extramural labour cannot be sanctioned unless it is severe and punitive. Nothing can be more unlikely to make the fear of imprisonment a motive deterrent from crime than the spectacle of a gang of

convicts loitering about the roads and open spaces of a station, clearing up dead leaves here, pulling weeds there, and generally idling. Such work as this must not be given to convicts, and the Inspector-General has been requested to insist that they are only employed extramurally where the work given them can be made severe, and, as a rule, can be enforced as task work, a certain fixed quantity being given to each man or each gang, which must be performed before evening under pain of punishment. The best work on which they can be employed is such as lies a little outside the town or station, and as can be set out for them by officers of the Public Works Department, who are accustomed to deal with large gangs, and to require a fair tale of work. Two useful works of this kind were started in 1881. All the surplus prisoners of the Tezpur Jail, about 50 or 60 in number, were employed in embanking the new road from Tezpur to Bishnath: they were not hutted out, as the road starts from a point near the jail; but when they have reached a distance too great to go to and return from every day, it will be necessary to do this. The other, and much more important, undertaking was the utilisation of the Sylhet prisoners for work on the road from Shillong to Cherra Puji. Here, at a well-chosen spot, within three miles of which there is work enough in road and rock-cutting to employ them for 18 months, about 300 prisoners have been hutted out, and the experiment has thus far been quite successful. The work is hard and punitive, and now that the prisoners have become skilful at it their labour is valuable, the Executive-Engineer having reported that up to the 31st March 1881 it has been worth 5 to 8 annas a day at the same rate at which Khási coolies are paid. Their health has been remarkably good, and, though the Kálapáni Jail, as it is called, is not 40 miles from Sylhet, the convicts are practically in a foreign country, of which they cannot speak the language, and thus the opportunities of obtaining illicit supplies, which are among the chief drawbacks to extramural labour, are minimised.

134. The average number of prisoners employed on productive labour (except prison officials and servants) was 1,054, the average value of their labour was Rs. 52-2 per annum.

Remunerativeness of employment.

135. The following table gives the receipts for labour of all classes, distinguishing whether they are made in cash, or by book transfer, or are estimated only:—

Kind of labour.	Average number employed.	Payment of labour. Rs.	Payment per head. Rs.	Cash or paper.
Garden	120-43	5,608	46-8	Estimate.
Repairs under Jail officers	61-94	3,697	59-11	Ditto.
Repairs and construction under Public Works Department	404-49	17,433	43-2	Book transfer.
Public Works under Local Boards and Public Works Department	232-3	{ 19,683 } { 3,442 }	56-8	{ Cash, Local Boards. Book transfer, P. W. D.
Manufactures	234-51	15,088	62-3	Partly cash, partly estimate.
Total.....	1,053-60	54,951	52-2	

136. According to the estimate framed by the department, the profits of manufactures were greatest and those from labour spent on jail repairs were lowest: but these estimates are at best only approximations to the truth. The return from garden labour is next lowest, the average value of a convict hired out to work in the jail garden being estimated at only Rs. 46-8. It certainly ought to be higher, but the Chief Commissioner has noticed on more than one occasion that the jail gardens are not as well worked and as thoroughly utilised as they ought to be. A jail should never have to buy vegetables, as many jails now do. Some of these gardens are of considerable area, and are cultivated with rice, as well as vegetables, and in two cases tea has been planted in them. The convicts do the hoeing and plucking, and the green leaf is sold to a tea-planter for manufacture. These gardens might be utilised for the collection of valuable agricultural statistics. It appears from notes made during inspection that the Silchar Jail turned out 10 maunds of rice per acre, on an area of 2 acres 25 poles; Tezpur raised 12 maunds per acre on 16 acres; the Mangaldai rate was 7 maunds on $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; many other jails have cultivated rice, oil-seeds, and other crops of a general character, and in all such cases the area sown should be carefully measured and the produce recorded. The chief branches of manufacture are basket-making, weaving cotton cloth, husking paddy, oil-pressing, and baking, and of these baking is by far the most remunerative.

137. The vital statistics are encouraging: the number of deaths was 63, and the ratio per mille 43·1, lower figures than those of any of the four preceding years; and the superiority over last year is all the more marked, because, of the 63 deaths in 1881, 12 were due to cholera, which disease carried off only one prisoner in 1880. There are still, however, two jails in which the death-rate is unduly high. In Gauháti, which has long had an unenviable precedence, there were 34 deaths, against 32 in 1880, and the ratio in both years was just over 11 per cent. But even in the Gauháti Jail there are prospects of improvement: of the 34 deaths, 10 were due to cholera, leaving only 24 deaths from ordinary preventible diseases to compare with the 32 of 1880. When the Chief Commissioner inspected the jail in October 1881, he remarked on the presence of a large number of weakly and emaciated men, and of a large convalescent gang: and he directed that an extra meal of grain and molasses (which had been administered with good results at Sylhet) should be tried here. The effect of this, even by the end of the year, when he again inspected the jail, was very remarkable: the convalescent gang had shrunk to a quarter of its former numbers, and the general tone had greatly improved. This improvement, it may be added here, has been fully maintained this year; there were only 7 deaths during the first six months of 1882, and there is reason to hope that, with the greater attention paid to the diet, and with the completion of the new raised sleeping barracks, the unhealthiness of the jail will pass away.

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138. The Dibrugarh Jail is another in which the mortality is higher than it should be, being 115 per mille, but it is much better than in 1880, when it was 215 per mille. There were 6 deaths in 1880, and 5 deaths (out of a much larger population) in 1881: 4 of these were from dysentery. There appears to be some cause of unhealthiness about this jail which the situation and the buildings cannot account for: and when it was last visited by the Chief Commissioner (in April), he thought the appearance and physique of the prisoners below par, and ordered that the extra meal which had been successful in Gauhati should be tried here. The attention of the Inspector-General and the local officers has been specially directed to the necessity of endeavouring to decrease the death-rate at this jail.

139. Putting these two exceptional cases aside, the general healthiness of the other Assam jails is highly satisfactory. Only 24 deaths occurred in all of them, among an average population of 1,054, or less than 23 per mille. In the large jail of Tezpur, which presents a remarkable show of abnormally healthy prisoners; only 2 persons died, both of whom were admitted in a moribund state; and in Sylhet, with an average population of over 600, there were but 9 deaths, the ratio of mortality being below 16 per mille. In five jails there were no deaths at all. The figures given in the report by the Inspector-General show that in the four chief jails 772 prisoners increased in weight, against 403 who decreased. The crucial test of weightment is now being applied periodically in almost every prison, but there has been some delay in procuring weighing-machines for the smaller lock-ups, which was chiefly due to an unsuccessful attempt to make them up on a new pattern at the Gauhati workshop.

140. The following table compares the account of the past two years, as furnished by the department, item by item:—

	1881.	1882.
	Rs.	Rs.
Supervision.....	3,000	3,000
Establishment	17,821	20,002
Rations	46,002	42,882
Police guard	27,263	24,412
Hospital charges	1,854	1,759
Clothing	4,308	9,528
Contingencies.....	6,871	6,935
Ordinary repairs.....	5,403	12,076
Total	1,12,522	1,20,594

141. The cost of rations has fallen, in spite of the slight increase in the average number of prisoners, and the cost per head was Rs. 29-10-3 in 1881, against Rs. 32-2-4 in 1880. Clothing, on the other hand, has

risen; but this the Inspector-General explains to be due to some extraordinary freak in the accounts, by which the value of supplies of blanket clothing drawn from the Bhagalpur Jail, which is rightly included now among the clothing expenditure, was altogether omitted before. It is the existence of irregularities of this kind which makes all criticism insecure, and till the system of account-keeping is properly understood and strictly enforced, it is impossible to draw conclusions from a comparison of the figures of one year with another. An instance of this difficulty may be given from the ration accounts. *Prima facie*, the cost of rations ought to depend directly on the market price of food, and ought to vary little in the same or in adjoining districts, and if of two neighbouring jails one is much more expensive than another, it ought to be a safe conclusion that the cheaper jail is the better managed of the two. The difference may however, be only due to a clumsy and erroneous way of keeping the accounts. Thus, while at Jorhát the average cost of rations was Rs. 32-11-8, at Golághát it was Rs. 57-14-3. But it is not safe to jump to the conclusion that the management at Golághát is extravagant: it may have been so, but one cause for the discrepancy was that a bill for supplies which were provided in 1880 was not paid till 1881.

142. The financial results of the working of the jails in the Province is exhibited in the following table:—

	Rs.
Drawn from treasury for maintenance according to Comptroller's account	68,673
Ditto ditto for manufactures ditto ...	21,580
Deduct paid into treasury	34,527
Net cost of maintenance	55,720
Cost of construction and repairs (cash outlay according to Deputy-Examiner's accounts)	71,444
Net cost, in cash, of Jail Department	1,27,160
Average cost per head of prisoners	87

143. The Chief Commissioner visited all the jails in the Province during the past year, some of them more than once, and has in all cases recorded the remarks and suggestion to which his inspection gave rise. He is well satisfied with the general care and judgment with which they are managed.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

144. The following details exhibit the most important points connected with the administration of civil justice in Assam during the year 1881, in comparison with those of the previous year. Figures are also added to show similar statistics for Bengal and for the North-

Western Provinces in 1881. The proportion of cases to population has been based on the Census of 1881 :—

	Assam.		Bengal, 1881.	N.-W. Provinces, 1881.
	1881.	1880.		
Number of cases instituted	22,549	21,448	383,229	86,178
Proportion of cases instituted to population	1 in 198	1 in 209	1 in 169	1 in 360
Number of cases disposed of	23,005	22,081	390,292	87,115
" contested	27 per cent.	30 per cent.	26 per cent.	31 per cent.
" decided in plaintiff's favour..	61	56	64	.....
" defendant's "	29	33	23	.....
" compromised	10	11	13	.....
Value of suits instituted	Rs. 50,24,206	Rs. 16,60,949	Rs. 4,63,67,480	Rs. 2,20,86,998
Average value of each suit ..	219	77	120	256
Number of suits not exceeding Rs. 50 in value	65 per cent.	66 per cent.	70 per cent.	52 per cent.
Number of suits not exceeding Rs. 100 in value	84	85	89	73
Average duration of ordinary cases before munsifs—				
In uncontested cases.....	39 days	40 days	56 days	25 days
Contested cases	75	78	120	56
Number of suits pending more than one year	3	6	223	.....
Number of appeals filed ...	1,150	1,065	19,653	.....
Percentage of appeals to appealable orders	27.2	23.9	25.20	.....
Number of appeals disposed of	1,180	1,156	18,579	8,946
Number of appeals in which decision of lower court was upheld	759	792	11,003	5,421
Percentage ditto	66	69	59	61

145. The variation in the number of suits is not considerable. The increase in institutions is distributed over six of the eight districts reported on, while in two there was a decrease; but in no case is the difference one that calls for explanation. There was, however, an immense increase in the value of suits instituted, from Rs. 16,60,949 to Rs. 50,24,206. The table in the margin shows the figures for each district. The most remarkable differences are in Kámrúp and Cachar: these are explained in the former district by the institution in the Court of the Assam Valley Districts Judge of five contested cases, valued at Rs. 26,60,000, three of which were connected with a single estate belonging to a zemindár in Goálpára, and in Cachar by the institution of one case valued at more than three lakhs.

146. Among the munsifs the largest amount of work fell as usual upon those employed in Sylhet. For, while 12 munsifs' courts in the Assam Valley disposed of 8,723 suits, or 727 apiece, the 9 munsifs in Sylhet disposed of 11,731, or 1,303 apiece. The High Court's Statement P4 is not, however, well adapted to show a real comparison between the work of each separate officer. There are

12 head-quarter and sub-divisional stations in the Assam Valley, and 5 in Sylhet, but, while particulars are given of the 9 munsifs holding courts at the five stations in Sylhet, none are given of the different munsifs in the Assam Valley, where the actual number of officers of the munsif class trying civil cases was 18. Comparing one court with another, the largest share of work fell to the Nowgong munsif, Babu Gunábhírám Sarma Barua, who, besides trying 72 criminal cases, disposed of 1,873 civil suits, 897 of which were contested. Next to him came the second Habiganj munsif, and the second sadr Sylhet munsif, who disposed of 1,718 and 1,700 cases respectively, 385 and 416 being contested.

There is a decided difference between the two valleys in the extent to which cases are contested. In the Assam Valley, out of 8,723 cases, 2,961 were contested, or 34 per cent.; in the Surma Valley, out of 13,560 cases, only 3,242, or 24 per cent., were contested.

147. It is satisfactory to observe that, although the number of suits instituted has increased by 1,101, the number pending at the close of the year is less by 115 than the number pending at the close of 1880. The district that comes out most favourably in this light is Sylhet, where the pending files were reduced from 1,861 at the close of the previous year to 1,638 at the close of 1881. On the other hand, Sibságar shows an increase of 165 on its pending file. Again, in the Provincial appellate courts the number of appeals instituted increased from 1,065 in 1880 to 1,150 in 1881, and the appeals pending have decreased from 347 to 335; but while the Sub-Judge of Sylhet disposed of 494 appeals this year, against 426 in 1880, the Sub-Judges in the Assam Valley disposed of only 252 appeals in 1881, against 313 in 1880, and their pending files have accumulated from 40 to 92. This increase in arrears extends to the Court of every Subordinate Judge in the Assam Valley except Lakhimpur, and in the Judge's Court the number has risen from 29 to 48.

148. The number of appeals preferred to the High Court and disposed of by them is shown in the following table :—

	1880.	1881.
Pending from previous year	121	219
Filed	153	106
Total for disposal	274	325
Disposed of	55	89
Pending	219	236

Of the 89 appeals disposed of, in 68, or 76 per cent., the decisions of the lower courts were confirmed, and in only 8, or 9 per cent., were they reversed or modified.

149. The proportion borne by the sums realised in execution of decrees to the value of the sums in litigation was smaller than in the previous year. The number of suits decided in plaintiff's favour was 13,990. In 13,273 cases application was made for the execution of decrees, including those pending from the previous year. The number of cases in which satisfaction was obtained in full or in part was 4,365, and of those in which no satisfaction was obtained 6,966, which gives a proportion of 39 to 61. Last year the proportion was 44 to 56. The

amount realised was Rs. 3,44,704, or 6·8 per cent. of the amount litigated; last year the amount realised was Rs. 3,33,459, or 20 per cent. of the value litigated. It is interesting to compare with these figures the statistics of neighbouring Provinces. In Bengal in 1879 the number of cases in which satisfaction was wholly or partially obtained for the decrees of the mufassal courts was 133,540, and the number in which no satisfaction was obtained 113,885, giving a proportion of 54 to 46. In 1880 the proportion was 132,916 to 132,583, or almost exactly 50 to 50; and in 1881 it was 113,394 to 144,303 or 44 to 56. In the North-Western Provinces the results are rather better, for in 1879 the proportion of cases in which the decree was wholly or partially satisfied to those in which it completely failed was 63 to 37, and in 1880 it was 57 to 43.

150. With regard to the execution of decrees by imprisonment of the judgment debtor, a subject which has lately been engaging the attention of the Government of India, it is satisfactory to observe that only 147 such cases occurred in which the judgment debtors were actually imprisoned. In 612 other cases they were arrested, but released without imprisonment.

The jail returns, however, show that 249 persons were imprisoned for debt in 1881, against 231 in 1880.

151. The financial results of the working of the Civil Courts continue to exhibit a surplus of receipts over expenditure. This surplus in 1881 amounted to Rs. 1,02,068. In 1880 it stood at Rs. 72,048, in 1879 at Rs. 89,988, and in 1878 at Rs. 2,795. This increase has been partly due to the larger sums involved in litigation, and partly also to the apparent reduction in expenditure effected since 1878. In that year the cost of the Civil Courts was shown as Rs. 2,90,315. In 1881 it is shown as Rs. 2,34,614, but as there has been no material reduction of expenditure, but an increase of several courts and officers since 1878, it is probable that a different system of calculating cost has been adopted. The transfer of part of the cost of the Court of the Judge, Assam Valley Districts (now Commissioner and Judge), from Judicial to Administration, will account for a portion of the decrease, but not for all. It seems remarkable at first sight that while the value of suits increased from Rs. 16,60,949 in 1880 to Rs. 50,24,206 in 1881, the amount of court-fees realised otherwise than as process-fees rose only from Rs. 1,91,915 to Rs. 2,19,668, since these are mainly composed of institution-fees. But the discrepancy is explained by the fact that institution-fees, though they rise with the value of the suit, do not vary directly with that value. To take an example from Cachar, the value of suits instituted in that district in 1880 amounted to Rs. 1,02,882, and brought in as court-fees (other than process-fees) the sum of Rs. 13,490. In 1881 the value of suits rose to Rs. 4,59,552, but the institution-fees only rose to Rs. 20,235. The greater part of the increase was accounted for by the suit already mentioned, which was valued at more than three lakhs, but this would only bring in Rs. 2,450 as institution-fees, or only a third of the increase which actually took place.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

152. The number of documents registered during the year was 12,163, on which a sum of Rs. 25,135 was paid, and an expenditure of Rs. 16,620 was incurred, leaving a surplus of Rs. 8,515. The number registered was less than in any year since 1876-77; the receipts and the surplus were less than either of the two years preceding 1881-82. Comparing the figures of 1881-82 and 1880-81, the decrease was greatest in compulsory registration, where it amounted to 16·2 per cent.; in optional registrations affecting real property it amounted to 11·5 per cent.; in other registrations to 7·6 per cent. There was therefore a falling back all along the line.

153. A falling off is observed in every district except three, where there was an inconsiderable increase. By far the greatest amount of registration is effected in the Surmá Valley, where 9,471 deeds were registered, the Assam Valley producing only 2,647; the decrease was 14 per cent. in the former and 10 per cent. in the latter valley. In Cachar, the district where registration is most practised, the decrease was as much as 25 per cent. The reason alleged in the Surmá Valley is the cheapness of rice and the consequent lack of money among the people, which led to a general cessation in all transactions of sale and mortgage. In other Provinces in India the necessity of paying the land revenue would have counteracted this effect of low prices; but here, fortunately for the people, the land revenue is so light and the general prosperity so widespread that even with rice at 1 rupee a maund no one had to sell or mortgage in order to pay. A subsidiary reason may be found in the operations of the Settlement Department in Cachar and parts of Sylhet, by means of which at the time of the preparation of the record of rights all mutations are registered gratis. In the Assam Valley no very intelligible cause is alleged for the falling off, but when the conditions under which landed property is held in that valley are considered, it would be rather a matter for surprise if many registrations were effected. The vast majority of the tenures are on annual *pattas*, which are, technically speaking, not a transferable property, and which are recorded afresh every year. The longer leases are extremely few in number: in consequence of the depression of the tea industry very few waste land leases were applied for and granted during the year. A considerable portion of the registration work done in the Assam Valley consists of the registering of contracts made with officers of the Public Works Department, of leases to the purchasers of Government monopolies of opium and of elephant-catching, or of security bonds filed by Government servants entrusted with the keeping of public money.

154. There were 211 perpetual leases registered in 1880-81 and 144 in 1881-82. Most of these were in Cachar and Sylhet: in the latter district a case is mentioned, in the Sunámganj sub-division, where a *patni* lease was sublet to a "darpatnidár," who again divided it among several "se-patnidárs." In Goálpára perpetual leases are given by the large zemindárs, and in Kámrúp by the lá-khirájdárs of Hájo and elsewhere.

155. The average time taken to register a deed varied from two days at six offices to twelve days at one, Habiganj. At this place

1,748 deeds were registered during the year, a number only exceeded by Sylhet; but as at Rajnagar 1,338 and at Silchar 1,042 deeds were disposed of in an average period of two days, there can be no justification for such a long detention of the deeds at Habiganj as twelve days. Similarly, the light work in Assam Valley offices ought to be followed by still greater despatch. Mangaldai, for instance, with only 52 deeds to register, ought not to have taken three days apiece over them. The delay in Barpeta, where 98 cases occupied eight days apiece, is especially remarkable.

156. There has been some reduction in the departmental expenditure, which the Chief Commissioner observes with pleasure, but there are still some offices which show a deficit:—

	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Deficit.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Hailákándi	700	11	0	833	2	5	132	7	5
Dhubri.....	479	0	0	594	7	10	115	7	10
Goálpára	281	3	0	399	12	6	118	9	6
Barpeta	161	12	0	192	3	8	31	7	8
Tezpur	169	12	0	468	2	0	298	6	0
Mangaldai	142	12	0	209	11	10	66	15	10
Sibságar	464	8	0	571	4	0	106	12	0

The Chief Commissioner has given orders that, if the expenditure on establishment has been reduced to a minimum, and the deficit is not stopped, the Sub-Registrars' commission must be withheld till the receipts cover the outgoings.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPALITIES.

157. There were nine Municipalities in the Province, against seven in the previous year. From the 1st October 1881 the towns of Jorhát and Golághát were formed into Unions under Chapter, III. of Act V. (B.C.) of 1876.

158. The income of the nine Municipalities, excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 92,768-13-1, against Rs. 94,181-6-1 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,412-9, as detailed below:—

	1880-81.			1881-82.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Tax on houses	22,132	11	11	21,038	8	7	.....	.....	.....	1,094	3	4
Wheel-tax, &c.	652	12	0	682	0	0	29	4	0	.....	.....	.....
Tax on animals	643	12	6	624	12	6	.....	.....	.....	19	0	0
Tolls and ferries	23,386	6	3	21,780	9	11	.....	.....	.....	1,605	12	4
Chaukidári tax	2,051	8	3	2,280	2	0	228	9	9	.....	.....	.....
Total income from taxation	48,867	2	11	46,406	1	0	257	13	9	2,718	15	8
Rent of houses.....	10,930	5	9	10,058	15	6	.....	.....	.....	871	6	3
Fines	542	2	3	357	13	0	.....	.....	.....	184	5	3
Miscellaneous	15,427	11	3	17,988	3	2	2,560	7	11	.....	.....	.....
Payments for Municipal services rendered to individuals ...	1,413	15	11	1,157	12	5	.....	.....	.....	256	3	6
Grant-in-aid from Provincial Services.....	17,000	0	0	16,800	0	0	.....	.....	.....	200	0	0
Total	94,181	6	1	92,768	13	1	2,818	5	8	4,230	14	8

The decrease in income is, it will be seen, common to all the heads of receipt except wheel-tax and chaukidári-tax, each of which shows a small increase,—the latter in consequence of the new taxation imposed in the recently-constituted Unions at Jorhát and Golághát. The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" will be accounted for in dealing with each Municipality in turn. The total sum at the disposal of the Municipal authorities, including the unexpended balance of the previous year, was Rs. 1,06,530-11-11, as compared with Rs. 1,10,841-7-2 in the previous financial year. There was a net decrease under taxation proper of Rs. 2,461-1-11, and under other heads of receipt an increase of Rs. 1,048-8-11.

159. The receipts from taxation include the income of the year under the heads (1) "Tax on houses and lands," (2) "Wheel-tax," (3) "Tax on animals," (4) "Tolls and ferries," and (5) "Chaukidári tax." The incidence of taxation per head of population, according to the Census of 1881, is shown in the following table:—

Name of Municipality.	Population according to Census of 1881.	Total income from taxation.		Incidence of taxation per head of population.							
		1880-81.		1881-82.		1880-81.			1881-82.		
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.		
Goálpára.....	6,697	3,752	3,074	0	8	11	0	7	4		
Gauháti	11,695	13,420	12,927	1	2	4	1	1	8		
Dibrugarh	7,153	3,167	2,841	0	7	1	0	6	4		
Sibságar Station ..	5,868	1,178	1,060	0	3	2	0	2	10		
Jorhát	1,978	.....	501	.....	.....	.....	0	4	0
Golághát.....	1,754	.....	177	.....	.....	.....	0	1	7
Sylhet	14,281	17,876	16,806	1	4	0	1	2	9		
Silchar.....	6,869	5,870	5,409	0	13	8	0	12	7		
Shillong	2,149	3,604	3,610	1	10	10	1	10	10		

160. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 89,123-5-11, against Rs. 94,905-0-2 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 5,781-10-3.

In the following statement the expenditure under different heads during the last two years is exhibited:—

	1881-82.			1880-81.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Head Office establishment	5,511	13	5	5,007	0	2
Collection charges	13,571	3	4	14,517	13	6
Conservancy and cleansing	14,926	4	8	17,068	13	11
Police	11,280	14	6	11,765	4	3
Registration of births and deaths	305	11	10	275	0	0
Construction and maintenance of roads.....	22,845	15	5	21,945	1	8
Watering roads	173	13	3	164	4	8
Drainage works.....	7,114	3	7	5,948	9	10
Water-supply.....	2,935	13	2	1,170	2	6
Buildings	2,498	10	1	1,602	14	4
Other public works	531	10	3	473	3	3
Sanitary and charitable establishments ...	1,297	6	1	1,114	12	6
Education	375	0	0	240	0	0
Miscellaneous.....	3,501	2	5	4,502	2	9
Repayments of debt	2,253	11	11	9,109	12	10
Total	89,123	5	11	94,905	0	2

161. The total balance to the credit of Municipalities on the 1st April 1882 was Rs. 19,661-1-10, The debt of the Dibrugarh Municipality, amounting to Rs. 2,113-10-5, to Government was cleared off, and it has now a surplus balance of Rs. 1,769-7-6 at its credit, and the deficit balance, Rs. 4,116-3-7, of the Silchar Union (now a Station) was reduced to Rs. 2,177-12-4.

162. As in last year's report, the Chief Commissioner is unable to record any striking instance of progress, nor have any large or important Municipal works been undertaken. Since the close of the year, however, a project for the introduction of an improved water-supply into the Station of Shillong has received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner. Three Unions have been opened in the district of Sylhet, and the rate-payers of the Town of Sylhet have taken steps to procure for themselves the means of choosing their own representatives. As much gradual improvement as can be expected, looking to the circumstances and income of the small Municipalities of this Province, has been effected in most cases. The Municipalities and Stations have now been relieved of the cost of maintaining their police, and exhorted to devote the amount (Rs. 11,280) thus set free to works of sanitation and to opening schools. It will be found from the report of the current year that this concession has been for the most part judiciously taken advantage of by the local bodies.

SECTION 9.—MILITARY.

163. In October 1881, the wing of the 10th N. I. which had been stationed at Shillong, was transferred to Benares and was not replaced. The military force at the head-quarters of the Province has since their departure consisted solely of the 44th Regiment N. I. The 34th N. I., which was stationed at Cachar, was relieved on 14th September by the 12th Khelát-i-Ghilzai Regiment.

164. In November 1881 His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief made a tour through the military districts, and, being much impressed with the defective state of the communications between Golághát and Kohima, urged upon Government the great importance of improving the road. Steps were accordingly taken by the Public Works Department to make a practicable cart-road between Golághát and Nichu Guard, and the head-quarters wing of the 23rd Pioneers under Colonel Collett and No. 6 Company of Sappers under Lieutenant Stafford, were detailed to carry out the work between Nichu Guard and Kohima, assisted by working parties from the 42nd Regiment N. I. stationed at Kohima and along the road, and by such Nága labour as was procurable for jungle cutting. The whole of the latter line of road, which has since been opened as a mule road was placed under the supervision of Captain Yorke, Royal Engineers, who was especially deputed for the purpose, and to whose energy, zeal, and tact in the performance of his duties much of the successful result is due. In the end of March, at the conclusion of the working season, the Pioneers and Sappers were withdrawn and returned to their respective stations in the North-West Provinces.

165. The station and defences of Kohima were also brought under the consideration of His Excellency, and plans and estimates for a fort and new regimental and transport lines, including houses for officers, have been prepared.

166. The attitude of the Abors gave rise to apprehensions of disturbances on our north-eastern frontier. They threatened, it was reported, to cross the Dibong and to settle on land claimed by the Mishmis. The latter have of late years shown themselves well-disposed to the British Government, and, as it was known that a long-standing enmity existed between them and the Abors, it was felt that such a movement as was contemplated by the Abors would probably give rise to open hostility between the two tribes, and would certainly interfere with the friendly intercourse that had been going on between the Mishmis and our own subjects. Accordingly, with the view of preventing such a contingency, a detachment of 6 Native Officers and 306 rank and file of the 43rd Native Infantry, under Major Beresford, marched from the Dibong outpost on the 13th November to erect and occupy stockades at Bomjur and Nizámghát, on the Dibong river. On the 16th November a position opposite the Bor Abor village of Bomjur was reached and a site selected for the stockade on the left bank of the river. The next day was spent by the detachment in clearing the site, and on the 18th the detachment proceeded on its march to Nizámghát, leaving a party of 150 rifles to occupy the position at Bomjur.

On the 19th the force reached Nizámghát, where they cleared a site and erected a stockade. All these proceedings were carried out, and without any opposition from the Abors, although large parties of them were visible at Bomjur watching our movements, and a deputation arrived at Nizámghát from Dambuk to ask the reason of our advance up the Dibong. The two outposts were subsequently garrisoned by a mixed force of police and military, the latter being drawn from a wing of the 37th N. I., which had arrived at Sadiya in November from Dacca, in order to reinforce the troops on the frontier. The original advance had been made along the bed of the Dibong, but a more direct road to Sadiya was subsequently cleared and rendered practicable, leading from the Dikrung tower through the forest to Bomjur and Nizámghát.

As it was feared that, in consequence of these proceedings on our part, some disturbance might arise during the annual fair at Sadiya, which is held in February, a fourth detachment of 150 rifles, 43rd N. I., was sent forward from Dibrugarh, and their place supplied at the latter station by a detachment of 100 rifles, 44th N. I., despatched from Shillong in the beginning of January under command of Colonel Robertson. Fortunately, these apprehensions were not fulfilled, and the fair was held without interruption of any kind.

The Abors, apparently overawed by the force assembled on the frontier, and by the occupation of the above-mentioned posts, made no attempt at hostilities, and, the season having passed over without disturbance, the extra troops were withdrawn in March 1882; the detachment of the 44th N. I. also returned to Shillong.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

167. The rainfall in the two districts of the Surmá Valley was in excess of the preceding year, and was, generally speaking, well distributed and well suited to the wants of the agriculturists. The following table shows the rainfall at each sadr and sub-divisional station in the Province during the year under review as compared with the average rainfall of the preceding five years. It also shows the distribution of the rainfall during the most important months of the year:—

Principal Rain-gauge Stations.	Rainfall in inches.		Details showing distribution of rainfall from May to October 1881.					
	1881-82.	Average of the past five years.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Sylhet	187.16	162.29	18.46	26.54	22.44	32.49	37.20	4.96
Sunámganj	231.88	227.95 ^o	21.05	40.71	29.80	53.76	52.85	7.76
Karimganj	162.74	170.06 ^o	16.43	27.45	22.40	16.86	19.41	5.33
Habiganj	114.44	102.42 ^o	16.15	11.49	18.50	16.10	19.88	3.44
Silchar	136.49	120.17	10.74	17.40	12.08	19.89	17.38	3.74
Hailákándi	120.58	108.59	12.78	19.73	13.11	11.57	16.82	1.31
Dhubri	69.11	97.52	15.68	13.48	9.05	6.58	17.41	.53
Goálpára	94.79	100.38	12.16	19.21	10.41	9.10	15.19	2.21
Gaubáti	75.84	67.99	10.23	11.38	6.97	16.51	15.20	1.09
Barpeta	106.23	105.44	21.16	24.98	9.90	13.14	15.06	.39
Tezpur	101.07	76.48	15.53	16.36	20.44	18.72	13.45	1.52
Mangaldai	76.41	66.90	4.39	9.18	19.35	13.10	15.26	1.41
Nowgong	83.12	69.75	6.95	15.35	18.89	15.49	13.38	.61
Sibságar	100.16	92.85	12.62	16.18	16.22	11.45	17.91	2.64
Jorhát	95.89	70.90	.....	13.63	10.48	20.26	16.49	.....
Golághát	96.40	77.15	8.14	13.57	15.09	12.48	13.81	.....
Dibrugarh	120.91	110.70	13.58	15.53	12.55	19.48	27.61	7.36
North Lakhimpur.	121.18	132.58	8.75	19.85	11.45	23.75	20.82	6.34
Shillong	87.19	97.41	17.57	10.98	8.15	16.92	19.39	5.19
Jowai	320.40	362.23	46.94	65.08	38.31	47.31	59.98	20.95
Cherra Punji	388.81	475.88	53.15	72.08	66.25	78.53	71.04	3.16
Tura	99.73	136.16	19.76	19.02	17.41	17.31	17.32	3.40
Kohima	86.25	84.61 ^o	9.37	10.82	19.35	19.00	13.78	3.06

^o Represents the average of the previous two years, as there are no figures available for 1876-77, 1877-78 and 1878-79.

The unusual rainfall in September 1881 did more or less injury to the mustard and pulse crops in all districts of the Brahmaputra Valley. It also affected the land revenue demand of the year, especially in the districts of Goálpára, Kámráp, and Nowgong, where, in consequence of the late rains, less land than usual was taken up for mustard cultivation. In the districts of the Gáro and the Nága Hills the rains were seasonable and well distributed and the outturn of crops was satisfactory. The rainfall in the Khási and Jaintia Hills was, however, less, than usual, but did not much affect the crops, which were up to the average. The effects of the rainfall on the harvests in each of the plains districts is given below:—

Cachar.—The crops, were up to or above the average, except the mustard crop, which was a general failure throughout the district, owing to the want of manure caused by the prevalence of the cattle-disease. The outturn of tea and other crops was good on the whole.

Sylhet.—The early and late rice crops, which are the main harvests of the country, were very good. Tea and sugarcane turned out well; only linseed was poor.

Goálpára.—The outturn of *Ahu* and of early and late *Sali* was satisfactory. Mustard was below the average of former years. Jute was partially damaged by insects in pargana Ghurla, but the outturn on the whole was fair. The outturn of cotton and sugarcane was also good.

Kámráp.—Excepting an inconsiderable part of the district, where the paddy crop suffered from inundation, the yield of rice was plentiful almost everywhere. Owing to the heavy rain which fell in September and the want of rain in the cold weather, the area brought under almost and pulse was much smaller and the outturn of these crops was much below the average.

Darrang.—The *sáli* rice crop of this district was an average one, though not so good as in the previous year. In the Mangaldai subdivision the floods of the Brahmaputra, Monai, and Kulsí rivers did extensive damage to, and in some mauzas destroyed entirely, the *sáli* crop. The *áhu* crop of the district was also an average one. The sugarcane crop was excellent and its cultivation is extending. *Mati-kalai* was not a successful crop, owing to there having been excessive rain at the time of seed-sowing; mustard was also a failure for want of rain during the cold weather.

Nowgong.—The unusual rain in April and the floods in June caused considerable damage to the *áhu* rice crop, the outturn of which was not much more than three-fourths of an average yield. The late rice crops (*sáli* and *báo*) were good on the whole, though some damage was done to the crops on low lands by floods. Mustard, pulses, and *tíl* were also affected by the September floods and rains. Sugarcane did well.

Sibságar.—The rice crop of this district was unusually heavy on high lands, some of the *áhu* crop, however, suffered from the rising of the Brahmaputra. The distribution of the rain was most beneficial for the late rice crop, the outturn of which was above the average. The Deputy-Commissioner reports that the cultivation of sugarcane has extended in the sub-division of Golághát.

Lakhimpur.—The outturn of crops in the sadr sub-division of this district was generally good, but the rice crop near Dingjan was seriously damaged by the rain of September. In North Lakhimpur both the *sáli* and *áhu* crops were good, but in several places, chiefly near the Subansiri, the *sáli* crop suffered by the floods in August and September. The *matikalai* and mustard crops were injured by the late floods in September, which prevented the seed being sown in proper time; the *matikalai* was generally a failure, and the mustard crop was not a good one.

168. The general health of the public both in Sylhet and Cachar was unusually good and the death-rate light. With regard to the Brahmaputra Valley as a whole, no such favourable report can be made, and serious mortality occurred in the districts of Kám-rúp, Nowgong, and Sibságar. In Kám-rúp cholera carried off large numbers, 1,719 deaths having occurred from this cause alone, against 320 in 1880. The disease first appeared in April, increased in May, and reached its maximum intensity in June. In October it re-appeared and disappeared again in December. The Civil Surgeon of Gauhati attributes the cause of the disease, which broke out as usual with the first heavy showers after a long continued period of drought, to the use of impure water of tanks. In Nowgong cholera and small-pox lingered throughout the year, although they did not break out in an epidemic form. In Sibságar small-pox was unusually prevalent throughout the year, and cholera from August to December 1881. In September cholera in an epidemic form appeared in certain villages in the Majuli.

The Civil Surgeon and the Assistant-Commissioner of Jorhát proceeded to the affected villages and reported that there had been 263 cases and 161 deaths. No satisfactory evidence as regards the origin of the disease could be obtained. The disease afterwards appeared in the sub-division of Jorhát, on the south side of the Brahmaputra. This outbreak, the Deputy-Commissioner says, was clearly traced to a villager having gone over to the Majuli to sell paddy. Medicines were freely distributed among the villagers wherever cholera broke out; but, as the Deputy-Commissioner observes, where the people are so ignorant of the most simple rules of sanitation, and where free communication is kept up with an infected locality, it is no wonder that the disease spreads with rapidity. In the hill districts the health of the public was generally good. In the Gáro Hills, however, there was an epidemic of small-pox, which carried off 158 people. The history of this outbreak

presents remarkable conclusions as to the security afforded by inoculation and vaccination. A Hospital-Assistant was deputed to the spot, and these are the statistics he compiled:—In 11 villages 142 houses were attacked, containing 1,111 persons; of these, he found that 467 had been inoculated, 572 vaccinated, and 72 were not protected. Of the 1,111 persons, 362 were attacked with the disease; 25 out of the inoculated, 314 out of the vaccinated, and 33 out of the unprotected. Of these 362, 96 died, or nearly 25 per cent., of whom 7 had been inoculated, 79 vaccinated, and 10 were unprotected. Thus, while of the persons attacked by the disease the proportions of those who died were nearly the same whether they had been inoculated, vaccinated, or unprotected, the proportion of the inoculated who escaped attack was far greater than among the vaccinated, and, indeed the latter fared even worse than those totally unprotected. Such statistics, however, cannot be fully accepted, unless they are based on the investigations of a more credible and competent officer than a Hospital-Assistant, and and it is *à priori* very improbable than in any average area in the Gáro Hills so large a number of the population should have been vaccinated. But they deserve further enquiry, since, even if only partially true, they go far to explain the distrust popularly felt in vaccination as a prophylactic. At any rate, it would be impossible, in the face of such a report, to take any active steps towards putting down the practice of inoculation.

169. The material condition of the people continues to be prosperous.

Condition of the people.

The Commissioner of the Assam Valley reports that "there is no doubt that the mass of the people are perfectly happy and contented." This can be predicated with even greater emphasis of the districts in the Surmá Valley, where food is abundant, taxation extremely light, and the demand for labour great. On this subject, Major Peet, the Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur, makes the following remarks:—

"The middle class of people, who live on fixed pay, and pay which was estimated as barely sufficient in other and cheaper districts, are very hard pressed. This is a crying grievance, which cannot be much longer overlooked. It is believed that the Amiahs of the Government offices here are nearly all in debt. On the other hand, the cultivators can get such high prices for their crops, bamboos, &c., that they are extremely well off, and the demand for manual labour in the railway works is so great that the commonest coolie gets from Rs. 12 to Rs. 16 a month. Skilled labourers, such as carpenters and blacksmiths, now earn from one rupee a day up to almost any figure for a really good man. Domestic servants are not procurable even on very high pay. In fact, with the exception of salaried officials, who do not share in the increasing prosperity of the country, but, on the contrary, suffer in proportion as trade increases, the district may be considered in a very flourishing condition."

170. On a reference to Table F (No. 64) in the Appendix it will be

Prices of food and labour.

seen that, as compared with the previous years, the prices of food-grains and other articles have decreased during the year. The following table shows the price of

common rice in each district, as reported in the prices current for the last week in each month of the years 1880-81 and 1881-82:—

Districts.	April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.													
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.												
	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.												
Sylhet	14	0	28	0	17	8	24	8	15	12	31	8	19	4	31	8	20	0	35	0	21	0	35	0
Cachar	14	8	20	0	14	8	22	12	17	12	24	10	16	0	24	10	22	12	29	0	22	12	21	5
Goalpara	16	0	17	12	18	0	20	0	16	0	21	5	16	0	18	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
Kamrup	16	0	22	0	13	0	22	0	15	0	20	0	18	0	15	0	16	0	20	0	16	0	17	0
Darrang	11	8	16	0	11	8	12	8	12	8	16	0	12	8	16	0	12	8	14	0	12	8	16	0
Nowgong	12	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	13	0	14	0	13	0	16	0
Sibsagar	14	0	12	0	14	0	12	0	14	0	14	0	12	0	14	0	12	0	14	0	14	0	14	0
Lakhimpur	10	0	14	0	10	0	16	0	10	0	16	0	10	0	16	0	13	0	16	0	13	0	16	0

Districts.	October.		November.		December.		January.		February.		March.															
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1880-81.	1880-81.	1881-82.														
	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.														
Sylhet	21	0	35	0	21	0	35	0	28	0	35	0	28	0	35	0	28	0	28	0	35	0	28	0	35	0
Cachar	26	10	24	10	17	12	26	10	20	0	21	5	27	14	29	0	26	10	25	10	20	0	22	13		
Goalpara	20	0	16	0	17	10	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0		
Kamrup	16	0	20	0	16	0	19	0	16	0	19	0	16	0	20	0	22	0	22	0	22	0	20	0		
Darrang	12	8	16	0	13	0	16	0	13	0	16	0	13	0	16	0	11	8	16	0	11	8	16	0		
Nowgong	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0		
Sibsagar	14	0	16	0	16	0	18	0	16	0	18	0	14	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0	16	0		
Lakhimpur	13	0	13	0	13	0	15	0	13	0	16	0	13	0	14	0	14	0	16	0	14	0	16	0		

It will be seen from the above statement, that in Sylhet and Cachar the prices fell considerably during the year, while in the other districts there was also a relatively large decrease. In the interior of the Sylhet and Cachar districts it is reported that a maund of rice could hardly be exchanged for a rupee. One result of this cheapness was that it was less difficult than usual to obtain labour for Government purposes in Sylhet: such work was still unpopular, but the people felt that there was something to be said in its favour when the price of one day's labour could procure twenty days' food.

In the Brahmaputra Valley prices generally ruled rather lower than in the year before. Common rice, which is the best test to take, sold at from 22 to 19 seers per rupee at Dhubri and Gauhati, 15 to 16 seers per rupee at Tezpur and Nowgong, 14 to 17 seers in Sibsaagar, and 14 to 16 seers in Dibrugarh. The difference between the prices in the upper and lower districts of the valley is pretty clearly marked, but there was very little difference, and less than might have been expected, between Tezpur and Dibrugarh. Salt fell a little in the month of March, but the entire effect of the reduction in the customs duty was not felt till the year 1882-83 had begun.

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL.

171. During the year the Chief Commissioner proposed to the Government of India the formation of an Agricultural Department in Assam, and the appointment of a special officer to direct the Department. His proposals had the full approval of the Government of India and received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Since the close of the official year Mr. E. Stack has been appointed Director of the new Department.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

172. During the year under review an additional Assistant-Conservator was posted to the Province, and this increase in the strength of the departmental establishment made it possible to appoint a separate officer to the charge of the forests in the Gáro Hills district. There is now a Forest Officer to each district except Nowgong, the Khási Hills, Nága Hills, and Sylhet, where the Government forest area is too small to be constituted a separate charge. Nowgong and the Nambor forest in the Nága Hills are respectively under the Assistant-Conservators of Darrang and Sibságar; the Sylhet forests are still under the Deputy-Commissioner; the Khási Hills forests are partly under the Deputy-Commissioner of the district and partly under the Forest Officer of Kámruáp. Every Forest Officer has been made directly subordinate to the Deputy-Commissioner of the district in which he works, and the district forests have been placed in his care, thus abolishing the double agency and simplifying administration and accounts. This change took effect from the 1st January 1882, but the amalgamation of accounts was not carried out till the 1st April 1882.

173. Three new forests, aggregating 50 square miles, were added to the list of the Government reserved forests, the total area of which is now 2,066 square miles. There are several other forests the reservation of which is in contemplation, but the various legal formalities, and the detailed enquiry into the rights of individuals which may be affected by the procedure, have not yet been completed.

174. The work done in these reserves has been to clear the boundary-lines, to erect and repair the boundary-posts and mounds, to protect the forests from fire, and to supervise the felling and sale of trees. The attempts to keep out fire were successful in the Kámruáp and Darrang districts, but failed in Goálpára and the Khási Hills, where great injury was done. Steps have now been taken which will probably prevent the recurrence of such mischief in the forests near Shillong, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that Mr. Jellicoe will carry out successful measures of prevention in the valuable Sál forests of Goálpára. The total number of trees felled by the department was 378, against 599 last year, and 6,112 trees were felled by purchasers. The corresponding number

for last year was not given, but the Conservator states that the sale of standing trees in the forest is increasing: nearly all of these were in the Sál forests of the Goalpára district north of Dhubri, and of the Kámrup district on the Kulsí river. In fact, these are the only parts of the Province in which any forest operations, properly so called, are now going on.

175. Of the plantations of Teak at Kulsí and of India-rubber at Balipára (north of Tezpur) the Conservator reports favourably. The Teak-trees, though tall and well grown, are scarcely more than saplings as yet, hardly any exceeding 2 feet in girth. Of the rubber-trees at Balipára about 9,000 are over 9 feet in height. By constant care and attention they have been protected from injury by deer or elephants, but the cost of repairing the fences and clearing the jungle is still considerable, amounting to Rs. 12,234, or more by Rs. 1,257 than in the previous year. The time is probably far distant when they will be large enough to keep down the undergrowth by their own shade, without artificial aid; but this result has already been attained in the older Teak plantations at Kulsí.

176. In the districts of Sibságar, Lakhimpur, and Cachar, the Forest Officers have as yet little to do in the management either of Government forests or of plantations. The timber trade has not yet extended up the Brahmaputra Valley higher than Gauháti, and there is little local demand for any other woods than the common kinds. A new demand for sleepers has, however, set in through the construction of the Dibrugarh-Mákum Railway and the Jorhát tramway; and in the Lakhimpur district 4,377 trees were handed over to the railway, which has a free concession for five years of all timber it requires. The royalty on these, had they been sold to the public, would have amounted to Rs. 18,410. The chief work of the Forest Officers in these districts has been the exploration of the large and little known tracts which it is proposed to reserve on the slopes of the Nága Hills, around Mákum, and in the North Cachar Hills.

177. There have been considerable changes made during the year in the working of the River Rules, under which a fee was taken for passes given to forest produce on its transit past certain toll-stations. No such fees are now levied on the Brahmaputra and no toll-station exists, though the traffic registering station at Dhubri is still utilised to inspect passing produce and to demand a proof that it has paid royalty to Government unless it is brought from private land. In Cachar the three toll-stations are still maintained, but arrangements have been made to facilitate payments of royalty and fees by diminishing the inconvenience to the trade. The receipts, however, which amounted to Rs. 42,524 in 1880-81, fell to Rs. 18,338 in 1881-82. The Conservator believes the decrease to be due to the greater cheapness of timber cut on private lands, and looks forward to the time when, that resource being exhausted, traders must apply to the Government forests. In this he is probably right, but the

Chief Commissioner is anxious that the prospect of securing this monopoly should not lead to the imposing of such restrictions and rates as shall drive trade altogether out of the field, and is glad to find that the Conservator is ready to co-operate with him by easing off such rules as appear to press hardly in any case. There is no doubt that a toll-station on a river is as odious a thing to the native, and indeed to every mind, as a turnpike upon land.

178. A very useful work, subsidiary to forestry in the strict sense of the word, but an important adjunct to it, is the

Roads and buildings.

construction of roads by which to open communication between one forest and another and between a forest and its natural water outlet, and of buildings for the shelter of forest servants. Under this head Rs. 19,602 have been spent, against Rs. 11,433 in 1880-81. Mr. Elliott has seen excellent work of this class done in Goálpára and Gauháti, and he understands that Sibságar, too, may be included in this commendation. He regrets to observe that the Forest Officer of Cachar is stated not to have done much in this respect, in spite of the advantage he had in receiving *carte blanche* to employ the half-starved Lushais who immigrated in search of food.

179. There were 37 offences prosecuted, against 40 last year: of these 16 were in Lakhimpur, 9 in Cachar, and 8

Forest offences.

in Kámráp. None were for causing injury by fire, and only one for unauthorised grazing. 24 were on account of illegal appropriation of forest produce.

180. During the year licenses to extract rubber from the district forests were (for the first time for many years)

India-rubber.

sold by auction, and brought in Rs. 26,846. It is known that some of the licensees realised immense profits, in spite of the competition of foreign rubber, and of the facility with which the trees can be tapped in any part and the produce sold as foreign. Besides the plantation at Balipára, the Tezpur officer has under his charge in the Charduár reserve, a great quantity of old trees, many of which, it is known, are surreptitiously tapped; and the Chief Commissioner would have wished that careful experimental tappings should have been made under the Sub-Assistant-Conservator's supervision, to obtain some knowledge of the amount which can be safely extracted, the age at which tapping can be begun, and the effects on a tree of judicious tapping. The Conservator, however, thought that the time had not yet come for making this experiment.

181. The receipts of the year came dangerously near to the expenditure: they amounted to Rs. 1,66,053, against an

Financial results.

expenditure of Rs. 1,65,361. The corresponding figures of 1880-81 were Rs. 1,68,997 and Rs. 1,42,725. The expenditure has never been so high before; the receipts were less than in 1880-81; the surplus was less than it has been for the last four years, or since 1876-77, when there was a deficit.

Receipts. 182. The following table shows the receipts of the year, and is compared with that given in paragraph 248 of the report for last year :—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
1. Forest produce worked out by the department direct.	17,629	22,498
2. Ditto ditto by Civil Officers...	1,139	.....
3. Ditto ditto worked out by purchasers under the department.	79,962	84,208
4. Ditto ditto under Civil Officers	52,796	48,442
5. Confiscated produce	3,597	1,777
6. Revenue from forests not managed by Government.	12,669	7,651
7. Miscellaneous	1,205	1,477
Total	1,68,997	1,66,053

The increase in head 1 is due, not to more active departmental working, since that system is almost entirely given up (it has been seen that only 378 trees were felled departmentally), but to the clearance sales of timber at Government depôts. There is now very little left to sell except at the Dhubri depôt. Of the difference under head 2 no explanation is given, but the amount is small. The increase under head 3 is mainly due to a wider demand by the trade, and to the adoption of some simple modifications of rules which before made the payment of royalty onerous. It is to the extension of revenue from this head that the Forest Department must mainly look for the supply of its funds, and for ability to enlarge its operations. Under head 4 there is a falling off of over Rs. 4,000, a fact which is somewhat remarkable. The chief items from which funds are realised by Civil Officers are the sales of waste lands with timber on them, the value of which timber is credited to the Forest Department, and the sale of licenses to tap for rubber. But, though it has been seen that these licenses brought in a revenue of Rs. 26,846, and that this is an entirely new head of income, the total receipts show a decrease where an increase might have been expected.

Referring to last year's report, it appears that Rs. 20,038 were realised from the sale of waste land grants with timber on them in 1880-81: this year only Rs. 662 were received. The cessation of applications for waste land, due to the discouragement of the tea industry, has therefore mulcted the Forest Department in nearly Rs. 20,000 of its revenue, as compared with 1880-81. The loss, as compared with previous years, was much greater. Still, putting Rs. 20,000 thus lost against Rs. 26,000 gained from rubber, there ought to be an increase of Rs. 6,000 instead of a decrease of Rs. 4,000. The Chief Commissioner believes, however, that the whole of this sum of Rs. 26,846 was not paid during the year, the last instalment falling due after the 31st March, and this probably accounts for the difference.

As to other heads of receipt, the changes under "Confiscation," and "Miscellaneous" are hardly capable of explanation, but the Conservator has not given any account of the forests not managed by Government, and of the causes which led to a falling off of Rs. 5,000 in the receipts

therefrom. The figures under this head appear to be compounded thus:—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
(a) Duty on foreign timber and other forest produce ...	9,412	3,763
(b) Revenue from shared and private forests	3,258	3,888

The decrease is therefore under the first head, and occurred in Cachar, where the toll-stations took a smaller sum from foreign timber brought in from Manipur and Lushai-land. The revenue under the second head springs almost entirely from two forests in the Khási Hills, which belong to two Seims, and are managed by the department on terms of half profits. It is satisfactory, for the Seims' sake as well as our own, to see that this source of income has improved.

183. The following table compares the expenditure of the past two years:—

Expenditure.	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
1. Permanent establishment	73,515	76,480
2. Miscellaneous expenditure, most of which is on account of temporary establishment	47,494	55,267
3. Live and dead stock	10,283	14,012
4. Roads and buildings	11,433	19,602
	<u>1,42,725</u>	<u>1,65,361</u>

There has been an increase under every item. That on permanent establishment is due to the increase of the forest staff by the addition of an Assistant-Conservator; that under "Miscellaneous" is explained as chiefly due to the new (temporary) establishments in the Gáro Hills and Lakhimpur districts, and the greater outlay on the Balipará plantation.

184. The following table shows the receipts and expenditure of each district for the two years:—

Direction	1880-81.				1881-82.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direction	594	20,716	....	20,292	1,053	22,532	....	21,479
Gáro Hills	6,771	1,649	5,122	....	9,768	5,713	4,055	....
Goáipára	33,443	21,108	12,235	....	44,287	18,553	25,734	....
Kamrúp and Khási Hills	21,597	25,230	6,367	....	37,290	29,340	7,950	....
Darrang and Nowgong.	26,951	27,024	....	73	16,418	29,141	....	12,723
Sibságar and Nága Hills	8,203	18,690	....	10,487	13,828	21,259	....	7,431
Lakhimpur	7,541	10,081	....	2,530	15,020	19,352	....	4,332
Cachar	47,860	16,551	31,309	....	22,256	18,211	4,045	....
Sylhet.....	6,107	1,676	4,431	....	6,133	1,260	4,873	....
Total	1,68,997	1,42,725	59,464	43,382	1,66,053	1,65,361	46,657	45,965

The same districts that showed a surplus or deficit last year show a surplus or a deficit now, but the surplus has decreased and the deficit increased.

185. The one most important lesson to be deduced from a review of the working of the department during the year 1881-82, is that the prosperity of the department depends on the increased sale of the timber with which the forests abound, and that it is important not to discourage traders by checks and passes and toll-stations and official delays, but to encourage them by making the trade easy and profitable, and by offering every facility which is consistent with the prevention of fraud.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND MINERALS.

186. The demand on account of lime-quarries during the past two years is shown below:—

Lime-quarries.	1880-81.	1881-82.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet	4,050	4,050
Khási Hills	33,055	29,903
Gáro "	555	563
Total.....	37,660	34,516

There are 32 lime-quarries, or tracts from which limestone can be quarried, along the south face of the hills: ten of these belong solely to Government, the rest are in the Khási States, and the profits are shared between Government and the Seims. The system of management has always been to lease out the right of quarrying and removing the stone for a year or longer period; but of late the fall in the price of lime and the competition of other limes have diminished the value of this property very seriously. The result of this is that 11 of the quarries are now unlet, the quarries with a good water-access being the only ones capable of paying a rent at all; and the amounts paid for those that are leased have much decreased. The demand for the year was Rs. 29,903, but seven quarries which were leased during the year fetched only Rs. 10,215, against a previous amount of Rs. 21,413, and the demand for next year will consequently be still further diminished. The manner in which these quarries should be treated has been much discussed, and it has been decided that the best plan is to give long leases, for a term of seven years, reserving a right to cancel any lease where there has been no attempt to work the quarry *bonâ fide* for a year, and not allowing so many leases to fall into one hand that a monopoly could be set up. Another system has also been worked experimentally, in two quarries which Government retains in its own hands. No exclusive lease is sold, but a license has been given to quarry, paying only so much as royalty per thousand maunds of stone removed. This will perhaps be the best way of securing a fair return to Government and the Seims for these quarries, if it is found possible to check the quantity removed and to prevent smuggling. There are already some signs of an improvement in the demand. The river registrar at Bhairab Bazar returns the export of lime in 1881-82 as 16 lakhs of maunds, against 10 lakhs in 1880-81.

187. The concessions obtained by the Mineral Oil Company have been transferred to the Assam Railways and Trading Company, and, as the concession extends over the same tract as the coal concession already granted to the Company, there is no necessity for any separate definition of the boundaries of the tract selected for working. Final arrangements have been concluded, and the deed of grant to the Company is under preparation by the Government Solicitor.

Petroleum.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

188. There were 1,058 tea-gardens in existence on the 31st December 1881, being a net increase of 13 over the figures of the previous year. This augmentation is chiefly due to a revision of the registers carried out under the Chief Commissioner's orders in his Circular No. 24, of 17th October 1881. This resulted in bringing on the Kámrúp Register 41 gardens, which, because they were held on annual leases, had hitherto not been recorded as gardens. The real changes are shown in the margin. But here the decrease is somewhat exaggerated, since some of the gardens shown as closed are

Tea.

	Closed.	New.
Cachar.....	3	..
Sylhet.....	..	1
Lurrang.....	3	1
Sowgong.....	1	..
Etbeagar.....	15	2
Lakhimpur.....	3	..
Total ..	26	4

only temporarily abandoned, or were not plucked or cultivated during the year. If in another year they are cultivated, they will not be shown as newly opened. Of the 1,058 gardens, 781 are situated in the Assam Valley, and 277 in the Surmá Valley, including 12 gardens placed on southern slopes of the Khási and Jaintiá Hills, some of which lie partly within the boundaries of Sylhet and Cachar.

189. The subjoined extract gives for the last four years the area under cultivation, as well as the total area taken up and held by the planters under different tenures:—

	Under mature plants.	Under immature plants.	Taken up, but not yet planted.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1878	109,577	38,263	439,569	587,409
1879	112,685	37,925	454,369	604,979
1880	120,512	33,145	412,620	566,277
1881	133,293	25,134	548,222	706,649

Efforts have been made this year to secure greater accuracy in the figures showing the total area of the tea-gardens. By the Chief Commissioner's directions, these figures are now extracted from the revenue records of the districts, and are not taken from the statistics afforded by the planters themselves, who in many cases are entirely ignorant of the area of their grants. For the figures of the area under plant the information must be supplied by the managers themselves. In the absence of fresh extensions, which during the past two years have been very small, the area shown under mature plants should gradually increase, and absorb that under immature plants. The 120,512 acres of mature plants in 1880 have risen now to 133,293. The chief increase is in Lakhimpur. Everywhere else the rise is extremely gradual.

190. The yield of tea during the year under report is stated to have been 37,571,311 lb, of which 13,846,285 lb were manufactured in the Surmá Valley and 23,725,026 lb in the Assam Valley. This is an increase of 3,557,728 lb over the outturn of last year. The average produce per acre comes out, however, exactly the same as in 1880, or 282 lb per acre of mature plants. There is, as shown in the margin, an increase in the outturn per acre reported for five districts, and a decrease in that reported for three. Cachar is the first district in the Province, with an outturn of 10,455,982 lb, and Sibságar comes next, with 10,419,086 lb. The other districts come in the following order,—Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sylhet, Nowgong, Kám-rúp, Goálpára, Khási Hills.

The general opinion appears to be that the outturn was not quite so good as that of 1880, although the prices obtained were much better. It must be understood that the outturn figures are those supplied by the managers during this year, or are estimated from those supplied by them in former years, and no great degree of accuracy can be claimed for them. But, comparing these figures with those given in Messrs. Moran and Company's Tea Circular published in the *Englishman* newspaper of the 16th May 1882, we find fairly close agreement. That circular returns 13,903,016 lb as the crop in the Surmá Valley for 1881, *i.e.*, 57,631 more than are shown in our returns, and 21,390,732 lb as the crop in the Assam Valley, or 665,706 lb more than in these returns. The discrepancy is proportionally greater in the Assam Valley, where there are so many gardens from which the returns are deficient; but the agreement is on the whole greater than might have been expected. The annexed table shows that during the past four years there has been a continuous increase in the production of tea on both sides of the Province:—

	1878. lb	1879. lb	1880. lb	1881. lb
Assam Valley ...	18,823,602	19,650,824	21,493,639	23,725,026
Surmá Valley ...	9,685,946	11,735,812	12,519,944	13,846,285
Total ...	28,509,548	31,386,636	34,013,583	37,571,311
Average per acre of mature plants.	260	278	282	282

191. During the year 1881 the tea market recovered somewhat from the state of extreme depression experienced in the two preceding years. There are no means of estimating the profits derived during the year from tea cultivation as a whole. It is only where gardens are owned by companies registered in Calcutta, whose accounts are published in the lists of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, that the results of the year can be accurately ascertained. Several of the Tea Companies, and those owning the largest estates, are not registered in India, but have their head-quarter offices in England.

The last list published by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies at Calcutta is dated the 8th May 1882, and relates to the year ending the 31st March last. It contains the names of 53 Tea Companies known to hold estates in this Province. Against two of these no paid-up capital is shown. The remaining 51 represent a paid-up capital of Rs. 1,67,19,152. But of these, 10 Companies, with a capital of Rs. 32,62,259, submitted no accounts for the year ending the 31st December 1881. Of the remaining 41 Companies (capital Rs. 1,34,56,893), 24 concerns made a profit of Rs. 4,70,508, 14 a loss of Rs. 2,20,839, while 3 show neither profit nor loss. The net earnings upon the capital employed during the year were thus Rs. 2,49,669, or only 1·8 per cent., but the 24 concerns which made a profit obtained a return of 5·2 per cent. on a capital of Rs. 92,40,895; while the 14 losing concerns lost at the rate of 6·2 per cent. on their capital of Rs. 35,26,365. The capital of the three Companies which neither gained nor lost was Rs. 6,89,633. So far as these figures go, they do not indicate great prosperity in the trade; but it is possible that privately owned estates, which are perhaps managed with a keener attention to economy, may have done better: and during his last cold-weather tour the Chief Commissioner found that planters generally took a hopeful view of the prospects of the industry.

192. There is very little to add to the full information given under this head in last year's report. The Deputy-

Other manufactures.

Commissioner of Nowgong reports that the manufacture of mustard-oil is increasing in this district, and he anticipates a considerable growth of this industry in the course of the next ten years. The manufacture of *gur* is believed to be on the increase in the districts of Sibságar and Lakhimpur. In other districts there appears to be no signs of any increase in this manufacture, though the process of making *gur* is everywhere known.

The Deputy-Commissioner, Lakhimpur, mentions the beautifully-dyed tartans of the Khámpti and Singpho tribes. The colours of these, he states, are very like those used by the Manipuris, the secret of which he believes is jealously guarded.

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

PART I.

193. The following table exhibits the total value of the trade with each foreign country during the year 1881-82, compared with the trade registered in the previous year :—

Imports into Assam from	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Bhután	22,070	60,412	38,342	.....
Towang	60,524	2,44,059	1,83,535	.....
Daffa Hills	18,639	9,717	.....	8,922
Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Nága Hills	1,21,122	64,296	.....	56,826
Hill Tipperah	2,25,672	2,38,170	12,498	.....
Lushai Hills.....	78,200	64,433	13,767
Manipur	26,110	28,812	2,702
Total	5,52,337	7,09,899	1,57,562

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Imports into Assam from	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Bhután	7,280	23,241	15,961
Towang	37,981	81,351	43,370	.....
Dafra Hills	3,049	3,178	129	.....
Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Nága Hills	47,178	35,073	.....	12,105
Hill Tipperah	21,826	21,464	.....	362
Lushai Hills	40,696	44,881	4,185	.....
Manipur	1,26,038	33,951	.....	92,087
Total	2,84,048	2,43,139	.....	40,909

The total value of the foreign trade during the year under report amounted to Rs. 9,53,038, as compared with an aggregate value of Rs. 8,36,385 in the previous year. These figures show an increase of Rs. 1,16,653, or 13·9 per cent., in the transactions of 1881-82.

Trade with Bhután and Towang has largely increased during the year. Assam received from Bhután more imports by Rs. 38,342 and Bhután received from Assam more by Rs. 15,961 than in the previous year. The value of the import trade with the Bhutias of Towang amounted to Rs. 2,44,059, against Rs. 60,524 in the previous year, giving an increase of Rs. 1,83,535, or 303·2 per cent. The export trade from Assam to Towang also increased from Rs. 37,981 to Rs. 81,351, giving a net increase of Rs. 43,370, or 114·2 per cent.

The import trade with Hill Tipperah increased by Rs. 12,498, or 5·5 per cent., during the year. The export trade remained nearly the same as in the previous year.

The imports from Manipur slightly increased, while the exports into this State fell from Rs. 1,26,038 to Rs. 33,951, showing a decrease of Rs. 92,087, or 73·1.

The imports from the Abor, Mishmi, Khámpti, and Nága Hills, the Dafra Hills, and the Lushai Hills, fell off very largely during the year under report, the percentage of decrease being 46·9, 47·9, and 17·6 per cent. respectively. Trade from Assam to the Abor, Khámpti, and Nága Hills, also shows a decrease of Rs. 12,105, or 25·7 per cent., during the year. The export trade with the Dafra Hills was nearly stationary, while that with the Lushai Hills increased by Rs. 4,185 during the year under report, as compared with the export trade of the previous year.

The two next tables exhibit the principal articles of import and export, and their value, as compared with the preceding year:—

IMPORTS.

Name of article.	Denomina-tion.	1880-81.		1881-82.		Result.			
						Increase.		Decrease.	
		Quan-tity.	Value.	Quan-tity.	Value.	Quan-tity.	Value.	Quan-tity.	Value.
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Timber	Number	10,060	1,10,484	11,286	1,52,923	1,226	42,444	.....	.....
Bamboos	"	50,39,078	66,587	33,69,152	47,029	.....	.....	16,79,923	19,568
Blankets	"	4,815	11,652	28,849	72,381	24,534	60,679	.....	969
Rubber	Maunds.	3,809	1,20,312	2,840	1,23,026	.....	.....	.....	67,284
Cotton, raw	"	8,241	50,641	5,221	30,306	.....	.....	3,020	20,886
Horses and ponies	Number.	334	21,021	1,535	74,399	1,201	53,378	.....	.....
Wax	Maunds.	181	7,690	480	18,592	299	10,902	.....	.....
Gold	Value.	.....	3,740	.....	6,100	.....	2,360	.....	.....
Ivory	Maunds.	16	5,472	18	5,378	.....	.....	.....	84
Cotton piece-goods (In-dian).	Yards.	12,986	3,295	11,822	3,270	.....	575	1,164	.....
Salt	Maunds.	1,661	14,699	5,228	26,992	3,567	12,293	.....	.....
Spices	"	1,789	10,014	3,083	80,833	1,294	20,819	.....	.....

EXPORTS.

Silk manufactures	Yards.	17,970	17,662	35,278	41,444	17,308	23,782	.....	.....
Betel-nuts	Maunds.	4,657	16,056	6,469	17,077	1,802	1,021	.....	.....
Cotton piece-goods (Eu-ropean).	Yards.	2,03,036	98,971	1,22,149	22,005	.....	.....	80,887	76,966
Ditto (Indian)....	"	28,007	8,995	31,695	9,523	3,588	528	.....	.....
Cotton twist and yarn (European).	Maunds.	167	12,724	42	2,748	.....	.....	125	3,976
Ditto (Indian)....	"	1	103	65	2,695	64	2,692	.....	.....
Opium	"	19	27,463	15	23,775	.....	.....	4	3,688
Salt	"	3,857	17,896	3,258	15,133	.....	.....	599	2,765
Brass and copper man-nufactures.	"	403	19,111	277	14,691	.....	.....	126	4,420
Rice, husked and unhusk-ed.	"	3,541	18,483	38,485	50,370	29,944	36,932	.....	.....

It will be noted from the figures given in the first of these tables that, while the imports into Assam of timber, blankets, ponies, wax, gold, ivory, salt, and spices has increased during 1881-82, the import of bamboos, rubber, raw cotton, and cotton piece-goods has decreased.

The value of the articles exported is far below that of those imported. There was an increase in exports under the heads of silk (manufactured), betel-nuts, cotton piece-goods (Indian), cotton twist (Indian), and rice (husked and unhusked), while cotton piece-goods (European), cotton twist and yarn (European), opium, salt, brass and copper (manufactured) show a decrease.

Up to the present date no further or more precise information than has been given in former reports has been obtained regarding the duties on goods exported from Assam levied on their entering the different foreign countries.

INTER-PROVINCIAL TRADE.

PART II.

194. The total value of the exports of the Province by water during the year amounted to Rs. 3,62,60,691, against Rs. 3,58,52,985 in the

previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 4,07,706, and the total value of imports amounted to Rs. 1,88,75,247, against Rs. 1,68,65,376, showing an increase of Rs. 20,09,871, of which Rs. 18,16,854 are due to the value of opium, which has for the first time been included in the Trade Returns. Excluding the value of opium, the net increase in the value of imports amounts to Rs. 1,93,017.

Of the total value of exports, amounting to Rs. 3,62,60,691, Rs. 49,89,516 represent the value of goods carried by boat, and Rs. 3,12,71,175 the value of goods carried by steamer.

In the preceding year goods to the value of Rs. 55,62,526 were carried by boat, and goods to the value of Rs. 3,02,90,459 were carried by steamer, so there has been a decrease of Rs. 5,73,010 under the former and an increase of Rs. 9,80,716 in the latter.

Of the decrease of Rs. 5,73,010 in the value of the boat traffic, Rs. 2,85,483 were in the Megna traffic and Rs. 2,87,527 in the Brahmaputra traffic. The increase, Rs. 9,80,716, in the value of the steamer traffic, is accounted for as follows:—

	Rs.
Megna line increase	10,50,729
Brahmaputra line decrease	70,013
	<hr/>
Net increase	9,80,716
	<hr/>

Of the total value of imports, amounting to Rs. 1,88,75,247, Rs. 60,29,346 were derived from the boat traffic and Rs. 1,28,45,901 from the steamer traffic, against Rs. 64,64,449 and Rs. 1,04,00,927 respectively, in the previous year.

Compared with the result of the export trade in the preceding year, the boat traffic shows a decrease of Rs. 4,35,103, while the steamer traffic exhibits an increase of Rs. 24,44,974, of which a sum of Rs. 18,16,854 represents the value of opium. Excluding the value of opium, the actual increase under this head was Rs. 6,28,120.

Of the decrease of Rs. 4,35,103 under boat traffic, Rs. 3,68,241 were due to decreased traffic on the Brahmaputra, and Rs. 66,862 to a decrease on the Megna line; while of the increase of Rs. 24,44,974 in the steamer traffic, Rs. 21,57,537 were derived from the traffic on the Brahmaputra and Rs. 2,87,437 from the Megna.

It will be seen from the figures given above that there was a large decrease in the value of the traffic carried by country boat both up and down stream to the extent of Rs. 10,08,113, while the value of the traffic carried by steamer increased by Rs. 34,25,690.

The steamers have reduced their rates within the last two years, and this explains the decrease in the boat traffic in favour of the steamers.

195. The following tables show the trade of the Province in the principal articles of import and export compared with the figures of last year:—

Imports from Bengal into Assam.

		1880-81.		1881-82.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Cotton twist (European)	Mds.	5,438	3,52,674	6,626	4,30,690	1,188	78,016	....	....
piece-goods (ditto)	Rs.	....	43,07,602	....	46,63,274	....	3,55,672	....	....
Salt	Mds.	4,87,114	19,78,988	6,00,231	20,91,171	13,117	1,12,183	....	....
Rice	"	5,09,018	12,49,778	4,72,739	8,42,009	....	....	36,279	4,07,764
Gram and pulse	"	2,18,774	6,07,623	3,09,574	6,08,379	90,800	765	....	....
Sugar (refined)	"	27,357	4,16,925	24,520	3,74,882	....	....	2,837	42,043
(unrefined)	"	99,736	5,66,180	1,08,203	4,92,339	8,527	....	....	73,841
Brass and copper	"	10,913	4,35,904	9,536	3,91,890	....	....	1,377	44,514
Iron	"	43,073	2,71,967	41,038	2,33,556	....	....	2,035	38,411
Liquors	Rs.	....	5,87,891	....	7,18,229	....	1,30,338	....	....
Spices	Mds.	83,067	5,34,978	5,810	37,170	....	....	77,767	4,97,808
Betel-nuts	"	8,637	1,24,513	12,570	66,682	3,933	....	....	57,831
Tobacco	"	91,028	5,98,745	1,25,482	11,25,306	34,454	5,26,661	....	....

Exports from Assam into Bengal.

Tea (Indian)	Mds.	4,71,445	3,82,86,700	4,72,640	2,83,58,400	1,195	71,700	....	....
Mustard-seed	"	8,90,488	28,24,707	7,11,529	22,78,705	....	....	1,78,959	5,46,062
Linseed	"	5,645	26,603	46,441	1,40,861	40,796	1,14,258	....	....
Timber	Rs.	....	7,27,152	....	8,15,099	....	87,947	....	....
Cotton, raw	Mds.	20,027	1,85,016	18,464	1,13,514	....	....	1,563	71,502
Rice	"	2,160	6,476	49,541	66,594	47,381	50,118	....	....
Paddy	"	1,63,487	1,63,373	10,54,270	6,49,836	8,90,783	4,96,463	....	....
Lime and limestone	"	10,45,915	11,96,115	16,13,119	4,95,374	5,47,204	....	....	7,00,741
Stick-lac	"	11,136	3,85,686	27,120	9,39,474	16,984	5,53,838	....	....
Rubber	"	9,132	2,46,564	9,745	4,87,250	613	2,40,606	....	....
Jute, raw	"	69,036	3,00,842	1,20,377	4,61,278	51,341	1,60,436	....	....

The imports of rice, sugar, brass and copper, iron, spices, and betel-nuts, have decreased, while the imports of cotton twist (European), cotton piece-goods (European), salt, gram and pulse, liquors and tobacco have increased during the year under report as compared with the figures of the preceding year. There was also an increase in the export of tea, linseed, timber, rice, paddy, stick-lac, rubber, and raw jute, and a decrease in the export of mustard-seed, raw cotton, and limestone.

196. The total value of the cotton piece-goods (European) imported during the year was Rs. 46,63,274, against Rs. 43,07,602 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,55,672. The decrease in the quantity of rice imported was not large, the quantity imported being only one-fourteenth part less than the quantity of the previous year; but the decrease in the whole value of the rice imported was very large, the whole value being returned as one-third less, or over 4 lakhs of rupees less, than the whole value of the rice imported in the previous year.

The decrease in value is to be attributed to the fact that prices fell considerably during the year under report on account of good harvests. It will be seen that the average value of a maund of rice in the year 1880 to 1881 as calculated in the trade returns was Rs. 2-4-1; while

the average value of a maund of rice in the year 1881 to 1882 as calculated in the trade returns was Re. 1-12-6.

197. The total value of salt imported during the year was Rs. 20,91,171, against Rs. 19,78,988 in the previous year. These figures give an increase in the value of the imports of this article amounting to Rs 1,12,183.

198. The value of the tea exported during the year amounted to Rs. 2,83,58,400, against Rs. 2,82,86,700 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 71,700.

199. Rubber to the value of Rs. 4,87,250 was exported, against Rs. 2,46,564 worth in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 2,40,686 under this head is explained by the fact that many leases to tap rubber-trees in Government forests were given in the year.

200. A full account of the trade of the Province was given in last year's report.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

201. The early part of the year 1882 was unusually dry in the

General. Khāsi Hills: extensive and frequent fires were the result, and some of the outlying buildings of Shillong, if not the station itself, were in considerable danger. A fire originated in the flue of a stove under repair in the General Secretariat building at Shillong on the 3rd February, which was not discovered until it was too late to save the building, which, with many valuable records, was completely burnt, and has since had to be re-built at considerable expense. In a great storm at Gauháti the roof of the Judge's cutcherry was destroyed by lightning, and much injury was done to the Government steamers lying there and to the Chief Commissioner's yacht. Except this, there were no serious storms or floods, nor any epidemics among the workpeople employed, with regard to whom, however, difficulties seem to increase rather than to diminish. Complaints are made on one hand that the roads are neglected, and on the other, where attempts are made to push work on, that the pay given to the coolies injures the tea-gardens in the neighbourhood, by attracting men whom the planters hoped to re-engage for themselves. In the Lakhimpur district the difficulty has been much increased by the opening of the railway, where large wages were given to common unskilled labourers, absorbing the whole supply in the open market and drawing away every man who could manage to break or evade his engagements elsewhere.

202. During the year considerable progress was made in amal-

Establishment. gamating the Public Works Department with the Civil Department of the Province and putting an end to the separation of interests and responsibility which has proved in many ways injurious to efficiency. By the Resolutions of the 27th October 1881 and the 18th January 1882, the previously existing divisions were broken up, and eleven districts created, conterminous (barring some slight exceptions) with the eleven civil districts. To each of these a District Engineer has been appointed, who, in all cases but one,

has been made subordinate to the Deputy-Commissioner of the district, holding the position of his Assistant, professional adviser, and executive officer, in all matters relating to Public Works. In the Khási Hills district alone the Executive-Engineer has not been made subordinate to the Deputy-Commissioner, the reason for this being that the works in progress under him (the roads from Shillong to Gauhati and to Cherra Punji, and the public buildings of Shillong) are all of a provincial character, while those affecting local interests have been left to the care of the Deputy-Commissioner. Instructions were issued defining the relations of District Engineers with the Deputy-Commissioners and the Superintending Engineer, and the manner in which correspondence should be carried on.

203. By a Resolution of the 5th January 1882 it was laid down that all Public Works Officers of the covenanted grades should submit monthly diaries, giving an account of their proceedings, and also monthly progress reports showing what progress has been made in each work under their charge, and, if no progress has been made, explaining the reason.

204. The Nága Hills division was temporarily divided into two from the 28th December; the upper portion, from Nichu Guard to Kohima, being for the time placed under Captain Yorke, who was deputed by the Government of India especially for the military road work in the Nága Hills. Captain Yorke left just after the close of the year, since which time the division has been re-constituted as before.

205. The following officers were posted to Assam during the year:—

Mr. A. R. Lilly, Assistant-Engineer, 19th April 1881.
 „ E. Gramatzki, Executive-Engineer, 27th May 1881.
 Babu Brijmohan Lall, Apprentice Engineer, 20th June 1881.
 Mr. R. D. Buck, Assistant-Engineer, 6th December 1881.
 „ A. C. Newcombe, Ditto 25th December 1881.
 „ D. Clancy, Ditto 18th January 1882.

206. The following officers have also been temporarily transferred to Assam while employed on Railway survey work on the Gáro Hills:—

Mr. J. W. Buyers, Executive-Engineer, first grade.
 „ E. J. Moore, Ditto second grade.
 „ R. T. Denne, Assistant-Engineer, ditto

207. The outlay under the several budget heads shown in detail in the Deputy-Examiner's "Finance and Administrative" Accounts is summarised under main

Accounts.
 heads in the following statement:—

	Original grant.	Final grant.	Outlay.	Saving or excess.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
IMPERIAL—				
Military	1,18,000	2,70,000	1,73,480	96,520
Other Services....	18,000	28,200	17,899	10,301
Establishment ...	34,066	34,066	47,885	—13,819
Tools and plant .	2,040	2,040	2,870	—830
Barrack Depart- ment	664	664	400	264
Total	1,72,770	3,34,970	2,42,534	92,436

	Original grant. Rs.	Final grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.	Saving or excess. Rs.
PROVINCIAL—				
Civil Buildings ...	2,66,500	2,35,999	2,17,108	18,891
Communications.	6,48,300	6,74,078	4,34,887	2,39,191
Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	200	5,325	7,555	—2,230
Establishment...	3,12,000	3,12,000	2,92,439	19,561
Tools and plant .	20,000	19,400	15,551	3,849
Suspense Balance	4,000	4,000	22,493	—18,493
Total...	12,51,000	12,50,802	9,90,033	2,60,769
PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION—				
Works.....	1,31,700	1,24,024	5,774	1,18,250
Repairs	4,200	12,074	13,711	—1,637
Establishment ...	2,925	2,925	896	2,029
Tools and plant...	20,175	20,175	13,112	7,063
Total....	1,59,000	1,59,198	33,493	1,25,705
LOCAL INCORPORATED FUNDS—				
Communications.	5,000	5,000	4,177	.....
Establishment ...	.....		335	.....
Tools and plant .	.....		20	.....
Total ...	5,000	5,000	4,532	468
EXCLUDED LOCAL FUNDS—				
Civil Buildings...	500	500	22	478
Total ...	500	500	22	478
OTHER DEPARTMENTS (FORESTS)—				
Civil Buildings...	.....	.....	2,843	.....
Establishment ...	.....	.....	683	.....
Total .....	.....	.....	3,526	—3,526
Grand Total ...	15,88,270	17,50,470	12,74,140	4,76,330

The total outlay on works and repairs, exclusive of "Tools and plant" and "Suspense balances" is Rs. 8,77,856, and the cost of establishment Rs. 3,42,238, or 38·98, against 48·5 in the previous year.

The above figures do not, however, include the cost of the Gáro Hills Survey, on which the net outlay up to 31st March was Rs. 11,255, exclusive of Rs. 2,068 for mathematical and surveying instruments shown in a suspense account.

IMPERIAL SERVICES.

MILITARY.

208. Under this head the total budget grant was Rs. 1,50,000, increased subsequently to Rs. 3,02,000, and the total outlay Rs. 2,19,892, showing a lapse of Rs. 82,108. The greater part of this lapse occurred

in the Nāga Hills, and was due mainly to delay in getting information necessary to decide on the route for the permanent road approach to Kohima, and in fixing the location of the "Cantonment" and "Civil" portions of Kohima station, and of the Central Fort, in which the public buildings are to be situated, and refuge for non-combatants provided.

The lapse was also partly due to postponement of work on the Sadiya Hospital and on outposts in Lakhimpur, as explained later on.

209. The total lapse is as shown under the several heads below:—

	Than budget grant	
	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sadiya Hospital .....	.....	3,000
" Commissariat godown .....	.....	165
Shillong	404	.....
Outposts in Lakhimpur .....	.....	6,321
" Cachar.....	.....	848
Roads and Buildings, Nāga Hills.....	.....	73,485
Shillong water-supply .....	.....	231
Minor Works .....	.....	6,747
Repairs .....	.....	6,127
Establishment	13,870	.....
Tools and Plant	832	.....
Barrack Department .....	.....	290
Total	15,106	97,214
	82,108	

OTHER SERVICES.

210. The original grant was Rs. 22,770, subsequently modified to Rs. 32,970, against which the outlay was Rs. 22,642, showing a lapse of Rs. 10,328 as below:—

	Than budget grant	
	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.
Postal Department	77	.....
Telegraph .....	.....	4,098
Kohima, Civil Buildings.....	.....	5,000
Manipur.....	227	.....
Repairs .....	.....	1,507
Establishment .....	.....	25
Tools and Plant .....	.....	2
	10,328	

The lapse under Telegraph Department and Civil Buildings, Kohima, is explained further on.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

211. The budget allotment for Provincial work was 9½ lakhs in 1879-80 and 9½ lakhs in 1880-81, and as these allotments were not entirely spent a surplus of about 3 lakhs of rupees had accrued. In order

to work off this surplus, and also to meet the gradual increase which has taken place in the Provincial finances, it was proposed to spend about 14 lakhs in the year 1881-82, and a grant of Rs. 14,10,000 was made. Against this, the total outlay has been Rs. 10,23,526, showing a lapse of Rs. 3,86,474. Of this, Rs. 1,20,000 consists of a provision prematurely made for steamer subsidies which were not required. The balance, Rs. 2,66,474, may be classed thus:—

	Than budget grant.	
	More.	Less.
	Rs.	Rs.
Original Works, Civil Buildings .....	.....	53,301
Ditto Communications .....	.....	1,93,865
Ditto Irrigation and Navigation .....	.....	5,926
Repairs, Civil Buildings	3,909	.....
Ditto Communications .....	.....	19,548
Ditto and maintenance, Irrigation and Navigation.	9,511	.....
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	7,355	.....
Establishment .....	.....	21,590
Tools and plant .....	.....	11,512
Suspense balance	18,493	.....
Total	39,268	3,06,742
		2,66,474

IMPERIAL SERVICES.

MILITARY.

212. According to the revised estimate, a grant of Rs. 2,70,000 was made by the Government of India for Imperial Military Works, out of which Rs. 2,42,500 were devoted to original works and Rs. 27,500 to repairs. The principal works which it was proposed to undertake were as follows:—

	Grant.	Outlay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sadiya hospital	3,000	.....
Iron-roofed sheds, Sadiya fort	1,700	1,535
Commissariat godown at Shillong	450	854
Roads and buildings, Naga Hills	2,14,000	1,40,515
Frontier outposts, Lakhimpur	6,000	—321
Ditto ditto Cachar	2,500	1,652
Shillong water-supply.....	1,865	1,634
Sepoy lines, Manipur	2,000	2,000
Minor Works	10,985	4,238
Repairs ..	27,500	21,373
Total	2,70,000	1,73,480

213. *Naga Hills*.—During April 1881, Mr. Rollo, Executive-Engineer, was sent to survey a new route up the Doyong Valley from the plains to Kohima; but, owing to heavy rain, the attempt had to be abandoned. As soon as it was possible to recommence the exploration of the

country, Mr. Rollo again left Golághát, arriving at the site previously selected for the Doyong crossing on the 28th November 1881. He found the work very tedious, owing to the heavy grass and jungle, and, after cutting two or three trial lines, reported that the country was much more difficult than had been anticipated. He was, however, directed to proceed with his investigations, as it was necessary to decide finally about the main route to Kohima, and it appeared unwise to abandon, without the fullest investigation, a line which seemed to have the advantages of avoiding much of the unhealthy forest in the plains, if not of decreasing the entire distance. Further exploration, however, only showed more fully what great difficulties existed in finding a practicable route at all, and how expensive the hillside and rock-cutting would be; and eventually, as was fully explained at the time in a separate report to Government of India, it was decided to abandon this route and to hold to the existing one *via* Dimapur and Nichu Guard. This decision was not come to till the end of February.

While the question of the Doyong route was still pending, it was not thought advisable to carry out any radical improvements in the Dimapur route or to do anything more than improve the worst parts of the road, and continue the clearing of jungle, which had been partly carried out during the previous season with good results.

214. In April 1881 arrangements were made with an Agent (Mr. Pinto) in Gauháti to import labour from the neighbourhood of Darjeeling, and by the end of July 105 coolies had been imported and sent up the road from Golághát, and subsequently further arrangements were made with the same contractor for an additional supply of 400 coolies with the result that as many as 342 labourers were sent up during October, November, and December. Many, however, of them were weak and sickly, and, even if they had been otherwise, the Nambor forest is so malarious in the rains that little or nothing could have been done to the road during that season. The consequence was that in October, at the time when His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief visited Kohima, the road was in an almost impassable state. It was covered with fresh jungle several feet in height, only a narrow path having been kept clear by the occasional passengers using the road during the rains, and the mud was so deep and soft in some places that ponies and mules could only get through with the utmost difficulty. As soon as the weather permitted diversions were made at the worst places, some steep slopes raised off, and cross and side drains cut; and during the season the whole line from Golághát to Nichu Guard was made and maintained passable for carts. A section was taken on which to prepare an estimate for putting the road systematically into order and supplying more permanent bridges.

215. *Diphu Gorge Road.*—In September 1881 an application had been made to the Government of India for a company of Sappers to open out the road through the Diphu Gorge, and so to avoid climbing over and descending the Samaguting Hill. But His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, on his visit to Kohima, was so impressed with the necessity for improving the whole of the hill road, and its urgency, that

he recommended the employment also of a half regiment of Pioneers, and, this having been approved of by the Government of India, a company of Sappers under Lieutenant Stafford and the head-quarters and four companies of 23rd Pioneers under Colonel Collett, were sent to work on the road. These, assisted by as many men of the 42nd A. L. I. (quartered at Kohima) as could be spared, were employed under Captain Yorke, R.E., who was deputed to take special charge of the road. The work in the gorge was heavy, and required a good deal of blasting; but by the middle of March it was passable for ponies for the first time, while the whole of the road above the gorge had been widened, except for a short distance near Piphima, where the work was stopped for want of powder. Good wooden bridges were also made over the small nullahs and substantial bridges thrown over the Zumha, Pherima, and Zubza rivers, at a height which it was expected would save them from damage during floods. Inner and cross drains were cut all along the line of road, and some bad gradients eased off. A good deal of jungle-clearing was also done all along the line, but especially at the lower end, between Zumha and Pherima, the result of which, in letting in sun and air and improving the swampy and muddy portions, has been very beneficial. No doubt numerous landslips will occur and block the road temporarily, but it is expected that the regiment quartered in the Nága Hills will, with such local labour as is available from time to time, be able to keep up the line above the Diphu Gorge as a good bridle-road.

216. A new large iron-roofed godown for Commissariat stores was completed at Dimapur, capable of holding 25,000 maunds, at a cost of Rs. 19,034, but no permanent buildings at Kohima were begun during the year. This was mainly due to the disapproval of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of some of the arrangements proposed for the location of cantonments and civil lines, and the necessity for preparation of modified designs for the sanction of Government. This also partly accounts for the considerable lapse in the budget grant for the year.

217. During the last cold season there was somewhat less difficulty in getting local labour at certain parts of the line. At Dimapur a contractor appeared with a small number of men, and took up some earth-work, and a batch of sawyers agreed to go up to Kohima and take work there also on contract. They were promised 50 per cent. increase on the rates for scantlings and planks current in the Golághát district, and have remained on up to the present time at Kohima, where most of the timber has now been prepared for the buildings it is proposed to erect.

A small gang of Nága coolies also offered themselves for jungle clearing; but most of the hillmen so employed were supplied by the Deputy-Commissioner.

218. The other work done in the Nága Hills does not call for any special notice. A new temporary hospital was set up at Golághát, as also Commissariat and transport lines at Kohima, an expense godown for Commissariat, and quarters for the Medical and Public Works Officers, and the ordinary and special repairs to the existing temporary buildings were carried out.

219. The labour question has all along been a main difficulty, and must continue to be so for some time. There has, however, been some improvement, as already noted, and as many of the coolies imported during the year have remained on (mostly at Kohima) it is hoped they will be better able to stand the climate during another year. The unhealthiness of the Nambor forest is still very great, though perhaps not so great as formerly. It, however, was the cause of great reductions in the strength of the gangs of labourers, who had to be provided with food and half pay, even when not at work.

220. Assistant-Engineer Brij Mohan Lál, who had his head-quarters at Dimapur, was for a long time laid up with fever, and eventually it was necessary to remove him from the district; and Mr. Sweet, though only employed late in the season in surveying work in the forest, was also attacked by fever, and it was necessary, on medical advice, to relieve him and leave the survey to be finished by native subordinates.

221. *Khási Hills*.—The only original works in hand during the year were the Commissariat godown at Shillong, completed in November 1881, and the extension of water-supply to the hospital, left wing lines, and regimental bázár, also at Shillong. The latter was completed at the end of the year, and the supply of water has proved abundant. The usual repairs to cantonment roads and buildings in Shillong and Gauhati were carried out.

222. *Lakhimpur*.—The construction of a new hospital at Sadiya had been for some time urged by the Standing Barrack Committee, and provision made in the budget for the work. The local military authorities, however, considered the expenditure unnecessary, and the grant has been allowed to lapse. It has since been made clear from further inspection that the building needs practically entire renewal, but unfortunately it was too late then to put the work in hand with any prospect of completion during the year.

223. The allotment for frontier outposts was allowed to lapse, as the advance to the foot of the hills on the left bank of the Dibong and the establishment of two new outposts at Nizámghát and Bomjur necessarily threw the whole question into suspense. It has not yet been definitely decided which outposts are to be held throughout the year, nor, consequently, what permanent buildings or defences should be constructed.

224. The only works in hand in this district during the year were (1) the substitution of an iron for a thatched roof to the Commissariat godown in the Sadiya fort, which was completed within the estimated cost, Rs. 3,821; and (2) the renewal of the roof of the Márum tower. This was left incomplete at the end of last year, having been sanctioned late in the season, and unfortunately is still incomplete, because of the great difficulty experienced by the Executive-Engineer in getting labour. This difficulty has been much increased by the opening of railway works in the district. The estimate for this work was Rs. 2,439, of which Rs. 2,112, being the balance unspent at the end of March 1881, were allotted. The outlay during the year was only Rs. 477.

225. *Cachar*.—The grant for frontier roads, viz., Rs. 2,500, under Original Works, and Rs. 3,140 under Repairs, was again made over to the Deputy-Commissioner, by whom the work was carried out, at an expenditure of Rs. 5,083.

IMPERIAL, OTHER SERVICES.

226. The original grant for works and repairs was Rs. 18,000, subsequently increased to Rs. 28,200. The works which it was proposed to take up, and the outlay on each, are shown below:—

	Grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.		
Original grant—				
Telegraph-office, Golághát	} 12,000	} 2,502		
Signallers' quarters, Golághát			} 3,902	
Minor Works, Telegraph				} 1,498
Ditto Post-office .....					} 2,077
Repairs	4,000	2,493		
Total	18,000	12,472		
Supplementary grant—				
Telegraph and post-office, Kohima	5,000	.....	
Completing Political Officer's Residence, Mani- pur.	2,200	2,427		
New Offices, &c., at Manipur	3,000	3,000		
Total	10,200	5,427		
Grand Total.....	28,200	17,899		

This shows a lapse of Rs. 10,301, in explanation of which it may be noted that, as in the case of Military, there was delay in putting any building work in hand in Kohima, because the proposals made about the relative position of Cantonments and Civil lines had to be somewhat modified in consequence of the Commander-in-Chief's objections, and no final decision could be come to till the Chief Commissioner visited the place in March 1882. For this reason, no outlay was incurred against the Rs. 5,000 sanctioned for Civil Buildings. The cost of repairs was less than estimated by Rs. 1,500. Deducting these two items, the balance of the lapse is Rs. 3,800, which was mainly caused by the very slow progress made in the temporary telegraph-offices and signallers' quarter at Dhansirimukh. The reconstruction of a telegraph-office at Dimapur was stopped because the Director-General of Telegraphs thought the office might be located at Samaguting in the Civil Officer's bungalow, which is now unused. This experiment was tried, and was not successful.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

CIVIL BUILDINGS.

227. The total allotment for Original Works under this head for the year was Rs. 2,26,500. The following list shows the principal

buildings it was proposed to construct, the grants allotted, and the actual outlay :—

	Grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.
(1) Dhubri Treasury.....	7,000	8,193
(2) " Cutcherry alteration	4,000	5,956
(3) Dhubri School-house	5,000	4,091
(4) Barpeta Cutcherry	8,000	6,330
(5) Gauhati Judge's Cutcherry	13,000	8,262
(6) " Jail	50,000	27,360
(7) Tezpur Jail	3,000	.....
(8) Golághát cemetery .....	.....	525
(9) Jorhát cemetery wall	3,000	.....
(10) Sibságar quarter-guard	3,000	856
(11) " School-house	1,000	1,698
(12) Dibrugarh Jail	5,000	.....
(13) Sylhet Cutcherry and Record-room.....	25,000	.....
(14) " Judge's Cutcherry	10,000	15,461
(15) " " record-racks	9,000	.....
(16) " Jail	35,000	14,420
(17) " Sub-divisional buildings	2,000	.....
(18) Hailákánda Cutcherry	3,000	4,291
(19) Silchar Jail	3,500	7,894
(20) Shillong Public Works Offices.....	7,000	10,092
(21) Sub-divisional buildings, Lakhimpur, Gunjong, Sunámganj, and Mangaldai... ..	.....	8,063
(22) Lock-ups, Sunámganj, Karimgánj, and Habiganj .....	.....	3,204
(23) Public Works Officers' quarters, Sibságar and Golághat .....	.....	4,543
(24) New Cemetery, Gauhati .....	.....	1,980
(25) Re-building Secretariat Office, Shillong... ..	.....	7,477
(26) Additions to school-house, Gauhati.... ..	.....	1,404
(27) Dhubri Dispensary.....	.....	2,560
(28) Anemometer house, Dhubri .....	.....	1,763
Minor Works	30,000	26,776
Total	<u>2,26,500</u>	<u>1,73,199</u>

228. *Dhubri*.—The new treasury and record-room and the addition to the cutcherry at Dhubri have been completed, both within the estimated cost, and a new school-room at the same station was commenced and finished during the year. Progress on the new cutcherry at Barpeta was not so satisfactory, owing to failure and delay in the manufacture of bricks. This also, among other reasons, led to a modification of the design by which the estimate was reduced by about Rs. 1,400. The work was put in hand in January, and should now shortly be completed.

229. A new anemometer-house was also erected at Dhubri, at a cost of Rs. 1,830; but, owing to the octagonal form of roof, which was shingled and with a trap-door at top, some difficulty was experienced in making it water-tight. The object of the building was the removal of the Meteorological Observatory from Goálpára, where it was hitherto accommodated in a thatched building on the hill some 300 feet above the river bank, the site selected at Dhubri being considered more suitable as representing the condition of the lower portion of the Assam Valley, and less likely to give abnormal results.

230. *Gauhati*.—The new jail works were under progress throughout the year, and are still in an unfinished state. The expenditure was Rs. 27,360, against a modified budget grant of Rs. 36,000. Of the two new criminal wards, with raised floors and curved iron roofs, one only has been completed and occupied: it has proved healthy and suitable for its purpose, but is hotter than was anticipated. The close bamboo walling necessary for safety interferes much with the free entrance and exit of air; and unless the walls can be kept more open it will be necessary to give roof ventilation. This is being provided in the second ward now approaching completion.

The outer wall was nearly completed to the height of 12 feet, which is considered to be sufficient (the former plan was to raise it to 15 feet), and a commencement has been made of the new gateway and entrance offices, all of which should be finished shortly.

The convicts were mostly employed during the weather suitable for such work in brick-making, and endeavours have been made to turn out a better article than hitherto. It is hoped that the instruction given to the convicts may bear some fruit after their release in promoting the manufacture of well-shaped and burnt bricks, which are at present very difficult to procure in the country anywhere.

231. *Substituting shingles for thatched roof of Judge's Cutcherry*.—This work had to be undertaken in consequence of the thatched roof being set on fire by lightning and destroyed for the most part. The expenditure incurred was only Rs. 8,262, against an estimate and grant of Rs. 12,298, but the work was not completed by the end of the year, as the progress was not what it should have been. There was some difficulty in executing with not very efficient workmen the new framing required in the roof, where the end of the building used as a circuit-house abuts on the cutcherry proper, the roof being on different levels, but, as already noted, the progress should have been better.

232. *Enclosure wall to cemetery, Golághát*.—This insignificant work (the construction of a wall $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and 158 yards long), which was first commenced in July 1880, has again been left incomplete. No doubt there have been various difficulties arising from the demand for workmen for commissariat and other buildings at Golághát and from transfer of all work in Golághát from one division to another, but a little energy would have completed the work long ago, and its present state is anything but creditable to the officers and subordinates concerned.

233. *Sibságar*.—The re-roofing of the zila school and police quarter-guard have been completed and a new bungalow built for the Public Works Officer.

234. *Shillong*.—The new Public Works offices, which were to have been completed and occupied in July 1881, were not quite finished by the end of the year. This was partly due to some alterations determined on in the interior arrangements, as it was decided to devote the building to the Account offices, and to locate the Comptroller and the Deputy-Examiner in it, instead of the Superintending-Engineer and Deputy-Examiner, as was at first intended. The work was, however,

mostly completed, and was before being quite ready hurriedly occupied by the Comptroller's office on the burning down of the General Secretariat Office in February. The building has since been completed and fully occupied.

235. *Sylhet Central Jail*.—Fair progress has been made, though the entire project is not quite complete. The main outer wall, with the entrance offices, guard-room, &c., were finished. The hospital was also finished and the new criminal ward nearly so, most of the work having been done by the convicts themselves. It only remains to carry out a few details in the ward now allotted to under-trial and civil prisoners, and to add a well, bathing-platform, &c. The outlay has been Rs. 14,420, against a modified budget grant of Rs. 17,217.

236. Among the other principal works in the Sylhet Valley, the following may be mentioned:—

Cachar Lock-up.—Main wall completed and interior buildings and drainage nearly finished.

237. *Court-house and Treasury at Hailákáñdi* completed. This building has one end of masonry, with iron-barred door and windows, the remainder having *ekra*-plastered walls on a masonry plinth, with iron ventilated roof and *ekra* ceiling.

Judge's Cutcherry, Sylhet.—The building was found to require considerable repairs, and, as more accommodation was also required, an estimate was sanctioned in October 1881 for Rs. 18,272 for the work. Fair progress has been made, all the masonry work having been completed, and the greater portion of the roof covered in. New iron record racks have also been supplied to this building, as well as to the old Collectorate. The new iron-roofed cutcherry at Sunámganj, and lock-ups at Sunámganj, Habiganj, and Karimganj, have also been completed.

238. Various minor works have been carried out, among which may be mentioned the following:—Inspection bungalows at Thariághát and Sadiya; addition of iron-roofed verandah to the Cutcherry at Lakhimpur; an Assistant-Engineer's bungalow and office, Golághát; a hospital and subordinates' quarters at Dimapur.

COMMUNICATIONS.

239. The original provision for roads and communications was Rs. 4,95,500, of which, however, Rs. 2,26,000 were held in reserve and

Rs. 2,69,500 allotted. The following list shows the works which it was proposed to execute, the grants, and the actual outlay:—

	Grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.
Trunk Road—		
Kámrúp district	3,000	10,390
Nowgong	25,000	23,627
Sibságar	25,000	11,518
Lakhimpur	15,500	8,665
Ferry-márs .....	.....	1,125
Golághát and Nigrítting Road	3,000	.....
Shillong Cart-road	25,000	24,210
Uníam bridge .....	.....	8,879
Shillong Cherra Cart-Road	50,000	1,39,728
Sylhet-Cachar Road	10,000	1,817
Lakhimpur and Ranga Nadi Road	6,000	5,509
Gáro Hills—Tura-Rohunari Road	8,000	.....
Nága Hills—Wokha Road	5,000	.....
Kokílamukh Tramway	50,000	29,931
Kolaigaon Tramway	30,000	.....
Dikhumukh and Disangukh Roads .....	.....	2,222
Cachar—Metalling district roads .....	.....	8,921
Shillong suburban roads .....	.....	3,000
Bicycle Tramway at Dibrugarh .....	.....	2,878
Four dák-bungalows and rest-houses, including the one at Tezpur.	14,000	9,047
Minor works .....	.....	10,168
Total.....	2,69,500	3,01,635

240. *Assam Trunk Road.*—The original grant for Original Works on this road was confined to the portion above Gauháti, and amounted to Rs. 68,500, against which the outlay was only Rs. 54,200, but little having been done towards bringing the road up to proper section, except between Koliabar and the Dhansiri, and a short length of two or three miles between the latter and Jorhát. In the upper length of the road in the Sibságar and Lakhimpur districts, the progress was even less satisfactory than in the previous year. Almost all of the few remaining imported coolies of previous years had completed their stipulated time, and all refused to re-engage, preferring to take work on the railway, which was being begun at Dibrugarh, and gave employment at high wages to all the labour it could get.

241. Two or three fresh batches of Nepali coolies had been imported towards the end of the rains, but, for want of proper care in registering and taking agreements on the part of the recruiting agent, they all managed to evade their agreements, and the Executive-Engineer was unable to find labour even for the more urgent repair work.

242. In the section of the Trunk Road immediately above Gauháti, the first 11 miles form part of the Shillong Road; these had

previously been metalled with old bricks, which, however, would not stand the traffic, and it was determined to use stone metal. This had to be brought from some distance, and an attempt was made to break up the stone with a steam "crusher." The stone, however, was not suitable, and broke into thin flakes, much of it being quite crumbled, and it was necessary again to resort to hand-breaking. Fair progress was made, and the metalling of the entire road to Shillong will now shortly be completed.

243. Some new culverts were begun in the next length of the Trunk Road, between the Shillong Road and Sonapur, and the foundations and part of the new abutment got in of an arched bridge in the Sibságar district over the Metong Nullah, which had been washed away in consequence of the waterway proving insufficient on the raising of the embankment in the previous year. A 45-foot wooden trussed girder was also built for this bridge, and tested in the Dibrugarh workshops by taking elephants over it, but it is not yet in position.

244. *Metalling in Dibrugarh Station.*—The expenditure shown against Lakhimpur for the Trunk Road consisted mainly of the cost of metalling a portion of it (less than a mile) within the station of Dibrugarh. The progress in this work was not great, and it was only through the employment of convicts that anything was done at all. No labour was obtainable for stone-breaking, and it is proposed to send up a steam "crusher," as the stone, which consisted of water-rolled boulders brought down from the river bed near Sadiya, is very hard. The metalling, though for no considerable distance, now that the railway will bring in most of the outstation traffic, is much needed, as the soil is especially soft, and in the rains works into an almost unpassable morass.

245. *Metalling Shillong Cart-Road.*—The work of the year consisted in improving the existing metal by laying and rolling a finer layer and re-making portions which had broken up or subsided. The total outlay on this work has been Rs. 1,33,654, or about Rs. 2,570 per mile. With the exception of the 11 miles noted above, forming a part of the Assam Trunk Road, the work is completed.

246. *Umiám Bridge.*—In June 1880 an estimate was sanctioned for a new bridge over the Umiám, 9 miles below Shillong, to replace the existing one, which was of the nature of a trussed beam with 3 chains below, as it was difficult to equalise the strains: wooden wedges had already been driven to bring the roadway level, and the structure was not considered quite safe. The new design was for a stone arch, and in July last the abutments had been completed, the centering got into position, and the arch partly turned, when the centering suddenly gave way, and the whole arch fell into the deep chasm which the bridge was to span. The centering was theoretically sufficiently strong, and apparently failed from inherent weakness in the wood, partly also, perhaps, from want of sufficient side-bracing to the lower members of the framing. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Owing to the height of the fall and there being deep water below, the stone was all lost, and the centering completely broken, so as to be quite useless.

On reconsidering the case, and as all the work of the superstructure had to be begun *de novo*, whatever design was adopted, it was decided to use iron girders. The abutments have been raised to the necessary height, and one girder has since been got into position. The bridge should now shortly be finished.

247. *Cherra Cart-Road.*—Good progress has been made on this work, which has mostly been done by Khási petty contractors. The road leaves the old bridle-road at the 6th mile from Shillong, and meets it again in the 23rd mile, keeping on the new alignment more to the east to cross the deep ravine of the Bogápáni higher up and avoid the steep hill sides near Maoflong. The experiment was tried of putting a body of convicts near the Kálapáni on the line of road, and employing them on the road work. The temporary jail was ready for occupation in November 1881, and since then there have been on an average 200 convicts kept there, and worked under the orders of an Assistant-Engineer, who was entrusted with the duties and necessary powers of Jail Superintendent. The experiment has been successful, and the work done by the prisoners more satisfactory than it has hitherto proved elsewhere in Assam, where they have been employed on Public Works.

The estimate for this road is Rs. 2,11,311, and the expenditure to the end of the year Rs. 1,39,728. The bridge work is light, and stone good and plentiful; lime is easily brought up from Therria. Most of the small culverts are therefore being put in of masonry, and some cut stone bridges of 10 and 12 feet span have been thrown over the smaller streams. The Bogápáni will be crossed by a Whipple girder of 75 feet span, for which the abutments were partly completed. It is expected that the road will be open for carts by the end of the next working season, and a scheme for a wire-rope tramway down the hill from Cherra to the plains is being considered.

248. *Raising and metalling portion of Trunk Road, Cachar.*—The object of metalling this portion of the road was chiefly to improve the access to the rifle-range for the regiment stationed at Cachar, the road to which leaves the main road some three miles from the cantonment. The estimate included the portion of road up to the ferry beyond. Most of the road required some raising to bring it to a proper level before laying the metal, and, therefore, as regards the latter it was only intended to collect it at site. The progress was not satisfactory, and the outlay, Rs. 1,817, was only for earthwork, and some materials for bridges.

249. *Northern Trunk Road.*—In July 1881 an estimate for raising and bridging three miles of this road from Lakhimpur to the Ranga Nadi was sanctioned for Rs. 21,351, which was altered, on a more careful investigation of the work necessary, to Rs. 25,011. The great cost is principally due to the large extent of waterway which has to be provided for by wooden bridges on piles. The expenditure of the year was only Rs. 5,509, and the progress made not at all satisfactory. Some earthwork was executed, that in the first mile being nearly completed; most of the timber for bridge piles was cut and brought to site,

and the teak-timber for bridge-trusses was received in the workshops at Dibrugarh, where the trusses are being constructed.

250. *Tura and Rohumari Road.*—No new work was executed on this road, and the allotment was allowed to lapse. The existing road was repaired and surface-dressed, inspection-bungalows at Putimari, Damalgiri, and Mankarchar repaired, and cattle-fords and ferry-ghats kept in order.

251. *Wokha Road.*—The allotment for this road also was allowed to lapse, in the absence of any specific project or estimate. The existing line was repaired, where necessary, by the civil officers, an allotment of Rs. 1,000 having been made in January for the purpose.

252. *Kokilamukh Tramway.*—The delay in the completion of this work has been peculiarly annoying, and has been owing mainly to inefficiency and want of resource on the part of the local officers, who asserted positively in April 1881 that the one bridge which had to be built on the line would be finished before the rains, although not a single brick had then been burnt. As a matter of fact, though the earth-work of this line, which had been mostly completed in the former year, was finished, the bridge, a small girder one in the highest part of the embankment, was not built till just before the rains of 1882. This bridge has since been undermined by the flood-water, and one abutment has given way. It will not be possible to ascertain the exact cause of the damage nor to take any steps to repair it until the floods have quite subsided again.

253. Though Rs. 30,000 were entered in the budget for the Kolai-gaon Tramway, this project never got beyond the initial stage, and was abandoned on evidence being produced that it was not much wanted, and would not be remunerative.

As masonry work is very costly in the Lakhimpur district, where masons are very scarce, and to meet the difficulty in the matter of small culverts, an experiment was tried last year of using corrugated iron. The sheets were bent beforehand into a semi-circular form, and rivetted at site into a continuous barrel, over which when in position the bank is carried. One such pipe, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet diameter, has now been in use under a municipal road for a year, and one of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet has been used on the railway, where during the last two months an engine has been frequently over it. It is probable that under a high bank such pipes might be used up to 4 if not 5 feet diameter, and in certain circumstances, as to labour, carriage, &c., they cost much less than masonry or earthenware pipes.

254. *Bicycle Tramway at Dibrugarh.*—This project was first taken up in December 1880, the principle being to run a truck on two wheels ranged longitudinally under the centre on a single rail. An experimental line of $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles, estimated at Rs. 11,120, was sanctioned from the steamer ghát at Dibrumukh up to the station, where it was thought it

had a good chance of success, even in spite of the prospect of the early construction of a railway, the traffic to the *bázár* being considerable, and the road very bad in wet weather.

The design was claimed as an original one by Mr. C. Ewing, to whom the construction was entrusted, and it was supposed that he would be competent (having lately been employed on the Railway Survey), and would be anxious to construct it economically and test its working for his own sake. He was advanced money for its construction and treated liberally in the matter, but the result has been disastrous, as he almost totally neglected the project, and, though some timber had been cut, and about a mile of rail and one or two trucks constructed, the line was not ready to lay down in April 1882, when the Railway Company had laid its rails and superseded this experiment. It was necessary, after much delay and remonstrance, to close all accounts with Mr. Ewing, taking over such tools and stock as were of any value at all. The experiment, which promised well if properly worked, has turned out a complete failure and caused a considerable loss to Government.

255. *Dák-bungalows*.—A new bungalow at Burnihát was begun during the year on an estimate for Rs. 2,558. The design is wooden framing and plastered *ekra* walls with planked floor, standing on masonry pillars to keep it well raised from the ground and ventilated. The progress was not very rapid, but the building has since been finished, and was ready for use before the rains set in.

Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively were provided for enlarging the *dák-bungalow* at Gauháti, and for a new roof to the bungalow at Nongpoh, but the allotments were transferred later on to other works.

Rs. 3,000 were provided for a new bungalow at Lakhimpur for the residence of the Sub-divisional Officer, the building now occupied by him being utilised as a *dák-bungalow*. No progress, however, was made in the construction, though some materials have been collected at the site.

In October 1880 an expenditure from the Darrang Local Fund of Rs. 8,400 had been approved for repairing a large building, and converting it into a *dák-bungalow*. The roof had been partly burnt, and the estimate provided for renewing all damaged or burnt portions of the building. The work was undertaken by the Public Works Department, but the damage to the building (purchased, including the site, a large, central, and commodious one, for Rs. 1,000) was more than had been anticipated, involving an increase to the estimate. The cost, however, was still further increased by the neglect of the work on the part of the Officiating Executive-Engineer, who left it entirely to his subordinates, among whom there were changes on account of illness. The work was not completed until October 1881, and cost Rs. 12,430, the balance over the original estimate having been sanctioned from Provincial Funds.

256. *Irrigation and Navigation*.—The total allotment under this head (which ought properly to be called Marine, as there is no irrigation

work in the Province) was Rs. 1,59,000, of which Rs. 1,31,700 were devoted to the following original works:—

	Grant. Rs.	Outlay. Rs.
Steamer subsidy	1,00,000	.....
Subsidy for small steamer on the Dhansiri River	20,000	.....
Landing-stages	8,700	3,415
Clearing shoals in Kusiárá River	3,000	170
Ditto Disang " .....	.....	2,000
Petty works .....	.....	189
Total.....	1,31,700	5,774

The first item in the list is a subsidy of Rs. 1,00,000 to an accelerated steamer service, which it was hoped would have been established up to Gauháti, if not to Dibrugarh, during the year. Negotiations were not so quickly completed as had been hoped, and there was no necessity to make any allotment under this head. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was also provided for a service which it had been hoped to start up the Dhansiri and other rivers at the upper end of the Brahmaputra valley, but the project was not carried out.

257. Sir S. C. Bayley had approved a scheme of building floating *dák-bungalows*, resting on iron pontoons, to be moored at the different places where steamers call, so that passengers might be accommodated in them while waiting for the arrival of the steamers. It was intended to construct two of these during the year, but only one was built. It was made at the Gauháti workshops, and cost Rs. 4,916, but was unfortunately lost while being towed to its destination.

258. The District Engineer of Sylhet commenced a survey of the shoals in the Kusiárá, which at low water obstruct the passage of river steamers above Fenchuganj, but his plans were not far enough advanced for anything to be done during the year.

The original estimate for maintenance and repairs (Rs. 4,200) was exceeded by Rs. 9,500, as it did not include the current expenses of the small steamers *Lark* and *Hawk*, which had to be charged to this head of account.

259. Under "Tools and plant" the expenditure was only Rs. 13,000 against a grant of Rs. 20,000, as the balance of Dockyard charges for the *Kestrel* was less than had been anticipated.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

260. The protective works to the Dibru river at Dibrugarh erected during the former year having had decidedly beneficial results, a further outlay of Rs. 1,275 was incurred during the year in repairing the broken spurs and in making a more continuous bed of brushwood along the bottom of the bank, as it was found that the erosion was very slight at any higher level, and that the upper portions only fell when deprived of their natural support. The result of the operations have been so far satisfactory, and it is expected that it will be possible to save the Strand

Road, which otherwise, with the bázár behind, was slowly but surely being washed away.

261. During the year it was necessary to resort to some similar work at Sibságar, where the Dikhu river breached the bunds on its bank and seriously threatened the town. The whole soil is soft, and retired embankments only postpone the evil for a short time, while at parts of the bank, which was being eroded, there was little or no space left for any retired embankments. The works undertaken were only put in hand late in the season, and it is not possible yet to form any judgment on them. They must, however, be kept up, and the Dikhu bund must be held and improved for the safety of the town.

262. In consequence of the great mortality from fever in Goálpára in 1880, instructions were issued to prepare a plan for draining the marshy ponds in and near the town of Goálpára. A project for this work was prepared by the District Fund Engineer and submitted in September 1881, but from an inspection by the Superintending Engineer in December some modifications appeared necessary. The District Engineer was directed to take the necessary levels and to arrange at once for bricks while dry weather lasted. He delayed about this, and an Assistant-Engineer had to be sent to Goálpára specially for this work: the most favourable time, however, had been lost, and but little actual work was done during the season. There are no difficulties to be overcome, as there is plenty of fall for the drainage line. Formerly there was a bund keeping the river out at the upper end of the *bil*, which was cut a few years since, the result being an immediate widening of the breach, additional flooding, and silting up of the natural escape below. It is now proposed to close the gap again, putting in a small regulating sluice. The work was put in hand late, and hardly any progress had been made at the end of the year.

263. The expenditure on the Gaubáti drainage scheme was small, it being considered that as much had been done as should fairly be done from Provincial Funds. The matter has now been made over to the District Fund and Municipality.

264. *Tonga and Bullock Train Services.*—These services, which had been got into working order at the expense of a good deal of time and trouble by Major Willans during some years past, were in October 1881 handed over, under agreement, to the Planters' Stores and Agency Company, by whom they have since been carried on. The working has not been altogether satisfactory, but allowance must be made for shortcomings at first, and it is well that Government officers should be relieved, if possible, of such work, which hardly falls within the limits of their professional duties.

265. *Lime Manufacture.*—This was almost at a standstill during the year, as the Government of Bengal now only requires unburnt stone. The total delivery of stone at Chhátak from the quarries was 2,67,645 maunds, *viz.*,—

From Byrang quarry	1,36,995
„ Sohbar Punji	1,30,650

Besides the 60,000 maunds of stone for Calcutta, a small quantity, about 3,500 maunds, of lime was sent to the Executive-Engineer, Dacca Division; but even about this there was difficulty, as boats can only be got at Chhátak, at any reasonable rates, by watching for opportunities, instead of which, indents for lime were received to be sent off at once by boat, involving extra cost for freight.

266. An experimental pukka kiln to give a continuous outturn, instead of the country kiln (where great heat is lost in cooling down each time and re-building), has not proved a success. The plan was from an approved design, but a short trial showed that it required more height, as in a strong wind there was sometimes a down draught, and on a subsequent trial the kiln showed a long vertical crack, owing, it is supposed, to the want of a layer of ashes, or some such material, between the fire-bricks and the masonry. The contractors who supplied the bricks, however, had said that this layer would be unnecessary, and the Executive-Engineer omitted it. The cessation of demands for burnt lime for Bengal has, at any rate, obviated the necessity for such a supply of lime as that which this kiln was designed to meet.

267. *Gauhati Workshops.*—The difficulty of securing an efficient foreman was noticed in last year's report, and has continued through the past year. The foreman who was in charge at the beginning of the year, as also another engaged on the recommendation of the Dockyard Superintendent, having proved inefficient in one way or another, in March last a young man was engaged from the Sibpore College, highly recommended by Mr. Fouracres: he is somewhat wanting in experience, but has sound knowledge of the work he has to look after. The outturn during the year was valued at Rs. 20,071, but there has again been a loss in the working, partly owing to insufficient notice being given of work required, resulting in hurry at one time, and insufficient work at another to keep the men and machinery properly employed.

The following is a list of the principal items of outturn during the year:—

	Rs.
Landing stage	2,397
Queen post trusses for Noa-Nadi bridge	2,493
" " for a 25-foot bridge on Trunk Road ...	689
Repairs, <i>Sunamukhi</i>	1,493
" <i>General Jenkins</i>	1,609
Numerous small items for jail and other buildings, &c. ..	10,355
Work for private parties.....	1,035
	20,071

268. *Dibrugarh Workshops.*—A few small machines were added during the year, including a punching and shearing machine, and a screw-cutting lathe, worked at present by hand, but adapted for steam, which it is proposed to introduce shortly. The value of the year's outturn is estimated at Rs. 13,000, including two iron boats and one

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pontoon *már*, a wooden-trussed girder 45 feet span, capable of carrying elephants, for the Metong bridge on the Trunk Road near Sibságar, and various minor works.

269. *Imported labour.*—The difficulty experienced in making the necessary arrangements for importing labour does not at all diminish, and was felt very keenly this year. The attempt made to procure coolies through a contractor has already been referred to, and is an instance of the loss to which a Government Department is generally liable when it enters into an operation requiring peculiar qualifications and experience, which its officers do not possess. The labourers supplied for the Nága Hills have proved extremely expensive, both on account of initial cost and of constant real or pretended sickness, but at least they did not run away or repudiate their contracts, and some of them have worked well and taken a liking to the place, higher pay reconciling them to unhealthiness and high prices. But of the coolies imported to Dibrugarh not a single one remains, and hardly a single one did a day's work. They were probably deceived by the recruiter before starting. On arriving, the District Engineer neither knew enough of the law nor possessed enough powers of persuasion to manage them; and the railway works offered the temptation of higher pay. The result was a loss of Rs. 13,455 to Government, and the formation of a conviction that it is not desirable for officers of the department to enter into engagements of this kind again. In future, the charge of the roads will rest with the Local Boards, and it is hoped that they will either induce voluntary labour to come forward or have resort to contributed labour, or else will recruit men from other Provinces with greater success than attended the operations of the Public Works Department in 1881-82.

270. *Gáro Hills Railway Survey.*—A preliminary examination of the country was made under order of the Government of India by Mr. Buyers and the staff under his orders, with a view to ascertain the feasibility of taking a line of railway from Mymensingh across the hills to Gauháti, and tapping *en route* the coal-fields in the Somesari Valley. A detailed report has been separately submitted for the consideration of the Government of India, and the main results of the examination of the country may be briefly stated as follows :—The route for a line of railway would be by the Somesari, Rongdi, Ranjit, and Manda Valleys. The length of the hill line would be about 85 miles, and the whole distance from Mymensingh to Gauháti about 191 miles. The hill work would be heavy, the worst part being in the Somesari Valley, where tunnelling, cuttings, and viaducts would all be necessary, and the average cost per mile of the hill section of the line will, judging from a short section estimated in detail, be at least Rs. 1,10,000. Labour will all have to be imported, and, though both sandstone and limestone are to be had in the Somesari Valley, the former is of inferior quality. In the northern portion the rock is harder and more crystalline. The total cost from Mymensingh to Gauháti is estimated at Rs. 84,70,000, or nearly £10,000 a mile. The line would tap a valuable coal-field, and would carry all the passenger and light goods traffic of the Upper Assam Valley, and if the cost is not deemed prohibitive it would be doubtless an immense benefit to the country.

PART II.—POST-OFFICE.

271. The following statement shows the operations of the Postal Department for the years 1880-81 and 1881-82:—

1	2		3		4		5		6	
	Number of post-offices, Imperial.		Number of village postmen, Imperial.		Number of covers passing through the post-office.		Number of covers passing through the police (district dák).		Number of covers posted.	
					Number of covers received for delivery in the post-office.		Number of covers received for delivery through the police.			
Districts.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.
Cachar	16	16	22	23	370,866	440,176	....	....	....	....
Darrang	7	8	11	11	175,330	183,580	....	....	....	....
Gáro Hills	1	1	....	....	11,471	17,814	782	1,152	803	1,286
Goalpara	17	18	16	16	237,377	251,402	3,649	7,004	2,962	2,605
Kámráp	7	8	10	11	194,414	224,143	....	317	....	305
Khási Hills	3	4	1	1	161,199	185,040	....	....	....	....
Lákhimpur	12	13	14	14	344,064	407,690	....	....	....	....
Nága Hills	2	3	....	1	82,177	99,426	....	....	....	....
Niwgong	10	10	9	9	107,893	116,420	....	....	....	....
Sibságar	21	22	26	29	492,761	544,200	....	....	....	....
Syínet	34	38	55	59	651,525	737,999	39,569	50,022	59,974	38,904
Total.....	130	141	164	174	2,829,067	3,207,890	43,900	58,495	34,789	48,100

272. The operations of the Postal Department are a fair index of the general prosperity of the country, and it is therefore satisfactory to observe the augmentation that has taken place in its business as disclosed by the above statement.

273. The increase in the number of letters posted is no less than 12½ per cent. over that of the previous year, and is most marked in the hill districts of the Nága and Khási Hills.

274. In the plains, Lákhimpur and Cachar show the largest increase, which is in each case just under 19 per cent. Eleven new sub-offices have been opened in 1881-82. Three village postmen were discontinued, and thirteen fresh ones entertained, seven at newly-opened offices, and the rest at offices where a return of the correspondence delivered showed they were necessary.

275. Thirteen cases of offences punishable by law occurred in the department during the past year. Of these, six of the cases were against runners. Out of the thirteen cases one was dismissed for want of proof.

PART III.—TELEGRAPHS.

276. The telegraphs in Assam are under the charge of a Superintendent, whose head-quarters are at Dhubri. His charge has been permanently extended during the year by the field lines and offices in the Nága Hills being brought on to the permanent scale, and by the extension of a line to Sadiya, at which place and at Dumduma offices have been opened. Communication with Sadiya is not, however, kept up through

the rains, as the temporary line across the river has to be taken up when the Brahmaputra is in flood, and the office is removed to Saikhwa, on the south bank, some 4 miles below Sadiya. The department will also have technical supervision over the wire from Dibrugarh to Máku, which belongs to the Assam Railways and Trading Company.

277. In consequence of the cutting away of the bank of the Brahmaputra opposite Dhubri, heavy repairs and extensions to the cable which underlies the river at that point have long been necessary. First, a new piece of 100 yards was added, then another 400 yards, but as the erosion of the banks continued to an alarming degree it was found advisable to cut out the last 400 yards and in place of it to add one and a half miles of new cable. This arrived from Calcutta just in time, as before the end of the monsoon the main river had reached the site of the third junction house. The present site is now well inland, but as the banks continue to be cut away, it is now under consideration to carry the wire on the right or north bank of the river from Dhubri to Jogigope, and to cross the river by a cable from that point to near Goálpára.

278. Several new projects for the extension of telegraph lines are in hand, or are under consideration, among which the following may be noticed:—

- (1) The construction of a line from Dhubri to Tura. It is hoped that this line will shortly be commenced.
- (2) The doubling of the line from Jalpaiguri to Dhubri and possibly to Gauháti. Estimates for this have been prepared.
- (3) The construction of a line to connect Názirá and a number of neighbouring gardens with Sibságar. Estimates for this line have been prepared, but the project is still under consideration.

279. The experimental office opened at Meesa, between Nowgong and Koliabar, proved a financial failure; the office has, however, been allowed to remain under a guarantee from the Local Government and the planters in the neighbourhood to make good any loss that may occur from its continuance.

280. The office at Golághát has been reduced from first to second class, and those in the Nága Hills from second to third class. On the other hand, in consequence of the increase of traffic, the office at Silchar has been raised from third to second class.

281. The number of messages delivered at offices in Assam for transmission during the year numbered 4,856, and brought in an income of Rs. 75,728.

CHAPTER V.
REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(a).—*Imperial Finance.*

282. The following is a statement of the Imperial revenue and expenditure, compared with that of 1880-81:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Land revenue.....	29,98,090,	30,35,038	36,948	.....
Tributes	200	.....	.....	200
Forests	1,68,997	1,66,054	.....	2,943
Opium.....	4,89,423	4,59,049	.....	30,374
Stationery and Printing.	85	.....	.....	85
Interest	18,325	10,106	.....	8,219
Pensions	1,179	1,210	31	.....
Miscellaneous	1,164	2,752	1,588	.....
Gain by exchange	26	110	84	.....
Special contribution from Provincial	1,50,000	.....	.....	1,50,000
Contributions from Pro- vincial	*17,650	8,742	.....	8,908
Total	38,45,139	36,83,061	38,651	2,00,729
Net decrease			1,44,428	

Heads.	Payments.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Interest on service funds..	12,780	.....	.....	12,780
Refunds.....	10,392	10,391	.....	1
Land revenue	3,44,648	3,08,691	.....	35,957
Forest	1,41,182	1,64,831	23,649	.....
Administration	41,306	43,729	2,423	.....
Minor departments	10,517	29,349	18,832	.....
Police	46,607	56,475	9,868	.....
Ecclesiastical	17,326	17,625	299	.....
Medical.....	58,964	69,031	10,067	.....
Political Agencies	63,612	41,849	.....	21,763
Allowances, &c.	72,165	63,809	.....	8,356
Superannuation	44,768	48,409	3,641	.....
Miscellaneous	11,580	8,314	.....	3,266
Special contributions to Provincial .....	.....	3,00,000	3,00,000	.....
Total	8,75,847	11,62,503	3,68,779	82,123
Net increase			2,86,656	

* This represents inter-Provincial adjustments made by the Comptroller-General after the statements for 1880-81 were compiled.

RECEIPTS.

Land Revenue..... Increase Rs. 36,948

283. There was a falling off under "Ordinary land revenue," and the increase is caused by exceptional receipts in Cachar and Lakhimpur on account of sale of waste lands and redemption of land tax.

The falling off under "Ordinary land revenue" is due to the alteration of the *kist* day in Sylhet, the same cause which affected the revenue last year when compared with the actuals of 1879-80.

The days were altered from March to April in 1880-81, and the greater part of the *kist*, notwithstanding the change, was received, as heretofore, in March, but in 1881-82 the change would seem to have been more generally recognised, and the greater part of the *kist* was received in April instead of March. In 1882-83, therefore, the usual normal increase in the revenue will re-appear.

Forests..... Decrease Rs. 2,943

There was a falling off in Darrang, where, as there is no regular timber trade, the receipts must always fluctuate; and in Cachar, where it is attributed to the fact that the tax has been taken off private timber, &c., and that keen competition ensued on the part of private parties who owned forests, and who had only worked them to a very limited extent previously.

The depressed state of the tea industry has also affected the receipts, but against the falling off there is Rs. 18,410 worth of timber, which was made over to the Assam Railway and Trading Company gratis. The decrease is thus more nominal than real, for, taking this into account, the decrease would be converted into an increase of Rs. 15,467.

Opium Decrease Rs. 30,374

This is due to falling off in sales, the receipts during previous years having been abnormal, owing to speculation.

Interest Decrease Rs. 8,219

This is under "Interest on unpaid portion of purchase-money of waste lands."

Now that the rules regarding waste lands do not permit of their being sold revenue free, the receipts under this head will ultimately disappear altogether.

Miscellaneous..... Increase Rs. 1,588

This under "Sale-proceeds of Durbar presents."

Special contribution Decrease Rs. 1,50,000

This represents the half of the three lakhs made over to Imperial by Provincial as the Assam contribution to the Imperial exchequer on account of the Afghan War, the whole of which was returned in 1881-82.

Contributions from Provincial Decrease Rs. 8,908

This is due to the Accountant-General, Bengal, having made a mistake of Rs. 11,000 in the amount claimed inter-provincially on account of officers' salaries, &c., and other charges of Assam incurred in Bengal, which, under orders of the Comptroller-General, is to be adjusted in 1882-83.

EXPENDITURE.

Interest..... Decrease Rs. 12,780

284. This is owing to the Comptroller-General not having yet communicated the amount of interest due on account of savings bank deposits for the year 1881-82.

Land revenue..... Decrease Rs. 35,957

This is owing chiefly to mauzadárs' commission due not having been paid in 1881-82.

Forests Increase Rs. 23,649

This is due to extended forest operations, chiefly in Lakhimpur and the Gáro Hills.

Minor Departments Increase Rs. 18,832

This is caused by charges on account of Census.

Police Increase Rs. 9,868

This comes under "Arms and accoutrements."

Medical Increase Rs. 10,067

This is due to changes amongst medical officers.

Political Decrease Rs. 21,763

The expenditure under "Political Agencies" in 1880-81 was increased by charges in connection with the Nága Hills expedition.

Allowances and assignments Decrease Rs. 8,356

This is due chiefly to arrear payments, aggregating Rs. 6,000, having been made in 1880-81.

Special contributions Increase Rs. 3,00,000

This three lakhs is the amount returned to Assam on account of the contribution to Imperial towards the Afghan War expenses paid in 1879-80 and 1880-81.

RESOURCE AND CURRENCY.

285. Supply-bills were issued without restriction to the public throughout the year, but the whole rupees imported to enable them to be encashed amounted to Rs. 8,00,000, Rs. 3,00,000 of which was in the Surmá Valley and Rs. 5,00,000 in the Assam Valley.

The supply-bill payments since 1874-75 have been as follows :—

	Rs.
1874-75	44,45,000
1875-76	55,51,000
1876-77	63,19,000
1877-78	41,48,000
1878-79	52,83,000
1879-80	54,58,000
1880-81	49,37,000
1881-82	46,51,000

The value of large notes received during the year and remitted to Calcutta amounted to Rs. 12,08,750. These, though received in payment of revenue, are chiefly imported by the planters, and exchanged

by them with the revenue collectors for coin. Taking these into consideration, the accommodation afforded to the commercial public amounted to Rs. 58,59,850, which was only Rs. 13,000 more than last year.

It would be more satisfactory were supply-bills more freely taken up; Government receives 1 per cent. on their issue, as the cost of making the remittances to meet the payment of the bills into Assam. In the case of notes, the discount which the planters pay goes to the Kyah or mauzadár who cashes them, and Government have to bear the entire cost of remittances imported.

Notes of the following denominations were received during the year :—

	Rs.
Rs. 50 each, aggregate value	54,500
" 20 " " "	43,000
" 10 " " "	31,000
" 5 " " "	10,000
	1,38,500

These circulate freely everywhere.

SMALL COIN.

286. The following were the receipts into the Province during the year :—

	Rs.
Half rupees	15,000
Quarter "	81,500
Eighth "	57,100
	1,53,600

The largest demand for these is in the Cachar district, where the issue was for quarter rupees Rs. 40,000 and for two-anna pieces Rs. 24,000.

COPPER.

287. The following were the receipts into the Province during the year :—

	Rs.
Double pice	2,800
Single "	1,22,600
Half "	300
	1,25,700

The chief demand for these is in Cachar and Goalpara.

(b)—Provincial Finance.

288. From 1882-83, the revised Provincial contract comes into force, so that 1881-82 is the fourth and last year of the old Provincial contract.

The following statement compares the receipts and charges of the year with those of 1880-81:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1880-81.	1881-82.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	7,49,522	7,58,760	9,238	.....
Excise	19,56,348	18,92,658	.....	63,690
Provincial rates	2,83,471	3,13,919	30,448	.....
Stamps	6,22,497	6,46,807	24,310	.....
Registration	35,849	32,971	.....	2,878
Minor Departments.....	178	5	.....	173
Law and Justice.....	1,66,123	1,58,666	.....	7,457
Police	64,560	72,616	8,056	.....
Education	22,775	26,561	3,786	.....
Medical	689	1,114	425	.....
Stationery and Printing ..	1,637	2,125	488	.....
Interest	671	560	.....	111
Miscellaneous	42,398	48,571	6,173	.....
Irrigation and Navigation .....	.....	1,688	1,688	.....
Public Works	20,685	17,445	.....	3,240
Contribution from Local to Provincial	66,397	54,242	.....	12,155
Contribution from Imperial .....	.....	3,00,000	3,00,000	.....
Total	40 33,800	43,28,708	3,84,612	89,704
Net increase .....	.....	.....	.....	2,94,908

Heads.	Payments.		Difference.	
	1880-81.	1881-82.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Refunds	34,088	36,280	2,192	.....
Land revenue.....	5,46,889	5,25,077	.....	21,812
Excise.....	9,917	8,640	.....	1,277
Provincial rates	5,405	5,177	.....	228
Stamps	20,899	22,828	1,929	.....
Registration	23,831	21,160	.....	2,671
Post-office	890	456	.....	434
Administration.....	1,81,078	1,73,550	.....	7,528
Minor Departments	6,036	11,944	5,908	.....
Law and Justice	5,96,198	5,74,131	.....	22,067
Police.....	7,55,201	8,34,481	79,280	.....
Education	1,52,623	1,60,473	7,850	.....
Ecclesiastical	626	734	108	.....
Medical Services	39,064	45,747	6,683	.....
Stationery and Printing	44,600	49,455	4,855	.....
Political Agencies	250	429	179	.....
Miscellaneous ..	61,053	57,526	.....	3,527
Famine relief .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Irrigation and Navigation.....	26,162	33,493	7,331	.....
Other public works	8,63,791	9,90,034	1,26,243	.....
Contribution to Imperial .....	.....	8,742	8,742	.....
Special contribution to Imperial	1,50,000	.....	.....	1,50,000
Ditto to Local	2,28,757	3,12,612	83,855	.....
Total	37,47,358	38,72,969	3,35,155	2,09,544
Net increase ..	.....	.....	.....	1,25,611

RECEIPTS.

Land Revenue Increase Rs. 9,238

289. As the Provincial receipts under "Land revenue" are one-fifth of the Imperial, the causes explained under "Imperial" affect the Provincial receipts similarly, though in a lesser degree.

Excise Decrease Rs. 63,690

Under "Sale of excise opium" the receipts of previous years were raised unduly, owing to speculation. In 1880-81 the receipts were Rs. 16,35,000, in 1881-82 only Rs. 15,39,000. There was an increase under the head "License and distillery fees" which makes the net decrease of the major head Rs. 63,690.

Provincial rates Increase Rs. 30,448

The increase is due to the introduction of the Assam Local Rates Regulation throughout the whole of the Sylhet district during 1881-82.

Stamps Increase Rs. 24,310

There was a decrease in 1881-82 of Rs. 8,000 under "General stamps" and an increase of Rs. 30,000 under "Court-fee stamps." The former was caused by scarcity of money in the Surmá Valley, owing to cheapness of grain, and the latter is due to exceptional receipts for mutation cases in the Sibságar district.

Registration Decrease Rs. 2,878

The decrease is due, as in the case of stamps, to scarcity of money in the Surmá Valley.

Law and Justice Decrease Rs. 7,457

The decrease is under "Magisterial fines."

Police Increase Rs. 8,056

This is under "Cattle-trespass fines."

Education Increase Rs. 3,786

This is under "Fees, Government schools," owing to larger number of scholars in 1881-82.

Miscellaneous Increase Rs. 6,173

There were exceptionally large receipts on account of lapsed deposits in 1881-82.

Contributions from Local Decrease Rs. 12,155

This only shows that the District Fund balances in 1880-81 which lapsed to Provincial were larger than in 1881-82.

Contribution from Imperial Increase Rs. 3,00,000

This represents the three lakhs returned to Assam on account of the contribution to the Afghan War.

EXPENDITURE.

Land revenue Decrease Rs. 21,812

290. This is partly owing to mauzadárs' commission due but not drawn, and to a saving under "Salaries." A portion of the latter, however, has since been adjusted inter-provincially against the Province.

Registration Decrease Rs. 2,671

This is owing to remuneration to copyists less paid in 1881-82 under "Revenue-record-room charges."

Minor Departments Increase Rs. 5,908

Rs. 3,000 of this is recoverable inter-provincially on account of the salary of Mr. Wood-Mason, who was deputed to Assam to make enquiries on the subject of the tea-bug. There has been an increase on account of Public Exhibitions and Fairs in 1881-82.

Law and Justice..... Decrease Rs. 22,067

This is partly due to the incumbent of the post of District Judge, Sylhet, having been on leave during 1881-82, and a junior officer having officiated for him, to savings under "Jail rations," owing to cheapness of grain, and under "Criminal courts." Of the latter, a part has been adjusted inter-provincially on account of salaries, &c., of Assam officers paid outside the Province.

Police Increase Rs. 79,280

There is Rs. 49,000 under "Arms and accoutrements," Rs. 9,000 under "Clothing," and Rs. 5,000 under "Travelling allowances." There is a general increase under most other heads.

Education Increase Rs. 7,850

There is an increase of Rs. 10,000 under "Grants-in-aid" in 1881-82.

Medical Increase Rs. 6,683

This is due to changes in establishments and to increased charges on account of stores supplied.

Stationery and Printing Increase Rs. 4,855

This is under "Cost of stationery supplied from central stores," which varies each year.

Irrigation and Navigation Increase Rs. 7,331

Other Public Works..... ,, 1,26,243

The increase under these heads is due to more money being available for Public Works expenditure in 1881-82.

Contribution to Imperial..... Rs. 8,742

This represents the net adjustment on account of inter-provincial adjustments during 1881-82.

Contributions to Local Increase Rs. 83,855

This was due to increased allotments to the District Committee during 1881-82.

*(c).—Local Finance.**Incorporated Local Funds.*

291. The following accounts shows the state of the District Funds as compared with 1880-81:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Provincial Rates	8,586	8,236	.....	350
Minor Department	150	567	417	.....
Education	369	7	.....	362
Miscellaneous	4,958	3,933	.....	1,025
Public Works	81,451	95,336	13,885	.....
Contributions from Provincial	2,28,757	3,12,612	83,855	.....
Debt Accounts.....	19,842	1,11,732	91,890	.....
Total	3,44,113	5,32,423	1,90,047	1,737
Net increase				1,88,310

Heads.	Payments.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Refunds	6,847	1,020	.....	5,827
Post-office	15,942	16,922	980	.....
Minor Department.....	100	100	.....	.....
Education	60,034	64,929	4,895	.....
Medical	360	930	570	.....
Miscellaneous.....	3,968	6,532	2,564	.....
Irrigation and Navigation ...	2,166	2,687	521	.....
Public Works.....	2,49,648	2,89,336	39,688	.....
Contribution to Provincial ...	66,397	54,242	.....	12,155
Debt accounts	38,353	95,725	57,372	.....
Total	4,43,815	5,32,423	1,06,590	17,982
Net Increase				88,140

The chief sources of income of the Incorporated Local Funds continued to be the receipts from ferries and the grants from Provincial.

There was an increase of Rs. 13,885 under the former, due to revised rules for the sales of ferries introduced in 1881-82.

Under the latter there was an increase of Rs. 83,855. This was under "Contribution from Assam local rate," Rs. 34,000; "Provincial Service proper," on account of lapsed balances regranted and grants to poorer districts Rs. 22,000; and "Surplus pound receipts" Rs. 28,000. These latter were granted in accordance with the Chief Commissioner's Resolution No. 777-80, dated the 20th April 1881.

The chief heads of expenditure were "Post," "Education," and "Public Works;" and the increase under these is due to more funds being available for expenditure by the District Committees.

The "Contribution to Provincial" represents the lapse of the balances of the different funds to Provincial.

The excluded funds were the same as last year. The receipts and expenditure were as follows:—

Excluded Local Funds.

Name of Fund.	Receipts.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	4,380	5,347	967	.....
Cantonment Funds	4,011	5,267	1,256	.....
Dispensary Funds	1,218	461	.....	757
Total	9,609	11,075	2,223	757
Net increase			1,466	

	Payments.		Difference.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Assam Williamson Educational Endowment Fund	4,293	3,757	.....	536
Cantonment Funds	4,630	4,957	327	...
Dispensary Funds	322	788	466	...
Total	9,245	9,502	793	536
Net increase			257	

Statement of Receipts during the year 1881-82.

Heads of revenue and receipts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance .....	.....	5,80,172	.....	.....
I. Land revenue	30,35,038	7,58,760	.....	37,93,798
III. Forests	1,66,054	.....	.....	1,66,054
IV. Excise .....	.....	18,92,658	.....	18,92,658
VI. Provincial rates .....	.....	3,13,919	8,236	3,22,155
IX. Opium	4,59,049	.....	.....	4,59,049
X. Stamps .....	.....	6,46,807	.....	6,46,807
XI. Registration .....	.....	32,971	.....	32,971
XV. Minor Departments .....	.....	5	567	572
XVI. Law and Justice .....	.....	1,58,666	.....	1,58,666
XVII. Police .....	.....	72,616	.....	72,616
XIX. Education .....	.....	26,561	7	26,568
XX. Medical .....	.....	1,114	.....	1,114
XXI. Stationery and Printing .....	.....	2,125	.....	2,125
XXII. Interest	10,106	560	.....	10,666
XXIII. Superannuation	1,210	.....	.....	1,210
XXIV. Miscellaneous	2,752	48,571	3,933	55,256
XXVI. Irrigation and Navigation ...	.....	1,688	.....	1,688
XXVII. Other Public Works .....	.....	17,445	95,336	1,12,781
XXX. Gain by exchange	110	.....	.....	110
Contributions—				
Provincial to Imperial	8,742	.....	.....	8,742
Local .....	.....	.....	3,12,612	3,12,612
Local to Provincial .....	.....	54,242	.....	54,242
Imperial to Provincial .....	.....	3,00,000	.....	3,00,000
Incorporated Local Fund Debt Accounts .....	.....	.....	1,11,732	1,11,732
Total Receipts ...	36,83,061	43,28,708	5,32,423	85,44,192
Grand Total			49,08,880	

Statement of Expenditure during the year 1881-82.

Heads of expenditure.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2. Interest .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3. Refunds	10,391	36,280	1,020	47,691
4. Land revenue	3,08,691	5,25,077	.....	8,33,768
5. Forest	1,64,831	.....	.....	1,64,831
6. Excise .....	.....	8,640	.....	8,640
8. Provincial rates .....	.....	5,177	.....	5,177
12. Stamps .....	.....	22,828	.....	22,828
13. Registration .....	.....	21,160	.....	21,160
15. Post-office .....	.....	456	16,922	17,378
17. Administration	43,729	1,73,550	.....	2,17,279
18. Minor Department	29,349	11,944	100	41,393
19. Law and Justice .....	.....	5,74,131	.....	5,74,131
20. Police	56,475	8,34,481	.....	8,90,956
22. Education .....	.....	1,60,473	64,929	2,25,402
23. Ecclesiastical	17,625	734	.....	18,359
24. Medical Services	69,031	45,747	930	1,15,708
25. Stationery and Printing ...	.....	49,455	.....	49,455
26. Political Agencies.....	41,849	429	.....	42,278
27. Allowances, &c.	63,809	.....	.....	63,809
29. Superannuations	48,409	.....	.....	48,409
30. Miscellaneous	8,314	57,526	6,532	72,372
31. Famine Relief .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
33. Irrigation and Navigation.	.....	33,493	2,687	36,180
34. Other Public Works.....	.....	9,90,034	2,89,336	12,79,370
Contributions--				
Imperial to Provincial	3,00,000	.....	.....	3,00,000
Provincial to Imperial .....	.....	8,742	.....	8,742
Ditto „ Local .....	.....	3,12,612	.....	3,12,612
Local to Provincial .....	.....	.....	54,242	54,242
Incorporated Local Fund				
Debt Accounts .....	.....	.....	95,725	95,725
Total Expenditure ...	11,62,503	38,72,969	5,32,423	55,67,895
Closing Balance...	.....	10,35,911	.....	.....
Grand Total ...	.....	49,08,880	5,32,423	.....

The following is a new statement designed to show as far as possible the general state of the Provincial finances and the actual amount which Assam contributes to the Imperial Government as its share of the general expenses of the Empire.

The first account includes all heads of civil receipt and expenditure (though some are now classed as Imperial and some as Local) except those of the purely Imperial Departments, which are shown in the next account. It works out a surplus of Rs. 29,75,932, or about 34·8 per cent. of the gross revenue of the Province.

The second account shows the receipts and expenditure of Imperial Departments in Assam,—Post-office, Telegraph, Army, and Marine. The latter will from the commencement of 1882-83 be Provincial, and as the charges are chiefly in connection with the Administration of Assam, and are not really Imperial Marine charges, it would perhaps be

more correct to take these into the first account. The Provincial surplus of revenue over expenditure would then be reduced to Rs. 29,32,254, or about 34·3 per cent. of the gross revenue.

Taking the Imperial departmental figures into account against the Provincial tribute, the net result is a surplus of Rs. 24,08,291, as shown in the third account, or 28·2 per cent. of the gross revenue.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of the Administration of Assam, working out the net income of the same for the year 1881-82.

I.

Revenue and receipts.	Amount.	Charges and expenditure.	Amount.
Amount of Civil revenue for the year—	Rs.	Amount of Civil expenditure during the year—	Rs.
Imperial	26,82,061	Imperial	11,62,603
Provincial	43,28,708	Provincial	38,73,334
Local	6,32,428	Local	6,32,423
	85,44,192		55,68,260
Deduct Civil expenditure	55,68,260		
Net Civil revenue	29,75,932		

II.

Departmental receipts—		Departmental charges—	
Postal	11,83,630	Postal	2,05,234
Telegraph	88,096	Telegraph	1,54,177
Military	Rs. 3,29,610	Marine	43,678
Deduct adjustments on account of supplies to Civil ..	98,326	Military	Rs. 14,28,826
Indian Family Pension Fund.....	854	Deduct adjustments on account of stores returned ..	3,187
	99,180	Public Works, Imperial	14,25,639
	2,80,430		2,42,534
Public Works, Imperial	1,465		20,71,262
	15,03,621	Deduct departmental receipts	15,03,621
		Net departmental charges	6,67,641

III.

Net Civil revenue	29,75,932		
Deduct net departmental charges	6,67,641		
Net revenue of this Province	24,08,291		

292. The following tables show receipts and expenditure for the last four years under the Provincial Contract of 1878-79:—

Heads.	Contract figures.			Actuals, 1878-79.			Actuals, 1879-80.		
	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land Revenue.	7,28,600	....	7,28,600	7,57,227	....	7,57,227	7,66,035	....	7,66,035
IV. Excise	16,00,000	....	16,00,000	18,38,123	....	18,38,123	18,59,202	....	18,59,202
VI. Provincial rates	....	4,000	40,000	181	38,185	38,366	191	38,733	38,994
X. Stamps	6,00,000	....	6,00,000	5,94,202	....	5,94,202	6,19,407	....	6,19,407
XI. Registration ..	25,000	....	25,000	33,773	....	33,773	36,767	....	36,767
Post-office	1,000	....	1,000	....	....	....	....	....	....
XV. Minor Depart- ments.	1,000	....	1,000	852	....	852	1,501	....	1,501
XVI. Law and justice	1,22,000	....	1,32,000	1,41,535	....	1,41,535	1,52,088	....	1,52,088
XVII. Police	7,000	43,000	50,000	54,181	....	54,181	65,913	....	65,913
XIX. Education	23,000	....	23,000	23,430	....	23,430	23,867	....	23,867
XX. Medical	2,000	....	2,000	1,251	....	1,251	2,738	....	2,738
XXI. Stationery and Printing.	1,000	....	1,000	1,429	....	1,429	1,482	....	1,482
XXII. Interest .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8,763	....	8,763
XXIV. Miscellaneous..	23,900	3,000	26,900	18,020	11,492	29,512	36,319	6,463	42,783
XXVI. Irrigation and Navigation.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
XXVII. Other Public Works.	4,000	64,000	68,000	80,950	59,344	90,294	17,666	63,054	80,720
Total	31,38,500	1,50,000	32,88,500	34,95,154	1,08,021	36,04,175	35,86,939	1,08,250	36,95,189

Receipts under the Provincial Contract of 1878-79.—(Continued.)

Heads.	Actuals, 1880-81.			Actuals, 1881-82.			Remarks.
	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
I. Land Revenue	7,49,522	....	7,49,522	7,58,760	....	7,58,760	
IV. Excise	19,56,348	....	19,56,348	18,92,658	....	18,92,658	
VI. Provincial Rates ..	2,83,470	8,586	2,92,056	3,13,919	8,236	3,22,155	
X. Stamps	6,22,497	....	6,22,497	6,46,807	....	6,46,807	
XI. Registration (a)....	35,849	....	35,849	32,971	....	32,971	(a) Included in the estimate under Law and Justice.
Post-office	178	....	178	5	....	5	
XV. Minor Departments	....	149	....	827	567	572	
XVI. Law and Justice ..	1,66,123	....	1,66,123	1,58,666	....	1,58,666	
XVII. Police	64,560	....	64,560	72,615	....	72,615	
XIX. Education	22,775	369	23,144	26,861	7	26,868	
XX. Medical	689	....	689	1,114	....	1,114	
XXI. Stationery and Printing.	1,637	....	1,637	2,125	....	2,125	
XXII. Interest	671	....	671	560	....	560	
XXIV. Miscellaneous ..	42,599	4,959	47,558	48,671	3,933	52,504	
XXVI. Irrigation and Navigation.	....	....	....	1,688	....	1,688	
XXVII. Other Public Works.	20,685	81,451	1,02,136	17,445	95,236	1,12,781	
Total	39,67,403	95,514	40,62,917	39,74,466	1,08,079	40,82,545	

Expenditure under the Provincial Contract.

Heads.	Contract figures.			Actuals, 1878-79.			Actuals, 1879-80.		
	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3. Refunds	26,500	.....	26,500	37,022	100	37,122	40,602	.....	40,602
4. Land Revenue	5,34,000	.....	5,34,000	5,33,328	.....	5,33,328	5,33,695	.....	5,33,695
Forest .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6. Excise	16,000	.....	16,000	11,423	.....	11,423	9,285	.....	9,285
8. Provincial Rates .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12. Stamps	13,000	.....	13,000	25,881	.....	25,881	24,623	.....	24,623
13. Registration (b)	24,000	.....	24,000	22,679	.....	22,679	26,383	.....	26,383
15. Post-office .....	.....	13,000	13,000	8,424	15,883	24,007	1,408	13,904	15,312
17. Administration	1,35,500	.....	1,35,500	1,35,988	.....	1,35,988	1,06,123	.....	1,06,123
18. Minor Departments	19,000	.....	19,000	7,283	.....	7,283	13,472	.....	13,472
19. Law and Justice	6,09,000	.....	6,09,000	6,31,398	.....	6,31,398	6,46,345	.....	6,46,345
20. Police	6,62,400	.....	6,62,400	7,49,402	.....	7,49,402	7,56,231	.....	7,56,231
22. Education	1,35,000	35,800	1,70,800	1,96,292	.....	1,96,292	1,95,135	.....	1,95,135
23. Ecclesiastical	1,000	.....	1,000	600	.....	600	620	.....	620
24. Medical	33,000	.....	33,000	35,488	.....	35,488	38,670	.....	38,670
25. Stationery and Printing	48,000	.....	48,000	47,360	.....	47,360	46,654	.....	46,654
26. Political Agencies .....	.....	.....	.....	124	.....	124	.....	.....	.....
30. Miscellaneous	55,600	5,200	60,800	46,852	.....	46,852	50,623	.....	50,623
31. Famine relief .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
32. Irrigation & Navigation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,170	.....	15,170
34. Other Public Works	7,04,000	2,13,000	9,17,000	8,10,330	2,65,077	10,75,407	7,27,544	2,71,308	9,98,846
Total	30,16,000	2,67,000	32,83,000	32,99,577	2,80,760	35,80,337	32,12,588	2,85,207	34,97,795

(b) Included in the grant for Law and Justice.
(c & d) Includes local expenditure.

Expenditure under the Provincial Contract.—(Continued.)

Heads.	Actuals, 1880-81.			Actuals, 1881-82.			REMARKS.
	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
3. Refunds	34,088	6,847	40,935	36,280	1,020	37,300	
4. Land Revenue	4,46,801	.....	4,46,801	5,25,077	.....	5,25,077	
Forest .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6. Excise	9,917	.....	9,917	8,640	.....	8,640	
8. Provincial Rates	5,405	.....	5,405	5,177	.....	5,177	
12. Stamps	20,899	.....	20,899	22,828	.....	22,828	
13. Registration	23,831	.....	23,831	21,160	.....	21,160	
15. Post-office	890	15,943	16,833	456	16,922	17,378	
17. Administration	1,81,078	.....	1,81,078	1,73,650	.....	1,73,650	
18. Minor Departments	6,036	100	6,136	11,944	100	12,044	
19. Law and Justice	5,96,286	.....	5,96,286	5,74,131	.....	5,74,131	
20. Police	7,85,201	.....	7,85,201	8,31,481	.....	8,31,481	
22. Education	1,52,623	60,033	2,12,656	1,60,473	64,929	2,25,402	
23. Ecclesiastical	676	.....	676	734	.....	734	
24. Medical	39,064	860	39,924	45,747	930	46,677	
25. Stationery & Printing	44,600	.....	44,600	49,455	.....	49,455	
26. Political Agencies	250	.....	250	429	.....	429	
30. Miscellaneous	61,053	3,969	65,022	57,596	6,532	64,058	
31. Famine Relief .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
32. Irrigation & Navigation	26,162	2,166	28,328	33,493	2,687	36,180	
34. Other Public Works	8,63,791	2,49,647	11,13,438	9,90,084	2,89,336	12,79,420	
Total	33,68,601	3,32,065	37,00,666	35,51,615	3,82,466	39,34,081	

T

1.—LAND REVENUE.

293. The number of permanently-settled estates borne on the revenue-roll on the 31st March 1882 was 50,058, as compared with 50,184 in the preceding year. The difference in Sylhet is due to the fact that 130 petty estates, paying an aggregate annual revenue of Rs. 43-10-9, were removed from the rent-roll, having been redeemed during the previous year at 25 years' purchase, while, on the other hand, two temporarily-settled estates were settled in perpetuity, and two estates were gained by division, the net result being a decrease of 126 estates in this district.

	Number of permanently-settled estates.	
	1880-81.	1881-82.
Sylhet	50,164	50,038
Goálpára	19	19
Gáro Hills....	1	1
Total	50,184	50,058

294. The total number of revenue-paying temporarily-settled estates on 1st March last was 488,573, against 499,737 in 1880-81, showing a net decrease of 11,174 estates. The details for each district are given below:—

Districts.	Number of estates.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1880-81.	1881-82.		
Cachar	9,709	9,856	147	.....
Sylhet	41,422	41,469	47	.....
Goálpára	14,606	14,474	.....	132
Kámrup	133,486	124,769	.....	8,717
Darrang	73,078	71,958	.....	1,120
Nowgong.....	111,064	108,439	.....	2,625
Sibságar	84,964	85,237	273	.....
Lakhimpur.....	28,335	28,357	22	.....
Khási and Jaintia Hills...	28	34	6	.....
Nága Hills	170	163	.....	7
Gáro "	2,875	3,807	932	.....
Total	499,737	488,573	1,427	12,601
Net decrease				11,174

The increase of 194 estates in the two districts of the Surma Valley is owing partly to new settlements effected during the year, partly to the assessment of waste land grants on the expiry of their revenue-free term, and partly to the division of estates in Sylhet. The large decrease in the number of estates in the Brahmaputra Valley almost entirely occurred in the holdings under annual leases, and is due partly to the amalgamation of holdings, but chiefly to the very large number of resignations which occurred in the districts of Nowgong and Kámrup, the areas resigned exceeding the fresh land taken up. In the Khási and Jaintia Hills six New Lease Rule grants were brought under assessment during the year, and in the Nága Hills seven annual leases were relinquished. The increase in the Gáro Hills district is nominal, and is chiefly accounted for by the fact of several small patches of land having been taken up under separate *pattas* at the supplementary settlement.

Current land revenue demand.

The current land revenue demand of the past two years is compared below:—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Result. Rs.
Permanently-settled estates...	3,78,195	3,78,159	—36
Temporarily ditto	31,44,422	31,57,908	+13,486
Total.....	35,22,617	35,36,067	+13,450

The decrease in the revenue of permanently-settled estates is due to the redemption of certain estates in Sylhet. In the case of the temporarily-settled estates, there was a decrease of Rs. 12,156 in the demand of the districts named in the margin. The increase in the other districts, which was comparatively smaller than in the previous years, was due to new settlements effected during the year, to the assessment of estates on the expiry of their revenue-free term, and to the increased income from *maháls* settled at progressive rates of revenue in Cachar. The falling off in the Gáro Hills is due to the relinquishment of holdings. As regards the decrease in the Assam Valley districts, some causes alleged by District Officers, such as fear of the Census or fear of the crop experiments, are rejected by the Commissioner, who considers the fact sufficiently explained by the heavy rain of September.

The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that considerable weight may fairly be attached to this cause, but he is doubtful if it is the sole cause. On reference to the rainfall statistics of previous years, it appears that the September rainfall of 1881 was exceeded in Barpeta in 1877 and 1878, and in Nowgong in 1878 and 1879, without in those years producing the effects attributed to it in the present report.

Under the system of the Assam Valley almost everything depends on the measurements made by the mauzadárs and the returns of area they annually submit, and the temptations to fraud on their part are very great.

The sole check upon them is the inspection made by District Officers. If that inspection is vigilant and searching, they will probably be afraid of embezzlement: if it is lax and perfunctory, they consider that the profits outweigh the risks. Accordingly, if it is found that the decrease of cultivated area returned is greatest in districts where the executive is weakest, there is some reason for suspecting that the decrease may be connected with the weakness of the executive.

295. The arrear demand on 1st April 1881 was Rs. 2,76,555, to which a further sum of Rs. 10,942 was added during the year, while on the other hand a sum of Rs. 557 had to be reduced from it on account of the abatement of the revenue of certain estates with retrospective effect, thus making the corrected arrear demand on 1st April 1882 Rs. 2,86,940. Of the additions in the two districts of the Surmá Valley, Rs. 966 in Cachar and Rs. 2,832 in Sylhet represent the revenue of certain estates settled with retrospective effect, and the remainder is the assets of certain *khás maháls* in Sylhet on account of former years ascertained during the year under report. The arrear demand added during the year in Kámrúp,

Arrear demand.

Nowgong, Darrang, and Sibságar was chiefly on account of lands either taken up or discovered to be cultivated after the supplementary settlement of the previous year had been concluded. Of the arrear demand of Rs. 2,217 ascertained during the year in Lakhimpur, Rs. 1,803 represent the revenue for 1886-81 of certain thirty-year leases which the Deputy-Commissioner inadvertently omitted to bring under assessment on expiry of the revenue-free term; and Rs. 406 represent revenue for 1879-80 and 1880-81 of an Old Rule grant also inadvertently not accounted for in those years. The greater portion of the arrear demand added in the Gáro Hills district is on account of the revenue of the Mechpára B villages, which was credited to Government during the year on the completion of the survey and demarcation of the villages.

296. Of a total demand of Rs. 38,23,007 (*viz.*, Rs. 4,45,760 on Total demand, collections, and balances. account of permanently-settled estates, and Rs. 33,77,247 on account of those settled for a term of years) Rs. 33,53,973, or 87·73 per cent., were collected, Rs. 49,037, or 1·28 per cent., remitted, and Rs. 4,19,997,* or 10·99 per cent., remained unrealised at the close of the year. The bulk of the balance, or Rs. 3,85,118, it will be observed, occurred in the district of Sylhet. Mr. Johnson says—

Total demand, collections, and balances.	Rs.
* Temporarily-settled estates.	2,77,863
Permanently " "	1,42,134
	4,19,997

“Of this amount Rs. 2,46,004, though due and realisable within the year, is hardly a balance, because no steps were taken to realise it within the year. This sum remains unrealised, because the Sylhetiás, unless under compulsion, always wait till the last moment to pay their debts. Deducting this amount, the balance is Rs. 1,39,114: some of this, again, is exaggerated demand; for instance, we take demand in Jaintia at Rs. 1,68,000, whereas we probably shall not really ask for more than Rs. 1,25,000. But when all deductions are made the balance is portentous.”

Of the total balance a sum of Rs. 2,45,254 has been since collected, Rs. 17,456 remitted, Rs. 46,688, mostly on account of the Jaintia parganas, reported for remission. The remainder is in process of recovery.

The arrear balance (Rs. 29,183) in the district of Cachar was also large, as compared with that of the preceding year, when Rs. 9,708 remained outstanding. The Deputy-Commissioner explains that it is due in part to the depression of the rice market and the heavy loss in cattle sustained by the vyots. Mr. Wight further writes:—

“I am convinced, however, that the mirásdars purposely abstained from paying in their revenue in the hope of convincing Government of their poverty and their inability to bear an enhanced assessment. In Katigora, the worst and poorest part of the district, where, moreover, loss by cattle was greatest, the realisations were good, whereas in Hailákándi, which is the richest valley, the realisations were worst. The difference was caused, I believe, by the fact that the Katigora people knew the worst: their new rates were finally imposed, whereas in Hailákándi the rates were and are still under consideration.”

The greater portion of the balance (Rs. 20,757) in this district has been since realised, and the remainder is under collection. Nearly half of the amount outstanding in the Gáro Hills has been realised, and the other half remitted since the year ended. The balances in the other districts are small, and do not call for any special notice.

297. The remissions granted during the year amounted to Rs. 49,037, of which Rs. 45,030 appertained to Jaintia, and had to be reduced chiefly on account of the revision of assessment. Excluding this sum, the remissions amounted to Rs. 4,007,* as compared with Rs. 4,994 in the previous year.

	Rs.
• Sylhet	8,208
Gáro Hills	608
Cachar	287
Nowgong	34
	4,007

Of the amount of Rs. 3,208 shown as remissions in Sylhet, Rs. 962 represent the difference between the former revenue and the actual assets, when brought under management, of certain estates; Rs. 1,631 was the revenue abated on re-settlement of certain previously-settled estates;

Rs. 171 was erroneously assessed; Rs. 135 represent the revenue of estates transferred to the waste land register; Rs. 141 had to be remitted, owing to deaths and desertions of the ryots, and the remainder could not be realised for various reasons.

The amount remitted in the district of the Gáro Hills represents the revenue of certain unoccupied land, and that in Nowgong is on account of certain lands which it was found had been assessed twice over. Of the amount remitted in Cachar, Rs. 76 represents the revenue of an estate assessed twice; Rs. 112 is the revenue of an estate which found no purchasers when put up to auction for arrears of revenue, the amount could not be recovered from the defaulters, and had to be remitted; Rs. 6 represents the difference between the amount in arrear and that for which an estate was sold when put up to auction; and the balance, Rs. 69, is on account of the revenue of a *mahál* for two years, the settlement-holder of which could not cultivate it, having been imprisoned just after settlement of the land with him.

298. The current demand of the past year on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 2,64,395, as compared with Rs. 2,92,740 in 1880-81, the net result being a decrease of Rs. 28,345, or 9.68 per cent.

The main decrease occurred under the heads of "Elephants," "Lime-quarries," "House-tax," and "Fines on fiscal officers." On the other hand, there was an increase of Rs. 3,212 in the income from "Fisheries" and "Other miscellaneous items." The variations under the other heads were unimportant.

The falling off under the heads of "Elephants" and "Lime-quarries" has been explained separately. The bulk of the decrease in house-tax occurred in the Nága Hills, and is mainly due to the neglect of the late Deputy-Commissioner to take measures for assessing and enforcing payment of the revenue within the year. The present Deputy-Commissioner has since assessed the villages, and the result has been an increase of Rs. 10,715 over the demand of the preceding year. The greater portion of the decrease in the fines imposed on fiscal officers was in Nowgong.

The increase under "Fisheries" is attributed to ordinary fluctuation at sales, and that under "Miscellaneous items" to increased receipts from survey fees levied on lands settled under the ordinary settlement rules of the district.

299. The arrear demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue on the 1st April 1881 was Rs. 56,832, to which a further sum of Rs. 2,051, as detailed on the margin, was added during the year: while, on the other hand, Rs. 1,720, due from certain fisheries in the district of Sylhet, had to be remitted, thus making the corrected arrear demand on the 31st March 1882 amount to Rs. 57,163.

300. Out of a total demand of Rs. 3,21,558 (*viz.*, Rs. 2,64,395 current and Rs. 57,163 arrear), Rs. 2,72,726, or 84·81 per cent., were collected, Rs. 4,854, or 1·51 per cent., remitted, and Rs. 43,978, or 13·68 per cent., remained unrealised at the close of the year, distributed under the following heads:—

	Current. Rs.	Arrear. Rs.
Elephants	4,290	3,400
Fisheries	19,380	1,697
Lime-quarries	8,000	.....
Poll-tax	619	.....
House-tax	5,121	1,352
Hoe-tax	11	11
Salt-wells	27	70
	37,448	6,530
Total	43,978	

The greater portion of this balance has been realised since the close of the year, a portion will have to be remitted, and the remainder is in process of recovery.

Settlements in Assam Valley districts.

301. The settlements effected in the Assam Valley districts are the following:—

- (1) Annual settlements in the Eastern Duárs.
- (2) " " of petty estates in Goálpára.
- (3) " " at full rates in Assam Valley districts.
- (4) " " at special rates.
- (5) Ten-year settlements at full rates.
- (6) Five-year " in the district of Kámráp.
- (7) Annual and ten-year settlements of *nisf-khirdj* estates.

The five duárs in the district of Goálpára, *viz.*, Bijni, Sidli, Ripu, Guma, and Chirang, are still being settled annually on the basis of the Assam Settlement Rules; but the lands are assessed at special rates, *viz.*, *basti* and *rupit* at eight annas, and *faringati* at four annas, a *bigha*.

In all the five duárs 65,162 acres of land were settled on annual leases during the year under report, against 65,854 acres in the previous year, showing a decrease of 692 acres.

302. Besides the settlement of the Eastern Duárs, the only other settlements made during the year in the Goálpára district were of the estates and Government *chars*

Annual settlements of petty estates in Goálpára.

referred to in paragraph 372 of last year's report. The result of the settlement of these estates is shown below :—

Name of estate.	Assessment of 1880-81. Rs.	Assessment of 1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease.
Dhubri	106	809	112	.....
Kasba Jamira	321			
Latka	270			
Government <i>chars</i> 2, 3, and 6 ...	10	10	.....	.....
Ditto 4 and 5	90	90	.....	.....
Total	797	909	112	.....

303. During the year under report 427,041 annual settlements were made at full rates, covering an area of 1,370,279 acres, against 439,093 settlements in the previous year, showing a decrease of 12,052 settlements.

The following statement compares the number of settlements made in each district in the past two years :—

District.	1880-81.		1881-82.	
	Number of settlements.	Area settled.	Number of settlements.	Area settled. Acres.
Goálpára	14,606	Not reported.	14,482	76,201
Kámurúp	131,806		123,096	441,917
Darrang	70,378		69,289	205,085
Nowgong	109,861		107,241	225,656
Sibságar	84,530		84,672	323,131
Lakhimpur.....	27,912		28,261	98,289
Total	439,093		...	427,041	1,370,279
		Net decrease.		12,052

The decrease in the number of annual settlements is mainly due to amalgamation of holdings and to resignations.

304. The only annual settlements at special rates made during the year were those of the Jhálukbari *khát* in Kámurúp, of the Aunihati *khát* in Nowgong, of the Chatgari Barua's *khát* in Darrang, of the "ten-twenties" in Sibságar, and of the six-pie *lá-khíráj* estates in Darrang and Lakhimpur.

The lands covered by the Jhálukbari *khát*, in the district of Kámurúp, were originally granted under the Waste Land Rules of 1838, but, owing to non-fulfilment of the clearance conditions, they were resumed, and half of the grant, including the grantee's cultivation, was allowed to remain in his possession, subject to the payment of revenue at ordinary rates on the area under cultivation only, the waste land being left revenue free.

One of the three special tenures in Darrang represents the *khát* held by the Chatgari Baruas on payment of revenue at three-quarter rates, and the other two are what are known as "six-pie *lá-khíráj*" estates belonging to the Auniháti and Dakhinpatia Gossains. These two estates were originally included within the district of Lakhimpur, but in 1868 were transferred to Darrang. The Deputy-Commissioner states that they were settled in 1879-80 for a term of ten years at the same time as the *nisf-khíráj* lands of the district.

The only special tenure now existing in Nowgong is the estate known as the Auniháti *khát*; this estate originally formed a portion of the *nisf-khiráj* estate of that name, but the grantee having failed to establish his claim, it was resumed by order of the Special Commissioner and settled annually at full rates *on cultivation only*. The *patta* issues to the *khátdár*, who sublets the land to whom he pleases, and receives 10 per cent. commission on the amount of revenue which he collects from his sub-lessees and pays into the treasury.

The peculiar tenures known as "ten-twenties" in Sibságar are holdings of remission over 10 and 20 rupees granted to certain persons in consideration of the loss of hereditary service and the labour of slaves after the commencement of the British rule in that district. The privileges the tenure-holders enjoy are life privileges only.

The total area covered by special tenures in this division is 6,955 acres.

305. There were 31 ten-year settlements at full rates made last year, covering an area of 2,242 acres, against 76 settlements in the previous year, covering 2,708 acres. Out of the total area settled last year, 1,734 acres were taken up by planters under 7 leases for tea, and the rest was taken for ordinary cultivation under 24 leases.

306. No five-year leases were issued in the district of Kámrúp during the past year. The total number of these leases existing at the close of the year was 48, covering an area of 100 acres, and yielding a revenue of Rs. 157.

307. The following table shows the number and area of *nisf-khiráj* estates in each district which have been settled in the past year for a term of ten years under the order of the Government of India. It also shows the number and area of estates still remaining to be settled:—

District.	Number and area of <i>nisf-khiráj</i> estates in the district.		Number and area settled in 1881-82 for ten years.		Total number and area settled for ten years to close of 1881-82.		Number and area remaining to be settled for ten years.		REMARKS.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Kámrúp	1,828	203,546	1,828	203,546	* Difference of area here shown and that shown in last year's statement is due to omission last year of a fraction of an acre.
Darrang	80	17,548	....	....	77	10,998	3	6,550
Nowgong	25	5,042	....	....	23	5,042	....	....
Sibságar	826	8,187	8	48	326	5,137	....	....
Lakhimpur	18	1,332	....	....	....	....	18	1,332
Total ..	1,977	232,605	8	48	428	21,177	1,549	211,428	

308. In last year's report it was noticed that nothing had been done towards settling *nisf-khiráj* estates in Kámrúp for ten years in accordance with the orders of the Government of India. In the course of the past year the Commissioner drew up a set of rules prescribing the procedure to be observed in

the settlement of these estates, and the form of lease to be issued to the *nisf-khirájdar*. These rules, including the form of lease proposed, were sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner after the close of the year, and will be noticed in next year's report. In the meanwhile, all the *nisf-khiráj* estates of the Kámrup district were settled last year for one year only.

The Deputy-Commissioner has now been directed to use his best endeavours towards bringing as many of these estates as possible under a ten-year settlement from the commencement of the current year, in accordance with the new rules which have been issued.

309. In addition to the 80 *nisf-khiráj* estates shown in the statement on page 144 as existing in Darrang, there are 14 *nisf-khiráj* estates of the Darrang Rája still in his possession, covering an area of 18,530 acres. These were settled with him for twenty years in 1879-80 on cultivation only.

310. No ten-year settlements of *nisf-khiráj* estates were effected in Nowgong during the past year. The settlements of all such estates for ten years were completed in 1877-78.

Three estates, covering 48 acres, in the district of Sibságar were brought under ten-year settlement during the year. These estates were actually settled for only eight years, in order to make the settlements conterminous with those effected in previous years. The ten-year settlement work of *nisf-khiráj* estates in Sibságar has now been completed.

311. During the past year the Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur reported for confirmation the decennial settlements of 11 *nisf-khiráj* estates in the sub-division of North Lakhimpur. These were the settlements which had been effected by the Sub-divisional Officer as far back as 1879. These settlements had been overlooked in the Deputy-Commissioner's office. On examining the records of these cases, the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts found that he could only confirm two of the settlements made; the other cases had to be sent back for further enquiry, as the records failed to show that the *nisf-khirájdars* had any right to hold their lands at half rates. The two settlements which were confirmed by the Commissioner, having been confirmed after the close of the year, are not shown in the above statement as settled during the past year.

In the sadr sub-division of this district there are 7 estates still awaiting settlement. The Deputy-Commissioner does not report what progress has been made; but on enquiry, the Commissioner finds that there is every prospect of these settlements being completed this year.

The difference between the total area of *nisf-khiráj* estates in this district shown in the statement on page 144 and that shown last year is due to the inclusion by the Deputy-Commissioner in last year's statement of a certain mauza called Polonga, which is settled at half rates with a member of the Bor Senapati's family in lieu of a money pension. This mauza is not properly a *nisf-khiráj* estate.

312. All the *nisf-khiráj* estates in the districts of Kámrap, Lakhimpur, and Darrang, shown in the statement given in paragraph 307 as remaining to be settled for ten years, were settled last year for one year only. Of the 1,528 settlements made during the year in the district of Kámrap, 509 settlements were made on the basis of the *nisf-khiráj* survey measurements.

313. The following statement shows the progress which has been made during the year under report in the survey of *lá-khiráj* and *nisf-khiráj* holdings in Kámrap. survey of *lá-khiráj* and *nisf-khiráj* estates in the district of Kámrap:—

1			2		3		4		5		6
Total number and area of estates in district.			Number and area of estates surveyed up to 31st March 1881.		Number and area of estates surveyed in 1881-82.		Total number and area of estates surveyed up to 31st March 1882.		Number and estimated area of estates remaining to be surveyed.		
Class of estates.	Number.	Estimated area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Area in acres.	Number.	Estimated area in acres.	
<i>Nisf-khiráj</i>	1,528	203,546	1,122	96,072-77	274	47,625-02	1,396	143,697-79	182	59,848-21	Remarks. The number and area of estates shown in column 1 are liable to alteration after the completion of the survey.
<i>Lá-khiráj</i>	35	29,375	27	19,632-40	2	6,200-66	29	25,833-06	6	3,541-94	
Total	1,563	232,921	1,149	115,705-17	276	53,825-68	1,425	1,69,530-85	188	63,390-15	

The above statement shows that 276 estates, with an area of 53,825 acres, were surveyed during the year. In the previous year 484 estates, with an area of 49,601-92 acres, were surveyed. With a view to the speedy completion of the survey, the number of *amíns* entertained for the work was increased last year from 12 to 20 by order of the Chief Commissioner.

Out of the total number of estates surveyed, 1,396 *nisf-khiráj* estates, as shown in column 4, are now ready for ten-year settlement.

The excess area found with the *lá-khirájdárs* and *nisf-khirájdárs*, and cut off from their holdings during the season of 1880-81, was 5,342-67 acres. These excess lands have been amalgamated with the *mauzas* in which they are situate, and settled at full rates of revenue from the commencement of the year 1881-82. Last year notices were issued to the *lá-khirájdárs* and *nisf-khirájdárs* concerned informing them of the amount and position of the excess lands cut off, and intimating to them that such excess land would be settled at full rates from the 1st April 1882. The *lá-khirájdárs* or *nisf-khirájdárs*, as the case may be, will have the first claim to a settlement; but, if they

refuse the settlement offered to them of these excess lands, settlement will be made with the actual cultivator.

The survey of the remaining *nisf-khiraj* holdings in the district of Lakhimpur referred to in paragraph 387 of the last year's report is said by the Deputy-Commissioner to have been completed during the past year.

314. The following table (which includes the Eastern Duárs) shows

Changes in cultivation in the Assam Valley districts. the comparative area and revenue of the different descriptions of lands brought under assessment up to the close of the last two years at full and *nisf-khiraj* rates. It does not include waste land grants, or lands held by tea-planters on ten-year leases at favourable rates, or special tenures. It should be clearly understood that the figures in this table show assessed area only, and not settled area; or, in other words, the waste lands held by *nisf-khirajdárs* are not included: for, although these lands have been settled with the owners, they have not, under the orders of the Government of India, been assessed to revenue:—

Year.	Basti. Acres.	Rupit. Acres.	Faringati. Acres.	Total. Acres.	Revenue. Ra.
1880-81	114,848	773,617	636,211	1,524,676	26,35,608
1881-82	116,467	777,802	622,131	1,516,400	26,15,986
Increase	1,619	4,185	.....	.....	.....
Decrease .....	.....	.....	14,080	8,276	19,622

The figures supplied for the above statement last year by some of the Deputy-Commissioners having been ascertained to be wrong, revised figures have been shown above; these, therefore, do not tally with the figures given in paragraph 388 of the report for last year. The statement shows that there has been an increase of 1,619 and 4,185 acres respectively under *basti* and *rupit*, and a decrease of 14,080 acres in *faringati*, the result being a net total decrease of 8,276 acres in the area under assessment and of Rs. 19,622 in the revenue. The cause of this decrease has already been explained.

The statement given in the margin shows conveniently the

Districts.	Basti. Acres.	Rupit. Acres.	Faringati. Acres.
Goálpára	+ 288	+ 1,232	- 2,212
Kámrap	+ 826	+ 1,902	- 4,349
Darrang	+ 137	+ 1,605	- 1,590
Nowgong	- 28	- 628	- 5,531
Sibságar	+ 251	- 44	- 678
Lakhimpur	+ 145	+ 118	+ 230
Total	+ 1,619	+ 4,185	- 14,080

increase and decrease in each district under each class of land. It will be seen that every district except Nowgong and Sibságar shows an increase in the area of *basti* and *rupit* brought under assessment. The district of Sibságar shows an increase of 251 acres in the area of *basti*, but a decrease of

44 acres in *rupit*. The district of Lakhimpur shows also an increase in the *faringati* area. On the other hand, the districts of Goálpára, Kámrap, Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar show a total decrease of 14,360 acres in the *faringati* area, of which 5,531 acres is due to Nowgong, 4,349 acres to Kámrap, 2,212 acres to Goálpára, 1,590 to Darrang, and 678 to Sibságar. The district reports fail to show whether the increase in *basti* and *rupit* areas assessed is due to mere

changes in classification, or whether it is due to additional land taken up. No doubt both causes have operated to produce the increase referred to, but it would be interesting if in future reports District Officers would show which has been the principal cause. The attention of District Officers has been called to this. The same remarks apply to the decrease in the *faringati* area, although there can be no doubt that changes in classification have had very little to do with this decrease, which is mainly, if not entirely, due to the late rains of September preventing cultivators from taking up land for mustard cultivation. With respect to the Eastern Duárs, the Commissioner reports on enquiry that the increase in the *basti* and *rupit* areas was entirely due to fresh land taken up. On the other hand, the large decrease of 2,212 acres in the *faringati* area assessed was entirely due to the ryots not taking up land for mustard. These facts are interesting, showing, as they do, that more people are settling down in the Duárs, and that climatic causes have mainly operated to produce the total net decrease in the area brought under cultivation.

II.—SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

SECTION 1.—SALT.

315. The revenue from this source is derived in the district of Cachar alone. The salt wells are situated in the Hailákáñdi sub-division of that district. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar reports that they are no longer a profitable source of income.

The sale-proceeds amounted only to Rs. 33 last year, as compared with Rs. 85 in 1880-81. Of the total demand, Rs. 186, inclusive of arrears, a sum of Rs. 89 was collected, and Rs. 97 remained unrealised at the close of the year. The revenue is credited to "Land Revenue—Miscellaneous."

SECTION 2.—EXCISE.

316. The Excise Department in Assam is under two heads. In the six districts of the Assam Valley it is supervised by the Commissioner of the Division: in the three hill districts and the two Surmá Valley districts by the Commissioner of Excise, who is also Inspector-General of Police, of Jails, and Registration.

317. There are 12 different ways in which the Excise Revenue is raised in Assam. By far the largest source of income is opium, which is sold from the treasury at a fixed price of Rs. 26 per seer to licensees, who buy at auction the right to sell it and its products by retail. Next comes *gánja*, which also, like opium, brings in revenue in two ways: a fixed duty is charged on it, and the right of vend in specified localities is put up to auction. Country spirits are distilled after the native fashion, and the right of distilling and selling them in fixed areas or localities is put up to auction. Rum is mainly imported from Calcutta, and is sold wholesale or retail by persons taking out licenses for the purpose. In two districts,

Sources of Excise Revenue.

however, distilleries exist for the manufacture of rum from sugar in the European fashion, and here a still-head duty is paid on all liquor issued. Licenses are also sold for the wholesale and retail sale of imported wines and spirits, and for the retail sale of *tári*, the fermented juice of the palm, and of *pachwai*, a fermented liquor made from rice.

318. The following statement shows the demand and collection on account of each of these heads of revenue during the two past years:—

	Demand.		Collection.	
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
Country spirit licenses	1,13,091	1,21,353	1,17,182	1,22,159
Rum, still-head duty	6,543	11,049	6,543	11,049
Rum licenses, wholesale	288	258	288	258
" retail	4,812	5,790	4,911	5,947
Imported wine, wholesale ...	1,550	1,600	1,550	1,650
" retail	6,968	8,887	7,732	8,294
Tari licenses	375	554	464	686
Pachwai ,,	1,824	1,518	1,824	1,518
Gánja ,,	91,381	1,03,176	93,543	1,02,395
" duty	84,566	84,385	84,531	84,385
Opium licenses	3,69,027	3,79,006	3,72,391	3,66,397
" duty	12,64,397	11,87,203	12,64,392	11,87,203
Miscellaneous	864	714	.....	714
Total	19,45,881	19,05,493	19,55,351	18,92,655

The year's demand, which, as the marginal table shows, had only once before (in 1879-80) received a check to its steady and regular expansion, fell off by Rs. 40,000. There was a slight increase under every head except *pachwai* and opium, but the decrease in the opium revenue was a formidable one, amounting to Rs. 67,410, and swallowed up the increases, leaving a deficit of Rs. 40,388 on the entire demand. The comparison of the actual collections of both years is less important. for it is affected by the amounts paid in advance, which happen to have been larger than usual in 1880-81. The arrears of 1880-81 were Rs. 2,281, of which Rs. 50 were remitted and the rest realised. At the end of 1881-82 Rs. 5,056 were in arrears: this balance was due on account of opium licenses, and almost all of it accrued in the Nága Hills, where the prescribed precaution of taking security from the contractor had not been carried out. The whole amount, however, is likely to be recovered.

Year	Excise demand. Rs.
1874-75	13,80,613
1875-76	14,12,216
1876-77	14,23,603
1877-78	15,36,834
1878-79	18,67,395
1879-80	18,16,154
1880-81	19,45,881
1881-82	19,05,493

District details of demand.
district:—

319. The following table shows the excise demand for 1881-82 under each head for each

Districts.	Revenue demand.											Population by Census of 1881.	Incidence per head.
	Country spirits.	Runn.	Imported liquors.	Taxi.	Puchwal.	Ganja.	Opium.	Miscellaneous.	Total excise revenue of 1881-82.	Total excise revenue of 1880-81.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. A. P.	
Goalpara	2,801	..	874	..	..	16,664	42,950	32	63,321	64,638	446,232	0 2 3
Kamrup	8,477	..	262	26	..	12,507	2,36,576	16	2,57,864	1,78,810	644,960	0 6 5	
Darrang	7,032	..	1,300	..	..	6,472	2,32,326	110	2,47,250	2,78,618	273,323	0 14 8
Nowgong	4,242	60	745	..	..	1,194	1,65,531	..	1,71,772	2,85,720	310,579	0 8 10
Sibsagar	30,061	6,122	903	..	..	6,396	4,31,500	62	4,75,044	4,73,085	3,70,274	1 4 6
Lakhimpur	9,118	9,710	2,116	528	..	3,118	3,57,633	28	3,82,251	3,73,142	179,893	1 9 11	
Sylhet	26,174	843	1,695	..	318	1,06,905	43,045	137	1,79,117	1,71,098	1,969,609	0 1 5	
Cachar	32,800	230	2,170	..	1,200	33,122	39,806	304	1,09,632	1,09,023	313,858	0 5 7	
Garo Hills	408	132	72	..	..	213	225	..	1,050	920	109,548	0 0 2
Khasi " .....	..	..	350	..	..	970	10,297	25	11,642	7,287	169,360	0 1 1
Naga "	240	..	..	..	..	..	6,310	..	6,550	3,545	94,380	0 1 1
Total	1,21,353	17,097	10,487	554	1,518	1,87,561	15,66,209	714	19,05,493	19,45,881	4,881,426	0 6 2	

There is a very large decrease in the receipts from Nowgong and a smaller one in Darrang and Goalpara; elsewhere there has been an increase, and in the Kamrup district the increase has been considerable. It will be seen afterwards that it is only in opium that these great fluctuations have taken place: under other heads the changes are small and tend to a steady gradual inflation of the revenue.

320. The column of incidence shows that a very large difference exists in the degree in which different parts of the population contribute to the excise revenue. The three forms in which excisable articles are mostly consumed in the Province are country spirits, *ganja*, and opium, and each of these is mainly sought after by one of the three classes into which the plains population is broadly divided,—the tea-coolies, the Sylhetias, and the Assamese. Country spirits are drunk by few people except immigrants from Bengal and Upper India. The use of *ganja* is mostly confined to Musalmans in Sylhet and Cachar. Opium is consumed by the Assamese, and very largely by the residents of Upper Assam. In the Sibsaigar district the excise revenue is nearly three-fourths of the land revenue. In the Lakhimpur district it is twice as great as the land revenue. It is in this district that the very high incidence of Re. 1-9-11 is reached.

321. This, however, is not the true incidence. In these tables the whole cost of the opium is not shown, only the Provincial share of it, at Rs. 18-12 per seer, while the Imperial share, at Rs. 7-4, is not entered at all. It should, however, be included, if the intention is to show how much the consumers contribute

to the revenue of the country, and for this purpose another table has been constructed, from which may be seen the amount paid in each plains district under the three main heads of country spirits, *gánja*, and opium, and the incidence of payment in each case:—

Districts.	Population.	Country spirits.		Ganja.		Opium.		Total incidence.
		Revenue of 1881-82.	Incidence per head.	Revenue of 1881-82.	Incidence per head.	Revenue of 1881-82.	Incidence per head.	
		Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Goálpára.....	446,232	2,801	0 0 1	16,664	0 0 6	50,574	0 1 10	0 2 5
Kámrúp.....	644,960	8,477	0 0 2	12,507	0 0 4	3,05,886	0 7 7	0 8 1
Darrang.....	273,333	7,032	0 0 5	6,472	0 0 6	3,04,048	1 1 10	1 2 8
Nowgong.....	310,579	4,242	0 0 2	1,194	0 0 1	1,93,665	0 9 11	0 10 2
Sibságar.....	370,274	36,061	0 1 3	6,396	0 0 3	5,67,632	1 12 10	1 14 2
Lakhimpur.....	179,893	9,118	0 0 10	3,118	0 0 3	4,56,077	2 8 7	2 9 8
Sylhet.....	1,969,009	26,174	0 0 2	1,06,905	0 0 10	51,954	0 0 5	0 1 5
Cachar.....	313,858	32,700	0 1 8	33,122	0 1 8	43,918	0 2 3	0 5 7
Total.....	4,516,138	1,20,705	0 0 6	1,86,378	0 0 9	19,73,754	0 7 10	0 9 1

The highest incidence under country spirits is in the three districts of Cachar, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, which are those in which most tea-gardens exist. The highest incidence under *gánja* is in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Goálpára, the latter being the only district in the Assam Valley where there is a considerable Muhammadan population. The largest consumption of opium is, as already mentioned, in the upper districts of the Assam Valley, and decreases steadily from east to west. The fact that the Nowgong ratio is below that of Darrang only marks a temporary irregularity.

322. The total charges debited to the Excise Department amounted to Rs. 15,884, against Rs. 15,292 in 1880-81: Charges. of this the greater part (Rs. 11,059) consisted of the cost of conveying opium by steamer from Calcutta to the ports of debarkation and by land from the river side to the head-quarter and sub-divisional stations. The rest of the expenditure is due to the salaries of excise clerks, who are entertained in Cachar, Sylhet, Goálpára, and Kámrúp, but chiefly in Sylhet, and a very small charge was incurred on account of miscellaneous contingencies.

323. Revenue is received from country spirits by the sale of the right to establish stills and to sell spirits at certain localities or within certain areas. In Cachar the whole district is sold as one *mahál*, it having been found impossible hitherto to break up the monopoly, and induce persons to bid for smaller areas, or single shops. The Chief Commissioner, however, disapproves of the monopoly, and thinks that, if efforts were made, the persons who now take sub-leases from the single licensee could be induced to take leases direct from Government. In Sylhet the areas sold are for the most part *thánas*, but in two cases the *thána* area is sub-divided. The district is thus divided into 18 areas, within which the right to distil and to sell at two, three, or four shops is sold by auction. In Goálpára and Kámrúp also licenses are given over large areas, though

in Goálpára only one shop is allowed to each such area. Elsewhere the right sold consists only of setting up a still and selling liquor by retail in a single fixed locality. In the four upper districts of the Assam Valley an upset price of Rs. 8 per mensem is charged. In most districts the auction purchaser pays two months' fees on the day of sale and one month's fee in advance on the first of each month till the 1st January, and this procedure is to be adopted henceforth throughout the Province.

324. The consumption of country spirits is almost free in the hill districts. In the Khási Hills no revenue whatever is raised from this source, and no restriction placed on distillation. Steps have, however, been taken to impose a restriction on the sale of liquor in and around the station of Shillong since the close of the year under report. In the Gáro Hills there are only two licensed shops,—one at the head-quarters station, Tura, and one at the Mahendraganj Bázár, at the foot of the hills,—throughout the district. The Gáros are free to brew or distil. This is also the case in the Nága Hills, where the only licensed shop is at Kohima.

325. The following statement shows for each district the number of shops, the demand on account of the two past years, and the average area and population to each shop :—

Districts.	Number of shops.		Revenue demand.		Average population per shop.	Average area per shop in square miles.
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.		
			Rs.	Rs.		
Goálpára.....	11	11	2,706	2,801	44,468	157
Kámrúp.....	23	21	7,726	8,477	35,824	202
Darrang.....	18	19	5,786	7,022	14,288	180
Nowgong.....	10	11	4,081	4,242	28,080	210
Sibságar.....	28	29	33,158	30,061	12,596	98
Lakhimpur.....	11	11	5,957	9,118	15,643	338
Sylhet.....	41	56	23,067	26,174	35,160	99
Cachar.....	72	72	29,900	32,800	4,359	62
Gáro Hills.....	3	2	470	408	.....	.....
Nága ".....	1	1	240	240	.....	.....
Total.....	218	233	1,13,091	1,21,353	.....	.....

The only considerable change in the number of shops has been in Sylhet, where there was an increase of 15, but the number is not large for the area and population. Except in the Cachar district, there is more than an average area of 100 square miles, and more than an average population of 10,000 people, to each shop,—so that it cannot be alleged that temptations to drunkenness are unnecessarily multiplied. In Cachar the comparatively large number is due to the great population of tea-coolies. There are no statistics to show, even approximately, the number of consumers or the amount consumed, except in Cachar, where the licensee returns his sales as 14,000 gallons, a very small consumption in a population of 80,000 tea-coolies. The revenue demand has increased slightly in almost every district except Sibsaagar. The fall there was due to an announcement that separate shops for the sale of imported rum would perhaps be opened, which frightened the bidders.

The incidence per head of the revenue demand in the different districts has been shown in paragraph 6.

326. It has been already remarked that the consumption of country spirits is almost confined to tea-coolies, domestic servants, and other immigrants into the Province, and some complaints have been made by tea-planters against liquor-shops being opened near their gardens, which give their coolies an opportunity for drunkenness. That there is not any ground for serious complaint is evident from the table in the preceding paragraph, which shows how few the shops are, and that the number has not increased during the year under report. It does not seem reasonable either that tea-coolies should be altogether deprived of an article they are accustomed to consume, or that Government should altogether lose the revenue to which it is entitled; but the Chief Commissioner was anxious that arrangements might be made by which the tea-planters could exercise a control over the consumption, and excessive intoxication be prevented. It was thought that they would be willing to take the shops at a moderate charge and manage them themselves, but the plan has proved unsuccessful. Mr. Ward writes as follows:—

“Planters have been found unwilling to take out licenses on the terms proposed by Mr. Greer, the sub-divisional officer at Jorhát, which proposal was to the effect that each manager of a tea-garden situated within the circle served by each country-spirit shop should take out a license for the sale of the liquor to his coolies at a price calculated at such a rate per head that the total sum realised in this way for each group of gardens within a shop circle might be equal to the price fetched at the last auction sale of the shop. Enquiry has also shown that the few planters who complain of the country-spirit shops are not prepared to take out licenses on the terms proposed by Mr. Greer, nor do they wish themselves to exercise any control over the shops. Under the circumstances, I have not thought it necessary to recommend to the Chief Commissioner the adoption of Mr. Greer's scheme.”

Some shops, were however, taken by tea-planters in the Golághát sub-division, but have been abandoned at the close of the year.

327. Rum is imported from Calcutta, and sold wholesale and retail by persons holding licenses from Government: it is manufactured in two distilleries in the Sibságar and Lakhimpur districts, and is also imported by tea-planters and distributed by them to their coolies, either as a gift or as a reward for extra labour, or sometimes (it is said) on sale. If it is really sold by them to tea-coolies, the sale is illegal and should be stopped: and in any case the free distribution of rum must affect the revenue. But it has been ruled by the Government of India in 1877 that to distribute it free or by barter is not a breach of the law. Licenses for wholesale vend are given at Rs. 16 a year, except in Cachar, where the fee is Rs. 50. Those for retail vend are sold by auction in Sylhet, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur, but are given at a fixed rate of Rs. 5 per mensem in Cachar and Sibságar. Steps will be taken to remove these differences of procedure, which were not known to the Chief Commissioner before the annual reports of 1881-82 were received.

328. The number of wholesale and retail rum licenses and the amount received from their issue during the two last years are shown below :—

Districts.	Number of licenses.				Collections.			
	Wholesale.		Retail.		Wholesale.		Retail.	
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.
Kámráp .....	....	....	1	....	....	....	87	....
Nowgong .....	....	....	2	1	....	....	95	79
Sibságar	2	....	7	9	16	....	1,866	2,164
Lakhimpur	13	12	28	47	224	176	1,295	2,590
Sylhet	1	2	9	7	16	32	1,227	811
Cachar	2	1	3	3	32	60	195	180
Gáro Hills .....	....	....	1	1	....	....	96	132
Total	18	15	51	68	288	288	4,911	5,947

It is evident that applications for licenses of this kind are liable to considerable fluctuations, according to local requirements, supposed or real.

329. The distillation of rum is licensed at two distilleries, one of which is near Golághát, in the Sibságar district, the other near Dibrugarh. The still-head duty charged is only Rs. 2 a gallon for spirit at London proof, a proportionate reduction being made for spirit below proof. The quantity distilled and the duty paid during the two last years are as follows:—

Distillery.	Number of gallons.		Duty.		Rate per gallon.					
	1880-81.	1881-82.	Duty.		1880-81.			1881-82.		
			Rs.	Rs.	Ra.	As.	P.	Ra.	As.	P.
Sibságar	2,417	3,456	3,564	4,176	1	8	0	1	3	4
Lakhimpur	9,451	7,347	2,979	6,888	0	5	0	0	15	0

The quantity is not large for the outturn of distilleries working on the European method: but Mr. Ward anticipates that they will do good indirectly, by stimulating the cultivation of sugarcane in order to supply the material for distillation. He has also recently reported that the hydrometer used at the Dibrugarh distillery to test the liquor issued has proved to be extremely incorrect, and that a heavy loss has been incurred by Government, thus letting liquor pass out as much below proof, when it was really above it. It appears probable that the receipts ought to have been twice as large as they have been.

330. The sale of imported European wines and spirits is taxed by charging fees for the licenses to sell. For wholesale licenses the fee is fixed at Rs. 50, for hotel licenses at Rs. 100, for steamer licenses at Rs. 32, and the licenses for retail sale at shops in most districts are put up to auction for a term of three years. In Sylhet and Goálpára they are auctioned for one year only, and in the Khási Hills they are still given at a fixed rate of Rs.

100. The following table shows the demand on account of the different kinds of licenses for the last two years:—

District.	1880-81.					1881-82.				
	Wholesale.	Retail.				Wholesale.	Retail.			
		Hotel.	Steamer.	Shop.	Total.		Hotel.	Steamer.	Shop.	Total.
	Ra.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Ra.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Ra.
Goalpara .....	.....	.....	.....	409	409	.....	.....	64	810	874
Kamrup	100	100	64	115	379	50	.....	64	148	262
Darrang	100	100	.....	536	736	150	.....	.....	1,150	1,300
Norgong	100	.....	.....	790	890	150	.....	.....	595	745
Sibsagar	200	100	.....	400	700	250	100	.....	553	903
Lakhimpur	350	.....	.....	800	1,150	400	.....	32	1,684	2,116
Sylhet	250	.....	.....	1,922	2,172	150	.....	.....	1,745	1,695
Cachar	850	.....	.....	1,394	1,734	300	.....	64	1,806	2,170
Garo Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	48	48	.....	.....	.....	72	72
Khasi "	100	.....	.....	200	300	150	.....	.....	200	350
Total..	1,550	300	64	6,604	8,618	1,600	100	224	8,663	10,487

331. The triennial system of auction of shop licenses was introduced this year for the first time, the object being to save shopkeepers from the loss they might receive if they laid in a large stock of European liquors, and were so outbid at the close of the year that they could not get a renewal of their license. The change has been financially successful, the average cost of a shop license being Rs. 191 in 1881-82, against Rs. 129 in the year before.

332. *Tári* is only sold in two districts of the Assam Valley. Licenses to sell fresh *tári* are given at a fixed annual rate of 1 rupee; of these, two were taken out in Kamrup. Licenses to sell fermented *tári* are sold by auction. Two were taken out in Kamrup, and fetched Rs. 29, while the two sold in Lakhimpur fetched Rs. 528.

333. *Pachwai*, or rice-beer, is largely consumed in the hill districts, and to a less extent in Sylhet and Cachar. The manufacture of it for home use is free, and anyone may possess 12 seers of it without incurring a penalty. It can be sold also without a license in the hill districts, but not in Sylhet and Cachar. There 17 licenses were sold by auction, and fetched Rs. 1,518, against Rs. 1,829 the year before. The permission given for home manufacture will probably diminish this source of revenue still further.

334. *Ganja* is brought by wholesale dealers from Rajshahi under passes and stored in store-houses or *golas*, from whence it is issued after paying a fixed duty, which varies, according to the description of the article, from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 4 per seer, to the licensed vendors. Licenses are sold at auction, and convey the right to sell at certain fixed shops in Sylhet and the hill districts. In Cachar the license of vend is sold to one person for the whole district, a monopoly being thus created which, as is shown further on, is injurious to the revenue. In Kamrup the licenses are sold

by thánas, 10 licenses covering the right to sell at 18 shops: in other districts of the Assam Valley the right of vend at only one shop is sold. The Commissioner has been requested to introduce the uniform system of selling licenses by shops, not by areas. By far the chief part of the *gánja* revenue is derived from Sylhet and Cachar, and these districts contain 204 shops, out of the 286 licensed in the whole Province.

335. The following table shows the revenue demand on account of duty on the *gánja* issued and of licenses sold in the two past years:—

Districts.	Number of shops.	1880-81.		1881-82.	
		License-fee. Rs.	Duty. Rs.	License-fee. Rs.	Duty. Rs.
Goalpára	35	7,373	8,562	8,120	8,544
Kámrúp	18	5,820	6,325	7,637	4,870
Darrang	7	2,857	2,398	4,165	2,307
Nowgong	4	903	425	611	583
Sibságar	8	1,237	2,348	3,575	2,821
Lakhimpur.....	6	1,339	1,368	1,659	1,459
Sylhet	145	53,528	47,975	56,990	49,915
Cachar	59	18,100	14,480	20,000	13,122
Gáro Hills	1	102	45	109	104
Khási „	3	122	640	310	660
Total	286	91,381	84,566	1,03,176	84,385

The bids for the licenses were higher by nearly Rs. 12,000, and the duty received was almost the same as in 1880-81. The quantity of *gánja* issued was less by nine maunds (574 maunds 15 seers against 583 maunds 13 seers in 1880-81); but, as there was more of the “round” and “*chur*” descriptions sold, and less of the cheaper “flat kind,” which contains much stalk, the amount received as duty did not fall off.

336. It is satisfactory to see that, while the revenue derived from *gánja* does not fall off, but rises gradually, through the increased price paid for the licenses, the quantity of *gánja* consumed does not increase, but stands this year at 574 maunds, against 603 maunds, the average quantity sold from 1876 to 1881. There is, however, some fear that this decrease may be owing to increased consumption of the wild *gánja*, which grows abundantly without cultivation in every part of the Province. On this subject very little is known. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet has often complained that the excise revenue in his district is injured by the importation of wild *gánja* from the Khási Hills and from independent Tipperah, but in the report of the Commissioner of Excise for this year nothing is said about the subject. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, states that “there appears to be no doubt that in Lakhimpur, if not elsewhere, indigenous *gánja* is largely consumed,” and the Deputy-Commissioner of Sibsaágar attributes the increased revenue derived in his district to the steps he has taken to put a stop to illicit cultivation of wild *gánja*.* On the other hand, no direct evidence has been brought that the wild *gánja*, when dried, is capable of producing the same kind of intoxication as the excise

* There were 19 cases of illicit cultivation of *gánja*, and 9 of illicit sales of *bhanga*, in the Assam Valley Districts, 12 of the former were in Sibsaágar district. In Sylhet there were 2 cases of illicit cultivation of *gánja*.

gánja, or is used for that purpose, and the fact is absolutely denied by some officers, while it has been demonstrated that it is frequently used as a medicine for cattle. For these reasons, the Chief Commissioner has, in a recent Circular, instructed his District Officers that, while the cultivation of *gánja* for purposes of smoking is illegal, the fact that it is found growing in a man's garden, or that he is in possession of the green plant, or that he is in possession of the dry plant, if he is only intending to use it for medicinal purposes, is not of itself punishable as a breach of the law. There is no doubt, however, that we are very much in the dark on this, as on most other subjects connected with excise: we know next to nothing about the effects of *gánja*-smoking, or about the people who smoke it, or the quantities they consume, or their object in consuming it; and the Chief Commissioner has asked District Officers to turn their attention to this subject, and ascertain accurately the conditions under which the excise drug is consumed, as well as the use to which the wild *gánja* can be put.

337. Opium is the great mainstay of the excise revenue in Assam.

Opium.

It is sold from the treasuries at Rs. 26 per seer, and the licenses for retail sale in certain areas are sold by auction. In Cachar and Sylhet only one license is sold for the whole district, though there are 63 and 65 shops, respectively, under the licensee, who thus obtains a monopoly of sale over a large area. In the Assam Valley the area of a license is generally the mauza, there being from three to five retail shops in each mauza. The following statement shows the number of licenses (commonly known as *maháls*) and shops in each district, and the quantity of opium sold:—

Districts.	Number of <i>maháls</i> .	Number of shops.		Quantity of opium sold.	
		1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81. M. S.	1881-82. M. S.
Goálpára.....	4	64	69	34 2	34 4
Kámrúp	73	210	210	139 35	246 18½
Darrang	52	223	223	305 0½	247 2½
Nowgong	64	263	263	272 16½	147 3½
Sibságar	73	305	305	484 0	486 24
Lakhimpur.....	53	178	178	355 33½	336 28
Sylhet.....	1	65	65	37 2½	30 29½
Cachar	1	60	63	30 27	21 3
Gáro Hills.....	1	2	1	1 7	1 28
Khási and Jaintia Hills	5	7	7	6 33½	12 2
Nága Hills.....	3	20	30	18 37	19 15
Total	330	1,397	1,404	1,685 33½	1,582 37½

The quantity of opium consumed in 1881-82 was less by 103 maunds, or about 6 per cent., than the quantity in 1880-81, and was also less than it has been in any year since the auction system was first introduced, in 1877. In Goálpára there has been a gradual decrease, in Lakhimpur a gradual increase, and in Sibságar the consumption has remained steady. In Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong there have been violent fluctuations, but the Commissioner shows that these are due, not to changes in the rate of consumption but to mutual interference due to the system of auction by *maháls*. If in any district an eager

competition arises at the time of auction sales, and the licenses are bid up to a great height, the licensees can only recoup themselves by selling their opium dear: on which the consumers in that district or *mahál* betake themselves to other shops, where the license has been bought cheap and the retail price is low. Thus, the amount issued from any district treasury is not always a correct index of the amount consumed in that district. Similarly, in Sylhet and Cachar, there has been a considerable reduction of quantity, which is attributed to smuggling from other districts, where the low price of the license enables the licensee to sell cheap. In the Khási Hills the increase from 6½ to 12 maunds is entirely due to opium smuggled into Sylhet, where the retail price is much higher than in the Khási Hills.

338. The Chief Commissioner's attention was specially drawn during the year to the necessity of restricting the supply of opium to those parts where an active demand exists, and of prohibiting its extension to the tracts where the habits of consuming opium has not yet been created. Those tracts are, speaking broadly, the hill districts, the residents of which consume fermented and distilled liquors largely, but not opium. With this object, one of the two shops in the Gáo Hills was closed before the year began, and during the year orders were issued to reduce the shops in the North Cachar Hills from 21 to 3, and to decrease the number in the Nága Hills. District Officers were also instructed to supervise carefully the location of the retail shops, and to see that none are allowed within a mile of the district boundary, if it marches with a hill district.

339. The following table shows the receipts from the Government duty on opium (but only the Provincial receipts at Rs. 18-12 per seer, not the Imperial charge, which is Rs. 7-4 per seer) and the demand on account of the licenses sold by auction:—

Districts.	1880-81.			1881-82.		
	License- fees.	Duty.	Total.	License- fees.	Duty.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Goálpára	19,150	26,419	45,569	16,100	26,850	42,950
Kámrup	53,580	1,04,908	1,58,488	51,733	1,84,843	2,36,576
Darrang	38,028	2,28,771	2,66,799	47,940	1,85,296	2,33,236
Nowgong	63,480	2,15,846	2,79,326	43,534	1,21,997	1,65,531
Sibságar	64,460	3,65,662	4,30,122	63,695	3,67,805	4,31,500
Lakshmipur	91,536	2,86,873	3,78,409	1,05,109	2,52,524	3,57,633
Sylhet	14,516	27,789	42,305	20,000	28,045	48,045
Cachar	20,150	28,006	42,156	24,000	15,806	39,806
Gáo Hills	159	.....	159	225	.....	225
Khási "	863	5,123	5,986	1,260	9,037	10,297
Nága "	3,305	.....	3,305	6,310	.....	6,310
Total	3,69,027	12,64,397	16,33,624	3,79,006	11,87,203	15,66,209

340. The general result was a decrease of Rs. 67,415. There was an increase in the prices bid at auction for the licenses, but this was more than counterbalanced

Comparison with past years.

by the loss in duty which followed on the lessened consumption. The figures below give the history of the opium revenue in Assam for the last five years:—

Year.	Quantity of opium.		Revenue demand. Rs.
	Mds.	Srs.	
1877-78	1,634	16	13,05,413
1878-79	1,655	19	15,94,920
1879-80	1,618	32	15,52,962
1880-81	1,685	33	16,33,624
1881-82	1,582	37	15,66,209

Thus, with a pretty steady consumption, which, has, however, fallen markedly in the last year, the revenue has increased by more than 2½ lakhs.

341. The number of persons arrested for breach of the Excise Law was 389, of whom 327 were convicted: of these 9 Breaches of Excise Law. were imprisoned, and the rest were fined in the amount of Rs. 6,306. Of this amount Rs. 6,053 was realised during the year, and Rs. 3,615 was distributed to the captors and informers. In the Goalpára and Nowgong districts the whole amount realised was distributed, in Cachar and Sibságar less than half. The Chief Commissioner thinks that as a rule the whole fine should be distributed in rewards, to stimulate the giving of information and the capture of offenders. But prosecution for breaches of the conditions of the licenses should not be too readily instituted; for, as the Commissioner of Excise says, "many of the retail shopkeepers are ignorant men, from whom accurate accounts and strict observance of the conditions of their license cannot always be expected. Trivial breaches of the rules may well, in the case of such men, be met with a warning only in the first instance."

SECTION 3.—STAMPS.

342. The financial results of the working of the Stamp Department during the year 1881-82 were fairly satisfactory. The total receipts from the sale of general and court-fee stamps and from duties and penalties realised under Sections 34 and 37 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1879, together with other miscellaneous receipts, amounted to Rs. 6,37,120, against Rs. 6,13,619 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 23,501, or 3·83 per cent. Of this total, Rs. 1,93,339, or 30·35 per cent., were realised under the Indian Stamp Act, and the balance, Rs. 4,43,781, or 69·65 per cent., from the sale of court-fee stamps. The causes of the decrease or increase of revenue under each head will be given further on.

The figures given on the margin for the past eight years show that, with the exception of the year 1876-77, the stamp revenue has steadily increased year by year.

	Rs.
1874-75	4,74,622
1875-76	5,06,115
1876-77	4,87,322
1877-78	5,48,178
1878-79	5,84,571
1879-80	6,10,343
1880-81	6,18,619
1881-82	6,37,120

The following statement shows the gross receipts on account of stamp revenue in each district during the past two years:—

District.	1880-81.	1881-82.	Increase.	Decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	
Cachar	60,849	65,132	4,283	.....	+ 7·04
Sylhet	3,25,644	3,23,561	.....	2,083	— 64
Goálpára	35,107	34,421	.....	686	— 1·95
Kámrup	59,034	58,903	.....	131	— 22
Darrang.....	26,148	30,601	4,453	.....	+ 17·03
Nowgong.....	29,608	28,223	.....	1,385	— 4·67
Sibságar.....	45,812	64,684	18,872	.....	+ 41·19
Lakhimpur	26,510	27,859	1,349	.....	+ 5·09
Nága Hills.....	101	192	91	.....	+ 90·10
Khási „	4,294	2,943	.....	1,351	— 31·46
Gáro „	512	597	85	.....	+ 16·60
Manipur.....	.....	4	4	.....	+100
Total.....	6,13,619	6,37,120	23,501	.....	.....

343. From the above, it will be seen that there was an increase of revenue in seven districts and a decrease in five districts, viz., Sylhet, Goálpára, Kámrup, Nowgong, and the Khási Hills. Taking the population of the Province as ascertained at the last Census, the incidence of the stamp revenue per head of population, excluding the hill tracts, was 2 annas 3 pie, against 2 annas 2 pie in the preceding year. The two Surmá Valley districts of Cachar and Sylhet yielded a revenue of Rs. 3,88,693, or 2 annas 9 pie per head of the population, against Rs. 2,44,691, or 1 anna 9 pie per head, contributed by the six districts of the Assam Valley. In the four lower districts of the Assam Valley, viz., Goálpára, Kámrup, Darrang, and Nowgong, the incidence of the stamp revenue per head of population was nearly the same, ranging from 1 anna 2 pie in Goálpára to 1 anna 8 pie in Darrang. In the two large tea-producing districts of Lakhimpur and Sibságar the incidence was 2 annas 6 pie and 2 annas 10 pie respectively. In Cachar the incidence was 3 annas 7 pie and in Sylhet 2 annas 8 pie.

Of the total realisations, Cachar contributed 10·22 per cent. Sylhet yielded 50·79 per cent.; Goálpára gave 5·40 per cent.; Kámrup contributed 9·25 per cent.; Darrang gave 4·80 per cent.; Nowgong gave 4·43 per cent.; Sibságar yielded 10·15 per cent.; Lakhimpur contributed 4·37 per cent.; while in the four hill districts the realisations amounted to 59 per cent.

344. The large increase of revenue in the district of Sibságar was owing to the number of mutation cases instituted in that district during the year, and the consequent increased sales of court-fee stamps, and also to the fact that an unusual number of document stamps was used for agreements to labour executed by time-expired coolies on tea-gardens. The decrease of revenue in the Khási Hills occurred both under non-judicial (Rs. 282) and judicial (Rs. 1,069) stamps; and in the latter case was probably in part due to the fact that a suit for Rs. 10,000, on which the stamp duty was Rs. 475, was instituted in March 1881, thus unduly swelling the receipts of the previous year; excluding this, the value of property in suit in 1881-82 was about Rs. 6,000, against about Rs. 8,000 in 1880-81,

and therefore would produce only three-fourths of the sum obtained in the previous year from institution fees. The decrease in Sylhet, which was so prominently noticed in last year's report, still continues, but in a less degree: and while less non-judicial stamps were sold, on account of the small number of sales and mortgages of land, the increase in litigation has caused a revival in the sale of court-fee stamps.

345. The following statement shows the revenue derived in the Province during the year under report and in the preceding seven years from the sale of each class of stamp used under the Indian Stamp Act, 1879, but does not include a sum of Rs. 3,137, being the receipts obtained from duties and penalties levied under Sections 34 and 37 of the Act and from adjudication fees, &c.

	Non-judicial or document stamps.	Adhesive receipt.	Hand or bill of exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1874-75	1,91,752	3,541	1,469	1,36,762
1876-76	1,36,799	3,951	1,467	1,42,217
1876-77	1,29,462	4,390	1,296	1,35,148
1877-78	1,58,530	4,753	1,517	1,64,800
1878-79	1,89,292	5,164	1,402	1,95,858
1879-80	2,04,335	5,474	1,300	2,11,109
1880-81	1,89,459	6,101	1,512	1,97,072
1881-82	1,82,264	6,495	1,443	1,90,202
Net result in 1881-82, as compared with 1880-81.	-7,195	+394	-69	-6,870

The total receipts of the year under report under the Indian Stamp Act amounted to Rs. 1,93,339, against Rs. 1,99,906 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,567, or 3.28 per cent., as will appear from the following comparative statement:—

District.	1880-81.	1881-82.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	22,277	21,142	.....	1,135
Sylhet	1,13,983	1,06,701	.....	7,282
Goalpara	10,241	9,668	.....	573
Kamrup	16,882	17,477	595	.....
Darrang	4,970	5,442	472	.....
Nowgong	5,422	5,196	.....	226
Sibsagar	15,179	16,265	1,086	.....
Lakhimpur	9,097	9,792	695	.....
Naga Hills	54	131	77	.. ...
Khási „	1,660	1,378	.....	282
Gáro „	141	143	2	.....
Manipur .....	.....	4	4	.....
Total	1,99,906	1,93,339	.....	6,567

346. The revenue from the sale of non-judicial or document stamps shows a marked falling off in the Sylhet district as compared with the receipts for 1880-81, as will appear from the following table:—

District.	Revenue.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1880-81.	1881-82.		
	Rs.	Rs.		
Cachar	20,842	19,712	.....	1,130
Sylhet	1,11,994	1,04,537	.....	7,457
Goálpára	7,921	8,039	118	.. ..
Kámrúp	15,691	15,958	267	.....
Darrang	4,345	4,831	486	.....
Nowgong	4,917	4,554	.....	363
Sibságar	14,269	15,202	933	.....
Lakhimpur	8,163	8,420	257	.....
Nága Hills	3	49	46	.. ..
Khási „	1,210	877	.....	333
Gáro „	104	85	.....	19
Total	1,89,459	1,82,264	.....	7,195

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet attributes this falling off to the fact that the pleaders who practise in the courts of the munsifs, finding they got no work in the higher courts, took out certificates on stamped paper of Rs. 5, instead of, as in the previous year, on stamped paper of Rs. 15; and also says that, there being no money in the district, there have been very few purchases and sales of lands, and a large reduction in the number of loan transactions. The only other considerable decrease occurred in Cachar. The Deputy-Commissioner says that it was due to a decrease in the number of transfers of land effected, owing, partly, to the want of cash to invest in landed property, and partly to the fact that intending purchasers are awaiting the result of the re-survey of the district. The decrease or increase in other districts is not important enough to require explanation.

347. The revenue derived from the sale of adhesive receipt stamps was Rs. 6,495, against Rs. 6,101 in the preceding year, giving an increase of Rs. 394, or 6 per cent. Comparing the revenue of the year under review with that of 1874-75, the increase is Rs. 2,954, or 83 per cent. Commenting on this head of stamp revenue, the Deputy-Commissioner, Sylhet, says—“It is curious that only one stamped receipt is required annually among 125 people.” As the consumption of this class of stamps over the whole Province is one among 50 people annually, there is clearly less use of them in Sylhet than elsewhere.

348. It appears that there was a decrease of revenue to the amount of Rs. 69, or 4 per cent., in the revenue derived from hundi stamps, as compared with the preceding year. The receipts for 1880-81 were Rs. 1,512, while those for 1881-82 were only Rs. 1,443. The cause of this decrease was perhaps due, partly, to the extension of the new money-order system.

The receipts under duties and penalties amounted to Rs. 2,594 during the year under report, against Rs. 2,834 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 240 in 1881-82. Of the total amount of Rs. 2,594, a sum of Rs. 1,913 was realised by the Civil Courts under Section 34 of the Indian Stamp Act, against Rs. 1,128 in the preceding year. The increase was spread over all the districts. The balance, Rs. 681, was realised by Collectors under Section 37 of the Stamp Act. The amount thus realised in the previous year was Rs. 1,706. The comparatively large realisations in 1880-81 were owing, as stated in the report for that year, to the recovery of stamp duty from the agents of coolie contractors in Goálpára on account of a large number of unstamped coolie agreements.

A sum of Rs. 543 was realised as miscellaneous revenue: of this sum Rs. 503 were realised on unstamped documents sent to the Collector of Calcutta for the purpose of having them stamped with impressed labels, and Rs. 15 were realised as adjudication fees. The balance, Rs. 25, consisted of cash recoveries from vendors, &c.

349. The total sales of judicial or court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 4,43,781, against Rs. 4,13,713 in 1880-81 and Rs. 3,96,482 in 1879-80, showing an increase of Rs. 30,068 over 1880-81, and of Rs. 47,299 as compared with 1879-80.

The following statement shows the revenue derived from the sale of court-fee stamps in each district of the Province during the past two years:—

Districts.	Revenue.		Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.		
Cachar	38,572	43,990	5,418	.....
Sylhet	2,11,661	2,16,860	5,199	.....
Goálpára	24,866	24,753	.....	113
Kámrúp	42,152	41,426	.....	726
Darrang	21,178	25,159	3,981	.....
Nowgong	24,186	23,027	.....	1,159
Sibságar	30,633	48,419	17,786	.....
Lakhimpur	17,413	18,067	654	.....
Nagá Hills	47	61	14	.....
Khási and Jaintia Hills..	2,634	1,565	.....	1,069
Gáro Hills	371	454	83	.....
Total	4,13,713	4,43,781	30,068	.....

The increase is a considerable one, but not as large as might have been expected from the fact that the value of civil suits rose from Rs. 16,60,000 in 1880, to Rs. 50,22,000 in 1881. Indeed, the chief increase, that in Sibságar, is not attributable to the institution fees in civil suits, but to the fact that notices were issued in the sadr and Jorhát sub-divisions pointing out the advantage of mutation of names in the case of *pattas* in which the name not of the actual holder but of some deceased person was entered. As a consequence, there was a large number of mutation cases, resulting in increased use of court-fee stamps. In Sylhet and Cachar, the increase was due to the enhanced value of

civil suits, and also to an increase in the amount of fees levied for processes issued in cases of default to pay land revenue. The Deputy-Commissioners of Kámrúp and Nowgong explain the decrease by saying that the sales in 1880-81 were abnormally large. The decrease of Rs. 1,069 in the Khási and Jaintia Hills has been already accounted for, by the value of the civil suits instituted during the year having been lower than in the previous year.

350. The gross receipts from the sale of plain paper used for court-fee stamps amounted to Rs. 9,628, against Rs. 8,283 in 1880-81, showing an increase of Rs. 1,345, or 16 per cent. The major portion of this increase took place in Sylhet and Sibságar, and is due to the same cause as has been assigned for the increase in the receipts from court-fee stamps. The increase in Sylhet is also said to be partly due to the submission on plain paper of objections to assessments for local rates and of applications for permission to pay in arrears of land revenue and local rates. The Deputy-Commissioner says that there were 300 objections to local rates assessments lodged in 1881-82, against 78 in 1880-81. In 1880-81 defaulting landholders were only required to put in a single application when applying to be allowed to pay in the revenue in arrear on several estates, but during the year under review a separate application was required in the case of each estate.

351. Taking the gross receipts from the sale of plain paper as an item of stamp revenue, the total stamp revenue of the Province comes to Rs. 6,46,748, against Rs. 6,21,902 in the preceding year, giving an increase of Rs. 24,846, or nearly 4 per cent.

352. The charges of the department amounted to Rs. 15,916, exclusive of discount to the amount of Rs. 597 on the sale of plain paper, against Rs. 16,531 in 1880-81, showing a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 615, or 3.72 per cent. Deducting the above charges from the gross revenue of the past two years, the following net result is obtained :—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
Gross revenue	6,21,902	6,46,748
Deduct charges (including discount on the sale of plain paper).....	17,041	16,513
Net revenue	6,04,861	6,30,235
Net increase over 1880-81...	.....	25,374

The following table, showing separately the net receipts on account of general and court-fee stamps, is submitted agreeably to the orders of the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, contained in the Resolution No. 299, dated the 30th April 1879. The net revenue from each class of stamps has been obtained, whenever the charges could not be assigned directly to any one source of revenue, by assigning to each class a portion of the total

indivisible charges bearing the same proportion to such total charges as the receipts from such class of stamps bear to the total receipts :—

	General stamps. Rs.	Court-fee stamps. Rs.
Gross revenue	1,93,339	4,43,781
Refunds and other expenditure.....	7,340	8,576
Net Revenue.....	1,85,999	4,35,205

The difference between the total net receipts shown in the preceding paragraph, and those given here is caused by the exclusion from this table of receipts and charges on account of plain paper used with court-fee stamps.

353. The subjoined table exhibits the revenue derived from the sale of ordinary and service postage labels and telegraph stamps during the past two years:—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
Ordinary labels	82,932	74,341	.....	8,591
Service labels	23,293	24,471	1,178	.....
Telegraph stamps	82,631	87,150	4,519	.....
Total	1,88,856	1,85,962	.....	2,894

The following statement shows the revenue derived in each district under the above heads:—

District.	Postage labels.				Telegraph Stamps.	
	Ordinary.		Service.		1880-81.	1881-82.
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	12,860	10,999	1,488	1,429	6,429	7,320
Bylhet	16,217	14,599	4,335	4,771	4,676	4,616
Goalpara	7,310	6,818	1,987	2,084	8,569	7,948
Kamrap	7,163	6,078	2,048	2,500	7,538	8,040
Darrang	6,196	5,447	1,532	1,438	732	422
Nowgong	4,195	3,963	878	864	4,390	5,197
Sibsagar	12,314	11,098	3,369	3,357	22,247	21,695
Lakhimpur	10,195	9,586	1,797	1,895	10,047	13,486
Naga Hills	832	818	297	544	4,457	7,350
Khasi	4,757	4,310	5,486	5,339	12,927	10,598
Garó	589	460	236	205	189	128
Manipur	304	265	55	55	420	450
Total	82,932	74,341	23,293	24,471	82,631	87,150

The revenue from the sale of postage and telegraph stamps is purely "Imperial."

The receipts from the sale of ordinary postage stamps show a decrease of Rs. 8,591, as compared with the preceding year, and a decrease of Rs. 17,516, as compared with the year 1879-80.

The causes of the decrease during the year under report were as stated below:—

- (1) The introduction of quarter-anna post-cards.

(2) The introduction of the new money-order system, by which money-orders are sent free by the post-office, and the fee for registration is thereby saved.

(3) The substitution from the 1st July 1881 of cash payment for parcels for prepayment by postage stamps. Such payment is compulsory.

(4) The reduction of the fee for registering letters from 4 to 2 annas from the 1st August 1881.

(5) The rules under which the Post-office Department is authorised to accept cash payments in advance on account of the postage on newspapers to be transmitted by the Inland Post.

The sale of service stamps shows an increase of Rs. 1,178, which is due to ordinary fluctuation.

There was an increase of Rs. 4,519 in the sale of telegraph stamps. The Chief Commissioner is not yet in a position to judge whether the new tariff which came into force during the year has caused an actual increase of revenue owing to the public having used the telegraph more extensively than in previous years, as the statistics supplied by District Officers do not distinguish between receipts from service and those from private messages.

354. Forty charges of breach of the Stamp Laws were instituted during the year, against 64 in 1880-81. The following table shows the details of these

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

CASES :—

	1880-81.	1881-82.
Cachar	16	1
Sylhet	25	29
Kámrúp	4	7
Nowgong	10	1
Sibságar	6	2
Lakhimpur.....	3	...
	64	40

As in 1879-80 and 1880-81, so also in the year under report there were no criminal prosecutions under the Stamp Act in the districts of Goálpára and Darrang. The Deputy-Commissioners of these districts should impress on their subordinates the importance of satisfying themselves that the provisions of the Act are observed in all cases in which they apply. It is hardly credible that for three years running there have been no breaches of the Stamp Law in these districts.

In Cachar the one prosecution undertaken was under Section 61 of the Act, for evasion of payment of the proper stamp duty. The offender was convicted and fined Rs. 10.

In Sylhet there were 29 prosecutions, in which 57 persons were brought to trial, of whom 45 were convicted. The number tried and convicted in 1880-81 was 39 and 27 respectively, so the proportion of convictions was greater during the year under report than in the preceding year. In 28 out of the 29 cases the offence committed was the execution of instruments on paper not duly stamped. The one remaining case was for selling stamps without a license. In the above cases fines amounting to Rs. 271-12 were imposed, of which Rs. 261-12

were realised. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 17-4 was paid as rewards to informers.

In Kámrúp 7 prosecutions were undertaken, 2 at Barpeta and 5 at Gauháti. All the persons prosecuted were convicted, with the exception of one person at Barpeta.

In Nowgong there was only one prosecution, for an offence under Section 61 of the Stamp Act. The offender was convicted and fined in the sum of Rs. 10.

In Sibsaḡar there were two prosecutions under Section 68 of the Stamp Act for selling non-judicial stamps without a license. The accused pleaded ignorance of the law and the fines inflicted were nominal.

No cases of fraudulent abstraction of court-fee or other stamps from the records of any of the courts or offices in this Province came to light during the year.

All the Deputy-Commissioners of the Province report that the rules for the custody, sale, and defacement of stamps were duly observed during the year under report.

SECTION 4.—ELEPHANTS.

355. The current demand on account of the revenue of elephant *maháls*, inclusive of the royalty levied on captures, amounted during the year to Rs. 39,269, as compared with Rs. 63,108 in 1881-82, showing a net decrease of Rs. 23,839, or 37·77 per cent.

There was an increase of Rs. 3,550 in the district of Cachar, owing to the greater number of captures during the year than in 1880-81, and a decrease of Rs. 27,389 in the districts named in the margin.

	Rs.
Sylhet	1,080
Goalpara	200
Nowgong	900
Sibsaḡar	4,800
Gáro Hills	2,600
Kámrúp	801
Darrang	600
Lakhimpur	16,380
Khási and Jaintia Hills ..	88
Total	27,839

In the first-named five districts no elephant *maháls* were leased during the year, and consequently no revenue was obtained, except in the Gáro Hills, where a sum of Rs. 2,200 was collected on account of royalty on 22 elephants captured in March 1881, which became due in

the April following under the terms of the license. The Chief Commissioner has since the close of the year withdrawn the order under which elephant *maháls* have hitherto been allowed biennial periods of rest, and has directed the leases of all *maháls* to be sold annually. In the Gáro Hills hunting operations were carried on by the Government Khedda Department last year, and the *maháls* were not leased out to the public. The decrease in Kámrúp and Darrang was due to fewer elephants having been caught. The falling off in the district of Lakhimpur appears large, but is mainly owing to the revenue demand for 1879-80 (Rs. 13,750) having been treated in the report for 1880-81 as current demand for that year, instead of an arrear from the previous year. There were also only 16 elephants caught in this district, against 42 in 1880-81. The decrease in the Khási and Jaintia Hills is unimportant, and calls for no remark.

356. The arrear demand on the 1st April 1881 amounted to Rs. 11,475, to which a further sum of Rs. 900 was added during the year, on account of the royalty on certain elephants captured by an agent of the lessee in Lakhimpur who did not report the capture till after the close of 1880-81. Of the total demand, including arrears (Rs. 51,644), Rs. 43,954 were collected during the year and Rs. 7,690 remained outstanding on 1st April 1883. The whole of the current balance of Rs. 4,290 has been realised since the close of the year. The circumstances under which the sum of Rs. 3,400 (arrear balance) is outstanding in the Nága Hills district were explained in the last year's report. Measures are being taken for the speedy realisation of this amount.

There were 439 elephants captured during the year, of which 399 survived the process of capturing and training. Of these elephants, 81 were taken over by Government.

SECTION 5.—LAC.

357. Two lac *maháls* in the district of Kámrup were sold during the year for Rs. 8. No *maháls* were leased in any other district. A trifling sum of Rs. 20 was offered for the lac *maháls* in the Jorhát sub-division of the Sibságar district, but was rejected by the Commissioner. The Commissioner was asked in October 1880 to report on the best mode of raising a revenue from lac in Assam. After making enquiries on the subject from District Officers, and discussing the matter with a member of a leading Calcutta firm largely engaged in the lac trade, Mr. Ridsdale reported that he did not see any immediate prospect of the improvement of the revenue from this source unless Government was prepared to engage in the production of lac in Government forests and to place the article in competition with that now brought into the market. He stated that there was a good and constant demand for the product at the local trade centres, and that the Kyahs acting for the Calcutta firms were prepared to buy up any quantity of it brought for sale at present rates, but that the difficulties in the way of utilising the Government forests for the production of the article were no doubt the scarcity and costliness of labour and the comparative remoteness of these forests from the trading centres, and that under these circumstances there was not a sufficient margin of profit to attract those interested in the trade.

Enquiries have, however, been made by special agents of Calcutta houses in this direction, but have led to no definite results.

The cost of production appears to be considerably less on private lands, and, although the quantity so raised is far below the demand, present prices are not sufficiently high to attract capital to more distant tracts, and it is probable that a further rise would tend rather in the first instance to increased production in the private lands than to the utilisation of the Government forests. The Chief Commissioner does not therefore see his way to taking any action at present in the matter.

SECTION 6.—RUBBER.

358. During the year under report, the licenses to extract rubber from the district forests were (for the first time for many years) sold by public auction, and brought in Rs. 26,846. The particulars of each district are given below:—

District.	Number of <i>maháls</i> .	Period of lease.	Price for which sold. Rs.
Cachar	1	from 1st January to 31st December 1882.	1,150
Goálpára.....	1	1st January „ 31st December „	130
Darrang	7	„ „ February to 15th April „	6,951
Nowgong	2	„ „ „ „ 31st December „	765
Lakhimpur	2	„ „ 10th „ „ 30th April „	12,900
Nága Hills.....	1	„ „ October 1881 to 31st March „	4,950
Total	14		26,846

It is known that some of the licensees realised immense profits in spite of the competition of foreign rubber and of the facility with which the trees can be tapped in any part and the produce sold as foreign.

Beside the plantation at Balipara, the Forest Officer of the Tezpur division has under his charge, in the Charduár reserve, a great quantity of old trees, many of which, it is known, are surreptitiously tapped; and the Chief Commissioner would have wished that careful experimental tapplings should have been made under the Sub-Assistant-Conservator's supervision to obtain some knowledge of the amount which can be safely extracted, the age at which tapping can begin, and the effects on a tree of judicious tapping. The Conservator, however, thought that the time had not yet come for making this experiment.

A sketch of the conditions under which the leases of the rubber *maháls* are to be sold in future is given below. In order to attract bidders and secure a good price, the Chief Commissioner has directed that notice of the sales should be published in the *Gazette*.

- (1) The lease confers a right to tap trees for rubber only within the boundaries specified, and not beyond them.
- (2) The lease does not confer the right to tap rubber-trees growing along roadsides, near temples, or in other public places, or on private lands, within the boundaries specified.
- (3) The lease confers no right to foreign rubber, and does not authorise the lessee to interfere in any way with private or foreign rubber or persons conveying it.
- (4) The lease is to be given only for the months of December, January, February, March, and April; and of these the trees are to be tapped only in the months of December, January, February, and March, the month of April being added only to permit of the collection of the produce.
- (5) The roots of the trees and the lowest part of the stem within 3 feet from the surface of the ground are not to be tapped, and no trees are to be felled or burned, or their branches cut.

- (6) The incisions shall not be less than 2 feet apart, and must not exceed 1 foot in length by 4 inches in breadth.
- (7) Half the amount for which the lease is sold must be deposited on the day of sale, and the other half on the 1st March.
- (8) The lessee shall be responsible for all breaches of the above conditions, whether committed by himself or by persons in his employ.
- (9) The lease will be liable to be cancelled, and the amount deposited forfeited, in case of breach of any of the conditions of the lease; and if the trees are tapped otherwise than as permitted by the lease, the lessee or his agents will be liable to prosecution for mischief under the Indian Penal Code.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SECTION 1.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

359. The chief feature of the year has been the remarkable improvement in the registration of vital statistics. The number of deaths registered has risen from 51,666 to 71,941, or from 11·52 to 16·04 per mille of the population; and that in spite of the fact that the year was a healthy one, and singularly free from any fatal epidemics.

District.	Population.	Total deaths.		Total ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population.	
		1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.
Goálpára	446,232	4,540	5,855	10·17	13·12
Kámruþ	644,960	3,911	9,614	6·07	14·91
Nowgong	310,579	4,287	7,363	13·80	23·71
Darraug	273,333	5,020	5,585	18·37	20·43
Sibságar	370,274	7,077	7,215	10·11	19·48
Lakhimpur	179,893	1,738	2,044	9·66	11·36
Sylhet	1,969,009	23,085	32,274	11·62	16·39
Cachar	289,425	2,008	1,991	6·94	6·87
Total	4,483,705	51,666	71,941	11·52	16·04

360. It appears from this table that there has been an improvement in every district except Cachar, and notably so in Kámruþ, Nowgong, and Sylhet: even in Cachar the recorded number of deaths is not really so low as this table shows. By an extraordinary error the deaths on tea-gardens in that district were not registered along with those of the rural population, and the total number of deaths recorded, instead of 1,991, ought to have been 3,258, which would raise the death-rate to 11·25 per mille. But this error was discovered too late for these deaths to be included in the general returns and tabulated under the head of class, age, and cause. The Chief Commissioner is not at all sure that Cachar is the only district which has offended in this way: he thinks it very possible that in other districts some deaths in tea-gardens, in dispensaries, in cantonments, jails, police-lines, or in similar areas to which the ordinary registering machinery of the gaonbura and the chaukidár does not apply, may have been omitted; and he has called on District Officers to be very careful that no such area escapes registration in future.

361. Of course, there is room for considerable improvement yet: Nowgong, Darraug, and Sibságar are the only districts in which at present the recorded percentage even approaches to what is known to be the true rate of mortality, and other districts fall short of the truth by more than 50 per

Improvement during the last quarter of 1881.

cent. But the advance achieved has been great, and the Chief Commissioner is confident that it is only an earnest of better things to come. He was much gratified to find during his cold-weather tour the close personal attention which in almost every district except Cachar was being paid by the District Officers to vital statistics, and the intelligent interest on the subject which was being awakened in the minds of thánadárs and other registering officials. In fact, when the touring season opened and Deputy-Commissioners were able to go about and look personally into the question, the numbers registered at once began to increase. In the three months October to December 26,177 deaths were recorded, or nearly as many as in the first two quarters of the year together; and if in the earlier quarters registration had been equally active, the ratio of the year would have been 23, instead of 16 per mille. Some allowance must, however, be made for the greater unhealthiness of the last three months of the year. The following table shows the monthly ratio of deaths during the last three years:—

	1879.	1880.	1881.
January	·70	·83	1·16
February	·57	·80	·89
March	1·04	·75	·89
April	2·05	·70	1·01
May	1·74	·91	1·11
June	1·09	·93	1·21
July	1·01	·90	1·37
August	·97	·99	1·23
September	·91	1·04	1·35
October	1·00	1·26	1·72
November	·84	1·22	1·98
December	·93	1·21	2·12
Total	12·9	11·52	16·04

The figures bear out the conclusion of the Sanitary Commissioner that "if the general health of the Province is not rudely disturbed by violent epidemic outbursts (as it was in 1879 by the outbreak of cholera in March—July) the greatest total rate of mortality is during the last three months of the year, and the lowest total rate during the three first months of the year." But, as he goes on to say, it is probable that both causes were in operation during this year; not only was the last quarter of 1881 unhealthier than its predecessors, but also "an unusual amount of activity existed among registering officers."

362. Last year there were 1,511 deaths recorded in a town population of 53,113, giving a ratio of 28·44 per mille.

Vital statistics of towns. This year the corresponding return shows 1,361 deaths in a town population of 58,013, giving a ratio of 23·46, which, though considerably higher than the ratio in the rural population, is still not as good as the figure obtained in 1880.

363. The ratio of male deaths to female is still excessive, being 121 males to 100 females, though it is better than in 1880, when the ratio stood at 136 to 100. It is lowest in Sibságar and Darrang (112 to 100 female deaths), and highest

in Cachar (128 to 100), as might be expected of the district where the work is worst done.

364. The statistics regarding the ages at which death occurs show that the almost proverbial saying that natives know nothing about their own ages must be accepted with large reservations. Extreme accuracy, no doubt, cannot be expected; but that they do make a fairly good approximation to the truth is proved by the fact that in those periods during which, according to the ordinary laws of vitality, the death-ratio ought to be lowest, the fewest deaths are actually recorded, and *vice versa*. Thus, while 34 per cent. of the registered deaths are recorded as occurring below the age of 6, which is everywhere the period when life is most precarious, only 6.9 per cent. occurred between the ages of 12 and 20, at which period mortality is at its minimum. This is one of many instances in which approximately accurate statistics, which theory pronounces to be misleading, are found by experience to be indicators of valuable truths.

365. With regard to the causes of death, another source of error comes in to invalidate the returns; for the common people do not, and in many cases cannot, know what the nature of the illness was that carried off the deceased, and they necessarily explain the disease by reference to some symptom with which they are acquainted. The consequence is that a large proportion of deaths are

<i>Causes of death.</i>	
Cholera	1.12
Small-pox .....	.49
Fever	9.49
Bowel-complaints	3.2
Other causes	2.54
Total	16.04

attributed to fever, although it is probable that, if the diagnosis could be more accurately made, it would be found that fever is by no means so deadly as it is represented to be. Mr. Elliott is certainly disposed to think that it is far less prevalent and deadly in Assam than it is in the districts of the upper half of the Gangetic Doab.

366. The number of deaths from cholera were 5,010; they exceeded 1,000 only in Kámrúp and Sylhet. There was nothing that could be called a distinctly epidemic outbreak of the disease, but it lingered on from June to December in Kámrúp, and from January to May in Sylhet: it prevailed also in June, July, and November in Nowgong, and in October to December in Sibságar. Dr. Clarke has made some interesting remarks on the divergent period of maximum virulence in the Surmá and Assam Valleys:—"In the one valley * * * it showed activity from January to May, when its activity ceased throughout the year, whereas in the other, as shown especially in Kámrúp and Nowgong, it became most active in June, and its activity continued until November in the one district and to the end of the year in the other." No sufficient reason has been suggested to account for this difference, and, indeed, it would be premature to speculate on the reason till the persistence of the phenomenon proves that it is other than accidental. In 1879 the same months, May and June, were the period when the disease was most fatal in both the Surmá and the Brahmaputra Valleys. It is remarkable, and matter for much congratulation, that, though there was so much sporadic cholera

in the Assam Valley, the immigrant population of tea-coolies escaped almost entirely from the disease, only two deaths on the river having been reported during the year.

367. The deaths from small-pox were nowhere very numerous, and, though they exceeded those recorded in the previous year, the excess is probably for the most part due to improved registration. Sylhet is the only district where the total for the year exceeded 1,000, and in no other district did the mortality of any month exceed 100, except in Nowgong in April. April was the most fatal month in every district in which the disease prevailed at all.

368. The term "fever" is so loosely used by natives with their imperfect methods of diagnosis, that not much can be gained by discussing the statistics of the mortality attributed to this cause. According to the returns, 42,553 persons died of fever, or 9.49 per mille of the total population; the smallest proportionate figures are found in Lakhimpur and Sylhet, where about half the numbers of deaths are set down to this cause: in Goalpára, on the other hand, the proportion rises to 82 per cent. Dr. Clarke observes that "during the last three months of the year the total number of fever deaths recorded is nearly equal to the total number of the first six months of the year." The same proportion, however, holds good of all recorded deaths, from whatever cause, and is largely due, as has already been noticed, to the increased supervision by District Officers in the tour season.

369. The number of deaths attributed to bowel-complaints was 9,865, or 2.20 per mille of population, and, as in the years 1879 and 1880, the Sibságar district heads the list, with a ratio of 4.21. No explanation can be offered of this peculiarity, but the Civil Surgeon believes it is due to erroneous classification. There is no doubt that when people are told that they must state the cause of death, even if they do not know it, they are apt to take up with some popular formula to cover their ignorance. Fever is the general refuge of the destitute. It is possible that in Sibságar bowel-complaints may be the more fashionable hypothesis.

370. The registration of births has begun well. The year 1881 is the first during which these events were recorded in the six Assam Valley districts, and the number of births registered reached 42,733, so that already the ratio to population stands as high as 19.20 per mille. The Chief Commissioner believes that no Province in which births are registered reached so high a figure in the first year of record, and he has good hopes that still better results will be attained in a year or two. Sylhet has not yet begun to register births, but will begin from the 1st July 1882. In Cachar they have been recorded for many years, but, through some error equally extraordinary with that mentioned in paragraph 360, the figures have never been returned, nor included in the Provincial Report. It was by accident that the Chief Commissioner, while inspecting a thána in Cachar, stumbled upon a register of births, and learnt that the information was

procurable. It appears that 5,446 births were registered during the year, or 18·8 per mille on the total population, a much better return than that of deaths. Of these births, 2,615 were registered on tea-gardens, where obviously the return is much more accurately kept than elsewhere. In the town of Silchar only 86 births, or 13·1 per mille, were registered.

371. The number of male births recorded is 110 to every 100 female births. In the town of Sylhet the ratio is much better, 102 male births to 100 female births; the figures of the other towns are not separately shown. In Silchar, however, the ratio is 120 males to 100 females. There can be no doubt that such a ratio as 110 is incorrect, and indicates that female births are not reported so readily as males. There is therefore a large field for improvement here, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that in the course of time the field will have been occupied.

372. With regard to the general subject of the registration of vital statistics, much attention has been paid by the Local Administration to perfecting the machinery employed. Compulsory registration has been extended to all municipalities, and to several other local areas into which, by the provisions of Bengal Act IV. of 1873, the Chief Commissioner has power to introduce it. Efforts have been made to secure a uniform system of reporting, and to arrange that no area may escape registration, either through rural police, village headmen, managers of tea-gardens, or special registrars. In parts of the Khási and Jaintia and Gáro Hills a tentative system of record is being started, through the Seims, Dollois, Lashkars, and other headmen and chiefs. But these improvements will only partially take effect in the year 1882, and will be more fully referred to in next year's Report.

SECTION 2.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

373. The year 1881 was the last during which Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 was in operation. The new Act, I. of 1882, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 6th January last; and thus from the beginning of the present year labour immigration into this Province has been governed by its provisions.

The changes wrought by the new Act will most fitly be noticed in detail in the report for 1882, when some experience has been gained of its working; but a few words dealing with the history and progress of immigration under the law in force from 1874 to 1881 will not be out of place in this report.

374. Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 was passed in the expectation that it would give a great impetus to free immigration, and that such immigration would gradually establish itself and eventually render the existence of a special law unnecessary. Among the changes made by the Act which were looked upon as most important were those by which time-expired labourers

were, on re-engagement, free from the ordinary provisions of the law, and by which a new class of free labourers, those under contract for a term not exceeding one year, was recognised. The collection of labourers by means of garden-sardárs without the intervention of contractors, was provided for: and the opportunity was taken, in amending the law, to render more definite than before the provisions regarding the closing of gardens declared unfit for the habitation of labourers. The expectations based upon the encouragement given by the Act to free immigration were, however, mainly dependent for their realisation upon increased facilities to be given for reaching the labour districts by means of improved roads, shorter passages, and the like. And the passing of the Act was synchronous with the establishment of a through line of road from the great recruiting districts of Behar and Sonthália to Dhubri on the Brahmaputra.

375. Great progress has been accomplished in the improvement of the means of communication with the Assam Valley in the eight years since the Act was passed. Dhubri has year by year been the starting point for the river journey to an increasing proportion of immigrants. The road projected by Sir George Campbell, however, and partly constructed during the last year of his government by means of famine labour, has, owing to the opening of the Northern Bengal Railway, whereby a continuous line of steam communication with Calcutta has been brought almost to the gates of the Province, gradually ceased to be used by marching parties. But this change of route does not ordinarily involve a visit to Calcutta, where residence in the depôts has long been recognised as eminently dangerous to the health of the coolies. Intending emigrants from the great fields of Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal country make their way by the East Indian Railway to Hooghly, and there, crossing the river, take train at Kánchrapára for their journey northwards to Dhubri. The details of the immigration through Dhubri during the past year, shortly to be given, will show how largely this route is resorted to, and with what good effects in securing the safe arrival of the labourers in the Province with a minimum of danger from disease, desertion, and other losses of travel.

The subject of facilitating the progress of the immigrants up the Brahmaputra by the establishment of a swift steamer service on that river has been under consideration almost continuously since 1874. The Chief Commissioner is glad to be able to announce that arrangements for the starting of a daily service have now been almost completed, and that it may be expected to commence working about May next.

376. While, however, the objects of Sir George Campbell have been successfully followed out in regard to the largest field of employment for imported labour, the districts of the Assam Valley, it cannot be said that much has been done to improve the means of access to the tea districts of Sylhet and Cachar. Here, as before the passing of Act VII. of 1873, the immigration is wholly by native boat. The network of great rivers which lies at the exit of this valley prohibits travel by land; and the shallowness

of the river channels in the cold weather prevents steamers from reaching more than half-way up Sylhet at that season, which is the one when coolies usually travel. The extension of road-making in this direction is still extremely slow, and the railway projects, which may one day provide as speedy an access to Sylhet and Cachar as is afforded by the Northern Bengal Railway to Dhubri, are still awaiting the solution of difficulties which must be conquered before they are started.

377. It must be admitted that, as respects free immigration, matters stand now very much as they did when the Act of 1873 was passed. Sylhet was then, as now, at the head of the labour districts in which unaided importation supplied any considerable portion of the labour force: in others the proportion of adults immigrating otherwise than under the Act is but small.

378. The use of garden-sardárs as a recruiting agency has largely extended, and it is generally admitted that the coolies so obtained are far preferable to those supplied by contractors. But the expense and risk of deputing a coolie sardár from a remote district in Assam to gather labourers in the neighbourhood of his home have of late years apparently checked recourse to this agency; and the provisions of Act VII. of 1873, which required sardárs engaging more than 20 labourers to conform to the rules regarding recruiters, have brought them in contact with contractors, and exposed the emigrants gathered together at the expense of the tea-planter to the danger of being inveigled by the keeper of the depôt into concluding new engagements through himself.

This has now been remedied by the new Act, which has prohibited a sardár from taking his coolies to a contractor's depôt. The restriction upon the number of coolies whom he is entitled to recruit has been removed; and a great benefit has been conferred on employers by providing for the establishment in the recruiting districts of local agents, to whom the sardár is to report himself, and by whom he will be supplied with funds. In this way the risk of embezzlement has been greatly reduced, and the sardár will no longer be exposed to temptation by the possession of large sums committed to his care for the purpose of procuring recruits.

379. The following is a comparative table of the number of immigrants imported during the years 1874—1881, while Act VII. of 1873 was in force:—

Details of immigration under Act VII.		1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.	1874.
Act-VII.	{ Garden-sardárs	6,630	7,414	11,161	19,972	14,382	12,309	21,253	19,394*
	{ Contractors	5,743	3,581	4,458	7,390	8,286	7,504		
Non-Act	{ Adults	2,375	2,046	2,667	4,827	3,085	7,562	4,374	2,894
	{ Children	1,981	2,229	4,541	8,299	4,760	4,319		
	{ Infants	587	843	1,885	2,573	1,374	2,559		
Total		17,116	15,913	24,712	43,061	31,897	34,283	29,651	22,288

* The returns for 1874 and 1875 were submitted in the old forms, hence detailed information cannot be given.

The largest importations were in 1878, and their numbers were perhaps due to the scarcity in Northern India which prevailed in that year; a similar increase is noticeable in 1875 and 1876, probably to be ascribed to a like cause.

380. In the eight years 218,921 persons immigrated into Assam; of these 149,077 were immigrants under Act VII., and 40,004 were children, generally those of the Act immigrants; 26,946 were adults, who immigrated without the assistance of the Act; and 2,894 were persons whom it is now impossible to separate into adults not under the Act and children, of which classes the total is made up. A certain, but not a large, proportion of the non-Act adults were aged dependents of labourers under the Act; but, taking all those shown in the returns to be really free labourers, and adding half the number who immigrated otherwise than under the Act in 1874, out of a total adult immigrant population of 177,470, only 28,393, or 16 per cent., were free labourers, the class whom it was Sir George Campbell's desire chiefly to encourage. The largest proportion of such labourers ever attained was in 1876, 27·6 per cent., the smallest in 1877, 12 per cent., since which year it has again gradually risen, and stood in 1881 at 16 per cent.

381. Of the Act coolies imported since 1875 (in which year and in 1874 no distinction was made in the returns between sardári and contractors' coolies), 108,430 in number, 71,868, or almost exactly two-thirds, were recruited by garden-sardárs, and the remaining one-third, or 36,562, by contractors. The following are the proportions for each of the six years:—

Year.	Sardári coolies.	Contractors' coolies.	Year.	Sardári coolies.	Contractors' coolies.
1876	... 62·1	37·9	1879	... 71·4	28·6
1877	... 63·4	36·6	1880	... 68·6	31·4
1878	... 72·9	27·1	1881	... 54·4	45·6

The highest proportion, it will be seen, was reached in 1878, since which year there has been a gradual decline in the use of this agency.

382. As regards the protective measures within the Province, which, as has been mentioned, it was intended that the Act should give more complete effect by defining more strictly the conditions under which a garden might be closed as unfit for the residence of imported labourers, it was found before the new law had been long at work that, by omitting to distinguish between different classes of labourers, some of whom might be able to stand a climate which might be fatal to others, its provisions on this subject were almost a dead letter. By Section 119 the action to be taken was only possible if the mortality among the labourers on an estate, counting both labourers under the Act and others, exceeded 7 per cent. But it was but rarely that this condition was fulfilled in regard to all the labourers on an estate taken together, though it has unhappily not unfrequently been the case that the mortality among unacclimatised coolies, or among certain classes of imported coolies, such as those from

the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar, has, taken separately, largely exceeded the rate mentioned.

Accordingly, it became necessary to supplement Chapter 13 of the Act by fresh legislation, enabling the Chief Commissioner to apply specially its provisions to labourers of any particular class, or to labourers imported from any particular place or district, and to close a garden, not to imported labour as a whole, but to the class which was found to suffer. This power was given by Assam Regulation IV. of 1877, since when several cases have arisen in which its provisions have been applied with beneficial results.

383. It may be doubted whether the change to which the Government of Bengal attributed much importance, by which time-expired labourers were on re-engagement freed from the provisions of the law attaching to contract immigrants, really did much to modify the position of the former. As it has always been customary to give such labourers, on re-engagement, a bonus as an advance or earnest of the engagement, Act XIII. of 1859 has been held applicable to such contracts, and the breach of them still entails penal consequences. In the new law, therefore, it has been enacted that contracts under the Act may be entered into in the labour districts, and that such contracts shall have the same force as those made by intending emigrants.

384. Turning now to the history of the year 1881, the Chief Commissioner has to record no new administrative measures of any great importance. The discussion of the new law, which it is unnecessary to notice further here, was the chief subject of attention on the part of the Government and the planting community. The opportunity given for considering the Bill was not as ample as the Chief Commissioner could have wished; it was not received for criticism in the form in which it was introduced into the Legislative Council till the 10th October, and it was necessary to submit opinions on it before the end of November, the date fixed for its consideration by the Council. It was thus impossible to consult in regard to its provisions many of the unofficial community, and it is to be feared that some defects, caused by ignorance of local conditions, may hereafter disclose themselves. One such defect has already been brought to the notice of the Government of India, with a view to a remedy being applied.

385. The period of report on immigration through Dhubri, which was heretofore the financial, has been changed to the calendar year, in order to bring its details into conformity with those of residence within the Province. The total number of immigrants into the Assam Valley Districts who started for the Province was 11,696, being 701 more than in 1880-81: of these, 8,695 came by the Dhubri route, and 3,001 embarked at Goalundo, giving a proportion of 74·34 per cent. who used the former, against 68·4 per cent. in the previous year. This mode of travelling to Assam is thus year by year gaining in popularity. Of the 8,695 immigrants who started, 8,482 actually arrived at Dhubri, having lost 20 by death on the way, 129 by

Time-expired coolies.

Administration of Act during the year.

Immigration through Dhubri.

desertion, and 64 who were detained by sickness. Out of the 8,482, only 15 chose the old Rájmahál route viá Malda, Dinajpur, and Rangpur, the rest took the rail to Kurigrám, and either marched thence to Dhubri or came by steamer.

386. The record of inspection done during the year shows that the work was less thoroughly performed than in 1880. Of gardens employing Act-VII. coolies, 548 in all, only 444 were visited, while in the previous year 497 out of 532 were inspected. This falling off, however, is confined to one district. In Kámrup and Nowgong, all the Act gardens were inspected; in Darrang only one out of 66 was omitted. In Sylhet, of the 9 gardens not inspected in 1881, 4 were visited just before the close of 1880, and three just after the commencement of 1882. In Cachar, though 5 gardens are shown as not inspected, one is known to have been visited by the late Major Boyd, and two others in the Hailákandi sub-division, were, it is believed, inspected by Mr. Place.

The district of Sibságar, which contains the largest number of tea-gardens in the Province, shows proportionally the least inspection: out of 146 gardens employing Act coolies 78 were left unvisited in 1881, against 5 out of 147 in 1880. The Deputy-Commissioner ascribes the falling off to the absence on furlough of the Inspector of Labourers in Upper Assam, and holds that the orders given in 1879, directing the District and Sub-divisional Officers to inspect concurrently with Dr. Partridge, merely meant that the District Officers were to assist the Inspector, not to do the whole work themselves. Colonel Campbell, however, overlooks the orders issued when Dr. Partridge went on furlough, directing him to arrange through his district staff for the duty of inspection; and the statement given below, showing how the duty was performed in each sub-division, does not exhibit a proper activity on the part of the Sub-divisional Officers of Jorhát and Golághát:—

Sub-division.	Number of gardens employing Act coolies.	Number inspected.	Number not inspected.
Head-quarters.....	52	46	6
Jorhát	57	17	40
Golághát	37	5	32

The Sub-divisional Officer of Golághát had, it is true, duties to perform at his head-quarters in connection with the transport of supplies to the Nága Hills, which claimed his chief attention; but the Chief Commissioner thinks that, even with these, he might have accomplished more than the inspection of only 5 gardens out of 37.

The Office of Inspector of Labourers in Upper Assam has now been abolished, and the duties of inspection have devolved on the district staff, including the Civil Surgeon and the District Superintendent of Police. The Chief Commissioner trusts that the report for 1882 will show that no garden employing Act labourers remained unvisited by an inspecting officer.

In Lakhimpur the work of inspection was fairly well performed: only 11 gardens out of 138 employing Act labour remained unvisited, against 16 out of 130 in the previous year.

387. The total number of labourers and their dependents imported into the Province during 1881 was 17,116, or more by 1,203 than in the previous year. The increase is small, only 7.5 per cent. : but if the details be examined, it will be seen that, while the number of children and infants imported has fallen off by 504, or 16.4 per cent., the number of adults, whether introduced under the Act or not, has risen from 12,841 in 1880 to 14,548 in 1881, or by 13.2 per cent. There has thus been a partial recovery in immigration, which may be taken to be a sign of greater prosperity in the tea industry.

The statement below compares the importations of the last five years under each head:—

	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.
Act-VII. ... { Garden-sardárs ...	6,630	7,414	11,161	19,972	14,382
Act-VII. ... { Contractors	5,543	3,381	4,458	7,390	8,286
Non-Act ... { Adults	2,375	2,046	2,667	4,827	3,095
Non-Act ... { Children	1,981	2,229	4,541	8,299	4,760
Non-Act ... { Infants	587	843	1,885	2,573	1,374
Total	<u>17,116</u>	<u>15,913</u>	<u>24,712</u>	<u>43,061</u>	<u>31,897</u>

The total importations, it will be seen, still fall far short of those of 1878.

388. The following table shows the changes which have taken place in the tea-garden population of the Province during the year:—

Total labour force.

Number remaining at end of 1880	189,028
Add new importations	17,116
Transfers from other gardens	6,063
Otherwise added	57,984
Total	<u>270,191</u>

Deduct—

Deaths	6,171
Desertions	4,655
Otherwise	63,937
	<u>74,763</u>

Balance at end of 1881.....	<u>195,428</u>
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389. The following table shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of the last three years, and also the mean strength for the two half years of 1881. The returns received from tea-gardens are rendered on the 1st January and 1st July of each year, and upon the average of each half-yearly period, struck by adding together the figures at its beginning and end, and dividing by two, the rates of mortality and desertion for each half year are calculated. The sum of these rates forms the rate for the year. It was explained in last year's report that this is the only feasible method of approximating to the true rates, as it is impossible to obtain either

Comparison of labour force for three years.

very numerous or very elaborate returns from the managers of tea-gardens:—

Classes of labourers.		1st January 1879.	1st January 1880.	1st January 1881.	1st July 1881.	Mean strength for first half year of 1881.	31st De- cember 1881.	Mean strength for second half year of 1881.
Act-VII.	Adults	49,930	44,372	37,411†	31,042	84,226	28,257	23,649
	Adults	70,865	76,941	84,335†	95,017	89,676	95,677	96,347
Non-Act	Children	36,343	41,161	43,617†	45,248	44,382	44,882	45,065
	Infants	20,957	22,351	23,765†	24,830	24,297	26,612	25,721
	Total	178,095	184,825	189,028†	196,137	192,682	196,428	195,782

† Act-VII.	.....	37,405
Non-Act	Adults	83,115
	Children	43,163
	Infants	23,617
	Total	187,300

According to the returns for 31st December 1880. The difference is owing to Sylhet, where some of the tea-gardens which did not submit returns last year have submitted returns this year, and to Nowgong, where the manager of new Salona tea-garden has corrected his figures for 1880.

From the above it will be seen that between the beginning and end of 1879 the increase was 6,730, or 3·7 per cent.; between the beginning and end of 1880 it was 4,203, or 2·2 per cent.; and between the beginning and end of 1881 it was 6,400, or 3·3 per cent. The increase, however, is confined in each year to non-Act adults and children, the number of contract adults showing a progressive diminution. This could not have been otherwise, when, as will be seen from the table in paragraph 387 above, the importations of 1878 were nearly double those of 1879, and nearly treble those of 1880.

The adult, that is, the effective, labour force was at the close of 1881 123,934 in number, against 121,746 at its beginning, showing an increase of 2,188, or 1·7 per cent.

390. The number of desertions of adults has fallen from 4,550 in 1880 to 4,087 in 1881, a decrease of 463, or 10·2 per cent. The percentage of desertions among all classes of adult labourers taken together was 3·28 upon the average yearly strength, against 3·70 in 1880. The number of desertions among Act coolies was 1,590, against 1,704 in 1880, giving a percentage of 5·00, against one of 4·14 in the latter year. Among non-Act adult coolies the number fell from 2,846 in 1880 to 2,497 in 1881, or from 3·48 to 2·71 per cent.

391. The actual number of desertions among Act coolies is less than in 1880, though the proportion to the total population is higher among this class than among non-Act coolies. It has long been recognised that, as a general rule, desertions are most frequent amongst newly-arrived coolies, who suffer most from home-sickness and the depressing effect of a change of climate; and these causes, as already noticed, are most rife among contractors' coolies, who are bound together by fewer ties of family and acquaintanceship than those brought up by garden-sardars. On the total force there is a considerable improvement, which is no doubt connected with the increased healthiness of the year.

Desertions more common among Act coolies than non-Act coolies.

Among non-Act labourers, Nowgong, Darrang, and Kámrúp alone show an increase in desertions as compared with 1880; in Sylhet and Cachar there is a very noticeable decrease, and the proportion in Lakhimpur and Sibságar is stationary.

It is curious to observe that, omitting Sylhet, the circumstances of which are peculiar, the three districts where desertion is most prevalent among the Act coolies are exactly those where it is least resorted to by non-Act labourers, viz., Cachar, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. It may perhaps be concluded that, though these districts, as the most remote in the Province, are least popular among newly-arrived immigrants, labourers once acclimatised find them comfortable places of residence, and are unwilling to leave them.

392. The number of deaths in 1881 among all classes of immigrants employed on tea-gardens, including children and infants, was 6,171, against 6,657 in 1880, a decrease of 486, or 7·30 per cent. As the total population among which the mortality occurred was larger than in the previous year, the ratio of deaths was proportionately lower, being only 3·17 per cent., against 3·52 in 1880. This ratio, which is actually less than what is believed to be the ordinary rate of mortality among an Indian population, is among the lowest ever attained, and testifies to the general healthiness of the Province as a place of abode for immigrant labourers. The death-rates of preceding years have been as follows:—

	Per cent.
1879	5·09
1878	6·61
1877	5·09
1876	5·11

393. The table below gives the details of this mortality comparatively for the two years, and for each half year separately, district by district:—

Districts.	Deaths amongst all classes of labourers, including children and infants.				Percentages.					
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Half-yearly.				Annual.	
					First half.		Second half.			
	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.
Sylhet	183	175	221	225	·83	·94	·96	1·22	1·79	2·16
Cachar	558	919	709	741	·91	1·47	1·13	1·20	2·04	2·67
Kámrúp	21	22	28	36	1·44	1·50	1·66	2·51	3·30	4·10
Darrang	394	283	459	406	2·01	1·98	3·16	2·83	5·17	4·81
Nowgong	136	100	190	182	2·23	1·87	3·02	3·30	5·25	5·07
Sibságar	749	846	1,090	1,182	1·46	1·66	2·11	2·30	3·67	3·96
Lakhimpur	608	705	925	826	1·71	2·00	2·66	2·32	4·27	4·32
Total	2,549	3,049	3,622	3,608	1·32	1·62	1·65	1·90	3·17	3·52

This statement shows that the death-rate fell in every district except Darrang and Nowgong. The low mortality in Sylhet and Cachar is particularly remarkable.

394. The mortality among adults was 4,156, against 4,410 in 1880, the percentage being 3·34 and 3·58 respectively; of this total, 1,994 deaths occurred among Act coolies, giving a percentage of 6·38, against 2,398 with a percentage of 5·88, in 1880. There has thus been here a slight falling off, which will be further discussed below. 2,162 deaths were of non-Act adults, against 2,012 in 1880, giving ratios of 2·33 and 2·45 per cent. respectively.

395. In the table below the adult mortality for both classes together is distributed according to nationality and sex, and shown comparatively for the two years:—

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Percentage of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.
Bengal	Men	520	455	2·75	2·34	40,339	42,778
	Women	588	536				
North-Western Provinces	Men	582	643	3·72	4·67	25,273	23,243
	Women	358	443				
Chota Nagpur	Men	1,024	1,194	3·57	4·04	58,031	56,492
	Women	1,049	1,085				
Nepal	Men	6	5	3·57	13·95	168	43
	Women .....	.....	1				
Madras	Men	17	23	4·49	5·27	623	873
	Women	11	18				
Bombay	Men	1	2	9·09	11·11	11	18
	Women .....	.....	.....		
Total	Men	2,150	2,332	3·17	3·52	67,844	66,343†
	Women	2,006	2,078					3·54	3·67	56,603	56,615†
Grand Total		4,156	4,410	3·34	3·58	124,448	122,958†

† These figures are calculated on the average annual strength of men and women of both Act and Non-Act labourers, and do not agree with the total annual strength of males and females of different nationalities.

With the exception of labourers from Bengal (among whom, however, the death-rate is conspicuously low) every class shows a great improvement in point of mortality. This is most marked (neglecting the minor Provinces) among immigrants from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar, whose death-rate has fallen from 4·67 in 1880 to 3·72 in 1881. The mortality among coolies from Chota Nagpur has also been reduced by one-half per cent. The mortality among the sexes differs but slightly. The trifling excess in the ratio among women is perhaps due to the risks of childbirth.

396. The two following statements show the causes of death among Causes of death among adults. Act and non-Act adults district by district.

Causes of death among labourers engaged under Act VII.

District.	Mean strength of Act-VII. labourers employed in 1881.		Deaths from				Total of columns 3, 4, 5, and 6.			Annual percentage of dea ths.
	First half.	Second half.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Other causes.	First half.	Second half.	Total.	
1	2		3	4	5	6	7			8
Sylhet	1,488	1,328	5	14	10	15	14	30	44	8.19
Cachar	5,489	4,431	20	51	39	76	79	107	186	3.84
Kāmrup	214	181	4	2	..	4	8	7	10	6.26
Darrang	4,624	4,144	44	100	29	194	130	237	367	8.52
Nowgong	2,285	2,090	9	42	12	99	54	108	162	7.32
Eibsagar	9,918	8,401	56	150	39	344	192	297	489	5.46
Lakhimpur	10,206	9,073	53	135	65	478	299	437	736	7.73
Total	84,226	29,649	196	494	194	1,110	771	1,223	1,994	6.28

Causes of death among non-Act labourers.

District.	Mean strength of non-Act labourers employed in 1881.		Deaths from				Total of columns 3, 4, 5, and 6.			Annual percentage of deaths.
	First half.	Second half.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Other causes.	First half.	Second half.	Total.	
1	2		3	4	5	6	7			8
Sylhet	13,998	14,736	17	52	45	109	103	120	223	1.54
Cachar	30,711	32,313	81	132	116	241	225	345	570	1.80
Kāmrup	756	810	1	3	3	18	6	19	25	3.13
Darrang	5,808	6,050	23	56	12	121	77	135	212	2.55
Nowgong	2,009	2,290	5	10	16	44	31	44	75	3.46
Eibsagar	22,609	24,023	65	140	63	377	271	379	650	2.76
Lakhimpur	13,784	15,222	51.	54	54	248	166	251	407	2.77
Total	89,676	95,347	243	447	314	1,158	869	1,293	2,162	2.33

Cholera was much less fatal in 1881 than in 1880, only 196 deaths among Act coolies and 243 among non-Act coolies being due to this cause in the former, against 408 and 370 respectively in the latter. The mortality from dysentery was also less, but still heavy; that from fever was about the same.

The following statement shows the general rate of mortality among adult labourers during the last five years:—

Year.	Average number of labourers, both Act and non-Act.	Total number of deaths among both Act and non-Act adults.	Percentage of deaths among adult labourers.
1880	122,954	4,410	3.58
1879	123,799	6,695	5.40
1878	119,476	8,072	6.75
1877	105,317	5,298	5.03
1876	112,612	4,951	4.39

397. The general rate of mortality among adults is the lowest of the five years from 1877 to 1881. The year was, like its predecessor, undistinguished by

Generally favourable character of the year.

any severe epidemic outbreak, and the healthiness of the season is borne witness to by the statistics of the jails in the Province. Besides this, however, there can be no doubt that the improvements in sanitation which have been carried out by the planters have contributed much to the reduction in mortality. The low prices of the year, especially in the Surmá Valley, must also have enabled the labourers to live better than they have sometimes found it possible to do. But, however caused, the improvement is a subject for congratulation; and the Chief Commissioner hopes that, with more careful selection of the labourers recruited, and with greater attention to the judicious dieting of immigrants from the North-Western Provinces during the first months of their residence in the Province, future years may show little or no retrogression as compared with that just closed.

398. The number of children between two and sixteen years of age at the beginning of the year was 43,517, on the 1st July 45,248, and on the 31st December 44,882. The mean strength of the first half-year was thus 44,382, and that of the second 45,065. During the first half-year 380 children died and in the second 429. The ratio for the first was thus .85 per cent., and for the second .95, giving an annual rate of 1.80. In 1880 the ratio was 2.26, and in 1879 3.22. The past year was thus a singularly healthy one for children. It is probable that the diminished importations of children, of whom less by 248 entered the Province than in 1880, had something to do with this improvement.

399. A similar improvement is found in the death-rate among infants. There were at the beginning of the year 23,765 infants under two years of age, on the 1st July 24,830, and on the 31st December 26,612. The mean for the first half-year was 24,297, and for the second 25,721. 529 deaths occurred in the first half and 677 in the second, giving a percentage of 2.17 for the former and 2.63 for the latter, or an annual rate of 4.80. In 1880 the percentage was 5.57 and in 1879 6.79. Here also the falling off in importations, which were 256 fewer than in the previous year, may account for part of the decrease in mortality.

400. The number of gardens on which a mortality exceeding 7 per cent. occurred has risen from 48 in 1880 to 60 in 1881. The increase is entirely confined to the Brahmaputra Valley, where it occurs in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar. The details of the several districts are shown below:—

District.	Number of unhealthy gardens.	
	1881.	1880.
Sylhet	1	...
Cachar	1	2
Kámrúp .....	...	...
Darrang	21	10
Nowgong	10	5
Sibságar	12	9
Lakhiampur	15	22
Total	60	48

Many of these, however, owe their position in the list to the small number of coolies employed, among whom a few deaths sufficed to produce a heavy percentage of mortality.

401. The number of women of all classes at the commencement of the year was 56,311, and on the 1st July 57,165; the mean strength for the first half year was thus 56,738. On the 31st December the number was 55,776; the mean for the second half was thus 56,470. The yearly mean, being the mean of the two half years, was 56,604. The total number of births was 7,122, which gives a rate of 12.58 births per 100 women. In 1880 the percentage was 10.43, and in 1879 8.82. This increase is probably in part due to better reporting, but so far as it is real it is a matter for congratulation.

402. The immigrant population is not of course under altogether normal conditions; the number of women to men is disproportionately small, being only 45.3 out of every 100 adults, instead of 50; the number of children, that is, persons under 16 years of age, is 35.9 per cent. of the total population, while the provincial average recorded at the recent Census is 43 per cent. On the other hand, the experience of the English colonies leads to the inference that where the proportion of women is deficient, the births are not diminished in a corresponding degree. The birth-rate on the total number of immigrants is still considerably below what it should be, being only 36.6 per mille against a probable normal rate of 45 per mille in an Indian population. The rate in 1880 was 31.3, in 1879 27.0, in 1878 31.9, and in 1877 33.8.

403. The statement below shows the number of new gardens opened and old gardens closed during the year 1881:—

	New gardens open in		Old gardens closed in	
	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.
Sylhet ^o	1	6	...	...
Cachar .....	...	3	3	2
Kámrúp .....	...	...	...	...
Darrang.....	1	4	3	2
Nowgong † .....	...	..	6	7
Sibságar ‡	2	22	11	...
Lakhiampur .....	...	6	2	...
Total	4	41	25	11

^o One garden amalgamated during 1881.
[†] One garden amalgamated.
[‡] Seven gardens not under culture.

It will be seen that the number of gardens closed has more than doubled as compared with 1880, while the new gardens opened were only 4, against 41 in the previous year. This is the natural result of the depression which so severely affected the industry, and made further extensions rash. Notwithstanding this, however, the yield of tea during the year has been very much in excess of any total heretofore attained. The district returns show a total for the Province of 37½

million pounds, while the estimate of the brokers, which is doubtless prepared on more complete information, gives a crop for the year of 38,293,748 lb. The returns of Joint Stock Companies prepared by the Registrar in Calcutta are incomplete, since many of the Companies entered therein do not show the results of the working of 1881. Of those that do, 41 Companies in all, 24 made a profit of 5·2 per cent. on their capital, 14 a loss of 6·2 per cent., and 3 made neither a gain nor a loss. Many of the most extensive and most prosperous Companies, however, are registered in England, and do not appear in the returns.

404. The statement of offences committed by labourers given below relates only to those on contract under Act VII. of 1873. It is extremely imperfect, being in most districts prepared from the returns submitted by the garden managers, whereas it should have been constructed from the records of the courts:—

District.	Desertion.	Rioting.	Theft.	Assault.	Culpable homicide.	Counterfeit coinage.	House-trespass.	Breach of contract.	Unlawful assembly.	Causing hurt.	Attempting to commit suicide.	Other offences.	Total.
Sylhet	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cachar	25	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	50
Kāmrup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	29	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Nowgong	25	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	39
Sibsagar	33	12	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	49
Lakhimpur	31	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	57
Total	150	13	6	2	2	..	..	3	..	..	2	4	182

It is only necessary to turn to the Jail Report of the year to find proof therein of the inaccuracy of this statement. That report shows 295 persons in jail during 1881 for offences under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 alone, or nearly double the number shown above.

405. As respects the general criminality of the coolie population, it must be admitted that this class compares unfavourably with the natives of the Province. Criminality of the coolie population. 672 of the convicts admitted to jail during the year, or 19 per cent. of the total admissions, were tea-coolies, of whom 325 were imprisoned under the labour laws,—Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 and Act XIII. of 1859. The balance, 347, represents other and more serious crime. As the number of adult tea-coolies is about 120,000, this gives nearly three prisoners to every thousand of the population, the provincial average being only about one in a thousand.

406. The number of immigrants whose contracts were determined under Section 112 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 by reason of permanent unfitness for labour, was 363, against 137 in 1880. No cases under Determination of contract under Section 112 of Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873.

this section occurred in Sylhet. The numbers in the other districts were as shown below:—

Cachar	...	...	...	...	16
Kámrip	...	...	...	...	1
Darrang	...	...	...	...	30
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	8
Sibságar	...	...	...	...	13
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	295
					—
			Total	...	363
					—

Of those released from contract in Lakhimpur, no less than 236 were coolies on the tea estates of Mr. Gordon Shaw,—Hilika, Talup, and Hukanjuri. The maximum amount of 3 months' pay was awarded to most of the coolies released from contract; but in 17 cases in Lakhimpur only 1 month's pay appears to have been given, in 50 cases 1½ month's pay, and in 2 cases 2 months' pay. Enquiry will be made into the circumstances under which these amounts were awarded. On this subject, the Deputy-Commissioner of Darrang remarks as follows:—

"In each case the men received Rs. 15 and the women Rs. 12. In all the above cases the coolies were put on board the steamer by the Inspector or Assistant Inspector, and placed in charge of the commander of the vessel, to whom the sums awarded on discharge were handed over, with instructions that after deducting their passage and diet money, the balance, together with the coolies, was to be made over to the Embarkation Agent at Goalundo. Intimation concerning the return of such emigrants was always sent both to the Embarkation Agent at Goalundo and Emigration Agent at Calcutta, so as to facilitate the return of the emigrant to his home. I find, on a reference to the Emigration Report of this district for 1878, that my predecessor drew attention to the allowance above alluded to as being inadequate, the more so in the case of females, as they only receive Rs. 12, and from this sum has to be deducted the emigrant's passage and mess expenses on the way down, so that a very small sum remains unexpended when the coolie arrives at Goalundo. I regret to find that the new Act also only makes mention of three months' pay. If this were to be the limit in addition to cost of carriage, there would be no objection, but, as it is, I fancy very few of the coolies thus discharged ever reach their homes."

The Chief Commissioner drew the attention of the Legislative Department to this subject while the Bill was under consideration, desiring that a higher maximum should be fixed, but without effect. He will now consider whether part of the expense of conveying immigrants discharged under Section 122 of Act I. of 1882 to their homes should not be borne by the Labour Transport Fund.

407. The table below contains the statistics rendered by the District Officers of the area of land taken up by immigrant labourers for cultivation. It is not complete, as it fails to show the cases in which the coolie settles as a tenant, and not as an independent cultivator. In Cachar there must be many such cases; the great falling off in this district is difficult to explain.

Settlement of immigrant labourers as cultivators.

In the Assam Valley, it will be seen, there is in every district except Sibságar and Kámrúp a considerable increase in the area taken up:—

	1881. Acres.	1880. Acres.	1879. Acres.
Sylhet	72	.....	.....
Cachar	3	1,467	1,033
Kámrúp	56	56	.....
Darrang	1,535	1,254	756
Nowgong	128	77	37
Sibságar	448	990	832
Lakhimpur	972	739	.....
Total	3,214	4,583	2,658

408. The information supplied by the district reports in regard to the average monthly earnings of the coolies is neither complete nor satisfactory. In Lakhimpur the average is given as Rs. 5 a month for men and Rs. 4 for women, which are merely the contract rates entered in their agreements; what is required is the actual average, as ascertained by inspection of the pay-lists. In Nowgong the average for men is stated at Rs. 4-12, and for women at Rs. 4. In Sylhet a general average rate of Rs. 4-4-6 is returned; but the Deputy-Commissioner notes that—

“This result is arrived at by taking an average of the earnings reported as the ordinary earnings on each of 32 gardens. Inspecting officers are very careless about returning this important fact, and often exclude the sick and malingers. Seven gardens, however, employing 1,735 labourers, have returned figures of the amount spent in wages. This comes to Rs. 5,952 a month, or Rs. 3-6-11 a head, a figure which is much nearer the probable truth.”

The Chief Commissioner will endeavour to obtain more accurate statistics on this important subject in future.

409. No special reference is made to the subject of sanitary improvements, or the dieting of labourers, in the reports received from the labour districts. As regards the former, however, the reports of the officers who have inspected gardens where excessive mortality occurred show that even in these there is usually little fault to find with the arrangement of the lines or the water-supply, and it may be presumed from the fact that the year was marked by the lowest rate of mortality among the total immigrant population which has ever been attained that the progress of improvement in the sanitary conditions of the immigrants has been steady. Mr. Elliott in the course of his tours has frequently had occasion to notice the excellent arrangements made on tea-gardens for the maintenance of health among the labouring population; and he gladly bears testimony to the general kindness and consideration evinced by the planters in their dealings with their coolies, whether adults or children. The construction of wells has been actively carried on, to the great improvement of the water-supply; the hospitals are well managed, and are generally in charge of qualified Native Doctors; and the diet given in them to the sick is good and suitable. In all these measures of sanitary improvement the advice and personal inspection of the late and present Sanitary Commissioners, Drs. DeRenzy and J. J. Clarke, have been of the greatest benefit to the planters.

The new Act did not come into force till after the close of the year, and thus no measures could be taken to provide for the compulsory rationing of newly-arrived coolies, from which much benefit is anticipated in acclimatising them gradually to the conditions of life in Assam.

410. Upon the whole, the Chief Commissioner considers that the results of the year may generally be regarded as satisfactory.

Conclusion.

The tea industry appears to be recovering from its recent depression; the importation of coolies has increased, and the outturn of tea has been much larger than in any previous year. The health of the imported labourers has been remarkably good, the death-rate among them being considerably lower than that of an Indian population under normal conditions. The births have increased, and exceed the deaths; the desertions show a considerable diminution in number. No serious causes of difference have arisen between the labourers and their employers during the year. And the new Act, with the improvements it has effected in the system of supervising the treatment of the immigrant labourers in the Province, and the greatly increased inducements which it offers to recruitment by means of garden-sardars, will, it is confidently anticipated, prove of great benefit both to the labourer and his employer.

SECTION 3.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

411. The number of Government Dispensaries (23) has not increased during the year, but the returns of two Missionary Dispensaries have been included in the figures for the first time: of these, the Mauflang Dispensary received a grant for a new building, and some assistance towards establishment, Rs. 507 in all; but that at Cherra Punji received aid only in the shape of a free supply of medicines. Neither of these institutions received in-door patients, but it is intended to admit them at Mauflang when the new building is finished. All but one of the 23 Government dispensaries have been inspected by the Chief Commissioner during the past year.

412. The total number of in door patients treated during the year was 2,853, against 2,665 in 1880, and the average daily number was 160·59, against 139·40;

In-door patients.

the number of beds in the dispensaries being 397. The improvement in Shillong, Gauhati, and Mangaldai is marked, and that in Kohima particularly so. The Silchar Dispensary still stands first in point of numbers, with a daily average of 38·4 patients; but Dibrugarh has fallen to the third place, Kohima being second: still, these two dispensaries together do not come up to the daily average of Silchar. The places where the attendance is least satisfactory are those shown in the margin, where the accommodation offered is taken little or no advantage of. It will be the privilege of the Local Boards, under the recent orders of Government, to try

and make these institutions more popular. At Goalpara, where the mortality for two years has been very high, it is lamentable to see that

	Number of beds.	Daily average number of patients.
Goalpara	18	4·7
Barpeta	8	·14
Lakhimpur	12	·26

so little confidence is felt in the professional ability of the Hospital-Assistant, and it might be well to try if another man would be more acceptable to the residents. At Barpeta, the Chief Commissioner noticed that the Civil Surgeon had recorded a note in the visitors' book to say that no one could be expected to come as an in-door patient as long as the sweeper was the only water-carrier. At Lakhimpur the Chief Commissioner was struck with the forlorn and desolate look of the place, which was likely to strike terror into the heart of a sick person. It is in matters like this, above all others, that we may reasonably expect that the policy of local self-government will prove efficacious: no one can tell so well as the native gentlemen on the Local Board what the causes are which make dispensaries unpopular, and, now that funds have been supplied them to administer, there is every ground for hoping for some improvement.

Classification of in-door patients. 413. The following statement shows the different classes of patients :—

Pauper patients	1,625
Tea-coolies sent in and paid for by managers	630
Patients dieting themselves	498
Public servants paid for by Government	100
	2,853
Total	2,853

This classification, however, fails to show, what it is more important than anything to learn, *viz.*, the number of Assamese who avail themselves of the dispensaries as compared with immigrants and foreigners. By far the largest proportion of the "pauper patients" are not Assamese, but foreigners who have been tea-coolies. Those who get ill whilst still under contract are, when very seriously ill, or when the tea-garden has no medical attendant, sent in by the managers and paid for; and this is often done out of humanity in the case of those who are not under contract, and who have no legal claim to such assistance. But there is a considerable class of persons who fall ill on the tea-gardens, remain unable to work for some time, and, after living for weeks or months on the charity of the manager or of their friends, drift away into the nearest towns, and are at length received in the dispensaries either when near their death, or when they have become hopelessly infirm. A double injury is caused to the dispensaries in this way. On the one hand, the rate of mortality among such patients is

high, and the occurrence of many deaths (as in the instances noted in the margin) gives the place a bad name. On the other hand, as time goes on, the number of those who are blind, maimed, utterly debilitated, or in other ways incapable of earning a living, increases, and the dispensary tends to become a poor house for incurables. The condition of persons of this class is very pitiable, for they are far from their own homes and from the people who speak their own language. Though they have no claim on any person in this country to be sent back at his expense, the Chief Commissioner thinks that a portion of the Labour Transport Fund might well be devoted to this object.

	Number admitted.	Number died.
Goalpara	78	29
Dibrugarh	315	106
Lakhimpur	10	4

414. One conclusion drawn by Dr. Clarke from the figures abstracted in the preceding paragraph is that, as nearly 500 persons paid for their own diet, "we should have greater numbers of in-patients seeking relief, if our dispensaries could offer better and more suitable accommodation than they do;" and he goes on to urge the desirability of having a building set apart for the treatment of the more respectable class of natives. The Chief Commissioner conceives, however, that the great majority of the "paying patients" are involuntary residents in the dispensaries, being mostly what are called "police cases," *i.e.*, persons suffering from wounds or fractures caused by violence, who are brought under police care to be tended, while the charge against their attackers is being tried: not the less, however, does he agree with the Sanitary Commissioner that it is essential that provision of the kind described should be made, and opportunity afforded to the well-to-do to obtain medical treatment without any discomfort or annoyance which can be avoided.

415. The recorded number of out-door patients was 55,148, an increase of 13,385 over the preceding year, and the daily average attendance rose from 401·8 to 448·3. This is satisfactory, so far as it goes, but it is not safe to put too much trust in these statistics. The number of in-door patients can be tested at any time, but there is no such easy check on the number whom a Hospital-Assistant may record as having attended for out-door relief, and the temptation to exaggerate is great. The total number of attendances may be increased (as the Chief Commissioner found in one case) by recording that each man who ceased to attend came to report himself well, and the total number of patients is often swelled, there is reason to suspect, by entering a second visit as a new patient. At Silchar and Hailákáñdi a disproportionately large number of attendances are shown as "represented by friends," *i.e.*, they did not really attend at all. The figures stated above show that each out-door patient on an average attends three times; but in Shillong, where there are 1,133 patients, and an average daily attendance of 17·5, each patient must have come six times; in Gauháti the same; and in Kohima, where 972 patients are recorded and an average attendance of 30, everyone must have come for medicine more than eleven times. In Silchar, on the other hand, the number of attendances per patient was only $1\frac{1}{2}$, and in Sunámgañj and Karimgañj (1,526 and 3,269 attendances respectively, against 4·17 and 9·12 daily average) nobody ever came a second time. Such obvious errors as these two last cases ought to have been detected by the Civil Surgeon.

416. There is nothing special to notice in the list of diseases treated, which keep nearly the same order of prevalence as in 1880. But the Chief Commissioner observes with regret that the number of major surgical operations has again fallen, and is now only 77.

417. The cost of the dispensaries to Government has been greater than last year, Rs. 16,105 against Rs. 12,386: the increase is chiefly under the head of salaries

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of establishments and of special grants. The following is a comparative statement of the receipts and expenditure of the two years as shown in the Dispensary Reports:—

RECEIPTS.		1880. Rs.	1881. Rs.
Government for Salaries		7,551	9,704
" " Registers and forms		146	212
" " European medicines		2,708	2,275
" " Special grants.....		1,952	3,857
" " Miscellaneous		28	57
	Total from Government	12,386	16,105
Local Funds and Municipalities.....		9,507	8,593
Interest on investments		55	284
Capital drawn upon.....		.....	974
Subscriptions, European.....		6,586	6,656
" Natives.....		5,012	5,116
	Grand Total	33,546	37,698
EXPENDITURE.			
Establishment		15,542	18,026
Bázár medicines		1,262	1,217
European medicines		2,693	2,497
Diet		6,820	6,254
Miscellaneous		2,687	4,125
Buildings		1,619	3,343
Investments		100	2,080
	Total	30,224	37,542

SECTION 4.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

418. The only Lunatic Asylum in Assam is at Tezpur, in the district of Darrang. The statistics of this Asylum are fairly satisfactory. The numbers have increased, being 55 at the end of the year, against 46 at the beginning, but of the admissions less than one-third are believed to be chronically insane. There were 7 deaths during the year, the same number as in 1880, but out of a larger population, and the average daily number of sick was 2·63.

419. The cost per head of each patient was less than in 1880, though the greater cheapness of food was to some extent balanced by the increased establishment. The patients were more usefully employed than before. They raised Rs. 331-6 worth of vegetables in the garden, and made baskets which sold for Rs. 70; there was Rs. 20 worth of arrowroot in store at end of the year. Of the milk they consumed, Rs. 137-12 worth was supplied by the Asylum's cows. These figures make up a total of Rs. 559-2. Of the cash received for baskets (Rs. 70) Rs. 40 were paid into the Treasury and Rs. 30 are unaccounted for. Rs. 60 were also received from paying patients. The total cash expenditure was Rs. 7,454-1-3; and, deducting the Rs. 100 received, the cash expenditure was Rs. 7,354-1-3.

420. When the Chief Commissioner visited the Asylum, in April 1881, he objected to the absence of any arrangements for segregating

the criminal from the non-criminal lunatic population; and he also directed steps to be taken to deepen the well, which is now liable to run dry, and to provide a tank in which the patients should bathe and wash. More than a year has now elapsed, but nothing whatever has been done to carry out these orders.

SECTION 5.—SANITATION.

421. Under this head there is not very much to relate. The drainage of Goalpára, or rather the best way of keeping out the floods of the Brahmaputra from that town, has proved a difficult problem for the Public Works Department, and has hardly been taken in hand yet. A scheme for a pure water-supply for Gauháti has been drawn up, and is under consideration. Reform in this matter is grievously needed, and there is every desire on the part of the Local Administration to see it carried out, and to assist the Municipality with funds. These are the two towns in which a persistently high mortality has especially compelled a consideration of the question, but there is really no town in Assam the water-supply of which is even moderately pure.

422. The Sanitary Commissioner's tour was a prolonged one, and was no doubt very useful. He paid especial attention to the health of the labouring population on the tea-gardens, many of which he visited, and it is highly gratifying to the Chief Commissioner to find that he is able to bear unqualified testimony to the improvement in the health status of the garden-coolie throughout Assam, the general hutting of the coolies, and the water-supply. Dr. Clarke says "I found indisputable evidence of the kindly treatment bestowed by managers themselves on the tea-garden labourer." Mr. Elliott from his own personal experience endorses this opinion, and adds that he has seen many instances of the kindly solicitude evinced, not only by managers, but also by their wives, for the health and welfare of the population under their charge.

SECTION 6.—VACCINATION.

423. The tale of vaccinations performed and recorded in the report during the year is 40,309, against 24,175 in 1880-81. This total not only exceeds that of the previous year by 66·7 per cent., but is in excess of the number performed in any former year in the Province. Of the total, 39,128 were primary and 1,181 secondary vaccinations. Besides these, 5,102 vaccinations were performed by private practitioners on tea-gardens.

424. The agency by which this work was done is this year recorded for the first time in detail. In previous reports, though the work of ex-inoculators and paid vaccinators is separately shown, the operations performed by others are not

entered separately against each class. The following are the comparative figures so far as they can be given :—

	1880-81.		1881-82.		Average to each operator.	
	No.	Operations.	No.	Operations.	1880-81.	1881-82.
Paid Vaccinators	17	13,221	36	19,388	777·7	538·5
Ex-inoculators.....	58	8,665	96	16,172	149·4	168·4
Civil Surgeons	12	} 2,289	12	1,146	} 49·7	95·5
Hospital-Assistants	34		34	3,603		105·9
Total .....	.....	24,175	.....	40,309	.....	.....

Though the table above shows a large increase in the total outturn of work, the increase has not been altogether commensurate with the increase made in the vaccinating staff. The work performed by Civil Surgeons and Hospital-Assistants has indeed more than doubled, and the greater activity shown by these officers during the past year is very creditable to them. But although 36 paid vaccinators (31 paid by Provincial and 5 by Municipal funds) were entertained in 1881-82, against 17 in 1880-81, the average number of vaccinations performed has sunk from 777·7 a head to 538·5. The addition of 13 vaccinators and 1 Superintendent to the Provincial vaccinating staff was proposed by Dr. Clarke and sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner: besides these, an extra man was sanctioned for Golághát, making 14 in all, besides the Superintendent. The 5 municipal vaccinators were all apparently entertained for the first time in 1881-82: one is employed at Gauhati, one at Sibságar, one at Jorhát, and two in Sylhet. Of the increase of 13 vaccinators, 4, with a Superintendent, were sanctioned for Sylhet by the Chief Commissioner on the assurance given by the late Civil Surgeon that he would interest himself specially in their work during the past season. The measure was, however, a complete failure. Dr. Mathew was unable to procure from Bengal a Superintendent of Vaccination on the pay offered (Rs. 25); and, although he entertained the 4 additional vaccinators sanctioned, they did little or no work, and were discharged after a month and a half. The Civil Surgeon writes:—

“I have spared no exertion in endeavouring to get the work fairly started, going myself day after day into the villages where I had stationed the vaccinators: but I have found the people impossible to conciliate. I have had rather a large experience of vaccination, and never met with such opposition as I had to encounter within a few miles of Sylhet.”

The difficulty of inducing the natives of this district to submit to vaccination is also noticed by the Sub-divisional Officer of Sunámganj, a Kulin Brahman himself, who took much interest in the work, and frequently accompanied the vaccinator in his search for patients. At the same time, he thinks that vaccination might successfully be made compulsory by law in Sylhet, and that the opposition to it arises partly from a distrust of the intentions of Government and of the arguments used to induce voluntary submission to it.

425. The other additions to the staff were in the districts of the Assam Valley: the increase was, as Dr. Clarke explains, made in October, which was too late to enable the men to be set to work as early as was desirable. The Chief Commissioner hopes for better results during next season. An average of at least 1,000 operations for each vaccinator employed should be capable of attainment, and is actually attained, in many other parts of India. Yet this moderate figure is approached only in Cachar (913) and the Khási Hills (900), where no additional men were employed. The average number of operations per man in other districts is shown below:—

Average number of operations performed by vaccinators in each district.

Sibságar	860
Gáro Hills	710
Goálpára	515
Darrang	504
Kámrúp	445
Nowgong	393
Lakhimpur	335
Sylhet	209

In the Gáro Hills the average might have been higher but for a very untoward incident. One of the vaccinators himself fell sick of small-pox, and his companion had to leave his work to nurse him. Such an example of the failure of vaccination to protect the operator (who, Mr. Elliott supposes, must have been vaccinated himself) cannot but have had a prejudicial effect on its progress in the district. All the other districts in the list above, except Lakhimpur, received an addition to their staff, and thus the low average is partly explained.

426. Of the five municipal vaccinators (who are included in the list given in the preceding paragraph), only the two in the Sibságar district performed a fair amount of work:—

Work of municipal vaccinators.

	Number of vaccinators.	Number of vaccinations.	Average.
Sibságar	2	1,768	884
Gauháti.....	1	379	379
Sylhet	2	577	288

It is possible that the lateness of their appointment prevented them from taking full advantage of the season. In Gauháti, the Civil Surgeon states that the municipal vaccinator was employed in supervising the work of 53 ex-inoculators in the district. This diversion of the operator from his own work was improper, and unfair to his employers, who paid for his services in the town.

427. The increase in the number of ex-inoculators employed is one of the prominent features of the year which the Chief Commissioner views with regret: the more so as both Mr. Elliott and his predecessor have pointed out that the employment of these men should not be permitted except where proper supervision is possible. Nothing tends more to injure the cause of vaccination than its spread by incompetent agency and without proper verification of the success of the operators. It is no doubt an advantage when inoculators can be brought to give up their dangerous trade and

take in earnest to that of vaccination ; but it cannot be said that this result is attained when all that is done is to give the ex-inoculator applying for them a *parwána* and a few crusts or tubes, and letting him work as he pleases without inspection or scrutiny of his results. Of the 96 ex-inoculators employed, all but 6 were at work in the two adjacent districts of Kámrup and Goálpára, and the former district has always been that in which they have been chiefly utilised. Unless the Civil Surgeon can devise some means for bringing their work to a test, and ensuring that it is really genuine and protective, it would be far better to abandon this agency altogether, except in the immediate vicinity of the civil station. These men are said to work only in the neighbourhood of their homes, and to take a small fee for each operation, which probably explains the small average number of operations performed per head.

428. The tea-garden vaccination reported represents the returns from only a small number of gardens, and cannot be taken as fully stating the amount of work of this kind done in the year. The circular calling for the information and the forms for its supply were issued at too late a date to enable the replies to be all received for incorporation in the returns. The Emigration Rules issued under Act VII. (B.C.) of 1873 provide (Rule 51) for the vaccination of all persons passing through contractors' depôts (which description till the end of last year included not only contractors' but also the bulk of sardári coolies) not already protected from small-pox. And thus the unprotected population on the plantations should consist only of free labourers, and of the children of contract coolies born in the Province. From what he has seen on his tours among the tea-gardens, Mr. Elliott believes that planters are already fully alive to the advantage of thoroughly carrying out vaccination on their gardens, an advantage which is of the most direct kind, as a small-pox outbreak would seriously interfere with the efficiency of their labour force; and he has found vaccination practised wherever he has enquired into the subject. The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that if facilities are afforded them for obtaining lymph from successful cases already established in the district, they will do all in their power to spread vaccination among the people in their employ. It is, he thinks, too much to expect that planters should import their own lymph, except where gardens are in charge of European Doctors, who are aware of the sources of supply and the procedure to be adopted for procuring it. But all Civil Surgeons should, on application, arrange for the Hospital-Assistant on each garden where the manager desires it being supplied with virus from some properly-established vesicle in the neighbourhood.

429. Turning now to the success attained by the different classes of operators, the Chief Commissioner finds that of the primary vaccinations (including tea-garden cases), 44,230 in number, 38,741, or 87·5 per cent., are returned as successful. Of re-vaccinations, 1,181 in number, the unusually large proportion of 1,118, or 94·6 per cent., were successful. Last year the

figures were 87·6 for primary vaccinations; none of the re-vaccinations in 1880-81, 12 in number, were successful.

The table below shows the proportion of success attained by each class of operators with primary vaccinations:—

	Number of operations.	Successful.	Percentage.
Civil Surgeons	1,075	870	80·9
Hospital-Assistants	3,495	2,925	83·7
Government Vaccinators	16,225	14,065	86·6
Municipal „	2,443	2,003	81·9
Ex-inoculators	15,890	14,835	93·3
Tea-garden Doctors.....	5,102	4,043	79·2
	<u>44,230</u>	<u>38,741</u>	<u>87·5</u>

430. The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the number of cases inspected and verified has increased from 2,515 in 1880-81 to 5,048, or almost exactly double the number, in 1881-82. He is gratified to find that the proportion of success in the cases inspected was as high as 87·2 per cent., the best districts being Darrang and the Khási and Gáro Hills, and the worst the Nága Hills, Sibságar, and Cachar. The inspection done was greatest in the Gáro Hills and Nowgong, and least in Goálpára. The improvement in the second of these districts, as compared with last year, is very creditable to the Civil Medical Officer.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

See Chapter III., Section 3, of Part IIA. of Report for the years 1874-75 and 1875-76.

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

431. The controlling agency at work during the year was the same as in 1880-81, viz., the Inspector in charge of the Province, assisted by 9 Deputy-Inspectors and 14 Sub-Inspectors. Each district, except the Gáro and Nága Hills, has a Deputy-Inspector, whose duty it is nominally to visit all the schools is it: in the Gáro Hills there is only a Sub-Inspector, and in the Nága Hills no departmental officer. The Sub-Inspectors are ordinarily in charge under the Deputy-Inspector of the schools in a sub-division, and it is contemplated now, since Local Boards are being appointed, with almost independent powers, to each sub-division, that a separate Sub-Inspector should be attached to each: this will raise the total number of these officials to 20. Besides the departmental agency, the work of inspection is largely shared in by the District Officers and the sub-committees of the District Boards in charge of education; but no figures are given in the report submitted by the Inspector of Schools to show how much inspection was done by these authorities.

432. The total cost of inspection and control was, as shown by the department, Rs. 48,781 (the Comptroller gives the cost as Rs. 49,565), or Rs. 3,322 more than in the previous year. The cause of the increase is not explained, nor does the amount appear anywhere in the report to be distributed between the Inspector and his office on the one hand and the district staff on the other. This amount is 15·7 per cent. of the total expenditure on

education, and it is 23·8 per cent. of the Government expenditure, which proportions are exactly those of last year. In other Provinces the proportions have been as given below:—

	Per cent. on Govern- ment expenditure.	Per cent. on total expenditure.
Bengal (1880-81).....	17·2	7·1
North-Western Provinces (1880-81)...	15·9	12·15
Central Provinces (1881-82)	22·6	16·22
Punjab (1880-81)	17·9	12·53

These figures show that the remark made in last year's report, that the expenditure on direction and inspection in Assam, though doubtless not extravagant when the circumstances of the country are considered, demands for its proper utilisation a much larger number of schools than now exists, is still appropriate.

433. The total expenditure on education during the year is shown as Rs. 3,11,095, against Rs. 2,87,410 in 1880-81, which gives an increase of Rs. 23,685, or 8·2 per cent.: of this sum, Rs. 2,04,716, or 65·8 per cent., was contributed by Provincial and Local Funds, and Rs. 1,06,379, or 34·2, by the public. Last year the proportions were 66·4 and 33·6 per cent. respectively. The increase in the contribution from the public is satisfactory.

434. The following table compares the contributions by the public during the past two years:—

Contribution by public.	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.
Fees and fines.....	48,976	60,580
Endowments	3,925	2,837
Subscriptions	13,208	14,566
Municipal grants	250	360
Other sources	30,202	28,036
Total	96,561	1,06,379

The increase in the receipts from fees is due to the opening of a considerable number of new schools, and an increase in the number of scholars. The increase in municipal grants is trifling: the current year, during which municipalities have been relieved of the charge for police on the condition that they devote the funds thus set free to educational and sanitary purposes, will show a better result in this respect. The income from "Other sources" is stated to include contributions other than periodical and guaranteed subscriptions. Its decrease, as compared with 1880-81, is apparently due to the exclusion from the receipts of the estimated value of contributions in kind, which in former years have been counted as part of the income received from the public.

435. The table below shows the distribution of the expenditure on the different classes of schools for the last two years, as well as the budget grant for the year of report:—

1	2	3			4			8	9
		1880-81.			1881-82.				
		Average number of scholars.	Expenditure.	Cost per head.	Average number of scholars.	Expenditure.	Cost per head.			Budget grant, 1881-82.	Net expenditure from State funds.
Head of charge.									
		Rs.	Rs. As. P.		Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs.	Rs.	
Inspection and direction.	....	45,459	.....	....	48,781	.....	50,000	48,781
High Schools	1,663	44,237	26 7 7	2,058	47,662	22 2 6	54,140	22,024	
Middle English Schools { Boys.....	2,232	28,610	12 13 1	2,598	32,132	12 5 11	25,193	10,873	
Girls.....	Nil.	Nil.	.....	15	6,954	463 9 7		4,000
Middle Vernacular Schools.....	2,879	26,894	9 5 5	2,659	26,772	10 1 1	71,413	14,871	
Lower ".....	Nil.	Nil.	.....	2,549	7,080	2 12 5		5,579
Primary.....	29,225	90,264	3 1 5	32,318	92,366	2 13 8	20,405	59,456	
Normal and special.....	849	16,685	47 12 11	852	21,278	60 7 2	20,560	16,612	
Scholarships.....	.....	19,555	.....	.....	16,686	.....		3,065
Buildings.....	.....	7,736	.....	.....	5,101	.....	5,500	15,765
Miscellaneous.....	.....	7,970	.....	.....	6,283	.....		3,065
Total.....	.....	2,87,410	.....	.....	3,11,095	.....	2,57,211	2,04,716

The budget figures, it should be explained, include the gross expenditure from the treasury on account of salaries and other charges of Government high and middle schools, while the figures in the last column of the above statement give only the net cost to Government of the department, minus the receipts credited *per contra*. The actual disbursements from the treasury were Rs. 2,30,578, or Rs. 26,633 less than the budget allotment: this is in part accounted for by the omission to expend a sum of Rs. 8,000 entered with the object of providing for the cost of college classes at Gauhati, a sum of Rs. 3,312 entered for Lower Vernacular Scholarships, for which there were no candidates, and a sum of Rs. 3,000 entered for printing work, which was not ready for the press during the year. The balance is due to delay in opening aided lower Vernacular schools, opened for the first time in 1881-82.

436. This table shows a very satisfactory reduction in the cost of instruction per head under High Schools, Middle English, and Primary Schools. The high average under Middle English Girls' Schools is due to the opening of an aided school for European and Eurasian children at Shillong, to which Government contributed Rs. 4,000. The increase in cost per head under Middle Vernacular Schools is probably caused by the establishment of the new class of lower Vernacular schools, which drew off many of the boys attending the former.

437. The number of schools and scholars at the close of the year is compared below with the number at the close of 1880-81:—

	1880-81.		1881-82.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
High	11	1,930	11	2,264
Middle English	32	2,463	38	2,938
„ Vernacular	51	3,199	44	2,984
Lower „		None.	69	2,863
Primary ... { Boys	1,115	31,555	1,211	34,110
{ Girls	66	1,136	71	1,209
Special.....	12	388	11	403
Total	1,287	40,671	1,455	46,771

There has thus been a very gratifying increase in the number both of schools and scholars, in the latter of no less than 6,100, or 15 per cent., which is more than commensurate with the increased cost (8·2 per cent.) of the department. The increase is observable under every head of schools except the middle Vernacular, where the falling off, as explained above, is due to the establishment of the new grade of lower Vernacular schools. These schools supply a link between the páthsálas and the middle schools, and have been opened in Assam on the lines on which they have for some years been working in Bengal. The advances under Middle Schools (19·2 per cent.), High Schools (17·3 per cent.), and Primary Schools (8 per cent.), are the most conspicuous. In every district of the Province there is an increase both in schools and scholars, except in the Gáro Hills, where the schools remained the same (30), but the numbers attending fell from 458 to 443, and the Khási Hills, where the schools increased by 4, but the numbers attending fell by 119. The increase in scholars is specially large in Sylhet (3,016, or 26 per cent.), Goálpára (882, or 30 per cent.), Sibságar (822, or 18 per cent.), Darrang and Cachar (in both 16 per cent.). Kámrup is the plains district in which the least advance has been made, the number of scholars having risen by only 49 upon a total of 6,261 in 1880-81. The grant made by the District Committee to primary schools in this district is very large, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that its liberality will be more fully utilised in future.

438. The increased number of schools has reduced the area to each school in the plains districts from 23 square miles in 1880-81 to 16 in 1881-82. Over the whole Province the proportion is one school to 27 square miles, which is far in excess of the proportion in the Central Provinces, one to 79½ square miles, but only half that in Madras, one to 13½ square miles. The number of school-goers is almost exactly 1 in 100 of the population—nearly double the proportion in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh (1 in 199). Assam thus, as Indian populations go, is not far behind in the spread of the elements of instruction: its backwardness is rather in the higher forms of culture.

439. There has been a marked increase during the year in the number of Muhammadans under instruction, who were 6,681, against 5,498 in 1880-81, or more by 21 per cent. 302 Muhammadans are at high schools, against 277 in 1880-81. The proportion of Musalmans in our schools is, however, only 1 in 200 of the population of that faith. 4,947 pupils belong to races neither Hindu or Muhammadan, and these receive proportionally a larger measure of education than even the Hindus, 1·21 per cent. being under instruction, against 1·15 per cent. of the latter. Of the 4,947, however, more than half are Khásis, taught in the Welsh Mission schools.

440. The number of high schools during the year was as before, 11, of which 9 were Government schools, 1 aided at Barpeta, and 1 unaided at Sylhet. But the Shillong school was, for the reasons stated in paragraph 477 of last year's report, closed towards the end of 1881-82, and its place was supplied by raising the aided middle English school at Jorhát to the status of a Government high school. All the Government schools, with this exception, have done well during the year, have increased their numbers, and reduced considerably the net cost to Government. Indeed, the Dibrugarh high school is already nearly self-supporting, Rs. 4,675 of its total expenditure of Rs. 5,139 being realised from fees. The fees at Dibrugarh are the highest in the Province, and the Chief Commissioner has directed that those at other schools should, where the enhancement would not be excessive, be brought into accordance with the scale levied there. The success of the high schools is measured by the results which they attain at the University Entrance Examination, up to which their teaching leads. In 1881 45 candidates from Government schools, and 5 from the aided and private schools, besides an ex-student no longer reading at a school, competed at this examination, of whom 24 passed; last year the competitors were 45 in all, of whom 33 passed. But the examination of 1880 was unusually lenient, the examiners having passed 59·64 per cent. of all candidates, while in 1881 they passed only 47·97 per cent. The proportion of successful candidates from this Province was thus almost exactly the average for the whole body of examinees, being 47·05 per cent. Assam is no longer, as last year, second in the list of provinces which sent up candidates, but held a respectable place, and surpassed the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab in the results attained. All the high schools sent up candidates, and all, except Shillong and the aided school at Barpeta, passed one or more. Sylhet, as last year, did best in the number passed, and Dibrugarh in the proportion of successful candidates.

441. During the year the question of the re-establishment of the College classes at Gauhátí again came before the Chief Commissioner, who discussed the matter personally with the signers of a memorial on the subject in December 1881. Concurring, as he did, in the reasons which prompted his predecessors to direct the discontinuance of these classes, viz., their excessive cost and the small number of students who attended them, Mr. Elliott

came to the conclusion that the best manner in which due facilities might be given to promising students from Assam for pursuing their studies up to the higher University standards, while at the same time the advantages of an enlarged experience and competition with natives of more advanced provinces would be acquired by them, was to institute scholarships in sufficient number and of a value high enough to meet the charges of a residence in Bengal away from their homes. Formerly only 10 scholarships of this description, 4 on Rs. 15 a month and 6 on Rs. 10 a month, were sanctioned for Assam. Under the new system the number of scholarships of Rs. 20 a month each allotted to the Brahmaputra Valley is limited only by the supply of suitable candidates who are *bonâ fide* residents of the valley districts, while 8 scholarships of Rs. 15 each are open to students from the Surmá Valley. In the case of the latter tract, the necessity of offering so high an inducement as in Assam Proper is not present, since Bengali, not Assamese, is the vernacular of the people, and the inhabitants of Sylhet have in the Dacca College an institution almost at their doors where they can pursue their University studies. In accordance with this ruling, 11 scholarships of Rs. 20 and 1 of Rs. 15 were given to the boys who passed from the Assam Valley and 8 of Rs. 15 to boys from the Surmá Valley. These include some scholarships given to boys who passed the Entrance Examination the year before.

442. Regarding middle schools, there is very little to be said.

Middle schools.

There are 37 so-called middle English schools, with 2,929 pupils, only 1,427 of whom, however, or less than half, read English. There are 44 middle Vernacular schools, with 2,984 pupils, where only Bengali is taught. As already observed, the latter class of schools suffered a decrease in 1881-82 by the conversion of 5 of the aided middle schools into lower Vernacular schools, a new class started during the year. These schools, as is natural, are most thriving in the Surmá Valley and Goálpára, where Bengali is the Vernacular language: in Assamese districts they are less well attended, and the problem of conveying a Vernacular education of a grade superior to that of the primary schools in the Assamese language has not yet been solved. During the current year the Chief Commissioner has issued a notification inviting competitors for prizes for the compilation of Assamese text-books suitable for use in those schools; and it is hoped that in the course of time a sufficient stock of suitable manuals in that language will be procured. Meantime, there are 5,913 boys in these schools reading Bengali literature, and the History of India, Geography, Arithmetic, Euclid, Elementary Surveying, and a smattering of Chemistry, Botany, and Natural Philosophy, in the same language. Small stipends, called minor scholarships, and worth Rs. 5 and Rs. 4 a month, are given to students from these schools who pass an examination and proceed to the high schools. Out of the 37 middle English schools, only 12 sent up candidates for the English minor scholarships, against 14 in 1880-81; 47 schools, including some of the middle English schools, sent up candidates for the Vernacular minor scholarship, against 51 in 1880-81. Only 7 scholarships were awarded in 1881-82 to

students of English, out of a total number of only 22 candidates, of whom 13 passed: while 26 Vernacular scholarships were awarded after a competition of 142 candidates, of whom 68 passed. Last year 10 English minor scholarships were given, 16 candidates passed, and 25 competed: 23 Vernacular scholarships were awarded, 66 candidates passed, and 131 competed. There is thus a falling off in the competition under the English subjects, and a slight increase in the competition under the subjects studied in the Vernacular. From the commencement of the present year the charge of middle aided schools (of which there are 24 English, not counting the 4 in the Khási Hills, and 25 Vernacular) has been made over, with the grants-in-aid, to District Committees, under whom it is hoped that this class of school will make greater progress.

443. The lower Vernacular schools opened during the year are treated by the Inspector together with the primary schools, as they fall under the denomination of "Upper Primary Schools" in the classification adopted by the Government of India in January 1879. This is not a convenient arrangement, and in future the statistics of both classes of primary schools will be exhibited separately. These schools teach a slightly higher modicum of literature, arithmetic, and mensuration, than is taught in lower primary schools, besides adding the History of Bengal and Assam, Geography, and a portion of the First Book of Euclid. The instruction, unlike that given in the middle schools, is in the Vernacular of the district,—Assamese in the upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, Bengali in Goálpára, Sylhet, and Cachar, and Khási in the Khási and Jaintia Hills. They are, like the lower primary schools, under the District Committees, and are all aided. 72 such schools were sanctioned, and 69 had been opened during the year, with 2,863 pupils on the 31st March 1882. That they are popular is proved by the fact that the contributions of the public almost exactly equalled those given from State funds, and that the total cost of education per head is 1 anna less than at primary schools. The average number of pupils to a school is 36, perhaps as many as the staff, a pandit and a guru, can manage.

444. The number of primary schools rose from 1,181 in 1880-81 to 1,282 in 1881-82, and of scholars from 32,691 to 35,319. The number of pupils to a school was last year 27.6. It is this year 27.5, so that the increase in the number of schools has not been secured at the expense of the existing schools. Every district in the plains shows an increase both in schools and scholars, and when it is remembered that the administration of this department has been wholly in the hands of the Local Boards during the year (with the exception of 7 special primary schools, which were started for the purpose of affording gratuitous and compulsory education to the children of the police at head-quarter stations), the Chief Commissioner thinks that the result is a subject for much congratulation, and full of promise for the future, as the resources and powers of these bodies are gradually enlarged.

445. The nature of the indigenous schools in the Province, which fall into (1) the religious,—Sanskrit *tols*, Muhammadan *maktabs*, and Khámpti priests' schools, and (2) the secular and expectant, that is, institutions started on the system of the inspected and aided primary schools, in the hope of some day earning a grant from the State, without which they speedily disappear, was noticed in paragraph 483 of last year's report. Further enquiry has now been made after schools of the first class, and Mr. Willson has given an interesting account of what has been ascertained regarding them. It appears that there are 83 *tols*, teaching 1,757 pupils the elements of Sanskrit Grammar and the *Shastras* read by the sect to which their gurus belong 358 *maktabs*, with 6,982 pupils, where the Koran is learnt by heart, and the Arabic alphabet taught; and 5 Khámpti schools, with 75 pupils, within the Inner Line in Lakhimpur: but as only a few villages of this race are situated in that part of the district, their chief settlements being along the Tengapani in the extreme east, this does not represent the degree to which education is prevalent among them. In Khámpti schools, writing in the native character of the people, which belongs to the Burmese type, is taught, and the Buddhist Scriptures are studied. Of the *tols*, 56 are in Sylhet, with 1,198 pupils, and 17, with 409 pupils, in Kámrup, a district of wealthy Hindu religious establishments. Of the *maktabs* 297, with 6,443 pupils, are in Sylhet, and 50, with 350 pupils, in Cachar. None have been found (or perhaps none were enquired for) in Goálpára and Kámrup, which contain a considerable Musalman population. Of unaided secular *páthsálas* there are 51, with 919 pupils.

It does not seem, from the account given by the Inspector of Schools of the methods of instruction and system of payment followed in these institutions, that the department has much to learn from them, or that any charge of failure to bring within the scope of its work the indigenous agencies of the people can fairly be brought against it. Inducements are offered in Sylhet to the *maktabs*, if they consent to combine secular with religious teaching, to come under the system of grants, but those which accept are few, and the results are not encouraging. In fact, these institutions seem mostly to be so entirely religious in their character, and to be maintained not for the hope of gain, but as an act of piety, that Government aid is generally regarded as superfluous: the pupils pay no fees, and the *mullas* are supported either by the villagers or by well-to-do Muhammadan gentlemen. Unless it be shewn on further enquiry that indigenous but really secular instruction has been neglected by the department, and lurks unnoticed in some corner of the Province, it does not appear to the Chief Commissioner that we can do anything more than is now done to bring indigenous schools within the sphere of Government inspection.

446. The State expenditure on primary education in the eight District Fund districts, as compared with that in the previous year, is shown below. The figures for 1881-82 are taken from the verified Local Fund accounts published by the Chief Commissioner in his Resolution of the 30th September last. They include, besides grants and scholarships in primary schools,

Expenditure by District Boards on primary education.

charges on account of the training of gurus, and do not always agree with Mr. Willson's figures:—

	1880-81. Rs.	1881-82. Rs.	Percentage of total resources of District Committees.
Sylhet	11,188	15,077	24·3
Cachar	4,922	6,046	16·1
Goálpára	6,023	7,703	12·3
Kámrúp	9,768	14,064	19·3
Darrang	4,608	5,369	6·6
Nowgong.....	5,736	5,700	21·2
Sibságar	5,791	6,910	16·3
Lakhimpur	2,890	3,949	19·1
Total	55,159	64,930	16·2

The above table shows that the District Committees have generally well understood their responsibilities in respect of education, and have allotted a satisfactory proportion of their funds to this object. Sylhet, Kámrúp, and Lakhimpur stand highest in this respect, but the education grant in the latter district was originally only Rs. 3,500, and was brought up to the figure entered above by a special aid from Provincial revenues. The small proportion in Darrang is partly explained by the large balance accrued from previous years which that district had to spend during the year, Rs. 30,551. This has now been regranted, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that a considerable share of it will be devoted to education, of which no district stands more in need.

447. There is no education worth mentioning in the Nága Hills. In the Khási and Gáro Hills this department is entirely (with the exception of the late high, now middle, school at Shillong), in the hands of the missionaries, who in the former district administered a grant from Government of Rs. 4,524, and the latter (including the Gáro schools in Goálpára) of Rs. 3,000. In the former case the Welsh Calvinistic Mission contributed on their part no less than Rs. 12,798, while in the Gáro Hills the American Baptist Mission gave Rs. 1,652. Education in these districts is an uphill task. The people are naturally somewhat dull of understanding, and their children, as among all the semi-civilised races of this Province, early become useful in earning, or assisting to earn, their livelihood. It is difficult to convince a Gáro or a Khásia, more especially those living in the interior of the district, and away from contact with a higher form of civilisation, of the advantage of learning. The only lever which has been found effective is that of religion, and, indeed, the only text-book ordinarily used in schools (though quite recently a translation of Dr. Cunningham's Sanitary Primer and a Khási Arithmetic have in the Khási Hills been added thereto) is the New Testament in Khási and Gáro. The attendance at the schools is in the early morning, before the labours of the day begin. The standard attained is low, but for this the Missionaries, whose self-denying exertions are worthy of all praise, are not to be blamed.

In the Khási Hills there has been an increase of four schools, and a falling off of 102 scholars. In the Gáro Hills and Goálpára, the

Gáro schools have increased by two, and the scholars by 105. Of the 2,009 pupils in the Khási Hills, 687, or more than a third, are girls: elsewhere in the Province there are 935 girls in primary schools, so that this district has two-fifths of the total number of girls under instruction in the Province.

448. Primary scholarships, worth Rs. 3, and tenable for two years at schools of a higher grade, are given as the result of an examination held annually, and it is up to this examination that instruction in these schools proposes to teach. Less than half the number of schools which existed in 1881-82 sent up candidates for this examination, *viz.*, 535, against 494 in the previous year. The candidates were 1,351, against 1,187 in 1880-81, and 684, against 657, passed. The fixed number of scholarships, which was the same as last year, is 103, and these were all awarded.

449. The special schools consist of (1) the normal schools, in which teachers are trained for work in primary and middle schools, (2) the Williamson Artisan School at Jorhat, and (3) the Williamson survey class attached to the Sibságar high school.

450. There are 9 normal schools for the training of teachers in primary schools, of which 6 are Government and 3 aided mission schools. In Cachar there were 2 training classes for gurus already entertained in primary schools, and in Goálpara the arrangement is to train teachers at primary or lower Vernacular schools, giving them a stipend while learning their trade. There were 331 pupils at the normal schools on the 31st March, against 293 in 1880-81, and 34 stipendiaries in Goálpara, while 23 gurus attended the training classes in Cachar. An examination is held every year in December, and certificates of qualification as gurus given to the successful candidates. Only 19 students qualified for masterships in 1881-82, and none of the Cachar gurus passed. This result is extremely poor, but better than in 1880-81, when only 10 passed. 96 teachers were sent out during the year, against 94 in 1880-81. These schools are the most unsatisfactory part of our educational system, and until some more successful method of supplying qualified teachers to primary schools is devised, it is impossible to hope for much improvement in general education. The subject demands the Inspector's careful attention, and Mr. Elliott has called for a special report from him on the measures which he would propose with this object. Including the lower Vernacular schools, we have 1,389 teachers in our primary schools, of whom only 673, or less than half, are trained: but this, as shown above, does not imply that they were certificated, that is, properly qualified.

Besides these normal schools for the training of gurus, there is a first-grade normal school at Gauháti for the training of pandits or Vernacular teachers for middle schools. This school is a small affair, containing only 16 pupils. These persons, some of whom come from the Nowgong and Darrang districts, receive stipends of from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5,

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and spend three years in the school: 7 passed out as certificated pandits during the year. In the Surmá Valley the pandits are drawn from Eastern Bengal.

451. The Williamson Artisan School, established from the proceeds of a bequest by a charitable tea-planter, who ^{Williamson School and Survey Class.} hoped by its means to raise a succession of useful workmen, both smiths and carpenters, in Upper Assam, is a sad failure. Nothing good can be said of it. The students, of whom there were 12 on the 1st March, have to be paid for coming to learn. Of 34 "trained" students who have been turned out of the school since it was founded, six years ago, only 13 are following the trades learnt at the school, 2 have been sent down to the Sibpur Engineering College, 2 have died, and 17, or just one-half, have gone back to their original occupations as agriculturists. Mr. Elliott cannot agree with the Inspector that this result is "fairly good;" and he has lately been in conference with the Deputy-Commissioner of the district as to the necessity for a radical reform of the institution, which might perhaps be more popular if it aimed higher, and was supplied with a better teacher and more machinery.

The Williamson survey class (supported from a part of the same bequest) is attached to the Sibságar high school, and offers free instruction in surveying to boys of the high and middle schools at that place. There were 60 names in the class at the end of the year, and this instruction seems popular. There is an immense demand for a knowledge of surveying in Assam, where it is needed by persons seeking for employment as mandals, mauzadárs, kánungos, and Sub-Deputy-Collectors.

452. The only other exceptional institution which demands notice here is the Shillong Girls' School, an attempt ^{Girls' School at Shillong.} made to respond to the need, pressed upon the Government of India by the Archdeacon of Calcutta, for special arrangements for the teaching of the children of Europeans and Eurasians in this country, who are unable to send them to England for their education. The school was established just before the commencement of the year, and had an average monthly number on the rolls of 15 during the year. It cost Rs. 6,954, of which Government bore Rs. 4,000: the average cost of each pupil was Rs. 463-9-7, and the cost to Government Rs. 266-10-8. So far, the school has, Mr. Elliott believes, been quite the most expensive of its class in India; but it suffered for want of suitable and sufficient accommodation, and is still in the experimental stage. It may be hoped that as it becomes better known, its popularity, and therewith its resources, will increase.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

453. During the year 12 books were registered, against 10 in the preceding year. Of the works registered 6 were educational and 6 non-educational. 11 were original works and 1 was a translation.

The number of copies struck off during the year under review was 11,600, of which 8,600 were educational, and 3,000 non-educational: thus the number of copies of the educational works rose from 4,500 in 1880 to 8,600 in 1881; and that of the non-educational works fell from 3,050 in 1880 to 3,000 in the year under notice.

The publications registered represent the following subjects:—

- I. Miscellaneous.
- II. Poetry.
- III. Religion.
- IV. Science.

I. Miscellaneous.—Of these, one treats of the courage of the Communist women of Paris, and the other of the conduct of servants of lodgers, who, as a class, rob their masters. The other five works on this subject are of little or no interest, and call for no further comment.

II. Poetry.—Under this head only one book, named *Bilap Lahari*, a collection of mournful poems, was registered. It contains a number of verses that have been written in perpetuation of the memory of the author's deceased grandfather, who, it is said, had left behind him many acts of goodness to be cherished by his mourning friends and relatives.

III. Religion.—The books published under this head are three; one of them is a treatise on Divine inspiration; one is a criticism of the arguments in the former work; one is a brief catechism of the life of Jesus Christ, published in the Gáro language, under the name of *Yisu Krishani Japhankho Anthisa Khiani*.

IV. Science.—Only one book, called *Ka kot jingkein ia kiba sydung*, or Arithmetic for beginners, was issued under this head, in the Khási language. It treats of the first four rules, simple and compound, Simple Rule of Three, Practice, and Interest.

Eight of the books registered were in Bengali, 1 in English, 1 in Khási, 1 in Gáro, and 1 in English and Bengali.

The expenditure incurred under Section 10 of Act XXV. of 1867 (an Act, among other things, for the registration of books printed in British India, and for the preservation of copies of such books) in the purchase of books during the year of report, was Rs. 3-10-6, against Rs. 7-10-3 in the preceding year.

No copyright was registered during the year.

No necessity arose for any prosecution under Section 16 of the Act.

454. The *Srihatta Prokás*, published at Sylhet, was discontinued during the year, and thus caused a diminution of one in the number of newspapers in the Province; this has, however, since the close of the year been made good by the institution of a new weekly paper, the *Assam News*, published at Gauhati in Assamese and English.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

455. No discoveries in addition to those already reported in previous reports have been made during the year in any of the districts of this Province.

The Hindu temple at Bishnáth, built in the time of the Assam Rájas, is stated to be quite modern, but injured by the growth of vegetation. The Deputy-Commissioner has learnt that there are some interesting ruins near Śadháru tea-garden, about 6 miles north-west of Bishnáth.

A number of large stones and slabs which have for some time been lying in the catcherry compound at Tezpur, have by the Deputy-Commissioner's orders been collected. The site of the catcherry is assigned as the place on which stood the prison of Ukhá (Ushá), daughter of Bán Rája, whose palace according to tradition was at Bhálukpung: the ruins of the latter are in deep and impenetrable jungle just on the borders of the inner frontier line, separating British from Akhá territory. The carvings on the stones in the catcherry compound indicate that they belong to ancient times.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar gives the following revised account of the archæological remains in his district. Most of the information has been given in previous reports, but a few details now supplied are new:—

“This district contains innumerable temples, tanks, and old roads constructed in the days of the Assam Rájas, but most of them are in dense jungle.

“The temples on the tank at Sibságar are the main objects of interest in the district. According to history the large temple dedicated to Shiva was built by the second wife of Rája Shiba Singh, by name Umbiká, in the year 1742 A.D., who also excavated the magnificent tank, on the banks of which the station of Sibságar is situated.

“The third wife of the same Rája, Sarbesvari, erected the Rájmai temple. The palace of Rangpur, on the left bank of the Dikhau river and the temple of Jayságar, with the large tank of the same name, are said to have been built by Rája Rudra Singh on his accession to the throne in 1696 A.D. He is also credited with building the fine stone bridge which is now in existence over the Námđáng river on the Bar Ali, and which is the finest bridge on the Trunk Road. He also made the roads Kharikatiyá Ali and Meteká Ali.

“The palace of Rangpur and temple of Jayságar are covered with jungle and are in a state of decay; it is to be regretted that the buildings within the palace enclosures cannot be utilised. Much loose brick could be obtained for improving the station; but some years ago, when building the wall around the tank of Sibságar and utilising these loose bricks, I was directed to stop carting them away. Some time ago the whole of the brickwork of the Ghergaon palace was sold to the Assam Company.

"The palace of Ghergaon is supposed to have been made in 1539 A.D., by the Gargaya Rája. The stone bridge over the Dariká river on the Dhudar Ali was built by Pratáb Singh Rája in 1664 A.D., as also the Rájgarh.

"In 1649, the Bhoga Rája made the Seloguri Ali, which is a fine road in the present day. Gadádhar Singh Rája is said to have built the Dejai Kháná stone bridge on the Radhai Ali, also the Dhudar Ali and the temple and tank at Charaideo.

"The temple and tank of Gauriságar are reported to have been made by Phulesvari, the mother of Shiba Singh Rája. In Golághát the temple Sada Shiva is said, according to legend, to have been built by Jaydhvaj Singh between the years 1655 and 1663 A.D. There are many more temples, tanks, and roads which might be mentioned, but they lie more or less in jungle.

"The temples are all constructed after one plan, being made of small Assamese bricks, or rather slabs, inlaid with carved blocks of sandstone.

"The peepul-tree is to be found growing on all these buildings, and its roots are so embedded in the masonry as to defy all means to eradicate them.

"The temples on the Sibságar tank have lately had the jungle taken off them, a subscription for the purpose having been raised among the native community; but, as the roots cannot be got at, the jungle will again grow. Many of these temples have lands attached to them (*debottar*) which are cultivated by the priest in charge of the temple; but in most cases the produce of the land does not benefit the building. The Jayságar temple, which is covered with jungle, and is a refuge for bats and cattle, has land attached to it, but the priest in charge apparently keeps the proceeds for his own benefit.

"In Golághát sub-division there are also the remains of a fort or temple built of stone standing on high ground near Namoligarh, and the *pucca* floor is still used as a place of worship. From the *garh* a brick embankment called Rájmai-garh runs in a north-westerly direction for a distance of a mile, and emerges at a tank in mauza Námdyáng Kázirungá.

"The stone bridges are made of massive blocks of stone, and are most substantial structures, and quite throw into the shade the bridges of the Public Works Department of the present day. These blocks of stone must have been brought from the hills.

"The old roads also which intersect the district are fine substantial bunds well raised above flood-level."

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

456. The Clergy of the Church of England at work in the Province are distributed as follows:—

The Rev. J. Isaacson, stationed at Dibrugarh, visits Sadiya, Lakhimpur, Jaipur, and Tingri. The Rev. J. Whitehouse at Sibságar visits Nazira, Amguri, and Rajmai; the Rev. S. Endle and Rev. J. Smithman have charge of the Tezpur Mission. The Rev. S. B. Taylor is stationed part of the year at Gauháti, and part at Shillong. His outstations are Dhubri, Goálpára, and Tura. The Rev. H. C. Spring officiated for part of the year under review as Chaplain of Gauháti and Shillong. The Chaplain of Dacca visits Sylhet, and a new Chaplain (Rev. W. Beatty) has just come out to do the Church work in Cachar. Including the Missionaries of various denominations, and Father de Broey, of the Jesuit Mission, there are altogether 23 Clergy, ministering in 84 places of worship.

457. The most noteworthy event of last year from an ecclesiastical point of view was the visit of the Bishop of Calcutta in July, August, and part of September. All the principal stations and almost all the outstations on both sides of the hills, were included in the tour. The Bishop first proceeded up the Assam Valley, visiting all the stations between Dhubri and Dibrugarh. During his stay at Dhubri the question was raised whether the temporary church there, for which a license had already been granted, should be consecrated, and it was decided to postpone the consecration, pending the remodelling of the present building or the construction of a more substantial one. Government are about to supply this Church with a reading desk, font, communion-table, and service books. The proceeds of an offertory collected on the occasion of the Bishop's visit will be expended in the purchase of a harmonium. At Tezpur the Bishop carefully inspected the local S. P. G. Mission and schools, and suggested how they might be extended more widely among the Kacharis. The visitation was continued on the opposite bank of the Brahmaputra, and services held at the sadr stations of Nowgong and Sibságar as well as at convenient centres in outlying gardens, wherever a rise in the rivers made it possible for the steamer

Teesta to approach. After visiting and holding services and confirmations at Dibrugarh and other stations in North Lakhimpur, the Bishop returned in August to Gauhati. Here he consecrated the new cemetery. At Shillong the Bishop consecrated, on the 21st August, the chancel of All Saints Church. From Shillong the visitation was continued through Cachar and Sylhet, meetings being held wherever practicable of the local Church Committees.

458. During the year under review there has been an increase of 317 in the Christian population of the Province, principally due to conversions among the Gáros and Khásias. The following table shows the present strength of the various Christian denominations at work in Assam :—

Denomination.	Europeans.	Natives.	Total.
Welsh Methodists	14	2,394	2,408
American Baptists	25	1,740	1,765
Church of England	1,050	640	1,690
„ of Rome	129	230	359
Presbyterians	181	109	290
Lutherans	2	220	222
Other Christian bodies	259	103	362
Total	1,660	5,436	7,096

In Assam, as in other parts of India, the aboriginal tribes living in the hills have shown a much greater willingness to embrace Christianity than the semi-Hinduised dwellers in the plains. Very little progress has hitherto been made among the Assamese or the Sylhet Muhammadans. On the other hand, there have been over 2,000 conversions among the Khásias, and nearly half of that number among the Gáros during the past five years.

It will be seen from the few statistics above noted that the progress of Christianity, so far as regards conversions, has been practically confined to the central range of the hills and to the Assam Valley. The majority of Mr. Endle's converts in Darrang and Nowgong, and of the Native Christians visited by Mr. Whitehouse at Sibsagar are of Cachari origin.

459. To facilitate the diffusion and expression of their views, the Missionaries have in three instances constructed a grammar and dictionary of their converts' vernaculars. Last year Messrs. Mason and Phillips, of the Tura Mission, carried through the press the Book of Genesis, with short notes, three of the Epistles, a first primer in Gáro, a second primer, and about 50 pages of a Gáro dictionary. Mr. Skrefsrud, of the Sonthal colony, published a second edition of his Sonthal Grammar. Mr. Jones, of Mawkhar, besides his translations of school books, is now busy with a translation of the Pentateuch and the Psalms into Khásia.

SECTION 2.—STATIONERY.

460. The total value of the stationery supplied to the Assam Administration during the year ending the 31st March 1882 amounted to Rs. 14,683, against Rs. 14,061 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 622; of this sum, Rs. 268 represent the cost of stationery supplied to the Executive-Engineer of the Gáro Hills Railway Survey.

Besides the stationery of which the cost is shown above, water-marked paper $13\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$ for court fee stamps, to the value of Rs. 7,667, against Rs. 2,180 in 1880, was supplied to the treasury officers of this Province. This increase is due to the large balances in store that had accumulated in 1880 from the supplies of previous years.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1881-82.

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1881-82.

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P A R T I .

**STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL
GEOGRAPHY.**

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

1	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.		UNAPPROPRIATED CULTIVABLE WASTE IN ACRES.				COMMUNICATIONS—MILES OF				REMARKS.			
	WASTE.		Cultivable.	Uncultivable.	Total.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at close of the year.	Navigable rivers.	Canals.		MADE ROADS.		
	Cultivable.	Uncultivable.										First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.														
Surma Valley Districts (Sylhet Chachar (Goalpara, Includ- ing Eastern Duars Kamrup Darrang Nawong Sibsagar Lakhimpur Garo Hills Khasi Naga	3,078	656	1,647	5,391*	1,838,846†	4,553	1,832,993	401	74	62	300	<p>* The figures in column 5 have been taken from the Bound ary Commis- sioner's letter No. 23, dated the 17th January 1878.</p> <p>† The area shown in this column differs from that shown in column 8 of the previous year's return by 2,766 acres on account of removal of certain estates from the revenue roll.</p>	
	397.76	2,553.24	799	8,750*	1,838,846†	4,553	1,832,993	401	19	243	300	.....	
	890.00	1,813.54	1,250	3,953.54*	.....	.....	6,55.99	500	74	198	300	.....	
	1,035.32	1,846.43	1,291.26	3,691.	.....	.....	1,545,322	585	145	69	180	.....	
	413.09	2,508.15	443	3,418.44	.....	.....	1,661,468	230	143	364	60	.....	
	493.00	2,103.00	911	3,417.00	.....	.....	1,869,372	169	.....	105	.....	.....
	575.00	3,085.00	192	2,858.00	.....	.....	1,238,378	720	118	368	191	.....	
	137.39	3,395.79	190.98	2,725.66	.....	.....	2,089,345	940	119	468	812	.....	
	3,149.6	156	87	31
	126	1,821	713	2,160*	846,645	845,645	53	51‡
2,000	2,300	2,100*	6,400*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	9,035.56	20,140.85	9,495.63	41,838.60	2,684,391	4,613	11,685,419	3,711	701	1,893‡	1,633	.....	
NATIVE STATES.														
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	176	2,561	1,260	3,997	1,639,040	.....	1,639,040	.....	45	196‡	.....	.....
GRAND TOTAL	9,229.56	22,701.35	10,755.63	45,835.60	4,323,431	4,613	13,324,459	3,711	746	2,148	1,633	.....	

* In previous year's return 63 square miles were shown by mistake as the area of the six villages transferred to Rangpur, whereas it should have been 7.16 square miles.

A 2.—CHARACTER OF THE SURFACE.

[2] [For details of this Table, see Chapter I. of this office Administration Report for the years 1874-75 & 1875-76.]

[3]

A 3.—CLIMATE (1881).

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.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.					
Sibsagar.....	30.57	61.76	2.59	95.33	87.4	72.8	98.7	67.4	92.6	78.7	101.1	75.6	73.4	49.2	76.4	44.1	6.23	8.63	8.93	73.4	73.4	49.2	76.4	44.1	6.23	8.63	8.93	
Goalpara (Dhubri)....	22.03	46.51	0.59	69.13	85.1	73.4	93.5	67.6	88.5	79.5	92.7	74.7	74.6	56.7	77.3	52.8	2.69	6.90	1.34	74.7	74.6	56.7	77.3	52.8	2.69	6.90	1.34	
Silchar	43.80	69.50	4.65	127.95	87.6	73.5	97.5	67.3	93.2	77.8	99.2	76.2	79.8	53.0	84.6	47.5	4.47	7.99	3.62	76.2	79.8	53.0	84.6	47.5	4.47	7.99	3.62	
Sylhet	40.08	118.86	7.44	166.33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Gauhati.....	20.98	30.05	1.09	72.12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tespur	24.87	65.97	2.77	96.61	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Nowgong	16.19	63.11	0.66	79.96	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dibrugarh.....	32.79	75.17	3.32	116.28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shillong.....	27.89	58.38	6.88	92.15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Kohima	19.39	63.08	6.09	87.66	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tura	26.85	71.06	3.48	101.94	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
General Average ..	28.67	67.66	3.90	100.43	86.7	75.2	96.6	67.4	91.4	78.6	97.6	75.5	75.9	53.9	79.4	48.1	4.46	7.67	2.68	75.5	75.9	53.9	79.4	48.1	4.46	7.67	2.68	

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1. Native States for the year 1881-82.

NAME OF STATE.	In subsidiary alliance or feudatory.	Tribute in men or money.	Population.	Supposed gross revenue.		Military force.	Transit duties 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 arms and exercises its own laws.	None.	Valley .. } 1,47,345 Hills .. } Total .. 1,47,345	Annually, and tax in kind upon land cultivated, besides personal service	Rs. A. P. 40,000 0 0 50,000 0 0	Infantry 5,340 Artillery 501 Cavalry .. 400 Kuki Iregu- lars }	Duties levied both on exports and imports.	Rice, dal, and vegetables of varieties, Indian rubber, ivory, wax, ponies, buffaloes, and elephants, &c.	Coarse cloths, yarns, brass, and hand-ware.	Iron ore, lime-stone, salt, copper.
KHASI HILLS.				Market dues Malikana on lime-quarry	10 0 0 1,809 12 0	None	None	Rice, millet, bay-leaves, black pepper, pepper nigrum.	None	Lime.
Bhowal	Subsidiary alliance.	Ditto.	555	Market dues Judicial fines Zamindari holding in sylhet	7,000 0 0 150 0 0 1,300 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Cotton, millet, betel-nuts, pash, oranges, black pepper, pepper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey.	Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets.	Lime, iron, and coal.
Cherra	Ditto	Ditto.	9,311	Market dues Judicial fines Zamindari holding in sylhet	8,450 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Oranges, betel-nuts, pine-apples.	Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets.	Lime and coal.
Shella	Ditto	Ditto.	6,032	Market dues Judicial fines	300 0 0 400 0 0	Ditto	Ditto			
				Total	700 0 0					

[4] B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.
1. Native States for the year 1881-82.—(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.		
				Rs.	A. P.			Products.	Manufactures.	Minerals.
Khyrim	In subsidiary alliance.	None.	24,425	Pension allowed by Government. Rs. 150 per mensam .. 1,800 0 0 Market dues .. 5,000 0 0 Judicial fines .. 400 0 0 Contributions for State purposes .. 1,000 0 0 Malkana on lime-quarry .. 5 0 0 Total .. 8,205 0 0	None	None	Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, caoutchouc, cin-namon, sohphiang (a kind of excellent tur-nip), betel-nut, Indian-corn, betel, oranges, lac, Hammers, potatoes, black pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, turmeric, ginger, honey.	Cotton cloth, Eriah silk cloth, Dhacos, Kodalia, Knives, Crowbars, Weiges, Bamboo bas-kets, Bamboo mata.	Lime. Coal. Iron.	
Myllim	Ditto	Ditto.	12,351	Market dues .. 250 0 0 Judicial fines .. 225 0 0 Forest rent .. 15 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes 1,200 0 0 Total .. 1,690 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, potatoes, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphiang (a kind of excellent tur-nip), sugarcane, ginger, millet.	Dhacos, Baskets.	Iron.	
Langrin	Ditto	Ditto.	1,162	Market dues on lime-quarries .. 1,600 0 0 Forest rent .. 60 0 0 Fisheries .. 80 0 0 Total .. 1,760 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, ginger.	None	Lime. Coal.	

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Gabaram	Ditto	Ditto	7,670	Ditto	Malikana on lime quarry Contributions levied for State purposes .. 326 4 0 Market dues .. 400 0 0 Forest revenue .. 120 0 0 Judicial fines .. 55 0 0 Total .. 120 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Job's-tears, black pepper, "pepper nigrum," chillies, bay-leaves, honey, rice, sugarcane, potatoes, ginger, millet, Indian-corn, sobphiang (a kind of esculent turnip), cinnamon, caoutchouc.	Dhaco, kodalles, hammers.	Iron, lime.
soyang	Ditto	Ditto	1,651	Ditto	Malikana on lime quarry .. 66 4 0 Honey .. 9 0 0 Rent of fisheries .. 40 0 0 Judicial fines .. 100 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes .. 90 0 0 Total .. 315 4 0	Ditto	Ditto	Honey, bees'-wax, cotton, rice, millet, job's-tears, sobphiang (a kind of esculent turnip).	Mats	Lima
soyuram	Ditto	Ditto	1,103	Ditto	Market dues .. 180 0 0 Contributions for State purposes .. 150 0 0 Total .. 330 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, ginger.	None	Lime, coal, iron.
Malsobhat	Ditto	Ditto	450	Ditto	Market dues .. 50 0 0 Malikana on lime-quarry .. 200 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes .. 50 0 0 Forest revenue .. 50 0 0 Total .. 350 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay-leaves, betelnut, oranges.	Ditto	Lime.
riso	Ditto	Ditto	3,652	Ditto	Market dues .. 25 0 0 Contributions levied for State purposes .. 100 0 0 Total .. 125 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, sobphiang (a kind of esculent turnip), Indian-corn, sugarcane.	Ditto	None.
soephob	Ditto	Ditto	841	Ditto	Market dues .. 100 0 0 Judicial fines .. 30 0 0 Total .. 130 0 0	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sobphiang (a kind of esculent turnip), potatoes.	Ditto	Ditto.

1. Native States for the year 1881-82.—(Concluded.)

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.
Nongkhaw	Subsidiary alliance.	None.	7,389	Market dues ..	600 0 0	None ..	None ..	Potatoes, rice, millet, job's-tears, Indian-corn, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip), caoutchouc, cinnamon.	Cotton, kodalies, dhaos, crow-bars.	Lime.
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..	800 0 0					
				Judicial fines ..	50 0 0					
				Forest dues ..	600 0 0					
				Rent of State lands ..	10 0 0					
				Total ..	2,060 0 0					
Nongspung	Ditto ..	Ditto.	1,506	Commission as man-zadar in Kámrup district ..	100 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, potatoes, honey, bees'-wax.	Dhaos ..	Iron.
				Forest rent ..	605 0 0					
				Total ..	705 0 0					
Nongstain	Ditto ..	Ditto.	8,473	Market dues ..	1,000 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Lac, honey, bees'-wax, cotton, caoutchouc, bay'-leaves, rice, millet, job's-tears, sugarcane, chillies, sohphlang (a kind of esculent turnip).	Earthenware, pottery, cotton cloth, dhaos, spades.	Lime and coal.
				Contributions levied for State purposes ..	1,500 0 0					
				Judicial fines ..	1,000 0 0					
				Total ..	4,280 0 0					
Rambrai	Ditto ..	Ditto.	2,202	Market dues ..	40 0 0	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rice, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, millet, Indian-corn.	Cotton cloth ..	None.
				Judicial fines ..	150 0 0					
				Forest rent ..	250 0 0					
				Total ..	440 0 0					

Jeebang	Ditto	720	AVL	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, ginger, jack-fruits, castor-oil, cotton.	Ditto
Duara Nong-tyrmen.	Ditto	424	Malikana on lime-quarry	Ditto	Ditto	Rice, millet, oranges, chillies, job's-tears, castor-oil, cotton.	Small net
			Total..				
Maodon	Ditto	305	Malikbana on lime-quarry	Ditto	Ditto	Millet, oranges, betel-nut, jack-fruit, pine-apples, chillies, bay-leaves.	None
			Total..				
							Lime and coal.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

2.—Native Chiefs and Principal Male Members of their Families for the year 1881-82.

Name of individual and State, and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has <i>samad</i> authorising adoption or not.	Family follows primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.
<i>Manipur.</i>								
Chunder Kiri Singh, <i>alias</i> Nowjingtel, Khombah; State Manipur; family Laiphaum.	Maharaja ..	Caste Khettri, religion Boishab.	50 years ..	Fair (no English education).	.....	Has no <i>samad</i>	Succession devolves upon eldest son.	Has ten sons; the eldest, named Soor Chunder Singh, at present Joobraj, will succeed to the Gudee.
Dharma Satu Singh; family Laiphaum.	Senapati General.	Ditto	56 " ..	Ditto	Tries all military cases.	Ditto	Ditto	Has thirteen sons.
Sar Chandra Singh; family Laiphaum.	Joobraj ..	Ditto	29 " ..	Educated in Bengali and Hindee.	Tries all civil cases, and is a Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> or Chief Court.	Ditto	Ditto	Has three sons.
Koal Chunder Singh, <i>alias</i> Golap Singh.	Oang Khal Rakpa.	Ditto	27 " ..	Reads and writes Bengali.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Jhaite Kiri Singh, <i>alias</i> Fyowbah.	Bamu Haajabab.	Ditto	26 " ..	Ditto	Has charge of all the elephants.	Ditto	Ditto	
Tepondra Singh, <i>alias</i> Koloreng.	Katwal ..	Ditto	26 " ..	Ditto	A Judge of the <i>Cherap</i> or High Court	Ditto	Ditto	
<i>Khasi Hills.</i>								
V Baman Singh; State Bhaawal.	Seim ..	Khasi	23 " ..	Uneducated	As Seim	Adoption is not allowed according to Khasi custom.	Not	In the Khasi States the succession is hereditary, but the heir must have the approval of the Baroar. The Seim's or Chief's heirs are either of his own brother, or Mother's sister's son, or father's brother, or Mother's sister's son, or father's nephew, i.e. sister's son, succeeds to the chieftainship. Father's brother's sons or brother's sons are not deemed relatives. Relationship through mother or sister alone is recognised.
V Najan Maniok; State Cherra.	Ditto	Ditto	48 " ..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

U Na Sing U Shaw. U Tab Rai. U Khauna. U Khar Singh; State Ky- rim.	Wahadadar .. Seim ..	80 61 43 49 38	.. .. .. .. ..	Can read and write Khial and Bengali a little Uneducated ..	As Wahadadar As Seim ..	Ditto Ditto ..	.. ..	Ditto. Ditto	....
U Hain Manok; State Myr- lim.	Ditto	88	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Bor; State Laangrin ..	Ditto	81	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Kison Sing; State Ma- harum.	Ditto	22	..	Can read and write Khial.	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Ramman; State Maoyrn- ran.	Ditto	35	..	Uneducated ..	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Jit Singh; State Maoyrang	Ditto	39	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Shonnam Singh; State Melai Sohamat.	Ditto	40	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Jodi State Mariso ..	Ditto	82	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Ksan State Nobosopho ..	Ditto	84	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Sriteo Singh; State Nong- sring.	Ditto	60	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Kin Sing; State Nong- khlay.	Ditto	88	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Borseu; State Nongstoin.	Ditto	23	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Amor Singh; State Bam- bral.	Ditto	44	..	Can read and write Assam- ese a little.	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Molt Singh; State Jirang	Sirdar	39	..	Uneducated ..	As Sirdar	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Jantrai; State Dnara Nong- brance.	Ditto	85	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..
U Mohor Singh; State Maocton.	Ditto	85	..	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	..	Ditto	..

In the Ohella confederate villages the Wahadadar are elected from the people. The office is not hereditary, and is subject to re-consideration every three years. In the Khial state the succession is hereditary, but the heir must have the approval of the Durbar. The Seim's or Chief's own brother, cousin brother, i.e. mother's sister's son, or failing these, nephew, i.e. sister's son, succeeds to Chiefship. Father's brother's sons or brother's sons are not deemed relatives. Relationship through mother or sister alone is recognised.

C.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY (1881-82).

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; Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts; Conservator of Forests; Deputy-Surgeon-General, who is also Sanitary Commissioner; Inspector of Schools; Inspector-General of Police and Jails, who is also in Charge of Registration and Commissioner of Excise and Stamps; and Deputy-Commissioners.

Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is also Judge of the Assam Valley Districts.

Name of Chief Commissioner.	Names of 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 all kinds of police of all kinds.	REVENUE.		Rs.
													Land.	Gross.	
Surma Valley Districts.	Sylhet	5	5,381	1,969,009	Sylhet	8,986	11	12	63	15	765	82,20,162	37,95,796	77,56,864	
	Cachar	3	3,750	313,838	Kashba Bantichang 24,061	652	10	10	30	9	625				
	Goalpara	2	3,933.54	446,232	Silchar	1,224	4	7	70	30	326				
Assam Valley Districts.	Kamrup	2	3,631	644,960	Goalpara	6,667	7	17	45	22	380	25	22	312	
	Darrang	2	3,418.44	273,333	Dumri	2,576	7	17	45	22	380				
	Nowgong	1	3,417	310,579	Gauripur	1,900	4	12	70	25	289				
Hill Districts.	Sibsagar	3	2,855	370,274	Barpeta	13,758	7	7	62	22	161	80	88	344	
	Lakhimpur	2	3,723.56	176,893	Tezpur	2,915	8	7	62	22	161				
	Garo Hills	1	3,149.6	169,548	Mavgaldal	692	7	10	50	33	312				
Total	Khass and Jaintia Hills.	2	6,157	169,360	Nowgong	4,248	7	10	50	33	312	80	88	344	
	Naga Hills	1	6,400	94,380	Sibsagar	5,868	3	4	65	25	168				90	283	4,106
		24	45,835.60	4,881,426	Goalghat	1,984	8	91	716	283	4,106				
					Jorhat	1,906	6	6	100	32	344				
					Tura	7,153	1	3	71	...	334				
					Shillong	3,737	3	4	65	...	168				
					Cherra Poonjee	9,311	3	3	90	...	459				
					Kohima	2,780	3	3	90	...	459				
					Wokha	680	3	3	90	...	459				
					.....	.....	59	91	716	283	4,106			
					.....	.....	59	91	716	283	4,106			

Average distance of Ichang Naga villages 70 to 90 miles.
Kukio and Chuchari villages an hour ditto.

D.—POPULATION (1881-82).

DISTRICTS.	INHABITED HOUSES.				POPULATION.						CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION.											
	Occupied.	Unoccupied.	Men.		Women.		Children.		Total.	Number per square mile.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Christians.		Natives.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Shiks.	Buddhists.	Jains.	Brahms.	Aboorigines.	
			Men.	Women.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.														
<i>Surma Valley Districts.</i>																						
Cachar.....	37,764	.....	97,327	88,573	60,609	58,349	313,858	88,639	291	476	197,599	92,396	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,056
Sylhet.....	390,066	81	576,380	574,847	423,408	394,377	1,96,900	361,961	115	264	949,353	1,015,631	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,701
Total.....	427,770	81	673,707	663,420	493,014	462,726	2,282,867	445,641	406	740	1,146,952	1,107,927	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,764
<i>Assam Valley Districts.</i>																						
Goalpara.....	87,362	.....	192,081	125,561	97,118	91,522	446,232	114,560	121	392	329,066	104,777	14	79	39	32	..	..	..	..	..	11,712
Kamrup.....	94,172	65	186,389	182,620	142,662	133,279	644,960	177,623	101	295	569,906	50,452	..	690	20	1	..	..	..	..	..	23,225
Darrang.....	43,172	.....	84,518	77,903	57,900	53,012	273,333	79,937	136	395	291,838	15,694	..	723	27	18	..	..	..	..	..	4,852
Nowong.....	62,871	318	94,268	87,597	66,212	62,502	310,579	90,859	60	294	240,710	12,074	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,478
Sibsagar.....	63,576	144	118,030	101,231	73,549	370,374	129,691	342	462	739,663	18,665	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,829
Lakhimpur.....	29,255	60	87,968	49,468	38,370	34,090	179,893	48,322	227	610	152,190	5,824	..	4,657	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,382
Total.....	378,408	577	673,211	624,380	479,426	448,264	2,225,271	641,900	977	2,168	1,692,373	294,396	14	6,424	158	83	..	..	..	..	..	118,778
<i>Hill Districts.</i>																						
Garo Hills Plains.....	4,546	3	8,067	7,097	4,544	4,216	23,914	50,555	14	656	16,872	4,135	..	139	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,098
Ditto tracts.....	35,048	35	46,557	55,108	33,986	33,709	169,360	27,822	212	1,895	5,692	570	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85,634
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.....	100	.....	1,301	29	50	.....	1,380	14,742	22	3	1,239	94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,660,376
Ditto estimated.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93,000
Total.....	39,694	38	55,915	62,234	38,680	37,925	373,288	119,771	248	2,554	22,823	4,799	..	139	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	342,709
GRAND TOTAL.....	843,872	696	1,402,833	1,350,034	1,011,020	938,906	4,881,426	1,206,351	1,631	5,462	3,662,148	1,317,122	14	6,563	138	177	489,251

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F.—FISCAL (1881-82).

1. Survey and Settlement.

SURVEY.

Area previously surveyed in square miles.			Cost per mile.		Surveyed during the year, with cost per mile.	
Topographically.	Revenue.		Topographical.	Revenue.	Topographical.	Cost per square mile.
	By villages.	By fields.				
44,111 sqr. miles.	Rs. As. P. 25 6 2	.....	3,234 square miles,	Rs. A. P. 28 5 7

SETTLEMENT.

Nature of Settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of Settlement.	Remarks.
		Rs.		
Settled in perpetuity	5,820-71	3,78,159	.....
" for thirty years or upwards	805-08	90,389	1,883—1,975	
" " ten years and under thirty	770-92	3,08,796	1,882—1,900	
" " under ten years	5,674-02	27,58,723	1,881—1,895	
" in progress .....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	12,880-73	35,36,066	1,881—1,975	
Settlements previously made, including full record of rights	4,438-07	5,73,358	.....
Settlements without such records	611	2,58,986	.....
Settled during the year } Detailed	61-68	5,728	.....
} Summary	5,401-65	851,564	.....
Total.....	10,502-30	1,690,636	.....

2.—Surveyed and assessed Area in Acres (1881-82).

1	2	3	CULTIVATED.			UNCULTIVATED.			9	10	11	12	13
			Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.	Grazing lands.	Culturable.	Un-culturable.						Total area assessed.
District.	By Government works.	By private individuals.	UNASSESSED.			Gross amount.	Rate per acre of cultivation.	Rate per acre of culturable land.	Rate per acre of total area of settlement.				
			Rs.	A.P.	Rs. As. P.					Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		
Cochar	189,967	189,967	14,034	210,555	.....	414,496	2,08,619 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 6	
Sylhet	1,969,920	1,969,920	.....	226,560	654,080	2,850,560*	65,043 0 0	0 3 8	0 2 2	0 3 6	
Goalpara	93,784 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Kamrup	9,07,772 0 0†	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	4,88,379 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong.....	4,22,347 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Sibsagar	62,704 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur.....	1,94,264 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	6,682	6,682	.....	.....	.....	6,682	2,086 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Garo Hills*	10,406 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Naga "	124†	968 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	2,166,569	2,166,569	14,034	437,095	654,080	3,271,862	3,556,067 0 0	.....	.....	.....

* No particulars obtainable.

† Barpethar only.

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.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
Great semi-dary, paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Large semi-dary, paying more than Rs. 5,000 revenue.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small zemindars other than those of cultivating communities.	622	....	3,176	1,518,198	24,408 35	.....	.....	.....
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common.	9,867	366	90,495	391,022	39.6	.....	.....	.....
Proprietary cultivators paying separately, including all small estates paying less than Rs. 100.	527,576	203	543,907	4,291,861	8.13	.....	.....	.....
Holders of revenue-free tenures.	909	5	2,588	83,174	91.50	.....	.....	.....
Grants held under the rules of 1838 and 1854.	72	25	29	54,302	754.19	.....	.....	.....
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue.	2,432	65	3,716	285,214	117.27	.....	.....	.....
Purchasers of waste lands	346	23	40	217,640	629.01
Waste land leased under the Thirty-years' Lease Rules.	454	167,294	368.48

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4.—FISCAL (1881-82).

Varieties of Tenure not held direct from Government.

NATURE OF TENURE.	Number of holdings.	Average area of each holding.	Average rent of each holding.	Average rent-rate per acre.	
1	2	3	4	5	
Intermediate holders between zemindars and ryots. {	On permanent tenure*	254	.....	Rs. 9	.....
	On farming leases*	4,192	.....	25	.....
Ryots holding at fixed rates		Nil.			
Ryots with right of occupancy at variable rates		Nil.			
Cultivating tenants with no permanent right† .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Holders of service grants†
Total	4,446	84

* Godpāra.

† Information not available.

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E.—FISCAL (1881-82).

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
1 Great zemindāries, complete.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2 Shares in ditto.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 Large zemindāries .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4 Shares in ditto .....	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 Small zemindāries	199	22	.....	38	.....	.....
6 Shares in ditto	1,964	672	160	3,418	.....	225	
7 Villages owned by cultivating communities.	2,024	68	.....	66	709	.....
8 Shares in ditto .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9 Holdings of proprietary cultivators ..	2,997	.....	.....	6	.....	.....
10 Intermediate holdings of a transferable character.	11	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
11 Holdings of ryots at fixed rates .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12 Holdings of ryots with right of occupancy.	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....
13 Revenue-free tenures	88	69	.....	1,937	.....	.....
14 Waste land grants.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

6.—Land Revenue.

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE.	Revenue last year.		Revenue this year.		Cost of collections.	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 realised in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realised.	Assessed.	Realised.						
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.						
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years.	6,08,358	.....	6,19,040	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during the present year.	11,543	.....	3,285	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year.	856	.....	1,233	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collections from Government estates.....	6,19,040	4,02,940	6,21,092	2,91,403	8,418	2,86,745	3,26,029	.....	.....	.....
Income from sale of Government estates.....	29,063,577	28,71,340	29,11,916	28,61,062	2,70,732	26,40,320	53,913	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above.	2,92,740	3,46,274	2,64,395	2,26,947	3,986	2,22,961	37,448	.....	.....	.....

PART II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A.—LEGISLATIVE 1, 2, & 3.

Serial Nos. 14, 15, and 16 are Blank.

2. (Criminal).—Statement of offences reported and of persons tried, convicted, and acquitted of each offence in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

Nomenclature of offences, with Chapter and Section of the Penal Code or other law applicable.	Number of head of crime.	Number of cases.						Number of persons.				
		Offences reported.	Complaints registered under P. C. Section 147, C. O.	Other cases struck off as false.	Balance returned as true.	Brought to trial during the year.	Under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, or transferred.	Remaining under trial at the close of the year.	
												1.—Offences under the Penal Code.
Chapter VI. Sections 121 to 130.	1	1			1	1						
<i>Offences against the State.</i>												
" VII. Sections 131 to 140.	2											
" VIII. Sections 143 to 145, 149 to 151, 157, 158.	3	134	31	9	94	348	53	273			22	
" Section 147, 148, 152, and 153 to 156. Rioting, &c.	4	208	30	15	163	790	154	600	1		35	
" Section 160. Affray	5	85	3		82	70	36	190			1	
" IX. Sections 161 to 169. By public servants	6	28	3	3	22	21	17	20				
" " Contempts of the lawful authority of public servants.	7	18	3	1	14	14	8	13				
" X. Sections 172 to 190	8	354	17	7	330	318	177	528	1		6	
" XI. Sections 193 to 200. False evidence or subornation, &c., of public servants.	9	66	5		61	57	24	57			3	
" " Offences relating to public justice	10	200	16	3	181	171	59	163	2		6	
" XII. Sections 231 to 254. Offences relating to coin	11	21			21	17	11	10			2	
" " Sections 255 to 263. Offences relating to stamps	12	3			3	6	1	5				
" XIII. Sections 264 to 267. Offences relating to weights and measures.	13	37	1		35	36	14	29				
" XIV. Sections 269 to 278. Offences affecting public health, safety, convenience, decency, and morals.	14	15	1		14	13	5	21				
" " Sections 279 to 289. ditto safety	15	63	8	6	54	51	9	61				
" " Sections 290 and 291. ditto convenience	16	24	2		22	21	45	36				
" " Sections 292 to 294. ditto decency and morals	17	5		1	4	4	6	3				
" " Sections 294A. Keeping a lottery office, or publishing proposals for lottery.	17a											
" XV. Sections 295 to 298. Offences relating to religion.	18	6	1		5	5	13	9				
" XVI. Sections 302 and 303. Murder.	19	30		5	25	23	21	24	2		15	
" " Section 307. Attempt at murder	20	7			7	6	1	4			1	
" " Section 304. Culpable homicide	21	24		3	21	20	40	18			3	
" " Section 304A. Causing death by rash or negligent act	21a	9		1	8	8	9	1			8	
" " Sections 305 and 306. Abetment of homicide	22											
" " Section 309. Attempted suicide	23											
" " Sections 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.												

Nomenclature of offences, with Chapter and Section of the Penal Code or other law applicable.	Number of head of crime.	Number of cases.					Number of persons.				
		Offences reported.	Convicted under C. S. Section 474, C. P. Code.	Other cases struck off as false.	Balance in arrears.	Balance in arrears at the end of the year.	Under trial during the year.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Balance in arrears at the end of the year.	Remainder under trial at the end of the year.
Chapter XVI. Cases affecting the human body.											
Section 318. Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body.	29	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Section 323 to 331 and 368. Hurt, with aggravating circumstances.	30	74	1	5	68	38	89	17	35	17	17
Section 323, 324, 325, and 334 to 338. Other cases.	31	907	249	61	687	419	882	224	629	29	59
Section 311. Wrongful restraint.	32	158	76	22	60	47	87	39	66	7	7
Section 312 to 318. Wrongful confinement.	33	239	131	151	205	116	259	131	95	1	1
Section 332 to 338. Criminal force or assault.	34	5,047	1,779	178	3,390	1,954	2,535	1,094	1,668	23	23
Section 361, 366, 367. Kidnapping or forcible abduction, with aggravating circumstances.	35	55	8	8	9	5	12	10	2	.....	.....
Section 363, 365, 366, and 369. Other cases.	36	84	34	24	26	21	33	13	9	.....	.....
Section 370 and 371. Slavery.	37	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 372 and 373. Buying or selling a labour for the purpose of prostitution.	38	2	1	.....	1	1	2	.....	2	.....	.....
Section 374. Forced labour.	39	16	12	2	2	2	2	1	1	.....	.....
Section 376. Rape.	40	36	6	18	12	9	14	6	2	.....	.....
Section 377. Unnatural offence.	41	24	6	6	12	11	11	3	7	.....	.....
Chapter XVII. Offences against property.											
Section 382. Theft, with aggravating circumstances.	42	2	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....
Sections 383 to 384 and 381. Other cases.	43	3,715	694	893	2,152	1,290	1,663	360	1,048	5	50
Section 385. Extortion, with aggravating circumstances.	44	158	61	19	48	26	54	32	19	.....	.....
Section 386 and 388. Other cases.	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 391. With hurt.	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 392. Other cases.	47	19	3	7	9	8	16	.....	13	.....	.....
Section 393. Robbery.	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 394. Attempts.	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 396. With murder.	50	2	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....
Section 397. With attempt to cause death.	51	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	.....	.....
Section 398. Dacoity.	52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 399. 417 repeated with.	53	11	3	.....	7	6	57	14	14	.....	.....
Section 400. 402. With deadly weapon.	54	355	211	22	192	86	129	65	63	1	1
Section 401 and 404. Criminal misappropriation of property.	55	64	531	62	246	159	191	86	95	1	1
Section 406 to 410. Breach of trust.	56	265	183	9	240	227	300	110	274	1	1
Section 411 to 414. Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen or plundered property.	57	66	411	20	164	111	188	78	58	.....	.....
Section 417 to 420. Cheating.	58	7	5	1	1	1	4	4	.....	.....	.....
Section 421 to 423. Fraudulent deeds or deprivation of property.	59	245	63	40	140	73	130	72	80	.....	.....
Section 429 to 433 and 435 to 440—Miscellaneous.	60	1,182	602	66	555	311	520	240	264	.....	.....
Section 429 to 433 and 435—Miscellaneous.	61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 439 and 440—Miscellaneous.	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 441 to 448. Other cases.	63	657	404	404	404	407	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 449 and 450. Resulting in death.	64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 451 and 452. Resulting in death.	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 453 and 454. Resulting in death.	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 455 and 456. Resulting in death.	67	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 457 to 461. Resulting in death.	68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 462 to 467. Resulting in death.	69	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 468 to 473. Resulting in death.	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 474 to 479. Resulting in death.	71	1,139	19	175	940	114	304	67	132	.....	.....

3. (Criminal).—Statement showing the general result of Criminal Trials in

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Number of persons under trial.							Total.
	Remaining at the end of the previous year.	Brought to trial during the year.						
		Under arrest by police.	Upon warrant.	On summons.	Voluntarily.	Received on commitment or reference.			Received by transfer.
I.—MAGISTRATES.								
Village Officers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Subordinate Magistrates {	Special Magistrates under Section 42 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Honorary Magistrates { 2nd and 3rd class	4	23	70	1,097	19	..	41
	sitting singly. { 1st class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	15	..	1,306
	Stipendiary Magistrate, { 2nd and 3rd class	32	834	105	865	76	..	1,912
	sitting singly. { 1st class	268	5,417	1,471	3,916	622	..	11,696
Benches of Magistrates .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District and Divisional Magistrates—Cases referred under Section 46 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4
Chief Magistrates { under ordinary powers	6	382	75	68	61	..	..	592
of Districts { „ special powers under Section 36	1	58	4	3	4	..	..	70
Total.. .. .	311	6,714	1,729	5,966	797	4	2	15,928
II.—COURTS OF SESSION.								
Assistant Judges .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Judges, Joint and Additional Judges	56	..	..	..	..	183	..	239
Judges {	Cases referred by Deputy-Commissioners under Section 36, C. P. C. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	15	..
	Cases referred by Assistant Judges under Section 18, C. P. C. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases referred by Magistrates under Section 507, C. P. C. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases referred by Magistrates under Section 507, C. P. C. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.. .. .	56	..	..	..	..	198	..	254
III.—SUPERIOR COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION.								
High Court {	Cases under Sections 64, 75, and 76, C. P. C., and Section 147, High Court's Act .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases committed by the Presidency Magistrates .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 263, C. P. C. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 287, C. P. C.	1	..	..	..	..	5	..
	Cases referred under Section 186, C.P.C. ....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total.. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	6	..	7
GRAND TOTAL	368	6,714	1,729	5,966	797	210	2	15,786

‡ Remanded for trial.

STATEMENT.

the Tribunals of various classes in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

Died, escaped, or transferred.	Persons whose cases were disposed of.							Persons under trial at the end of year.	Number of cases.					Average number of days during which each case lasted.	Number of witnesses examined.
	Discharged or acquitted.	Convicted.				Committed or referred.	Total of columns 11 to 16.		Brought to trial during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Remaining at the close of the year.	Number of cases disposed of which were tried summarily.			
		Appealable sentence passed.	Non-appealable sentence passed.	Appealable sentence passed.	Non-appealable sentence passed.										
													On regular trial.		
..	15	26	..	..	..	..	41	..	21	21	..	..	12	114
..	476	724	..	..	..	..	1,200	8	767	761	..	..	6.8	3,526
..	721	978	168	..	..	..	1,873	59	1,193	1,180	27	..	5.6	4,303
23	3,620	1,694	3,314	240	2,468	174	11,410	263	6,836	6,827	156	2,197	8.9	29,878	
..	
..	1	3	..	..	..	..	4	..	3	3	..	..	1.3	..
2	152	75	168	13	172	6	586	4	412	411	2	162	7.1	1,072	
..	13	86	4	..	..	15	68	2	36	35	2	..	18.9	194
25	4,898	3,636	3,654	253	2,640	201	15,182	316	9,288	9,288	196	2,359	8.2	39,036	
2	55	104	35	..	..	6	200	37	104	102	25	..	53	874
..	2	13	..	..	..	..	15	..	11	11	..	..	21	..
..	
..	
2	57	117*	35	..	..	6	215	37	116	113	25	..	49.9	874
..	
..	
..	
1	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	5	5	..	..	37	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	6	6	..	..	37	..
28	4,955†	3,653	3,694	253	2,640	209	15,404	353	9,409	9,357	221	2,359	88	39,960	

* 4 of these persons were sentenced to no punishment.

† In addition to these, one person's commitment to the sessions was quashed by the High Court.

[19]

4. (Criminal).—Statement showing the Punishments inflicted by the

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Persons sentenced to										Persons ordered to find or give			Persons imprisoned in default of security for good behaviour.			
	Death. For life.	Transpor- tation. For a term.	Imprison- ment.				Fine.		Whip- ping.		Sureties of the peace. Recognition to keep the peace. Sureties for good behaviour.	One year and under.	Three years and under.				
			Rigorous.		Simple. Forfeiture of property.	With imprisonment.	Without imprisonment.	In addition to other punishment. In lieu of other punish- ment.	In addition to other punishment. In lieu of other punish- ment.								
			Penal servitude. With solitary confinement.	Without solitary confinement.													
I.—MAGISTRATES.																	
Village Officers		
Special Magistrates under Section 42	1	..	1	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly.	49	2	25	673	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stipendiary Magistrates sitting singly.	291	13	121	786	5	52	..	..	..	..	..
Benches of Magistrates	2	2,348	45	691	4,084	26	311	31	360	54	36		
District and Divisional Magistrates—cases referred under Section 46	8	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chief Magistrates of Districts.	121	1	27	249	5	20	..	6	..	..	..
Under ordinary powers	121	1	27	249	5	20	..	6	..	..	..
Under special powers under Section 36.	27	..	2	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..
Total	2	2,840	61	1	867	5,817	38	396	31	366	54	36	
II.—COURTS OF SESSION.																	
Assistant Judges	
Judges, Joint and Additional	..	10	5	..	119	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Judges	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases referred by Deputy-Commissioners under Section 26, C. P. C.	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto ditto to Judges by Magistrates for orders under Section 507, C. P. C.	
Total	..	10	5	..	132	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
III.—SUPERIOR COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION.																	
High Court.	
Cases coming before the Court under Sections 64, 75, and 76, C. P. C., and Section 147, High Court's Act	
Cases committed by the Presidency Magistrates	
Cases referred by Sessions Judges under Section 263, C. P. C.	
Ditto ditto Section 287, C. P. C.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL	..	5	10	5	..	2	2,972	62	1	876	5,817	38	396	31	366	54	36

N. B.—Besides the persons entered in this statement 186 were required to give security for good behaviour. (a) Of these, 183 persons were ordered to give recognisance under Section 489 C. P. Code

STATEMENT.

various Criminal Tribunals in the exercise of Original Jurisdiction in the year 1881.

Detail of punishment.													Whipped.			Number of boys whose sentences were committed to detention in a Reformatory School.		
Fine.							Imprisonment.											
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 imposed during the year.	Total amount of fines realised during the year.	Amount paid by way of compensation.	15 days and under.	6 months and under.	2 years and under.	7 years and under.						
11	15	..	..	..	..	398	398	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
618	80	..	..	..	..	4,537	4,360	186	32	1	17	1	..	..	..	..	..
743	159	4	1	..	..	7,182	6,680	1,427	104	12	187	1	..	..	..	..	..
3,401	1,216	128	30	..	..	62,373	57,376	6,978	383	19	1,552	26	414	1	..	..	..
..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	2
234	26	11	5	..	..	3,919	2,938	541	23	1	65	..	33	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	1	..	..	200	200	..	..	..	5	..	14	..	8	..	..
5,007	1,497	143	27	..	..	78,609	71,952	9,132	543	33	1,826	28	463	10	..	..	153
..	
3	4	..	1	..	..	355	467	..	..	1	8	..	32	..	67	..	12
..	1	..	..	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	11	..	..
..	
..	
3	5	..	1	..	..	385	467	..	..	1	8	..	34	..	78	..	12
..	
..	
..	
..	
..	
..	
5,010	1,502	143	38	..	..	78,994	72,419	9,132	543	34	1,834	28	497	..	88	..	12

fulfil contracts under Act XIII. of 1859, in addition to the other punishments to which they were sentenced.

5. (Criminal).—Statement showing the result of Appeal and Revision

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.		Total number of appellants and applicants for revision, including pending from previous year.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Appeals or applications rejected.	Sentence or order confirmed.
APPEALS					
TO	FROM				
District Magistrates	Subordinate Magistrates....	198	....	8	90
Courts of Session	{ Magistrates.....	629	1	127	308
	{ Assistant Judges .....	....	....	....	....
Superior Courts {	Presidency Magistrates ....	....	....	....	....
	by persons convicted. Deputy-Commissioners acting under Section 36, C. P. C. Sessions Judges.....	16	....	7	8
	by Government from judgments of acquittal, Section 272. All Courts.....	82	1	34	22
	Total.....	825	2	176	336
REVISION					
BY	OF ORDER OF				
District Magistrates	Subordinate Magistrates....	112	...	70	....
Courts of Session	Magistrates	102	....	55	3
High Court (cases referred for orders under Section 296)	{ Magistrates.....	45	....	....	23
High Court (cases dealt with under Section 294.)	{ Magistrates	19	....	10	....
	{ Courts of Session	12	....	12	....
	Total.....	290	....	147	26
	Grand Total.....	1,115	2	323	352

STATEMENT.

in Criminal Cases in the Province of Assam during the year 1881.

Number of persons.								Number of cases.			REMARKS.
Sentence enhanced.	Sentence reduced or order otherwise altered.	Reversed.	Proceedings quashed.	New trial or further enquiry ordered.	Referred to the High Court for revision.	Total whose cases were disposed of, omitting those who died, escaped, or whose cases were transferred.	Remaining at the end of the year.	Preferred during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Remaining at the close of the year.	
1	18	66	9	4	....	196	2	100	100	1	
16	66	81	....	1	....	496	32	306	302	19	
....	
....	
....	1	1	....	....	....	14	2	7	8	2	
....	14	9	....	....	....	80	1	44	47	1	
....	
17	96	187	9	5	....	786	37	456	457	23	
....	....	....	....	28	13	111	1	99	101	1	
....	....	1	1	3	24	87	15	68	67	6	
....	3	14	1	1	....	42	3	19	20	3	
....	....	2	....	....	....	12	7	18	12	1	
....	....	....	....	....	....	12	....	8	2	....
....	3	17	2	32	37	264	26	201	202	11	
17	99	174	11	37	37	1,000	63	657	650	24	

6. (Civil).—Statement showing the number and description of Civil Suits year

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	Suits for money or movable property.											
	Contract in writing.	Contract not in writing.	On account stated.	Money had and received.	Goods sold.	Wages, work, and materials.	Rent not falling under the Rent Law.	Movable property or value thereof.	Damages.	Other suits for money or movables not included above.	TOTAL.	
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.												
I.—CIVIL COURTS.												
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village Courts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paid Subordinate Tribunals.	Under ordinary procedure.	6,819	651	505	499	824	204	150	632	633	401	11,441
	Under Small Cause Court powers.	2,789	755	803	115	307	189	117	422	550	368	6,215
Small Cause Courts.	As Small Cause Court Judges.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Under power of Subordinate Judge.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.	Under ordinary procedure.	79	2	9	8	1	..	..	9	4	1	104
	Under Small Cause Court powers.	323	23	102	..	..	14	6	27	32	19	507
Chief Courts of Districts .. .. .	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
TOTAL .. .. .	..	9,864	1,434	1,509	622	1,233	407	273	1,090	1,219	780	18,441
II.—REVENUE COURTS.												
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Subordinate Courts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District Courts—Collectors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GRAND TOTAL FOR COURTS IN THE INTERIOR .. .. .	..	9,864	1,434	1,509	622	1,233	407	273	1,090	1,219	780	18,441

MENT.

ded in the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the

Suits under the Rent Law.													Title and other Suits.															
Enhancement or abatement of rent.	Relating to distraint.	Damages for extortion or withholding receipts, or on account of illegal restraint, or other cause.	For <i>pattas</i> or <i>kabotigats</i> .	For ejectment or recovery of possession.	For recovery of money or accounts from agents.	All other suits under the Rent Law not included above.	TOTAL.	Suits for immovable property.	Suits for declaratory decrees.	Other suits under the Specific Relief Act.	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.	Administration suits.	Interpleader suits.	Dissolution of partnership.	Suits under Section 261, Act X. of 1865 (also Hindu Wills Act).	Other suits not falling under any of the previous heads.	Total.	GRAND TOTAL.	
..
16	6	1	1	20	7	8	1,743	1,793	15	134	83	78	9	1	1	3	181	8	20	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..
..
..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	20	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	28	136
..	567
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	12	16	..
16	6	1	1	20	8	9	1,747	1,815	16	134	84	80	10	1	1	3	181	8	20	..	..	1	..	10	7	2,371	22,549
..	..	7	47	21	1	20	362	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	362
..	..	7	47	21	1	20	362	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
16	6	8	48	41	9	29	2,109	1,815	16	134	84	80	10	1	1	3	181	8	20	..	..	1	..	10	7	2,371	22,911

7. (Civil).—Statement showing number and value of Suits instituted in the

CLASS OF COURTS.	NUMBER OF						
	Value not exceeding Rs. 10.			Value not exceeding Rs. 50.			
	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.	
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.							
I.—CIVIL COURTS.							
Unpaid Tribunals .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Village Courts .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals.	Under ordinary procedure	1,060	794	476	3,950	813	1,064
	Under Small Cause Court powers	1,405	4,910
Small Cause Courts	As Small Cause Court Judges
	Under powers of subordinate Judge
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.	Under ordinary procedure
	Under Small Cause Court powers	47	263
Chief Courts of Districts .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total ..	2,512	794	476	9,123	813	1,064	
II.—REVENUE COURTS.							
Unpaid Local Tribunals .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Other Subordinate Courts .. .. .	....	181	....	....	147	....
District Courts:—Collectors .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total ..	....	181	....	....	147	....
GRAND TOTAL FOR COURTS IN THE INTERIOR ..	2,512	975	476	9,123	960	1,064	

STATEMENT.

Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

SUITS INSTITUTED IN THE DIFFERENT COURTS.													Total value of Suits.
Value not exceeding Rs. 100.			Value not exceeding Rs. 500.			Value not exceeding Rs. 1,000.	Ditto Rs. 5,000.	Ditto Rs. 10,000.	Ditto Rs. 1,00,000.	Value exceeding Rs. 1,00,000.	The value of which cannot be estimated in money.	Total.	
Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.								
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Rs.
....
3,445	95	411	2,742	39	280	259	....	....	....	....	87	15,515	12,13,350
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6,315	1,22,151
....
....	....	....	....	....	....	....	120	7	8	1	....	136	6,64,999
257	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	567	26,590
....	....	....	....	....	1	....	3	1	2	4	5	16	29,97,116
3,702	95	411	2,742	39	281	259	123	8	10	5	92	22,549	50,24,206
....
....	22	....	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	362	8,724
....
....	22	....	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	362	8,724
3,702	117	411	2,742	51	281	259	123	8	10	5	92	22,911	50,32,980

8. (Civil).—Statement showing the general result of the trial of Civil and
Assam in

PART I.—

CLASS OF COURTS.	Number of Suits before the Courts.						
	Pending from last year.	Instituted in 1880.	Received by transfer from other Courts.	Remanded under section 502, Act X. of 1877.	Reviews under Section 626.	Received under Sections 99, 103, 108, or 371.	Total for disposal.
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.							
I.—CIVIL COURTS.							
Unpaid Tribunals.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Village Courts.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Paid Sub-divisional (Under ordinary procedure..... Tribunals. (Under small Cause Court powers..)	2,286 435	15,515 6,315	537 16	78 1	49 19	113 71	18,578 6,827
Small Cause Courts. (As Small Cause Court Judges.... (Under powers of Subordinate Judge.	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
District Court, other than Chief Courts of Districts. { Under ordinary procedure..... { Under small Cause Court powers..	50 20	136 567	2 ....	.. ..	1 2	2* 1	185 560
Chief Courts of Districts.....	8	16	....	..	1	....	25
Total of each class { Suits for money or movables..... for Civil Courts. { Suits under the Rent Law..... { Title and other suits.....	1,630 210 959	18,451 1,747 2,371	231 88 256	48 15 18	57 .. 15	162 9 16	20,119 2,118 3,613
Total.....	2,769	22,549	555	81	72	187	26,245
II.—REVENUE COURTS.							
Unpaid Local Tribunals.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Other Subordinate Courts.....	28	362	....	..	2	1	393
District Courts—Collectors.....	....	....	....	..	..	....	....
Grand Total for Courts in the interior.....	2,827	22,911	555	81	74	188	26,638

STATEMENT.

Revenue Cases in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction in the Province of the year 1881.

CIVIL SUITS.

Number of Suits disposed of																		
Transferred to other Courts.	Without trial.				Without contest.				On reference to arbitration.		With contest.		Total disposed of, omitting transfers.	Pending at close of year.	Of these pending over three months.	Average number of days the suits were pending.		
	Plaint. rejected or returned.	Dismissed for default or want of prosecution.	Withdrawn with leave.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed <i>ex parte</i> .	Dismissed <i>ex parte</i> .	For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.	Contested.				Uncontested.		
																	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
..
33	33	1,660	379	1,600	1,666	5,185	612	77	46	2,991	1,647	15,896	2,149	420	85	39		
28	6	1,477	128	629	678	1,955	72	14	3	928	497	6,387	447	33	30	29		
..
..	2	5	1	5	23	54	..	..	..	44	17	151	42	16	175	51	
..	3	98	12	46	26	279	2	..	..	57	35	553	37	..	18	20	
..	..	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	8	8	18	7	7	170	129	
52	32	2,880	282	1,647	2,113	6,832	570	59	84	2,676	1,397	18,522	1,805	142	51	31		
88	..	175	90	285	144	493	60	3	1	372	112	1,735	246	55	90	46		
96	12	181	149	348	188	151	56	29	14	980	690	2,748	631	279	121	81		
..
96	44	3,236	521	2,280	2,395	7,476	686	91	49	4,028	2,199	23,005	2,682	476	73	36		
..
..	9	60	13	70	57	19	6	1	..	86	34	355	38	4	66	27		
..
96	53	3,296	534	2,350	2,452	7,495	692	92	49	4,114	2,233	23,360	2,720	480	73	36		

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

9. (Civil).—Statement showing the Business of the Civil and Revenue Appellate Courts of the Province of Assam in the year 1881.
PART I.—APPEALS FROM DECREES.

Class of Courts.	Appeals remaining from last year	Instituted in 1881.	Otherwise received.				Transferred to other Courts.	Appeals summarily referred, section 561.	Dismissed for want of other, or not presented.	Heard <i>ex parte</i> .			Contested.			Total disposed of, including transfers.	Pending.	Of those pending more than three months.	Average number of days the appeals were pending.	Objections under Section 561, Act X. of 1877.					
			Received by transfer from other Courts.	Reviewers under Section 526, Act X. of 1877.	Remains under Section 562.					Receivars under Section 562.	Total for disposal.	Continued.	Modified.	Reversed.	Continued.						Modified.	Reversed.	Continued.	Modified.	Reversed.
					Receivars under Section 562.	Remains under Section 562.																				Continued.	Modified.	Reversed.	Continued.	Modified.	Reversed.
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																									
I.—APPEALS FROM ORIGINAL DECREES.																									
<i>A.—Civil Courts.</i>																									
Chief Appellate Courts other than Chief Court of District	125	302	461	2	5	1	896	4	9	32	4	3	8	477	73	133	27	746	146	68	88	37			
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts	222	848	4	..	4	1,684	461	8	23	10	3	9	6	260	33	58	22	434	189	72	190	30			
Superior Appellate Courts other than Chief Court of Province	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of each (Appeals from decisions in suits for money or movables	120	521	140	..	3	782	140	1	15	27	3	8	13	281	46	97	30	527	115	34	95	25			
class for Civil Courts.	84	149	93	..	3	328	93	1	2	8	4	3	1	148	16	27	4	214	21	5	144	12			
	143	480	232	..	5	870	232	..	15	7	..	..	..	288	46	67	15	439	199	101	153	32
	347	1,159	465	2	11	5,180	465	8	32	42	7	12	14	717	108	197	49	1,180	335	140	126	67			
Total.....	2	9	..	..	..	11	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	..	7	4	..	56	..
Collectors' Appellate Courts	349	1,159	465	2	11	5,191	465	9	32	42	7	12	14	720	109	198	49	1,187	339	140	125	67			
Grand Total for Courts in the interior	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
COURTS AT THE PRESIDENCY.																									
APPEALS FROM ORIGINAL DECREES.																									
Chief Court of Province	17	8	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	1	1	8	17	14	844	..
			
Chief Court of Province.	108	91	..	..	..	289	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	59	..	2	11	73	216	173	577	..
Total.....	216	99	..	..	..	314	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	63	2	3	12	81	223	87	603	..

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.

10. (Civil).—Statement showing the result of proceedings on applications for the execution of the decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

Class of Courts.	Number of applications dealt with.						Applications disposed of						Of these pending more than three months.				Details of entries in Column 9.			
	Pending at the end of 1880.	Filed.			Reverted to the file for any cause.	Total.	To another Court under Section 22.	Transferred. To the Collector under Section 30.	Wholly or partly satisfied.	Wholly infructuous.	Total.	Pending at the end of 1881.	12	13	14	15	16	Satisfaction obtained in full.	Satisfaction obtained in part.	Satisfaction obtained through the Court.
		The decrees being taken out.	The decrees being those of the Court where execution is taken out.	those of other Courts transferred for execution.																
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																				
I.—CIVIL COURTS.																				
Unpaid Tribunals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Village Courts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals	1,588	10,592	292	3	12,745	103	4,193	6,724	.....	11,026	1,725	340	2,659	1,594	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,005
Small Cause Courts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.	83	374	16	3	476	5	162	228	.....	395	81	19	93	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86
Chief Courts of Districts	8	26	18	.....	52	19	10	14	.....	43	9	6	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Total	1,579	11,322	236	6	13,273	127	4,365	6,966	.....	11,458	1,815	365	2,761	1,604	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,095
II.—REVENUE COURTS.																				
Unpaid Local Tribunals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Subordinate Courts	24	66	1	.....	90	.....	55	28	.....	83	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
District Courts,—Collectors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	24	67	.....	.....	91	.....	56	28	.....	84	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Grand Total for Courts in the Interior	1,703	11,419	236	6	13,264	127	4,421	6,994	.....	11,542	1,822	365	2,795	1,626	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,142

B.—JUDICIAL STATEMENT.—(Continued).

10.—(Civil). Statement showing the result of proceedings on applications for the execution of the decrees of the Civil and Revenue Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

Class of Courts.	Details of orders in Column 2. (continued)				Amount Realised.	Number of applications.										On which execution was effected, other than in the preceding column.										
	Adjusted under Section 58.		Satisfaction obtained with the issue of process.			Satisfaction obtained without the issue of process.		On which the judgment-debtor was imprisoned.		On which he was arrested under Section 256, but released without imprisonment.		Was sold.		Was attached, but subsequently released under Section 272.			Was attached, but not sold.		On which specific performance was ordered.		Of immovables, Section 257.		On which partition was effected, Section 267.			
	17	18	19	20		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		31	32	33							
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR.																										
I.—CIVIL COURTS.																										
Unpaid Tribunals.....																										
Village Courts.....																										
Said Sub-divisional Tribunals.....	1,983	3,428	765	1,81,676	48,641	139	578	310	222	507	302	13	30	870	1	778										
Small Cause Courts.....	76	139	23	1,08,687	5,453	7	30	6	4	30	6	20	1	23		6										
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.....	6	9	1	335	26	2										1										
Chief Courts of Districts.....																										
Total.....	1,270	3,576	789	2,93,578	51,126	146	610	316	226	537	6	322	14	30	903	1	785									
II.—REVENUE COURTS.																										
Unpaid Local Tribunals.....																										
Other Subordinate Courts.....	9	46	7	1,382	12	1	3	6	4																	
District Courts—Collectors.....		1		6																						
Total.....	9	47	7	1,388	12	1	3	6	4																	
Grand Total for Courts in the Interior.....	1,279	3,623	796	2,94,966	51,138	147	612	321	230	537	6	322	14	30	906	1	785									

11. (Civil) — Statement showing the use of Assessors in the Civil Courts in the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

Classes of Courts in which Jurors or Assessors are employed, distinguishing Criminal from Civil Courts.	Established or average number of Jurors or Assessors in each case, and prescribed qualification.	Number of cases tried by Jury.	Number of cases with Assessors.	Cases in which the Judge approved of the verdict.	Jury trials.		Number of persons of the verdict in respect to whom the Judge disapproved.	Number of cases in which Judges agreed with Assessors.	Assessors' trials.		REMARKS. Note in what classes of cases Jurors and Assessors have been principally employed.
					Cases in which the Judge did not approve of the verdict.	Wholly. Partially.			Number of cases in which One Assessor.	Number of cases in which Both Assessors.	
I.—CIVIL COURTS.	2	....	7	....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	.....
Chief Court of District (or officer specially empowered) acting under Act X of 1880. Assessors ..	2	....	7	....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	.....
Total.....	2	....	7	....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	.....

B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.

12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1880-81 and 1881-82.

District.	Registrations affecting immovable property, Book I.																												
	Compulsory.										Optional.																		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14																
	Number of Registration Offices.	Instruments of gift (Section 17, Clause a).	Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	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 17, Clauses b & c.	Perpetual leases (Section 17, Clause d).	All leases (other than perpetual leases), which have been compulsorily registered under Section 17, Clause d.	Total of compulsory registrations.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.	Instruments of sale of the value of less than Rs. 100.	Instruments of mortgage 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.															
									Rs. As.	Rs. As.																			
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.	2	5	7	688	3,912	3,301	306	233	14	37	3	1	98	41	1,114	781	1,263	191	848	12	794	546	135	139	7	9	71	19	
Chuar	6	148	130	3,912	3,301	306	233	14	37	3	1	98	41	1,114	781	1,263	191	848	12	794	546	135	139	7	9	71	19		
Selkai	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Goalpa	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Damrad	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Darrang	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Kamrup	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Nowrang	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Sibsanga	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Lakhimpur	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Khasi Hillis	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Garos	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Jago	2	2	2	148	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
Total.....	23	182	166	4,904	3,976	3,508	1,910	1,113	212	211	144	1,369	1,012	8,137	6,818	10,833	8,911	4	2,172	2,006	274	348	68	40	603	317			

[27] B.—REGISTRATION STATEMENT.—(Continued).
 12.—Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1880-81 and 1881-82.

District	Registrations affecting immovable property, Book I.—(Contd.)										Registrations affecting moveable property, Book IV.														
	16	16	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.	1881-82.
	Awards (Section 17, Clause f).	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees 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.	Total value of immovable property transferred.	Instruments of sale of moveable property.	Obligations for the payment of money (Section 18, Clause f).	All other documents registered under Section 18, Clause f.	Total of registrations in Book IV.	Ordinary fees paid for the same.														
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.
Cachar	8	4	1	3	941	716	4	543	4	455,844	2,883,011	28	26	52	87	67	65	147	148	192	8	178	8	
Sylhet	103	41	..	6	2,004	1,743	0	1,430	12	22,97,387	27,64,200	20	28	104	95	629	669	753	689	877	8	799	0	
Goalpara	2	5	..	..	57	66	0	47	8	45,184	70,787	3	3	36	18	74	49	113	70	259	0	147	12	
Kámrúp	1	..	..	..	141	155	0	189	4	1,47,956	1,20,983	6	7	32	26	128	155	166	188	210	12	202	2	
Darrang	1	1	..	..	11	16	0	13	12	61,080	48,401	3	5	18	13	32	51	53	69	67	4	28	0	
Nowrang	8	5	..	..	29	30	0	23	4	87,689	49,581	9	10	12	7	313	327	334	344	218	12	268	0	
Sibságar	46	52	0	39	0	2,19,285	97,656	6	10	148	106	707	560	861	686	807	4	681	8	
Lakhimpur	1	..	..	..	10	4	0	8	0	1,63,179	1,14,136	6	16	66	20	56	157	125	193	140	0	168	8	
Khási Hills	3	4	..	..	6	7	4	9	8	40,133	17,212	..	..	1	1	2	3	8	4	9	4	8	8	
Gáro	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Nága	
Total.....	..	123	60	3	9	3,245	2,731	4	3,248	4	35,17,717	35,15,577	81	105	476	343	2,005	1,928	2,662	2,376	2,764	0	2,607	12	

12. Comparative Statement of Deeds registered in the Registration Districts of the Province of Assam for the years 1880-81 and 1881-82.

Districts.	Number of sealed covers deposited, Book V.						Number of wills registered, Book III.						Number of written authorities to adopt other than those conferred by wills, Book III.						Number of registrations under Section 24.						Number of registrations under Section 31.						Number of refusals to register.						Number of powers of attorney attested.						Number of searches or applications for copies.						Total ordinary fees, including the duties in columns 10, 19, and 25, and the total fees paid for registration under columns 27 and 28.						Receipts.						Total extraordinary fees and fines.						Total expenditure.					
	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1880-81.	1881-82.																														
Office of Inspector-General of Registration.	7	4	15	17	1	1	1	4	4	15	15	76	72	120	156	22,200	4	1,850	8	706	5	0	9,314	12	0	9,663	9	2	7,320	4	1,904	15	10	2,791	10	0	2,416	12	0																																	
Cachar	3	2	26	25	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	23	26	23	32	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Sylhet	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Goalpara	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Kamrup	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Darrang	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Nowgong	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Sibsagar	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Lakhimpur	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Changai	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Chirang	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Naga "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,192	8	832	0	316	15	0	316	15	0	228	3	0	1,197	13	9	991	4	4	2,791	10	0																																			
Total	4	1	116	136	1	1	60	71	178	213	144	142	434	476	16,200	12	14,433	4	11,600	18	6	10,071	6	6	17,116	11	10	16,619	13	6	2,791	10	0	2,416	12	0																																				

[28] C.—PRISONS—GENERAL SUMMARY.
*Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all Classes confined in the
Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam during the
year 1881.*

C.—PRISONS—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all Classes confined in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam during the year 1881.

Stations.	Place of confinement.	Class of prisoners.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		Total daily average of the whole jail.			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Goalpara ..	Goalpara ..	Convicts ..	6	2	57	61	2	63	50	2	52	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Under-trial	3	3	69	66	3	69	66	3	69	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	10-52	11	10-63	
		Civil	17	17	158	175	6	181	142	6	148	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	27-29	42	27-71	
		Total	284	12	296	296	15	313	269	341	15	336	241	12	253	287	56	11	10	298	367	293	71	304
Kamrup ..	Ganhâti ..	Convicts ..	4	4	107	171	6	177	160	6	166	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Under-trial	14	14	75	89	1	90	73	1	74	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	10-52	11	10-63	
		Civil	151	6	157	246	9	255	397	16	412	265	11	276	132	4	136	137	42	4	60	142	92	147
		Total	16	16	188	5	148	154	5	169	139	6	144	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	142	92	147
Darrang ..	Mangaldai ..	Convicts ..	1	1	108	7	116	109	6	114	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	10-52	11	10-63	
		Under-trial	31	31	273	7	280	264	8	262	206	7	213	48	1	49	41	37	1	64	43	01	14	40
		Civil	2	2	184	6	200	196	6	202	191	6	197	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	10-52	11	10-63
		Total	36	36	161	10	171	187	10	187	184	7	141	63	8	56	4	4	4	4	4	30	12	72	86
Mowgong ..	Mowgong ..	Convicts ..	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Under-trial	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Civil	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63
		Total	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63
Mizoram ..	Mizoram ..	Convicts ..	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Under-trial	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Civil	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63	
		Total	3	3	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10-52	11	10-63

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

	Released during the year.				9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Daily average number.	
	C.		D.											
	Under remission rules.		By order of Government.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.										
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	Total.
Jails and Subsidiary Jails.														
1 Gauhati	33	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	298-66	11-10
2 Tezpur	21	1											142-02	4-60
3 Sylhet	49	1											501-60	10-84
4 Shillong	5												42-54	2-70
Total of Jails.	108	1	2										955-58	29-24
1 Goalpara	1												7-67	0-08
2 Dhubri													24-24	1-12
3 Barpeta	1												6-20	0-1
4 Mangaldai	3												13-48	0-36
5 Nowong	3		1										41-37	1-64
6 Sibesar	3												36-12	0-72
7 Jorhat													14-38	0-71
8 Golachhat													12-07	0-1
9 Dibrugarh	2		1										40-16	1-14
10 N. Lakhimpur.													8-08	0-21
11 Sunamganj													17-32	0-02
12 Karimganj	1												14-18	0-03
13 Habiganj	1												22-02	0-20
14 Shihar	7		1										75-22	2-848
15 Haikhandi.													6-18	0-04
16 Jowai			3										8-5	0-04
Tura													15-79	0-25
Total of Subsidiary Jails.	22	5	1										254-86	16-98
Grand Total.	130	1	7										1,357-44	46-22
														1,356-6

2.—Showing the Religion, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam on the 31st December 1881.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4		Age.									
	Religion.				Age.				Under sixteen years.		Sixteen to forty years.		Forty to sixty years.		Above sixty years.			
Jails.	A		B		C		D		E		A		B		C		D	
	Christians.		Muhammadans.		Hindus.		Buddhists and Jains.		All other classes.		Under sixteen years.		Sixteen to forty years.		Forty to sixty years.		Above sixty years.	
Jails.	a		b		c		Natives.		Europeans.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.	
	Europeans.		Eurasians.		Natives.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.	
1	Ganhati .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Tezpur .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Sylhet .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Shillong .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total of Jails.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Cooldpara.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Dhubri .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Barpeta .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Mangaldai .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Nowgong .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	Sibsagar .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	Jorhat .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	Golaghat .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	Dibrugarh .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	North Lakhimpur .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	Sunanaganj .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	Karimganj .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	Habiganj .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	Sicchar .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	Hailakandi .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	Tezgaon .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	Tura .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total for Subsidiary Jails..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grand Total .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Showing the Itigation, Age, and previous Occupation of the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam on the 31st December 1881.

Serial No.	Jails.													Total.	
	Previous occupation.														
	Males.						Females.								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K		M.	F.	Total.
1	25	.....	3	159	8	11	35	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	241	13	263
2	9	.....	5	101	5	.....	12	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	132	4	136
3	11	24	21	849	7	1	34	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	447	12	459
4	11	1	6	13	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46	.....	46
Total of Jails.....															
1	56	25	35	622	20	12	96	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	866	28	894
2	4	.....	1	5	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	11
3	2	.....	6	19	.....	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	.....	33
4	.....	1	.....	9	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	16
5	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	15
6	2	3	8	32	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	48	1	49
7	5	.....	30	18	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	3	56
8	.....	.....	.....	11	3	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	21
9	1	.....	2	10	6	21	13	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	1	17
10	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	2	54
11	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	6
12	.....	.....	.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	22
13	.....	.....	.....	18	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....	19
14	.....	.....	.....	50	2	.....	33	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	9	99
15	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
16	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total for Subsidiary Jails.....															
17	73	8	51	258	17	29	66	9	1	6	1	6	446	17	463
Grand Total.....															
73	33	86	880	37	41	162	30	1	9	5	1,312	45	1,357		

3.—Showing the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam on the 31st December 1881, according to the nature and length of sentence.

Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	3	4											5																
			Number according to length of sentence.												TOTAL.															
			A		B		C		D		E		F			G		H		I		J								
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.			F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.						
			Not exceeding one month.		Above one and not exceeding three months.		Above three months and not exceeding six months.		Above six months and not exceeding one year.		Above one year and not exceeding two years.		Above two years and not exceeding five years.		Above five years and not exceeding ten years.		Exceeding ten years.		Sentenced to transportation.		Sentenced to death.									
			For a term.		For life.																									
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.			
1	Gauhati	A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		B	5	1	4	..	11	..	31	2	98	3	72	1	19	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	241	12	253
2	Tezpur	A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		B	3	..	8	..	16	..	22	2	50	1	12	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	4	186
3	Sylhet	A	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		B	12	..	12	2	88	2	59	1	134	2	123	1	49	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
4	Shillong	A
		B	1	..	11	..	8	..	5	..	8	..	11	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	46
	Total of Jails...	A	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
		B	31	1	35	2	75	2	115	5	290	6	228	5	87	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	864	28	892

4.—Showing the Convicts in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of the Province of Assam on the 31st December 1880, who had been previously convicted.

Serial No.	Jails.	3			4						5			6					
		M.	F.	Total.	Number previously convicted			Ratio of column 4 D to column 3.			Juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age, Section 318, Criminal Procedure Code.								
		Number of convicts on the last day of the previous year.			A	B	C	D	Total.			Number imprisoned on the last day of the year.			Number previously convicted.				
					Once.	Twice.	More than twice.	Total.											
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	T.		
1	Gauhati.....	284	12	296	6	1	13	...	4	...	77	1	78	27-11	8-33	26-35	...	...	...
2	Tezpur	151	6	157	2	...	8	...	3	...	31	...	31	20-53	...	19-75	...	...	...
3	Sylhet	431	9	440	5	1	24	...	3	...	86	1	87	19-95	11-11	19-77	...	...	...
4	Shillong.....	38	4	42	...	...	3	...	...	...	5	...	5	13-16	...	11-90	...	...	...
Total of Jails		904	31	935	141	2	48	...	10	..	199	2	201	22-01	6-45	21-50	...	...	...
Add for Subsidiary Jails.		364	22	386	36	...	11	...	1	...	48	...	48	13-19	...	12-44	1	...	1
Grand Total		1,268	53	1,321	177	2	59	...	11	...	247	2	249	19-48	3-77	18-85	1	...	1

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

4a.—Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881 who had been previously convicted.

Serial No.	Jails.	3			4						5			6								
		Number admitted during the year.			Number previously convicted.						Ratio of column 4 D to column 3.			Juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age (Section 318 of the Criminal Procedure Code).								
		M.	F.	Total.	A		B		C		D		M.	F.	Total.	A		B				
					Once.	Twice.	More than twice.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	Number admitted during the year.	M.	F.	Total.		
1	Ganbáhi	149	8	157	13	5	.....	18	18	.....	18	.....	18	12-08	.....	11-46	1	..	1	..	.....
2	Tezpur	141	8	149	13	1	.....	15	15	.....	15	.....	15	10-64	.....	10-07	.....	..	.....	..	.....
3	Sylhet	581	13	544	56	1	10	4	70	4	74	13-18	30-77	13-18	30-77	13-60	4	..	4	..	.....
4	Shillong	60	5	65	9	1	3	.....	11	1	13	18-33	20-00	18-33	20-00	18-46	.....	..	.....	..	.....
	Total of Jails	881	34	915	91	2	18	2	114	6	119	12-98	14-71	12-98	14-71	12-00	5	..	5	..	.....
	Add for Subsidiary Jails	2,405	107	2,512	196	4	24	235	4	239	9-77	3-74	9-77	3-74	9-51	15	..	15	1	..	1
	Grand Total	3,286	141	3,427	287	6	52	2	10	1	368	10-62	6-38	10-62	6-38	10-44	20	..	20	1	..	1

6.—Showing the Offences committed by the Convicts, and the Punishments inflicted on them, in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
	Average number of convicts.		Criminal offences.		Smoking, or having possession of forbidden articles.		Offences relating to work.		Other offences against prison discipline.		Punishments.		Ratio of column 6 to column 3.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Jails and Subsidiary Jails.														
1	287.56	11.10	2	10	43	..	76	4	2	..	..	..	98	109
2	187.42	4.60	5	9	16	..	14	..	6	..	..	..	14	21
3	490.76	10.84	3	28	5	2	22	4	3	..	..	..	16	83
4	39.84	2.70	4	4	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	7
Total of Jails														
	955.68	29.24	14	60	64	2	116	8	14	..	..	..	60	170
1	7.69	.08	1	1	4	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	7	2
2	24.28	.12	1	5	..	..	7	..	1	..	..	..	6	5
3	6.20	.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	18.12	.36	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
5	41.87	1.64	5	2	11	..	6	..	5	..	..	..	4	..
6	86.12	.72	4	1	..	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	3	10
7	14.38	.71	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	8	..
8	12.07	1.01	1	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	1	7.65
9	40.16	3.14	1	1	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	15	..
10	8.08	.21	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	20	..
11	17.52	.92	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
12	14.16	.68	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	5	14.10
13	22.09	.20	3	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	16	..
14	70.72	8.48	2	11	11	..	8	2	2	..	..	..	15	13
15	6.78	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	18.46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	16.70	.25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of Multi-cellular Jails														
	38.88	1.98	20	35	50	..	100	2	20	..	..	..	141	300
Total of Multi-cellular Jails														
	39.84	2.04	24	40	60	..	120	2	24	..	..	..	168	336

7.—Showing the state of Education of the Convicts imprisoned in, and released from, the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

Serial No.	1		2		3		4				5		6				7				8				9																							
	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.	M.	F.																
	Jails.																																															
	Of those in column 3, there were.																Of those in column 7, there were when they entered jail.																Of those in column 7, there were when they left jail.															
	Number imprisoned during the year.				Unable to read or write.				Able to read and write.				Able to read or write well.				Daily average number of convicts.				Daily average under instruction.				Number released during the year who had been under instruction in jail.				Unable to read and write.				Able to read and write a little.				Able to read and write well.											
1	149	8	130	8	8	15	4	287.56	11.10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										
2	141	8	130	8	4	7	..	137.42	4.60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	531	13	493	13	26	5	..	490.76	10.84								
4	60	5	56	5	4	39.84	2.70								
	881	34	809	34	49	23	..	355.88	29.24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total of Jails.....																																															
1	54	2	39	2	11	4	..	7.39	.08	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	146	5	136	5	8	2	..	24.24	.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Barpeta	75	1	57	1	13	5	6.20	.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Mangaldai	135	5	130	5	3	2	18.12	.36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Nowgong	219	7	202	7	13	4	41.37	1.64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	Nowgong	114	7	108	7	4	2	36.12	.72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	Jornat	121	7	116	7	3	2	14.38	.71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	Golaghat	96	10	86	10	5	5	12.07	1.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	Dibrugarh	243	26	226	26	10	7	40.16	3.14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	North Lakhimpur	88	4	86	4	2	..	8.08	.21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	Sunamganj	204	1	197	1	5	2	17.32	.02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	Karrimganj	147	1	124	1	18	5	14.15	.03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	Karimganj	289	6	283	6	4	2	22.02	.20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	Suchar	353	23	291	23	34	14	75.22	8.48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	Raichakandi	80	1	70	1	8	2	6.18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	Towal	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	Tura	42	2	42	2	..	..	15.79	.25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total of Subsidiary Jails																354.86																16.98															
	2,405	107	2,206	107	141	88	..	3,286	141	3,015	141	190	..	1,310.44	46.22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grand Total.....																																															

[35]

10.—Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails a new jails, and of remodelling or altering existing Jails, but includ

Serial No.	Jails.	Average number of prisoners.				Rations.		Establishment.		Police guards.	
		Convicts.	Under trial.	Civil.	Total.	Total cost.	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.
1	Ganháti	298-66	5-86	44	304-96	8,861	29 1 6	4,863	14 4 10	2,444	11 4
2	Tezpur	142-02	4-13	95	147-10	3,870	25 1 9	4,026	27 5 10	2,019	13 11
3	Sylhet	501-60	20-73	3-70	526-03	15,101	28 14 6	4,763	9 0 10	5,466	10 6
4	Shillong	42-54	7-4	.....	48-28	2,202	50 14 0	1,475	34 1 3	1,686	28 15
	Total of Jails..	984-82	31-46	5-09	1,021-37	29,834	29 5 8	14,627	14 5 0	12,615	12 8
1	Goalpara	7-67	2-32	64	10-63	266	26 10 0	195	18 5 6	568	55 5 4
2	Dhubri	24-36	3-13	22	27-71	837	30 7 1	185	7 0 7	688	21 3 4
3	Barpeta	6-21	1-26	64	8-11	177	23 11 3	120	14 12 8	639	81 4 3
4	Mangaldai	13-48	1-19	16	14-33	251	17 1 9	120	8 1 5	346	23 7 4
5	Nowgong	43-01	6-01	40	49-42	782	15 15 2	333	6 11 9	743	16 0 4
6	Sibsagar	36-84	3-53	1-20	41-57	1,284	31 12 10	576	13 13 8	725	17 7 4
7	Jorhat	15-09	1-56	.....	16-55	545	32 11 8	160	9 0 9	633	28 0 3
8	Goalághát	18-08	1-43	22	14-73	840	57 14 3	120	8 2 4	633	43 15 4
9	Dibrugarh	43-30	5-10	42	48-82	1,576	32 8 11	817	16 11 9	1,020	20 14 3
10	North Lakhimpur	8-29	1-12	11	9-52	271	28 12 9	120	12 9 8	563	61 3 9
11	Sunamganj	17-34	3-04	1-31	21-69	401	19 10 9	178	8 3 3	649	25 4 11
12	Karimganj	14-18	3-79	45	18-42	498	27 11 4	221	11 5 11	553	30 0 4
13	Habiganj	22-22	4-63	2-73	29-58	565	21 0 8	192	6 7 10	682	19 10 9
14	Silchar	83-70	16-38	1-07	101-75	3,527	35 3 10	1,818	17 13 10	2,130	30 14 11
15	Hailakandi	6-18	1-87	.....	8-05	307	38 2 2	120	14 14 6	242	30 0 11
16	Jowai	85	.....	.....	85	46	54 1 10	.....	.....	57	67 0 11
17	Tura	16-04	2-22	.....	18-26	875	47 14 8	90	4 14 10	1,164	63 11 11
	Total of Subsi- diary Jails.	371-84	68-68	10-17	440-59	13,048	30 5 0	5,375	12 3 3	11,797	26 12 4
	Grand Total	1,356-66	90-04	15-26	1,461-96	42,882	29 10 3	20,002	13 10 10	24,412	16 11 1

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

(FINANCIAL.)

Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881, excluding the cost of constructing the cost of ordinary repairs and of the up-keep of the buildings.

7			8			9		10			11	12
Hospital charges.			Clothing.			Contingencies.		Ordinary repairs and up-keep of buildings.			Grand total expended.	Total cost per head of average strength.
A	B	C	A	B	A	B	A	B	C			
Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Cost per head of average number sick.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners.	Total cost.	Cost per head of average strength.	Amount spent by Jail Department.	Ditto by Public Works Department.	Cost per head of average strength.			
Rs.	Bs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Bs. A. P.	
402	1 5 1	24 2 11	1,397	4 9 4	962	3 3 6	81	721	2 10 0	20,251	66 6 5	
244	1 10 6	33 9 0	855	5 13 7	650	4 6 8	184	799	6 12 5	12,461	84 11 4	
139	0 4 2	15 6 3	2,910	7 7 9	1,252	2 6 0	303	5,788	11 9 3	36,722	69 12 11	
276	6 6 0	93 14 9	354	8 2 10	635	14 10 9	692	....	15 15 9	7,320	169 2 1
1,661	1 0 7	52 15 8	6,516	6 6 7	3,519	3 7 1	1,274	7,308	8 6 5	76,754	75 2 4	
14	1 5 0	....	12	1 .. 2	139	18 1 2	..	160	15 0 9	1,374	129 4 1
48	1 11 8	24 9 9	178	6 7 7	494	17 13 2	19	63	2 15 4	2,422	87 6 6	
..	..	..	..	..	63	7 12 8	215	..	26 8 2	1,234	152 2 6
..	..	..	66	4 7 11	82	2 2 6	7	..	0 7 6	824	85 9 0
28	0 9 0	16 1 4	209	4 4 2	129	2 9 9	152	894	21 2 7	3,270	66 2 8	
77	1 13 7	60 2 6	244	8 8 4	750	18 0 8	63	..	1 8 2	3,819	91 13 10	
..	..	..	143	8 9 5	148	8 14 8	18	..	1 1 3	1,647	98 14 8
21	1 6 9	31 5 5	186	9 5 11	221	15 0 0	..	..	..	1,971	133 12 11
24	4 2 10	46 12 7	632	13 0 11	427	8 11 11	50	1,322	28 1 7	6,048	123 10 7	
..	..	..	..	..	127	12 5 5	..	..	..	1,101	115 10 5
12	0 8 10	14 7 3	115	5 10 3	69	4 1 7	96	..	4 6 9	1,440	66 6 2	
4	0 3 5	6 7 2	48	2 10 8	111	6 0 5	53	..	2 14 0	1,488	80 12 6	
26	1 3 5	25 11 5	174	6 7 8	184	6 2 6	149	..	5 0 7	1,882	63 10 0	
229	2 5 6	22 0 9	827	8 4 2	405	3 15 11	206	..	2 0 4	9,163	89 15 3	
5	0 9 11	31 4 0	126	15 10 5	63	7 13 2	..	..	..	863	107 3 3
..	..	..	..	..	5	5 14 1	..	..	..	108	127 0 11
10	0 8 9	3 13 4	2	0 1 9	28	1 8 6	..	..	27	2,196	120 4 2
696	1 9 4	25 2 7	3,012	6 15 11	3,416	7 12 0	1,028	2,466	7 14 10	40,840	92 11 1	
1,759	1 3 3	29 5 11	9,528	6 9 4	5,935	4 11 10	2,302	9,774	8 4 1	1,17,594	80 6 11	

11.—Showing the employment of Convicts in the Jails and

Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	Average number not sentenced to labour.	Average number under sentence of labour on working days.	Average number sick.	Average number convalescent and infirm.	On prison duty.					
						A	B	C	D	E	F
						On unremunerative labour.	Prison officers.	Prison servants.	Gardening.	Employed in preparing articles for use or consumption in jail.	Jail repairs.
1	Gaubáti	·17	299·59	12·11	1·96	...	17·77	25·75	12·27	29 12	.....
2	Tezpur	·28	142·36	6·94	5·37	...	10·48	30·36	5·82	·35	·01
3	Sylhet	2·30	504·62	10·67	13·92	...	18·66	56·94	27·06	.....	9·98
4	Shillong	·49	41·90	2·79	·81	...	1·10	6 41	11·01	·10	2·26
	Total of Jails	3·24	988·47	32·51	22·06	...	48·01	119·46	56·16	29·57	12·25
1	Goálpára	·70	6·97	·61	·08	...	·15	1·47	3·48	·22	.....
2	Dhubri	·01	24·07	1·80	·25	...	·30	3·70	3·41	·57	·19
3	Barpeta	·04	6·20	·11	·01	...	.....	2·02	·48	·05	·51
4	Mangaldai	·03	13·49	·49	·44	...	1·03	1·93	·27	.....	·23
5	Nowgong	·29	42·72	1·53	·87	...	.....	3·06	1·86	.....	·37
6	Sibságar	·08	36·67	1·24	·49	...	1·59	2·77	2·02	·08	·72
7	Jorhát	·24	15·06	·12	.....	...	.....	1·97	·57	1·26	·31
8	Golághát	·03	12·81	·70	·17	...	·62	1·76	1·04	·48	2·10
9	Dibrugarh	1·34	42·10	4·62	·01	...	1·82	4·55	4·17	·27	·42
10	North Lakhimpur	·19	7·94	·17	.....	...	.....	·93	1·04	1·30	·43
11	Sunamganj	·02	17·21	·54	·02	...	.....	2·99	·34	·09	·07
12	Karimganj	·06	14·02	·40	.....	...	.....	3·02	·11	·57	·54
13	Habiganj	·39	21·72	1·04	.....	...	.....	3·10	·32	·76	·36
14	Silchar	·87	83·12	6·65	5·03	...	1·86	7·94	8·94	·86	2·18
15	Hailakánda	·02	6·22	·13	.....	...	.....	·98	·14	.....	.....
16	Jowai	.....	·84	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	·84
17	Tura	1·41	14·40	1·20	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total of Subsidiary Jails	5·72	365·56	21·35	7·37	...	7·37	42·19	28·19	6·51	9·27
	GRAND TOTAL	8 96	1,354·03	53·86	29·43	...	55·38	161·65	84·35	36·08	21·52

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

lvi

FINANCIAL.)

Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

7				8					9				
Average number employed on working days.				Estimated value of labour, as in					Ratio per cent. of column 4 of those employed on working days.				
On Jail buildings.		K	L	A	B	C	D	E	As prison officers.	As prison servants.	On manufactures (7K).		
Revisions and alterations.	New Jails.	Manufactures.	Public Works.	Columns 7 D and E.	Columns 7 F, G, and L.	Columns 7 H and J.	7 K being identical with figures in columns 6 A of Statement No. XII.	7 L being cash receipts for labour on Public Works.					
G	H								I	J			
Under Public Works Department.	Under Superintendent.	Under Public Works Department.											
56	171.15	12.55	.35	2,17	965	10,212	11,943	20	5.93	8.59	4.19
1.66	56.46	24.91	246	96	.....	6,771	1,154	7.36	21.33	39.66
.....	209.78	64.13	93.48	1,051	582	4,485	8,933	3,259	3.70	11.28	12.71
.....	8.95	5.83	433	284	.....	1,413	492	2.63	15.30	21.36
.....	380.93	142.09	124.57	3,905	1,927	14,697	29,060	4,925	4.86	12.09	14.37
.....54	.09	148	19	.....	112	100	2.15	21.09	7.75
.....	3.92	8.53	165	77	.....	859	320	1.25	15.37	16.28
.....	1.56	1.24	21	43	.....	355	101	.....	32.58	25.16
.....	9.10	.....	10	13	.....	1,332	356	7.64	14.31	67.46
.....	7.08	27.95	72	21	.....	2,903	1,706	.....	7.16	16.57
.....	9.95	17.32	124	93	.....	2,082	529	4.33	7.55	27.13
.....47	10.36	130	24	.....	847	807	.....	13.08	3.12
.....44	5.50	97	163	.....	.....	108	4.84	13.74	3.43
.....	7.73	18.51	263	32	.....	2,299	469	4.32	10.81	18.36
.....	1.62	1.93	161	73	.....	276	.....	.....	11.71	20.40
.....	3.97	.65	7.69	18	53	104	166	26	.....	17.37	3.78
.....	7.20	1.33	37	80	.....	392	13	.....	21.54	51.35
.....	6.04	7.33	.82	56	134	108	125	48	.....	14.23	33.75
.....	13.33	34.49	1.84	396	127	2,524	5,014	127	2.24	9.55	41.49
.....34	4.63	5	.....	.....	60	48	.....	15.75	5.47
.....	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	13.20	.....	.....	.....	769	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6.36	.25	13.20	23.34	92.42	107.74	1,703	1,770	2,736	16,822	4,758	2.01	11.54	25.28
7.22	.25	13.20	404.27	234.51	232.31	5,608	3,697	17,433	45,882	9,683	4.09	11.93	17.31

13.—Showing the net cost of the Prisoners in the Jails and

1	2	3
Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	Cost of maintenance (Column 11 of Statement No. X)
		Rs.
1	Kamrup	20,251
2	Tezpur	12,461
3	Sylhet	36,722
4	Shillong	7,320
	Total of Jails.....	76,754
1	Goalpara	1,374
2	Dhubri	2,422
3	Barpeta	1,224
4	Mangaldai	824
5	Nowgong	3,270
6	Sibsagar	3,819
7	Jorhat	1,647
8	Golaghat	1,971
9	Dibrugarh	6,048
10	North Lakhimpur	1,101
11	Sunamganj	1,440
12	Karimganj	1,438
13	Habiganj	1,882
14	Silchar	9,133
15	Hailakandi	863
16	Jowai	108
17	Tura	2,196
	Total of Subsidiary Jails.....	40,840
	Cost of general supervision.....	.....
	Grand Total.....	1,17,594

(FINANCIAL.)

Auxiliary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

4	5	6	7		8	
Sum of payments & drawings from Treasury (column 7a of Statement No. XII.)	Excess of drawings over payments (column 7c of Statement No. XII.)	Net cost to Government.	Net cost per head of all convicts.		Net cost per head of convicts sentenced to labour.	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
.....	1,077	21,328	71	6	71	7
6,673	.....	5,788	40	12	40	13
.....	1,119	37,841	75	7	75	12
746	.....	6,574	154	8	156	5
7,419	2,196	71,531	72	10	72	13
194	.....	1,180	153	13	169	4
294	.....	2,128	87	5	87	6
94	.....	1,140	183	9	184	12
1,013	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2,324	.....	946	21	15	22	2
1,024	.....	2,795	75	13	76	0
751	.....	896	59	6	60	7
.....	189	2,160	165	2	165	8
485	.....	5,563	128	7	132	9
121	.....	1,080	130	4	133	5
48	.....	1,392	80	4	80	5
55	.....	1,433	101	0	101	7
.....	393	2,275	102	6	104	3
1,899	.....	7,254	86	10	87	9
5	.....	858	138	13	139	4
.....	.....	108	127	0	127	0
.....	.....	2,196	136	14	150	1
7,307	582	32,951	88	9	90	0
.....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14,726	5,778	1,08,646	80	1	80	9

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)

14.—Showing the Sickness and Mortality among the Prisoners of all classes in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	4		5		6		7		8		9		10					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.			
		Number of persons that can be accommodated in the parts of the jails devoted to convicts, under-trial, and civil prisoners respectively.		Daily average strength.		Maximum population on any one day.		Number admitted into hospital.		Daily average number of sick.		Number of deaths in and out of hospital.		Deaths from fever.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.			
1	Gauhati { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	199	14	213	287.56	11.10	208.66	226	13	339	294	9	303	11.46	29	11.75	35	2	2
		15	15	30	3.71	.15	3.86	21	2	23	1	1	2	.91	1	.01	1	1	1
		19	19	38	44	...	44	2	2	4	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Tezpur { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	196	23	219	137.42	4.60	142.02	152	7	159	336	12	338	6.91	26	7.17	2	2	2
		29	29	58	3.93	.29	4.13	13	1	16	8	8	16	1.0	1.0	1.0	...	...	...
		4	4	8	55	.02	55	3	3	6	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Sylhet { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	468	15	483	400.76	10.84	501.89	387	16	603	387	2	387	9.6	29	9.83	8	3	3
		101	101	202	19.37	1.36	20.73	40	4	44	7	7	14	46	46	46	1	1	1
		39	39	78	370	...	370	11	11	22	11	11	22	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Shillong { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	49	8	57	39.84	2.70	42.54	51	5	56	98	6	104	2.87	12	2.70	...	...	...
		6	6	12	74	...	74	6	1	7	7	7	14	...	...	...	...	...	...
		6	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		60	60	120	455.58	19.24	484.82	1116	41	1157	1105	27	1132	30.67	67	31.34	42	6	6
		100	100	200	29.75	1.71	31.46	82	6	88	16	2	18	1.6	2.0	1.6	2	2	2
		62	62	124	6.07	.02	6.09	16	16	32	16	16	32	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Goalpara { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	21	3	24	7.89	.05	7.94	19	1	20	21	...	21	3.0	...	3.0	1	1	1
		9	9	18	2.31	.02	2.33	12	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		1	1	2	63	...	63	4	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Dhubri { Convicted Under-trial Civil.	23	23	46	24.24	1.9	26.14	41	2	43	62	2	64	1.78	1.0	1.78	2	1	1
		11	11	22	3.13	.06	3.19	11	2	13	6	6	12	1.6	1.6	1.6	...	...	...
		12	12	24	2.24	...	2.24	6	6	12	6	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Serial No.	Jails and Subal- diary Jails.	Classes of prisoners.	11		12		13		Ratio per cent. of average strength.												
			Deaths from bowel- complaints.		Deaths from cholera.		A		B		C		D		E						
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
1	Gauhati	Convicted	15	1	16	10	10	10224	81068	101445	399	261	393	348	835	765	901	770	1113	901	1105
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1751	1706	1870	18	.....	17	.....	.....	1761	.....	1706	.....	.....	1706
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2	Tezpur	Convicted	1	.....	1	.....	.....	23723	26087	23799	503	565	505	.....	.....	146	.....	141	.....	.....	141
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20386	19370	254	.....	.....	242	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	Sylhet	Convicted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7886	.....	7715	196	.....	.....	.....	.....	163	.....	159	.....	.....	159
		Under-trial	1	.....	1	.....	.....	3814	14706	4342	237	2122	362	.....	.....	516	.....	482	.....	.....	482
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	Shillong	Convicted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24598	22222	24448	670	444	656	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Jails	Convicted.	16	1	17	10	10	11564	9234	11494	321	299	318	105	102	335	342	335	440	342	437	
	Under-trial	1	.....	1	.....	.....	5378	11696	5722	192	1696	273	.....	.....	672	.....	672	.....	.....	636	
	Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1	Goalpara	Convicted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27688	.....	27379	659	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1304
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2	Dhubri	Convicted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25578	.....	25452	734	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	821
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21201	66667	26559	177	3333	479	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)—(Continued.)

14.—Showing the sickness and mortality among the prisoners of all classes in the jails and subsidiary jails of Assam during the year 1881.

Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	Classes of prisoners.	4		5		6		7		8		9		10		
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
3	Barpeta	Convicted	18	10	28	6.20	.01	6.21	25	1	26	9	.09	.09			
		Under-trial	10	10	20	1.04	.22	1.26	4	1	5						
4	Mangaldai	Civil	10	10	20	.64		.64	4		4						
		Under-trial	13	7	20	18.12	.36	13.48	28	1	29	13	.25	.18	.43		
5	Nowgong	Convicted	7	7	14	.94	.25	1.19	15	2	17						
		Under-trial	42	19	61	1.14	.02	1.16	2	1	3						
6	Sibsagar	Civil	12	12	24	41.37	1.64	43.01	71	4	75	38	1.64	1.64			
		Under-trial	30	4	34	5.87	.14	6.01	20	1	21	2	.10	.10			
7	Jorhat	Convicted	13	13	26	.24		.24	3	1	4						
		Under-trial	18	18	36	3.02	.51	3.53	13	4	17	5	.11	.11			
8	Golaghat	Civil	12	6	18	1.08	.12	1.20	7	2	9	1	.6	.11			
		Under-trial	3	3	6	14.38	.71	15.09	30	5	35	8	.10	.10			
9	Dibrugarh	Convicted	12	6	18	1.50	.06	1.56	8	2	10						
		Under-trial	6	3	9	12.07	1.01	13.08	21	2	23	4	.63	.04	.67		
10	Nort h- Lakhimpur	Civil	50	12	62	1.39	.04	1.43	23	1	24						
		Under-trial	18	18	36	.22		.22	2		2						
11	Sonamganj	Convicted	50	12	62	40.16	3.14	43.30	73	7	80	140	4.02	.23	4.25	5	
		Under-trial	18	18	36	4.48	.62	5.10	16	3	19	3	.4	.09	.49		
		Civil	10	10	20	.42		.42	3		3						
		Under-trial	17	17	34	8.08	.21	8.29	38	3	41	5	.37	.17			
		Convicted	17	17	34	1.12		1.12	12		12						
		Under-trial	16	16	32	.08	.03	.11	2	2	4						
		Civil	16	16	32	17.32	.02	17.34	30		30	62	.75	.75	2		
		Under-trial	15	15	30	2.96	.06	3.02	15	1	16	9	.07	.07			
		Civil	4	4	8	1.81		1.81	4		4	1	.01	.01			
		Under-trial	4	4	8												

Serial No.	Jails and Sub-judiciary Jails.	Classes of prisoners.	11		12		13											
			Deaths from bowel-complaints.		Deaths from cholera.		Ratio per cent. of average strength.											
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	A	B	C	D	E					
			Of admissions into hospital.			Of daily average number sick.			Of deaths from cholera.		Of deaths from other causes.		Of deaths from all causes both in and out of hospital.					
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
3	Barpeta	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	145-16	.....	144-93	1-45	.....	1-45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	Mangaldai	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	99-09	277-78	103-86	1-91	50-00	3-19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5	Nowong	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	91-85	.....	88-35	3-96	.....	3-81	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	Sibsagar	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	193-80	.....	190-01	3-24	.....	3-18	.....	2-77	.....	2-71	.....	2-71	.....
7	Jorhat	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	92-59	.....	83-38	3-64	.....	3-12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8	Golaghat	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	55-83	140-84	49-64	7-0	1-41	7-3	.....	.....	.....	6-95	.....	6-63	.....
9	Dibrugarh	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	248-55	396-04	259-94	5-22	3-96	5-12	.....	.....	.....	8-28	.....	7-65	.....
10	N. o. F. & h. Lakhimpur	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	348-61	222-93	339-49	10-01	7-32	9-82	.....	.....	.....	12-45	.....	11-55	.....
11	Sumanganj	Convicted. Under-trial Civil	.....	.....	.....	66-96	161-29	78-43	2-01	3-23	2-16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			.....	.....	.....	61-88	.....	60-31	2-10	.....	2-05	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			.....	.....	.....	357-87	.....	357-55	4-33	.....	4-33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			.....	.....	.....	302-01	.....	286-05	2-33	.....	2-30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			.....	.....	.....	76-34	.....	76-34	7-6	.....	7-6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)—(Continued.)

14.—Showing the sickness and mortality among the prisoners of all classes in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.	Classes of prisoners.	Number of persons that can be accommodated in the parts of the jails devoted to convicts, under-trial and civil prisoners respectively.		Daily average strength.		Maximum population on any one day.		Number admitted into hospital.		Daily average number of sick.		Number of deaths in and out of hospital.		Deaths from fever.	
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
12	Karimganj	Convicted Under-trial Civil	10 9 ...	14 379 ...	42 16 ...	21 16 ...	21 36 ...	42 16 ...	21 16 ...	21 16 ...	21 36 ...	36 25 ...	1 ...	1 ...	1 ...	1 ...
13	Habiganj	Convicted Under-trial Civil	20 8 ...	45 439 ...	47 20 ...	65 13 ...	66 38 ...	49 20 ...	65 13 ...	66 38 ...	66 38 ...	91 93 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...
14	Silchar	Convicted Under-trial Civil	74 15 ...	273 848 ...	9 121 ...	9 145 ...	9 13 ...	273 848 ...	9 145 ...	9 13 ...	9 13 ...	13 45 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...
15	Hallakandi	Convicted Under-trial Civil	12 5 ...	198 618 ...	8 15 ...	8 15 ...	8 15 ...	198 618 ...	8 15 ...	8 15 ...	8 15 ...	10 96 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...	1 1 ...
16	Jowal	Convicted Under-trial Civil	15 ...	85 ...	6 ...	6 ...	6 ...	85 ...	6 ...	6 ...	6...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Tura	Convicted Under-trial Civil	21 6 ...	1579 211 ...	24 15 ...	54 8 ...	64 3 ...	1579 211 ...	24 15 ...	54 8 ...	64 3 ...	243 18 ...	...	1...	...	...
	Total of Subsidiary Jails	Convicted Under-trial Civil	416 136 43	33486 5949 978	686 229 50	751 85 8	775 100 8	33486 5949 978	686 229 50	751 85 8	775 100 8	93 137 15	15 3 ...	15 3 ...	15 3 ...	3 1 ...
	Grand Total	Convicted Under-trial Civil	1329 266 106	121044 1924 1499	1802 811 66	1456 101 8	1907 118 8	121044 1924 1499	1802 811 66	1456 101 8	1907 118 8	100 623 16	67 5 ...	67 5 ...	67 5 ...	8 1 ...

C.—PRISONS.—(VITAL.)—(Concluded.)

Serial No.	11			12			13													
	Deaths from bowel-complaints.			Deaths from cholera.			Ratio per cent. of average strength.													
	Classes of prisoners.			Deaths from cholera.			A		B		C		D		E					
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
12	Karinganj	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13	Habiganj	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	Slicnar	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	Hailakandi	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	Jowai	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Tura	Convicted.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Under-trial	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Civil.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Sub-sidiary Jails.	Convicted.	4	2	2	
	Under-trial	1	1	
	Civil.	
Grand Total.	Convicted.	20	1	21	
	Under-trial	2	
	Civil.	

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18.—Showing Particulars regarding Prisoners under trial in

1	2	3		4			5			6	
		Number remaining at the close of previous year.		Number admitted direct.			Number admitted by transfer.			Total.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
Serial No.	Jails and Subsidiary Jails.										
		M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
1	Kámrup	4	...	151	5	156	16	1	17	171	6
2	Tezpur	6	1	171	6	177	.....	.....	.....	177	7
3	Sylhet.....	37	1	255	21	276	65	1	66	357	23
4	Shillong	5	...	38	2	40	.....	.....	.....	43	2
	Total of Jails	52	2	615	34	649	81	2	83	748	38
1	Gáolpára .....	..	...	52	3	55	12	.....	12	64	3
2	Dhubri	3	1	136	3	139	7	.....	7	146	4
3	Barpeta	1	...	38	2	40	.....	.....	.....	39	2
4	Mangaldai	1	...	108	7	115	.....	.....	.....	109	7
5	Nowgong	2	...	194	6	200	.....	.....	.....	196	6
6	Sibságar	3	1	91	8	99	2	.....	2	96	9
7	Jorhát.....	5	...	85	6	91	.....	.....	.....	90	6
8	Golághát	1	...	82	5	87	.....	.....	.....	83	5
9	Dibrugarh	1	...	187	16	203	.....	.....	.....	188	16
10	North Lakhimpur.....	1	...	31	.....	31	.....	.....	.....	32	.....
11	Sunámangj	2	...	74	2	76	.....	.....	.....	76	2
12	Karimangj	6	...	110	.....	110	.....	.....	.....	116	.....
13	Habiganj	2	...	135	4	139	2	.....	2	139	4
14	Silchar	16	...	310	60	370	4	2	6	330	62
15	Hailákándi.....	3	..	44	3	47	3	.....	3	50	3
16	Jowai .....	..	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Tura	2	...	72	3	75	.....	.....	.....	74	3
	Total of Subsidiary Jails.	49	2	1,749	128	1,877	30	2	32	1,828	132
	Grand Total.....	101	4	2,364	162	2,526	111	4	115†	2,576	170

* Of the 148 transfers, 6 transferred to Dacca Lunatic Asylum, 6 to Tezpur Asylum, to 2 Manbhoom, 1 to Mymensing, and 1 were first received direct from the court.

† Of the 116, 1 was received from Hazaribagh, 1 from Ranchi, and the third from Tezpur Asylum.

Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

7			8			9			10			11			12			13		
Average number.			Released.			Convicted and sentenced			Transferred.			Escaped.			Died.			Remaining on 31st December 1881.		
F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
71	15	5-86	66	3	69	86	3	89	7	7	...	...	...	1	...	11	...	11
83	20	4-13	88	2	90	85	5	90	4	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
87	1-36	20-73	162	10	172	174	10	184	5	2	7	1	1	1	1	...	14	1	15	
74	74	10	1	11	31	1	32	2	2	
75	1-71	31-46	326	16	342	376	19	395	18	2	20	1	1	2	...	25	1	26		
81	01	2-32	26	...	26	25	2	27	15	1	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
83	30	3-13	74	2	76	62	2	64	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
84	22	1-26	21	...	21	10	1	11	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
84	25	1-19	53	2	55	46	3	49	10	1	11	...	...	...	...	5	1	5
87	14	6-01	88	2	90	101	4	105	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
87	51	3-53	50	4	54	42	5	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
82	06	1-56	59	2	61	28	4	32	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
89	04	1-43	35	...	35	47	5	52	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
48	62	5-10	69	4	73	105	12	117	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	12
12	.....	1-12	20	...	20	12	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
98	06	3-04	29	1	30	33	1	34	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
79	.....	3-79	48	...	48	28	...	28	32	32	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	8
49	14	4-63	75	1	76	25	2	27	23	1	24	1	1	1	...	14	...	14		
88	2-50	16-38	191	48	239	119	9	128	6	1	7	...	...	...	...	14	4	18
74	13	1-87	26	...	26	16	1	17	4	2	6	...	...	...	1	3	...	3
.....		
11	11	2-22	41	...	41	28	2	30	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	5
49	5-09	58-58	905	66	971	727	53	780	121	7	128	3	3	3	...	69	6	75		
24	6-80	90-04	1,231	82	1,313	1,103	72	1,175	139	9	148 ^c	4	4	5	...	94	7	101		

in this district, and 19 were transferred within the Province, but the receiving jails show them under head "direct admissions" as they

[40] Statement showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class.

1	2	3	Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the							
			Hospital.		Observation cells.		Civil prisoners.		Under-trial.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
1	Kámrúp	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	30	....	....	....	19	....	15
		Average population	11-47	29	....	....	44	....	5-70
2	Tezpur	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	48	....	1	....	4	....	29
		Average population	7-01	26	....	....	93	02	3-83
3	Sylhet.....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	52	....	....	....	39	....	101
		Average population	10-09	29	....	....	3-70	....	18-91
4	Shillong....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	13	....	....	....	....	....	5
		Average population.....	2-67	12	....	....	....	....	74
Total of Jails		Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	143	....	1	....	62	....	150
		Average population.....	31-24	96	....	....	5-07	02	29-18
1	Goálpára....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	....	....	....	....	1	....	5
		Average population.....	50	....	....	....	62	02	2-31
2	Dhubri.....	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
		Average population	1-83	10	....	....	22	....	2-73

Prisoners in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.

13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21			
Prisoners in the part of the jail devoted to																Remarks.			
Europeans.		Juvenile convicts.		Female convicts.		Male convicts.		Grand Total.		Superficial area per prisoner within enclosing wall in square yards.		Spent on jail buildings during the year.		A		B			
F.												By Jail Department.		By Public Works Department.		Works ordered by Inspector-General of Jails.		Works executed and paid for by the Public Works Department.	
												Rs.		Rs.					
.....	14	199	277	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	564	41,860	New sleeping barracks occupied from 17th June 1881.				
.....	10-81	276-10	304-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	23	196	301	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	243	817					
.....	4-34	130-51	147-10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	15	468	675	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	303	21,195	Twenty-three male prisoners can be accommodated in cells.				
.....	10-84	481-13	526-03	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	8	49	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	755	.....				
.....	2-58	37-17	43-28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	60	912	1,328	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,865	63,862					
.....	28-57	924-91	1,021-37	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	3	21	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	238					
.....	-08	7-09	10-63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	33	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57	339					
.....	-12	22-46	27-71	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

[40] *Statement showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class of*

1	2	3	Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the 1st								11
			Hospital.		Observation cells.		Civil prisoners.		Under-trial.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
3	Barpeta	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	3	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	10	.....	.....
		Average population	09	.....	.....	.....	64	.....	104	23	.....
4	Mangaldai..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....
		Average population	25	18	.....	.....	14	02	94	25	.....
5	Nowgong ..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	.....
		Average population	174	.....	.....	.....	24	16	577	14	.....
6	Sibságar ..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	20	.....	.....	.....	18	.....	13	.....	.....
		Average population	128	.....	.....	.....	108	12	291	61	.....
7	Jorhát	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
		Average population	10	01	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	06	.....
8	Golághát ..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	10	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	3	.....
		Average population	63	04	.....	.....	22	.....	139	04	.....
9	Dibrugarh..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	20	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	18	.....	.....
		Average population	411	25	.....	.....	42	.....	439	00	.....
10	N. Lakhimpur.	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Average population	17	.....	.....	.....	08	03	112	.....	.....
11	Sunárganj..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	16	.....	.....
		Average population	83	.....	.....	.....	130	.....	291	06	.....
12	Karimganj..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	.....
		Average population	62	.....	.....	.....	44	.....	264	.....	.....

Prisoners in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.—(Contd.)

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
December 1881, in the part of the jail devoted to						Superficial area per prisoner within enclosing wall in square yards.	Spent on jail buildings during the year.		REMARKS	
Europeans.		Juvenile convicts.	Female convicts.	Male convicts.	Grand Total.		By Jail Department.	By Public Works Department.	A.	B.
M.	F.								Works ordered by Inspector-General of Jails.	Works executed and paid for by the Public Works Department.
.....	10	18	51	.....	Rs. 215	.....	
.....	01	6.11	8.11	.....	.....	.....
.....	7	18	81	.....	8	.....	
.....	18	12.87	14.83	.....	.....	.....
.....	2	19	42	85	.....	152	894		
.....	1.64	39.78	49.42	.....	.....	.....
.....	4	30	85	.....	77	1,072		
.....	72	34.96	41.57	.....	.....	.....
.....	3	12	21	.....	18	.....	
.....	70	14.28	16.65	.....	.....	.....
.....	6	12	42	.....	125	.....	
.....	97	11.44	14.78	.....	.....	.....
.....	12	60	110	.....	142	1,322		
.....	2.91	36.14	48.82	.....	.....	.....
.....	17	25	.....	17	.....	
.....	21	7.91	9.52	.....	.....	.....
.....	16	35	.....	96	2,083		
.....	02	16.67	21.69	.....	.....	.....
.....	4	10	25	.....	58	2,720		
.....	03	13.79	18.42	.....	.....	.....

[40] *Statement showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class of*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Serial No.	Names of subsidiary Jails.	Description of accommodation.	Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the 31st								
			Hospital.		Observation cells.		Civil prisoners.		Under-trial.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
13	Habiganj ..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....
		Average population	1:32	08	.....	.....	2:60	.....	4:21	64	.....
14	Silchar ..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....
		Average population	9:25	1:59	.....	.....	1:58	09	11:00	1:56	.....
15	Hailakandi..	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....
		Average population	11	05	.....	.....	.....	.....	1:73	88	.....
16	Jowai	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Average population .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Tura	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....
		Average population	2:61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1:95	11	.....
	Total of subsidiary Jails.	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	95	5	.....	.....	43	.....	135	1	.....
		Average population	25:44	2:30	.....	.....	9:58	44	49:47	57	.....
	Grand Total	Barracks with sleeping accommodation.	2:38	5	1	.....	105	.....	285	3	.....
		Total average population	56:68	3:26	14:66	46	78:63	514

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

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Prisoners in the Jails and Subsidiary Jails of Assam during the year 1881.—(Contd.)

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
December 1881 in the part of the jail devoted to						Superficial area per prisoner within enclosing wall in square yards.	Spent on jail buildings during the year.		REMARKS.	
Europeans.		Juvenile convicts.	Female convicts.	Male convicts.	Grand Total.		By Jail Department.	By Public Works Department.	A.	B.
M.	F.								Works ordered by Inspector-General of Jails.		Works executed and paid for by the Public Works Department.
.....	4	20	32	.....	Rs. 149	Rs. 4,184		
.....	13	21.11	29.58	.....	.....	.....
1	10	74	115	.....	200	12,490		
.....	8.03	68.85	101.75	.....	.....	.....
.....	4	12	21	.....	.....	.....
.....	6.08	8.05	.....	.....	.....
.....	15	15	.....	.....	.....
.....	85	85	.....	.....	.....
.....	3	21	30	.....	834	27		
.....	25	13.36	18.26	.....	.....	.....
1	2	89	416	789	.....	2,167	25,315		
.....	16.05	333.59	440.59	.....	.....	.....
1	2	149	1,328	2,117	.....	4,032	89,177		
.....	44.62	1,358.50	1,461.96	.....	.....	.....

1.—General Statement of Crime showing the result of Police operations in the detection
PART I.—Return of Cognisable

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.												
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C form cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order "not to be entered."	Cases rejected under Section 147, C. C. P.	Cases not entered into under Section 117.	Repeated to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police, <i>non modo</i> .	By order of the Magistrate on complaint of his own motion, in which the information was given by a private party to the Magistrate, after the	
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8		
115	.....	Abtinent of offence not committed, &c.	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
117	.....	Abetting commission of offence by public, &c.	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
118, 119	.....	Concealing design to commit offence, &c.	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquility, 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.	30-25	19	2	.....	1	..	..	2	1	1	19	.....
4	212, 216	Harboring an offender	4-20	1	1	.....	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	79-35	60	25	2	2	1	..	..	5	2	64	4
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly...	387-20	204	60	21	24	23	44	4	85	14	284	8	
7	140, 170, 171	Persecuting public servant or soldier.	3-95	6	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	7	..
		Total	495-96	290	88	24	27	24	44	6	42	18	326	4	
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.															
8	302, 303, 396	Murder	by thugs .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9			by deccits .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0			by robbers	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1			by poison	1-30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2		Other murders	33-35	21	1	5	1	1	..	..	4	4	26	2
3	307	Attempts at murder	4-50	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
4	301, 308	Culpable homicide	26-50	20	1	2	..	3	..	2	..	4	25	1	
5	376	Rape	55-25	22	3	20	6	3	2	2	2	1	82	6	
6	377	Unnatural offences	19-45	17	1	..	7	3	..	..	..	1	19	..
7	317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	12-20	4	2	.....	1	3	2	5	..	..	6	..
8	305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of, Suicide.	28-50	26	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	..

[11]

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	Cases struck off by Magistrate's order as false and malicious reports.	Cases struck off by Magistrate's order as reported by mistake having never occurred.	Cases not enquired into under Section 117.	Reported to have been committed during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police, <i>en mores</i> .	Investigated by Police.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7
19	329, 331, 333	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	40									
20	325, 326, 335	Grievous hurt	66-10	55	3	4	1	1	3	3	13	59
21	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	160									
22	327, 330, 332	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant	160									
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon	107-60	59	20	4	2	4	5	4	5	63
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	77-20	27	50	28	9	6	42	1	4	5
25	316 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	39-25	5	8	5	4	1	6	2	3	11
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	2-60	1	1							1
27	371	Habitually dealing in slaves	20									
28	353, 354, 356, 357	Criminal force to public servant or woman, or in attempt to commit theft or wrongfully confine.	122-50	60	44	18	4	6	26	8	5	3
29	504A, 338	Rash or negligent net causing death or grievous hurt.	13-45	11		1				1		11
Total			613-75	534	137	98	26	31	84	23	28	39
CLASS III.— <i>Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i>												
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	19-55	8		2			1		4	2
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.										10
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with } or stupefy- hurt } (by other means { in dwelling-house { on the highway between sunset and sunrise { other robberies	20									
			2-40	3	2	2			1	1	1	3
33	392, 393	Robbery										
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	14-10	5	2	5	1	1	2			10
4a	428, 429	Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animal.	633-90	70	12	34	2	11	2	2	10	8
			217-55	111	76	22	38	17	56	9	7	5

(Continued.)

Number of cases in columns a to 10 in which conviction was indicated.										Persons.										Property.					
Number of cases in columns 11 to 15 in which accused was acquitted or discharged.										Acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.										Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).					
Number of cases in columns 16 to 20 pending at the close of the year.										Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.										Number pending at end of year.					
Pending at end of last year.										Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.										Number of cases in which property was stolen.					
Received by transfer.										Released without being brought before a Magistrate.										Number of cases in which property was recovered.					
By Police.										By Magistrate.										Amount of property recovered.					
By order of Magistrate.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Total.										By Magistrate.										Cases decided.					
Died, escaped, or transferred before trial.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Released without being brought before a Magistrate.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Number who actually appeared before a Magistrate.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
By Magistrate.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
By Sessions or High Court.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Otherwise disposed of, &c., after commencement of trial.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
In custody of Police.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
On bail.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Under trial before Magistrate.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Committed to Sessions.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Number of cases in which property was stolen.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Number of cases in which property was recovered.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Amount of property stolen.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
Amount of property recovered.										By Sessions or High Court.										Cases decided.					
9	9a	9b	10	10a	11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	a	18	b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
..
..	9	7	5	..	91	6	102	102	18	1	38	29	16	46
..
35	15	4	1	..	50	14	65	..	3	62	17	..	39	6	50
7	14	2	3	..	34	10	47	47	20	6	10	9	2	21
2	8	2	14	3	17	17	12	..	2	3	10
1	2	..	2	2	2	1
..
33	27	5	5	..	108	36	149	..	6	143	55	1	82	5	60
9	2	..	1	..	13	..	14	14	5	..	9	11
82	101	37	38	..	438	77	553	..	14	539	156	34	214	65	4	48	18	284
5	2	1	12	..	25	7	44	44	11	6	8	10	1	8	5	3	1,767	194	7
..
1	..	1	1	1	1	..	3	3	1	2	1
5	1	..	..	..	10	4	14	..	..	14	..	1	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	40	40	6
14	25	4	3	..	67	28	93	..	5	87	37	7	31	6	1	..	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	39
17	41	7	..	..	82	20	72	..	..	71	46	..	17	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	58

[41]

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.												
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C from cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order "not to be entered."	Cases rejected under Section 147, C. C. P.	Cases not enquired into under Section 117.	Reported to have been committed in previous years, and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	Investigated by Police, <i>ad motu</i> .	By order of the Magistrate on complaint or of his own motion, in which no previous information was given to the Police.	
2	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7			
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 decoity or habitually	917.20	1,007	14	171	....	17	16	27	65	45	1,145	9
36	449 to 452.....		23.35	4	1	4	7
37	412, 413.....		7.60	8	..	1	9
		Total	1,826.85	1,216	107	241	41	46	78	39	87	61	1,406	45	
		CLASS IV.—Minor offences against the person.													
38	334.....	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	9.60	10	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10	....
38a	323.....	Voluntarily causing hurt	610.35	329	387	17	86	30	59	62	18	20	284	27	
39	341 to 344.....	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	750.45	180	232	149	61	56	201	12	18	26	274	73	
40	336, 337.....	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	2.80	2	..	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	3	....
41	374.....	Compulsory labour	10.50	2	13	2	1	....	11	1	1	....	1	2
		Total	1,383.70	523	656	168	148	87	271	75	37	46	642	102	
		CLASS V.—Minor offences against property													
42	453, 456.....	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking.	84.40	67	15	13	1	3	3	2	3	4	75	19	
43	379 to 382.....	Theft ... of cattle	290.40	123	40	24	8	35	28	5	7	3	169	18	
44	411, 414.....	...) ordinary	4,064.20	1,814	498	705	184	498	339	163	77	142	2,481	219	
45	406 to 408.....	Criminal breach of trust ..	418.50	86	239	43	35	25	149	7	7	10	161	45	
46	447, 418.....	Receiving stolen property ..	220.30	198	17	7	2	7	8	1	15	5	200	8	
47	447, 418.....	Criminal or house-trespass ..	924.75	218	443	108	55	47	208	14	14	25	287	66	
		Breaking closed receptacle ..	..90	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	....
		Total	6,003.45	2,508	1,252	901	285	615	735	192	123	189	3,306	341	

* These three cases were pending at the close of the year.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

(Continued.)

										Persons.													Property.									
										Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.		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.		In custody of Police.		Number pending at end of year.		Number of cases in which property was stolen.		Amount of property recovered.		Cases decided.
										By Police.	By order of Magistrate.	Total.					By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	On bail.	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.				
8	9a	9b	10	10a	11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28									
86	37	6	4	..	202	20	226	..	16	210	63	....	132	9	1	..	..	4	1	906	149	Rs-	Rs-	123					
..	3	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..	3	3	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	25	15	3
1	..	..	..	..	3	....	3	..	..	3	....	....	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	1
129	109	19	20	1	362	75	458	..	21	435	160	14	203	26	3	..	2	18	11	916	155	56,502	13,016	238								
12	..	..	..	..	14	4	18	..	..	18	4	....	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	12
221	95	11	15	..	468	289	772	..	4	768	182	....	566	2	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	....	416
67	81	10	7	..	232	89	328	..	16	312	151	6	141	..	1	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	....	148	
..	2	1	1	..	2	....	3	..	..	3	2	....	....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	....	2
1	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	1	....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	2
401	179	22	23	..	716	384	1,123	..	20	1,103	340	6	722	2	1	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	....	589	
32	25	3	4	..	68	5	77	..	3	74	35	....	38	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	3	271	14	57			
74	41	2	7	..	143	18	168	..	5	163	61	1	95	3	1	..	..	2	..	119	92	5,899	5,044	115						
82	320	68	11	..	1,210	305	1,526	..	83	1,443	495	....	891	7	2	..	..	46	2	1,622	741	44,789	15,853	982					
35	81	29	2	..	57	132	191	8	2	181	89	....	82	..	1	..	..	9	..	41	9	1,563	386	136					
54	51	4	16	..	333	42	391	..	6	385	112	5	250	11	2	..	..	5	..	190	181	14,041	7,537	205						
90	155	21	23	..	248	337	608	..	3	605	280	....	301	3	1	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	355
..								
77	673	129	63	..	2,059	839	2,961	8	102	2,851	1,072	6	1,657	24	7	..	..	83	2	1,978	1,026	66,563	28,784	1,850						

of the previous year.

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.												
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported directed to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C form cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order 'not to be entered.'	Cases rejected under Section 147, C. O. P.	Cases not enquired into under Section 117.	Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police, <i>non motu</i> .	Investigated Police.	
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7			
CLASS VI.— <i>Other offences not specified above.</i>															
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves	1·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	Chapter XXXVIII, C. P. C.	Vagrancy and bad character	171·65	1 ₂	83	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	7	44
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion ..	2·75	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
51		Gambling Act ..	7·30	1 ₀	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	11	3
52		Excise Laws ...	210·65	26 ₁	47	11	2	6	..	1	3	3	268	7	
53	Cognisable offences under the Acts specified.	Railway Laws ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54		Salt and Customs Law.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55		Stage Carriage Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
56		Stamp Act	6·0	1	..
57	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	427·0	386	47	3	4	4	8	2	1	..	382	4	
		Arms Act cases.....	92·65	28	63	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	25	14
		Opium Act	7·30	22	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	23	..
		Total	926·30	721	247	15	7	11	8	4	7	5	721	75	
68	Other special and local laws cognisable by Police.	.....	84·60	42	21	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	42	..
		Grand Total....	11,934·80	5,634	2,508	1,448	534	814	1,220	340	324	358	6,829	678	

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.																																	
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C form cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order "not to be entered."	Cases rejected under Section 147, C.C.P.	Cases not required into under Section 117. Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police, <i>quo modo</i> .	By order of the Magistrate on complaint or of his own motion, in which no preliminary information was given to the Police.	By order of the Magistrate after the Police has refused to enquire.																						
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8																							
1	115	Abetment of offence not committed.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..												
			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.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
3	231 to 263, 467 and 471.	Offences relating to coin, stamps, and Government notes.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
4	212, 216	Harbouring an offender ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice.	4	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4																		
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..												
Total			58	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	..																			
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.																																				
8	302, 303, 396 ..	Murder ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..												
9														} by things											
10																										} by dacoits
11																																				
12	} by poison ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
13													} Other murders	7	1	8												
14																									} Attempts at murder	
15																																				} Culpable homicide
16	} Rape	1																								
17													} Unnatural offences												
18	} Exposure of infants or concealment of birth.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													
18													} Attempt at, and abetment of suicide.												
18	} Attempt at, and abetment of suicide.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..													

isable Crime for the Hills district.

	Persons.																	Property.						
	95	10	10a	11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	18a	18b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
was acquitted or discharged.																								
Number of cases in columns 6 to 8a pending at the close of the year.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pending at end of last year.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Received by transfer.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number arrested or appeared on other process during the year.																								
By Police.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
By order of Magistrate.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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.																								
By Magistrate.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Sessions or High Court.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct.)																								
By Magistrate.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Sessions or High Court.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otherwise disposed of, e.g., died, transferred, &c., after commencement of trial.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number pending at end of year.																								
Before being put on trial.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

[40a]

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8
			Average number reported during five preceding years. Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed. Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed. A, B, and C form cases declared to be false. Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false. Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order "not to be entered." Cases rejected under Section 147, C.C.P. Cases not inquired into under Section 117. Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year. Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not. By Police, <i>pro motu</i> . By order of the Magistrate on complaint. By order of the Magistrate on information in which no previous information was given to the Police. By order of the Magistrate, after the number of cases taken into and struck off by Magistrate.										
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8
19	329, 331, 333.....	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	325, 326, 335.....	Grievous hurt.....	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..
21	328.....	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	327, 330, 332.....	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession or deterring public servant.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	324.....	Hurt by dangerous weapon.	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
24	363 to 369.....	Kidnaping or abduction..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	346 to 348.....	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purpose of extortion.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26	372, 373.....	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a minor for prostitution.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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.	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
29	304A, 338.....	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		Total ..	72	7	8	..	..	..	..	3	..	9	9
CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property or against property only.													
30	395, 397, 398.....	Dacoity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31	399, 402.....	Preparation and assembly for dacoity.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	394, 397, 398.....	Robbery with hurt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		by poisonous or stupefying drugs, or by other means.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	392, 393.....	Robbery	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
		in dwelling-house on the highway between sunset and sunrise, other robberies ..	14	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3	..

(Continued.)

Persons.													Property.										
Number of cases in columns 6 to 8a in which accused was acquitted or discharged. Number of cases in columns 6 to 8a pending at the close of the year. Pending at end of last year. Received by transfer. By Police. By order of Magistrate. Total. Died, escaped, or transferred before trial. Released without being brought before a Magistrate. Number who actually appeared before a 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. Amount of property stolen. Amount of property recovered. Cases decided.																							
9a	9b	10	10a	11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	18a	18b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				5		5			5	5													
				1		1			1			1											
						2			2														
1					1	1			1	1													1
11	1	3		9	10	22	1	2	19	11		6	1				1		1	1	200	200	15
				2		2			2			2											

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.										
			Average number reported during five preceding years.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C form cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed the order "not to be entered."	Cases rejected under Section 147, C.C.P.	Cases not entered into under Section 117.	Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police <i>suo motu</i>.	Investigated by Police.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences.	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34A	428, 429	Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animal.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	184	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	14	2	..
36	449 to 452	House-trespass, with view to commit an offence or having made preparation for hurt.	14	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
37	412, 413	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..			244	19	3	1	..	..	..	2	22	2	..
CLASS IV.—Minor offences against the person.													
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
38A	323	Voluntarily causing hurt...	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
39	341 to 344	Wrongful restraint and confinement.	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
40	336, 337	Rash act, causing hurt or endangering life.	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
41	374	Compulsory labour .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			6	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..
CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.													
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
43	379 to 382	Theft	8	2	4	..	..	1	..	..	3	4	..
44	406 to 408	Criminal breach of trust ..	61	6	25	3	..	7	..	1	1	88	16
45	411, 414	Receiving stolen property..	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
46	417, 448	Criminal or house-trespass	2	8	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..
47	461, 462	Breaking closed receptacle..	3	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	..
Total			74	2	89	3	..	8	..	1	2	1	100
												25	14

(Continued.)

	Persons.																Property.								
	acquired or discharged. Number of cases in columns 6 to 8a pending at the close of the year.	Pending at end of last year.	Received by transfer.	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.	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	A acquitted or discharged after appearance before a Magistrate.	Finally convicted (including persons ordered to give security for good conduct).	By Magistrate.	By Sessions or High Court.	Otherwise disposed of. <i>e.g.</i> , 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.	Number of cases in which property was recovered.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Cases decided.
9a	9b	10	10a	11	12	12a	13	14	15	16	17	18a	18b	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	....	....	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..		
1	8	3	11	..	3	8	1	....	7	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	12	2	94	8		
..	7	....	7	..	..	7	4	....	3	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	1	1	20	5		
..		
2	20	3	23	..	5	18	6	....	12	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	14	4	125	16		
..	3	....	3	..	..	3	....	....	3	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	3	..	..	3	....	....	3	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	1	..	..	1	....	....	1	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	1	..	..	1	....	....	1	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..		
..	3	5	8	..	..	8	....	....	8	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..		
..		
11	1	1	..	2	9	11	..	..	11	4	....	7	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	2	2	65	65
1	65	43	112	..	9	103	19	....	84	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	85	42	4,155	1,063		
..	3	3	..	..	3	1	....	2	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	2	1	194	190		
4	3	8	11	..	..	11	..	....	11	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	6	4	49	45		
..	10	13	..	..	13	11	....	2	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	1	1	..	76	78	150	..	9	141	35	....	106	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	95	49	4,463	1,363

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.												
			Average number reported during the preceding year.	Offences reported to Police during the year, and believed to have been committed.	Offences reported direct to Magistrate, and believed to have been committed.	A, B, and C form cases declared to be false.	Cases preferred direct to the Magistrate and struck off as false.	Cases struck off by Magistrate's order as false and malicious reports.	Cases struck off by Magistrate's order as reported by mistake, having never occurred.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	Cases rejected under Section 147, C.C.P.	Cases not enquired into under Section 217.	Reported to have been committed in previous years and brought under enquiry during the year.	Cases in regard to which the Magistrate has passed no order at the end of the year, whether submitted for orders by Police in A, B, or C form or not.	By Police, <i>etio modo</i>.	Investigated by Police.
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5	5a	6	7	8	9	
	CLASS VI. - Other offences not specified above.														
48	311, 409, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	Chapter XXXVIII, C. P. C., and Act IX, of 1874.	Vagrancy and bad character	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
50	295 to 297	Offences against religion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
51	Cognisable offences under the Acts specified.	----- Gambling Act ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
52		----- Excise Laws ..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
53		----- Railway Laws ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54		----- Salt and Custom Laws ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55		----- Stage Carriage Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
56		----- Stamp Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
57	{ 269, 277, 279, 280, 283, 285, 286, 289, 291 to 294, Section 34 of Act V, of 1861, and any other Municipal or local laws.	Public and local nuisances.	15	8	19	..	..	..	..	..	3	16	..	..
		Arms Act ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Regulation I, of 1876 ..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Opium Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58	Other special and local laws cognisable by Police.	.....	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total ..	190	8	25	..	..	..	..	..	3	22	..	..
		Grand Total ..	136	6	122	83	4	..	8	..	1	7	2	135	

[41] 1.—General Statement of Crime, showing the result of Police operation in the detection and prosecution of crime and recovery of stolen property during the year 1881.

PART II.—Return of Non-cognisable Crime for the Plains Districts.

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.						Persons.								
			Average institutions of preceding years.	Instituted by complaint during the year.	Taken up by Magistrate of his own motion.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Number of cases in which Police were employed to make enquiry.	Number of persons against whom process issued.	Number of persons actually appearing before the court, including pending from last year.	Discharged after appearance.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Waiting trial at close of year.				
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	115 117 118, 119	Abetment of offence not committed, &c... A betting commission of offence by public. &c. Concealing design to commit offence	40 .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..
Total			40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.			20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	121 to 130, 305	Offences against the State.....	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	131	Harbouring deserters by master of ship.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	172 to 180, 201 to 204, 213 to 215, 227, 228	Offences against public justice	366/30	343	49	392	65	275	638	749	25	151	2	556	3	13	13
5	161 to 169, 217 to 223	Offences by public servants	69/20	47	49	49	20	21	40	54	1	23	..	29	..	1	1
6	135 to 200, 205 to 211, 421 to 424.	False evidence, false complaints and claims, and fraudulent deeds, and disposition of property.	135/50	106	18	124	16	80	115	145	21	31	9	75	5	4	4
7	465 to 477	Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents.	26/30	34	2	36	6	22	26	33	5	6	5	8	2	24	24
8	264 to 267	Offences relating to weights and measures	20/50	34	1	35	22	32	41	44	2	12	..	30	..	..	..
9	482 to 489	Making or using false trade-marks	2/70	2	2	89	47	39	88	228	..	35	..	190	..	..	..
10	149, 154 to 156, 160.	Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	35/70	87	2	89	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			674/50	655	74	729	176	472	931	1,255	56	268	16	889	9	21	21
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.			46/0	23	..	23	10	4	3	8	1	4	..	..	1	3	3
11	312 to 316	Causing miscarriage	1/60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	370	Buying or disposing of slaves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			47/60	23	..	23	10	4	3	8	1	4	..	..	1	2	2
CLASS III.—Serious offences against the property.			99/20	127	1	128	19	45	63	54	9	23	..	20	..	2	2
13	384 to 389	Extortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS IV.—Minor offences against the person.			20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	345	Wrongful confinement	6,666/50	5,313	2	5,315	336	2,856	3,410	2,666	279	784	..	1,886	..	161	161
15	392, 395, 398	Original force	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			8,089/50	5,313	2	5,315	336	2,866	3,410	2,666	279	784	..	1,886	..	161	161
CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.			374/80	395	6	401	17	131	177	139	23	47	4	63	..	19	19
16	403, 404	Cheating	235/70	319	2	321	35	76	123	33	2	61	..	6	..	1	1
17	409	Original misappropriation of property	20/30	13	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	416, 427, 434	Original breach of trust by public servant, breach of fiduciary duty, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			403/80	395	6	401	17	131	177	139	23	47	4	63	..	19	19

[41c]

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 1881.

PART II.—Return of Non-Cognisable Crime for the Ill Districts.

Serial Number.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Cases.						Persons.							
			Average institutions of proceedings.	Instigated by complaint during the year.	Taken up by Magistrate of his own motion.	Total of columns 5 and 6.	Number of cases in which 7 in which the police were employed to make enquiry.	Number of cases in which process issued.	Number of persons against whom process issued.	Actually appeared before the court, including those pending from last year.	Discharged without trial after appearance.	By Magistrate.	By High or Sessions Court.	By Magistrate.	By High or Sessions Court.	Waiting for trial at the close of the year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	{	Abetment of offence not committed, &c....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		A betting commission of offence by public, &c....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Concealing design to commit offence .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, &c., &c.																
2		Offences against the State .....	..	1	..	1	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
3		Harbouring deserters by master of ship .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
4		Offences against public justice	3-20	5	..	6	..	..	..	11	..	4	..	7	..	..
5		Offences by public servants	80	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
6		False evidence, false complaints, and claims and fraudulent deeds and disposition of property	1-20	2	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..
7		Forgery or fraudulently using forged documents	40	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
8		Offences relating to weighing and measuring	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9		Making or using false trade-marks .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10		Rioting, unlawful assembly, affray	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	0-0	10	..	10	..	5	3	18	..	4	..	13	..	1
CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.																
11		Causing miscarriage .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12		Buying or disposing of slaves .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

14	323	2	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
15	314	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	332, 355, 358	42	42	3	30	38	38	52	4	15	..	..	33	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	44	44	3	30	38	38	54	4	16	..	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS V.—Minor offences against property.																			
17	417 to 420	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	403 to 404	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
19	409	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	436 to 439, 434	5	5	3	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	10	10	3	5	5	5	12	1	1	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS VI.—Other offences not specified above.																			
21	493 to 498	3	3	..	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	298	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	490 to 492	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24	500 to 502	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	504, 506 to 510	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26	271 to 278, 278, 284, 287, 288, 290, 294A	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27	294A	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	7	1	8	..	2	2	7	..	4	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
[Special laws not cognisable by Police, in detail.]																			
29	Act XVIII of 1854.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30	" V. of 1866	2	2	1	3	5	5	5	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
31	" V. of 1861	8	8	3	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	" XXI. of 1856	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	" VII. of 1864	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	" XVI. of 1870	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	" XI. of 1871	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	" VIII. of 1871	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	" III. of 1857 and III. of 1871.	3	3	3	2	3	4	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
38	" IX. of 1872	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
39	" III. of 1864	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	17	17	13	6	8	8	22	..	1	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grand Total	89	1	90	13	46	60	117	5	29	1	..	81	..	..	..	..	..	1

2 —Comparative Statement of Cognisable Crime

Serial No.	Law under which punishable.	Description of Crime.	Total number of cases investigated during the year, columns 6, 7, 8, and 8 (a) of Statement A. Part I.		Percentage of cases in which conviction was obtained to cases decided.			
			1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.		
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.....		
<i>CLASS I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice.</i>								
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 Government notes.	28	21	....	....
4	212, 216	Harboring an offender	2	2	....	....
5	224 to 226	Other offences against public justice	61	91	....	....
6	143 to 153, 157, 158	Rioting or unlawful assembly	297	350	....	....
7	140, 170, 171	Personating public servant or soldier	4	7	....	....
			Total.....	392	471	79.8	81.9	
<i>CLASS II.—Serious offences against the person.</i>								
8	} 302, 303, 306	{	Murder { by thugs	
9			dacoits	
10			robbers	1	
11			{ poison	2	3	
12			Other murders	27	29	
13			307	Attempts at murder	8	8
14			304, 308	Culpable homicide.....	29	25
15			376	Rape	44	41
16			377	Unnatural offences	20	20
17			317, 318	Exposure of infants or concealment of birth..	8	8
18			305, 306, 309	Attempt at, and abetment of, suicide.....	25	31
19			329, 331, 333	Grievous hurt for the purpose of extorting property or confession.
20	325, 326, 335	Grievous hurt.....	56	65	....	....
21	328	Administering stupefying drugs to cause hurt	1	....	....	....
22	327, 330, 332	Hurt for purpose of extorting property or confession.	1	....	....	....
23	324	Hurt by dangerous weapon	63	84	....	....
24	363 to 369	Kidnapping or abduction	52	101	....	....
25	346 to 348	Wrongful confinement and restraint in secret or for purposes of extortion.	16	26	....	....
26	372, 373	Selling, letting, or unlawfully obtaining a woman for prostitution.	1	2	....	....
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.	52	106	....	....
29	304A, 338.....	Rash or negligent act causing death or grievous hurt.	15	12	....	....
			Total.....	452	561	59.9	64.4	
<i>CLASS III.—Serious offences against person and property, or against property only.</i>								
30	395, 397, 398	Dacoity	4	10	....	....
31	399, 402	Preparation and assembly for dacoity	6	....	....	....
32	394, 397, 398	Robbery with { by poisonous or stupefying hurt. { drugs.	....	....	....	....
		{ by other means .....	....	....	....	....
		{ in dwelling-house .....	....	4	....	....
33	392, 393	Robbery { on the highway between sunset and sunrise.	1	....	....	....
		{ other robberies.....	10	13	....	....

2.—Comparative Statement of Cognizable Crime,

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.	
			1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34	270, 281, 282, 430 to 433, 435 to 440.	Serious mischief and cognate offences Mischief by killing, poisoning, or maiming any animals.	104 174	124 204	.....	.....
35	454, 455, 457 to 460	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt.	938	1,169	.....	.....
36	449 to 452.....	House-trespass with a view to commit an offence, or having made preparation for hurt	7	8	.....	.....
37	412, 413.....	Receiving stolen property by dacoity or habitually.	3	9	.....	.....
		Total	1,247	1,541	39.9	54.7
		CLASS IV.— <i>Minor offences against the person.</i>				
38	334	Hurt on grave or sudden provocation	6	14	.....	.....
39	341 to 344	Voluntarily causing hurt	388	843	.....	.....
40	336, 337	Wrongful restraint and confinement	371	594	.....	.....
41	374	Rash act, causing hurt, or endangering life ..	3	3	.....	.....
		Compulsory labour	3	15	.....	.....
		Total	771	1,469	48.9	69.1
		CLASS V.— <i>Minor offences against property.</i>				
42	453, 456	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking ..	91	92	.....	.....
43	379 to 382.....	Theft.. { of cattle	166	194	.....	.....
44	406 to 488.....	{ ordinary	2,702	3,402	.....	.....
45	411, 414.....	Criminal breach of trust	115	403	.....	.....
46	447, 448.....	Receiving stolen property	195	232	.....	.....
47	461, 462.....	Criminal or house-trespass	282	791	.....	.....
		Breaking closed receptacle	1	1	.....	.....
		Total.....	3,552	5,115	47.3	63.6
		CLASS VI.— <i>Other offences not specified above.</i>				
48	311, 400, 401	Belonging to gangs of thugs, dacoits, robbers, and thieves .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
49	Chapter XIX., C. P. C.....	Vagrancy and bad characters	101	96	.....	.....
50	285 to 297.....	Offences against religion	2	4	.....	.....
51	} Cognizable offences under the } Acts in force in the Province.. {	Cognizable offences under the Gambling Act..	11	15	.....	.....
52		Excise Laws	238	319	.....	.....
56		Stamp Act	5	1	.....	.....
57	} 269, 270, 277, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, } 285 to 287, 289, 291 to 294, } Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, and } any other Municipal or local laws	Public and local nuisances	254	427	.....	.....
		Arms Act cases .....	.....	91	.....	.....
		Opium Act .....	.....	23	.....	.....
		Total.....	611	976	77.1	84.7
56	.....	Other special and local laws cognisable by Police.....	207	63	46.4	30.0

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

xvii

LICE.

with result of Police Operations in the Plains Districts.

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.	
1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.	1880.	1881.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
42	93	88	87	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
128	72	125	71	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
170	226	147	210	....	....	....	....	48,898	84,670	5,980	12,767	....	....
7	3	6	3	....	....	....	....	....	25	....	15	....	....
7	3	7	3	....	....	....	....	11	....	4	....	....	....
384	458	353	435	46.3	50.0	50.4	52.6	45,513	56,502	6,840	13,016	13.0	23.0
7	18	7	18	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
746	772	742	768	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
355	328	348	312	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	3	2	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	2	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1,111	1,123	1,099	1,103	68.7	94.5	89.5	65.6	....	....	....	....	....	....
75	77	75	74	....	....	....	....	1	271	1	14	....	....
138	168	138	163	....	....	....	....	4,513	5,899	3,787	5,044	....	....
2,011	1,526	1,901	1,443	....	....	....	....	55,362	44,789	20,859	15,853	....	....
157	191	148	181	....	....	....	....	1,090	1,563	101	336	....	....
361	391	360	385	....	....	....	....	9,926	14,041	7,995	7,537	....	....
607	608	599	605	....	....	....	....	60	....	....	....	....	....
2	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	25	....	25	....	....	....
3,251	2,961	3,228	2,891	59.7	66.8	62.1	58.9	70,677	66,563	32,718	28,784	46.2	43.2
....
139	92	122	98	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
3	10	8	10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
81	63	51	61	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
370	405	369	401	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
24	1	24	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
407	667	405	665	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	100	....	100	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
....	28	....	28	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
968	1,267	964	1,269	78.7	82.1	79.0	82.5	....	....	....	....	....	....
616	99	616	99	98.5	88.9	93.5	88.9	....	....	....	....	....	....

4.—Statement of Additional Police collected for the protection of persons and property, or quartered as a punitive measure.

District.	PART I.																				PART II.								
	ADDITIONAL POLICE COLLECTED FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.																				ADDITIONAL POLICE QUARTERED AS A PUNITIVE MEASURE.								
	Names 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 located at the place.		Detached from the regular force.				Specially employed in addition to columns 8 to 8.				Total cost under number of offences against person or property during such assembly.				Number of offences committed in or traced to a Village or place in which the additional Police was established.		Period for which quartered.		Total cost of additional Police, including all contingencies.		Number of offices committed in or traced to a Village or place in which the additional Police was established.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22									
			Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	To Government.	To local or private funds.	Investigated by the Police.	In which conviction followed.	Stolen.	Recovered.	Number of cases.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Total cost of additional Police, including all contingencies.	Period for which quartered.	Number of offices committed in or traced to a Village or place in which the additional Police was established.					
1			Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.																			
Godpara ..	19 days.. Fair. 18 days.. Fair.	10,000	..	..	1 3 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kamrup ..		7,000	..	..	1 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang		
Nowgong		
Sibsagar		
Lakhimpur.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar Fair.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khási Hills.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo " ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga " ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ...	2	33 days	17,000	..	..	1 6 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

5.—Showing Strength, Cost, Distribution,

District.	Actual strength						
	Inspectors-General, Deputy, and Assistant-Inspectors-General.	Strength of District, and Town or Municipal Police, paid for wholly or in part from Imperial and Provincial Revenues.					Number of bagars.
		Number of District and Assistant District Superintendents.	Number of Subordinate Officers on Rs. 100 and upwards.	Number of Subordinate Officers on less than Rs. 100.	Number of constables, Civil and Frontier.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Gualpara	{ Civil	1	2	36	171	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	12	96	2
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Kamrup	{ Civil	1	2	27	152	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	12	96	1
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Darrang	{ Civil	1	2	21	93	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	17	154	2
Nowgong	{ Civil	1	1	12	86	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	7	58	1
Sibsagar	{ Civil	1	3	18	90	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	19	174	2
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Lakhimpur	{ Civil	2	2	17	99	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	22	199	2
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Sylhet	{ Civil	1	5	70	356	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	1	29	282
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Cachar	{ Civil	2	2	19	86	....
	{ Frontier .. .. .	....	....	2	60	405
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Khasi Hills	{ Civil .. .. .	....	....	1	17	146
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Garos	{ Frontier	1	2	30	300	2	
Nagors	{ Ditto	2	3	45	299	3	
Total.. .. .	{ Civil	10	20	237	1,259	....
	{ Frontier	3	9	243	2,063	25	
	{ Municipal .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....
Office of Inspector-General of Police	1	....	....	....	....	....
Grand Total	1	13	29	480	3,322	25	

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

ICE.

and Employment of Police for 1881.

Police Force.		Cost of Police.						
Strength of Town or Municipal Police, paid wholly from other than Imperial revenues.		Pay and travelling allowances of controlling officers (col. 2), and pay and travelling allowances of their establishments.	Total pay of District and Assistant District-Superintendents (col. 3).	Other expenses of col. 3.		Total pay of Subordinate Officers (cols. 4 and 5).	Total pay of constables of all classes and buglers (cols. 6 and 7).	Average pay of constables.
Officers.	Men.			Travelling allowances of District and Assistant-District-Superintendents.	Pay and travelling allowances of their establishments.			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Ra. As. P.
.....	6,525	866	1,697	12,860	14,715	8 0 0
.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,267	8,425	8 0 0
.....	8,736	777	1,055	.....	604	7 0 0
3	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,080	12,963	7 8 0
.....	4,215	8,673	8 0 0
.....	6,357	966	1,999	623	3,187	7 8 0
.....	10,750	7,038	7 8 0
.....	2,400	417	1,140	3,892	13,352	8 0 0
.....	5,545	6,824	7 8 0
.....	6,177	1,272	1,096	1,712	5,090	8 0 0
1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,274	8,471	8 0 0
.....	4,310	15,855	8 0 0
1	6	.....	9,256	1,394	1,104	120	504	7 0 0
.....	7,870	9,075	9 0 0
.....	8,400	1,476	1,908	6,270	21,643	9 0 0
.....	130	512	8 8 0
.....	29,623	28,663	7 8 0
.....	8,247	34,900	8 0 0
.....	300	2,288	7 8 0
.....	11,672	2,107	1,449	10,226	8,437	8 8 0
.....	17,306	37,309	8 8 0
.....	69	943	7 8 0
.....	1,020	16,875	10 0 0
.....	880	460	10 0 0
.....	7,177	329	37	11,478	20,531	9 0 0
.....	5,997	800	610	13,668	26,242	9 8 0
.....
.....	69,523	9,295	12,466	1,04,836	1,13,761	8 0 0
10	101	.....	13,174	1,129	647	74,260	1,91,910	8 8 0
.....	1,912	8,448	8 8 0
.....	19,108	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	101	19,108	72,697	10,424	13,113	1,81,008	8,14,119	.....

District.	Cost of Police.				Distribution			
	Contingencies, and all expenses other than included in columns 10 to 15.	Total cost.	Payable from Provincial revenues, and in Cachar and the Naga Hills, partly from Provincial and partly from Imperial revenues.	Payable from other sources.	In districts.			
					Guards at District, Central, or Subsidiary Jails.		Guards over Lock-ups and Treasuries, or as escort to prisoners & treasure.	
					Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Ra.	Rs.	Rs.	Ra.				
Goalpara	Civil	12,643	49,106	60,798	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	11,692	.....	.....	1	4	6
	Municipal	30	534	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kamrup	Civil	5,373	39,384	52,372	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	12,783	.....	.....	2	30	4
	Municipal	74	2,834	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	Civil	1,775	29,385	47,873	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier	1,311	18,188	.....	.....	2	20	4
Nowgong	Civil	4,457	20,783	27,585	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	6,802	.....	.....	1	6	2
Sibsagar	Civil	9,328	36,818	66,983	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	29,165	.....	.....	1	7	5
	Municipal .....	.....	624	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	Civil	6,139	35,438	63,351	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	27,913	.....	.....	1	12	4
	Municipal	83	815	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sylhet	Civil	24,545	94,613	1,27,760	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier .....	.....	33,145	.....	.....	3	44	11
	Municipal .....	.....	2,792	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cachar	Civil	1,822	35,713	1,12,745	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier	22,427	77,032	.....	.....	4	30	6
	Municipal	39	1,051	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khasi Hills	Civil	4,019	28,542	28,542	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Municipal	87	1,227	.....	.....	1	13	2
Garo "	Frontier	4,715	54,267	54,267	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naga "	Doitto	19,054	57,366	57,366	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	Civil	79,101	3,69,982	6,89,642	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Frontier	38,540	3,19,660	.....	.....	1	13	5
	Municipal	517	10,877	.....	.....	15	153	49
Office of Inspector-General of Police	.....	2,524	21,632	21,632	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total	.....	1,11,682	7,22,151	7,11,274	10,877	16	166	54

In Cachar and the Naga Hills Ra. 5,391 and Ra. 17,500

Supplement to Statement

District.	Village and Town Police not sub- -sidiary		
	Number of men.	Average number of houses in each man's charge.	Average annual emoluments of each man.
Goalpara	621	96	Ra. Aa. P. 44 14 3
Sylhet	4,376	85	30 0 0
Cachar	307	Not given.	Pay of each man ranges from Ra. 1 to Ra. 3-6 per mensem.
Total	5,304		

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

-(Continued.)

Police.				In Cantonments.	Area of whole district, in square miles.	Population of whole district.	Proportions of Police (officers and men).					
In other duties.		On Station Municipal duty.					To area. (6).			To population. (7).		
Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.				Of the whole district.	Of district, exclusive of towns. (5)	Of towns. (5)	Of the whole district.	Of districts, exclusive of towns. (5)	Of towns. (5)
25	26	27		28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
38	171	.....	.....	.....	3,597	4,46,232	1 to 11'95	1 to 27'37	2 to 1	1 to 1,369	1 to 3,048	1 to 749
5	67	.....	.....	.....					
29	152	.....	.....	.....	3,631	6,44,960	1 " 10'97	1 " 10'9	1 " '01	1 " 1,949	1 " 1,918	1 " 35
6	52	.....	.....	.....					
23	93	.....	.....	.....	3,418	2,73,333	1 " 11'79	1 " 24'59	1 " '01	1 " 948	1 " 1,930	1 " 24'5
11	110	.....	.....	.....					
13	86	.....	.....	.....	3,417	8,10,579	1 " 20'58	.....	.....	1 " 1,871	.....	.....
4	27	.....	.....	.....					
21	90	.....	.....	.....	2,855	3,70,274	1 " 9'09	1 " 24'4	1 " 7	1 " 1,179	1 " 3,048	1 " 100
13	140	.....	.....	.....					
21	99	.....	.....	.....	3,723	1,79,893	1 " 10'61	1 " 21'5	.....	1 " 513	1 " 1,243	.....
18	169	.....	.....	.....					
74	303	.....	.....	.....	5,440	19,69,009	1 " 7'19	1 " 15'3	.....	1 " 2,605	1 " 5,515	.....
16	216	.....	.....	.....					
20	80	.....	.....	.....	3,750	3,18,858	1 " 6'59	.....	.....	1 " 535	.....	.....
42	355	.....	.....	.....					
14	108	.....	.....	.....	6,157	1,69,360	1 " 86'00	.....	.....	1 " 990	.....	.....
27	250	.....	.....	.....					
46	285	.....	.....	.....	6,400	94,380	1 " 18'23	.....	.....	1 " 269	.....	.....
253	1,180	.....	.....	.....					
188	1,671	.....	.....	.....	46,341	48,81,426	1 " 11'65	.....	.....	1 " 1,227	.....	.....
.....								
441	2,931	10	101	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

ively, were debited to the Imperial revenues.

-Police 5, for 1881.

Salaries of Regular Police.		Remarks.
whom paid.	Total annual cost.	
	Ra.	
Magars ..	37,876	
Misto ..	1,81,280	
	5,760*	* This amount was roughly estimated for 1880. The expenditure for 1881 is not known.
	1,64,916	

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CV

District.	Rewards.		Education.				Number of Police who have been in force during the year.										Percentage of deaths during the year.	Percentage in hospital during the year.	Daily average number of sick in hospital throughout the year.							
	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.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head-Constables.	Men.	24	25	26	27	28	29				30	31	32	33	34	35a	35	36
Goolpara	Civil	2	2	6	29	23	..	..	..	..	..	43	119	47	2	17	20	1	1	7	1	2	28	13	325
	Frontier	..	..	..	3	8	..	..	..	..	..	10	69	31	3	5	6	1	2	5	4	5	48	44	454
Kamrup	Civil	16	2	7	19	30	..	..	..	..	..	6	102	41	5	19	17	..	..	3	3	16	116	166	..
	Frontier	..	1	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	23	1	..	25	2	..	..	3	3	8	405	273	..
Darrang	Civil	7	2	6	14	32	..	..	..	..	..	18	75	40	1	8	3	..	..	..	..	8	081	..	..
	Frontier	1	2	4	7	27	..	..	..	..	..	19	143	30	1	10	4	..	..	..	..	08	02	..	..
Nowgong	Civil	..	1	1	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	16	55	28	2	5	9	..	..	..	..	24	202	..	..
	Frontier	..	3	5	14	28	..	..	..	..	..	10	29	27	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	26	303	308	..
Sibsagar	Civil	3	2	2	11	24	..	..	..	..	..	38	109	43	3	33	1	..	..	..	..	1	17	90	256
	Frontier	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	04	142	..	
Lakhimpur	Civil	19	2	12	27	34	..	..	..	..	..	56	51	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	13	10	169	..
	Frontier	..	1	2	13	34	..	..	..	..	..	9	134	74	1	13	2	..	..	..	..	47	210	133	..
Sylhet	Civil	5	2	5	16	118	30	50	248	128	3	11	1	5	15	54	121
	Frontier	1	1	2	14	13	..	..	..	..	..	30	189	86	1	8	11	..	..	..	..	1	6	29	32
Cachar	Civil	5	2	4	8	23	37	14	70	32	2	6	1	15	8	187
	Frontier	1	2	7	35	100	..	..	..	..	..	150	32	331	102	11	98	2	1	6	175	86	129	229	..
Khasi Hills	Civil	..	2	1	11	42	36	93	30	4	20	7	1	5	93	122
	Frontier	..	1	4	11	39	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills	Civil	35	2	3	16	82	..	..	..	..	..	38	283	48	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	143	428
	Frontier	..	3	5	6	26	..	..	..	..	..	1	25	256	46	3	11	4	20	..	..	..	3	144	1448
Naga	Civil	52	3	5	6	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Frontier	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.	Civil	5	20	57	177	550	..	..	..	..	..	123	224	800	427	19	4	93	10	22	..	..	..	..	145
	Frontier	113	27	121	335	435	..	..	..	..	..	237	198	1,608	511	20	22	173	33	52	5	39	..	..	167
Grand Total	Civil	..	85	307	697	..	..	..	..	..	..	360	463	2,552	946	40	26	283	132	42	7	62	..	..	..
	Frontier	118	29	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

7.—Showing the Race and Religion, or Caste, of Officers and Men employ

District.	Race.															
	Europeans.				Eurasians.				Natives of the Province.				Bengalis (people of Ben			
	District or Assistant District Superintendents.		Subordinate Officers.		District or Assistant-District Superintendents.		Subordinate Officers.		District or Assistant District Superintendents.		Subordinate Officers.		District or Assistant-District Superintendents.		Subordinate Officers.	
	Military or Co-venanted Civil.	Unconvenanted.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	Constables and buglers.	District or Assistant-District Superintendents.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	Constables and buglers.	District or Assistant District Superintendents.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	Constables and buglers.	District or Assistant-District Superintendents.	On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Goalpara ...	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	11	112	..	1	25
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	63	..	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Kamrup....	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	127	..	2	1
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	9	85	..	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	31	..	..	..
Darrang....	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	91	..	1
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	127	..	..	..
Nowgong ..	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	86	..	2
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	46	..	..
Sibsagar....	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	15	82	..	1
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	114	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	..
Lakhimpur	{ Civil .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	87	..	1
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	115	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Sylhet.....	{ Civil .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	51	287	..	2
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	99	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	26	..	..
Cachar	{ Civil .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	11	73	..	8
	{ Frontier .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	89	..	..
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..
Khási Hills	{ Civil .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	99	..	1
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Gáro Hills	Frontier.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	189	..	1
Nága „	Frontier.....	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	{ Civil .. .. .	..	10	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	10	158	1,044	..	2
	{ Frontier .. .	..	3	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	92	927	..	1
	{ Municipal .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	77	..	..
Grand Total .....		..	13	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	11	259	2,048	..	2

CR.

the Police in the Province of Assam during the year 1881.

		Religion or Caste.																		
Other foreigners.		Officers.																		
Superintendents.	Subordinate Officers.	Muhammadans.							Hindus.											
		On Rs. 100 and upwards.	Below Rs. 100.	Constables and buglers.	Christians.	Assamese.	Bengali.		Natives of the Province.	Foreigners.	Chetrees and Rajputs.	Gurkhas.	Sikhs.	Assamese Koita.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris.	Bengalis other than Brahmans.		Hindustanis of all other castes.	
							Natives of the Province.	Foreigners.									Natives of the Province.	Foreigners.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
..	..	9	16	2	5	6	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	11	..	..
..	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	2	3	..	1	..	1	6	..	2	6	..	..
..	..	2	13	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	2	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	11	..	2	5	..	..
..	..	2	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	1	13	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	1	2	..	..
..
..	..	2	8	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	12	1	..	2	1	..
..	..	10	62	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	1	11	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	1	..	..
..	1	13	79	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	3	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5	2	..	15	..	..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	31	13	..	..
..	1	12	153	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	3	1	1	..	3	4	..	..	2	..
..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
..	2	2	..	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	4	..	..
..	2	37	322	..	1	..	..	2	..	3	9	21	3	..	3	6	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	6	43	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..
..	..	17	111	2	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	7	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
..	2	41	301	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
..
..	6	12	89	13	12	21	2	..	16	22	2	3	..	6	46	5	60	31	2	..
..	..	144	1,118	7	1	..	8	3	..	11	27	52	16	2	13	14	..	..	5	..
..	..	1	20	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	..
..	6	157	1,227	20	13	23	2	8	3	16	33	29	56	16	11	60	19	61	31	7

District		Religion or Caste																
		Officers.							Other religions.								Mohammadans.	
		Nāgas.	Kukis.	Gāros.	Khamptis.	Cocharis and Rabhas.	Klāstas.	Burmese.	Christians.	Bengali.			Hindustanis.	Punjabi.	Brahmans.			
										Assamese.	Natives of the Province.	Foreigners.			Natives of the Province.	Foreigners.		
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54				
Goalpara ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	12	..	8	4	..	..	..
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Kāmrūp ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	4	..
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	3	..	..	7	..	..	1
Nowgong ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsāgar ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	(Frontier .....	..	..	1	..	6	..	..	3	..	..	4	1	..	4
	(Municipal .....	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	2
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	2	..	..	19	1	..	4
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Sylhet	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	1	2	..	21	9
	(Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	3	1	..	3	..	..	16
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..
Cachar ...	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	..	..	..	2	7
	(Frontier .....	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	4	..	8	..	..	3
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	5
Khāsi Hills	(Civil .....	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	7
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Gāro Hills	Frontier .....	..	..	..	..	9	2	3	6	1	..	..	2	..	6
Nāga "	Frontier .....	..	..	10	..	13	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	(Civil .....	..	..	..	1	13	11	..	23	131	9	10	1	30	24
	(Frontier .....	..	2	11	..	74	2	3	15	6	..	43	6	..	24		
	(Municipal .....	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	15	..	3	..	..	2
Grand Total .....	..	2	11	1	88	14	3	10	40	151	9	56	7	30	46		

7.—(Concluded.)

—(Continued.)

Men.

Hindus.										Other religions.							Grand Total of Officers and Men.
Chetres and Rajpoots.	Goorkhas.	Sikhs.	Assamese Kolia.	Assamese of all other castes.	Manipuris.	Bengalis not Brahmans.		Hindus of all other castes.	Nagas.	Kukis.	Garos.	Cocharis and Rabhas.	Khaisias.	Mikirs.	Bhutias.	Burmese.		72
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
5	4	..	4	49	..	..	28	1	..	..	3	44	..	..	..	..	210
3	31	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	49	..	..	..	..	110
..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
..	..	..	11	41	..	..	23	..	..	..	8	54	..	..	..	..	182
5	2	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	75	..	3	..	..	110
5	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	39
2	..	..	8	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	117
7	8	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	118	..	..	..	..	173
..	..	..	17	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	..	..	100
8	3	..	1	5	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	37	..	..	..	1	66
5	..	..	11	67	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	112
36	10	1	2	29	2	..	..	8	..	..	2	73	..	..	..	..	195
..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
1	..	..	..	39	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	45	..	..	2	1	119
5	35	9	..	15	..	..	..	6	..	..	2	95	..	..	1	..	217
2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
2	..	..	..	..	1	172	33	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	407
26	98	2	..	4	7	..	..	8	..	3	4	77	..	..	..	..	282
2	..	..	..	..	..	17	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
..	..	..	..	2	2	26	7	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	109
6	303	2	..	22	7	..	..	1	1	14	..	35	1	1	..	1	465
2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
22	7	1	..	10	1	..	..	10	..	22	..	43	11	7	..	..	160
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	7
16	77	1	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	55	107	..	..	8	15	335
11	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	52	149	..	..	..	..	847
37	11	1	51	345	4	198	91	23	..	22	11	201	11	8	2	1	1,516
123	631	18	3	84	26	..	..	48	1	17	138	815	1	4	9	17	2,300
11	2	..	23	9	..	19	1	6	..	..	1	5	2	..	..	..	111
171	644	19	77	438	30	217	92	77	1	39	150	1,021	14	12	11	18	3,927

E.—MILITARY.

1. Statement showing the strength, cost, and other particulars of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

ARM OF SERVICE.	Total number of fighting officers and men.						Detail of Force at the end of year.						Average amount pay and allowances of each class.							
	Remaining at the end of last year.	Recruited this year.	Died.		Total.	Invalided.	Discharged, deserted, &c.	Remaining 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 contingencies.
			In action.	Otherwise.							European commissioned officers.	Native commissioned officers.	Non-commissioned officers.							
12th K.-I.G. Regiment, Native Infantry.	889	4	11	11	9	79	764	1	..	9	16	80	659	61	7,886 12	1,262 3 9	225 3 4	144 7 4	89 13 1	9,962 7 6
42nd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	781	186	87	37	56	17	807	1	2	9	15	71	721	53	56,280 0	12,960 0 0	14,880 0 0	91,200 0 0	6,000 0 0	1,89,880 0 0
43rd Regiment, Assam Light Infantry.	873	79	21	21	34	58	828	1	..	9	16	80	683	32	57,175 14	13,438 0 0	15,268 10 8	85,201 10 0	1,906 3 0	2,00,099 8 0
44th Regiment, Syhet Light Infantry.	802	144	15	15	48	76	808	1	..	10	16	80	702	36	60,815 0	13,685 0 0	15,491 0 0	1,00,663 0 0	5,341 0 0	2,05,430 0 0

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E.—MILITARY.

2. Statement showing the distribution and employment of the Army attached to the Province of Assam in the year 1881.

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 each quarters 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 a weekly instruction, &c.	
				On duty.	Off duty.	On duty.	Off duty.		On duty.	With corps or company on duty.				On furlough.
13th K.-i-G. Regiment	Cachar ..	5	38	286	40	376	....	45-63	290-75	28-63	7	135	150
43rd Regiment, A. L. I.	Kohima ..	5	42	392	70	140	....	100	265	NIL.	15	201	64
43rd A. L. I.	Dibrugarh ..	6	19	214	30	605	100-36	215-64	6-00	1	156	89
44th S. L. I.	Shillong ..	4	58	385	30	254	28	306	29	18	202	99

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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.

Classification according to religion, races, &c.	Number.	AVERAGE			General physiognomy and characteristics of each race and caste.	
		Age.	Height.	Weight.		
12th N. I.	Muhammadans .	276	27 0	5 9½	9 0	Good soldiers.
	Hindus	201	26 8	5 8	9 0	Features Ary-an type.
	Sikhs	253	25 6	5 8½	9 4	Excellent soldiers.
	Other castes ...	25	26 0	5 8	8 13	Inferior caste but fair soldiers.
42nd N. I.	Christians	1	38 0	5 5	Mds. Srs. 1 36	
	Hindus	518	28 6	5 5	1 38	Tartar features; excellent soldiers.
	Hindustanees, Hindus, and Muhammadans	110	33 0	5 7	1 38	Full fair ditto
	Sikhs	178	32 0	5 8	2 4	Full excellent soldiers.
43rd N. I.	Christians	3	23 0	6 2	116	
	Muhammadans .	37	31 0	5 6	131	
	Hindus	788	23-30	5 5	126	
44th N. I.	Christians	7	26 0	5 3	Md. Srs. 1 30	Caucasian type.
	Muhammadans .	16	28 0	5 4	1 28	Ditto ditto
	Hindus	775	30 8	5 2	1 27	Mongolian ditto.

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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.*

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[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 1881-82.*

(See Chapter IV., Section 7).

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[57]

B.—PUBLIC WORKS.

2. *Statement showing the Income and Expenditure on reproductive works for 1881-82.—[Blank.]*

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[58]

C.—RAILWAYS.

[Blank, there being no Railway in the Province.]

[59]

D.—MARINE, I.

1. Statement showing the various Government Ships and Vessels employed in the Province of Assam in the year 1881-82.

DETAILS 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.
	Tons.	N. H.P.					
Koladyne	200	90	5	39	52,640		
Gogra	360	...	1	22	6,971		
Sunamukhi	30	..	1	16	9,696		
Lark	25	1	8	7,028		
Dove	50	35	1	9	6,197		
Hawk	6	12	1	5	10,166		
Kestrel	40	1	9			

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D.—MARINE, II.

2. Statement showing the number of Officers and Men employed otherwise than in Government Vessels in the Province of Assam in the year 1881-82.

Description of establishment.	Number of officers.	Number of men.	Total annual cost.	Total annual earnings.	REMARKS
Goálpára coal depot	1	.....	1,215-8-3	.....	} Abolished.
Pilot establishment .....	.....	3			
Kámrup coal depot .. .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang ditto .....	.....	.....	.....	.....

1. Crops cultivated, in acres (1881-82).

Districts.	Area of rainy-season crops in acres.										Area of dry-season crops in acres.							Grand Total.	
	Rice.	Indian-corn.	Other grains.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Cotton.	Sugar.	Tea.	Potatoes.	Other crops.	Silk.	Total.	Makhalal.	Rice.	Other grains.	Oil-seeds.	Others.		Pulse.	Total.
Burmá Valley districts.	1,400,000	..	..	..	20,000	5,000	8,000	19,576	..	5,000	..	1,467,576	..	192,354	100,000	200,000	20,000	..	512,354
	202,000	..	..	..	100	2,500	300	44,464	..	..	..	247,268	..	..	5,500	1,000	..	..	6,500
Brahmaputra Valley districts.	88,832	..	241	..	..	..	18	343	..	..	..	89,434	268	241	1,697	..	..	..	61,570
	423,025	..	27,514	..	..	..	4,381	6,040	..	..	..	460,960	18,440	27,514	68,949	..	..	..	104,903
	168,268	..	15,389	..	..	..	1,897	14,917	..	..	..	200,461	6,400	15,389	7,503	..	..	..	29,292
	182,873	..	14,680	..	..	..	5,964	10,011	..	..	..	213,528	12,594	14,680	41,262	..	..	..	71,226
	208,255	..	28,186	..	..	..	3,777	37,572	..	..	..	378,790	6,836	28,186	10,435	..	..	..	46,437
Lakhimpur.	61,941	..	3,331	..	..	718	15,262	..	..	..	61,283	1,368	..	3,331	1,513	..	..	6,212	
Hill districts.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	59,880	9,460	48,360	..	..	1,076	..	242	83,860	..	..	162,898	..	..	..	..	..	..	162,898

Níga "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

E.—AGRICULTURE.

2. Stock (1881-82).

Districts.	Cows and bullocks.	Horses.	Ponies.	Donkeys.	Sheep and goats.	Figs.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Boats.	REMARKS.
Sylhet	400,000	25	1,900	60,000	200,000	35	225,000	150,000	These figures are supplied by the Nazir on guess.
Cachar	94,280	20	1,200	.....	12,000	900	70	36,000	1,400
Goalpára	291,000	50	645	50	75,000	19,000	100	91,500	5,700	
Kámrúp	327,017	155	1,334	11	31,244	88,303	216	11,320	540	
Darrang.....	87,020	49	1,500	9	119,000	14,050	500	26,000	2,500	
Nowgong .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	30,929	196	575	181	1,894	1,170	750	11,765	762	
Gáro Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khási and Jaintiá Hills ...	35,258	10	120	.....	10,219	12,388	20	2,115	50
Nága Hills .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

E.—AGRICULTURE.
3. Rates of Rent and Produce (1881-82).

DISTRICTS.	AVERAGE RENT PER ACRE FOR LAND SUITED FOR										AVERAGE PRODUCE OF LAND PER ACRE IN POUNDS.														
	Rice.	Wheat.	Interior grain.	Indigo.	Cotton.	Opium.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Rice.	Wheat.	Interior food-grain.	Indigo.	Cotton.	Opium.	Oil-seeds.	Fibres.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Tea.	Pulse.	Maize &c.	Potatoes.	
	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.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Barmá Valley.	1 13 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 13 8	1 496	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cachar	2 13 0	.....	1 1 0	.....	.....	.....	1 9 0	.....	.....	.....	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Syhet.	2 0 0	2 0 0	1 8 0	.....	.....	.....	1 8 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	1,654	700	1,066	1,485	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Godápara	1 9 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 8 2	.....	.....	.....	1,117	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kámrup	1 14 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,290	.....	120	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	1 11 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,819	.....	640	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	1 14 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 8 2	.....	.....	.....	1,643	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sbeágar	1 14 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	.....	.....	.....	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	1,971	984	984	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gáro Hills	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Khási "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	640	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nága "	1 1 7	0 14	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

F.—PRICES OF PRODUCE AND LABOUR AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1881-82.

1. Produce.

Districts.	Price of produce per maund of 80lbs.															Mustard Oil.							
	Rice.	Wheat.	Linseed.	Jute.	Cotton.	Sugar.	Salt.	Molasses.	Honey.	Potatoes, per maund.	Gram.	Pulse.	Tea.	Matkatal.	Plongh-bullocks, each.		Sheep, each.	Fish, per seer.	Iron, per maund.	Ghee.	Native common salt.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22		
Sylhet	Rs. A. P. Rs. A.	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.	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.	Rs. A. P. Rs. A. P.	
	1 2 0 3 0	3 3 5 6 7 0	0 15 14 4 4 1 4 14 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 5 5 2 2 6	..	1 10 1 25 0 0	4 8 0 0 2 0 4 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cachar	1 14 0 ..	7 5 0 0 5 0	0 15 0 0 4 6 0 4 & 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 7 0 2 8 0	60 0	1 13 0 15 0 0	4 0 0 0 6 20 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ..	2 0 2 4 ..	3 0 0 7 0	0 15 0 0 5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0 80 6	...	20 0 0 2 8 0	0 2 0 7 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kamrup ..	2 0 0 ..	4 0 0 8 0	0 16 0 0 5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 0 60 0	...	25 0 0 4 0 0	7 0 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ..	2 8 0 ..	5 0 0 10 0	0 20 0 0 5 8 0 7 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0 80 0	...	...	3 0 0 0 2 0 7 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong ..	2 8 0 ..	5 0 0 5 4 0	.....	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 0 0 40 0	.....	20 0 0 3 0 0	0 4 0 7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibsagar ..	2 14 0 ..	6 8 0 5 0	0 18 0 0 4 8 0 8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 0 0 82 0	.....	35 0 0 3 0 0	0 4 0 6 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur.	2 8 0 5 0 ..	6 0 0 5 0	0 20 0 0 5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 0 0 0 8 0 10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garo Hills.	2 0 0 ..	2 12 0 14 8	0 20 0 0 7 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 8 0 4 0 6 4	3-8 to 4 per seer.	3 8 0 8 12 0	3 8 0 12 0 20 0	0 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20 0 0
Khasi " ..	1 12 0 ..	3 8 0 17 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 10 0 15 30	4-8 to 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Naga " ..	5 0 0 ..	5 0 0	0 40 0 50 15 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 0 15	.....	30 0 40	6 to 7	8 to 10	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 0 40

[65] F.—PRICES OF PRODUCE AND LABOUR AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1881-82.

2. Labour.

Districts.	Wages per diem.		Cart per day	Elephant per day.	Donkeys per score per day.	Boat per day.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.				
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.
Sylhet	0 8 0	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	2 0 0
Cachar	As. 12 to Re. 1	As. 6 to 8	0 13 0	.....	.....	Re. 1-4 to Rs. 4 per day.
Goalpara	0 7 0	0 4 0	1 4 0	.....	.....	2 0 0
Kamrup	0 8 0	0 4 0	2 0 0	.....	.....	0 4 0
Darrang	0 12 0	0 5 0	1 4 0	.....	.....	0 4 0
Nowgong	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 0 0	.....	.....	0 8 0
Sib-sagar	0 12 0	0 4 6	2 0 0	3 0 0	.....	0 6 0
Lakhimpur	2 0 0	0 7 0	2 4 0	4 0 0	.....	0 8 0
Garo Hills .....	.....	" 3 to 5	1 0 0	.....	.....	Re. 1 to Rs. 2 "
Khasi "	As. 8 to Re. 1-4	" 4 to 10	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Naga "	Re. 1 to 1-10	" 6 to Re. 1	Rs. 3 to 3-8	.....	.....	As. 8 to Re. 1 "

[66] G.—MINES AND QUARRIES (1881-82).

Where situated.	Mineral produced.	Number of mines.	Annual produce.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
Cachar—			Maunds	
Hailakandi	Limestone-quarry	Not worked.		
Sylhet—				
In pargana Jálfiang, in Jaintia	Limestone	1	50,000	
Gáro Hills—				
Mosheshkhali	Ditto	1	3,137	
Near Sijie	Ditto	Nil.	Nil.	
Khási and Jaintia Hills—				
Khási Hills	{ Lime	25		
	{ Coal	11		
Jaintia Hills.....	{ Lime	7		
	{ Coal	5		
Lakhimpur—				
Makum, Tirap and Namdang	Coal	3		

		Class of Manufactures.										Remarks.	
		Silk.	Cotton.	Wool.	Other fibres.	Paper.	Wood.	Iron.	Brass and copper.	Building.	Earthenware.	Goldsmith.	Remarks.
1.	Number of mills and large manufactories.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2.	Private looms or small works...	.....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	50	100	10	.....	.....	.....	.....
3.	Number of work- men in large works. { Male { Female ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4.	Number of workmen in small works, or independent artisans.	.....	9,596	115	388	.....	490	2,581	104	3,315	536	872	.....
5.	Number of European Superintendents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6.	Value of block in ditto ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.	Estimated annual outturn of all works.	.....	48,000	.....	21	.....	32,205	19,853	2,786	15,159	2,825	1,632	.....

I.—TRADE.

No. 1.—Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported into Assam from non-British Territories during the year 1881-82.

[68]

Showing the quantity and value of articles imported

1	2	3	Bh
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.	Quantity.
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—		
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number	673
	2. Cattle	"	428
	3. Sheep and goats	"	8
	4. Other kinds	"	..
I.(a)	Betel-leaves	Maunds	..
II.	Borax	"	..
III.	Canes and rattans	"	..
IV.	Caoutchouc	"	25
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Value	..
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds	..
VI.(a)	Corals, real	lb.	..
VII.	Cotton, raw	Maunds	..
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—		
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"	..
	2. Ditto (Indian)	"	..
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Maunds	equal to
	4. Ditto (Indian)	"	yards.
IX.	Drugs and medicines—	Maunds	..
	1. Asafetida	"	..
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating	"	..
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	"	..
X.	Dyeing materials—	"	..
	1. Indigo	"	..
	2. Madder or manjit	"	3
	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	2,116
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds	..
	4. " manufactured	"	..
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—	Number	..
	1. Cocoanuts	Maunds	16
	2. All other kinds	"	..
XIII.(a)	Glass—	Maunds	..
	1. Beads and false pearls	"	..
XIV.	Grain and pulse—	"	..
	1. Wheat	"	..
	2. Gram and pulse	"	..
	3. Other spring crops	"	..
	4. Rice, husked	"	..
	5. Rice, unhusked	"	..
	6. Other rain crops	"	..
XV.	Gums and resins	"	..
XVI.	Hides and skins—	Maunds	..
	1. Hides of cattle	"	..
	2. Skins of sheep, goats and small animals	"	..
XVII.	Horns	"	..
XVII.(a)	Ivory	"	..
XVIII.	Lac—	"	..
	1. Dye	"	11
	2. Shell and button	"	..
	3. Stick	"	58

PORTS.

Import from non-British Territories during the year 1881-82.

Rowing.	6		7		8		9		10		11		No.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
862	47,716	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,535	74,399	I	
6	76	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	76	II	
328	925	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	670	2,180	III.	
70	140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116	228	IV.	
		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	V.	
145	7,349	268	9,717	1,347	61,907	1,003	8,717	798	586	.....	2,801	4,297	VI.	
								959	88,151	86	1,471	2,340-5	1,23,026	VI. (a)
						625	215	.....	.....	.....	.....	625	215	VII.
						5,128	29,834	98-5	472	.....	.....	5,221-6	80,806	VIII.
						.....	.....	6	250	.....	.....	6	250	IX.
						.....	.....	9-21	368	.....	.....	9-21	368	X.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	3-39	621	3-39	621	XI.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	1,036	.....	1,036	.....	XIII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XIII. (a)
						.....	.....	23-11	89	.....	.....	112-11	.....	XIV.
						.....	.....	543	666	.....	.....	11,832	3,870	XV.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XVI.
18	2,586	.....	80	200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	634	3,139	XVII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	17	XVIII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XIX.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XX.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXI.
69	1,387	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,985	2,171	XXII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXIII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXIII.
114	5,587	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	780	5,661	XXIII. (a)
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXIV.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXV.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXVI.
61	310	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	310	XXVII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	678-30	1,718	XXVII. (a)
			383	1,542	295	176	200ra	.....	.....	.....	.....	244	467	XXVIII.
			203	426	40	40	1	1	.....	.....	.....	14	70	XXIX.
14	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	70	XXX.
85	3,390	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	185	3,390	XV.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XVI.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XVII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XVII. (a)
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XVIII.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XX.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXI.
						.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXII.
71	40	1-20	600	7-24	1,940	9	2,798	18-9	5,878	XXIII.
						XXIV.
						XXV.
						XXVI.
147	16,376	XXVII.
						XXVIII.
						XXIX.
						XXX.

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Showing the quantity and value of articles imported

1	2	Denomination.	Quantity.
No.	List of Articles.		
XIX.	Leather—		
	1. Unmanufactured	Value	
	2. Manufactured	"	
XX.	Liquors	"	
XXI.	Mats	"	
XXII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—		
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds	
	2. Iron	"	16 5/8
	3. Other metals	"	
XXII.(a)	Musk	Oz.	3
XXIII.	Opium	Maunds	
XXIV.	Paints and colours	"	
XXV.	Provisions—	"	
	1. Ghee	"	2
	2. Fish (dry)	"	
	3. Other kinds	"	
XXVII.	Salt	"	25
XXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.—		
	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 kinds	"	
XXX.	Silk—		
	1. Raw	"	
	2. Manufactured	Maunds	7
XXXI.	Spices—		
	1. Betel-nuts	equal to	4
	2. Other kinds	Maunds	45
XXXII.	Stone and marble	"	
XXXIII.	Sugar—		
	1. Refined	"	
	2. Unrefined	"	
XXXIV.	Tea—		
	1. Indian	"	
	2. Foreign	"	
XXXV.	Tobacco	"	
XXXV.(a)	Wax	"	6
XXXVI.	Wood—		
	1. Timber	Number	1
	2. Firewood	Maunds	
	3. Bamboos	Number	
XXXVII.	Wool—		
	1. Raw	Maunds	
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Maunds	
	3. Shawls	equal to	yards.
	4. Blankets	Number	
XXXVII.(a)	Yaks' tails	"	2
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—		
	1. Unmanufactured	Value	
	2. Manufactured	"	
XXXVIII.a	Treasure—		
	Gold	"	
	Silver	"	
	Total	Value	

PORTS.

Assam from non-British Territories during the year 1881-82.

5		6		7		8		9		10		11		No.	
Towang.		Dafia Hills.		Naga and Miehmi Hills.		Hill Tipperah.		Lushai Hills.		Manipur.		TOTAL.			
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
Re.		Re.		Re.		Re.		Re.		Re.		Re.			
														XIX.	
													5	XX.	
						50	682						712	XXI.	
														XXII.	
								2	73	3 srs.	7	2-3	80		
								0-16-14	24			0-26 14	31		
460	2,672							53½ srs.	263	2-31	180	3-24-8	442		
												472	2,972	XXII.(a)	
														XXIII.	
														XXIV.	
														XXV.	
														XXVI.	
516	20,240												518	20,320	
4,861	25,656			54	271								5,228	26,992	
														XXVII.	
														XXVIII.	
														XXIX.	
							21	63					21	63	
							30	90					30	90	
							480	1,827					480	1,827	
											128	16,455	128	16,455	
														XXX.	
10 srs.	200											10 srs.	244		
												72		XXXI.	
2,668	28,444											3,088	30,838		
13	12											12	12	XXXII.	
														XXXIII.	
						185	731						185	731	
														XXXIV.	
343	12,580			5	200			30-17	1,210	26	1,020	480-17	18,592	XXXV.	
							10,899	1,49,769	557	2,723	21	76	11,286	1,52,928	XXXV.(a)
							1,197	258	8,905	916			5,102	1,199	XXXVI.
							2,792,967	34,199	432,445	9,523	133,750	2,707	3,359,152	47,029	XXXVII.
23,068	84,968												28,849	72,331	XXXVII.(a)
281	281												332	327	XXXVIII.
								13,125						13,125	
								2,490		328		273		10,324	XXXVIIIa
														6,100	
										6,586				6,586	
	2,44,089		9,717		64,296		2,38,170		64,483		28,512		7,09,899		

[69] Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1	2	3	4	
			Quantity.	Value.
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.		Bhutan.
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—			
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number.	..	..
	2. Cattle .....	"	..	..
	3. Sheep and goats .....	"	..	..
	4. Other kinds .....	"	..	..
I. (a)	Betel-leaves	Maunds.	..	63
II.	Borax .....	"	..	..
III.	Canes and rattans .....	"	..	..
IV.	Caoutchouc .....	"	..	..
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Value.	..	..
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds.	..	..
VI. (a)	Corals, real	lb.	..	..
VII.	Cotton, raw	Maunds	..	..
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—			
	1. Twist and yarn (European) .....	"	..	..
	2. Ditto (Indian) .....	"	..	..
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Maunds,	71	..
		equal to	2,800	..
		yards.	36	..
	4. Ditto (Indian)	Maunds,	5,214	2,000
		equal to		
		yards.		
IX.	Drugs and medicines—			
	1. Asafoetida	Maunds.	..	..
	2. Other sorts not intoxicating .....	"	..	..
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium) .....	"	..	..
X.	Dyeing materials—			
	1. Indigo .....	"	..	..
	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 .....	"	..	..
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—			
	1. Cocoanuts	Number.	..	..
	2. All other kinds	Maunds.	..	..
XIII. (a)	Glass—			
	1. Beads and false pearls .....	"	..	..
	2. Other kinds .....	"	..	..
XIV.	Grain and pulse—			
	1. Wheat	Maunds.	..	..
	2. Gram and pulse .....	"	..	..
	3. Other spring crops .....	"	..	..
	4. Rice, husked	"	1,197	1,847
	5. " unhusked	"	1,348	1,111
	6. Other rain crops .....	"	..	..
XV.	Gums and resins .....	"	..	..
XVI.	Hides and skins—			
	1. Hides of cattle .....	"	..	..
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals .....	"	..	..
XVII.	Horns .....	"	..	..
XVII. (a)	Ivory .....	"	..	..
XVIII.	Lac—			
	1. Dye .....	"	..	..
	2. Shell and button .....	"	..	..
	3. Stick .....	"	..	..

PORTS.

from Assam into non-British Territories during the year 1881-82.

5		6		7		8		9		10		11		No.
Towang.		Daha Hills.		Naga and Mishmi Hills.		Hill Tipperah.		Lushai Hills.		Manipur.		Total.		
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
10	80							4	8					I.
96	143					12	2	29	6			14	89	I(a)
598	1,204											598	1,204	II.
								2-10	110			2-10	110	III.
								4-14	373	87-35½	3,375	42-9½	3,748	IV.
64	2,596					157	6,224	0-38	99	199		64-38	2,695	V.
						28,523		89		3,160	12,141	516		VI.
99	6,717			30-18	1,731	2½ srs.		15,035		80,791		122,149		VI.(a)
8,616				7,638		9		35 srs.				166-10½		VII.
								118		41		81,695		VII.(a)
														VIII.
							2 chs.	4						IX.
												27srs.	77	X.
												4 chs.	2	XI.
	25							13			2	4 chs.	58	XII.
						230	637							XIII.
						7	2					7	2	XIII.(a)
														XIV.
														XV.
														XVI.
														XVII.
23	115						477	1,022				500	1,137	XVII.(a)
53	220											53	220	XVIII.
4,544	9,987	99	289	78	806			16,969	23,659			23,287	85,987	XVIII.(a)
1,845	11,706	4	2				28	1,978	1,339			16,198	14,363	XVIII.
														XV.
														XVI.
6	8											6	8	XVII.
														XVII.(a)
														XVIII.
							30 srs.	7				30 srs.	7	XVIII.(a)
												3	42	XVIII.

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Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1	2	3	4	
			Quantity.	Value.
			Bhutan.	
No.	List of Articles.	Denomination.		
XIX.	Leather—			
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	..	....
	2. Manufactured .....	"	..	....
XX.	Liquors .....	"	..	....
XXI.	Mats .....	"	..	....
XXII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—			
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds.	28	2,11
	2. Iron	"	2	2
	3. Other metals .....	"	..	....
XXII. (a)	Musk	Ounces.	..	....
XXIII.	Oils	Maunds.	..	....
XXIV.	Opium .....	"	..	....
XXV.	Paints and colours .....	"	..	....
XXVI.	Provisions—			
	1. Ghee .....	"	..	....
	2. Fish (dry) .....	"	..	....
	3. Other kinds .....	"	..	....
XXVII.	Salt .....	"	..	....
XXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.—			
	1. Saltpetre .....	"	..	....
XXIX.	2. Other saline substances .....	"	..	....
	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 kinds .....	"	..	....
XXX.	Silk—			
	1. Raw	"	1,32-10	12
	2. Manufactured	Maunds,	161-4	16,000
XXXI.	Spices—			
	1. Betel-nuts	equal to	12,234	24
	2. Other kinds	yards.	12	
XXXII.	Stone and marble .....	"	..	....
XXXIII.	Sugar—			
	1. Refined .....	"	..	....
	2. Unrefined .....	"	..	....
XXXIV.	Tea—			
	1. Indian .....	"	..	....
	2. Foreign .....	"	..	....
XXXV.	Tobacco .....	"	..	....
XXXV. (a)	Wax .....	"	..	....
XXXVI.	Wood—			
	1. Timber	Number.	..	....
	2. Firewood	Maunds.	..	....
	3. Bamboos	Number.	..	....
XXXVII.	Wool—			
	1. Raw	Maunds,	..	....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Maunds,	..	....
	3. Shawls	equal to	..	....
	4. Blankets	yards.	..	....
XXXVII. (a)	Yaks' tails .....	"	..	....
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—			
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.
	2. Manufactured	"
XXXVIII. (a)	Treasure—			
	Gold	"
	Silver	"
	Total	Value.	..	2,220

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Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported

1	2	3	4	
No.	List of articles.	Denomi- nation.	Quantity.	Value.
			Traffic card per	
			By boat.	
I.	Animals, living (for sale)—			
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number	.....	.....
	2. Cattle .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Sheep and goats .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	4. Poultry .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	5. Other kinds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
II.	Borax	Maunds	.....	.....
II.(a)	Building materials—			
	1. Lime and limestone	Number.	.....	.....
	3. Bricks and tiles	Rs.	.....	.....
III.	Canes and rattans	Maunds.	.....	.....
IV.	Caoutchouc	Rs	.....	.....
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	Maunds	.....	.....
VI.	Coal and coke	Maunds	24,675	120
VII.	Cotton, raw .. .. .	"	.....	.....
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—			
	1. Twist and yarn (European) .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Ditto (Indian) .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Piece-goods (European)	Rs.	.....	.....
	4. Ditto (Indian) .. .. .	"	.....	.....
IX.	Drugs and medicines—			
	1. Asafetida .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Other sorts, not intoxicating .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	Maunds	.....	.....
X.	Dyeing materials—			
	1. Indigo .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Madder or manjit .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Safflower .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	4. Turmeric	"	165	1
	5. Other kinds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	Rs.	.....	20
XII.	Fibrous products—			
	1. Jute, raw	Maunds	.....	.....
	2. Jute manufactured .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	(a). Gunny bags	Number	.....	.....
	(b). Ditto cloth	Pieces.	.....	.....
	3. Other fibres, raw	Maunds	.....	.....
	4. Ditto manufactured .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XIII.	Fruits, nuts, and vegetables—			
	1. Cocoanuts	Number	279,840	14
	2. Vegetables and all other kinds	Maunds	.....	.....
XIV.	Grain and pulse—			
	1. Wheat	Maunds	1,117	13
	2. Gram and pulse	"	15,653	30
	3. Other spring crops .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	4. Rice, husked	"	67,146	1,813
	5. Rice, unhusked	"	579	1
	6. Other rain crops .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XV.	Gums and resins .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XVI.	Hides and skins—			
	1. Hides of cattle	Number	.....	.....
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XVII.	Horns	Maunds	.....	.....
XVIII.	Jewellery, &c.—			
	1. Precious stones and pearls	Rs.	.....	.....
	2. Jewellery .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XIX.	Lac—			
	1. Dye	Maunds.	.....	.....
	2. Shell .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Stick and other kinds .. .. .	"	.....	.....

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CXXXI

RTS.

Assam from Bengal during the year 1881-82.

5		6		7		8		9		10		No.	
The Brahma-		Traffic carried along the Megna River.						Total traffic carried by boat.		Total traffic carried by steamer.			Grand Total.
steamer.		By boat.		By steamer.									
Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.		Value.		
.....	.....	.....	9	675	.....	.....	9	675	9	675	I.	
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	II.	
.....	.....	.....	7	168	.....	.....	20	480	20	480	II(a)	
312	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,312	III.
3,312	.....	.....	1,972	19	.....	.....	.....	1,972	19	1,972	19	IV.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	V.
2,088	13,525	8,452	7,020	5,160	37,600	20,489	9,818	7,258	47,418	27,747	17,747	VI.	
289	105	735	38	646	105	735	55	935	160	1,570	1,570	VII.	
4,16,845	.....	.....	218	18,845	.....	.....	6,628	4,30,690	6,628	4,30,690	4,30,690	VIII.
.....	24	720	.....	.....	24	720	.....	.....	24	720	720	IX.
18,38,410	.....	3,46,420	.....	27,78,444	.....	3,46,420	.....	48,16,854	.....	46,63,274	46,63,274	X.
.....	.....	19,100	.....	.....	.....	19,100	.....	.....	.....	19,100	19,100	XI.
84,874	.....	.....	.....	49,617	.....	.....	.....	1,34,491	.....	1,34,491	1,34,491	XII.
26,200	*217	6,510	3	1,200	*217	6,510	91	36,400	808	42,910	42,910	XIII.	
.....	.....	.....	1	12	.....	.....	1	12	.....	1	12	XIV.
4,708	1,798	9,439	623	2,492	1,964	9,977	1,900	7,200	3,764	17,177	17,177	XV.	
2,270	.....	.....	66	1,880	.....	.....	148	4,350	145	4,350	4,350	XVI.
31,211	.....	13,336	.....	1,497	.....	15,861	.....	22,708	.....	38,569	38,569	XVII.
243	50	162	.....	.....	75	237	54	243	129	480	480	XVIII.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XIX.
.....	Mds. 166	3,320	687	1,946	{ No. 950 Mds. 166 }	3,522	687	1,946	{ No. 1,637 Mds. 166 }	5,468	5,468		
73	.....	.....	1	6	.....	.....	12	78	12	78	78	
4,900	.....	.....	25	800	35	382	425	5,100	460	5,432	5,432	
78	1,010,875	63,180	.....	.....	1,290,779	70,796	1,675	78	1,292,354	70,874	70,874	XIII.
5,450	4,860	11,570	22	44	4,860	11,570	3,747	5,494	7,607	17,064	17,064	XIV.	
804	16,387	49,161	546	1,432	17,504	50,910	841	2,236	18,345	53,146	53,146	XV.	
1,30,165	188,914	3,77,828	10,421	20,842	2,04,569	3,98,369	1,08,006	2,10,010	3,09,574	6,08,379	6,08,379	XVI.	
504	.....	.....	40	75	.....	.....	309	579	309	579	579	XVII.
7,06,288	28,890	32,801	5	96,046	1,35,711	3,76,893	7,06,298	4,73,739	8,42,009	8,42,009	8,42,009	XVIII.	
167	.....	.....	.....	.....	330	375	149	167	469	442	442	XIX.
282	29	406	47	658	47	658	658		
.....		
.....	2	80	2	80	2	80	80		
.....		
.....	4	140	4	140	4	140	140		
.....	16	560	16	560	16	560	560		

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Statement showing the quantity and value of articles imported

1 No.	2 List of articles.	3 Denomination.	4 Traffic carried by boat.	
			Quantity.	Value.
XX.	Leather—			
	1. Unmanufactured	Number	.....	Rs.
	2. Manufactured	Rs.	.....	.....
XXI.	Liquors .. .. .		.....	.....
XXII.	Mats .. .. .		.....	1.8
XXIII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—			
	1. Brass and copper .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Iron .. .. .		.....	.....
	3. Other metals	Maunds	168	6.84
XXIV.	Oils .. .. .		.....	.....
XXV.	Opium .. .. .		.....	.....
XXVI.	Paints and colours .. .. .		.....	.....
XXVII.	Provisions—			
	1. Ghee .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Fish (dry) .. .. .		.....	.....
	2a. Potatoes .. .. .		.....	.....
	3. All other kinds .. .. .		.....	.....
XXVIII.	Salt .. .. .		.....	.....
XXIX.	Saltpetre, &c.—			
	1. Saltpetre .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Other saline substances .. .. .		.....	.....
XXX.	Seeds—			
	1. Oilseeds—			
	(a). Linseed .. .. .		.....	.....
	(b). Mustard and rape .. .. .		.....	.....
	(c). Til or gingelly .. .. .		.....	.....
	(d). Other oilseeds .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Other seeds—			
	(a) Indigo-seed .. .. .		.....	.....
	(b) Tea-seed .. .. .		.....	.....
	(c) Other kinds .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXI.	Silk—			
	1. Raw .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXII.	Spices—			
	1. Betel-nuts .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Other kinds .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXIII.	Stone and marble .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXIV.	Sugar—			
	1. Refined .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Unrefined .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXV.	Tea—			
	1. Indian .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Foreign .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXVI.	Tobacco .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXVII.	Wood—			
	1. Timber	Number.	.....	.....
	2. Firewood	Maunds.	.....	.....
	3. Bamboos	Number.	.....	.....
XXXVIII.	Wool—			
	1. Raw .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods) .. .. .		.....	.....
	3. Shawls .. .. .		.....	.....
XXXIX.	All other articles of merchandise—			
	1. Unmanufactured .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .. .. .		.....	.....
XL.	Treasure—			
	1. Gold .. .. .		.....	.....
	2. Silver .. .. .		.....	.....
	Total .. .. .		.....	.....

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

PORTS.—(Continued.)

to Assam from Bengal during the year 1881-82.

5		6		7		8		9		10		No.
king the Brahmaputra.		Traffic carried along the Megna River.				Total traffic carried by boat.		Total traffic carried by steamer.		Grand Total.		
By steamer.		By boat.		By steamer.								
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
.....	.....	.....	.....	25	131	.....	.....	25	131	25	131	XX.
.....	35,044	.....	.....	.....	20,600	.....	.....	.....	55,644	.....	55,644	XXI.
.....	4,24,306	.....	70,600	.....	2,23,823	.....	70,600	.....	6,47,629	.....	7,18,229	XXII.
.....	1,597	.....	.....	.....	160	.....	1,681	.....	1,757	.....	3,438	XXIII.
4,141	2,45,640	674	37,070	2,553	1,02,120	842	43,630	8,694	3,47,760	9,586	3,91,390	XXIV.
11,325	1,27,350	6,570	27,922	12,437	74,562	7,296	31,044	33,752	2,02,512	41,038	2,33,546	XXV.
22,350	6,69,900	875	31,878	11,151	3,34,530	388	32,615	33,481	10,04,430	33,869	10,37,045	XXVI.
8,149	48,894	3,550	84,070	5,188	24,104	41,199	3,93,579	13,337	82,998	54,536	4,76,577	XXVII.
1,674-39	17,41,974	.....	.....	72	74,880	.....	.....	1,746-39	1,816,854	1,746-39	18,16,854	XXVIII.
262	20,960	.....	.....	132	10,560	.....	.....	394	31,620	394	31,620	XXIX.
4,084	1,46,856	60	1,920	806	23,345	225	7,219	5,869	1,70,201	6,094	1,77,420	XXX.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	40	.....	.....	10	40	XXXI.
.....	.....	380	760	.....	.....	2,402	3,664	.....	.....	2,402	3,664	XXXII.
9,936	1,96,720	75,602	4,01,767	4,099	81,780	73,002	4,04,372	14,025	2,50,500	92,027	6,84,872	XXXIII.
1,04,373	4,61,402	2,48,741	10,57,149	9,958	42,943	3,86,900	16,96,826	1,14,331	4,94,345	5,00,231	20,91,171	XXXIV.
12	96	.....	.....	37	296	.....	.....	49	392	49	392	XXXV.
123	610	1,275	1,838	40	300	1,390	2,097	162	810	1,552	2,907	XXXVI.
18	55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	55	18	55	XXXVII.
.....	.....	1,290	4,192	.....	.....	1,290	4,192	.....	.....	1,290	4,192	XXXVIII.
43	184	.....	.....	73	228	.....	.....	116	362	116	362	XXXIX.
19	950	1,597	79,850	1	80	1,597	79,850	20	1,000	1,61	80,850	XXXX.
147	588	.....	.....	102	408	.....	.....	249	996	241	996	XXXXI.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39,800	.....	.....	.....	45,960	.....	45,960	XXXXII.
2,900	20,300	.....	2,410	.....	16,870	.....	.....	5,310	37,170	5,310	37,170	XXXXIII.
646	5,120	10,626	53,130	264	2,082	11,676	59,590	894	7,162	12,570	66,652	XXXXIV.
1,388	4,164	100	1,130	3,390	3,644	90	730	.....	.....	90	730	XXXXV.
10,478	1,57,170	12,979	1,93,264	877	13,155	13,155	2,04,557	11,855	1,70,825	24,520	3,74,882	XXXXVI.
2,304	17,280	73,992	3,94,960	362	2,714	1,05,537	4,72,346	2,666	19,994	1,08,203	4,92,339	XXXXVII.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXXXVIII.
1,269	3,248	1,04,209	9,37,881	644	4,185	1,23,569	11,12,573	1,913	12,433	1,26,482	11,26,806	XXXXIX.
719	1,797	334	1,164	.....	2,910	1,201	433	1,883	4,707	3,084	5,140	XXXXX.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXXXXI.
.....	81,867	.....	.....	.....	79,722	.....	.....	.....	1,61,579	.....	1,61,579	XXXXXII.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXXXXIII.
.....	4,34,370	.....	3,30,235	.....	1,42,701	.....	3,42,311	.....	5,76,971	.....	9,19,282	XXXXXIV.
.....	5,08,943	.....	12,378	.....	2,54,007	.....	72,062	.....	7,62,962	.....	8,35,014	XXXXXV.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXXXXVI.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	XXXXXVII.
.....	82,78,850	.....	46,63,198	.....	44,67,061	.....	60,29,346	.....	1,28,45,901	.....	1,88,76,247	XXXXXVIII.

[71]

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1	2	3	4	
			Traffic carried	
			By boat.	
No.	List of articles.	Denomination.	Quantity.	Value.
I.	Animals living (for sale)—			
	1. Horses, ponies, and mules	Number.	....	....
	2. Cattle .....	"	....	....
	3. Sheep and goats	"	....	....
	4. Other kinds....	"	....	....
I.(a)	Betel leaves ..			
II.	Borax ..	Maunds.	....	....
II.(a)	Building materials—			
	1. Lime and limestone	"	....	....
	2. Bricks and tiles	"	....	....
III.	Canes and rattans ..	Number.	....	....
IV.	Caoutchouc ..	Maunds.	3,935	7,355
V.	Chinese and Japanese ware	"	....	....
VI.	Coal and coke ..	Value.	....	....
VI.(a)	Corals, real ..	Maunds.	....	....
VII.	Cotton, raw ..	"	....	....
VIII.	Cotton, manufactured—	Maunds.	14,587	70,665
	1. Twist and yarn (European)	"	....	....
	2. " (Indian)	"	....	....
	3. Piece-goods (European)	"	....	....
	4. " (Indian)	"	....	....
IX.	Drugs and medicines—			
	1. Asafoetida	"	....	....
	2. Other sorts, not intoxicating	"	....	....
	3. Intoxicating drugs (other than opium)	Rs.	....	....
X.	Dyeing materials—			
	1. Indigo ..	"	....	....
	2. Maddar or manjit ..	"	....	....
	3. Safflower ..	"	....	....
	4. Turmeric ..	"	....	....
	5. Other kinds ..	"	....	....
XI.	Earthenware and porcelain	"	....	....
XII.	Fibrous products—	Number.	1,535	3
	1. Jute, raw ..	Maunds.	66,210	2,28,72
	2. Jute, manufactured gunny-bags)	Number.	....	....
	3. Other fibres raw ..	Maunds.	....	....
	4. Ditto manufactured ..	"	....	....
XIII.	Fruits and nuts—			
	1. Cocoanuts ..	Number.	....	....
	1a. Oranges ..	Maunds.	....	....
	2. All other kinds ..	"	4	5
XIII.(a)	Glass—			
	1. Beads and false pearls	Value.	....	....
	2. Other kinds ..	"	....	....
XIV.	Grain and pulse—			
	1. Wheat ..	Maunds.	710	52
	2. Gram and pulse ..	"	28	6
	3. Other spring crops	"	....	....
	4. Rice, husked ..	"	69	53
	5. Rice, unhusked ..	"	2,466	1,521
	6. Other rain crops	"	....	....
XV.	Gums and resins ..	"	....	....
XVI.	Hides and skins—			
	1. Hides of cattle	Maunds.	91,924	1,965
	2. Skins of sheep, goats, and small animals	"	....	....
XVII.	Horns ..	"	920	5
XVIIa.	Ivory ..	"	52	187
XVIII.	Lac—			
	1. Dye ..	"	....	....
	2. Shell and button	"	....	....
	3. Stick ..	"	86	25,60

[71]

Statement showing the quantity and value of articles exported

1 No.	2 List of articles.	3 Denomination.	4 Traffic carried per ton	
			By boat.	
			Quantity.	Value.
XIX.	Leather—			
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XX.	Liquors .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXI.	Mats .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXII.	Metals and manufactures of metals—			
	1. Brass and copper	Maunds.	56	1,071
	2. Iron .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Other metals	"	1	3
XXIIa.	Musk	Ounces.	.....	.....
XXIII.	Oils	Maunds.	1 m. 20 s.	14
XXIV.	Opium .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXV.	Paints and colours .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXVI.	Provisions—			
	1. Ghee	"	25 srs.	5
	2. Fish (dry)	"	534	2,475
	2a. Potatoes .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	3. Other kinds	"	976	3,442
XXVII.	Salt	"	61	24
XXVIII.	Saltpetre, &c.—			
	1. Saltpetre .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Other saline substances .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXIX.	Seeds—			
	1. Oilseeds—			
	(a) Linseed .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	(b) Mustard and rape	"	4,48,039	13,21,200
	(c) Lil or gingelly	"	5,155	15,077
	(d) Other oil-seeds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Other seeds—			
	(a) Indigo-seed .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	(b) Tea-seeds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	(c) Other kinds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXX.	Silk—			
	1. Raw .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXI.	Spices .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	1. Betel-nuts	"	19	39
	2. Other kinds .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXII.	Stone and marble .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXIII.	Sugar—			
	1. Refined	"	2	16
	2. Unrefined	"	106	221
XXXIV.	Tea—			
	1. Indi n .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	2. Foreign .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXV.	Tobacco	"	143	1,143
XXXVa.	Wax .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXVI.	Wood—			
	1. Timber	Number.	2,65,164	8,16,094
	2. Firewood	Maunds.	.....	.....
	3. Bamboos	Number.	.....	.....
XXXVII.	Wool—			
	1. Raw	Maunds.	.....	.....
	2. Manufactured (piece-goods)	Rs.	.....	.....
	3. Shawls .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	4. Blankets .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXVIIa.	Yak tails .. .. .	"	.....	.....
XXXVIII.	All other articles of merchandise—			
	1. Unmanufactured	Value.	.....	25,532
	2. Manufactured .. .. .	"	.....	1,000
XXXVIIIa.	Treasure .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	Gold .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	Silver .. .. .	"	.....	.....
	Total .. .. .	.....	.....	25,53,774

[72]

K.—COINAGE 1.

[Blank, there being no Mint in this Province.]

[73]

K.—PAPER CURRENCY, 2.

[Blank, there being no separate Currency Circle for Assam.]

Showing the current Income and Expenditure of the Dispensaries in Assam during the year 1881.

No.	Name of Dispensary.	A.		B.										C.		D.	D ₁ .	E.		F.	
		Cash balance on 1st Janu	ary.	As salaries.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	As registers and forms.	As European medicines.	For diet of police cases.	For sale of medicines.	Special allowance given by Government.	Total.	From Local or other Funds.	From Municipal Funds.	Interest on Investments.	Sale of securities or withdrawal of deposits.	From Europeans.	Subscriptions.		From Natives.	Total Income.
1	Shillong	285 6 0	634 13 4	272 1 1	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.
2	Cherra	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	Maunplang	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	Tura	111 4 0	214 7 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5	Dhubri	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	Goalpara	153 15 4	1,029 0 0	663 5 4	49 15 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7	Gauhati	840 0 3	375 0 0	84 4 6	52 2 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8	Lakhimpur	286 0 2	300 0 0	33 9 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9	Gaunhati	50 4 2	855 0 0	165 4 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	Barpeta	84 8 7	605 0 0	158 13 5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11	Nowgong	75 10 3	525 0 0	53 13 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12	Tezpur	74 2 6	648 0 0	150 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13	Mangaldai	11 14 8	420 0 0	169 2 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	Sibsagar	.....	.....	72 3 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	Forhat	.....	.....	60 4 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	Kohima	64 12 4	1,357 13 5	660 0 0	34 1 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Dibrugarh	101 3 7	675 0 0	168 15 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
18	Jaipur	59 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19	N. Lakhimpur	81 10 9	.....	101 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20	Sylhet	14 10 6	635 0 0	199 14 0	4 3 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
21	Sananganj	62 15 6	.....	48 14 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22	Karimganj	30 2 11	.....	34 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
23	Habiganj	107 6 9	.....	41 8 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	Slicher	.....	.....	28 8 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25	Hailakandi	.....	.....	150 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	.....	1,996 0 1	9,704 8 1	2,275 2 2	21 8 11	56 5 6	1 0	3,856 12 1	16,105 4 10	7,812 14 8	1780 0 0	283 11 7	973 15 8	6,636 0 7	5,116 9 6	89,704 8 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

L.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.—(Continued.)

No.	Name of Dispensary.	Expenditure.											Cash balance on 31st December.	Average cost of each diet.	Rs. As. P.	Percentage of total cost paid by Government.
		4														
		A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	Rs. As. P.						
On establishment.	On bazar medicines.	On European medicines, whether from Government store or purchased.	On diet.	On miscellaneous charges.	On buildings or repairs.	Invested during the year.	Total expenditure during the year.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.			
1	Shillong	1,187 5 4		303 2 4	671 15 10	231 4 6	512 4 0					3,066 6 6	52 5 3	0 4 1	39 35	
2	Cherra	107 1 0		8 5 0	456 6 5	114 2 9	400 0 0					507 1 0	133 7 0	0 2 3 1/2	100 00	
3	Maunpiang	214 7 0	25 10 0	74 15 9	310 15 9	140 8 0	1 14 9					1,820 13 11	183 14 5	0 1 11	65 38	
4	Dhurbri	1,055 3 7	41 9 6	54 4 6	201 13 8	95 10 0	88 8 6				165 13 6	1,801 12 1	215 1 4	0 1 11	52 19	
5	Goalpara	1,270 0 6	49 11 3	83 9 3	341 0 0	83 3 6	340 10 0					1,750 0 9	215 1 4	0 1 7	59 60	
6	Campur	771 0 0	99 1 0	179 5 5	141 3 9	90 5 0	161 3 6					1,379 7 13	89 1 7	0 1 7	39 60	
7	Lakhipur	644 4 8	55 1 5	164 5 2 1/2	51 1 10	212 10 3 1/2	18 3 3					1,316 5 8	227 13 7	0 3 3 1/2	70 98	
8	Gaiband	1,436 0 0	23 14 9	53 12 5 1/2	14 10 0	14 10 0	18 3 3					2,260 1 5	84 13 11	0 2 5 3/4	70 94	
9	Scarpeta	494 8 0	28 14 9	103 15 3	446 3 8	41 8 0	41 8 0					936 15 2	652 12 0	0 2 0	65 07	
10	Nowgong	1,104 0 0	92 13 9	150 0 0	538 10 0	73 4 18	109 12 0					2,070 6 7	0 4 2 1/2	38 59		
11	Mozpur	502 11 6	53 3 9	213 9 9	201 0 6	33 4 18	102 12 0					1,104 9 9	65 11 8	0 2 1 1/2	35 48	
12	Misgaidai	786 0 0	59 10 9	79 4 11	215 1 11	165 2 8 1/2	217 0 0				59 13 8	1,482 1 1 1/2	36 1 8	0 1 2 1/2	39 48	
13	Sibsaga	1,092 5 0	67 5 9	94 6 2	29 4 9	58 1 0	42 1 0				67 9 6	1,431 1 2 1/2	0 3 1	2 1	87 85	
14	Tockha	1,337 13 5		206 0 7	401 11 0	1,666 6 6	85 14 0					3,024 3 11	0 3 9	0 3 9	38 87	
15	Kabina	1,616 11 6	143 0 0		2 0 0	113 9 0	2 0 0				607 7 10	3,174 5 11	198 5 1	0 3 9	32 90	
16	Dibrugah	77 0 0			13 11 4 1/2	35 12 3	32 1 0				141 4 1	115 5 3	8 10 9	0 3 3	25 00	
17	Jorur	104 1 8 1/2	27 8 6	105 0 0	13 11 4 1/2	35 12 3	32 1 0				141 4 1	549 6 11	93 3 5	0 3 3	35 00	
18	North Lakhimpur	1,955 0 0	58 6 6	203 13 6	217 4 9	157 12 0	65 12 9					1,756 1 6	109 7 6	0 2 1 1/2	45 81	
19	Syhet	1,70 11 0	37 10 6	48 14 6		59 5 6	18 0 0					334 9 6	45 0 6	0 2 1 1/2	14 56	
20	Srimangal	118 5 9	9 11 3	58 6 5		86 1 0	47 8 0					318 0 5	2 1 6	0 2 1 1/2	10 69	
21	Karimganj	109 0 0	31 1 3	69 1 0		13 5 0	17 10 6				70 0 0	301 11 9	55 12 0	0 1 1 1/2	6 60	
22	Habiganj	1,125 12 0	126 7 9	253 12 0	1,703 9 11	433 2 9	568 12 0				750 1 0	4,964 9 5	0 1 1 1/2	0 1 1 1/2	6 60	
23	Shehar	516 0 0	34 6 1	150 0 0	1,703 9 11	96 10 3	56 12 0				188 0 0	1,075 5 11	0 1 1 1/2	0 1 1 1/2	19 22	
24	Hatiband															
25	Total	15,925 13 1 1/2	1,216 10 4	2,496 12 7 1/2	40,264 6 8 1/2	4,123 2 10 1/2	3,343 3 6	5,080 1 7			37,542 2 6 1/2	2,162 6 5	0 2 3	0 2 3	45 42	

PART IV.—STATISTICS OF INSTRUCTION.

[75] A.—Ecclesiastical.—Return of persons according to religious denominations in the Province of Assam in the year 1881-82.

Denomination.	2		3	4	5	6
	Number of persons.					
	a.	b.				
	Natives.	Others.	Number of ministers or priests.	Number of churches or buildings designed or used for worship.	Total annual income from Government.	REMARKS.
Church of England	640	1,086	8	7	17,625 1 1	
Church of Scotland	109	181	3	4	....
Protestant Dissenter	3,243	77	20	80	....
Roman Catholics	222	129	1	1	....
Lutherans	220	1	....	....	....
Unitarians	1	2	....	....	....
Armenians .....	....	5	....	....	....
Other Christians	1,027	200	....	....	....
Jew .....	....	....	....	....	....
Paral .....	....	....	....	....	....
Hindu	3,062,148	....	....	....	....
Muhammadian	1,317,022	....	....	....	....
Buddhist	6,663	....	....	....	....
Jain	168	....	....	....	....
Sikh	14	....	....	....	....
Other sects (Brahmos)	177	....	....	....	....
Aborigines	488,261	....	....	....	....

1.—Return of Schools and Scholars in

Area and population of the Province.			Schools and scholars.	Secondary education.			Pri- mary educa- tion
Number of Districts.	Total area.	Total population.		High schools.	Middle schools.	Lower schools.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 Naga Hills (1)	39,941 square miles [6,400 square miles]	Male..... 2,455,852* Female 2,331,194*	Institutions .. {				
			For males	11	81	69	1,5
			For females .....	....	1	....
			Total	11	83	69	1,5
			Scholars .. {				
			Males	2,264	5,867	2,862	31,7
			Females .....	....	55	1	1,4
			Total.....	2,264	5,922	2,863	35,3

UNIVERSITY.

Province of Assam for the official year 1881-82.

Special or technical education.					Percentage of schools and scholars to population.				REMARKS.
Surveying schools.	Normal schools.	Industrial schools.	Madrasahs.	Other schools.	High schools.	Middle schools.	Lower schools.	Primary schools.	
96	9c	9d	9e	9f	10	11	12	13	14
1	9	1	·0004	·0033	·0028	·0493	* Excluding Naga Hills, as no returns for schools in that district have been received.
....	....	....	....	....	....	·00004	....	·0080
1	9	1	....	....	·0002	·0017	·0014	·0268
60	333	12	....	....	·0022	·3389	·1165	1·373
....	9	....	....	....	....	·0023	·00004	·0683
60	331	12	....	....	·0473	·1237	·0598	·7378

2.—Return of Schools and Scholars in the

Class of instruction.	Government institutions.								Aided institutions.				
	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of scholars on 31st March learning			Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance		
					English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
High, Middle, and Lower Schools—													
Secondary Education.	For Boys	High Schools English.....	9	1,898	1,708	1,393	890	839	1,313	1	130	123	106
		Middle Schools	English.....	2	123	116	100	87	..	123	28	2,418	2,120	1,025
	Vernacular.....		18	1,382	1,231	1,043	1,382	25	1,537	1,365	1,061
	For Girls	Lower School Vernacular.....	68	2,811	2,601	1,698	
Primary Education.	For Boys	Middle Schools English.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	1	9	15	12
		Vernacular.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	34	697	706	442
	For Girls	English.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	61	813	775	667
		Vernacular.....	7	187	169	134	187	1,087	31,003	28,216	21,639
Schools for special or Technical Training—													
Engineering and Surveying Schools.....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Normal Schools for Masters.....	6	220	187	151	44	27	219	3	111	95	80		
Industrial Schools.....	..	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total.....	42	3,810	3,411	2,821	2,021	866	3,224	1,314	39,848	36,177	27,467		

(a) 37 girls, (b) 9 girls, (c) 1 girl.

TION.

Province of Assam for the official year 1881-82.

No.	Number of scholars on 31st March learning		Unaided Institutions under regular inspection.									Grand Total of institutions.	Grand Total of scholars on 31st March.			Grand Total of scholars on 31st March learning					Classification according to race or creed of the scholars on 31st March.				
	A classical language.	A vernacular language.	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	English.	Number of scholars on 31st March learning		Grand Total of scholars on 31st March.	English.		A classical language.	A vernacular language.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Native Christians.	Hindus.	Mohammadans.	Others.						
								A classical language.	A vernacular language.											28a	28b	28c	28d	28e	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28a	28b	28c	28d	28e							
25	37	93	1	236	227	180	228	55	181	11	2,264	2,243	931	1,537	3	39	1,903	302	17						
29	46	2,363	7	388	362	292	201	..	388	37	2,929 ^a	1,427	46	2,874	13	150	2,072	396	298						
..	42	1,537	1	65	63	48	..	..	65	44	2,984 ^b	....	42	2,984	..	8	2,462	474	40			
4	..	2,811	1	52	48	30	..	..	52	69	2,863 ^c	14	..	2,863	..	7	2,425	331	100				
9	..	....	..	....	....	....	..	..	....	1	9	9	..	....	9	..	....	....	..		
7	..	684	..	....	....	....	..	..	....	34	697 ^d	247	..	684	13	140	....	....	544
1	1,353	30,807	83	2,223	2,116	1,747	..	11	2,223	1,177	33,413 ^e	31	1,364	33,217	..	496	25,467	5,144	2,306						
9	..	819	..	....	....	....	..	..	....	6	319	129	..	319	..	148	....	....	171
..	..	813	4	77	75	64	..	..	77	65	890 ^f	....	..	890	..	127	576	2	185		
..	..	....	1	60	54	44	51	..	9	1	60	51	..	9	..	1	55	4	..				
4	..	111	..	....	....	....	..	..	....	9	331 ^g	58	27	330	2	81	171	28	49
..	..	....	1	12	16	12	..	..	12	1	12	....	..	12	..	..	12	....	..				
8	1,478	39,538	99	3,113	2,961	2,417	480	66	3,007	1,455	46,771	4,209	2,410	45,769	40	1,197	35,143	6,681	3,710						

63 girls. (e) 344 girls. (f) 28 boys. (g) 9 girls.

3.—Return of Expenditure on Educational Estab.

Class of Institutions.	Government Institutions.								Alms			
	Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Fees.	Municipal grants.	Other sources.	Total.	Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.
1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2	3a	3b	3c	3d
HIGH, MIDDLE, AND LOWER SCHOOLS—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
Secondary Education.												
For Boys { High Schools .. English ..	20,411	....	720	..	21,271	..	20	42,482	1,623	.....	..	180
For Boys { Middle ditto.. { English ..	512	....	..	..	316	..	..	828	10,361	.....	..	5,726
For Boys { Middle ditto.. { Vernacular	9,518	....	..	..	4,179	..	10	13,707	5,353	.....	..	3,644
For Boys { Lower ditto .. Ditto ..	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	3,259	340	..	1,372
For Girls .. Middle ditto .. English ..	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	4,000	.....	..	.....
PRIMARY SCHOOLS—												
Primary Education.												
For Boys { English ..	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	1,119	.....	..	.....
For Boys { Vernacular.....	345	....	..	..	.....	..	..	345	6,584	49,096	..	1,800
For Girls { English ..	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	325	.....	..	.....
For Girls { Vernacular.....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	318	1,698	..	500
SCHOOLS FOR SPECIAL OR TECHNICAL TRAINING—												
Engineering and Surveying Schools..	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Normal Schools for Masters	11,044	3,363	..	..	96	..	67	14,570	2,205	.....	..	.....
Industrial Schools .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Inspection } .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Direction } .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Scholarships { In Colleges .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Scholarships { In Schools.....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Buildings .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Miscellaneous .....	.....	....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	.....	..	.....
Total	41,830	3,363	730	..	25,862	..	97	71,882	35,127	51,134	..	13,247

... in the Province of Assam for the official year 1881-82.

No.	Unaided Institutions under regular inspection.						Total Government expenditure.	Total expenditure from other sources.	Grand Total of expenditure.	Percentage on total expenditure.	Average annual cost of educating each pupil.				
	Total.	Endowments.	Subscriptions.	Fees.	Other sources.	Total.					Government Institutions.		Aided Institutions.		Unaided Institutions.
											Total cost.	Cost to Government.	Total cost.	Cost to Government.		Total cost.
37	3	4a	4b	4c	4d	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
...	3,307	....	....	1,573	350	1,923	22,034	25,628	47,662	15.3	24 13 6	11 16 2	26 14 2	13 3 1	8 7 6
3,609	29,209	....	785	554	756	2,095	10,873	21,259	32,132	10.3	7 2 2	4 6 7	13 12 5	4 14 2	5 12 7
...	11,732	....	....	85	1,248	1,333	14,871	11,901	26,772	8.6	11 2 2	7 11 8	8 9 6	3 14 9	21 2 6
...	7,001	....	24	55	....	79	3,579	3,501	7,080	2.3	.....	.....	2 12 9	1 6 10	1 10 4
10	6,954	....	....	....	....	....	4,000	2,954	6,954	2.2	.....	.....	463 9 7	266 10 8	.....
4,749	5,883	....	....	....	....	....	1,119	4,764	5,883	1.9	.....	.....	8 5 4	1 9 4	.....
6,714	79,498	....	306	730	....	1,036	56,025	24,854	80,879	26.0	2 0 8	2 0 8	2 13 1	1 15 7	0 7 10
1,476	1,801	....	....	....	....	....	325	1,476	1,801	0.6	.....	.....	6 14 4	1 3 11	.....
1,612	3,637	....	104	....	62	166	2,016	1,787	3,803	1.2	.....	.....	4 11 1	2 3 7	4 7 7
...	....	713	....	32	....	745	....	745	745	0.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 12 8
1,165	3,370	....	....	....	....	....	16,612	1,328	17,940	5.8	77 14 8	77 0 8	35 7 7	23 3 4	.....
...	....	1,394	....	....	1,199	2,593	....	2,593	2,593	0.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	162 1 0
...	....	....	....	....	....	....	48,781	....	48,781	15.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
...	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,033	....	3,033	1.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
...	....	....	....	....	....	....	12,732	921	13,653	4.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
...	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,085	2,016	5,101	1.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
...	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,631	652	6,283	2.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
0,735	1,52,392	2,107	1,219	3,029	3,615	9,970	2,04,716	1,06,379	3,11,095	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

4.—Return showing the result of prescribed Examinations

Nature of examination.	Number of institutions sending examinees.			Number of examinees.		
	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Total.	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Matriculation Boys	9	2	11	45	5	...
Middle English Scholarship Examination ... Boys	...	12	12	...	22	...
Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination... Boys	14	33	47°	50	92	4
Primary Scholarship Examination ...	Boys	534	534	...	1,350†	...
	Girls	1	1	...	1	...

NOTE.—Percentage has been calculated on total number of examinees.

ATION.
 e Province of Assam during the official year 1881-82.

Number passed.				Percentage of passed scholars on total number on rolls at beginning of the year.		REMARKS.
Government institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.	Total.	Government institutions.	Other institutions.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
23	1	...	24	21.9	14.9	
...	13	...	13	.....	16.4	
25	43	1	69	26.9	42.6	° Includes 14 English schools, of which 9 sent up candidates to both Middle English and Vernacular Scholarship Examinations.
...	683‡	...	683‡	.....	32.9	† 2 girls. ‡ 1 girl.
...	1	...	1	.....	100.	

termining of the year on the rolls of the first class examined.

[80]

C.—EDUCATION.

1.—*Return of Scientific and Literary Societies for the official year beginning 1st April 1881, ending 31st March 1882.*

(BLANK.)

[81]

C. 2.—*Statistics of Instruction.—The Press, 1881-82.*

1	2	3	4	
District.	Name of Press.	Names of Proprietors.	PUBLICATIONS THEREAT.	
			Newspapers.	Periodicals.
Sylhet	Srihatta Prokash Press	Babu Grish Chandra Dás, " Loknath Sarma, " Sanat Kumár Dás, " Krishna Govind Dás, " Jay Chandra Dás.	Weekly newspaper in Bengali*.	....
Ditto	Paridarsak Press	Sylhet United Company Limited.	Ditto .....	....
Sibságar	Dharma Prokash Press	Aunhâti Gossain	<i>Asm Biláshai</i> (monthly)	....

* This paper was discontinued from the middle of the year.

PART V.—STATISTICS OF LIFE.

[81a] A.—*Deaths registered from different causes in the Districts and Towns of the Province of Assam during the year 1881.*

[81a]

Annual Form No. VI.—Deaths registered from different causes in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
No.	Districts and Towns.	Population according to Census of 1881.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel-complaints.	
A.—DISTRICTS.							
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY—							
1	Goálpára	441,067	48	82	4,761	383	
2	Kámrap	633,265	1,503	429	5,725	988	
3	Nowgong	306,331	710	537	3,883	883	
4	Darrang	270,423	226	168	3,927	698	
5	Sibságar	364,406	723	465	3,962	1,551	
6	Lakhimpur	172,740	51	108	1,016	504	
SURMÁ VALLEY—							
7	Sylhet	1,954,602	1,450	1,272	17,605	4,451	
8	Cachar	282,858	5	21	1,224	161	
Total of Districts.....		4,425,692	4,716	3,082	42,103	9,619	
B.—TOWNS.							
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY—							
1	Dhubri, district	Goálpára	5,165	9	5	79	6
2	Gauháti, „	Kámrap	11,695	216	2	73	123
3	Nowgong, „	Nowgong	4,248	20	12	51	15
4	Tezpur, „	Darrang	2,910	5	8	13
5	Sibságar, „	Sibságar	5,868	36	28	75	11
6	Dibrugarh, „	Lakhimpur	7,153	2	36	17
SURMÁ VALLEY—							
7	Sylhet, district	Sylhet	14,407	6	100	58
8	Silchar, „	Cachar	6,567	28	3
Total of Towns.....		58,013	294	47	450	246	
Total for the Province.....		4,483,705	5,010	3,129	42,553	9,865	

Districts and Towns of the Province of Assam during the year 1881.

8		9		10		11								
Injuries.				All other causes.	Total deaths from all causes.	Ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population.							From all causes.	
Suicide.		Wounding or accident.	Snake-bite or killed by wild beasts.			Total.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel-complaints.	Injuries.	All other causes.	For the year.	Mean of previous five years.
M.	F.													
...	3	38	60	101	377	5,752	·11	·18	10·79	·87	·23	·85	13·04	8·28
11	9	28	25	73	434	9,152	2·37	·68	9·04	1·56	·11	·69	14·45	8·77
10	3	50	33	95	1,146	7,254	2·32	1·75	12·67	2·88	·31	3·74	23·68	11·05
9	9	78	27	124	384	5,527	·83	·62	14·52	2·58	·46	1·42	20·43	22·46
3	1	39	22	65	277	7,043	1·98	1·27	10·87	4·25	·18	·76	19·32	19·98
...	...	25	3	28	255	1,962	·29	·62	5·88	2·92	·16	1·48	11·36	9·95
5	4	303	67	379	6,777	31,934	·74	·65	9·01	2·28	·19	3·47	16·34	6·90
...	2	34	12	48	497	1,956	·02	·07	4·32	·57	·17	1·76	6·91	7·50
38	31	595	249	913	10,147	70,580	1·07	·69	9·51	2·17	·20	2·29	15·95	9·78
...	...	3	.....	3	1	103	1·74	·97	15·29	1·16	·58	·19	19·94	.....
...	...	8	.....	8	40	462	18·47	·17	6·24	10·52	·68	3·42	39·50	21·46
...	...	.....	.....	.....	11	109	4·71	2·82	12·00	3·53	...	2·59	25·65	15·77
...	...	2	.....	2	30	58	1·72	...	2·75	4·47	·68	10·31	19·93	36·08
1	...	2	1	4	18	172	6·13	4·77	12·78	1·87	·68	3·07	29·31	27·77
4	...	.....	.....	4	23	82	·28	...	5·03	2·37	·56	3·21	11·46	22·78
...	...	.....	.....	.....	176	340	·42	...	6·94	4·02	...	12·21	23·59	38·59
...	...	.....	.....	.....	4	35	...	...	4·26	·46	...	·61	5·33	7·96
5	...	15	1	21	303	1,361	5·07	·81	7·76	4·24	·36	5·22	23·46	27·95
43	31	610	250	934	10,450	71,941	1·12	·69	9·49	2·20	·21	2·33	16·04	10·00

B.—Showing the diseases of the In-door and Out-door Patients.

1	2	General diseases.													Inflammation of the external ear.	
		Order A. Febrile or Zymotic diseases.						Order B. Constitutional diseases.						Ophthalmia.		
		Small-pox.	Malarious fever, ague, and remittent.	Cholera.	Other diseases of this order.	Rheumatic affections.	Syphilitic affections.	Scrofula.	Anæmia.	Leprosy.	Phtthisis.	Dropsy.	Other diseases of this order.			
No.	Name of Dispensary.															
1	Shillong .....	..	271	..	7	32	40	..	8	..	3	3	..	17	15
2	Cherra (eight months) ..	..	108	..	12	33	2	3	2	..	4	11	52	13	3
3	Mauphang .....	..	40	..	14	50	8	10	17	1	12	38	29	12	12
4	Tura .....	..	472	7	60	90	19	..	5	3	7	15	35	21	18
5	Dhubri .....	..	426	8	14	59	33	..	8	3	15	23	25	34	24
6	Goalpara .....	..	264	6	1	32	21	..	1	1	15	18	22	25	8
7	Gauripur .....	..	185	9	..	91	30	..	2	4	1	5	19	29	29
8	Lakhipur .....	..	166	1	2	40	22	..	5	8	2	9	27	22	49
9	Gauhati	15	450	20	35	90	22	..	13	6	16	17	21	21	49	
10	Barpeta .....	..	186	5	4	50	44	6	17	2	5	105	7	57	9
11	Nowgong	1	343	..	2	39	4	..	9	13	3	12	2	10	9	
12	Tezpur .....	..	189	..	99	10	13	..	2	..	4	9	41	4	9
13	Mangaldai .....	..	892	7	54	88	98	3	16	17	4	26	232	25	50
14	Sibsagar .....	..	528	..	..	78	13	..	6	6	..	11	13	28	32
15	Jorbhat	21	1,170	..	63	232	50	..	11	74	1	33	2	136	86	
16	Kohima .....	..	371	..	2	18	8	..	..	1	..	8	7	10	6
17	Dibrugarh .....	..	659	..	..	74	28	..	29	1	..	65	..	16	36
18	Jaipur .....	..	55	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19	North Lakhimpur	1	102	1	15	9	6	1	..	2	5	6	10	12	2	
20	Sylhet .....	..	661	16	19	482	185	8	17	10	5	32	31	121	111
21	Sunamgarj .....	..	127	2	2	46	11	2	..	5	..	2	6	20	23
22	Karimganj	1	223	4	10	174	130	2	16	17	6	13	38	40	35	
23	Habiganj	1	101	20	3	53	37	..	..	3	..	4	10	36	9
24	Silchar	1	990	42	50	323	160	22	72	12	16	73	121	160	177	
25	Hailakandi	1	501	1	..	533	94	..	52	10	15	10	6	50	161	
	Total		42	9,481	149	468	2,727	1,083	57	301	194	79	402	815	878	1,019

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

treated in the Dispensaries in Assam during the year 1881.

Diseases.														4	5			
Local diseases.														Total number of in-door and out-door patients treated in each dispensary.	Operations.			
Respiratory affections.	Heart diseases.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Worms.	Liver diseases.	Spleen diseases.	Gonorrhoea and its complications.	Abscesses, boils, and whitlows.	Skin diseases.	Ulcers.	Labour, premature, natural, and difficult.	Other local diseases.	Debility and old age.		Poisons and poisoned wounds.	Injuries.	Major.	Minor.
96	..	54	52	39	11	35	31	49	89	43	3	226	11	7	39	1,234	5	52
58	..	50	14	73	1	9	..	5	34	..	1	129	20	1	37	634	..	..
109	1	12	55	118	135	17	6	11	107	3	10	170	20	..	94	1,109	2	36
151	..	63	139	22	8	105	17	38	202	120	..	225	19	3	153	2,002	3	113
65	..	90	78	30	14	121	47	43	151	60	1	357	51	15	69	1,887	7	53
35	..	29	53	97	8	206	18	23	45	30	..	241	9	2	42	1,228	..	42
52	..	42	21	5	4	34	31	33	204	87	..	340	54	4	36	1,343	1	32
60	..	40	31	27	4	88	45	44	50	48	1	157	51	26	4	1,016	..	..
112	..	208	185	89	15	68	23	107	112	81	..	545	63	10	112	2,522	2	149
49	..	33	33	224	10	56	16	24	183	54	..	126	15	5	38	1,365	..	10
39	..	39	29	40	2	20	7	11	122	44	..	99	14	..	28	1,857	..	16
21	..	46	24	130	1	27	9	34	16	11	3	24	40	..	20	794	2	34
159	..	139	130	52	30	81	35	117	488	83	..	76	117	17	78	3,194	12	128
122	..	163	182	132	5	60	21	175	496	110	..	512	38	1	150	3,274	..	189
271	2	199	182	247	18	98	74	114	707	217	..	707	44	1	321	5,287	..	366
32	..	38	40	6	1	21	9	19	106	270	..	66	14	..	26	1,081	..	11
55	..	198	173	87	..	56	8	65	228	74	..	221	55	..	78	2,278	2	77
..	..	10	3	1	..	13	2	6	9	9	..	..	3	3	..	111	..	..
32	1	35	42	17	6	18	6	30	22	15	..	54	4	..	36	601	..	27
218	2	208	267	418	11	155	123	181	1,823	378	2	1,535	165	..	468	7,659	16	233
..	..	45	38	10	3	69	15	27	422	63	..	431	69	..	79	1,526	..	32
87	2	81	177	197	17	34	64	82	574	108	..	807	114	14	193	3,269	..	105
47	..	30	62	11	3	36	42	46	137	74	..	192	27	79	34	1,098	..	4
190	1	129	175	393	20	119	176	202	759	237	2	823	233	30	205	5,949	25	251
271	..	201	143	393	2	19	74	78	1,753	128	..	1,043	17	3	114	5,633	..	94
2,271	17	2,186	1,338	2,963	329	1,565	899	1,561	8,849	2,338	23	9,106	2,268	221	2,454	58,001	77	2,054

C.—Statement showing the total of all Vaccination Operations in the Province of Assam during the year 1881-82.

ASSAM ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

Districts.	Class of operations.	Number of dispensaries in each district to which a vaccinator is attached.	Total number of operators attached to dispensaries during the season.	Total number of persons vaccinated.	Average number of persons vaccinated by each vaccinator.	Primary vaccinations.			Re-vaccinations.		Percentage of successful vaccinations.	
						Total.	Successful.		Total.	Successful.		Primary.
							Under 1 year.	1 and under 6.					Total of all ages.
Khasi Hills	Civil Surgeon	1	1	24	24	94	6	15	22	91.66	...	
	Hospital-Assistants	1	2	49	24.50	49	6	33	45	91.83	...	
	Vaccinators	1	2	1,800	900	1,800	451	1,020	1,516	84.22	...	
	Total	1	5	1,873	874.60	1,873	463	1,068	1,583	84.51	...	
Garo Hills	Civil Surgeon	1	1	28	28	23	17	1	19	58.60	...	
	Hospital-Assistants	1	4	2,841	710.25	2,841	620	802	2,279	80.21	...	
	Ex-inoculators	1	3	305	101.66	305	25	201	305	100.00	...	
	Total	1	10	3,169	316.90	3,169	662	1,004	2,603	82.18	...	
Goalpara	Civil Surgeon	1	1	66	66	66	5	45	60	89.28	...	
	Hospital-Assistants	2	3	103	34.33	163	26	72	98	95.14	...	
	Vaccinators	2	14	4,701	335.78	4,640	491	3,318	3,809	82.09	...	
	Total	3	20	5,890	294.58	5,829	872	4,017	4,839	83.02	100.00	
Kamrup	Civil Surgeon	1	1	27	27	8	...	8	8	100.00	73.68	
	Hospital-Assistants	1	2	117	58.50	115	10	61	113	98.26	60.00	
	Vaccinators, Municipal	1	2	958	479	974	68	631	890	81	86.82	
	Total	3	76	10,463	137.81	10,371	1,450	6,781	10,037	97.84	100.00	
	Total	1	69	11,666	169.07	11,666	1,667	6,666	11,481	97.76	101.60	

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Category	1	332-	323	30	144	205	9	3	82-04	33-33
Nowgong	Civil Surgeon	61	61	30	98	50	.....	.....	81-06	.....
	Hospital-Assistants	1,180	343-33	1,180	74	686	.....	.....	81-01	.....
	Vaccinators	3	85	35	4	28	.....	.....	91-42	.....
	Ex-inoculators	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	6	1,608	1,599	109	836	1,310	9	3	81-92	33-33
Darrang	Civil Surgeon	297	263	263	202	235	34	34	90-49	100-00
	Hospital-Assistants	554	277	512	330	470	42	38	91-79	90-47
	Vaccinators	2,018	504-50	1,857	355	1,361	1,696	161	91-32	85-91
	Ex-inoculators	7	2,869	2,632	491	1,913	3,404	237	90-13	88-06
Total	7	3,650	3,644	2	20	36	9	3	56-25	100-00
Sibsagar	Civil Surgeon	908	181-60	851	132	568	735	57	86-36	92-98
	Hospital-Assistants	2,533	844-33	2,215	684	1,459	2,093	218	90-41	100-00
	Vaccinators	1,768	884	1,495	170	1,037	1,207	273	80-73	100-00
	Ex-inoculators	1	109	102	42	53	95	7	93-13	100-00
Total	15	5,391	4,527	980	3,137	4,166	564	560	86-30	99-39
Naga Hills	Civil Surgeon	32	22	22	2	6	.....	.....	100-00	.....
	Hospital-Assistants	153	153	153	6	31	151	.....	99-05	.....
	Vaccinators	1	5	5	.....	1	5	.....	100-00	.....
	Ex-inoculators	3	180	180	8	38	178	.....	98-88	.....
Total	3	318	318	178	78	215	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	Civil Surgeon	183	183	183	41	97	138	.....	75-40	.....
	Hospital-Assistants	722	120-33	722	162	375	537	.....	74-37	.....
	Vaccinators	671	335-50	647	151	278	429	24	66-30	83-33
	Ex-inoculators	1	587	587	.....	537	537	.....	100-00	.....
Total	10	2,113	2,089	354	1,287	1,641	24	20	78-55	83-33
Sylhet	Civil Surgeon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Hospital-Assistants	482	160-66	479	36	173	339	3	70-77	33-33
	Vaccinators	889	177-80	889	52	377	810	.....	91-11	.....
	Ex-inoculators	2	577	288-50	45	260	433	.....	75-04	.....
Total	11	1,948	1,779	133	810	1,582	3	1	81-33	33-33
Cachar	Civil Surgeon	132	132	132	17	53	91	.....	68-93	.....
	Hospital-Assistants	431	1-77-5	427	64	203	368	4	86-18	56-00
	Vaccinators	2,739	913	2,737	291	1,656	2,502	2	91-41	100-00
	Ex-inoculators	1	3,302	412-75	373	1,892	2,961	6	89-89	66-66
Total	16	40,809	226-45	38,128	22,638	34,698	1,181	1,118	88-67	94-66

* Compouuders also worked with Hospital-Assistants in the Naga Hills and Sylhet districts.
 † Four of these five vaccinators worked only six weeks during the season.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE
YEAR 1880-81.



SHILLONG:
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1882.

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1883.

