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REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE YEAR
1903-1904.



SHILLONG:
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.
1905.

Price Three Shillings.

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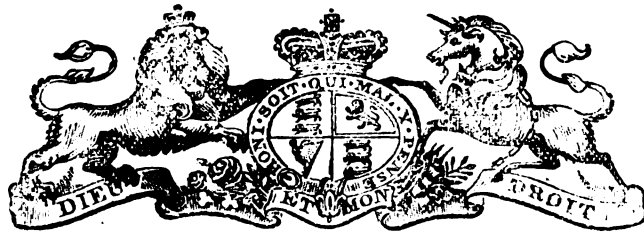
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PART I.
GENERAL SUMMARY.

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REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF ASSAM
FOR
1903-1904.

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PART I.
—:O:—

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE Honourable Mr. J. B. Fuller, C.S.I., C.I.E., Chief Commissioner of the Province, proceeded on three months' privilege leave on the 27th April 1903, the Honourable Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I., acting for him. The Honourable Mr. Fuller rejoined his appointment on the 30th July 1903.

Office of
Chief Commissioner.

2. Mr. Bolton made a short tour in the Brahmaputra Valley in July. After a visit to the Goalpara district at the beginning of November, during which he unveiled a statue of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress at Dhubri, Mr. Fuller left Shillong for his regular cold-weather tour on the 18th November. Up to the middle of January he toured in the Brahmaputra Valley, and then proceeded, *via* Chandpur, to the south of the Sylhet and Cachar districts, and thence to Aijal, the headquarters station of the Lushai Hills. He returned to Silchar at the end of February, thence proceeded by rail to Jorhat and Gauhati, where he inspected the progress of settlement work, and returned to Shillong on the 6th March.

Tours of
the Chief
Commissioner.

3. The appointment of Commissioner of Excise for Assam was abolished from the 1st July 1903, his functions being assumed by the Chief Commissioner for the Surma Valley and hill districts and delegated to the Commissioner in the Assam Valley.

Admini-
strative
changes.

4. Of the Manipur State there is little to record. The harvest was good, and the revenue was promptly collected. The total income of the State amounted to Rs. 3,95,394, showing an increase of Rs. 45,000, as compared with the preceding year. The expenditure was Rs. 3,87,800, an increase of Rs. 24,000, and the State had a balance to its credit of Rs. 2,44,460 at the close of the year.

Tributary
States.

In the Khasi Hills, the Siem of Khyrim, U Klur Sing, having recovered from the illness which had incapacitated him, was permitted to resume the management of his State, but died suddenly, three months later, on the 26th December 1903. U Dakhor Sing, who obtained the votes of a majority of the electors of the State, was proclaimed Siem under the orders of the Chief Commissioner in succession to U Klur Sing. The Siem of the small State of Maosanram was convicted of murder, and sentenced to transportation for life.

5. The seven guns taken during the previous year by Miripathar Daflas from Mr. Chisholm's stockade were returned, but other property carried off by them from the stockade has not yet been restored. These Daflas have been punished by stoppage of their *posa* allowance. A Military Police guard was established at Dikal near the Dafla border, and arrangements made to disarm all Daflas visiting the plains. The issue of Inner Line passes to Dafla territory has been discontinued till further orders. In the course of his cold-weather tour Mr. Fuller met a considerable number of Miri *gams*, and established

Frontier
affairs.

Frontier
affairs.

relations with them, which are proving of political benefit. A raid was committed by a party of Doba Abors on a village near the frontier of the Lakhimpur district, in which several people were injured, though not seriously, four houses were looted, and two girls were carried off. On investigation, the cause of this outrage turned out to be that the Abors had been cheated by one of their *gams* of a sum of money which was awarded to them as compensation for trespass on their territory by elephant-hunters. The two girls carried off were soon afterwards restored, and Mr. Fuller, who enquired into the case personally, imposed a fine on the tribesmen, which was paid by them. They also restored a considerable quantity of the property stolen in the raid. Tatum, the *gam* who, by misappropriating money due to his fellow-tribesmen, had given the occasion for the raid, was subsequently ordered to be detained in the Dibrugarh jail for a year.

With a view to the more effectual protection of the Sarkari Nagas south of the Lakhimpur district, and with their consent, the annexation of their territory was sanctioned by the Government of India.

An important measure carried out during the year was the inclusion in British territory of the Sema and Angami country east of the Naga Hills district, hitherto known as the "area of political control." The inhabitants of this tract had for some time enjoyed the benefits of British administration without paying taxes, an example which had an unsettling effect on the tax-paying Nagas. The Government of India accordingly accepted the Chief Commissioner's proposal to definitely annex the Sema territory as far east as the Tiju river, as well as five Angami villages further east, which desired British protection. The annexation was carried out without opposition.

In November 1903 two Ao Nagas, British subjects, while trading across the Dikhu river, were murdered by men of the Pelasi khel of Mozungjami, and in the following month the Chongpu khel of the same village carried off three mithan from British territory. The demands made for the surrender of the perpetrators of these outrages having been rejected by the khels, a punitive expedition against them will shortly be undertaken by the Military Police.

Condition
of the peo-
ple.

6. The condition of the people was prosperous, and public health exceptionally good. Harvests were also good, and prices ruled unusually low. The progress of the recovery of the districts of Lower Assam from the effects of the earthquake and *kalá-ázár* was maintained.

Admini-
stration of
the land.

7. Some important reforms were effected in the administration of the Land Revenue. The dates for the payment of instalments in the Assam Valley and the Jaintia parganas of Sylhet were postponed in order to suit the convenience of the revenue-payers, and the latest date for the acceptance of relinquishment of holdings was also postponed. The rules regulating the exclusion from assessment of holdings abandoned without formal relinquishment were revised in the direction of greater liberality, and the subordinate Land Records officers were authorised to strike off the assessment roll the names of bankrupt raiyats who have given up cultivation. District Officers were also given a general power to exclude from assessment in cases of hardship which might come to their notice. A step was taken towards the establishment of a system of village administration in the Assam Valley by regularizing the status and appointment of village headmen, and by granting them a remission of land revenue as remuneration. This measure has proved to be exceedingly acceptable to the people. It was also decided, with the sanction of the Government of India, to revert gradually from the system of collection by *tahsildars* on fixed pay to the indigenous mauzadari system which it replaced. In pursuance of this reform, one tahsildar's charge in Nowgong and a portion of one in Cachar were broken up into mauzas, each of which was settled with a mauzadar.

The change of instalment dates had the effect of postponing the collection of nearly ten lakhs of rupees till after the close of the financial year. The current demand of ordinary land revenue for the year ending 30th June 1903 was Rs. 59,87,556, and the

current collections amounted to 93 per cent. of the demand, or about the same proportion as for the financial year 1902-1903. Good progress was made with the resettlement of the districts of Kamrup and Sibsagar, and proposals for the assessment of a group of villages in each district were received and considered.

8. The Military Police force was maintained at its usual strength. Further progress was made with the reorganisation of the Civil Police, fifteen additional Sub-Inspectors being appointed, and the number of head constables reduced by two. The standard of efficiency and discipline in the force still leaves much to be desired, and difficulty is found in recruiting it. Police.

9. While there was an increase in petty offences, serious crime against property diminished, and there was also a satisfactory decrease in cases of rioting, due to the energetic use of preventive measures. A noticeable incident of the year was the dacoity committed by a gang of 27 Afghans on a trader's shop in the Cachar district. It transpired that the crime was planned in Afghanistan. All, except three, of the dacoits were arrested and convicted. Crime.

10. In view of the appointment of a Sessions Judge for the Assam Valley districts, the special powers which the Deputy Commissioners of those districts exercised under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code were withdrawn from them, and there was, consequently, an increase of 64 in the number of cases committed to the Sessions. There is no other special feature to record in the administration of criminal justice. The period of detention of prisoners under trial showed a small diminution. Criminal Justice.

11. There was a slight increase in the number of admissions to prisons in the province, but the average prison population was less. There was some improvement in the health of prisoners, the rate of mortality being 28.1 per 1,000, against 29.9 in the preceding year. There was a marked decrease in the prevalence of malarial fevers, but an increase in cases of dysentery. In consequence of the restrictions placed on extramural labour, prisoners were employed more extensively on manufactures, and efforts were made to attain greater system and regularity in tasking. Prisons.

12. Civil litigation showed a slight decrease, but the number of cases disposed of fell off, with the result that there was a slight increase in the pending file. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar was relieved of the duty of hearing, as Subordinate Judge, appeals from decrees and orders of Munsifs in that district, which now go to the Judge of the Assam Valley. The appointment of an additional Subordinate Judge for Sylhet and Cachar was made permanent. Civil Justice.

13. The number of deeds registered exceeded that of the preceding year by over 2,000. Registration.

14. In connection with municipal administration, the only noteworthy event of the year was the outbreak of plague at Dibrugarh, referred to further on. The manner in which the epidemic was stamped out reflected credit on the Dibrugarh Municipality. The special expenditure incurred by the municipality with this object, amounting to nearly Rs. 20,000, was recouped by a grant from provincial revenues. In other towns of the Assam Valley special attention was paid to conservancy in view of the possible spread of plague to them from Dibrugarh. Municipalities.

15. There was a considerable increase in the expenditure of Local Boards, chiefly under the head of Education. Special grants were made from provincial revenues to enable the Boards to meet the higher rates of remuneration sanctioned for village school teachers and to improve school buildings. Increases were sanctioned in the salaries of Boards' overseers and sub-overseers, with a view to the employment of a better class of men. Local Boards.

16. The season was, on the whole, favourable, and, taking all crops together, the produce of the year was estimated at 14 per cent. over normal, the harvest of transplanted rice being specially good. Heavy rain at sowing time and a deficiency of the usual winter rain injuriously affected the cold-weather crops of mustard and pulse. Tea generally Weather, crops, and prices.

**Weather,
crops, and
prices.**

yielded exceedingly well. In the hill districts the conditions were unfavourable to the early-sown crops (cotton, rice, and potatoes), which suffered from want of rain in April and May. There was an increase in the total cropped area, but the acreage under tea showed a falling off in nearly every district, due to the abandonment of unprofitable areas. Prices were unusually low all over the province.

**Agriculture
and Horti-
culture.**

17. At the experimental farm at Upper Shillong different varieties of potatoes were tried, and seed potatoes from the farm were widely distributed. The old inferior Khasi potatoes being gradually superseded by improved varieties. Experiments in making silage were continued with satisfactory results. Trials were continued of European fruit trees at different elevations and a plantation for exotic trees, principally spices, was established on the southern slope of the hills. The cultivation of rhubarb and strawberries was attended with marked success.

Forests.

18. It was decided after enquiry to throw open to cultivation without formal disforestation an area of about 100 square miles out of over 600 comprised in the Nambor and adjoining reserved forests, which contains no forest of value, but is suited for ordinary cultivation. There was a considerable development in the exploitation by departmental agency of s&L sleepers for the Eastern Bengal State Railway, in which the tramway, of which six miles have been laid in the Goalpara Division, proved of material assistance. There was also a large increase in the receipts from import duty on foreign rubber owing to a rise in the market price. The financial results of the working of the Forest Department for the year were satisfactory, the receipts for the forest year ending 30th June 1904 exceeding those of the preceding year by Rs. 85,857, and the surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,25,057.

Minerals.

19. The Assam Railways and Trading Company extracted 239,278 tons of coal from the Makum coal-fields. A new coal-mine was opened by a company at Maolong in the Khasi Hills, and yielded 50 tons. Experimental borings were made by the Public Works Department in the Barapani coal-field near Shillong, discovered by Mr. P. N. Bose, of the Geological Survey Department, in the preceding year. The production of petroleum in Lakhimpur amounted to 2,528,785 gallons.

**The tea
industry.**

20. There was a decrease in the area under tea cultivation, the returns showing 6,463 acres of old cultivation abandoned, against 2,567 acres only of new tea planted. The area under mature tea plant was 326,258 acres, an increase of 4,812 acres over the preceding year. Favourable weather at the close of the manufacturing season resulted in a large increase in the outturn of tea, which amounted to 145,199,101 lbs., as compared with 132,117,278 lbs. in the preceding year. In spite of the increase in outturn, prices ruled higher, owing partly to increased demand, and partly to decreased output in Ceylon, and there was a decided improvement in the condition of the industry as a whole.

Trade.

21. There was a revival in the trans-frontier land trade of the province, the imports of cattle, rice, and timber from Manipur, of caoutchouc from the hills north of the Lakhimpur district, and of cotton and sesamum from Hill Tippera, all showing an increase.

Inter-provincial trade also showed an increase, due mainly to larger imports of iron and steel, sugar, and tobacco, and exports of tea, oil-seeds, jute, and oranges. Imports of rice showed a decrease of 140,000 maunds, owing to good local harvests. The imports of kerosene oil to the Brahmaputra Valley fell off by 14,000 maunds owing to the larger output of the refinery in Lakhimpur. The export of tea was the heaviest on record, and exports of unhusked rice from Sylhet, though less than those of 1902-1903, were greater than in any other year since 1892-93. The export of rape and mustard-seed increased by 21,000 maunds, and that of jute by 41 per cent. Exports of coal fell off by 30 per cent., owing probably to increased local consumption. The export of tea to Chittagong amounted to 283,050 maunds.

22. The expenditure on Provincial Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department was Rs. 24,53,374. The most important buildings in hand were the new Government House, Shillong, which was completed, and the residence for the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts. Considerable expenditure was incurred on Educational buildings, amongst which may be mentioned the completion of a school building at Shillong for European and Eurasian children and the commencement of a High school and a Vernacular school building at Nowgong. The restoration of the old Assamese protective bunds or embankments in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts was vigorously prosecuted, over a lakh and thirty-four thousand rupees having been expended on the work during the year. Under Communications, works of importance were the restoration of the Shillong-Cherra cart-road, the improvement of the Gauhati-Shillong road to adapt it for motor-traffic, and the metalling of the Dimapur-Manipur road. Four roads feeding the Assam Valley section of the Assam-Bengal Railway were taken up. Progress has been made in replacing temporary bridges by permanent structures.

23. The Jorhat State Railway showed a profit of Rs. 8,925 on the year's working, excluding interest charges. The capital outlay on the line up to the 31st December 1903 amounted to Rs. 8,84,311.

The Tinsukia junction station of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company and the Dibru-Sadiya Railway was made over to the Assam-Bengal Railway on the 3rd March 1903, and through booking was established between the two Railways from that date. The subsidy period having elapsed on the 30th June 1903, the local audit of the accounts of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway has been discontinued. The earnings of this railway for the year gave a profit of 5.56 per cent. on the Capital outlay. The Tezpur-Balipara Railway yielded a profit of 6.71 per cent. on the Capital outlay. A start was made on the construction of the Dhubri-Gauhati extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway; and the construction of the Dwara-Therria Railway was still in hand. The portions of the Assam-Bengal Railway from Damcherra to Lumding, 96.70 miles, Lakwa to Bhojo, 12.72 miles, and Bhojo to Tinsukia, 41.94 miles, were opened to traffic during the year.

24. Excluding receipts on account of State Railways, the gross revenue of the province amounted to Rs. 1,26,72,767, against Rs. 1,35,54,441 in the previous year. There was a decrease of Rs. 10,85,464 under the combined heads of Land Revenue and Provincial Rates, due to the postponement of instalment dates, which was partly counterbalanced by increases of Rs. 1,04,330 and Rs. 95,532 under Excise and Forests, respectively. Excluding railway expenditure and contributions between Provincial and Local Funds, the total expenditure of the province amounted to Rs. 95,03,072, or an increase of nearly nine lakhs over that of the preceding year. The outlay on Public Works rose by Rs. 7,06,228, while there were increases of Rs. 97,985 under Forests and Rs. 1,17,655 under Education. Smaller increases occurred under the heads of Land Revenue, Courts of Law, and Jails, while there was a decrease of Rs. 2,20,946 under Police.

25. In the Provincial revenue account the year opened with a balance of Rs. 16,08,773; receipts amounted to Rs. 93,01,722, against Rs. 84,18,879 in the preceding year, expenditure to Rs. 81,60,831, and the closing balance to Rs. 27,49,664. The increase in receipts and in the closing balance was due to a special Imperial contribution of Rs. 20,00,000 received under the terms of the new Provincial settlement made during the year to come into force with effect from the 1st April 1904. Under the terms of this settlement the province will be credited with half of the receipts under divided heads of revenue, and will be debited with the same share of expenditure under corresponding heads. An annual assignment of Rs. 12,00,000 has been made from Imperial to Provincial revenues in addition to the initial contribution above referred to. No term has been fixed for the settlement, which will remain in force until revised by the Government of India.

Vital
statistics.

26. The recorded death-rate was 26·55 per mille, an unusually low figure. Deaths from fever, small-pox, and cholera all showed a decrease. There were 28 deaths from plague, of which 37 cases occurred at Dibrugarh between the 16th May and the 3rd July 1903. The disease was successfully stamped out, and has not reappeared. The registered birth-rate was 35·57 per mille, but registration of births is still very inaccurate. A scheme for its improvement is under consideration.

Immigra-
tion.

27. The number of labourers, including dependents and children, imported into Assam from other parts of India for the tea and other industries during the year ending 30th June 1903 was 22,162, as compared with 26,684 during the preceding year. There was a great falling off in recruitment through garden sardars, the number recruited through contractors remaining practically unchanged. Good harvests in the recruiting districts and the competition of the coal industry were probably the chief causes of the diminution in the supply of labour. The number of labourers bound by contracts under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901, decreased during the year from 93,278 to 84,306. According to the wages returns, the average wages of male labourers engaged under this Act were Rs. 5-0-8, and those of female labourers Rs. 4-1-7 a month. The registered rate of mortality for the total labour force fell from 25·4 to 24, and that of Act-VI labourers from 40·3 to 38·1 per mille.

Dispensa-
ries.

28. In spite of the healthiness of the year, there was a great increase in the number of patients, especially out-patients, treated at the dispensaries. The number of dispensaries increased by one only.

Vaccina-
tion.

29. There was a somewhat serious falling off in the number of vaccinations, and the question of taking measures to prohibit inoculation in certain districts where it prevails is under consideration.

Education.

30. There was a nominal decrease in the number of schools and of pupils attending them, due chiefly to the closure of inefficient schools and more careful scrutiny of returns. The new scheme for the management of village primary schools was in force throughout the year, and worked successfully. The schools are now managed directly by the Local Boards, and receive closer attention than was formerly the case, while the teachers' remuneration has been considerably increased, expenditure under this head rising from Rs. 1,50,098 to Rs. 2,07,866. In the Garo, Mikir, Naga, and Lushai Hills an impetus was given to education by the adoption of the system which has been found successful in the Khasi Hills, namely, that of teaching the people their own vernaculars in the Roman character, instead of attempting to instruct them in Assamese or Bengali.

Literature
and the
Press

31. Owing, in the main, to greater strictness in the authorization of school books, only six new books were registered during the year. On the other hand, the number of newspapers increased from ten to sixteen.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

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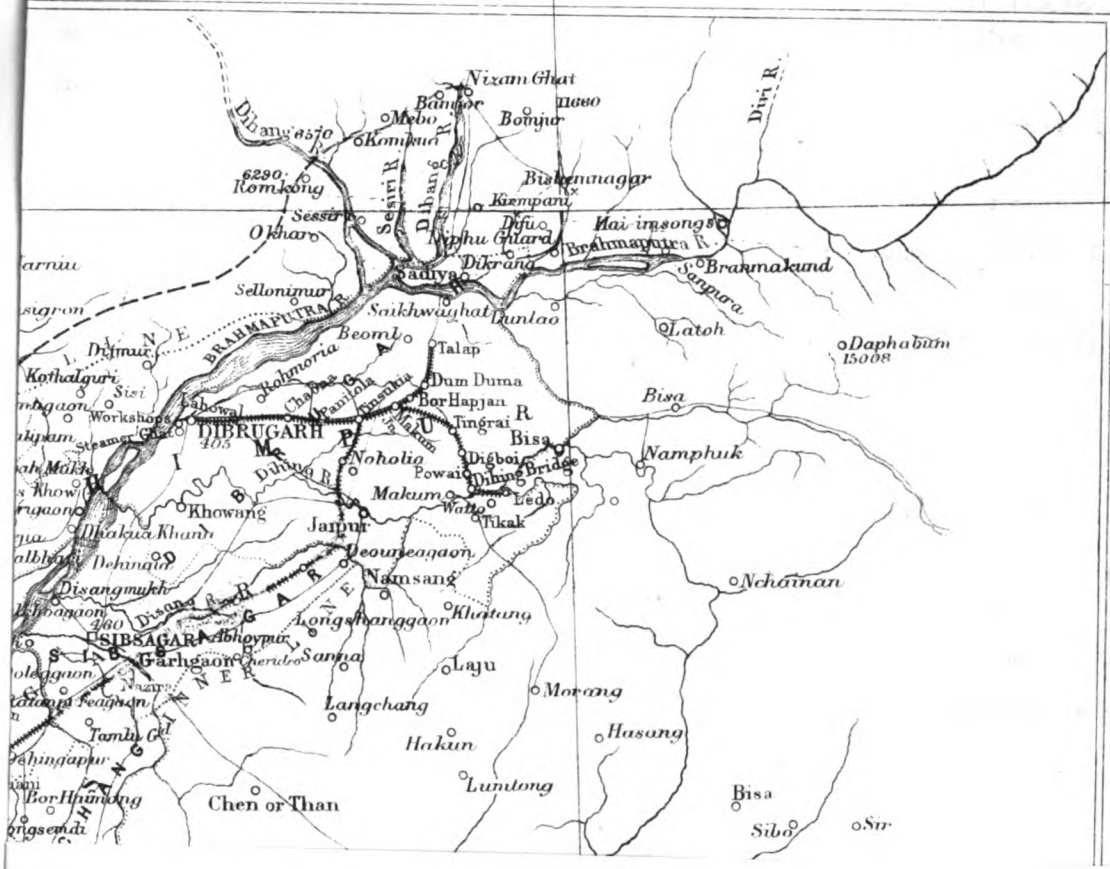
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[See pages 45—52 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES AND SYSTEM OF SETTLEMENT AND SURVEY.

[See pages 52—63 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 5.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

[See pages 64—66 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 6.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, 1901.

[See pages 66—72 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 7.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. Fuller, c.s.i., c.i.e., Chief Commissioner of the Province, proceeded on 3 months' privilege leave on the 27th April 1903, the Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, c.s.i., acting for him. The Hon'ble Mr. Fuller rejoined his appointment on the 30th July 1903. Changes in the Chief Commissionership.

2. The appointment of Commissioner of Excise for Assam was abolished from the 1st July 1903, the powers vested in, and the authority previously exercised by, that official being assumed by the Chief Commissioner for the Surma Valley and hill districts and delegated to the Commissioner in the Assam Valley Districts. Abolition of the appointment of Commissioner of Excise.

SECTION 8.—FRONTIER RELATIONS AND FEUDATORY STATES.

[See pages 72—81 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 9.—RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS. MANIPUR.

Tribute—Rs. 50,000 annually; Population (1901)—284,465; Gross revenue—Rs. 3,82,570; Military—369 Military Police; Products—Rice, *dal* and vegetables of various kinds, India-rubber, wax, tea-seed, and other forest products, cattle, ponies, and buffaloes; Manufactures—Cotton cloth, fine and coarse, silk cloth, fine and coarse, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and ordinary native jewellery, some leather work, a coarse kind of salt; Minerals—Iron-ore, limestone, copper and salt, of which only salt and limestone are now worked.

Raja—Chura Chand Singh, aged 18 years 11 months; caste Kshatriya Hindu; no heir. Principal members of family—(1) Kamananda Singh (aged 76), Moirang Ningthow; (2) Dumbra Singh (aged 32), eldest brother of Raja; (3) Dimbha Singh (aged 30), second brother of Raja; (4) Chandra Hash Singh (aged 28), third brother of Raja; (5) Degendra Singh (aged 19), step-brother of Raja.

3. The behaviour of the hill tribes was generally satisfactory.

4. In Imphal 47·18 inches of rain fell during the year, which is below the average. The fall, however, was favourably distributed, and agricultural operations were successfully undertaken. The paddy harvest was fairly good, and rice on 1st January 1904 was selling at 27 seers per rupee. Matikalai (*Phaseolus aconitifolius*) was a poor crop, owing to the heavy rain in September and October. Behaviour of the hill tribes. Rainfall and crops.

5. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 3,95,394, as against Rs. 3,50,115 in the previous year, the increase being due mainly to the more prompt collection of the Finance.

*Physical
and
Political
Geography.*

land revenue. Other items showing an increase were Foreigners' tax, Forests, Law and Justice, and Jails, while there was a decrease under the heads Hill house-tax, Fisheries, Ferry, Salt, Tea-seed, and Miscellaneous. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 3,87,800, as compared with Rs. 3,63,654 in 1902-1903. Land revenue, State works, Medical, Education, Postal, and Miscellaneous showed an increase, and other heads of expenditure a decrease, as compared with the previous year. At the close of the year there was a balance of Rs. 2,44,460 to the credit of the State, as compared with Rs. 2,36,866 at the end of 1902-1903.

Military.

6. Six companies of the 7th Gurkha Rifles were in garrison in Manipur from the 1st April 1903 until the middle of March 1904, when two companies were transferred to Simla, leaving four companies of the regiment at Manipur at the close of the year. The Kala Naga outpost was held by the Cachar Military Police, and towards the end of the year the Manipur Police relieved the 7th Gurkhas in the occupation of the Kaopum stockade.

*Political
Prisoners.*

7. There were no casualties among the political prisoners and detenus during the year. All were reported to be living quietly in their respective stations.

*The Minor
Raja.*

8. His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh spent the entire year in the State, and was engaged in studying the duties which will devolve upon him on his installation. The mother and stepmother of His Highness, with two of his brothers and a number of followers, made a pilgrimage to Brindaban late in the year. His younger sister died in January 1904, after an illness of some duration.

FRONTIER TRIBES.

Bhutias.

9. The usual Military Police outposts on the Bhutan frontier were maintained. The number of Bhutias who visited the Darranga and Subankhata fairs was returned as 4,316, against 1,000 in the previous year.

Dafias.

10. During the cold weather Katakis were sent to the Daffa headman Nida Gam to obtain the release of the women belonging to a marriage party of plains Dafias who were said to be detained by him as stated in paragraph 10 of last year's report. He was also directed to come down and meet the Deputy Commissioner. These demands have not been complied with, and it is said that Nida Gam is afraid to meet the Deputy Commissioner, but has opened negotiations with one Damchup, the head of the marriage party referred to, and it has been settled between them that Nida Gam will surrender the captives on Damchup giving him some mithan. Katakis were also sent to Miripathar for the recovery of the seven guns and other property carried off by the Dafias from Mr. Chisholm's stockade. The guns have been returned by the Dafias, but the other property has not yet been recovered. Most of it consisted of cloths and other perishable articles. In view of different complications with the Dafias, the issue of Inner Line passes to Daffa territory has been discontinued until further orders. To control the Dafias visiting the plains, a Military Police guard was stationed at Dikal, and it was directed that all hill Dafias coming into the Darrang district should be required to deposit any guns, spears, or bows and arrows, which they might have with them, the weapons being restored to their owners on their return to the hills. The Dafias were also warned that if they continued to give trouble, they would be required to deposit their *daos* also. The *posa* allowance was paid to all hill Dafias entitled to it, except those of Miripathar.

Miris.

11. There was a rumour that the Ghasi Miris intended to make an attack on Mr. Alexander, of Dirpai tea estate, and a local Marwari trader. A party of Military Police under a Subadar was marched to Dirpai for their protection, but the rumour turned out to be without foundation. A number of Sarak Miris came into Dibrugarh to tap rubber for the *mahaldars* of the Dibrugarh rubber *mahal*. It was reported that some of them working with the *gomasta* of the rubber *mahaldar* at Margherita tried to take possession of the rubber brought down by eight Nagas for sale to another Kaya. There would probably have been bloodshed, had not the Political Jamadar, hearing of a disturbance, appeared on the scene. In the course of his cold-weather tour Mr. Fuller met a considerable number of the Miri *Gams*, and established relations with them which, it is reported, are proving of political benefit.

*Doba
Abors.*

12. The Mantaram and Sarusaku Gallongs or Doba Abors committed a serious raid on the Juktoli village of Dhemaji mauza, injuring several people. Four houses were looted, and two girls were carried off. At first it was believed that the raid was the work of the Gallongs of the Taiphudia clan, instigated by one Tayum, but afterwards it was found that the Mantaram Abors under Teja Gam were the offenders, the motive of the raid being that Tatum, the Sarusaku Gam, who has a village on the Dhol river near the Inner Line, misappropriated the money which was given to the Mantaram Abors by the

Subdivisional Officer of North Lakhimpur, under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, out of the fine imposed on a man named Ghinaram for having hunted elephants without authority in their territory (*vide* paragraph 11 of last year's report). The two girls carried off in the raid were soon recovered through the agency of Tari Gam, an influential Doba. Mr. Fuller enquired into the case on the spot, in the presence of a number of the tribesmen, and decided that its peculiar circumstances could be adequately met by fining the Mantaram Abors, their complaint against Tatum being at the same time taken up. The tribesmen brought in two mithans and ten goats and Rs. 19 cash as fine, and a considerable quantity of the property taken away by them of an estimated value of Rs. 150. The fine was accepted, and the property recovered was restored to the owners.

*Physical
and
Political
Geography.*
Political.

The witnesses against Tatum sent in subsequently by the Mantarams were examined by Mr. Needham, who reported that there was every ground for supposing the Mantaram version to be correct. The Chief Commissioner sanctioned the confinement of Tatum as a political detenu for one year in the Dibrugarh jail. The Passi Meyongs lay claim to the strip of country lying between the foot of the hills and the Inner Line, and in some cases exact royalty for timber and fishing rights. Reports to this effect having reached the Chief Commissioner, orders were issued to the effect that the strip of country between the Brahmaputra and the hills was British territory, and the tribesmen should not be permitted to ignore the fact, but that until effective possession of the tract was formally taken by moving our police posts to the foot of the hills, useless interference was to be avoided, and if the managers of the saw-mills found it convenient to pay some commission or royalty to the hill tribes, they were at liberty to do so. At the same time, the managers have been informed that Government does not expect to be troubled with the settlement of disputes which may arise out of their dealings with the hillmen.

13. A proposal for the annexation of the Sarkari Naga country north of the Tirap river, with a view to the more effectual protection of the inhabitants from raids by the Rangpang Nagas, was sanctioned by the Government of India, and the demarcation of the new boundary will shortly be carried out. Nagas.

The outpost established on the Lungchang hill for the protection of the Sarkari Nagas is still maintained, but the Deputy Commissioner reports that the Rangpangs are able to avoid the guard and enter British territory. There was an increase in petty thefts by Nagas from the Assam Railways and Trading Company's buildings at Margherita and Ledo, which culminated in a robbery from a godown of the Railway workshops at Ledo. A party of Nagas came down during the night, broke open the main door of the workshop, and carried off articles to the value of Rs. 150. The Commandant of the Lakhimpur Military Police was at once directed to depute eight Military Police sepoy to patrol around Ledo, and the Political Jemadar at Margherita was also ordered to enquire into the case. The result of these enquiries points to seven Nagas of the Riching Yogli village, whose names are known, having committed the theft. A part of the stolen property was subsequently recovered through the sons of a Naga living near Ledo at whose house the thieves had stayed, and who died shortly afterwards. The Deputy Commissioner sent a message to the Yoglis that, unless the seven men concerned were given up, any inhabitants of the village who were found in British territory would be arrested. This action has been approved by the Chief Commissioner.

The three Yogli Nagas referred to in paragraph 13 of the last year's report, as confined in the jail for carrying off two Tutsa Nagas from within British territory, were convicted by Mr. Cornes, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, one being sentenced to ten months' rigorous imprisonment and the other two to four months' each.

The Sema and Angami territory to the east of the Naga Hills district, hitherto known as the "area of political control," has for some time past been treated as an integral part of the district in all respects, except that no tax was levied in it. Such an anomalous state of affairs was liable to have an unsettling effect on the tax-paying Nagas, and the Government of India, therefore, accepted the Chief Commissioner's recommendation that the area should be annexed to British territory, a moderate house-tax being imposed. At the same time the Government of India sanctioned the extension of the limit of the district up to the Tizu river, a more convenient boundary than the crest of the range to the west of that river, which was the former limit of the political control area, and so as to include five Angami villages to the south-east, between it and the Tezhar, which were eager for British protection. This annexation was carried into effect in March 1904 without any opposition.

14. The attack by Kongan people on two men of Mongsemdi, mentioned in paragraph 13 of last year's report, was punished by a fine of Rs. 300, which was realised in full in May 1903. In November 1903, two Aos of Salunamang, while trading across the Dikhu

*Trans-
Dikhu
tribes
adjoining
the Naga
Hills dis-
trict.*

Physical
and
Political
Geography.
Political.
Semas.

between Noksen and Letam, were murdered by men of the Pelasi khel of Mazungjam. In the following month, the Chongpu khel of the same village carried off three mithan from British territory. Proposals for dealing with these outrages have been submitted by the Chief Commissioner for the orders of the Government of India.

15. Two Semas of Sevikhe's village took the heads of a man and a woman of Yatsimi. These are both independent villages.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

STATES.

1. Bhowal.—Population (1901)—865 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 900 ; Products—Rice, millet, bay-leaves, and black pepper ; Mineral—Lime.

Siem—U Ram Singh, aged 39 years, Khasia.

2. Cherra.—Population (1901)—8,155 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 7,900 ; Products—Cotton, millet, betel-nut, *pan*, oranges, black pepper, chillies, bamboos, turmeric, ginger, honey, and potatoes ; Manufacture—Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets ; Minerals—Lime, iron, and coal.

Siem—U Roba Singh, aged 32 years, Khasia.

3. Shella.—Population (1901)—4,358 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 4,172 ; Products—Oranges, betel-nuts, and pine-apples ; Manufactures—Bamboo mats and bamboo baskets ; Minerals—Lime (coal not worked).

Wahadars—(1) U Botsing, aged 58 years, (2) Sorkiron, aged 38 years, (3) U Jagidhan, aged 33 years, (4) U Nubardhan, aged 30 years.

4. Khairim.—Population—31,327 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 12,161 ; Products—Rice, cotton, millet, job's-tears, caoutchouc, cinnamon, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), betel-nuts, *pan*, oranges, Indian corn, lac, potatoes, black pepper, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey ; Manufactures—Cotton cloth, *eria*, silk cloth, *daos*, *kodalis*, knives, hammers, crow-bars, wedges, and bamboo mats ; Minerals—Lime, coal, and iron (iron not worked).

Siem—U Dakhor Singh, aged 30 years, Khasia.

5. Myllem.—Population (1901)—17,863 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 9,619 ; Products—Rice, potatoes, job's-tears, Indian corn, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), sugarcane, ginger, and millet ; Manufactures—*Daos* and baskets ; Mineral—Iron.

Siem—U Ron Singh, aged 42 years, Khasia.

6. Langrin.—Population (1901)—1,138 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 2,050 ; Products—Rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, and ginger ; Minerals—Lime (coal not worked).

Siem—U Langat, aged 31 years, Khasia.

7. Maharam.—Population (1901)—8,464 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 1,570 ; Products—Job's-tears, black pepper, chillies, bay-leaves, honey, rice, sugarcane, potatoes, ginger, millet, Indian corn, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), caoutchouc, and cinnamon ; Manufactures—*Daos*, *kodalis*, and hammers ; Minerals—Lime and iron (not worked).

Siem—U Kison Singh, aged 44 years, Khasia.

8. Mawiang.—Population (1901)—1,856 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 300 ; Products—Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, and ginger ; Minerals—Lime and iron (not worked).

Siem—U Mai Singh, aged 42 years, Khasia.

9. Maosanram.—Population (1901)—1,414 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 2,930 ; Products—Potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, and ginger ; Minerals—Lime, coal, and iron (not worked).

Siem—U Sombu Rai, aged 26 years, Khasia.

10. Malaisohmat.—Population (1901)—491 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 200 ; Products—Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay-leaves, betel-nuts, and oranges ; Mineral—Lime (not worked).

Siem—U Juba Singh, aged 24 years, Khasia.

11. Mariaw.—Population—2,289 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 380 ; Products—Rice, millet, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, turmeric, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), Indian corn, and sugarcane ; Mineral—Lime (not worked).

Siem—U Burom, aged 40 years, Khasia.

12. Nobosophoh.—Population (1901)—1,555 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 500 ; Products—Rice, job's-tears, Indian corn, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), and potatoes ; Mineral—Lime (not worked).

Siem—U Dewan, aged 39 years, Khasia.

13. Nongkhlaw.—Population (1901)—9,715 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 2,350 ; Products—Potatoes, rice, millet, job's-tears, Indian corn, *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*), caoutchouc, and cinnamon ; Manufactures—*Kodalis*, *daos*, and crow-bars.

Siem—Raja U Kine Singh, aged 60 years, Khasia.

14. Nongspung.—Population (1901)—1,859 ; Gross—Revenue Rs. 880 ; Products—Rice, potatoes, honey, and bees' wax ; Manufacture—*Daos* ; Mineral—Iron.

Siem—U Pyrba Singh, aged 43 years, Khasia.

15. Nongstoin.—Population (1901)—9,606 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 7,610 ; Products—Lac, honey, bees' wax, cotton, caoutchouc, bay-leaves, rice, millet, job's-tears, sugarcane, chillies, and *sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita*) ; Manufactures—Earthenware, pottery, cotton cloth, *daos*, and spades ; Minerals—Lime and coal (coal not worked).

Siem—U Suna, aged 62 years, Khasia.

16. Rambrai.—Population (1901)—2,697 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 600 ; Products—Rice, job's-tears, ginger, chillies, millet, and Indian corn ; Manufactures—Cotton cloth.

Siem—U Duba Singh, aged 42 years, Khasia.

17. Jirang.—Population (1901)—723 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 2,245 ; Products—Rice, millet, ginger, chillies, job's-tears, caoutchouc, and cotton ; Manufactures—Cotton cloth.

Sardar—U Bang, aged 43 years, Khasia.

18. Duara Nongtyrmen.—Population (1901)—362 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 100 ; Products—Rice, millet, oranges, chillies, and job's-tears ; Manufactures—Net bags ; Mineral—Lime.

Sardar—U Shongkhana Singh, aged 57 years, Khasia.

19. Maodon.—Population (1901)—296 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 1,490 ; Products—Millet, oranges, betel-nuts, jack fruits, pine-apples, chillies, and bay-leaves ; Minerals—Lime and coal (not worked).

Sardar—U Iir Muluk, aged 42 years, Khasia.

20. Maolong.—Population (1901)—1,472 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 1,800 ; Products—Oranges, millet, jack fruits, betel-nuts, pine-apples, and chillies ; Minerals—Lime and coal.

Sardars—(1) U Babin, aged 37 years, Khasia ; (2) U Sabin, aged 35 years, Khasia ; (3) U Sombat, aged 38 years, Khasia.

21. Pamsangut.—Population (1901)—288 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 50 ; Products—Potatoes and millet.

Sardar—U Ram Singh, aged 44 years, Khasia.

22. Lyngiong.—Population (1901)—596 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 120 ; Products—Potatoes and millet.

Longdoh.—U Bna, aged 51 years, Khasia.

23. Maophlang.—Population (1901)—947 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 145 ; Products—Millet, job's-tears, rice, and potatoes.

Longdoh—U Balo, aged 34 years, Khasia.

24. Nonglwai.—Population (1901)—169 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 40 ; Products—Millet, job's-tears, rice, and potatoes.

Sardar—U Harik, aged 56 years, Khasia.

25. Sohiong.—Population (1901)—2,014 ; Gross revenue—Rs. 600 ; Products—Millet, job's-tears, rice, and potatoes.

Longdoh—U Kir Singh, aged 56 years, Khasia.

16. The Siem of Maosanram, his brother, and a number of other persons were tried on two charges of murder. In one case a woman was shot, because she objected to the attachment of certain property by the Siem, and in the second, which was a particularly brutal case, a man was murdered in cold blood in the Siem's house, the body being afterwards removed to the jungle, where an arrow was plunged into the stomach, in order, it is supposed, to make believe that the deceased had been shot in a fight by some one of a faction opposed to the Siem. The cases were tried by a special Commissioner appointed for the purpose, and in both convictions for murder were obtained against the Siem and some of his adherents. The Siem and some of the accused were sentenced to death, and the others to transportation for life. On appeal, all the sentences were commuted to transportation for life by the Chief Commissioner.

The appointment of the Dewan of the Khyrim State came to an end during the year, and the Siem, U Klur Singh, was restored to power, but died suddenly on the 26th December 1903. At a darbar held at Smit on the 7th January 1904, U Dakhor Singh obtained the votes of a majority of the electors of the State, the election being hotly contested by his cousin, U Mana Singh, as well as by others. U Dakhor Singh was proclaimed Siem under the order of the Chief Commissioner on the 28th March 1904 at Smit.

The election of four new Wahadadars of Shella was held by the Deputy Commissioner at Laitkynsew on the 30th May 1903.

A long-standing dispute between the Siems of Rambrai and Mariaw regarding the overlordship of the *hinniew shnong*, or 7 villages, was settled amicably by the Deputy Commissioner. A dispute between the 3 Siems of Nongstoin, Langrin, and Nobosohphoh regarding the right of fishing in the Kasimara river was also amicably settled by him in darbar at Rilang Bazar. A number of the adherents of U Chandra Singh were convicted of rioting in the Cherra *hât*, and were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. Matters in the Cherra State are settling down, and it is hoped that by degrees the new Siem Roba Singh will be able to establish his influence throughout the State. A dispute about a fishery resulted in a serious riot case between the people of Duwara-Nongtyrmen and Malaisohmat. Some of the ringleaders were, on conviction, sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and under the orders of the Chief Commissioner the village of Warding in Duwara-Nongtyrmen, which was the aggressor, was disarmed.

SECTION 10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

17. The public health throughout the Province was more satisfactory than it had been for many years past. In the Assam Valley the population is said to be rapidly increasing except in Tezpur and Mangaldai, where *kalá-ászár* is still prevalent. The only serious outbreak of epidemic disease other than *kalá-ászár* was in Nowgong, which suffered from an epidemic of cholera. The area settled for ordinary cultivation showed a satisfactory increase. Climatic conditions were on the whole favourable, with the result that the crops yielded a good outturn and prices ruled unusually low throughout the year. The progress of the recovery of the districts of Lower Assam from the effects of the earthquake and *kalá-ászár* was maintained.

Chap. II.

Administration
of the
Land.

CHAPTER II. Administration of the Land.

SECTION I—REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

[For detailed figures, see Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904.]

18. The revised rules for instalments of land revenue in the Assam Valley and in the Jaintia parganas of Sylhet came into force during the year. Under these rules, the date of the first instalment in the Assam Valley was postponed from the 15th December to the 15th January, three-fifths of the revenue assessed at the regular settlement of all villages, except those which pay their revenue, or a considerable proportion of it, by the sale of mustard or pulse, being payable by that date, the remaining two-fifths being payable as heretofore by the 15th February. The whole of the revenue of the villages excepted from the above rule (those in which the cultivation of mustard and pulse is important), as well as the whole of the revenue assessed at the supplementary settlement, was made payable in one instalment on the 15th March. Revenue is due from mauzadars one month after the instalment dates, but it was laid down that mauzadars shall not be pressed for payment before the 1st May. The date of payment of the second instalment of revenue in the Jaintia Parganas, comprising 11 annas of the demand of estates paying above Rs. 50, and the whole demand of smaller estates, was postponed from February to May. The effect of these changes has been to postpone the demands of Government until raiyats are in a position to meet them by the sale of the current year's crops. It will no longer be necessary for an indigent cultivator to take advances, at high rates of interest, in order to pay his revenue, and, judging by the favour with which the reform has been received, it seems likely to be productive of material benefit. It resulted, in the year of its initiation, in deferring the collection of nearly ten lakhs of rupees.

In consequence of the alteration of *kist* dates, the year ending 30th June has been adopted as the revenue year for the Province. The figures in the following paragraphs relate to the year ending 30th June 1903.

Demand,
collections,
remissions,
and balances
of Land
Revenue.

19. The total demand for the year was Rs. 63,90,244, *viz.*, Rs. 59,87,556 current and Rs. 4,02,688 arrears. Of the current demand, over 93 per cent. was collected within the year. The percentage of arrears collected was 64.36. The arrears outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 4,34,600, against Rs. 4,39,013 outstanding at the close of the previous year.

Cachar.

20. In Cachar 98.46 per cent. of the demand was collected. Only Rs. 7,460 were outstanding at the close of the year. A marked improvement in collection is ascribed to the introduction of the mauzadari system.

Sylhet.

21. In Sylhet collections amounted to 78.86 per cent. There is reason to believe that the existing arrangements for recovery are needlessly lenient to unpunctual payers, and some changes are under consideration. But a very large portion of the revenue of this district does not fall due till May,—a month only before the close of the year,—and a clear balance sheet will always be more difficult to secure than elsewhere.

Assam Valley.

22. In the Assam Valley districts 96.23 per cent. of the current demand was collected, and 94.16 per cent. of the total demand, including arrears. The outstanding balance at the end of the year was Rs. 2,00,183. At the close of the previous year it stood at Rs. 1,67,437. Arrears amounting to Rs. 80,046 were remitted during the year as irrecoverable. Collection was particularly good in the Nowgong district, where no less than 99.56 per cent. of the current demand was collected. It was least effective in the Darrang district, where it accounted for only 94.13 per cent. of the current and 92.52 per cent. of the total demand. It is evident from the reports of the Deputy Commissioners of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, and Kamrup that the results of the year were greatly prejudiced by the failure of particular tahsildars.

Procedure
for realisation
of revenue.

23. To compel payment of revenue in Cachar notices of demand were issued on 5,263 estates, a less number than in the preceding year. In 2,807 cases movable property and in 47 cases estates were attached. Movable property was sold in 18 and estates in 34 cases for arrears amounting in all to Rs. 519.

In Sylhet, the revenue was realised with less resort to coercive measures than in the preceding year. Notices of demand numbered 8,846, as compared with 10,094, and attachments of movable property 1,949, against 2,050. Attachments of land show an increase from 1,401 to 1,685, but there were only 184 estates sold, as compared with 255 in 1902-1903. Including those pending from the previous year, there were 116 appeals to the Chief Commissioner for the annulment of sales. In 81 cases the sales were cancelled, in 34 the appeals were rejected, and only 1 case remained pending at the close of the year.

In the Assam Valley the extent to which formal coercive processes were used shows but little change. Notices of demand were issued on 5·6 per cent. of the total number of estates, their number increasing considerably in Sibsagar, but decreasing in Nowgong and Lakhimpur. Of the demand in arrears, Rs. 3,07,096 were paid up on issue of demand notice, without resort to further process. Movable property was attached in 11,950 cases and estates themselves in 1,886 cases, but only in 384 and 318 cases, respectively, was it necessary to proceed to sale. The number of notices issued was undoubtedly formidable,—45,184,—but in 98·5 per cent. of the cases sale was averted by payment of the arrear.

Administration of the Land.

24. The total amount realised on account of process fees was Rs. 95,272, which left a surplus of Rs. 57,201 after deducting the cost of the process-serving establishment. In Goalpara alone the cost of the process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees. In the Surma Valley, the surpluses were large and counted for 3/5th of the provincial surplus. In the Assam Valley, where the number of unpaid processes is small, the receipts were about double the cost of the establishment.

Processes.

25. The current demand amounted to Rs. 5,09,846, or Rs. 30,278 more than in the preceding year, of which Rs. 4,83,844, or 94·9 per cent., were collected. The collection of the total demand inclusive of arrears amounted to Rs. 4,94,653, or 92·8 per cent. Rs. 17,358 of the total demand were remitted and Rs. 19,167 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The bulk of the arrears accrued on account of fishery revenue, the lessees of fisheries in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Darrang, and Sibsagar being chiefly responsible. The receipts of miscellaneous land revenue were mainly derived from fisheries, minerals, and house-tax. The variations under these heads are briefly explained below.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

26. The three districts of Sylhet, Kamrup, and Sibsagar contribute the bulk of fisheries revenue. The total demand amounted to Rs. 2,12,648, of which, excluding a sum of Rs. 1,319 paid in advance in 1902-1903, Rs. 1,80,599 were collected. The outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 14,986. The increase in demand is due to keener competition at the auction sales of fisheries in the districts of Sylhet, Cachar, Kamrup, and Nowgong. Precautions taken in Sibsagar to prevent undesirable lessees and probable defaulters from competing for fisheries account for a decrease in that district.

Fisheries.

27. The collections on account of house-tax amounted to Rs. 1,77,377.

House-tax.

28. The total revenue from elephants amounted to Rs. 54,997, a large increase as compared with the preceding year, which was due to the transfer of several elephant mahals from the Khedda to the Revenue Department, which took place in 1902-1903.

Elephants.

SECTION 2.—SURVEYS.

[See Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904 and the Report of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, for 15 months ending 30th June 1904.]

29. The operations undertaken by the professional survey detachment during the year included the traverse survey of 157·85 square miles of tea grants and of 35·24 square miles of ordinary cultivation, in connection with cadastral surveys. In addition to the above, 164·83 linear miles were surveyed for the mapping of the Assam-Bengal Railway line, and of certain disputed boundaries in the Sylhet, Garo Hills, and Kamrup districts. The total expenditure on survey amounted to Rs. 18,893·7·7. There was no extension survey in the sense of cadastral mapping based on traverse surveys in the Assam Valley, but 4,846·46 acres of non-cadastral area were mapped by the local mandals by chain survey, in lieu of the rough method formerly employed.

In Sylhet some 15 square miles were surveyed by an extension survey party. The survey and record-writing in connection with the colonisation of the Langai-Singla disforested area in Sylhet was carried on by the Land Records staff under a Sub-Deputy Collector, who also carried out the alignment of a road through the area in question.

SECTION 3.—SETTLEMENTS.

[See Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904.]

30. Resettlement operations in Sibsagar and Kamrup continued without interruption, and progress was achieved, which is very satisfactory considering that the system that is being followed is novel to Assam.

During the recess of 1903 each Settlement Officer made a practical beginning with the reassessment, submitting proposals for a group of villages. In Kamrup the group dealt with (Bojali) consisted of 115 villages, with a revenue of Rs. 1,11,399, which, in view of deterioration that had followed the earthquake of 1897, the Settlement Officer proposed to reduce in the aggregate by 6·4 per cent., and to redistribute over the villages and holdings so as to rectify very general inequalities. In Sibsagar the group

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(Central Golaghat) comprised 155 villages, with an existing revenue of Rs. 2,11,308. Here, again, a reduction of the existing revenue was recommended, but to a trifling extent, and the practical effect of the proposals was to leave the existing revenue unchanged in the aggregate, while modifying very greatly its distribution. Both reports were submitted to the Government of India and are still under consideration.

During the past field season the correction of village maps and records was completed in both Sibsagar and Kamrup, giving the Settlement Officers, with the villages in hand from the preceding season, 1,235 villages and 1,411 villages, respectively, for classing and attestation. Of these, 603 were completed in Sibsagar and 812 in Kamrup, and the field work which remains in each district is no more than can be disposed of in another season.

Total settled area and revenue.

31. Of the total area of 31,780 square miles in the plains of Assam, as calculated by the Survey Department, the settled area at the end of the year was 12,292 square miles, or an increase of 73 square miles over the figure for the corresponding period of the previous year. The revenue demand was Rs. 59,56,159, exhibiting a satisfactory increase of Rs. 1,13,822. The causes of variation in the revenue demand and the settled area are discussed in detail in the following paragraphs.

Permanently-settled estates.

32. There are 19 permanently-settled estates in the Goalpara district covering an area of 4,594,920 *bighas* with a revenue demand of Rs. 11,411. No change occurred during the year in these estates. In Sylhet, the permanently-settled area amounted to 3,767 square miles with a revenue of Rs. 3,65,180, an area of 11 *bighas* with a revenue of Rs. 13 having been bought in by Government during the year on sale for arrears.

Temporarily-settled estates, Cachar.

33. Competition for land in Cachar continued to be keen and the whole area thrown open to cultivation in the disforested portion of the Dhaleswari reserve in the Hailakandi subdivision was taken up. The traverse survey of the Inner Line reserve in the sadr subdivision was completed, and part of this area also was colonised. The total area settled for ordinary cultivation in the district amounted to 1,041,717 *bighas*, or 10,171 *bighas* more than in the previous year. The increase is due to new settlements. The number of applications for settlement of waste land was 2,067, against 2,340 in 1902-1903. Of these, 1,813 cases were disposed of, leaving 254 pending at the close of the year. The area settled with *ex-tea-garden* coolies was 727 *bighas*, against 3,473 *bighas* in the preceding year, while the area settled with other immigrants increased from 154 to 1,537 *bighas*. The area resigned during the year amounted to 1,301 *bighas*,—very much less than in the preceding year.

Sylhet.

34. The Sylhet returns show a decrease of 10,894 *bighas* in the area of land settled for ordinary cultivation and an increase in the revenue demand of Rs. 11,214. The decrease in area is accounted for to the extent of 7,617 *bighas* by resignations in the Jaintia parganas; the remainder is apparent only, being due to the fact that figures of settled area shown in the returns for previous years were incorrect, as they included the total area of the *khas* estates, whereas the figures now reported include only the portions of such estates which are settled with tenants. The increase in revenue was partly due to progressive assessment of temporarily-settled estates in the Jaintia parganas. Of 130,075 *bighas* thrown open to cultivation in the Langai-Singla disforested area, 32,787 *bighas* were allotted, out of which 6,658 *bighas* were settled for ordinary and 5,142 *bighas* for special cultivation.

The Assam Valley.

35. In the Assam Valley the total *khiraj* (fully-assessed) area settled for ordinary cultivation increased from 4,828,402 *bighas* to 4,866,874 *bighas*, with a revenue demand of Rs. 39,40,578, exceeding by Rs. 56,717 the demand of the previous year. Details of the changes in the *khiraj* area settled for ordinary cultivation and the revenue demand thereof in each district are shown below :—

---	Settled area.		Revenue.	
	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Bighas.</i>	<i>Bighas.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Goalpara	219,538	138,411	94,941	67,849
Kamrup	1,329,209	1,355,154	10,73,975	10,91,633
Darrang	760,987	766,449	6,36,785	6,39,949
Nowgong	603,134	623,599	4,22,676	4,33,162
Sibsagar	1,361,392	1,404,566	12,04,839	12,38,749
Lakhimpur	554,142	578,695	4,50,645	4,69,236

The decrease in Goalpara is for the most part apparent only, and due to the fact that the area of the Bijni Duar, settled with the Rani of Bijni for ten years, which was erroneously shown in the previous year's return as *khiraj*, has now been transferred to its proper head. There was, however, an actual decrease of over 3,000 *bighas* in the settled area of the Eastern Duars, which is ascribed partly to the removal of raiyats to forest villages, and partly to damage done by wild elephants. All other districts show an increase both in the settled area and in the demand. The increase in the districts of Kamrup and Nowgong is due to the continued recovery of those districts from the disasters of the last decade, aided by the reduction of the land revenue demand in 1901-1902, and by the assistance given to the cultivators in the shape of agricultural loans. To these causes may be added in Kamrup the improvement of drainage channels that had been silted up in the earthquake of 1897, by operations effected partly by the Public Works Department and partly by the raiyats themselves, under the direction of the Settlement Officer.

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The total area excluded from settlement for all causes during the year amounted to 450,575 *bighas*, or 31,192 *bighas* more than in the preceding year. The area relinquished amounted to 324,652 *bighas*, as compared with 311,647 *bighas* in 1902-1903. In connection with the postponement of *kist* dates, the latest date for acceptance of relinquishment was postponed in the case of mustard and *matikulai* villages to the 15th March, and in the case of other villages where fluctuating cultivation is practised to the 15th February.

SECTION 4.—LAND RECORDS.

[See Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904.]

36. The sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris was reduced during the year from 1,151 to 1,112, the alteration being due to (1) the replacement of the staff of 34 patwaris for the *ilam* estates of Sylhet by 10 amins, (2) a reduction of six in the number of patwaris in the Jaintia parganas, (3) the sanction of one additional mandal for Lakhimpur. The number of uncertificated mandals and patwaris was reduced from 58 to 51. The number of resident mandals increased by 62 during the year. A system of rewards to mandals and patwaris for exceptionally good work was introduced with effect from the beginning of the year and worked well.

The number of supervisor kanungos was increased by four in consequence of a decision to include areas not cadastrally surveyed in kanungos' circles, which formerly embraced the cadastral tracts only. Information gathered in the course of the Chief Commissioner's tour indicated that in non-cadastral areas the extent of cultivation may have been considerably understated, and that it is very desirable that the mandals' returns should be checked. The amount of touring and testing of mandals' and patwaris' work done by supervisor kanungos was on the whole not unsatisfactory. The grant of field allowances for good work in the field to supervisor kanungos, which is a new departure, is said to have given a satisfactory stimulus to good work on the part of these officers. The supervision of Land Records work by Sub-Deputy Collectors is reported, with a few exceptions, to have been efficient.

The duty of inspecting Land Records work was not neglected by the Deputy Commissioners, but, judged by the number of mandals and patwaris whose papers were inspected, the share taken in this work by Subdivisional Officers shows a falling off. This is no doubt partly due to the resettlement operations in Sibsagar and Kamrup, where the settlement staff has been brought under the control of the Settlement Officers.

It was decided that in future isolated blocks of cultivation in areas which have not been cadastrally surveyed should be mapped as far as possible by triangulation, without attempting to locate their position exactly with reference to known points, the situation of the blocks being roughly shown on index maps for the guidance of the district officials.

An important change was made in the procedure for excluding from settlement the holdings of raiyats whose lands are abandoned either because their occupant has died (*faut*) or has left the village (*ferar*). The rules formerly required the mandals to submit lists of such holdings by the 1st May, and their exclusion from settlement was effected in the course of preparing the assessment rolls two months later. Under this system, Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers had no adequate opportunity of satisfying themselves by personal supervision that the lists were thoroughly tested on the spot by the supervisor kanungos and Sub-Deputy Collectors. It has accordingly been decided that, with effect from the year 1905, the period for testing

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the *faut-ferar* lists shall be extended till the cold season following their preparation. An abstract of each list will be submitted at the beginning of the hot weather to the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer, who by this means will be enabled to keep control over exclusions. Subject to any changes which may be directed by him, the lands shown in the mandals' lists will be excluded from assessment at the regular settlement, but any lands which are found to have been improperly excluded on subsequent testing of the lists in the cold weather will be brought to account in the supplementary settlement, or, if that has been completed, as *tauji bahir*. In view of the limitations which the Settlement Rules impose on relinquishment of land, mandals have been formally authorised to include in the lists and strike off the assessment roll *gotrahin* raiyats, *i.e.*, those who are bankrupt and have abandoned the whole of their cultivation. Deputy Commissioners have also been empowered to sanction exclusion from settlement in cases of hardship coming to their notice which do not fall within the above definition.

SECTION 5.—WASTE LANDS.

[See Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904.]

37. This section deals only with grants of waste land made for tea cultivation. The current settlements of waste land for ordinary cultivation have been discussed in section 3.

The area of land settled for special cultivation increased from 3,458,705 *bighas* to 3,484,545 *bighas*, the increase being shared by all districts, except Goalpara. In the Assam Valley there was an increase of 17,669 *bighas* and in the Surma Valley an increase of 8,171 *bighas*. Of the total area held for special cultivation, 2,644,680 *bighas* were held under special rules and 724,447 *bighas* under the ordinary form of lease. In Cachar 389 *bighas* and in Sylhet 8,531 *bighas* were settled for tea cultivation under Section III of the Settlement Rules. In the Assam Valley, 23 applications under Section I of the Settlement Rules were received during the year (Darrang 3, Nowgong 2, Sibsagar 6, Lakhimpur 12), and including cases pending from the previous year, 40 were disposed of and 12 left pending. The area settled amounted to 14,148 *bighas*. In Sylhet, resignation of three grants was accepted. There was no grant relinquished in the Assam Valley, but the settlement of a grant covering 1,796 *bighas* was annulled in the Sibsagar district.

SECTION 6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

38. There are no estates properly coming under this description. The few estates in Sylhet and Goalpara which have not been regularly settled for a term of years are managed in the same way as raiyatwari tracts under annual settlement, the holdings of the actual cultivators being settled with them on annual leases.

SECTION 7.—WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

[See Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for 1903-1904.]

39. The estates of Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya in Sylhet continued to be managed by the revenue authorities. The rent collections showed some improvement, the percentage of collections on the total demand having risen from 44.8 in the preceding year to 47.58. Greater resort was had to coercive processes in realising the demand. The total liabilities of the estate have been reduced from Rs. 1,30,000 to Rs. 14,899 since it has been under the Collector's management, and it is expected that the estate will be free from debt before the end of 1905.

The estate of the minor Raja of Sidli is under the Court of Wards. The minor's father having relinquished the settlement of the Sidli pargana, which was made with him, the pargana is managed direct by the Deputy Commissioner, *malikana* on the collections being paid to the Court as representing the minor. The Raja has also a 10 annas share in a small *lakhiraj* estate, which is managed by the Court.

The estate of Raja Giris Chandra Rai in Sylhet was under the management of the Court of Wards for a portion of the year; but on its coming to light that the Raja had failed to furnish a complete account of his liabilities, and that he was not inclined to abstain from action tending to depreciate his property, the management was relinquished by Government.

The estate of Govinda Ram Bhuiyan, minor son of the late Joyram Bhuiyan, tahsildar of Tambulpur, was brought under the management of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup under the Guardians and Wards Act. This estate is valued at Rs. 30,000, and arrangements have been made for the education of the minor, for whom it is intended to reserve a mauzadarship in the Kamrup district, under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

SECTION 8.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.*Administra-
tion of the
Land.*

40. Settlement-holders in Assam are, as a rule, peasant proprietors, cultivating their own lands and paying revenue direct to Government. Subletting is not unknown, but, except in Goalpara and the Surma Valley, is not very common. In the Assam Valley the *khiraj* (full revenue-paying) lands are generally held direct from Government. The improvement in the condition of the raiyats in the districts of Nowgong and Kamrup, which was partly brought about by the reduction of the land revenue demand in 1901-1902 and by the assistance given to the cultivators in the shape of agricultural loans, was maintained, but the heavy resignations in the Mangaldai subdivision of Darrang indicate that the effects of *kalá-dzár* are still being severely felt by the people. In the Kamrup district the improvement of drainage channels that had been silted up in the earthquake of 1897, by operations effected partly by the Public Works Department and partly by the raiyats themselves under the direction of the Settlement Officer, has contributed in giving an impetus to agriculture. The extension of cultivation in the districts of Upper Assam reflects the general prosperity of that part of the province and is accounted for by natural increase of population as well as by the settlement of immigrants. The increasing demand for land and the absence of applications for agricultural loans in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet indicate that the cultivators in that part of the province enjoyed an exceptional degree of prosperity.

Petitions were submitted to the Chief Commissioner during the year by the tenants of the Mechpara and Bijni estates in Goalpara, complaining of oppression of various kinds at the hands of the zamindars and their employés. On enquiry it was found that the tenants had not much to complain of in either case, but it was thought advisable to press the adoption of a proper form of rent receipt upon the managements of both estates. The Rani of Bijni has accepted for use on her estate a form of receipt for rent suggested to her by the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara with the approval of the Chief Commissioner, but the Mechpara zamindar has not yet agreed to comply with the wishes of Government in this respect. The rent dispute between the zamindar of Prithimpasa, in South Sylhet and the Manipuri tenants continued unabated, and the High Court rejected the appeals preferred by the tenants against decrees for enhanced rents obtained by the zamindar in the Sylhet court. Since the close of the year, however, the dispute has been satisfactorily settled, the conditions of settlement being that all arrears due for years previous to 1904-1905 should be paid up at the rate of Re. 1 per *keyar*, and that from 1904-1905 for a period of 15 years rent should be paid at a rate not exceeding Re. 1-8 per *keyar*.

CHAPTER III.

Protection.

SECTION 1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

[See page 102 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATURE.

41. No Act specifically affecting Assam was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year. The transfer of a hilly tract, formerly included in the Cachar district, to the Lushai Hills district having been effected, the operation of the ordinary enactments in force in the Cachar district were (with the exception of Regulation II, 1880, and Act V, 1861) barred in the tract in question under section 2 of the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation, 1880 (II of 1880), and such enactments as were already in force in the Lushai Hills district, together with the rules for the administration of justice in that district, were, under the provisions of the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874 (XIV of 1874), extended thereto.

The following legislative measures were also introduced :—

(1) The Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899) was, under the provisions of the Frontier Tracts Regulation, barred in the Lushai Hills district ;

(2) The Cantonments House Accommodation Act, II of 1902, was declared to be operative in the cantonments of Shillong, Dibrugarh, and Silchar.

SECTION 3.—POLICE.

[For detailed figures, see Police Administration Report of Assam for 1903, also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

Military
Police.

42. The Military Police force was kept up to its ordinary strength throughout the year. All the battalions learnt the new drill as laid down in the Regulations for 1902. The Martini-Henry Mark II rifles in the hands of the force were replaced by others of the Mark IV pattern.

Civil
Police.

43. The strength of the Civil Police at the close of the year was 401 officers and 2,303 constables. Fifteen additional Sub-Inspectors were appointed and the number of head constables was reduced by two. The total force actually on duty at the close of the year was 87 short of the sanctioned strength. The standard of efficiency and discipline was not very satisfactory, and the usual difficulty was experienced in recruiting. The number of resignations showed a decrease, the number of dismissals an increase, as compared with the previous year. The health of the force was indifferent.

Crime.

44. The number of cognisable cases rose from 16,484 to 16,771, the districts of Goalpara, Sibsagar, and Sylhet being responsible for an increase in petty offences. On the other hand, there was a satisfactory decrease under the heads of robbery, dacoity, and aggravated lurking house-trespass and house-breaking which showed, respectively, 10, 9, and 1,360 true cases, against 29, 12, and 1,476 in the preceding year. The most noticeable crime of the year was the Kalacherra dacoity, in which a gang of 27 Afghans looted the shop of a trader at Kalacherra in Cachar. All, except 3, were arrested and convicted.

The number of true cases of rioting and unlawful assembly fell by 175, the most prominent diminution occurring in Sylhet, where the number declined from 535 to 402. This satisfactory result was due to energetic preventive measures employed by the Deputy Commissioner and the care taken that only genuine cases of rioting were returned as such. There was a decrease of 26 in the number of prosecutions for instituting false cases, the worst result in this respect being shown in Kamrup, where the percentage of prosecutions to cases declared false was 5.6 only.

Non-cognisable cases showed an increase of 679 over the preceding year. Of the 16,718 cases instituted, 6,006 were tried and 3,897 ended in conviction.

Investiga-
tion and
prosecu-
tion.

45. Of the 16,771 cases for disposal, 10,112 were investigated by the police, against 10,467 in the previous year. Of 6,784 cases decided, 4,701 ended in conviction, a percentage of 69.4. Of 10,081 cases reported to the police, 9,420 were investigated, and 4,930 decided, 3,980 of these ending in conviction. The percentage of true cases to the total number of cases was slightly higher, and that of false cases slightly lower, than in the preceding year.

46. The total number of chaukidars in the three districts of Sylhet, Cachar, and Goalpara was 6,807, and their total cost for the year was Rs. 2,99,731, against Rs. 3,29,378 in the previous year. In connection with some complaints regarding the rates of pay of chaukidars in Sylhet under the Bengal Chaukidari Act, VI of 1870, which were said to be excessive, it came to the Chief Commissioner's notice that sufficient care had not always been taken in selecting the members of *panchayats* on the introduction of the Act. Steps are being taken to revise the rates of pay and also to improve the method of appointing *panchayats*.

Protection.
Village
chauki-
dars.

SECTION 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[For detailed figures, see High Court's Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Assam for 1903 and Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

47. The Judicial staff employed on criminal work consisted of two Sessions Judges, eight district Magistrates, forty-nine Stipendiary Magistrates, and twenty-one Honorary Magistrates. The number of Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates was four less than during the previous year, having been decreased in Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Nowgong, and Cachar, as against an addition in Goalpara. The staff of Honorary Magistrates was increased in Sylhet and decreased in Darrang.

Criminal
courts.

The special powers which the Deputy Commissioners of the Assam Valley districts exercised under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code were withdrawn from them in the course of the year.

48. During the year 30,951 offences were reported to the criminal courts, against 30,476 in 1902. Of this number, 23,352 were under the Penal Code and 7,599 were under special and local laws. Of the total, 8,741 cases were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and 1,322 otherwise struck off as being false, leaving 19,138 cases considered as genuine to be dealt with by the courts. Of these, 12,817 were under the Penal Code and 6,321 under special laws. The total was larger by 233 than that of 1902, there being an increase of 126 under offences under the Penal Code and 107 under offences against special laws.

Offences
reported.

49. The total number of cases in which complaints were rejected, or the case struck off as false, was 10,063, or 32.5 per cent. of the number reported. The percentage for 1902 was 30.7.

Rejected
complaints
and false
cases.

50. Including cases which were under inquiry at the close of 1902, 20,828 cases coming before the courts were accepted as true during 1903. Of these, 14,594 were brought to trial. The figures, as compared with those of the previous year, represent an increase of 74 under the former and 200 under the latter head.

Cases found
to be true.

51. In the courts of Magistrates 176 cases were committed to the Sessions and 14,341 were finally disposed of during the year. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 743, or 59 more than in the previous year. Of the cases disposed of, 613 were decided by District Magistrates, 13,308 by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 596 by Honorary Magistrates and Benches. There were 10,253 trials under ordinary and 4,264 under summary procedure, the proportion of cases tried summarily being 29.3 per cent.

Original
Jurisdiction,
Magis-
trates'
courts.

Of the 613 cases decided by the Deputy Commissioners, 8 were disposed of in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 7 of them being dealt with by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts in the Assam Valley.

52. The number of persons whose cases were decided by Magistrates was 21,959, an increase of 624 on the previous year's figures. Of these, 10,558, or 48 per cent., were convicted.

Results of
trials.

53. Before Magistrates, 3,036 persons were sentenced to imprisonment, 7,205 to fine, and 243 to whipping. Sentences of imprisonment and whipping were more numerous, and of fine considerably fewer, than in 1902. Two hundred and twenty-three workmen were ordered to fulfil their contracts and 12 persons were released on probation under the provisions of section 562, Code of Criminal Procedure. Nine persons previously so released were brought again before the courts under section 563, and all of them were convicted and punished.

Punish-
ment.

54. Four hundred and twenty-three persons were ordered to execute bonds, with or without sureties, for keeping the peace; and 127 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, 84 of whom were sentenced to undergo imprisonment in default. Cases of both classes were considerably more numerous than in 1902.

Security
for keeping
the peace
and for
good
behaviour.

Protection.**Courts of Session, commitments.**

55. There were 47 cases pending trial before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year; 176 cases were committed to trial during the year; and 161 were disposed of on trial. The commitments in 12 cases were quashed by the High Court, and in 4 cases the accused persons died or escaped before trial. There remained 46 cases pending at the close of the year. The commitments exceeded those of 1902 by 64. The increase is due to the withdrawal of the powers of the Deputy Commissioners referred to in paragraph 47.

Results of trials.

56. In the above cases 386 persons were involved. Of these, 272 were tried and 97 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons tried, 161 were convicted and sentenced in the Sessions Court, 16 were referred for orders of the High Court, and 95 were discharged or acquitted. There were 130 persons tried by Jury, and the Judge agreed with the verdict with regard to 119 persons and disapproved of it with regard to 11. In the case of nine persons he disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of these nine persons, 1 was acquitted, 6 were convicted, and the cases of 2 remained pending at the close of the year. One hundred and four persons were tried with the aid of Assessors, as to whom the Judge concurred with both Assessors in 68 instances, concurred with one Assessor in 28, and disagreed with both in 8.

Punishment.

57. Sentence of death was passed in six cases on seven persons. The result of the references in these cases to the High Court is stated in paragraph 61 below. Twenty-one persons were sentenced in the Sessions Court to transportation for life and six to transportation for a term of years. One hundred and thirty-three persons were sentenced to rigorous and one to simple imprisonment.

Appellate Jurisdiction. Appeals to High Court.

58. There were 4 appeals pending from the previous year before the High Court, 79 were instituted during the year, and 76 disposed of, leaving 7 pending at its close. Of the institutions, 5 were from sentences passed by Deputy Commissioners under section 34, Code of Criminal Procedure, and 73 from convictions by Sessions Judges. One appeal was preferred by the Local Government. The number of persons concerned in the appeals was 123.

The result of the 76 appeals disposed of during the year was that convictions were upheld in 63 cases, reversed in 6, and varied or sentences reduced in 5. Two cases were remanded for retrial. Of 30 appeals decided in cases tried by Jury, convictions were affirmed in 25 cases and modified in 4. One case was remanded for retrial. Of 40 appeals decided in cases tried with the aid of Assessors, convictions were affirmed in 33 cases, modified in 1, and reversed in 6. Of 5 appeals from orders passed by Deputy Commissioners under section 34, Code of Criminal Procedure, convictions were affirmed in all the cases. On the appeal preferred by Government, an order of retrial before the High Court itself was passed.

Appeals to Courts of Session.

59. There were 39 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year, and during the year 460 were preferred, 481 disposed of, and two transferred to Bengal, leaving 16 pending at its close. The appeals preferred were more numerous by 42 than in 1902.

There were 982 persons concerned in the appeals of the year, and the cases of 947 of them were disposed of. The appeals resulted in confirmation of the original sentence in 700 instances, or 73.9 per cent., in modification in 124 instances, or 13.09 per cent., and in reversal in 107 instances, or 11.3 per cent. A new trial was ordered in the cases of 16 persons.

Appeals to Magistrates.

60. In the courts of District Magistrates the appeals of 724 persons were disposed of during the year. Of these, 426, or 58.5 per cent., were altogether unsuccessful, 208, or 28.7 per cent., obtained a reversal, and 78, or 10.7 per cent., a modification of their original sentences; and in the case of 12 the proceedings were quashed.

The proportion of appellants completely or partially successful to the number whose appeals were heard by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates, was 26.8 per cent. and 41.1 per cent., respectively.

Reference and revision.

61. Seven cases in which a Sessions Judge dissented from the verdict of a Jury were referred to the High Court under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure. Five of these were disposed of and 2 remained undecided at the close of the year. The result of the 5 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the Jury was accepted in one case, modified in one, and set aside in three cases.

Besides the above, the case of one person tried by a Jury was referred to the High Court by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. The High Court accepted the verdict of the Jury and acquitted the accused.

Six cases involving seven persons were referred to the High Court under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure, and decided. Six of the accused persons were sentenced to death and one to transportation for life.

62. There were 100 applications made to the High Court for revision of orders passed by lower courts and 103 were disposed of, the result being that the orders of the lower court were affirmed in 50 cases, reversed in 21, and modified in 13, a new trial or further inquiry being ordered in 19 cases. Protection.
Applica-
tions for
revisio
made to the
High Court.

63. There were 168 applications for revision preferred to Sessions Judges during the year, and 163 were disposed of. Of the latter, the orders of the lower court were confirmed in the cases of 349 persons and reversed in the case of 1. A new trial was ordered in the cases of 46 persons, and the cases of 36 persons were referred to the High Court. Applica-
tions for
revision
made to
Courts of
Session.

64. Before District Magistrates 12 applications were pending from the previous year. During the year 261 applications were preferred and 266 were decided. The decisions resulted in the orders of the lower court being affirmed in the cases of 511 persons and modified in the cases of 4 persons. A new trial or further inquiry was ordered in the cases of 229 persons, and the cases of 11 persons were referred to the High Court. Applica-
tions for
revision
made to
District
Magis-
trates.

65. The charges of the criminal courts in Assam amounted to Rs. 2,55,489 and the receipts to Rs. 1,36,967. The charges exceeded those of 1902 by Rs. 27,964 and the receipts by Rs. 648. The increase in charges was due to increases in the share of salaries of officers debitable to Criminal Justice and in contingencies and refunds. Receipts
and
charges.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

66. Seven hundred and ten cases were brought to trial during the year 1903 in the criminal courts of the hill districts and frontier tracts of the province, of which 686 were disposed of. The number of persons implicated in the cases decided was 1,061, of whom 673, or 63·4 per cent., were convicted. Sixteen appeals were preferred during the year to Deputy Commissioners against the orders of Subordinate Magistrates, and there were 38 appeals to the Chief Commissioner against the orders of Deputy Commissioners. All of these appeals were disposed of during the year. The orders of the lower courts were confirmed by Deputy Commissioners in the case of 18 persons and reversed in the case of 2. The orders were modified in the case of 7 persons and in the case of one person a retrial was ordered. Of the 38 appeals to the Chief Commissioner, convictions were confirmed in 24, reversed in 7, and modified in 7 cases. The receipts of the courts amounted to Rs. 7,197 and the charges to Rs. 47,242. Criminal
Justice in
Hill dis-
tricts and
frontier
tracts.

SECTION 5.—PRISONS.

[For detailed figures, see Jail Administration Report of Assam for 1903, also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section V.]

67. The number of persons admitted to jails in the province during the year was 7,970, as compared with 7,731 in the preceding year. The average jail population was 1,458, against 1,506, the decrease being due to the release of a large number of convicts on account of the Coronation. Number of
convicts.

68. Of the 272 reconvicted prisoners admitted to jail 261 were habitual criminals. Of these, 223 were identified before conviction, and 14 after admission to jail, while 24 confessed to previous convictions. Reconvic-
tion.

69. The number of under-trial prisoners admitted was 3,138. The average period of detention of such prisoners in Magistrates' Courts decreased from 12·78 days in 1902 to 11·51 in 1903. The longest average periods of detention occurred at Shillong, Haflong, Sunamganj, and Goalpara. Under-trial
prisoners.

70. Seven under-trial prisoners and 26 convicts made their escape from the jails during the year. The excessive number of escapes amongst convicts was due principally to negligence on the part of warders and sentries. Escapes.

71. Both offences and punishments showed an increase, the total number of offences being 1,963, against 1,718 in 1902. The number of corporal punishments inflicted decreased slightly. Jail offen-
ces.

72. The rate of mortality among prisoners was 28·1 per 1,000, against 29·9 in the preceding year, the improvement being chiefly attributable to the exceptional healthiness of the Sylhet jail. The Tezpur and Gauhati jails, on the other hand, suffered severely from dysentery. There was an increase in the number of admissions and deaths from dysentery in the jails, but a very marked decrease in the number of admissions and deaths due to malarial fevers. Vital statis-
tics.

Protection.
Manufactures.

73. The total cash earnings on the year's working were Rs. 9,410, against Rs. 12,278.

There was an increase of 63·69 in the daily average number of convicts employed on manufactures, while that of convicts employed on extramural labour decreased from 134·12 to 91·13. There was an increase in the gross earnings from manufactures, which amounted to Rs. 41 per head of average total and Rs. 124 per head of prisoners employed on jail manufactures. The net earnings from manufactures worked out to averages of Rs. 7·6 and Rs. 21·4, respectively. Efforts were made during the year to attain greater system and regularity in the tasking of prisoners, as it was found that in some jails the tasks hitherto imposed were unnecessarily light, and were capable of increase without detriment to the health of the prisoners.

Expenditure.

74. The total expenditure on guarding and maintaining prisoners (excluding cost of buildings and police guards) was Rs. 1,20,720, or Rs. 82·11·11 per head.

SECTION 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[For detailed figures, see High Court's Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in Assam for 1903, ; also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Jurisdiction.

75. The jurisdiction of the Munsifs' courts at Sibsagar and Jorhat, and that of the District Judge of the Assam Valley Districts and the Subordinate Judge of Sibsagar, was extended during the year to a tract transferred from the Naga Hills district to the district of Sibsagar ; and Sibsagar was fixed as the place for hearing by the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts of appeals from the decrees and orders of the Munsifs of that district. The Civil Judicial staff of the province consisted of three District Judges, eight Subordinate Judges, and thirty-three Munsifs. The additional Subordinate Judge of Sylhet was permanently appointed as second Subordinate Judge of that district and Subordinate Judge of Cachar. The two Subordinate Judges and ten Munsifs employed in the district of Sylhet were members of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service, the remainder being executive officers vested with judicial powers under section 25 of the Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Assam Civil Courts Act.

Suits Instituted.

76. The number of original suits instituted in the province in 1903 was 30,033. The figure shows a decrease of 249 on that of the previous year. There was a decrease of 469 in the number of suits instituted in Sylhet, while in the Assam Valley districts and Cachar there was an increase of 188 and 32, respectively.

Of the 30,033 suits instituted in 1903, 21,121 were suits for money or movables, 4,836 were rent suits, and 4,076 title and other suits. In respect of suits for money or movables there was a total decrease of 719, Sylhet showing a decrease of 868 and the Assam Valley districts and Cachar increases of 135 and 14, respectively. In rent suits there was a net increase of 184, Sylhet, Cachar, and the Assam Valley districts showing increases of 134, 32, and 18, respectively. There was a net increase of 286 title suits, Sylhet and the Assam Valley districts showing increases of 265 and 35, respectively, and Cachar a decrease of fourteen. Of the total, 25,166 were valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 100. Ten suits were valued at over Rs. 10,000. The average valuation of suits for money or movables was Rs. 84, of rent suits Rs. 29·1, and of title and other suits Rs. 129·3.

Suits disposed of.

77. Adding to the number of suits instituted during the year those which were pending at its commencement and those which during the year were revived or received on remand or review, the total number of suits for disposal was 36,344. Of these, 30,537 were disposed of, this number being 152 less than the total disposed of in the previous year. In Sylhet and Cachar the number of suits disposed of was less by 604 and 87, respectively, than in the previous year. In the Assam Valley districts there was an increase of 539. Owing to the decrease in the number of suits disposed of, the pending file rose from 5,192 to 5,352. The number of cases pending over a year also increased from 100 to 104. This result, having regard to the decrease in institutions during the year, is unsatisfactory.

Thirty original suits were disposed of by District Judges, 635 by Subordinate Judges, and 29,872 by Munsifs. The average number of cases disposed of by each Munsif was 905, a considerable falling off from the figures of the previous year. In Sylhet, where alone the Munsifs are solely occupied with civil work, the average of disposals per Munsif was 1,857, as compared with 1,923 in the previous year.

Of the suits disposed of, 12,307 were withdrawn or compromised, 11,773 decided *ex parte*, and 6,457 after contest. The percentage of contested cases was, as usual, higher in the Assam Valley districts than in Sylhet or Cachar.

Of the total number of disposals, 13,556, or 44·3 per cent., were under the summary procedure of the Small Cause Court, and 16,981, or 55·7 per cent., under the ordinary procedure.

Protection.

78. Of the total number of suits disposed of, 18,608, or 60·9 per cent., resulted in favour of the plaintiff, 9,568, or 31·3 per cent., in favour of the defendant, and 2,361, or 7·8 per cent., in compromise. Compared with the figures of previous years, the variation in the relative proportions is slight.

Results of suits.

79. There were 17,228 applications for proceedings in execution of decrees made during the year, the total number for disposal being 20,434. Of these, 16,885 were disposed of and 384 transferred to other courts, the number pending at the close of the year being 3,165. Full satisfaction was obtained in 2,648 and partial satisfaction in 3,763 cases, the total amount realised being Rs. 4,92,276. In 10,474 cases the proceedings were returned as unsuccessful. These, as usual, include cases in which satisfaction was obtained out of court.

Execution proceedings.

80. Eleven first appeals and 185 second appeals were preferred to the High Court from decrees and orders of superior civil courts in Assam, out of which 9 first and 93 second appeals were decided.

Appeals to the High Court.

Of the 7 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, four were confirmed, two modified, and one remanded to the lower court. Of the 23 appeals from appellate decrees of District Judges, six were summarily rejected, eleven confirmed, one reversed, one compromised, and four remanded to the lower courts. Of the 65 appeals from appellate decrees of Subordinate Judges, fourteen were summarily rejected, one was compromised, and one dismissed for default; while of the remainder, the decree of the lower court was confirmed in 42 instances, reversed in four, and modified in two, one being remanded to the lower court. Of the 7 appeals from orders decided, four were summarily rejected and three confirmed.

81. Nine hundred and thirty-nine appeals were pending in the Civil Appellate Courts of Assam at the end of 1902. One thousand and fifty-one were instituted and 1,130 disposed of during 1903, the number pending at the close of the year being 882. Of the latter, 107 were pending for over a year. Arrears have been slightly reduced during the year. Of the appeals preferred, 357 were in suits for money or moveables, 249 in suits under the rent law, and 445 in title and other suits.

Appeals in Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Eighty-four of the appeals preferred were summarily rejected. Of 1,046 appeals decided after hearing, the decisions of the lower courts were affirmed in 784 cases, or 74·9 per cent., modified in 52, or 4·9 per cent., reversed in 157, or 15 per cent., the remainder being remanded to the lower courts. The proportion of decisions affirmed on appeal was larger than in the previous year. One hundred and fourteen miscellaneous appeals, as against 65 in 1902, were decided during the year, and 20 were pending at its close.

82. The receipts from civil courts in Assam fell from Rs. 4,53,486 in 1902 to Rs. 4,42,789 in 1903, and the expenditure of the civil courts from Rs. 2,35,430 to Rs. 2,33,870, the result being that the surplus of receipts over expenditure fell from Rs. 2,18,056 to Rs. 2,08,919.

Financial results.

The decrease in receipts is mainly under the head "Other receipts." In the salaries paid to judicial officers there was an increase of Rs. 3,802, due to an increase in the number of working days devoted to civil work. In the cost of ministerial establishments there was a decrease of Rs. 5,515.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

83. The number of civil suits instituted in the civil courts of the hill districts and frontier tracts of the province in 1903 was 997, the value of the suits instituted being Rs. 1,14,519. Including suits pending from the previous year, there were 1,348 cases to be dealt with by the courts. Of these, 1,087 were disposed of. Twenty appeals against the orders of the lower courts were preferred to Deputy Commissioners, who disposed of 33 in all, including appeals pending from the previous year. The decree was confirmed in 23 cases, reversed in 6, and modified in 2, while 2 cases were remanded. Twenty-nine appeals were preferred to the Chief Commissioner and the decree of the lower court was confirmed in 21 cases, modified in 2, and reversed in 3, while 3 cases were remanded. There were 468 applications for execution of decrees, of which 307 were dealt with and decided. The receipts of the civil courts amounted to Rs. 10,212 and the charges to Rs. 24,386.

E

Protection.

SECTION 7.—REGISTRATION.

[For detailed figures see Statistics of the Registration Department in Assam for 1903, also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IX.]

Registration in 1903.

84. The number of deeds registered in the province during the year was 55,364, against 53,211 in the previous year. The increase may be attributed to the growing popularity of registration.

Of the deeds registered, 47,202 were concerned with immovable and 8,079 with movable property, and 83 were wills. The number of instruments registered relating to immovable property showed an increase of 1,208.

Aggregate value of property registered.

85. The aggregate value of all classes of documents registered rose from Rs. 88,76,933 in the previous year to Rs. 89,78,662, giving an average of Rs. 162 for each transaction.

Receipt and expenditure.

86. The total receipts of the department for the year amounted to Rs. 69,011 and the expenditure was Rs. 37,423.

SECTION 8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[For detailed figures see Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the working of Municipalities in Assam for 1903-1904 also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

Elections.

87. General elections were held in Dibrugarh and Gauhati, with the result that in the former all the old Commissioners, with one exception, were re-elected, and in the latter 3 were re-elected and 3 new Commissioners were elected. By-elections were also held in Goalpara and Dhubri to fill up vacancies caused by the retirement or resignation of Commissioners.

Meetings.

88. In the fourteen areas under Municipal law 106 meetings were held by the Commissioners, against 118 in 1902-1903. The Municipalities of Gauhati and Goalpara held 14 meetings each, and Sylhet and Silchar 13 meetings. None of the other towns exceeded 9, and in Golaghat Union only two meetings were held.

Incidence of taxation.

89. The average incidence per head of population of municipal taxation of all kinds was Re. 1-4-3, compared with Re. 1-4-2 in 1902-1903. The incidence in Shillong increased from Rs. 2-14-8 to Rs. 3-0-6 and in Gauhati from Rs. 2-3-8 to Rs. 2-5-4. The largest decreases occurred in Silchar, Tezpur, and Dibrugarh. Taking into account only tax on persons and holdings, and excluding that levied on Government buildings, the average incidence was 8 annas 2 pie against 8 annas 3 pie in the preceding year.

Revision of assessment.

90. The assessment was revised in 8 towns, and resulted in a small increase in 4 of them.

Demand, collections, and balances.

91. The total demand, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 1,18,751, being Rs. 2,809 more than the demand for the preceding year. The percentage of remissions on current demand for all municipalities in the province was 2.47 only, as compared with 4.83 in the preceding year. The heavy outstanding balances in Dibrugarh (Rs. 3,354) and Sibsagar (Rs. 1,715) are due to delay in passing the assessment lists. In the case of Dibrugarh this was accounted for by an outbreak of plague.

Income.

92. Excluding opening balances, the total income of the municipalities was Rs. 2,65,952-8-9, of which Rs. 67,964-12-11 was contributed by Government and only Rs. 1,22,709-13-0 raised by rates and taxes. The amount of the Government grants was larger by Rs. 30,118 than in the year preceding, owing mainly to the acceptance, as a provincial charge, of a subvention of Rs. 10,000 which the Gauhati Municipality had previously been receiving from the Local Board, and to the contribution of Rs. 19,000 towards special plague expenditure at Dibrugarh. The grant to Shillong town was increased from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 2,800, and the grant to Silchar from Rs. 3,647 to Rs. 4,535. Silchar receives, besides a fixed provincial grant, a varying sum equivalent to the land revenue of the Khas Bazar. A loan of Rs. 10,000 was made to the Sylhet Municipality from provincial funds for the improvement of the water-supply of the town. All the Municipalities closed the year with adequate balances.

Expenditure.

93. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,60,866, against Rs. 2,42,263 in 1902-1903. The balances at credit of municipalities at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 58,912, against Rs. 53,825 at the end of the year 1902-1903. The Dibrugarh Municipality spent Rs. 51,828, against Rs. 32,857 in the preceding year, the increased expenditure being incurred on account of measures taken to combat plague, and being recouped, as mentioned above, by a special grant from provincial revenues. Some of this special outlay was devoted to improvements of a permanent character, Rs. 7,950 being spent on pucca drains. The expenditure on roads and conservancy amounted to Rs. 58,181-5-8 and Rs. 80,712-13-8 respectively, against Rs. 50,388-3-10 and Rs. 77,859-5-10 in the previous year.

SECTION 9.—LOCAL BOARDS' ADMINISTRATION.

[For detailed figures see Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Working of Local Boards in Assam during 1903-1904, also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

94. The maximum membership of the nineteen Boards remained at 364 members, of whom 60 were *ex-officio*, 171 nominated, and 133 elected. The aggregate number of meetings held during the year was 122, or an average of 6.42 per Board. The Boards of Goalpara and Barpeta, which are the least important in the province, again held the largest number of meetings, *viz.*, 9 and 10, respectively. Three Boards (Hailakandi, Gauhati, and Mangaldai) failed to hold the prescribed minimum of six meetings; but in the preceding year there were seven that were open to criticism in this respect. The attendance of members was fair, an average of at least half the number of members per meeting having been maintained by all Boards, except Karimganj, South Sylhet, Habiganj, Nowgong, and Dibrugarh. Constitution and meetings.

95. General elections took place during the year for the North Sylhet, South Sylhet, Sibsagar, Golaghat, and Dibrugarh Boards. In other Boards vacancies were filled, as they occurred, either by election or by nomination. Elections.

96. The income of the Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 12,52,995. The *income*, excluding receipts under the head "Debt," exceeded the estimates by Rs. 52,952, but fell short of the actuals of 1902-1903 by Rs. 74,552. The receipts from the Local Rate decreased by over Rs. 71,000, owing to the postponement of *kist* dates. The annual contribution from Provincial revenues was increased by Rs. 50,400, to meet in part the additional expenditure caused by raising the pay of teachers of Lower Primary schools; and special grants of Rs. 23,600 and Rs. 15,406 were also given for the improvement of lower primary, and of middle and upper primary school buildings, respectively. The Boards started with an opening balance of Rs. 3,82,775, and closed the year with a surplus of Rs. 4,22,222. The increase in the closing balance was effected in order to place the Boards on a proper financial footing, and to prevent the withdrawal of balances. The receipts from pounds were Rs. 3,810 in excess of the estimates and Rs. 4,801 in excess of the actuals of the previous year. The receipts under "Miscellaneous" were Rs. 4,917 in excess of the estimates of the previous year. The increase was due chiefly to competition among bidders at the auction of *hâts* or bazars under Local Boards. Contributions from Provincial revenues to Local Boards exceeded the grants for 1902-1903 by Rs. 35,280. The revenue from ferries amounted to Rs. 1,04,139, or Rs. 880 less than the estimates and Rs. 704 in excess of the actuals of 1902-1903. Income.

97. Expenditure showed a large increase, owing in the main to a more liberal outlay upon education. Refunds amounted to Rs. 794 and collection charges payable to Government on account of local rates to Rs. 1,865. The expenditure on post offices, which shows little variation, amounted to Rs. 42,777, or Rs. 667 in excess of the actuals of the previous year. The increase was due to payment of a higher rate of wage to some of the district post employés. During the year a new post office was opened at Chatgari under the Mangaldai Local Board. The expenditure on education was Rs. 3,28,459, or Rs. 1,05,230 above the actuals of 1902-1903. The greater portion of the increase was, however, met from additional grants from Provincial revenues amounting to Rs. 89,406. The higher rates of remuneration sanctioned for lower primary teachers, and grants made for improved school buildings, are the main causes of the larger expenditure, and these measures have already shown encouraging results in promoting the efficiency of village schools. The Medical expenditure amounted to Rs. 99,578, against an estimate of Rs. 98,410 and an actual expenditure of Rs. 1,02,433 in the previous year. The expenditure on sanitation (Rs. 45,032) was rather less than in the previous year. Village water-supply received fair attention in the Surma Valley, but in the Assam Valley very little was done. Of the total sum of Rs. 6,246 spent on scientific and other minor objects Rs. 5,054, against Rs. 4,437 in the previous year, represents the cost of the veterinary establishment employed jointly by the Sibsagar, Jorhat, and Golaghat Local Boards. The services of the veterinary assistant are reported to have been much appreciated by the public. A sum of Rs. 1,200 was paid by the Gauhati Local Board as gratuity to Srijut Chidanada Chaudhuri, late overseer of the Board, on his retirement. Expenditure.

Contributions from Local to Provincial.—A sum of Rs. 17,599 was debited under

		Rs.
Karimganj ...	...	7,166
Gauhati ...	...	7,033
Tezpur ...	...	3,400
Total ...	...	17,599

this head against the Boards noted in the margin. The amount shown against the Karimganj Board represents the balance of the advance made to this Board from Provincial revenues in 1901-1902 to cover overdrawals; that against Gauhati represents refund of the contribution made to the Board for the construction of the Nalbari school building

Protection.

which was subsequently withdrawn; while the Tezpur Board refunded the amount of the grant temporarily given to it during 1902-1903 to enable it to meet the cost of certain works which had been completed in 1901-1902.

Civil Works.

98. The expenditure upon Civil Works was larger by Rs. 32,848 than in the preceding year. Excluding sanitary works and establishment charges, the total amounted to Rs. 5,05,924, of which only Rs. 43,668 were spent through the Public Works Department. During the year increases were sanctioned in the salary of Boards' Overseers and Sub-overseers, which will render it possible to employ more capable men than have hitherto been in service.

SECTION 10.—MILITARY AND VOLUNTEERING.**Command.**

99. Colonel H. N. McRae, C.B., A.D.C., commanded the Assam District throughout the year.

Reduction of Garrison. Movements.

100. The Military garrison of the province was further reduced by the withdrawal of the regular troops (a wing of the 8th Rajputs) from Silchar.

101. The 8th Gurkha Rifles, with two guns, left for active service with the Sikkim Thibet Mission in the beginning of the cold weather, and were relieved by the 16th Rajputs. A detachment of the 7th Gurkha Rifles proceeded from Manipur to Simla to form part of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's guard and the Kawpum detachment of the same regiment withdrawn to Manipur, being relieved by Manipur State Police.

Medical.

102. Colonel C. W. Carr-Calthrop, I.M.S., was in charge of the duties of Principal Medical Officer of the Assam District till the 3rd August 1903, when he was relieved by Lieutenant-Colonel D. Wilkie, I.M.S., who remained in charge till the end of the year.

CHAPTER IV.

Production and Distribution.

SECTION 1.—WEATHER, CROPS, AND PRICES.

103. The total rainfall of the year conformed very closely to the average, but its distribution was peculiar. The rains continued unusually late into the autumn, much to the benefit of the tea crop, but to the disadvantage of the crops which are sown in October. The cold-weather rains held off until February, but fell heavily in that month, too late, however, to be of much benefit. Weather.

104. The season was on the whole favourable, and, taking all crops together, the produce of the year is estimated to have been 14 per cent. over normal. The two plains districts of Goalpara and Nowgong gathered less than an average crop. Elsewhere, harvests were generally good, and were 25 per cent. or more over normal in Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. These satisfactory results are due to the excellence of the rice crop, and in particular of the transplanted rice crop. Heavy rain at sowing time, and a deficiency of the usual winter rain, injuriously affected the cold-weather crops of mustard and pulse. The yield of mustard was particularly disappointing in Kamrup, where this crop is of great importance. The mustard harvest of this district is estimated at only 50 per cent. of the normal. Pulse also yielded very poorly in this district and in Goalpara. The short outturn of mustard and pulse affected the raiyats very materially, as they largely depend upon the sale of these crops for the payment of their revenue. Tea generally yielded exceedingly well. In the hill districts, the conditions were unfavourable to the early sown crops (cotton, rice, and potatoes), which suffered from want of rain in April and May. There was an increase in total cropped area in most districts, the largest increase being in Nowgong, due to extension of *ahu* and *baos* cultivation. These two crops showed a large increase in Kamrup also, which was partly counterbalanced by a falling off in *sali* rice, due to the interference of heavy rain in August with transplanting operations. In Cachar a decrease in the area under *ahu* rice was made up for by a marked increase under *aman* rice and linseed. In Sibsagar the increase under rice was attributed to favourable weather conditions, while in Lakhimpur the opening out of new land caused an increase in most of the principal crops. The acreage under tea showed a falling off in nearly every district, due to the abandonment of unprofitable areas. No serious injury to the cultivation was caused by floods, except in the North Lakhimpur subdivision, where a heavy flood from the Subansiri and a breach in the embankment of the Dikrang river caused damage to the rice crop. Cropped areas and outturn.

105. Owing to good harvests in the year under report and the preceding year, prices were unusually low all over the province. In Sylhet the price of common rice averaged Rs. 2-8 per maund throughout the year. The prices of mustard and linseed were materially lower than those prevailing in the preceding year, while that of pulse remained almost stationary. The price of coarse sugar rose in Sylhet owing to the diminished area and outturn of sugarcane in the preceding year. Prices.

SECTION 2.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

[For detailed figures see Report of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, for 15 months ending 30th June 1904.]

106. The yield of potatoes at the experimental and fruit farms was on the whole satisfactory. In 1903, eleven different varieties were tried, but the crop, owing to unfavourable weather, was seriously attacked by blight, and the outturn did not come up to expectations. The crop of 1904, on the other hand, was most successful. Twelve different varieties were tried, the total area sown at both farms being 1 acre 6 poles. In spite of a severe hailstorm in April, which damaged the plants to some extent, the crop at the fruit garden was a good one, the outturn being 131 maunds 12 seers to the acre, while the yield at the experimental farm which escaped the storm was exceptionally heavy for the Khasi Hills, amounting to 242 maunds per acre, the satisfactory results are attributable to liberal manuring and careful cultivation and more especially to the use of oil-cake as manure. An experiment was also tried with 6 varieties of Australian potatoes, which were sown separately in a small plot of ground. The young plants were badly damaged Potatoes.

Production and Distribution.

by the hailstorm in April, but the results were nevertheless fairly satisfactory. The potato crop was free from wet rot, to which the Khasi variety of potatoes is peculiarly susceptible, but did not escape blight. An experiment was tried of spraying the plants with Bordeaux mixture with partial success. The farm continued to supply seed potatoes. In all $23\frac{3}{4}$ maunds of seed tubers were supplied to cultivators in the Khasi Hills and $23\frac{1}{2}$ maunds to officials in other parts of the province. The old inferior Khasi variety of potato is being gradually superseded by the improved varieties introduced by Government, and it is believed that in a few years the Khasi variety will have altogether disappeared from cultivation.

Maize.

107. The result of cultivation of various fodder crops in previous years was to show that maize or Indian corn was the most useful and economical fodder that could be grown in the Khasi Hills. Increasing attention has accordingly been paid to its cultivation at the farm. In 1903, the total area cropped with Indian corn was $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. A part of the crop was allowed to ripen, and after the cobs had been gathered the stalks and leaves were chopped up and ensiled. The cobs, when shelled, gave 22 maunds of grain. The rest of the maize crop was cut in the green state, and the whole of it put into the silo. The latter made the best silage. The total outturn of the crop from $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres was 433 loads of fodder and 22 maunds of corn.

Flax.

108. The flax experiment at the farm was, as usual, attended with indifferent success. Hitherto it has been sown in the spring to ripen in July, but it is intended to try the effect of autumn sowing, which will afford the crop, which suffers severely from the monsoon rain, the opportunity of growing and ripening in dry weather.

Silos.

109. The experiment in making silage was continued with satisfactory results. Four silos were used, 2 of which were pits and 2 over ground structures of planks. Silage prepared from green maize proved to be the best in point of quality.

Fruit trees.

110. The nursery of fruit trees at the farm was maintained during the year, but no very decisive results were obtained. There is some reason to believe that the site chosen at the experimental farm for fruit trees is more suitable than the fruit garden itself, and it is intended to transfer some at least of the trees to the former.

The farm cattle.

111. On the 30th June 1904 the herd consisted of one Patna bull, 9 Patna cows, 10 Patna calves and young stock, 2 Bhutia cows, 14 Khasia cows, 15 Khasia calves and heifers, and 12 calves which are the progeny of Khasia and Bhutia cows by the Patna bull; in all 63 head of cattle, against 53 on the 31st March 1903. Thirteen head of cattle, mostly old Khasia cows and male calves, were disposed of by sale during the period under report, fetching a price of Rs. 103-2. There were no losses through death, except two calves, which died shortly after birth. In June last there was an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, but it caused no loss and was soon cured.

Pigs.

112. The English pigs imported in December 1902 continued to do well, and 34 young pigs, the progeny of these, were sold for Rs. 202. The Khasias took a fancy to these pigs at first, and the cross between the young English boars and Khasia sows was reported to be an improvement on the native stock, but the demand for the English pigs has latterly fallen off, as they have been found to require more food and attention than the Khasia pigs.

The Government dairy.

113. The Government dairy was leased on the 1st April 1903, at a monthly rent of Rs. 45, to a European resident of Shillong, and remained under the same management, subject to inspection and supervision by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture throughout the year. The dairy continues to be a success, and has brought in considerable profit to Government, besides proving a boon to the residents of Shillong and the province generally. Large quantities of butter are sent out by post in tins. The only pecuniary assistance received from Government was a grant of Rs. 500 in July 1900. Since then the dairy has contributed Rs. 2,657-1-9 towards the purchase of live stock and other undertakings, and on the 30th June 1904 the Dairy Fund had a balance of Rs. 1,381 at its credit, besides machinery and appliances valued originally at Rs. 1,190.

The experimental fruit garden.

114. Some of the fruit trees at the fruit garden did well, but others drooped, whereas some trees planted at Upper Shillong appeared to thrive better. This might be due to the greater elevation of the latter place, but another cause was suspected, *viz.*, that the trees must receive shelter from the prevailing wind of the spring months. In consequence, the majority of the trees have since the close of the period under report been removed to a more sheltered field in the fruit garden or to Upper Shillong, and in both cases have been given a north-east or sheltered aspect. The fig and peach trees appeared to be doing well where they had been originally planted. These as well as the chestnut trees and a few plants of apple, pear, plum, and cherry were left in their old places. Amongst small plants, the cultivation of rhubarb and strawberries was attended with marked success.

115. A quantity of seeds and plants was, as usual, distributed by the Agricultural Department to selected cultivators in different parts of the province for experimental cultivation. Details will be found in the Report of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

Production and Distribution.

Distribution of seeds and plants.

SECTION 3.—FORESTS.

[For detailed figures, see Forest Administration Report of Assam for 1903-1904.]

116. The area of State forests on the 30th June 1904 was 22,287 square miles, of which 3,778 square miles were reserved and 18,509 square miles were unclassified State forests. One hundred and twenty-seven acres, or '20 square miles, were added during the year to the reserves in the Kamrup district; 62'92 square miles of forest were under settlement at the close of the year.

Areas.

117. The number of breaches of Forest Rules showed a decrease. There was a decrease of 29 under the head of cases taken into court and an increase of 1 under cases compounded. The amount of compensation realised was Rs. 2,392, an average of Rs. 10-13-2 for each case and of Rs. 4-9-2 for each person proceeded against.

Forest offences.

118. Special fire protective measures were attempted over 99 6'5 square miles, and of this area, 99 1'2 square miles were successfully protected, the percentage of failure being '53, as against '22 in the previous year. In addition to this, 196 square miles were partially protected. No fire occurred in the partially-protected area. In all, there were 12 fires and 3,402 acres burnt. The expenditure on special fire protection operations amounted to Rs. 7,737.

Protection from fire.

119. The working plan of the Goalpara sal forests was under revision during the year. The removal of 3,864 trees during the year was prescribed in the plan, and of these, 3,413 were felled, as against 3,597 in the previous year. Sleepers to the number of 26,320 were exploited departmentally and disposed of during the year, as compared with 1,884 in 1902-1903.

Working plan.

120. The total outturn of timber and fuel from the forests of the province was returned at 12,642,827 cubic feet, as against 12,725,852 cubic feet in 1902-1903. It should be noted, however, that the quantities of forest produce extracted under "gurkati" licences in the Garo Hills, and under free grants, which are included in these figures, making up more than three-fourths of the total outturn, can only be estimated. Excluding these items, the outturn amounted to 3,666,650 cubic feet, against 2,950,598 cubic feet in 1902-1903. With the expansion of operations in connection with the supply of sleepers, the amount of timber extracted departmentally increased by 90,707 cubic feet. There was a small decrease in the outturn of tea boxes.

Outturn.

121. The Charduar caoutchouc plantation in the Darrang district was extended by 10 acres. The receipts from the Kuli and Charduar and Bamuni Hill plantations amounted to Rs. 15,697 in all. Tapping operations were carried on during the year in all the Government plantations, the total yield amounting to 9,387 lbs. The revenue from rubber amounted to Rs. 80,358, an increase of Rs. 38,722, as compared with the preceding year. The outturn of home rubber increased by 371 maunds and the imports of foreign rubber by 1,475 maunds. The satisfactory increase under the latter head was mainly due to larger imports into the Lakhimpur Division.

Rubber.

122. The total revenue for the forest year ending 30th June 1904 was Rs. 6,76,944, or Rs. 85,857 more than the revenue of the previous year, while the expenditure increased from Rs. 3,46,322 to Rs. 4,51,887. The surplus amounted to Rs. 2,25,057, or 33'2 per cent. of the gross revenue. All heads of revenue showed an increase. The revenue from rubber was nearly doubled as explained already, and sleeper operations accounted for a large increase in revenue under the head of "Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency." These operations also accounted for a considerable share of the increase in expenditure.

Financial results.

SECTION 4.—MINES AND QUARRIES.

[See Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Sections XXVI and XXVII.]

123. The whole of the revenue from lime is derived from the lime-quarries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Some of these quarries are partly owned by the Siems or people of semi-independent States, who under treaty right obtain half of the revenue. The demand amounted to Rs. 11,935, which was fully realised.

Lime.

124. The receipts from royalty on coal amounted to Rs. 35,947, the whole of which was realised in the Lakhimpur district. The output of coal from the Makum coal fields in 1903 was 239,278 tons. During the year a coal mine was opened at Maolong in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the output of which was 50 tons. Some experimental borings

Coal.

Production and Distribution.

were undertaken by the Public Works Department in the new Barapani coal field, which was discovered by Mr. P. N. Bose of the Geological Department, as mentioned in the previous year's report.

Mineral oil.

125. The revenue on account of the mineral oil concessions in Lakhimpur at present consists of surface rent only. The production of oil continues to increase rapidly. The total quantity of petroleum extracted was 2,528,785 gallons, as compared with 1,756,759 gallons in the previous year.

Mineral concessions.

126. Two prospecting licenses for coal and oil in the North Cachar Hills were granted to the Assam-Bengal Railway Company. The prospecting license for coal and other minerals granted to Mr. G. L. Garth in the Garo Hills was extended for one year and that granted to Mr. J. Lawrence to prospect for coal and other minerals in a tract within the Cherra Siemship in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills was extended for a similar period.

SECTION 5.—MANUFACTURES.

[For detailed figures, see Report on Tea Culture in Assam for 1903 and Table 9 of the Agricultural Statistics of British India.]

Area under cultivation.

127. The only important manufacture in the province is that of tea. The number of tea gardens at the close of the year was 764, against 780 at the end of the preceding year. Two gardens were closed and 16 amalgamated with other gardens, while 2 new gardens, both in Sibsagar district, were opened. The total area held for tea cultivation increased by 30,541 acres, but of the total area of 1,096,167 acres, only 338,278 acres (or 31 per cent.) are actually under tea. The area of land newly planted was 2,567 acres, and that of cultivation abandoned 6,463 acres. The area under mature plants showed an increase of 4,812 acres, and that under immature plants a decrease of 6,174 acres.

Outturn of tea.

128. Favourable weather at the close of the manufacturing season resulted in a large increase in the outturn of tea, which amounted for the whole province to 145,199,101 lbs., as compared with 132,117,278 lbs. in the preceding year. In the Brahmaputra Valley the yield increased from 73,862,668 lbs. to 78,649,026 lbs., and in the Surma Valley from 58,254,610 lbs. to 66,550,075 lbs. The increase in the Surma Valley was partly due to managers having resorted to coarser plucking, owing to an improvement in the prices of cheap teas.

Import and export of tea seed.

129. Sixty-eight maunds of tea seed were exported from, and 8 maunds imported into, the Surma Valley, while 1,064 maunds were exported from, and 50 maunds imported into, the Assam Valley.

Prices.

130. The average prices of tea per pound in London and Calcutta, as furnished by the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, are given in the margin. The prices for 1903 show a considerable improvement over those for 1902. Both in respect of Calcutta and London sales, there was a decided improvement in the condition of the industry during the year. The season was favourable, and the increase in outturn did not hinder prices from ruling higher, owing partly to increased demand and partly to a decreased output in Ceylon. The completion of the Assam-Bengal Railway should further benefit the industry

by reducing freight charges.

1903.	Brahmaputra Valley teas.		Surma Valley teas.	
	Number of packages.	Price per lb.	Number of packages.	Price per lb.
London ...	599,776	8'60d.	310,481	6'49d.
Calcutta ...	129,756	A. P. 6 6	242,097	A. P. 5 2

SECTION 6.—TRADE.

[For detailed figures, see Foreign Trade Report and Rail and River-borne Trade Report of Assam for 1903-1904' also Accounts of the trade by Rail and River in India, issued by the Director General of Statistics.]

Foreign trade, countries and tribes.

131. Trade was carried on during the year with the following tribes and countries :—

(1) Bhutan.	(4) Abor, Mishmi, Naga, and Khamti tribes.
(2) Towang.	(5) Manipur.
(3) Aka and Dafla tribes.	(6) Hill Tipperah.

Total trade.

132. The total value of the trade showed a considerable increase, as compared with the figures of the preceding year. Imports rose in value from Rs. 7,29,252 to Rs. 13,85,571 and exports from Rs. 4,39,531 to Rs. 6,65,318. The increase was due, among other causes, to the larger importation of cattle, rice (husked), and timber from Manipur, caoutchouc from the Abor, Mishmi, and other Hills, cotton, (raw) and *til* or *jinjili* from Hill Tipperah, and to the larger exports of metals and dry fish to Manipur and Hill Tipperah.

133. 39·9 per cent. of the trade was carried on with Hill Tipperah, 34·2 per cent. with Manipur, and 12·9 per cent. with Bhutan, the balance being divided among the remaining frontier tribes.

Production
and Dis-
tribution.

134. Horses, ponies, and mules are imported from Bhutan and Towang, and cattle mainly from Manipur. The value of animals imported rose from Rs. 27,018 to Rs. 1,66,352. The figures of imports of horses, ponies, and mules from Towang are, however, of doubtful accuracy, as the pack ponies which make repeated journeys to and from trading depôts in the hills are liable to be counted several times over.

Proportion
of trade
with each
frontier
tribe.
Imports,
animals.

135. Canes and rattans, timber and bamboos, are imported chiefly from Manipur and Hill Tipperah. The total quantity of forest produce imported during the year came to 7,558,735 maunds and the value thereof to Rs. 5,47,494, as against 5,460,319 maunds and Rs. 3,73,061, respectively, in the preceding year. Most of the Government reserved forests in Cachar were closed to traders in order to give them a rest, and the forests in the Manipur State bordering on that district were therefore worked to a large extent. The area under jungle in the Sylhet district is gradually diminishing with the extension of cultivation, and this has also led to an increasing demand for forest produce from Hill Tipperah. There is reason, however, to believe that the greater part of the increase shown in the returns is apparent only, and due to more accurate measurement.

Forest pro-
duce.

136. There was an increase of Rs. 94,520 in the value of rubber imported from the Abor, Mishmi, and other hills owing to a rise in price in the plains.

Caout-
chouc.

137. Cotton (raw) and *tii* come chiefly from Hill Tipperah. The increase of Rs. 75,786 in the value of cotton imported is said to be due to a good crop in that country.

Cotton, etc.

138. The value of rice imported rose from Rs. 87,201 to Rs. 1,17,628, which is to a great extent due to larger imports from the Manipur State, attributed to good harvests and improved communication *via* Kohima.

Rice.

139. The increase of Rs. 87,939 in the value of lac and wax imported is attributed to an increased influx of Bhutias to the submontane fairs.

Lac and
wax.

140. A large quantity of iron was exported to the Manipur State, where it was required for the construction of houses and bridges. The value exported increased from Rs. 1,833 to Rs. 21,165. Fish (dry) is exported mainly to Hill Tipperah and Manipur. The local supply of fish in Manipur fell short on account of insufficient rain, and consequently a larger supply of dried fish was imported from the Cachar district. The total value exported rose from Rs. 22,426 to Rs. 53,283.

Exports.

141. The total value of the imports was 372 lakhs and that of the exports 765 lakhs of rupees. The value of imports increased by 3 per cent. and that of exports by 21 per cent. The increases were primarily due to the inclusion of the traffic carried by the Dibru-Sadiya Railway for the first time. The increase in the imports occurred chiefly under "iron and steel," "sugar, unrefined," and "tobacco," and in the exports it was most noticeable under "tea," "oil-seeds," "jute (raw)," and "oranges."

Inter-pro-
vincial
trade.
Total trade.

142. The imports of cotton piece-goods show a falling off of weight by 14,000 maunds, but an increase in value by over 4½ lakhs of rupees due to an increase in price in Bengal.

Imports.

The imports of cotton, twist and yarn, decreased in bulk by 3,000 maunds, the decrease occurring in the Brahmaputra Valley alone. Exports of raw cotton from the Brahmaputra Valley were slightly greater than in the previous year. The increase of 125,795 maunds in sugar is an evidence of the general prosperity of the people resulting from favourable seasons. The drop from 731,000 to 592,000 maunds in the import of husked rice is satisfactory in so far as it shows that the province was more nearly self-supporting and not so dependent on outside supplies, owing to the good harvest of the local rice crop. The imports of gram and pulse exhibit an increase of 76,839 maunds in weight and more than a lakh of rupees in value. Imports of tobacco increased by 20,000 maunds in quantity and by more than 4 lakhs of rupees in value. The weight of iron and steel imported increased by 60,000 maunds and the value by 2 lakhs of rupees. The imports of kerosene oil show a decrease of more than 14,000 maunds in the Brahmaputra Valley, but an increase of 32,000 maunds in the Surma Valley. The decrease in import in the Brahmaputra Valley is due to larger output, and consequently greater consumption of kerosene oil turned out from the Digboi Refinery in Lakhimpur.

143. The exports of tea during the year were the heaviest on record, having exceeded the preceding year's export by 206,000 maunds in weight and by 153 lakhs of rupees in value. The exports of unhusked rice (chiefly from Sylhet) were less than those of 1902-1903 by 633,276 maunds, but greater than in any other preceding year since 1892-93. The exports of oil seeds were greater than those of the preceding year by 80,362 maunds. Under rape and mustard alone there was an increase of 21,000

Exports.

Production and Distribution.

maunds. The area sown with mustard during 1902-1903 was larger than usual. Wood is exported largely from the Brahmaputra Valley and bamboos from the Surma Valley. The exports, though less than in the preceding year, were greater than those of 1901-1902. The exports of raw jute show an increase by 41 per cent. in weight. In the final forecast of the jute crop in Assam for 1903, the gross outturn was estimated at $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds. This crop is extending up the Assam Valley, where ample land is available for its cultivation. There was a decrease of 30 per cent. both in quantity and value of coal and coke exported. The decrease was due probably to increased local consumption. The orange trade is confined to the Surma Valley. The considerable increase during the year was due to the good crop in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The trade in lac increased both in quantity and value. The exports consisted chiefly of stick lac and came mostly from the Lower Assam block. The lime trade is confined to the Surma Valley. The exports during the year decreased by 528,000 maunds. There was an increase in the export of raw cotton from both the valleys, attributed to a better harvest.

Proportion of rail and river-borne trade.

144. In the Assam Valley, 87 per cent. of the weight of trade was carried by water and the rest by rail. In the Surma Valley, 8 per cent. of the total trade went by rail, as compared with 13 per cent. in the preceding year. The railway carried 20 per cent. of the imports to Sylhet and 44 per cent. of those to Cachar. The export trade from Sylhet was carried on chiefly by river. Eleven per cent. of the total Sylhet trade went by rail and 45 per cent. of that of Cachar. Eighty-five per cent. of the coal and coke, 23 per cent. of the salt, and 37 per cent. of the kerosene oil which entered the Surma Valley were carried by the Assam-Bengal Railway. The larger share of the tea trade (61 per cent.) in Sylhet was also carried by this railway. From Cachar 86 per cent. of the tea still goes by river.

Direction of trade.

145. Almost all the trade of Assam is with Bengal. The trade with provinces other than Bengal is less than one per cent. of the whole. The greater part of the trade is with Calcutta, which sent 64 per cent. in value of the import and took 67 per cent. in value of the exports.

Trade with Chittagong port.

146. A considerable trade was carried on with Chittagong. The most important article of export from Assam to that port was tea, of which 283,050 maunds, valued at Rs. 84,03,047, went from the Surma Valley for shipment to Europe.

SECTION 7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Revenue. 147. The total Public Works revenue amounted to Rs. 67,207, as detailed below:—

	Rs.
Imperial	5,331
Provincial	59,293
Local	2,583
Total revenue	<u>67,207</u>

Rents of buildings produced Rs. 36,875, and ferry receipts Rs. 18,432. The remaining revenue was made up of various miscellaneous items, such as sales of old material, old tools and plant, etc.

Expenditure.

148. The total expenditure on Public Works in Assam amounted to Rs. 32,43,267, as noted below:—

	Rs.
Imperial Military	88,228
Imperial Civil	36,963
Provincial Civil	24,53,374
Local Funds	6,08,999
Contribution works	55,703
Total	<u>32,43,267</u>

Imperial Military Works.

149. The outlay on Imperial Military Works was Rs. 88,228, of which Rs. 17,282 were expended on original works and Rs. 53,519 on repairs. A combined volunteer armoury and Sergeant Instructor's quarters was constructed at Shillong at a cost of Rs. 6,033, and quarters for a second-class Assistant Surgeon, Army Bearer Corps, at the same station were also nearly completed by the close of the year.

Production
and Dis-
tribution.

Imperial
Civil
Works.

Provincial
Works—
Civil Build-
ings.
Residences
for the Lo-
cal Admin-
istration
and Gov-
ernment
officials.

150. The outlay on Imperial Civil Works was Rs. 36,963, of which Rs. 18,231 were expended on Original Works, Civil Buildings, and Rs. 11,465 on repairs to buildings. The only work of importance was the construction of a Telegraph Office at Dimapur, which was completed at a total cost of Rs. 14,777. A store godown for the Telegraph Department at Silchar was also constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,165.

151. On Civil Buildings Rs. 5,10,770 were expended, *vis.*, Rs. 4,19,295 on original works and Rs. 91,475 on repairs.

152. A sum of Rs. 11,325 was spent on the new Government House at Shillong, and new furniture to the value of Rs. 16,638 was purchased. The building has been completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,87,573, against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 1,87,713. The construction of a residence at Gauhati for the Judge, Assam Valley Districts, was undertaken on an estimate amounting to Rs. 24,998, and Rs. 18,331 were expended principally in the collection of materials and in erecting the plinth. At Silchar a residence for the District Superintendent of Police was under construction, and extensive improvements were effected in the Deputy Commissioner's residence at that station. A private bungalow at Dhubri was purchased at a cost of Rs. 5,787 as a residence for the Executive Engineer of the Lower Assam Division, and another private bungalow at Tezpur was purchased for Rs. 14,000 as a residence for the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang. At Nowgong Rs. 9,051 were expended in collecting materials for a new residence for the Deputy Commissioner of the district, and at Jorhat a residence for the Settlement Officer was completed at a cost of Rs. 7,221. Considerable improvements to the Executive Engineer's bungalow at Kohima were carried out. A residence for the Munsif at Sunamganj was nearing completion at the close of the year.

A foundry and smith's shop for the Secretariat Press at Shillong were completed at a cost of Rs. 3,200. A portion of the Press building, block No. I, was converted into a public library, and certain other alterations were effected in the remainder of the block to accommodate the offices of the Conservator of Forests and the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner, Assam.

At Gauhati two rooms were added at a cost of Rs. 8,927 to the Commissioner's Court to accommodate the office of the Judge, Assam Valley Districts, and a Settlement Office was also constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,063. Two tahsil cutcherries of the standard type were completed at Rangia and Polasbari for Rs. 2,131, and Rs. 2,101, respectively. In the Sylhet district the Sub-Judge's court at headquarters was reconstructed at a total cost of Rs. 30,000, and a sum of Rs. 20,311 was expended on the reconstruction of the subdivisional cutcherry at Sunamganj. The works of raising the court house and building a new circuit house at Barpeta were completed for Rs. 7,310, and Rs. 6,898, respectively.

The thatched roof of the female ward of the Tezpur Jail was replaced by galvanized corrugated iron, and materials were collected for two A-class barracks in that jail. A well was constructed in the Sylhet Jail at a cost of Rs. 4,762, and materials for the construction of cubicles in that jail were collected at a cost of Rs. 6,805. The office and guard room of the Dibrugarh Jail were improved at a cost of Rs. 2,311.

Police barracks at Tezpur and Mangaldai were nearly completed at a total cost of Rs. 11,571. A thana building at Koliabar was completed at a cost of Rs. 2,560, and a barrack and cook-shed at the same place were under construction. A new thana building at Golaghat estimated to cost Rs. 3,805 was nearing completion at the close of the year. A combined quarter-guard, godown, and office was built by the District Superintendent of Police, Kamrup, at Gauhati, and one single and one married men's barracks were also constructed by him at a cost of Rs. 3,735. Quarters for the Civil Police at North Lakhimpur were under construction by the Police Department, and Rs. 4,445 were expended on the work. Thanas for the Civil Police at Dhakuakhana, Sadiya, and Moran Bazar were constructed by the Public Works Department and materials for another at Dhemaji were collected. A police cutcherry, barrack, and cook-shed at Srimangal in the Sylhet district were nearly completed, as also a police hospital at Sylhet. For the Military Police at Dibrugarh one and a half married men's barracks were constructed at a cost of Rs. 8,727, and a sum of Rs. 12,982 was expended in the construction of 8 out of the 16 recently sanctioned half-company barracks. At Kohima materials for the construction of two new barracks for the Military Police, Naga Hills, were collected at a cost of Rs. 2,705.

Rupees 14,344 were expended in the construction of a school house at Shillong for European and Eurasian children to replace a former building which was destroyed by the earthquake of the 12th June 1897. A wing was added to the school building at

*Production
and Dis-
tribution.*

Maukhar at a cost of Rs. 4,880. Additional buildings for the Jorhat, Sibsagar, and Tezpur High Schools were nearly completed for Rs. 3,547, Rs. 2,458, and Rs. 3,164, respectively, and materials were collected for erecting quarters for the resident master of the boarding house of the Sibsagar High School. Rupees 9,034 and Rs. 3,352, respectively, were spent in collecting materials for constructing a High School and a vernacular school building at Nowgong, which were estimated to cost Rs. 16,739 and Rs. 6,044. The reconstruction of a middle vernacular school building at Goalpara and the construction of an additional High School building at Dhubri were in progress. A new boarding house for the Government High School at Sylhet was also nearly completed.

A further sum of Rs. 3,737 was expended on the construction of the hospital for the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur, bringing the total expenditure to Rs. 7,756. The work was incomplete at the close of the year. Rupees 4,102 were also spent in the construction of a block of four solitary cells and an extra male ward in this Asylum. At Shillong quarters for the Hospital Assistant attached to the Chief Commissioner's Staff were constructed to replace those which were burnt down in 1902-1903. Offices for the Civil Surgeons, Gauhati, Sylhet, and Sibsagar, were constructed. A new boarding house, quarters for menials and cook-houses for the students of the Berry-White Medical School were constructed at Dibrugarh. Civil Hospital buildings at Aijal estimated to cost Rs. 10,008 were under construction and quarters for two Hospital Assistants were completed. Rupees 2,168 were also expended in the construction of quarters for the compounders and menials attached to the Civil Hospital at Aijal.

A new office for the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division, was under construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,101. The present office is to be made over to the District Superintendent of Police as an office. Quarters for the Public Works Department subdivisional officers at Hailakandi and Nowgong were under construction. The latter were completed at a cost of Rs. 1,262. A Public Works subdivisional office and store godown at Hailakandi were also nearing completion, and subdivisional quarters and an office and godown were rebuilt at Barpeta on a site raised above high flood level.

The new cemetery at Manipur was completed at a cost of Rs. 3,674. The churches at Gauhati, Sylhet, and Dhubri were also completed for Rs. 6,315, Rs. 5,717, and Rs. 2,731, respectively, and furniture to the value of Rs. 1,252 was supplied to the Gauhati church. The cemeteries at North Lakhimpur and Margherita were enclosed with brick walls.

The old palace of the Assam Rajas at Gurhgaon near Nazira was taken on to the books of the Public Works Department, and Rs. 483 were expended in clearing the building of jungle and trees.

*Miscellaneous
Public Imp-
rovements.*

153. Estimates amounting to Rs. 1,64,960 were sanctioned for restoring, reconstructing, and strengthening the protective bunds on the right and left banks of the Dikhu river and on the left bank of the Dihing river. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 95,554, and the work, with the exception of turfing, was nearly completed. An expenditure of Rs. 21,992 was incurred in strengthening, restoring, and reconstructing 14½ miles of the Brahmaputra bund near Kokilamukh, against two estimates aggregating Rs. 47,281. The whole length from Gosaigaon down to Nauhōtiagaon and Borghop, 7 miles, was almost completed. Above Gosaigaon, 2½ miles were completed with the exception of the breaches, which were left for the sake of safety until the next cold season. Work on the Dikrang protective embankment, which was commenced in March 1903 on an estimate amounting to Rs. 26,131, was completed. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was given as a contribution to the River Steamer Companies for improving the channels of the Brahmaputra near Dibrugarh. The obstructions in the Namdang river and its tributaries were cleared at a cost of Rs. 999 and a new drainage channel was cut from the Namdang towards the Singrijan, Rs. 1,771 being expended on the latter work, which was incomplete at the close of the year. An attempt was made to dredge the Surma river, and Rs. 1,050 were expended on the work. The beds of the rivers Pohumara, Kaldia, Buradia, and Chaolkhoa in North Kamrup, which had silted up during the earthquake, were cleared and deepened at a cost of Rs. 12,640. At Aijal two subsidiary reservoirs for the waterworks were completed at a cost of Rs. 10,171. Borings in the coal-field near Barapani in the Khasi Hills, discovered by Mr. P. N. Bose, late Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey, were undertaken, but not completed during the year.

A masonry well in the Mangaldai town was completed for Rs. 1,519. Four urinals were constructed for the Native Infantry lines, Shillong, for Rs. 746, and the coolie barracks at Gauhati, which were blown down by a storm, were reconstructed for Rs. 1,546. A trial filter well bed was completed for the Manipur State. A memorial statue of the late Queen-Empress was erected at Dhubri at a cost of Rs. 1,046 from funds

raised by public subscription. The land on which it stands was made over free of cost by the zamindar of Bogribari. An artesian well was constructed for the Jorhat dispensary at a cost of Rs. 1,737. *Production and Distribution.*

154. On Communications, Original Works, a sum of Rs. 6,77,757 was expended :—

					Rs.	<i>Communi- cations.</i>
(a)	Expenditure on bridges	...	...	...	1,22,483	
(b)	Ditto on new cart roads	...	...	...	1,18,056	
(c)	Ditto on new bridle roads	...	...	...	35,156	
(d)	Ditto on dāk and inspection bungalows	...	...	...	45,074	
Total					3,20,769	

The remainder was spent on improvements to existing roads.

A brief description of the principal works is given below :—

Rupees 65,632 were spent in restoring the Shillong-Cherra cart road and Rs. 8,643 in metalling it. The Cherra-Maumluh bridle path was converted into a cart road at a cost of Rs. 4,281. A sum of Rs. 18,000 was expended in the construction of a bridle path between the terminus of the proposed Dwara-Therria Railway at Ishamati and the Cherra-Shella bridle path. The first three miles of the Shillong-Jowai road were improved and widened at a cost of Rs. 10,446. An estimate amounting to Rs. 99,709 was sanctioned for improving the Gauhati-Shillong cart road and strengthening the bridges, with a view to adapt it for a motor car service. Rupees 51,504 were expended on the work. The expenditure on metalling the worst portions of the Dimapur-Manipur cart road between Nichuguard and Manipur was Rs. 1,44,982. Out of the total length of 61 miles to be metalled, 40 miles were completed. A sum of Rs. 32,082 was expended for improving the existing road between Dimapur railway station and Nichuguard at an expenditure of Rs. 13,979 incurred in providing additional slab drains on the hill sections between Nichuguard and Manipur. Two very important bridges over the Dhansiri river at Dimapur and over the Barak river at Karong were also under construction on estimates amounting to Rs. 1,10,836 and Rs. 35,860, respectively.

The Bhogdoi bridge on the Assam Trunk Road, at Jorhat, an incomplete work of the previous year, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 27,000. A sum of Rs. 3,150 was expended on sectioning the road between the 88th and 102nd miles. The work was incomplete at the close of the year. The bridging of the road between Nokhla and Umligbat and Topatoli and Nokhla was completed at a total cost of Rs. 13,909, and the bridges over the Jingiram river in miles 82, 94, and 102 were completed. The metalling of portions of the Assam Trunk Road from Dibrugarh towards Sibsagar was in progress, and Rs. 9,939 were expended on the work, whilst the metalling of the portion from Dibrugarh to the 6th mile-post towards Lahoal was completed at a total cost of Rs. 27,625. Rupees 13,545 were also spent in metalling the road west of Gauhati up to the 17th mile. Portions of the North Trunk Road in the Lakhimpur Division which had been seriously damaged by floods in 1902 were repaired, and the road was improved at a cost of Rs. 23,160, of which Rs. 13,459 were expended during the year. An estimate amounting to Rs. 19,989 was sanctioned for realigning, raising, and widening the Chaparmukh-Barpujia road, which has been recently provincialized, and is an important feeder road to the Chaparmukh station on the Assam-Bengal Railway. Rupees 14,338 were expended in completing 4 miles of the road. An estimate amounting to Rs. 30,096 was sanctioned for constructing a feeder cart road from Dharamtul railway station to Dandua, and Rs. 6,424 were expended on the work. Rupees 9,301 were expended during the year in raising and improving the Nowgong-Kampur road. The work of improving the Jaipur road was nearing completion at the close of the year. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,067. The total expenditure on the Aijal-Falam road to the end of the year was Rs. 69,051. The road was widened to a width of 6 feet from Champhai to the Tiao river, the length widened being 14½ miles. The total expenditure on the first section of the Aijal-Lungleh road was Rs. 74,978. Mile 24 was widened to 6 feet through rock. A rest-house, with servants' quarters, kitchen, and latrine, was constructed at Thiak in mile 27. The total expenditure on the second section of this road amounted to Rs. 39,408. Five miles of the road, viz., miles 81 to 86, were widened from 2 to 6 feet. Rupees 6,432 were expended on widening the trace from Aijal to mile 46 of the Aijal-Duarbund road. Rupees 12,925 were expended in the construction of a new dāk bungalow, or hotel, at Shillong to meet a much-felt want. The old dāk bungalow is to be made over to the Postal Department, by whom it has been purchased for Rs. 15,000. The work was incomplete at the close of the year. A new floating dāk bungalow at Rangamatighat was completed at a total cost of Rs. 7,160.

*Production
and Dis-
tribution.*

On the maintenance of Provincial Communications a sum of Rs. 5,63,051 was expended.

*Railways
and tram-
ways.*

155. *Jorhat State Railway, gauge 2 feet, length 30 miles.*—The total Capital outlay, on the Jorhat State Railway up to the 31st December 1903 amounted to Rs. 8,84,311, the cost per mile being Rs. 29,233. The gross earnings for the year ending the 31st December 1903 amounted to Rs. 90,710 and the working expenses to Rs. 77,117, showing a profit of Rs. 13,593.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway, metre gauge, length 77.50 miles.—The total Capital outlay on this line up to the 31st December 1903, amounted to Rs. 82,32,530, the cost per mile being Rs. 1,06,226. The earnings for the year gave a profit of 5.56 per cent. on the Capital outlay. The Ledo and Tikak Colliery Branch line, 11 miles in length, was opened to passenger traffic on the 7th March 1902. From the 3rd March 1903 the station at Tinsukia, the junction with the Assam-Bengal Railway, was made over to that railway and through booking was introduced between the Dibru-Sadiya and Assam-Bengal Railways. The subsidy period having expired on the 30th June 1903, the local audit of the accounts of the railway has been discontinued.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway, gauge 2 feet 6 inches, length 20.10 miles.—The total Capital outlay up to the 31st December 1903 amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, the cost per mile being Rs. 24,241. The gross earnings for the year 1903 were Rs. 94,742, to which may be added the subsidy of Rs. 5,000 paid by the Tezpur Local Board. The working expenses amounted to Rs. 67,003, which left a profit of 6.71 per cent. on the Capital outlay.

Eastern Bengal State Railway—Dhubri-Gauhati Extension.—Construction was in hand between Golakganj and the Salmara road, a distance of 30 miles. The remaining portion, from the Salmara road to Gauhati, a distance of 96.62 miles, is being surveyed.

Dwara-Therria Light Railway, gauge 2 feet 6 inches, length 19.50 miles.—About 15 miles of embankment were partially completed. The total amount expended up to the close of the year 1903 was Rs. 7,41,821.

Assam-Bengal Railway (3 feet 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches gauge).—The open mileage of the main line up to 31st December 1903 was 576.61 miles. The portions from Damcherra to Lumding, 96.70 miles, Lakwa to Bhojo, 12.72 miles, and Bhojo to Tinsukia, 41.94 miles, were opened to traffic on the 1st December 1902, 1st February, and 1st March 1903, respectively. The hill section between Lumding and Badarpur was opened to traffic on the 1st December 1903, thus completing the system.

*Establish-
ment.*

156. The total charges for Public Works establishment amounted to Rs. 4,95,614, including Rs. 5,896 debited to contribution works. For the execution of Imperial Military and Civil Works a charge of 23 per cent. on the cost of the work is made, the amount charged being Rs. 22,247. The expenditure on Local Fund establishment amounted to Rs. 68,432, including a sum of Rs. 11,961 contributed by the Boards at the rate of 2 per cent. on all Local Fund expenditure for compiling the Local Fund accounts in the Executive Engineer's Offices. The remaining cost of establishment, *viz.*, Rs. 4,89,718, was debited to Provincial Works, and amounts to a percentage of 25.30 on the cost of the works carried out. All the Imperial and Provincial Works were supervised by the Executive Engineers of the Public Works Department except the works in the Lushai Hills, on which Rs. 1,27,779 (including the cost of establishment) were expended by the Superintendent with his district staff. Works amounting to Rs. 78,197 were carried out in the remote parts of the hill districts by Civil Officers and in certain parts of the Goalpara district by the Deputy Conservator of Forests. Local Funds works to the value of Rs. 43,168 were executed by the Public Works Department officers, while the establishment under the Boards carried out works to the value of Rs. 4,94,109, the total Local Fund expenditure on works being Rs. 5,37,277.

CHAPTER V.

Revenue and Finance.

(a) GROSS REVENUE.

157. The receipts and expenditure of the province during 1903-1904 were as follows :—

Receipts.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3		5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE.				
I.—Land Revenue	—13,07,758	67,50,783	...	54,43,025
II.—Opium	4,53,671	...	...	4,53,671
IV.—Stamps	2,46,861	7,40,582	...	9,87,443
V.—Excise	22,68,303	7,56,101	...	30,24,404
VI.—Provincial Rates ... ..	...	467	6,13,555	6,14,022
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	1,24,027	1,24,027	...	2,48,054
IX.—Forests	3,37,866	3,37,866	...	6,75,732
X.—Registration	34,795	34,795	...	69,590
XI.—Tributes	50,100	...	...	50,100
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue ...	22,07,865	87,44,621	6,13,555	1,15,66,041
B.—INTERESTS.				
XII.—Interest	454	2,702	...	3,156
D.—RECEIPTS BY CIVIL DEPARTMENTS.				
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law ... ..	...	78,083	...	78,083
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails ... ..	...	59,789	...	59,789
XVII.—Police ... ..	...	1,01,524	77,126	1,78,650
XVIII.—Marine ... ..	...	...	...	...
XIX.—Education ... ..	...	67,352	821	68,173
XX.—Medical ... ..	...	9,964	...	9,964
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ... ..	...	285	53,905	54,190
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments	...	3,16,997	1,31,852	4,48,849
E.—MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL RECEIPTS.				
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation	21,406	6,397	...	27,803
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	2,267	2,088	...	4,355
XXV.—Miscellaneous	3,860	13,530	27,819	45,209
Total E.—Miscellaneous	27,533	22,015	27,819	77,367
H.—RAILWAYS.				
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross Receipts.)	25,87,822	89,205	...	26,77,027
K.—OTHER PUBLIC WORKS.				
XXXI.—Military Works	5,331	...	...	5,331
XXXII.—Civil Works ... ..	...	1,08,584	1,06,722	2,15,306
Total K.—Other Public Works	5,331	1,08,584	1,06,722	2,20,637
ADJUSTING HEADS.				
Contribution between Provincial and Local ... ..	...	17,598	3,39,119	3,56,717
Grand total	48,29,005	93,01,722	12,19,067	1,53,49,794

Revenue
and
Finance.*Expenditure.*

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—DIRECT DEMANDS ON THE REVENUE.				
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	11,618	17,714	794	30,126
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	70,890	...	...	70,890
3. Land Revenue ...	...	10,34,641	...	10,34,641
6. Stamps ...	10,762	32,287	...	43,049
7. Excise ...	14,810	4,937	...	19,747
8. Provincial Rates ...	...	...	1,864	1,864
10. Assessed Taxes ...	612	612	...	1,224
11. Forests ...	2,12,742	2,12,742	...	4,25,484
12. Registration ...	19,617	19,618	...	39,235
Total A.—Direct Demands on the Revenue	3,41,051	13,22,551	2,658	16,66,260
B.—INTEREST.				
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	...	1,912	...	1,912
14. Interest on other obligations ...	329	...	...	329
Total B.—Interest	329	1,912	...	2,241
C.—POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPH, AND MINT.				
15. Post Office ...	...	8,388	42,777	51,165
D.—SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF CIVIL DEPARTMENTS.				
18. General Administration ...	52,088	3,38,122	2,814	3,93,024
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law...	...	6,89,003	94	6,89,097
19B.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	...	1,88,155	...	1,88,155
20. Police ...	...	15,04,545	1,124	15,05,669
21. Marine ...	...	84,673	...	84,673
22. Education ...	...	2,64,782	3,28,459	5,93,241
23. Ecclesiastical ...	18,944	...	...	18,944
24. Medical ...	...	3,20,500	1,27,768	4,48,268
25. Political ...	—7	1,60,665	...	1,60,658
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	3,346	36,868	62,385	1,02,599
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments.	74,371	35,87,313	5,22,644	41,84,328
E.—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.				
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	7,302	...	...	7,302
28. Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances.	2,485	...	...	2,485
29. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	3,511	1,32,653	1,200	1,37,364
30. Stationery and Printing ...	...	1,09,339	1,178	1,10,517
32. Miscellaneous ...	9,240	88,912	18,496	1,16,648
Total E.—Miscellaneous Charges	22,538	3,30,904	20,874	3,74,316
F.—FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE.				
33. Famine Relief ...	...	...	...	...
H.—RAILWAY REVENUE ACCOUNTS.				
38. State Railways, Working Expenses	20,81,249	80,280	...	21,61,529
40. Subsidized Companies ...	...	2,226	...	2,226
41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure...	5,567	...	...	5,567
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts	20,86,816	82,506	...	21,69,322

Expenditure—concluded.

Revenue and Finance.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
K.—OTHER PUBLIC WORKS.				
44. Military Works	88,228	...	...	88,228
45. Civil Works	36,963	24,85,278	6,11,433	31,33,674
45A.—Construction of Railways charged to Provincial or Local Revenues.	...	2,860	...	2,860
Total K.—Other Public Works ...	1,25,191	24,88,138	6,11,433	32,24,762
ADJUSTING HEADS.				
Contribution between Provincial and Local.	...	3,39,119	17,598	3,56,717
Grand total	26,50,296	81,60,831	12,17,984	1,20,29,111

The Imperial figures shown against XXVI and 38—State Railways represent the receipts and charges of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

1	1902-1903.			1903-1904.			1903-1904 compared with 1902-1903.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or expenditure —.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts + or expenditure —.	Increase of revenue.	Decrease of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I(a).—Principal heads of revenue...	1,25,33,161	14,90,470	+ 1,10,42,691	1,15,66,041	16,66,260	+ 98,99,781	...	9,67,123	1,75,790	...
II.—Departmental heads—										
(b) Interest	2,453	1,686	+ 767	3,156	2,241	+ 915	703	...	555	...
(c) Post office, etc. ... ..	...	50,360	— 50,360	...	51,165	— 51,165	...	...	805	...
(d) Civil Departments	4,37,461	41,97,695	— 37,60,234	4,48,849	41,84,328	— 37,35,479	11,388	...	...	13,367
(e) Miscellaneous	67,961	3,48,637	— 2,80,776	77,367	3,74,316	— 2,96,949	9,406	...	25,649	...
(f) Famine Relief and Insurance ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(h) Railway Revenue Accounts...	21,98,586	19,53,217	+ 2,45,369	26,77,027	21,69,322	+ 5,07,705	4,78,441	...	2,16,105	...
(k) Other public works	2,03,928	24,95,335	— 22,86,407	2,20,637	32,24,762	— 30,04,125	11,709	...	7,29,427	...
(n) Capital outlay of Railways ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Adjusting heads	3,06,471	3,06,471	...	3,56,717	3,56,717	...	50,246	...	50,246	...
Total Departmental heads ...	32,21,860	93,51,451	— 61,31,591	37,83,753	1,03,62,851	— 65,79,098	5,61,893	...	10,22,767	...
Grand total	1,57,55,024	1,08,43,921	+ 49,11,103	1,53,49,794	1,20,29,111	+ 33,20,683	5,61,893	9,67,123	11,98,557	13,367

Under the terms of the late Provincial settlement, which came to a close with the year covered by this report, the Imperial share of one-third of the Land Revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 18,14,342 and the Provincial share to Rs. 36,28,683. The Provincial revenues received during the year from the Imperial revenues assignments amounting to Rs. 31,22,100, of which Rs. 1,56,000 represented the fixed annual adjustment under the terms of the late settlement, Rs. 20,00,000 was an initial contribution made to Provincial funds under the new Provincial settlement, which took effect from the 1st April 1904, and the balance was made up of assignments on various special accounts. These adjustments, being shown under the head of Land Revenue, reduced the Imperial share to a minus figure, and raised the Provincial share to a sum in excess of the total Land Revenue receipts.

158. Excluding receipts on account of State Railways, the total receipts were Income Rs. 1,26,72,767, against Rs. 1,35,54,441 in the previous year. The difference is accounted for by a decrease of Rs. 10,85,464 under the combined heads of "Land

Chap. V. Revenue " and " Provincial Rates " due to the postponement of *kist* dates in the Assam Valley and the Jaintia parganas of Sylhet. On the other hand, there were increases of Rs. 1,04,330 and Rs. 95,532 under " Excise " and " Forests," respectively, which are explained in the sections dealing with those heads of revenue.

Revenue
and
Finance.

Expendi-
ture.

159. The figures of expenditure shown in the above statement exclude capital outlay on railways, which was included in the corresponding statements of previous years' reports. Excluding all railway expenditure and contributions between Provincial and Local, the total expenditure of the province for the year amounted to Rs. 95,03,072, as compared with Rs. 85,88,281, or an increase of nearly nine lakhs. The expenditure on Public Works exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 7,06,228, while there were increases of Rs. 97,985 under Forests, and Rs. 1,17,655 under Education. Smaller increases occurred under the heads of Land Revenue, Courts of Law, and Jails, while there was a decrease of Rs. 2,20,946 under Police.

(b) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

SECTION 1.—LAND REVENUE.

160. There was a decrease of Rs. 10,13,028 in the receipts under this head, as compared with the previous year. The cause of the decrease was the postponement of *kist* dates in the Assam Valley and Jaintia parganas of Sylhet which has been referred to in Chapter II of this report. Expenditure under the head " Land Revenue " increased by Rs. 45,036. The charges on account of land revenue collections were Rs. 37,000 less than in 1902-1903, owing to the fact that the collection of some 10 lakhs of revenue was deferred. An increase of Rs. 73,000 under " Survey and Settlement " was due to resettlement operations in the Kamrup and Sibsagar districts. " Land Records and Agriculture " also showed an increase of Rs. 12,000, which was distributed under various heads, the chief increase being under " Superintendence." The expenditure under the heads " Charges of District Administration " and " Management of Government estates " differed only slightly from that of the previous year.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN THE LAND.

SECTION 2.—OPIUM.

161. The cost price of opium sold in the Excise Department is credited to this head. The receipts amounted to Rs. 4,53,671, an increase of Rs. 20,502, as compared with the preceding year, which was due to an increase of 61 maunds in the quantity of opium issued from the treasuries.

SECTION 3.—EXCISE.

[For detailed figures, see Resolution on the Excise Administration in Assam for 1903-1904, also Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section V.]

162. The total Excise revenue demand of the province amounted to Rs. 30,06,518, as against Rs. 28,89,272 in the preceding year. The three principal sources of revenue—country spirit, opium, and *ganja*—all showed an increase.

Opium.

163. The demand on account of opium rose from Rs. 17,79,917 to Rs. 18,56,460, license fees showing an increase of Rs. 7,802 and duty an increase of Rs. 68,740. The number of shops settled fell from 767 to 752, but the consumption of treasury opium rose from 1,274 maunds to 1,325 maunds. The marked increase in the consumption of opium in the Assam Valley during the last two years is attributed to returning prosperity and increase in the Assamese population.

Country
spirit.

164. The revenue demand from country spirit was Rs. 6,99,665, against Rs. 6,78,596 in the preceding year. The increase was obtained chiefly in Cachar and Sylhet, owing to the breaking up by outside competition of the monopoly previously held in those districts by a ring of Shaha venders, which caused better prices to be realized at the auction sales of country spirit licenses. A novel experiment was tried in the Jorhat subdivision of the Sibsagar district, where a shop was leased to a tea planter, for the supply of liquor to five neighbouring tea gardens, the liquor being issued to the coolies on a canteen system. The experiment was reported to have given satisfactory results as regards the control of the issue of liquor and the prevention of drunkenness amongst the coolies, but it entailed considerable loss of revenue to Government. With a view to prevent drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the neighbourhood of liquor shops, a special inspecting staff was entertained, and more stringent conditions were imposed on the sale of country spirit.

Ganja.

165. The demand from *ganja* increased from Rs. 4,04,026 to Rs. 4,26,654, the demand on account of license fees showing an increase of Rs. 19,128 and that on account of duty an increase of Rs. 3,500. The higher demand under license fees is accounted for by the profits realized in 1902-1903, when the price of *ganja* in Rajshahi was unusually low.

166. The total excise receipts for the year, including advance collections on account of 1904-1905, amounted to Rs. 30,24,390, against Rs. 29,20,074 in the preceding year.

Chap. V.

Revenue
and
Finance.

SECTION 4.—STAMPS.

[For detailed figures, see Statistics of the Stamp Department in Assam, 1903-1904, also Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

Receipts.

167. The gross revenue derived from stamps during the year was Rs. 9,87,445, as compared with Rs. 10,24,204 in 1902-1903. There was a decrease of Rs. 15,922 in receipts from non-judicial stamps and of Rs. 20,851 in court-fees. In the Sylhet district alone receipts under the former head fell off by Rs. 12,727 and under the latter by Rs. 18,618. The decreased revenue in Sylhet was ascribed to the low price of paddy, in consequence of which the cultivators stored the crop, with a view to prices rising. So that there was less ready money than usual available for litigation or for transactions in land. In Kamrup the transfer of mutation cases and miscellaneous revenue petitions to the Settlement Department caused a decrease in receipts under the Court-Fees Act, while a considerable increase in receipts under the Stamp Act in Lakhimpur was due to an increase in the number of local coolie agreements executed on tea gardens. The total charges of the department, excluding cost of stamps and plain paper supplied from the Central depôt, but including refunds, amounted to Rs. 27,886.

Receipts
and
charges.

There were 14 prosecutions for breaches of the Stamp Law.

Prosecu-
tions.

SECTION 5.—INCOME TAX.

[For detailed figures, see Income Tax Returns of Assam for 1903-1904 and Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

168. The net income-tax receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,47,810, as compared with Rs. 3,09,925 in 1902-1903, the decrease being due to the minimum taxable limit of incomes having been raised to Rs. 1,000 per annum under Act XI of 1903. The number of assessees was 3,971, of whom 546 were Government servants. The number of assessees under the head "Other sources of income" decreased from 5,614 to 1,990 and the receipts from Rs. 1,39,749 to Rs. 92,752. The outstanding balance at the end of the year was Rs. 8,297, against Rs. 10,797, the proportion of collection to demand being about the same as in 1902-1903.

SECTION 6.—FORESTS.

169. The causes of the increase in receipts and expenditure under this head have been discussed in Section 3, Chapter IV of this Report.

(c) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 7.—PROVINCIAL REVENUES.

The Provincial settlement which came into force from 1st April 1897 terminated with the year 1903-1904. The result of the last seven years' working is as follows:—

Years.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897-1898	9,43,729	71,61,804	76,17,602	4,87,931
1898-1899	4,87,931	89,56,874	80,89,460	13,55,345
1899-1900	13,55,345	71,66,900	79,82,388	5,39,857
1900-1901	5,39,857	71,04,340	71,91,170	4,53,027
1901-1902	4,53,027	72,67,828	71,20,475	6,00,380
1902-1903	6,00,380	84,18,879	74,10,486	16,08,773
1903-1904	16,08,773	93,01,722	81,60,831	27,49,664

170. The Provincial Revenues of 1903-1904 were reduced by over 6 lakhs, owing to the postponement of land revenue *kists*.

There were increases, as compared with 1902-1903, under Excise ($\frac{1}{4}$ lakh), Forests ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), and Jails ($\frac{1}{4}$ lakh); but a decrease under Stamps ($\frac{1}{4}$ lakh). There was also a decrease of Rs. 30,000 in the Income-tax receipts owing to the raising of the taxable minimum to Rs. 1,000, but this was made good by a special contribution from the Imperial Revenues. The increase in the total receipts and in the closing balance of the year is due to a special Imperial contribution of Rs. 20,00,000 made under the terms of

Chap. V. the new Provincial settlement. Provincial Expenditure increased under Land Revenue ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), Forests ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), Courts of Law ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), Jails ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), Medical ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh), Civil Works (6½ lakhs), and Contributions to Local Boards ($\frac{1}{2}$ lakh). Expenditure under Police diminished by Rs. 2,21,000.

Revenue
and
Finance.

Under the terms of the new Provincial settlement, which took effect from the 1st April 1904, the Administration will be credited with half of the receipts under divided heads of revenue, and will be debited with the same proportion of expenditure under each corresponding expenditure head. An annual assignment of Rs. 12,00,000 from Imperial to Provincial revenues has been made, and also an initial grant of Rs. 20,00,000 to enable the Administration to start the new settlement under favourable conditions. No term has been fixed for the settlement, which will remain in force until revised by the Government of India.

SECTION 8.—LOCAL FUNDS.

171. The following statement shows the receipts and charges of Local Funds during 1903-1904 :—

				Receipts.	Expenditure.
				Rs.	Rs.
Incorporated Local Funds—					
Local Boards	...	...	...	11,66,318	11,31,041
Inland Labour Transport Fund	...	...	...	54,712	86,464
District Chaukidari Reward Fund	...	...	...	1,124	1,124
Total	...	...	...	12,22,154	12,18,629
Excluded Local Funds—					
Municipal, Union, Station, and Town Funds	...	...	...	2,74,671	2,69,266
Cantonment Funds	...	...	...	13,529	12,093
Assam Williamson Education Fund	...	...	...	3,926	3,411
Total	...	...	...	2,92,126	2,84,770

Local Boards received special contributions of Rs. 91,000 for Educational expenditure, which increased by Rs. 1,05,000; but their receipts from Local Rates diminished by Rs. 73,000 (owing to the alteration of *kists*), and their Public Works charges increased by Rs. 33,000.

The Inland Labour Transport Fund closed the year with a debit balance of Rs. 7,190, the deficit in the Bengal portion of the fund having amounted to Rs. 29,856 owing to the great decrease in emigration under Act VI of 1901.

SECTION 9.—ROAD CESSSES.

172. The local rate, which is assessed on landed property in Assam under the Assam Local Rates Regulation, is applied to the construction and maintenance of roads and other communications, as well as to the promotion of education, medical relief, sanitation, the district post and miscellaneous public improvements. With the increase in the land revenue demand, there was a corresponding increase in the demand on account of local rates. The current demand for the year was Rs. 6,82,919, or Rs. 7,819 more than in 1902-1903. Inclusive of arrears, the total demand amounted to Rs. 7,65,695, of which Rs. 6,62,094, or 86.4, were collected, Rs. 15,457 were remitted, and the balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 88,145, or 11.5 per cent. of the demand.

SECTION 10.—EDUCATION CESSSES.

Nil.

SECTION 11.—MUNICIPAL REVENUES.

173. The subject of Municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8, Chapter III of this report.

CHAPTER VI.

Vital Statistics and Medical Services.

SECTION 1.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[For detailed figures, see Sanitary Report of Assam for 1903 and Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIII.]

174. The year was very healthy, there being a decrease in mortality under almost every head of disease. The birth-rate registered was 35·57 per mille, against 34·21 in 1902, and ranged from 27·81 per mille in Sibsagar to 43·22 per mille in Goalpara. The only district in which deaths exceeded births was Darrang, where *kalá-ázár* still prevails. Births.

175. The recorded death-rate was 26·55 per mille, against 29·01 per mille in the preceding year, the lowest ratios being in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur and the highest in Goalpara and Darrang. The total number of deaths registered was 140,069. The registration of both births and deaths is, however, very defective. Deaths.

In the province, as a whole, the deaths from cholera and small-pox recorded decreased by 4,298 and 5,562, respectively, deaths ascribed to fever decreased by 2,675, while deaths attributed to other causes showed a small increase over the preceding year. There were 28 deaths from plague, of which 37 cases occurred at Dibrugarh between the 16th May and the 3rd July 1903. Preventive measures, which were promptly undertaken, were successful in stamping out the disease.

176. The recorded death-rate in municipal areas was 26·17 per mille, compared with 28·52 in 1902, and the birth-rate 28·24, against 27·43. The difference may be safely attributed to the comparative healthiness of the year. The birth-rate in the town of Barpeta attained the unusually high figure of 48·45 per mille, which is ascribed to the fact that the female population is in excess of the male. The registered birth-rate on tea gardens was 28·33 per mille and the death-rate 24·06 per mille. It was decided to remunerate by means of a remission of revenue the gaonburas who are charged with the duty of reporting births and deaths in the Assam Valley, and it is expected that this measure will lead to an improvement in the registration of vital statistics. Regis-
tration.

SECTION 2.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

[For detailed figures, see Chief Commissioner's Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for 1903-1904.]

177. This section deals only with labour imported for employment on tea gardens; in the oil-refinery at Digboi, in coal mines, and in a few saw-mills in Upper Assam. Labourers employed on railways and those who migrate annually to the province for temporary employment, generally returning to their homes in April or May, are not included. The total labour force, Act and non-Act, included 657,106 persons on the 30th June last, as compared with 650,937 persons on the 30th June 1903. The mean annual strength also increased from 644,045 to 654,021. Statistice
of the
labour
force.

The number of labourers under Act VI of 1901 fell from 93,278 to 84,306 and the number of importations under the Act from 14,076 to 11,126. The number of labourers who entered locally into contracts under Act VI increased by 6,164. Lakhimpur, Darrang, and Cachar were principally responsible for this increase in local contracts, most of the other districts showing a decrease. The increase in Darrang is attributed to a tendency amongst the planters of that district to renew agreements under Act VI rather than Act XIII, the reason for which is said to be uncertainty as to the way in which Act XIII will be interpreted by the Magistrate in the event of a reference to the courts. In Cachar and Sylhet, where local contracts under Act VI have in the past been almost unknown, 641 and 329 such contracts were executed. But this innovation is due to the managements of two concerns only. The total number of labourers classed as "non-Act" increased from 557,659 to 572,800, Cachar alone showing a small decrease and all other districts an increase under this head. There was an increase of 12,425 and 2,716 in the number of non-Act adults and children, respectively.

178. Of the total labour force of the province, 39·61 per cent. is employed in the Surma Valley and 60·39 per cent. in the Assam Valley. The Act population, which forms only 12·8 per cent. of the whole, is mainly employed in the Assam Valley, Act labourers in the Surma Valley forming only 3·9 per cent. of the total force. Distribu-
tion of the
labour
force.

179. The distribution of the labour force amongst the various castes of the recruiting districts was very much the same as in the preceding year. In sex, the adult labour force is almost equally divided, the percentage of female population to the total number Nationality
and sex of
the adult
labour
force.

Chap. VI. of adults being 50·13. Amongst Act labourers the proportion of women is 46 per cent., while in the non-Act population they are slightly in the majority. Children form 38·4 per cent. of the total labour force.

Vital Statistics and Medical Services.
Labour force and acreage under tea.

180. The area under tea cultivation decreased from 339,640 acres to 338,278 acres, but the actual tea-bearing area increased, owing to the maturing of young plants, by nearly 5,000 acres. The number of adult labourers per 100 acres of tea increased from 117 to 119, but was still considerably below the actual requirement of the tea gardens. The averages in the Surma Valley and Assam Valley were 115 and 121, respectively.

Provincial figures of immigration.

181. The following statement gives particulars of the coolie immigration into the province during the past five years :—

Class of labourers.		1899.	1900.	1901.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.
1		2	3	4	5	6
Act	{ Sardari adults	7,571	16,728	8,102	7,988	5,031
	{ Contractors' adults	11,065	13,241	6,147	6,088	6,095
Non-Act adults		7,236	15,075	5,638	6,123	6,643
Total of Act and non-Act adults...		25,872	45,044	19,887	20,199	17,769
Children		6,036	17,689	6,336	6,485	4,393
Grand total		31,908	62,733	26,223	26,684	22,162

There was a slight increase in the number of non-Act adults imported, but the figures, as a whole, show a marked falling off in importation. With the gradual recovery of the industry from the recent depression, the demand for labour is on the increase, and complaints of the shortness of the labour supply are universal. The difficulty in recruiting is illustrated by the fact that, whereas 7,085 garden sardars were granted certificates, as against 6,097 in 1902-1903, the number of coolies imported by this agency under contract was 5,031, or 0·7 per sardar, against 7,988, or 1·3 per sardar in 1902-1903. In Sylhet the proportion was only 0·4 per sardar. These proportions do not take into account coolies who were imported without agreements, some of whom were no doubt engaged by sardari agency. But it is clear that sardari agency is failing as a means of enlisting labour. The number of contractors' coolies imported remained practically unchanged. No further extension of section 90 of the Act was effected in the course of the year. Out of the 22,162 immigrants of 1903-1904, 15,411 were imported through the agency of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association,—11,879 having been recruited by sardars and 3,532 by contractors. Importation through this agency declined by a third. Owing to the unpopularity of Assam and to the irksomeness of the journey, the stream of immigration is affected very greatly indeed by any circumstances which offer alternative means of livelihood to service on a tea garden. Complaints are numerous of the strictness with which Act VI is worked in the recruiting districts. But for the great diminution in the supply of labour which has been felt during the last three years, the causes chiefly responsible are the good harvests that have been gathered in the recruiting districts and the competition of the coal industry.

Nationality and sex of adult immigrants and agency by which recruited.

182. The districts which show the largest falling off in recruitment are the Central Provinces and Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal parganas, and in each case the decrease is most noticeable in the case of sardari coolies. Recruitment from the other districts was either about the same as in the previous year or showed a slight increase. The percentage of certificates providing for the medical examination of labourers was slightly higher than in 1902-1903. The Nowgong district, however, showed a considerable falling off in this respect.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.
Transit of immigrants to the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys.

183. The mortality which occurred during the journey of coolies to Assam was happily insignificant. There were only 16 deaths, against 57 and 69, respectively, in the two preceding years. Ten of the 16 deaths were due to cholera.

184. The railway routes *via* Dhubri and *via* Chandpur and Tinsukia were opened as alternative routes for all emigrants to the Brahmaputra Valley. The Assam-Bengal Railway was largely used to convey coolies to the Surma Valley. Of 2,777 coolies imported into Sylhet, only 643 passed through the river depôts, the remainder having been brought into the district by railway, while of 1,811 immigrants to Cachar, 1,178

were imported by railway and 633 by steamer. No death occurred amongst coolies in transit by train or steamer to the Surma Valley, and none died in the depôts of the Sylhet or Cachar districts.

Vital Statistics and Medical Services.

185. The depôts at Rangamati and Komolabari in the Assam Valley and of Kati-gora, Manumukh, Maulvi Bazar, and Barlekha were closed during the year. The number of cases in which coolies were detained at depôts for want of a guide decreased from 5,447 to 2,641. The decrease in the districts of Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur was very marked.

Debar-kation depôts.

186. Complaints of fraudulent recruitment rose from 48 to 64. The increase occurred in the Lakhimpur district, and is ascribed by the Deputy Commissioner to the recruiting of wandering coolies at Raniganj and Calcutta. Of the 64 complaints, only 42 were established. A large number of coolies were repatriated from the Lakhimpur district. Thirty-two, who had been imported without agreement, were repatriated at the cost of the Inland Labour Transport Fund; 17 were repatriated under section 161 at the expense of the garden, on the ground that they had been fraudulently recruited; 106 were similarly repatriated under section 158, and 10 under section 12.

Fraudulent and Irregu-lar recruit-ment.

187. Owing to the decline of immigration the number of outstanding contracts under Act VI of 1901 decreased; but more use was made of the provisions of the Act which legalize contracts entered into locally on the tea gardens:—

Number of contracts made.

	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
1.	2.	3.	4.
Contracts—			
in the actual labour districts under section 118 of the Act	4,374	6,237	+ 42.59
in the actual labour districts under section 121 of the Act	15,019	19,320	+ 28.03
in the recruiting districts	14,076	11,126	— 20.95
Total	33,469	36,683	+ 9.60

The increased use of sections 118 and 121 is due in great measure to a change of system on a few gardens in the districts of Darrang, Cachar, and Sylhet. The number of contracts enforceable under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code executed during the year was 3,148, against 3,625 in the preceding year. In Lakhimpur the number of such contracts was more than doubled, while in Sibsagar there was a large decrease.

188. The number of contracts cancelled under section 10 of Act VI decreased from 47 to 41, out of which 14 were contracts of women who had come to the province un-accompanied by husbands or guardians. Forty-one of the coolies whose contracts were cancelled were repatriated. Two hundred and seven contracts were cancelled under section 131 of the Act on account of permanent incapacity to labour, against 221 in 1902-1903, and twenty-seven contracts were redeemed. One thousand seven hundred and ninety-two contracts were dissolved by mutual consent, of which 1,164 were cancelled in the district of Sibsagar alone. The majority of these contracts were cancelled with a view to renewal under Act XIII. The only district in which any considerable use was made by managers of the provisions of sections 130 and 192 of the Act, by which periods of absence through sickness for more than 30 days and of absence from work without reasonable excuse are added to the term of contract, was Nowgong, where 542 endorsements under section 192 and 34 under section 130 were made.

Expiry and cancelment of con-tracts.

189. Of 339 coolies who were given the option of repatriation, 45 preferred to remain on the garden or in the labour district, 290 electing to be sent to their homes. With a view to facilitating the repatriation of unsuitable labourers and reducing the cost which it entailed, the rules on the subject were modified so as to allow repatriated emigrants who are capable of taking care of themselves to travel without an escort. This change was introduced with the concurrence of the Government of Bengal, by whom a corresponding amendment was made in the rules in force in that province.

Repatriation of coolies.

190. The monthly wage returns which were submitted by planters showed the average monthly wages of coolies engaged under Act VI of 1901 to be Rs. 5-0-8 for men and Rs. 4-1-7 for women. In addition to wages bonuses on renewal of agreements were paid, amounting to an average of annas 7-6 for men and annas 5-2 for women. For coolies not engaged under Act VI the monthly average wages returned were—men Rs. 4-14, women Rs. 3-7-9, and children Rs. 2-5-8; bonus—men annas 7-10, women annas 6, and children annas 1-3 a month.

Wages of Act and non-Act la-bourers.

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191. The birth-rate on tea gardens in Assam for the years 1903-1904 was 28·9 per

Vital Statistics and Medical Services.

Birth-rate.

District.	Number of births.	Birth-rate per mille calculated on	
		Total coolie population.	Adult female population.
Cachar ...	3,079	25·9	83·4
Sylhet ...	4,485	31·8	101·7
Kamrup ...	105	31·7	102·7
Darrang ...	1,994	26·8	86·5
Nowgong ...	425	23·5	74·9
Sibsagar ...	4,921	32·7	109·4
Lakhimpur ...	3,907	26·3	83·6
Total for 1903-1904...	18,916	28·9	93·4
" " 1902-1903 ...	19,836	30·8	98·6

mille of total and 93·4 per mille of adult female population, against 30·8 and 98·6 per mille, respectively, in 1902-1903. The birth-rate in that year was exceptionally high, and the figures for the year under review are about normal for tea gardens. The birth-rate among tea-garden coolies compares unfavourably with the provincial birth-rate, which was 35·57 on the total population and 125·0 on the total adult female population.

Death-rate.

192. The registered rate of mortality for the total labour force was 24·0 per mille, against 25·4 per mille in 1902-1903. This satisfactory result is due to the healthiness of the year and to the comparatively small number of importations, the heaviest death-rate being invariably amongst new coolies. The death-rate among Act labourers decreased from 40·3 to 38·1. The most noticeable decreases were in Cachar, where the ratio was 33·3, against 43·6, and Nowgong, where it was 36·9, against 44·6 in the preceding year. In Sylhet, on the other hand, the ratio increased from 35·8 to 40·0, but it must be remembered that the number of Act labourers in this district is small. The death-rate among non-Act labourers dropped from 25·2 per mille to 23·0 per mille, all districts except Sylhet and Nowgong showing a decrease. The increase in the former district was small, but in Nowgong the ratio rose from 25·6 to 31·4, a fact which it is difficult to explain in view of the great decrease in the Act death-rate of the district. The increase in Nowgong occurred under all heads of disease, except dysentery and anæmia, but especially under "Other causes."

Death-rate among children.

193. The death-rate among children rose from 19·7 per thousand to 20·4. The heaviest death-rate recorded was 33·1 per thousand in Kamrup, the chief cause of death being malarial fever.

Sick and destitute coolies.

194. The number of time-expired coolies treated as in-patients in Government dispensaries fell from 930 to 766. A decrease is noticeable in all districts except Cachar, where the increase resulted merely from the amalgamation with the dispensaries of some special shelter houses that were maintained in that district. Of five shelter huts maintained in Sylhet, three were closed from the 1st August 1903. Seventy-eight persons, of whom 44 were *ex-tea* coolies and 34 railway coolies, were relieved in these shelters. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 349-12-9.

Complaints by tea planters and garden coolies.

195. The number of complaints or petitions preferred to Magistrates by coolies against their employers rose from 666 to 792, but this increase was mainly due to the filing of a greater number of applications for discharge certificates. The instructions issued in February 1903 have encouraged coolies to resort to the Magistrate when they apprehend difficulty in obtaining from their employers certificates of discharge on completion of their agreements; and it is to be remarked that this result has been accompanied by a marked decrease in complaints of violence, intimidation, or oppressive treatment in order to compel re-engagement, which fell from 112 to 24. In 18 of these latter cases orders were passed in favour of the complainants.

The number of cases returned of ill-treatment by managers unconnected with re-engagement was 103, as compared with 13 during the preceding year. But 70 of these cases arose out of a single incident in the Cachar district, the coolies of one estate having come to headquarters in a body to complain. A thorough enquiry was made into the state of affairs on the garden, the result of which showed that the management had been unsatisfactory, chiefly owing to the manager's ill-health, and that new Act-VI coolies had not in all cases received full pay for half tasks in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Act, while in several cases sick coolies had not received the allowance to which they were entitled under section 130. These disclosures were made the subject of correspondence with the Agents of the garden.

In a serious case which occurred on a garden in the Darrang district, a coolie boy died from the effects of a beating believed to have been inflicted by some chaukidars of the estate. The boy was suspected of theft, and after some slaps and strokes with a cane had been administered to him by the manager and assistant manager, he was handed over to the chaukidars, evidently in order that they should get him to confess

where the stolen property was concealed. His dead body was subsequently found with marks which showed that he had been most cruelly beaten, but no evidence was forthcoming against the perpetrators of the crime. The manager and assistant manager were convicted of simple assault and fined, respectively, Rs. 150 and Rs. 25.

Turning now to cases in which managers were the complainants, there was a decrease of serious crime. In 17 cases coolies were charged with rioting, violence, or intimidation, but only eight exhibited features of a serious character. In one of them a garden manager was slightly wounded with a *dao*. In another, both the manager and the assistant manager were forced to take refuge in their bungalows, though they were not actually assaulted, and the rioters prevented the other coolies from working for several days, and adopted a defiant attitude towards the Magistrate who made an enquiry on the garden. In a third case, the assistant manager, who seems to have been a new man and injudicious in his treatment of the coolies, was set upon and severely beaten by a mob of coolies, who left him unconscious. In a fourth case, a coolie boy was being treated in the garden hospital for convulsions. The father of the child objected to the treatment he was receiving and took the boy away by force. On the native doctor's complaining to the manager, the father of the boy was sent for and came accompanied by five of his friends, all armed with *lathis*. After some altercation, these persons combined to make an assault on the manager, who was only saved from serious injury by the intervention of the assistant manager and some coolies. In the fifth case, while the police were enquiring into a complaint of unlawful assembly, they were surrounded by a mob of coolies armed with *lathis*, who rescued the prisoners they had arrested and severely beat the manager when he tried to interfere. They subsequently broke into the native doctor's house and beat the head clerk of the garden, who had taken refuge there.

In the three other serious cases individual coolies were concerned. The European foreman of a colliery in Lakhimpur was killed by a newly-imported coolie with a pick axe. Enquiry elicited the fact that the coolie had been harshly treated by the deceased. The murderer was convicted under section 302, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to death by the Sessions Court, but this sentence was subsequently commuted to one of transportation for life by the High Court.

An assistant manager reprimanded and struck a coolie for being absent from work without leave. The brother of the coolie then began to create a disturbance in the lines, and shortly afterwards both the brothers assaulted the assistant manager with sticks, inflicting several injuries on him, one of which, a blow on the knee, was severe.

Lastly, a coolie without any known provocation first insulted and then attacked his manager with a hoe, partially stunning him.

Out of 460 cases of absence or desertion of Act labourers, 241, or 52 per cent., resulted in conviction. The percentage of convictions for similar offence under Act XIII was 48. In 277 cases, coolies were sentenced to imprisonment for desertion or refusal to work. Sixty-three of these cases were under Act XIII.

196. All the districts, except Cachar and Darrang, showed a decrease in the number of desertions. The increase in Cachar is accounted for by the increase in the number of Act labourers, the percentage of desertions being slightly lower than in the preceding year. The same remark applies to the Darrang district. The general decrease in desertions is a natural result of the reduced importation of labour, as it is new coolies who most frequently abscond. Desertions.

A case in which a ferryman illegally arrested and detained some coolies who were leaving a tea garden led to an enquiry regarding the practice of authorising ferrymen to arrest deserters under section 195 of Act VI of 1901, a result of which was that ferrymen not infrequently considered themselves justified in stopping persons of the coolie class who attempted to cross by their ferries, on the suspicion of their being deserters. The practice was attended with the risk of illegal arrest, as it is impossible for the average ferryman to distinguish labourers bound by contract under Act VI and liable to arrest without warrant from those not so liable, and it is believed to have been amongst the causes which have rendered Assam so unpopular in the recruiting districts. After consulting District Officers, as well as the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts and the local branches of the Indian Tea Association, the Chief Commissioner came to the conclusion that the practice should be stopped. A rule has accordingly been framed prohibiting ferrymen from accepting authorisation to arrest deserters under Act VI of 1901, and a clause to the same effect will be inserted in future in ferry leases.

197. The relations between planters and the neighbouring villagers continued to be satisfactory.

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Relations
between
planters
and neigh-
bouring
villagers.

K

Chap. VI. 198. The area of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies in the province increased from 106,003 acres to 111,706 acres. In addition to land held direct from Government, a good deal of land is held throughout the province by coolies as sub-tenants of raiyats or *mirasdars* or of the gardens on which they are employed. No details of area of these holdings are available.

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Statistics
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Services.

Colonisa-
tion of ex-
tea garden
coolies.
Inland La-
bour Trans-
port Fund.

199. The receipts of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam in the financial year 1903-1904 amounted to Rs. 72,382, against Rs. 72,700 in the preceding year, and the disbursements to Rs. 1,04,134, against Rs. 1,14,795. The decrease in expenditure is due to economies effected in the arrangements for the control of recruitment and the transport of emigrants in Bengal, and in Assam to the reduction of establishments at reception depôts, to the abolition of superfluous depôts and shelter huts for emigrants, and to the curtailment of the grants made from the fund to charitable dispensaries. Notwithstanding these economies, however, the total income of the fund, including the opening balance at the credit of the Assam portion of the fund, fell short of the expenditure by Rs. 7,189.

200. A measure of much importance that was taken during the year was the deputation of Mr. J. C. Arbuthnott, C.I.E., to study the labour system that is followed by tea planters in the Duars, in Madras, and in Ceylon. Mr. Arbuthnott's report is an interesting and valuable contribution to the information that is possessed by Government on the labour question; and the contrast which he draws between conditions in Assam and those in the other tea-growing localities may lead to practical results of value. Copies of the report have been widely distributed amongst the planting community.

SECTION 3.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

[For detailed figures, see Dispensary Returns of Assam for 1903, Statistical Returns of Tezpur Lunatic Asylum for 1903, also Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Sections XIV and XV.]

Number of
dispensaries.

201. Two second-class dispensaries were closed, and one second-class and two third-class dispensaries were opened. The number of public dispensaries in the province on the 1st of January 1903 was 134.

Number
and classi-
fication of
patients
treated.

202. The total number of patients, in-door and out-door, treated at the dispensaries in 1903 was 891,651, against 821,331 in 1902; of these, 558,724 (62.66 per cent.) were men, 124,021 (13.90 per cent.) were women, and 208,906 (23.42 per cent.) were children.

The percentage of men and women treated was somewhat lower and that of children treated somewhat higher than in the preceding year. Of the patients treated, 180 were Europeans, 482 Eurasians, 540,418 Hindus, 248,976 Muhammadans, and 101,595 of other classes. The number of in-patients rose from 6,683 to 7,025, and the daily average number treated from 367 to 373. Of the total number of in-patients treated, 759 died in hospital, a percentage of 10.80, against 11.04 in 1902. The number of out-patients treated rose from 814,648 to 884,626, the highest number ever recorded in the province. Taking into consideration the fact that the year was a healthy one, these figures must be held to indicate that the popularity of the dispensaries is increasing.

Diseases.

203. Of the 891,651 patients dealt with, 177,748 were treated for skin diseases, 167,946 for worms, and 150,049 (including 836 cases of *kalá-ázár*) for malarial fevers. The comparatively small number of admissions for *kalá-ázár* (836, against 2,554 in 1902) indicates an abatement of the epidemic. The number of cases of cholera and small-pox treated were only 1,768 and 26, respectively, against 2,571 and 471 in the previous year. The number of admissions for bowel complaints, ulcers, and diseases of the respiratory system were 37,319, 37,622, and 35,665, respectively.

Operations.

204. The total number of surgical operations performed rose from 17,417 to 18,150, of which 790 were important operations.

Financial
results.

205. The total income of the dispensaries from all sources was Rs. 2,57,558. Grants from Government amounted to Rs. 81,788 and from Local Funds to Rs. 94,259 and Rs. 19,884 were received as subscriptions. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,07,744, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 49,814, inclusive of the balances of invested capital of dispensaries. The average cost of each diet was Re. 0-2-6, against Re. 0-2-9 in the preceding year.

Tezpur Lu-
natic Asy-
lum.

206. The number of lunatics confined in the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum at the beginning of the year was 154, of whom 126 were men and 28 women. During the year, there were 28 admissions, 15 discharges, and 10 deaths. Of the 28 admissions, 9 were ascribed to physical and one to moral causes, and in the remaining 18 cases the causes were unknown. There were 110 patients suffering from mania, 4 from idiocy, 65 from melancholia, and 2 from delusional insanity. The daily average of sick was 11.22, against 10.25 in 1902 and 8.10 in 1901. The increase in sickness was partly due to

overcrowding, and in view of the increased number of patients in the Asylum, the Chief Commissioner has sanctioned the construction of a new male ward. The expenditure of the Asylum amounted to Rs. 15,744, of which Rs. 7,350, or Rs. 47-4-6 per head, was spent for diet of patients, against Rs. 7,159-5-9, or Rs. 50-2-4½ per head, in the previous year.

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207. The total number of lepers treated in the Sylhet Leper Asylum was 48, 30 remaining under treatment at the close of the year. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,388.

Lepor Asy-
lum.

SECTION 4.—SANITATION.

[For detailed figures, see Annual Sanitary Report of Assam for 1903.]

208. Excluding the towns of Hailakandi, Sunamganj, Karimganj, and Maulvi Bazar, which have no separate income of their own, the aggregate annual income of the municipalities, stations, unions, and towns in Assam during the year was Rs. 2,36,623 and their expenditure on sanitary works was Rs. 1,84,775, or 73·07 per cent. of the total income, against 75·77 per cent. in 1902. Excluding the sum of Rs. 57,665 spent on roads and bridges, the expenditure on direct sanitation was Rs. 1,27,120, or 49·68 per cent. of the total income, against 53·81 in the previous year. In rural areas small sums were laid out by the Local Boards on the construction, repair, or improvement of tanks and wells. No important sanitary work was undertaken during the year.

SECTION 5.—VACCINATION.

[For detailed figures, see Vaccination Returns of Assam for 1903-1904, and Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI.]

209. The total number of vaccinations performed was 278,802, against 304,121 in 1902-1903. Of the 13 districts, 5 showed an increase and the rest a decrease. The decrease was most noticeable in Sylhet, Kamrup, the Naga Hills, the Lushai Hills, and the tea gardens.

The number of successful vaccinations was 271,295, the percentage, 89·86, being slightly higher than that of the previous year, but the number of persons per thousand of population protected was only 44·28, as against 48·18 in 1902-1903.

The number of vaccinations inspected by Civil Surgeons and by lower agencies were, respectively, 24,400 and 144,390.

The total cost of the department was Rs. 24,381-0-1, the average cost of each successful vaccination being Re. 0-1-9.

Chap. VII.

Instruction.

CHAPTER VII.

Instruction.

SECTION 1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

[See pages 150-153 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 2.—EDUCATION.

[For detailed figures, see General Report on Public Instruction in Assam for 1903-1904 and Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section X.]

210. The results of the year show a decrease under Public Institutions of 96 schools, or 3 per cent., and 823 pupils, or 8 per cent. The decrease occurred principally under primary schools and was due to the closure of inefficient village schools and the erasure from the rolls of a number of children who never attended. There was a small decrease in the number of secondary schools, but an increase in the number of pupils. Private institutions showed a loss of 67 schools and 786 pupils. Two new high schools were opened at Mangaldai and Hailakandi.

Stages of Instruction.

211. The number of pupils under instruction in the high and middle vernacular stages increased from 1,177 to 1,359 and from 389 to 436, respectively. There were small decreases in the Middle English and Upper Primary stages, while in the Lower Primary the numbers fell from 91,319 to 90,560.

The results of the Entrance Examination were very disappointing: but it is understood that the examination was more difficult than usual. Of the number of pupils who, having passed their school test examination, were actually sent up for matriculation, only 46 per cent. succeeded.

Collegiate education.

212. The Murarichand unaided College in Sylhet, though inexpensive in its management, was very successful in its results. On the other hand, the Cotton College in Gauhati, which is a Government institution, can show but an inadequate measure of success in the First Arts Examination. Orders have been issued to prevent students who fail in their examination from continuing in the College indefinitely: in the past they have been allowed to stay on, for the two years' course, during four and even five years. On the results of the Entrance Examination, 34 junior scholarships were granted for Collegiate education: the numbers for 1903, 1902, and 1901 were 39, 43, and 49, respectively.

High schools.

213. Two new aided High schools were opened, and there were seven High schools altogether unaided. There were 232 candidates sent up for the Entrance Examination, of whom 108 passed, 29 in the first, 27 in the second, and 52 in the third division. The best results were exhibited by the Gauhati, Dhubri, Silchar, and Sylhet Government High schools, and by the Murarichand unaided school.

Middle English schools.

214. There were altogether 75 Middle English schools, giving instruction to 6,071 pupils: of these, 55, providing for 4,384 pupils, are aided, receiving an income of Rs. 16,662 from private subscriptions and Rs. 23,827 from public funds. Most of these schools were in the Sylhet district. Three schools were removed from the aided list during the year, one (at Nalbari) being taken over by the Local Board.

Middle Vernacular schools.

215. Out of 42 Middle Vernacular schools 19 were entirely maintained from public funds, while the 22 aided schools received Rs. 5,362 from public funds and Rs. 3,176 from subscriptions.

Upper Primary schools.

216. The condition of Upper Primary schools was not satisfactory, chiefly on account of the very low remuneration of the teachers. In the revised grant-in-aid rules for these schools, which are under consideration, it is proposed to provide for a general improvement of the masters' pay.

Lower Primary schools.

217. Village Lower Primary schools are now managed directly by the Local Boards, and are no longer classed in the category of aided schools. They now receive very much closer attention than was formerly the case, and there is reason to believe that the statistics relating to them are more reliable. The falling off in the number of schools and of pupils was merely due to the exclusion of what is unreal. There was a large increase in the Boards' expenditure on Lower Primary education. The expenditure

on teachers' remuneration increased from Rs. 1,50,098 to Rs. 2,07,866, and special grants for school buildings, furniture, and apparatus amounted to Rs. 24,944, against Rs. 741 in the year preceding. Grants of Rs. 50,400 and Rs. 23,600, respectively, were made to the Boards from Provincial Funds for these two purposes. The average emoluments of village schoolmasters rose from about Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, and this increase has already been effective in attracting a superior class of men. Chap. VII.
—
Instruction.

218. In connection with the increase of the subsidy paid to the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Mission in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, an enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner into the condition of the numerous village schools which the Mission maintains in this district. Amid results that were generally satisfactory, it was found that the teaching would be improved were it systematized in some respects, and the introduction of a regular class curriculum will no doubt be beneficial. An increase of Rs. 1,200 per annum was sanctioned in the Mission grant. In the Garo, Mikir, Naga, and Lushai Hills, an impetus was given to education by teaching the people their own vernaculars in the Roman character instead of attempting to instruct them in Assamese or Bengali. This departure met with a success which promises well for the future. At Kohima, where but little progress had hitherto been made in educating the Angamis, an aided school was started under the superintendence of the American Baptist Mission, at which Angami youths are being trained as teachers for the village schools. The Kohima school had 65 pupils on its rolls at the end of the year. The schools in the Lushai Hills district were placed under the management of the Welsh Mission in Aijal, and of the American Baptist Mission in the Lungleh subdivision, and provision was made for increasing the number of schools annually. Education was given in six tribal languages besides Manipuri, and several primers in Roman character have been, or are being, published for this purpose at Government expense. Hill District
schools.

219. Girls' schools fell in number from 171 to 140, and the number of pupils attending them from 2,881 to 2,588. There was also a decrease in the number of girls who attended boys' schools, which fell from 4,356 to 3,675. These decreases were probably due in great measure to the more careful scrutiny of returns. Female
education.

220. The pupils of the training classes for Lower Primary school masters in the Brahmaputra Valley, which were abolished from the 1st October 1903, were allowed to complete their training as apprentices in Middle schools, and in a few cases in High schools. Eighty-three of them and 13 pupils of the Gauhati Normal School obtained appointments as teachers during the year. Six pupils only from the Gauhati School obtained appointments as Middle Vernacular school masters. The establishment of a central training school for English masters is under consideration. Special
schools.

221. Games were encouraged, and annual grants to meet necessary expenses were sanctioned for the Cotton College and High schools in proportion to the amounts subscribed by the pupils. Liberal grants were also made for the provision of playgrounds. The Indian gymnastics known as *deshi-kasrat* were practised in all the schools of the province. Discipline
and Physical
and
Moral training.

222. The total expenditure during the year on education was Rs. 9,62,881, of which Rs. 1,44,033 was met from private sources. Of this balance, Rs. 3,08,427 was borne by Provincial Revenues, Rs. 3,36,798 by Local and Municipal Funds, and Rs. 1,73,623 was provided by fees. The amount of Rs. 3,28,298 spent from Local Funds included Rs. 89,400 granted from Provincial Revenues to Local Boards for improvement of emoluments of teachers of Lower Primary schools and for school buildings. Financial.

SECTION 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[See Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XII.]

223. The total number of publications registered in Assam during the year under Act XXV of 1867 as modified by Act X of 1890 was 6, against 37 in 1902. Of these, one was educational and 5 were non-educational works; 3 were first editions and 3 translations and republications. One book was in Assamese, 3 in Khasi, and 2 were bilingual publications. The number of copies of educational works fell from 15,800 to 1,000, and that of non-educational works from 15,300 to 2,750. Literary
works.

Copyright of one book only was registered during the year.

224. In the Surma Valley the *Weekly Chronicle*, the *Paridarsak*, and the *Friend of Sylhet* in Sylhet, and the *Silchar* in Silchar, continued to be published, while two new periodicals—the *Mizo Leh Val Chanchin Lekhabu*, a monthly paper in Lushai, and the *Banga Bama Bandhu*,—were started in the Lushai Hills and Sylhet respectively. In the Assam Valley, besides the *Times of Assam* and the *Assam Banti*, which continued to be News pa-
pers.

Chap. VII. published, a new newspaper, the *Citizen*, was started, and an old paper, *The Fonaki*, which had been discontinued in the preceding year, was revived. In the Khasi Hills the following newspapers were published :—*The Assam Advertiser*, *U Khasi Mynia*, *Ka Pateng Khristan*, *U Nongialam Khristan*, *U Nongphira*, and *U Nongialam Katholik*.

Presses. 225. There are printing presses in the following districts of Assam :—Cachar, Sylhet, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SECTION 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

Nil.

SECTION 5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.

Archæology.

226. Steps were taken during the year to carry out certain recommendations made by the Archæological Surveyor, Bengal Circle, for the preservation of ancient monuments in the province. Arrangements were made for the repair of the temple of Madhava Hayagriva at Hajo in the Kamrup district, the temple authorities agreeing to pay one-third of the cost. An ancient basalt stone bearing an inscription of the Bengal Sultan Shamusuddin Yusuf Shah (1474-1481 A.D.) in the Darga of Shah Jalal at Sylhet, which was partly concealed owing to the position of the stone, was removed to a position where the inscription can be seen. A number of interesting photographs of archæological remains in Assam were received during the course of the year from the Archæological Surveyor.

Chap. IX.

Miscellaneous.

CHAPTER IX.

Miscellaneous.

SECTION 1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

[See page 158 of the Administration Report for 1901-1902.]

SECTION 2.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

227. The new church at Sylhet was completed and opened on the 5th December 1903. A cemetery was consecrated in the same district for the use of residents in the Langai Valley. The new church at Jorhat was under construction during the year.

SECTION 3.—STATIONERY.

228. The cost of stationery supplied during the year by the Controller of Stationery to officers of the Assam Administration was Rs. 34,787-6, against Rs. 28,969 in 1902-1903.

SECTION 4.—PRINTING.

229. The total cash receipts of the Assam Secretariat Press amounted to Rs. 1,244 (including Rs. 51 for inter-departmental services rendered), and the expenditure to Rs. 68,163, and the total value of work done to Rs. 1,09,005, as against Rs. 648, Rs. 75,793, and Rs. 1,33,456 in 1902-1903. After making allowance for wear and tear of materials, for the value of broken and condemned type, and for cost of paper and binding materials, the profit and loss account of the Press showed a net gain of Rs. 33,128, as against Rs. 41,179 in the previous year.

SHILLOW : Printed and published by E. HILL, Press Superintendent, Assam, at the Secretariat Printing Office: (Genl.) No. 422-275-23-1-1905.

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