

British Burma.

FOREIGN-DEPARTMENT.

(GENERAL)

ADMINISTRATION REPORT,
FOR
1868-69.



No. 410-1
British Burma.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
(GENERAL)

FROM
HORACE SPEARMAN, ESQUIRE,
OFFG: SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

TO
THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Dated Rangoon, 11th December 1869.

SIR,

I have the honour, by direction of Major General A. Fyche, C. S. I., Chief Commissioner and Agent to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General, to forward the Administration Report of this Province for 1868-69.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

(Signed) HORACE SPEARMAN,

Offg. Secretary.

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PREFACE.

1. In the Preface to the Administration Report for 1867-68 a general account of the Province was given, but no endeavour was made to show what had been the progress since British Burma became British territory.

2. In 1826 Arakan and Tenasserim were ceded to the British dominions by the Burmese power, but to the King of Ava was still left the whole of the Northern portion of his dominions as well as the important Province of Pegu, formed of the lower portion of the Irrawaddy River and its delta. We thus obtained possession of the least productive portion of the Burmese Kingdom, while the King retained the magnificent lands of Pegu with the valuable outlet of Rangoon, to which point only and perhaps to Bassein, also in the delta, foreign trade had been drawn. The Province of Pegu was fairly interposed between the two newly acquired territories, in a position to withdraw from them both population and trade. Of all that goes to make up material progress the increase in population may best be taken as the test; but the present examination into the progress of the Province will not be confined to that test alone.

3. When Arakan and Tenasserim first came into our possession they were almost depopulated and were so unproductive that it was seriously proposed that they should be delivered back to Burma. Happily wiser counsels prevailed; happily for the British Government, and happily for the people. In 1826 the then Commissioner of Arakan estimated the population at 100,000 souls, which included only the indigenous population. In 1829 or 3 years after Tenasserim was annexed the population there was estimated at 70,000 souls, being nearly all of the indigenous race. In those days Maulmain was a small fishing village which was selected by Sir Archibald Campbell, commanding the troops, as the best site for a military station, instead of Amherst, a somewhat larger village further down the river. As soon as the British obtained possession of these two Provinces, Arakan and Tenasserim, immigration commenced, and this notwithstanding that the Burman authorities in Pegu strongly opposed emigration and put serious obstacles in the way of any of their people migrating to our territories. In 1827, 20,000 immigrants arrived in the Amherst district of Tenasserim from Rangoon, causing a scarcity of Rice which had to be imported from Tavoy; and a man named Moung Teet called the Rajah of Syriam, settled in British Territory bringing with him 10,000 followers. This immigration into Arakan on the one hand and into Te-

nesserim on the other continued steadily till 1855, when it commenced to abate. But during this period, that is from 1826 to 1855 there was an increase in the population was almost incredible. In 1826 the population of Arakan had increased from 100,000 to 241,536 souls of which 6,000 only were foreigners, and in Tenasserim during the same period from a little over 70,000 to 84,917. In 1845 the population of Arakan numbered 309,601 an increase of 50 per cent in the decade: in Tenasserim it had risen in the same proportion or to 127,455 souls, and in 1855 to 219,692 souls or by 69 per cent in the decade, whilst in Arakan it had increased to 360,510 or by 15 per cent in the decade. There are various reasons why the increase should not be so great in Arakan as in Tenasserim. The increase in the latter was undoubtedly mainly due to an influx of Burmans from Pegu, who professed good taxation and regular Government, in which each individual was the same in the eye of the law, and in whose eyes hoarding was necessary to the cruel and capricious rule of the Viceroy of Pegu, but Arakan was and is still far more of a Foreign country to Burmans and Malines than is Tenasserim; and from Pegu the latter is far easier to reach than the former.

876.7

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4. Whilst the general population in the two British Provinces was increasing so rapidly the villages were becoming more numerous, which has been said to be the case in 1826 a fishing village had in 1855 a population of 60,000 souls, and Akyab had sprung into existence and reached a population of 20,000 souls. The increase in population though doubtless an excellent one, was not the only one. The area of cultivation increased, the exports and imports increased. The population of Arakan was estimated at 252,000 and the area of the country at 241,714, which, with a population of 172,024 souls as it then was, would give an average of 194 for every acre; in 1855 the population had increased to 360,510 with a population of 261,640 acres, which gives an average of about 138 for every acre, and in 1855 the Bay of Bengal was 400,000 square miles, and in 1855 it was 427,400 square miles, and in 1855 it was 476,400 square miles, and in 1855 it was 523,000 square miles, and in 1855 it was 552,000 square miles, and in 1855 it was 581 square miles, and in 1855 it was 600 square miles, and in 1855 it was 620 square miles, and in 1855 it was 640 square miles, and in 1855 it was 660 square miles, and in 1855 it was 680 square miles, and in 1855 it was 700 square miles, and in 1855 it was 720 square miles, and in 1855 it was 740 square miles, and in 1855 it was 760 square miles, and in 1855 it was 780 square miles, and in 1855 it was 800 square miles, and in 1855 it was 820 square miles, and in 1855 it was 840 square miles, and in 1855 it was 860 square miles, and in 1855 it was 880 square miles, and in 1855 it was 900 square miles, and in 1855 it was 920 square miles, and in 1855 it was 940 square miles, and in 1855 it was 960 square miles, and in 1855 it was 980 square miles, and in 1855 it was 1,000 square miles.

6. So much for the Revenue and the cultivation. If we turn now to the trade, we shall find that it progressed as rapidly. It is impossible to ascertain what the trade was from Arakan and Tenasserim during the Burmese Rule, and up to 1838, when Act XXX of 1834 was first introduced no customs dues were levied in Manipal. The following table will shew the value of the Imports and Exports from the Port of Akyab alone from October 1830 to April 1831.

Month	Value of cargoes, in Rupees	Square feet of deck, in thousands
October	1,069	22
November	1,000	14
December	979	19
January	899	24
February	1,267	15
March	1,381	4
April		
Total	7,878	140

4. Whilst the general population in the two British Provinces of Arakan and Tenasserim, which took out nearly 7000 square miles of land, had increased to 1,371,000, and the value of their cargoes by the estimate given in the previous table, the exports from this Port alone will amount to 2,289 for the 7 months of that year. The same description of vessels also report to Ramree in search of cargoes, but we have not the means of estimating the value of their exports, as no Register was kept either at Krong-phyoo or Ramree, which are the ports most frequented in that Island.

7. Independent of the trade which is entirely derived from the square rigged vessels, there is a considerable trade in small boats, large boats, and other vessels, of the Province of the island, which are now no means so judiciously regulated as they were some years since. It is estimated at two millions of Rupees (25,00,000) and consists of a number of articles of British Manufacture, such as Cotton Goods, Piece Goods, Glass and Crochery, with which the island is supplied by the same vessels which are employed in the trade. The amount of traffic generally is estimated at 100,000 tons, and Paddy (unbhusked) is estimated at 25,000,000 bushels. Such was the account of the trade given in 1831 by Captain H. P. B. But what was the result of this Division in 1831? The value of the exports of grain alone was 2,306,722; 56 thousand 155,624 of all the

PREFACE.

is made, say between British Burma and Oudh, it should be borne in mind that equal grants of money would produce very different results. A grant of £ 25,000 to Oudh represents a grant of but £10,000 to British Burma. A numerical comparison on the absolute money limits of grants is therefore of no practical value, is indeed actually mischievous.

26 This is no argument that the Central Provinces get more than is due to them, as the geographical accident of their being the highway between Calcutta and Bombay, in a great measure accounts for the large grants which have been made to them. Their reputation is fast rising as a cotton producing country and with this fact, must be coupled the great pressure brought to bear by the home authorities for the opening out of roads for the transport of cotton. Nor does Oudh receive more than she is entitled to. The claims for British Burma are not that other Provinces may obtain less, but that she may have at least a fair proportion. A dependency which has doubled its revenue from all sources in 10 years (from 1855-56 to 1864-65), whose import and export trade has within the same period increased from nearly £5,000,000 to £10,000,000, whose population has increased from a million and a quarter souls to nearly two millions and a half, and whose area of cultivation has gained ground from 1,000,000 acres to 1,600,000 acres, is surely worthy of some special consideration. And these results have been obtained quite independently of our rule in the country. Beyond the mere fact of our Military possession of the country, beyond the existence of a Police, most inadequately paid, there is hardly anything in the length and breadth of the Province to testify the presence of any rule superior to the one from which it has been wrested. As for Public Works in the true sense of the term, they are only now being very slowly called into existence. Of barracks, of gaols, of court houses, we have not a few. But their connection with the prosperity of the country is quite of secondary consideration, their presence being necessities contingent on our possession of the country.

Such has been the progress of British Burma, and such the difficulties under which she has laboured:

1. STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL AND FISCAL GEOGRAPHY.

A. *Physical Geography, including area, character of the surface and climate.*

1. The Physical, Political and Fiscal geography of that portion of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula which forms a part of the British Empire in India was touched upon in the Preface to the Administration Report of British Burma for 1867-68: the account there given was necessarily short and it will, therefore, be as well to give now a more complete account.

2. The Province of British Burma, which extends along the eastern shore of the Bay of Bengal from the Chittagong Division of the Lower Provinces to the kingdom of Siam in 10° N. Lat. is geographically divided into four portions: Arakan stretching from the Naf Estuary, which separates the Province from Chittagong, to Cape Negrais, and consisting of a comparatively narrow strip of country between the sea and a high mountain chain: the valley of the Irrawaddy which, divided from the Sittoung valley by the Pegu Yoma range, unites with it in its southern portion; to the eastward is the chain of hills which forms the water shed between the Sittoung and the Salween rivers, and on the west the Anouk-pek-toung-myeng, literally "the high western range of mountains," sometimes called the Arakan Yoma range: the valley of the Salween: and Tenasserim, a narrow strip, like Arakan, reaching down to the Pakchan stream in 10° N. Lat. and separated from Siam by a lofty chain of hills running from north to south nearly parallel to the coast, at a distance of from 30 to 40 miles inland, but approaching nearer to the sea at its southern extremity.

3. Arakan, originally a powerful kingdom conquered by the Burmese, and taken from them by the British after the first Burmese war in 1825, and having an area of 18529 square miles, lies between the Naf estuary and Cape Negrais, and is bounded on the South and West by the Sea, and on the North and East, by the high chain of mountains which, forming the Eastern boundary of Bengal trends from the South Eastern extremity of Sylhet and Cachar in a south westerly direction

as far as the Fenny River, and from about the 23rd parallel of North latitude turns south east for 360 geographical miles, when turning again to the westward of south it gradually diminishes both in breadth and elevation till it ends 15 or 16 miles south east of the rocky promontory of Cape Negrais at Pagoda point, called by the Burmese *Hmau-deng*. This chain, though of considerable height to the north, (the Blue Mountain is supposed to be 8000 feet above the sea level,) diminishes in altitude as it reaches Arakan, and none of the passes across it in that portion of its length are more than 4000 feet above the sea and the Aeng pass into the valley of the Irrawaddy much less. From Combermere Bay, 25 miles south of Akyab, the coast is rugged and rocky offering few harbours for ships: Kyoukphyoo harbour inside the island of Ramree is safe and easy of approach, and at the mouth of the Gwa river further

Coast.

south there is a fairly sheltered roadstead and an inner harbour easy of access through a channel with two fathoms of water at low tide; the rise and fall of the tide is 7 feet only. The coast is studded with fertile islands the largest of which are Cheduba and Ranree. Owing to the nearness of the range which bounds Arakan there are no large rivers: the principal ones are the Naf estuary on the extreme west, the Mroo River, an arm of the sea about 40 miles to the eastward and from 3 to 4

Rivers.

miles broad at its mouth and extending more than 50 miles inland; and the Kolan or Arakan River rising somewhere near the Blue mountain in 23° N. about and which is navigable for 50 odd miles by vessels of 300 or 400 tons burden, and on the right bank of which, close to its mouth, is situated Akyab the head quarter Town of the Akyab district and of the Arakan Division, the approach to which, however, is dangerous and difficult. Beyond this the Rivers are of but little importance; they are the Talak and the Aeng navigable by boats only, and the Sandoway, the Toung-goop and the Gwa streams, the latter of which alone has any importance owing to its mouth forming a good port of call or haven for steamers or vessels of from 9 to 10 feet draught. The whole of the Rivers in the Akyab and Ramree districts anastomose by channels which, though dry in some instances during obb tides, are all navigable for boats during the flood; the whole coast line is, in fact, a labyrinth of creeks and tidal nullahs which rise at the foot of the hills and receive the con-

tribution of numerous small streams. The entrance to the Koladan or Arakan River is dangerous for ships of heavy draft: the channel is narrow, not more than 2 miles in breadth, and there are only $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms of water over the bar at low water springs. There are no lakes properly so called,

Lakes.

but there are some small sheets of water, the principal of which are near the old Town of Arakan, the capital of the ancient kingdom, formed by bunds placed across different valleys by the former kings, which are now all out of repair and have become marshes rendering that portion of the country very unhealthy. The soil is mainly alluvial, in many places mixed with sand, and the

Soil.

rocks are composed of a dark brown sandstone, black gneiss, and brown or grey clay slate, and towards the southern portion basalt is plentiful. Except a small quantity of iron and of limestone there are no mineral productions of any value.

4. The valley of the Irrawaddy at its lower end unites with the valley of the Sittoung to form an extensive plain stretching from Cape

Valley of the Irrawaddy.

Negraï on the west to Martaban on the east. The watershed between these two streams is the Pegu Yoma range which, running north and south, terminates in low hills at Rangoon. The boundaries of the tract of country which compose these two valleys are the Anouk-pek-toung-myeng on the west, and the Poug-loung range, rising to a height of 7000 feet it is said, on the East. The northern boundary line, which separates the British possessions from the territory of the king of Ava and which is marked by a line of stone pillars, leaves the Arakan hills at a point called "The ever visible peak," and running due east it passes the Irrawaddy at its 50th mile and 43 miles further on the Pegu Yoma range; thence after 33 miles it crosses the Sittoung, and finally loses itself in a desert of mountains 13 or 14 miles further East. The Irrawaddy valley, which is about 80 miles broad at the frontier line, consisting from chain to chain, and is then so rugged that little regular cultivation can be carried on, gradually widens towards its southern extremity, and about 60 or 70 miles south of the frontier the Hills which bound it have receded so far that it becomes a broad flat level plain, highly cultivated and the richest portion of the whole Province. Owing to the spurs thrown out by the Pegu Yoma range the main valley is divided into several smaller ones, principally that of

the Hleing River, which is almost identical with the main valley, that of the Pegu river, and that of the Poozoondoung river. The Sittoung valley in its northern portion resembles the valley of the Irrawaddy and towards the south it gradually widens leaving on the west a strip of country about 25 or 30 miles broad covered with dense jungle, which stretches down as far south as Shwè-gyeen; thence to the Sea on the western side is rice cultivation. On the eastern side there is a lower range of hills between the main range and the River to which they approach so close that there is hardly any plain, they gradually recede and leave a narrow strip for some distance below Shwè-gyeen and at last end a short distance below Sittoung. From this point to the sea there is one immense plain stretching from Martaban to Cape Negrais and intersected only by rivers and tidal creeks.

Sittoung valley.

5. The coast line, which is low and flat, runs in an easterly direction from Hmaude g or Pagoda point to Baragou point, and thence in a north easterly direction to the gulf of Martaban.

Coast line.


6. The main Rivers are the Irrawaddy, the Hleing or Ragoon, the Pegu, the Sittoung and the Beeling. The Irrawaddy, rising in about Latitude 28° N. and Longitude $97^{\circ} 30'$ E. flows for 660 miles before reaching the British possessions, and thence its waters roll on for 240 miles to the sea in a S. S. W. direction. As it nears the coast it divides, converting the lower portion of the valley into a network of tidal creeks. A little above Henzadah, about 90 miles inland, it sends off its first branch to the westward which, flowing past Bassein, receives the waters of the Panmawaddee and of the Penglaygalay, and, bifurcating, enters the Bay of Bengal by two main mouths; the Bassein and the Thekkay-thoung Rivers. This branch is navigable for large ships for 30 miles that is as far as Bassein which is a port of some importance. After passing Hezadah it sends off a small branch to the Eastward which joins the Hleing just above Rangoon. The Main River then divides and subdivides till it empties itself into the Sea by 10 mouths, the Yuay, Dayaybhyoo, Pyamaloo, Pyengaraloo Dlla, Phyapon, Donyan, Thanhteat and China Buckeer Rivers, and the Irrawaddy which is between the Pyengaraloo and Dalla mouths. The waters of the Irrawaddy commence to rise in March and continue to rise till September when, or in

Rivers

October, they commence to fall again, having risen from 37 to 40 feet. It is navigable for River steamers as far as Bhamo 500 miles beyond the British Frontier. The velocity of its waters when the River is full is 5 miles an hour.

The Hleing rises close to Prome where it is called the Myit-makat stream and flowing in a Southerly direction nearly parallel to the Irrawaddy it gradually assumes the name of the Hleing, and finally of the Rangoon River, and flows past the town of that name, having received some of the waters of the Irrawaddy through the Nyoungdon stream. Just below Rangoon it is joined by the Pegu and Poozoondoung Rivers flowing from the East and North east. It is navigable for vessels of the largest size for some little distance above Rangoon, but owing to the Hastings shoal, formed at the junction of the Pegu, the Poozoondoung and Rangoon Rivers, vessels of more than 6 feet draught cannot come up at low tide.

The Pegu and the Poozoondoung Rivers rise close together in the Yoma Range about 58 miles above the town of Pegu, the capital of the ancient Taline kingdom conquered by the Burmese under Alom-pra and which gives its name to all this portion of the country. Here the Pegu River, which is almost dry during the hot season at low tides, is 105 yards broad : in its further course of 60 miles to the Rangoon River it rapidly increases in breadth, but narrowing at its mouth a bore goes up it the effects of which are felt at Pegu.) The Poozoondoung River which empties itself into the Rangoon River at the same spot as the Pegu River is a much smaller stream, being only 50 yards wide at a distance 35 miles from its mouth. Throughout the whole of the lower portion of the valley the Rivers intercommunicate so much that it is almost impossible to say that they are distinct : the waters of the Irrawaddy are partially poured out through the Rangoon ; the Poozoondoung and the Pegu Rivers are connected by many small streams ; and the Rangoon River itself returns some of its waters to the Eastern mouth of the Irrawaddy

The Sittoung River rises far north of British territory which it enters just above Toungoo, here it is narrow and navigable with difficulty for large boats during the dry season: below Shwè-gyeen, where it receives the waters of the Shwè-gyeen River from the East, it gradually and slowly widens till at Sittoung it is $\frac{1}{4}$ a mile broad. Thence it curves backward so as to form an inverted  and it at last flows into the Gulf of Martaban through a funnel shaped channel widening so

rapidly that it is impossible to tell where the river ends and the Gulf begins. Owing to the meeting in this Gulf of the great tidal wave of the Indian ocean, arriving from the South West, and of other portions which come along the Tenasserim coast from the South East a bore with a curling crest 9 feet high sweeps up the Sittoung River, its effect, though broken by the serpentine curve below Sittoung, being felt at Shwè-gyeen. The Beeling river rises in the Pongloun hills, and flows southward to the sea entering the Gulf between the Salween and the Sittoung.

7. There is only one canal, which was constructed a few years ago, connecting the Pegu and Sittoung Rivers. There always was a stream there, which was deepened and widened, so as to allow of the passage of large boats, and a small river steamer once passed through it from Rangoon up the Pegu and Sittoung rivers to Toungoo. Of lakes there are but 4 which

are more properly lagoons. The Thoo lake in the Myanong district on the west bank of the Irrawaddy between that river and the Arakan Hills, which is 8 or 9 miles round and $2\frac{1}{2}$ across; the Lahagyin in a large low tract of ground on the opposite bank of the Irrawaddy; the Kandaugyee, or "large Royal lake" near Rangoon, about 3 miles round; and the Lake of clear water in the Bassein district about 5 miles in circumference with a pretty uniform breadth of 280 to 300 yards and a depth of from 20 to 45 in the centre.

8. The valley of the Salween is British territory only in its lower portion. The right bank of that River is a wilderness of mountains drained by various streams the most important of which is the Yonzaleen; but lower down, and especially below the Thoungyen River on the East bank, there are large alluvial plains which are drained by the Gyne and the Attaran Rivers. The Salween though a large river is not navigable owing to its rapids. At its mouth is the town of Maulmain, the head quarter town of the district of Amherst and of the Tenasserim Division. The Attaran rises in the chain of hills which forms the boundary between the Kingdom of Siam and British Burma, and flows in a South westerly direction through dense teak forests and an almost uninhabited country. The Gyne which flows in a somewhat

Canals.

Lakes.

Valley of the Salween.

Rivers.

similar direction passes through a more open country, and there are numerous villages on its banks : it is navigable for 130 miles for small boats.

9. Tenasserim is that tract of country lying between 17° and 18° N. Latitude along the Eastern side of the Bay of Bengal, and between it and a high chain of Hills about 40 miles inland, and includes the Mergui Archipelago, that is the chain of islands along the coast 15 or 20 miles distant from it. The surface of the country is mountainous, thinly populated and much intersected by streams. Between the sea and the boundary range is another lower one, separated from the higher by the River Tenasserim. The grand range is in some places 5000 feet high: its breadth at Martaban has never been ascertained, but further South, in the latitude of Tavoy, it appears to be 40 miles wide, whence it gradually narrows to 10 miles, near Mergui. The whole range is covered with pathless jungle, and may be said without exaggeration to be without a human habitation of any kind. The coast is very irregular, and low for some miles inland, consisting of uncultivated mangrove islands.

The Tenasserim which rises in about 16° N. latitude flows through a valley scarcely broader than its bed to the Southward, when, after passing the ancient town of Tenasserim which gives its name to the Division, it turns suddenly to the west and empties itself into the sea by two mouths, the northern of which is the easiest navigable for large ships; although in 1825 the Cruiser "Thetis" sailed up the Southern entrance as far as old Tenasserim. The River is navigable for boats for 100 miles.

10. The total area of the Province is 93,879 square miles, of which 18,528 are in Arakan, 36,454 in Pegu which includes the valley of the Irrawaddy and the whole of the valley of the Sittoung on the right bank of that River; and 38,897 in the Tenasserim Division which includes the left bank of the Sittoung, the southern portion of the left bank of the Salween *i. e.*, the country to the Eastward drained by the Gyne and the Attaran, and the Eastern Coast of the Bay of Bengal; of this total area of 93,879 square miles $3,044\frac{6}{12}$ are cultivated. This is a falling off of from 1867-68 when 3,175 miles were under cultivation and is due to a decrease in Akyab, Bassein,

Myanounng and Shwè-gyèen, and it is only 31 per cent of the total area and 7 per cent of the culturable area which is 38,195 square miles. In Pegu alone there are no less than 17,076 square miles of culturable uncultivated waste land; land which only requires population to become as fertile as any in the world almost. The unappropriated culturable waste in acres was 28,212,936 which is more than last year owing to the smaller area under cultivation, and of this only 10,857 acres were granted during the year. Last year the grants and sales amounted to 44,025 acres out of 20,089,685, or about 0.2 per cent. At this rate it would take 500 years fully to cultivate the land. The largest amount of land was disposed of again this year as last in the Rangoon District, the lower portion of the valley of the Irrawaddy, where there are only 634½ miles of cultivated land and 7,939½ miles of culturable waste.

11. The communications throughout the Province are mainly by water. Steamers ply on the
Communications. Irrawaddy between Thayetmyo, Prome, Myanounng, Henzadah and Rangoon and a small steamer runs from Bassein to Rangoon. There is steam communication all round the coast from Calcutta to Akyab, and thence on to Rangoon and Maulmain, and a small steamer runs once a month from Maulmain south to Tavoy and Mergui. The only artificial water communication in the Province is that by the Pyne-kyun Creek between the Pegu and Sittoung Rivers, through which boats on their way from Rangoon to Sittoung can pass during the flood-tide.

Notwithstanding the comparatively large Revenue of the
Roads. Province there are but 655½ miles of road altogether, of which 124 are first class and 374½ second class. In the Akyab district there is not a mile of first class road and only 2 miles of second class and 8 miles of third class: in Sandoway there are 5 miles of second class road: in Ramree 152 miles of third class road, that is a road passing over the Aeng pass from Pegu to Arakan, which was commenced not later than 1854, when a 3 foot track was completed, so that, according to the official report, a horseman could pass along the whole length of it at any pace, but which not only is not yet finished but in its present state after 15 years can "hardly be called a road at all, except for pack bullocks." Rangoon and Amherst alone have the first 70 and the second 50 miles of first class road, a section or two of

the road to Prome which is not yet completed, and of a Road which last year was returned as 2nd Class. That a Province like British Burma with its miserably sparse population, its large culturable uncultivated waste, and its heavy taxation, has been left without roads tapping the country in every direction and thus giving every facility to immigration and increased cultivation, can only be attributed to the fact that it is utterly distinct from British India and is unknown or forgotten, or remembered only as a land of Hyperbo-reans in which, to the astonishment of no one, cannibalism even might be asserted to exist. And thus unknown and, as it were, uncared for Burma has struggled on, and, thanks to its own elasticity, has not only not retrograded notwithstanding the comparative isolation in which it has been left but has, in payment of the expenses of the Penal settlement of Port Blair, remitted £108,630 since 1865-66 and has placed at the disposal of the general Government of India an amount which since 1864-65 has been no less than £175,000 a year and which during 1869-70 will, in all human probability, increase by £335,000.

12. The soil throughout Arakan is alluvial, mixed in places with sand, the islands are of volcanic formation and though rocky are fertile.

Soil.

With the exception of iron and limestone, which are found in small quantities the former in the island of Ramree, there are no mineral productions of any value. The soil of the delta of the Irrawaddy is very rich and where cultivated gives a high return; owing to the sparseness of the population, however, there is but a comparatively small area cultivated. The Yoma range is composed mainly of brown or grey slate-clay alternating with beds of argillaceous sandstone assuming at times a basaltic character. Overlying the slate-clay is a bed of laterite forming an undulating dry tract about 13 miles wide always, when on the surface, covered with trees or bamboos. The Arakan range abounds in limestone, and in some portions granite, greenstone and hornblende are met with, and further North granite or greenstone and gneiss; quartz nodules are common. Coal has been found in small quantities near Thayetmyo, but, after a careful examination by Dr. Oldham of the Geological Survey of India, it was found to be worthless, both as regards quality and quantity. In 1854 the soil in the Northern portion of the valley of the Irrawaddy was reported to be well suited for the

growth of cotton but rice is the principal cultivation. The soil of the upper portion of the Sittoung valley is clayey mixed with a good deal of sand, the sand gradually disappearing towards the South. The chief formation of the small hills is laterite, and but few rocks are met with in the low land to the West of the river. To the East of the Sittoung river large masses of rock (limestone) rise suddenly and perpendicularly out of the soil, to a height of 400 or 500 feet, and from a quarter to half a mile in length, with sharp jagged ridges. These are apparently outcrops of a chain which runs N. W. and S. E. from the plains to the N. E. of Maulmain across the Salween and Youzaleen rivers to the inner Pongloun range.

The soil of the Northern portion of Tenasserim is alluvial, but not much cultivated except near the Gyne though cultivation is spreading. Stratified sandstone is the prevailing rock in the North intersected with veins of quartz, in which crystals of great beauty are sometimes discovered; vesicular ironstone or tufa or laterite is also prevalent and bituminous shale is found below the rocks. At Anuherst there is a granite reef which is uncovered at low tide only; and towards the South granite, with the felspar white, becomes the main formation, with clay slate and micaceous iron ore on the Eastern slope of the hills. Still further South sandstone, grey wacke and conglomerate, in which latter there is much iron, prevail. Fifteen miles inland the secondary stratified formations predominate and of these the old red sandstone is most common. Coal has been discovered in 5 distinct localities, and has been reported to be "well adapted for Steamers, having a low specific gravity, burns with a brilliant white flame and leaves but a very small proportion of ashes," but owing to the difficulty and expense of removing it the seams are not worked: excellent tin also is found and copper ores, gold in small quantities, and ores of manganese and iron in abundance.

13. The climate is warm, moist, and depressing; and in
 Climate. some of the forest tracts it is, during the monsoons and for sometime after the cold weather has set in, deadly. On the coast, however, and on the frontier it is not an unhealthy climate, the average mortality of the Europeans troops in 1867 having been 18.20 per 1000, and during the first five years that troops were stationed at Tavoy (since withdrawn) not a single death from

disease took place amongst the 54 Europeans or their wives and children. The most prevalent complaints amongst Europeans are fever, dysentery and hepatic diseases, from which the Natives are by no means free. The rainfall varies considerably from 253.15 inches at Sandoway to 48.50 inches at Prome. Considerably more rain fell this year than last in every Station in which observations are taken except at Kyoukphyoo in the island of Ramree on the Arakan coast. In some places the excess was very large: at Sandoway for instance the rain fall in 1867-68 was only 180.70 inches: in Maulmain it increased from 196.18 to 211.20 inches, and in Shwè-gyeen from 143.14 inches to 187.50. The average rainfall throughout the Province increased from 132.53 inches to 152.37 inches. The average temperature is greatly affected by the sea breeze: at Mergui it is 80° F. at 2 p. m. in July and at Tounghoo to the extreme North 93° F. The rapid changes in the temperature must have a great effect on the health of the inhabitants: in May the thermometer ranges from an average of 76½° F. at sun rise to 88¾° F. at midday; in July from 76° to 84; and in December from 65° to 80°: the greatest range being in Thayetmyo in May when it is from 74° at sun rise to 101° at 2 p. m.

B.—Political Relations with Native States.

14. An expedition was despatched during the past year under the leadership of Major Sladen, Political Agent at Mandalay, to endeavour to penetrate into Yunan viâ Bhamo. The expedition left Mandalay on the 13th January 1868, and returned to that place on the 15th September following.

The chief objects for which the expedition was sent, were to discover the cause of cessation of the trade formerly existing by these routes, the exact position held by the Kakhyens, Shans, and Panthays with reference to that traffic, and their disposition or otherwise to resuscitate it; as also to examine the physical conditions of the routes.

15. The Panthay rebellion against the Chinese authorities was the primary cause of the cessation of trade by the Bhamo routes which as late as 1855 (the date of the rebellion) was nearly half a million of pounds sterling, and all previous history of this line of commerce with which we are acquainted proves beyond doubt that there exists an important field for

trade in these localities. The knowledge, too, acquired by the mission assures us that the parties most interested in this commerce desire a revival of the trade. Major Sladen succeeded only in reaching the frontier town of Yunan, (Momein,) the disturbances in the interior of the country precluding his proceeding further. It would, doubtless, have been very interesting from some points of view had the party succeeded in reaching Talifoo, the Head Quarters of the Panthay Government : but it certainly appears that the Panthay authorities whom Major Sladen met at Momein were of sufficient importance and position to render their views and opinions a safe criterion of the favorable feeling of the Panthay Government towards the resuscitation of trade.

16. The expedition having only reached Momein, Major Sladen has refrained from speaking with any authority in his report regarding the trade statistics of Yunan. All the information, however, that he was enabled to give most fully corroborates the reports of the great mineral wealth of Yunan, as also the enormous wealth of the neighbouring Provinces of Sechuen and Kwei-chow, the most populous in China, and their gigantic trade in tea, silk, rhubarb, tobacco, sugar, hemp, oil, varnish, and other commodities, and their vast capacity to consume European manufactures, a large proportion of which trade we shall gain when once the route by Bhamo is fully re-opened. Mr. T. T. Cooper in his late endeavour to traverse the through route from China viâ Thibet to India, in a letter to the "North China Daily News" from a place named Tai-Tsian-loo on the extreme Western frontier of China, fully confirms the importance of the resuscitation of the trade by Bhamo. In it he states that the "present trade between Chung-king and Yunan and Kweichow, is only temporary (with Hankow on the Yangtsekyang) " on account of the closure of the Bhamo and Tali route, and as soon as this route is re-opened, so sure will Burma take to herself the trade of these two Provinces, and if, as is probable, British Merchants establish themselves at Ava", (this has already been done) "then a rivalry for this trade between China and Burma Merchants seems almost certain, the result telling probably in favor of the latter, both in exports and imports. Trade by this route has flourished before, without European enterprise, and as soon as it is re-established, the trade between Hankow and Chung-king will be lessened one-third."

17. There are three principal routes from Bhamo, which, leaving the town of that name on the Irrawaddy, run in a North Easterly direction to Talifoo, the present Capital of Western Yunan, passing over the Kakhyen hills, then through a narrow belt of Shan States, and joining together at Nantun, proceed on to Momein the border town of Yunan, whence by Yunchan (the centre of the trade in Western Yunan) the route passes on to Talifoo. Considerable delay occurred in the Kakhyen hills, prolonging the period of absence of the expedition beyond that which was anticipated, but this is not to be regretted, as it enabled Major Sladen to obtain considerable information regarding the Kakhyens, who, holding the hills, must always form an important element in any scheme for re-opening the route, and has given them an opportunity of learning our real intentions regarding which they would appear to have been falsely imbued by designing persons.

18. The three routes abovementioned are valleys pierced through a range of hills lying in a North and South direction forming a spur of the Himalayan range of Mountains, and are named severally, the Northern, Sanda Valley, or Ponlyne route; the centre, Ho ha Valley, or Embassy route; and the Thuangwan Valley, Southern, or Sawuddy route. From Mr. Gordon's (the Engineer Officer who accompanied the expedition) report it appears that he considers the Northern route along the Sanda Valley to be the most advisable one as far as physical difficulties are concerned, and that the central or Hotha Valley, for the purposes of a road constructed on scientific principles, cannot compete with either the Northern or Southern routes. He does not speak so confidently of the latter as the former route, as he had not the same opportunities for observing it; but on the whole he is of opinion "that a good road with easy gradients can be made without great expense through either the Sanda or Thuangwan Valley." No difficulties greater than are ordinarily met with in constructing hill roads exist in the Kakhyen hills, and the country compares favorably with the Arakan mountains opposite Prome over which a road has been constructed one hundred miles long, ninety of which are in the mountains. The distance between Bhamo and Momein is only 120 miles, and he estimates that by the Sanda Valley route there would be 70 miles of plain land, and 50 miles of hilly through which the road would pass, and that as labour and good material for road making are available in the country

to any extent that may be required, a road 20 feet wide in the plain land complete might be taken at a cost of Rupees 10,000 per mile and in the hilly land 12 feet wide, with gradients of 1 in 30, completely bridged should not be over Rs 10,000 per mile; or the road could be made for £1,000 per mile, the whole length of 120 miles costing £120,000.

19. Major Sladen reports regarding these routes that "it would be premature to puzzle ourselves which is the most practicable in an Engineering point of view, until we are prepared to entertain a definite scheme of road improvement, or even rail-road communications, that trade to an almost unlimited extent is now possible by any of the existing routes without reference to their Engineering capabilities, and that the determination of either of these three routes as a through-route for general traffic must depend for sanction on questions of policy and general expedience, rather than of special adaptability or physical disqualifications"; and he prefers the Hotha valley, central, or Embassy route to the other two for all present purposes of commerce and communication.

From both the reports of Major Sladen and Mr. Gordon we gather therefore that the present routes are available for traffic by means of mules as formerly, that between Bhamo and Momein no physical difficulties of any kind exist to the construction by one or other of these valleys, of either a road built on scientific principles for wheeled carriages, of a tramway, or of a railway; and that the length of such would only be 120 miles.

20. The Government of India has sanctioned an Assistant Political Agent being stationed at Bhamo, and his arrival there no doubt will confirm the belief in the reality of our intentions to re-open the traffic, and to maintain communication with the Shan Chiefs and Panthay Government; and also influence the Khakyens towards giving facilities for safe transit of goods. The Court of Ava, had, previous to the last treaty, shown great distrust and thwarted all our attempts to send an expedition *via* Bhamo; as also great jealousy of English steamers plying between Rangoon and Mandalay, but since the ratification of that Treaty His Majesty appears to be fully alive to the advantages that must ensue from a re-establishment of the extinct trade, and as far as our Steam communication on the Irrawaddy is concerned, the Burmese Government have become accustomed to it, and found from experience its

great advantages. Before the beginning of 1867 only four English steamers with merchandize had ever been up to Mandalay from Rangoon, but now there is a regular communication every ten days to and fro' by the vessels of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Steam Company, and the trade has so rapidly increased that steps are now being taken for very shortly establishing a weekly line of communication by large steamers built on the American principle, with beam engines and carrying their own cargoes without flats in tow, and capable of performing the voyage up to Mandalay from Rangoon within seven and Bhamo nine days, and the down trip in each case in half that time. Any trade, therefore, that may come to Bhamo will certainly pass down the Irrawaddy, and any idea of its being diverted towards Assam through the difficult country between Bhamo and Sadya on the Bhrampootra, or *via* Munnipore and Cachar, is totally out of the question. Our trade with Upper Burma has doubled itself within the last four years and although perhaps immediate results may not flow from our attempts to reopen the old trade route with China and the Shan States, still in a few years, if our efforts are earnest and continuous, we may hope for an extensive and valuable addition to our trade being established.

21. The Chief of the Western Karennees Kyay-pho-gyee Death of the Chief of Western Karennees. died on 25th September. The condition of the Karennee States, which are independent hill States situated on our North Eastern frontier, has been very disturbed for sometime. They are roughly divided into Eastern and Western Karennee. The Chiefs of the former division have always declined to have any relations with the British Government, while Kyay-pho-gyee and his sons the Rulers of Western Karennee have been on most friendly terms, and have twice solicited that their country may be placed under British rule and protection, and offered to pay tribute.

22. About two years ago Tsau-hla-pau the Chief of Eastern Karennee died, and the succession was disputed by his two sons, Tsau-hla-pau-gyee and Tsau-hla-pau-galay. While they were fighting for supremacy the Zimmay Shans succeeded in driving the Karennees from all occupation of the territory and forests on the east side of the Salween river, which the Zimmay Chief declared they had no title to. During these disturbances the Myeng-gon Prince, who rose in rebellion against

his father the King of Burma in the latter end of 1866, took refuge in Western Karennee, and matters got still more complicated, Tsau-hla-pau-galay being worsted by his elder brother Tsau-hla-pau-gyee, took refuge also in Western Karennee, and with Khay-pho-gyee's son Koon-tee, and the followers of the Myeng-gon Prince, made an attack on Eastern Karennee. They were repulsed, and then sent messengers to the Zimmay Shans to ask them to join in another attack on Eastern Karennee. This was during the last rains about June and July. The Shans refused and as the Burmese Troops were pressing on the territory of the Western Karenees, and burning their villages in retaliation for the shelter afforded the Prince, the Prince fled from thence into British territory where after having attempting to raise a rebellion he was captured.

23. Meanwhile the condition of the Frontier is very disturbed, and interferes greatly with our timber trade at Maulmain, the Foresters proceeding into the disputed territory and its neighbourhood being plundered by the contending parties under the pretence of levying timber tax. In the present conflicting state of the various parties it is difficult to see a way to successful interposition, the Chief of Zimmay has however been addressed on this subject, informing him of the outrages occurring on his frontier, and calling upon him to take means for preserving order and the King of Burma has been requested to cease all interference with Western Karennee.

24. An attack was made on the Bassein Treasury on the 28th April last, the prime mover in which was Nga-Kyaw-tha an inhabitant of Upper Burma, who had been residing in Bassein for the last four years, from whose statement and that of others concerned in the affair it appears that sometime in March last a man named Shwe-wa arrived in Bassein from Tanguon and put up in Nga-Kyaw-tha's house. His ostensible occupation was that of a tattooer and soothsayer—two professions frequently combined in Burma, where the people have great faith in the power of various tattooed figures to protect them from danger. By and by Shwe-wa (according to Nga-Kyaw-tha's story) told Nga-Kyaw-tha that he had really come from the King of Burma and the Myeng-gon Prince, that they had heard of Nga-kyaw-tha as being a son of the Tsekya-meng (a deceased brother of the present King) and that they desired that he should assume the position of Prince

of Bassein (Thengsa-nagara-meng-tha). On this Nga-kyaw-tha acknowledged that he had been informed by a Priest in Upper Burma, when he was a child, that he was a Royal Prince who had been saved when his relations had all been put to death. Shwè-wa confirmed this by some peculiar marks he discovered on his body, and told him he was not to be afraid, that the whole country was to be made over by the British to the King, and that he would find no difficulty at all in assuming charge of Bassein. The two then went into the district, Northward, to the village of Ta-dzeng-hla, when they talked over the Goung or village head man, and swore in some villagers, about fifteen in number. Shwè-wa then left for Rangoon, having shown the written orders of the King and Prince appointing Nga-kyaw-tha to the Government of Bassein, and promising to send messengers as to the proper time for carrying out the plot. Nga-kyaw-tha states that two men came to him towards the end of April and said that the 28th of that month was the proper time. On the 27th Nga-kyaw-tha and Shwè-too, the Goung above alluded to, and fifteen villagers went into Bassein to the house of Nga-kyaw-tha's brother-in-law Nga-oung-meng, a writer in the Deputy Commissioner's Court. On the occasion of a boy entering a Buddhist Monastery as a pupil it is customary for the relatives to have a feast and procession to the Pagoda—and in Nga-oung-meng's house such a feast was given on the 27th April. About one hundred Anya-thas (men from Upper Burma) working in the rice godowns in the town were asked as guests, and induced to stop all night and take part in the procession. Few of these apparently previously knew of the plot, but towards early morning when pieces of white cloth were served out for each to tie round his neck, it is almost certain that they must have known that an attempted rebellion was meant, as in Burma white is the emblem of Royalty. The procession to the Pagoda started before daylight, and about twenty Dhás (Burmese swords) were served out. After worshipping in the usual form the party, about seventy men in all, rushed on the Treasury which is within fifteen yards of the Pagoda platform. Two of the guard were cut down, and the remainder, surprised and unable to get their arms, managed to get free. Some remained in the neighbourhood of the Pagoda and Treasury but the Serjeant ran to the Deputy Commissioner's house and reported what had occurred, and then proceeded to the Gaol guard and brought twelve men from thence. The De-

puty Commissioner had also his night guard of three Police men and with this party he went to the Treasury, and on the Police firing on the robbers they broke, threw down the arms they had brought with them and those obtained from the Treasury guard, and fled in all directions. They had possession of the Treasury for probably twenty minutes, but had not even opened the doors. Meanwhile Police were coming up from all quarters and some fifteen or twenty of the attacking party were within a very short period captured about the Pagoda and in portions of the town whither they had run. The Deputy Commissioner went to the house whence the procession had started, and there arrested thirty-five men on most of whom a piece of white cloth was still found; Nga-ong-meng also was arrested. The Goung, Shwè-too, and the villagers engaged in the attack were traced up and all caught in a few days and Nga-kyaw-tha himself was captured on the 13th June in Rangoon.

25. The Goung Shwè-too and his fifteen villagers are shewn to have been perfectly cognizant of the intention of Nga-Kyaw-tha to proclaim himself Prince, and to assume the Government of Bassein, if possible. Some had been engaged in copying out the so called Royal mandates of the King and Myeng-gon Prince, and in concocting subsidiary orders by Nga-kyaw-tha as Prince of Bassein, some had been appointed to office, and all had sworn to follow him.

26. The imposter Nga-kyaw-tha has always been noted as a slighty character, and it is difficult to judge whether he acted more from his own wild fancies or from the advice of Shwè-wa. The Goung, Shwè-too, was the only official who joined him and it does not appear that any attempt even was made to gain over any others, certainly nothing has been discovered from the accused parties themselves, or from any other source, that would show that any person of position or influence among our own subjects had anything to do with it. It is by no means impossible that the Myeng-gon Prince may have authorized his followers to do all they could to ferment disturbances in our territories. The documents which purported to come from the king are clearly forgeries, one of them bears the Royal Seal, the Peacock, but the man who made the stamp has been arrested.

27. That Nga-Kyaw-tha and party should have expected success from such an ill-concocted plot only shows the extra-

ordinary impulsiveness of the people of this Province. It is true that Nga-kyaw-tha had only come from Upper Burma about four years, but that with the means at his disposal he should have expected to take the Government of Bassein into his hands is a strange instance of the unreflecting character of the Burmese disposition. For some days there was considerable excitement in the Town of Bassein and exaggerated rumours of large bodies of men hovering about the district, but actually there was no sympathy whatever shown with the would-be rebels, nor did any disturbance occur. As the news of the affair spread to the other districts there were no evil effects, except perhaps in the district of Rangoon in the immediate neighbourhood of the Town itself, where large numbers of up-country men are located in the shipping season, and amongst whom stories got up of the talent for intrigue of the Myeng-gon Prince and of his doings while in rebellion against his father.

28. The Myeng-gon Myeng-tha (Prince of Myeng-gon) one of the sons of His Majesty the King of Burma was arrested in Rangoon on the 28th August while attempting to raise a rebellion in British Burma. This Prince headed the rebellion which occurred in Mandalay in August 1866, when the King's brother, two of his sons, and some officers of state were killed. The Prince was in active rebellion against his father until the 16th October following, when, being pursued by the Royal Troops, he entered British territory at Thayet-myo.

It was arranged that he and his brother, the Prince of Myeng-gon-daing, who shared in the rebellion, should reside in Rangoon. In a short time it was found that he was intriguing to collect men for the purpose of attacking the King of Burma and he was placed under restraint. He was allowed to take exercise, however, and made his escape from Rangoon on the 6th February 1867, unaccompanied by his brother. The Myeng-gon Prince succeeded in passing through our territories undiscovered, and took refuge with the Chief of Western Karenee in the hills to the north east of Loungoo. He there endeavoured to raise up a rebellion among the chiefs of the Shan States tributary to Upper Burma and the Karennees espousing his cause, he had several skirmishes with the Royal Troops whom the King had sent to oppose him, but having been worsted and unsuccessful in his intrigues with the Shan chiefs, as also the Chief of Zimay tributary

to Siam, he suddenly left Karennee without the Chief's knowledge about the 15th July last, his followers reporting that he had gone to Zimmay.

29. Some of the Prince's followers came into Toungoo, Shwè-gyeeh, and Rangoon, and rumours were spread throughout the country of a rising in the Myeng-gon's favor being about to be attempted. On the 8th August a well known follower of the Prince who had been with him throughout the rebellion in Upper Burma in 1866, but had not accompanied him to Karennee, volunteered to give information to the Inspector General of Police, Major Duncan and Captain Lloyd, Deputy Commissioner of Rangoon, warned them of his intentions and furnished names of some of the principal emissaries of the Prince, all up-country men or bad characters. On the 25th a Burman named Mông-kyee, the writer of the Myoke of Hmaubee reported to Mr. McLeod, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Rangoon district, that he had met the Prince in a boat on the Rangoon river, and had been sworn in by him as one of his followers, and disclosed the whole plot. This man and Mông-phay arranged with much skill and courage the capture of the Prince, which was effected by Major Duncan, Captain Lloyd, and Major Hamilton, Superintendent of Police, in a house in the Kemmendine suburb of Rangoon, which the Prince had been induced to come to by the two men above mentioned, with the intention of consulting his followers.

30. The principal persons who consorted with the Prince to effect a rising have been apprehended, and there is not a respectable man among them, and throughout the whole business the Prince seems to have been afraid to try any person of influence or position. It was on the 22nd August that he first met Mông-kyee, and he was then going to Tharrawaddy. Returning to Rangoon he seemingly changed his mind and started for Demabaw, again coming back to Rangoon on the 26th. There was then an intention of a plunder of Rangoon on the 27th or 30th, but it is evident from the livellations of the Prince and it is presumed of his advisers, that the plans were vague and immature to expect to be half-drained of Burma the chance of success with such materials as the Prince had must have appeared about. He had manifestly failed in gaining the support or confidence of any person who could be of use to him in an attempt to overthrow the Government, and he could only trust to the bare prestige of his Royal descent assisted by a few desperadoes.

31. On the whole, there is reason to be well satisfied with the termination of the Prince's escapade. He appears to have been unable to find any grounds on which to attempt to cause dissatisfaction among our subjects. He did not venture to sound our officials. He was obliged to sneak about in disguise in a style peculiarly degrading and repugnant to all Burman ideas of Princesdom. Although his followers were scattered about the Province, and many of them resident in it for a year and a half, all his influence seems to have been limited to some of the bad characters in Rangoon, and his most formidable project was a plundering attack on the town. And with all these reasons for congratulation, as showing that any thing like extensive or well-grounded rebellion was beyond his reach, it is no less satisfactory that he was captured before any actual outbreak took place, even in the shape contemplated by the Prince's party, the firing of the town of Rangoon being considered the legitimate commencement of their operations, when the confusion and destruction of property would have been considerable. The Prince on his arrest was placed on board Her Majesty's Steamer *Arracan* and despatched via Port Blair to Calcutta. He is now a State Prisoner in the Fort of Chunar.

32. No where is Royalty more venerated than it is amongst the Burmese. Any action taken against Royalty by commoners carries with it religious as well as social penalties. The loyalty therefore shown by Moun-gyee and Moun-phay was the more remarkable, and received prompt and liberal recognition, a reward of Rs. 1000 was given to each, and the former has been appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner.

C. Civil Divisions of British Territory.

33. The Province of British Burma consists of 3 Divisions of very unequal area and population, viz. Arakan, Pegu, and Tenasserim; the first of 18,529 square miles in extent and with 453,314 inhabitants, the 2nd of 36,454 square miles and with 1,480,581 souls and the 3rd of 38,897 square miles with a population of 462,090. This inequality may partly be explained by the circumstances under which the British became possessed of the country. Arakan and the southern portion of Tenasserim separated by the whole of Pegu were taken in 1825 after the first Burmese war and were then being about the same size, made into separate Provinces,

After the 2nd Burmese war Lord Dalhousie considered it advisable to annex the whole of the coast line and the whole country between Arakan and Tenasserim for some 250 or 300 miles inland. This was too large a territory to be efficiently controlled by one Commissioner, but the same reasons which had induced Lord Amherst to pause before the Western boundary of Pegu induced Lord Dalhousie to place no portion of the newly acquired Province under the Commissioner of Arakan viz. the high chain of hills which reaches from the extreme North to Cape Negrais, and which forms a natural boundary between the two countries, and the differences between the Arakanese and the Burmese and Taline races. In order, therefore, to reduce the Pegu Province to a workable size a portion of the annexed territory, all that part of it which lies to the East of the Sittoung and constitutes the Shwè-gyeen and part of the Amherst district, was handed over to Tenasserim and the rest was formed into the Province of Pegu; and the 3 Divisions have remained thus ever since.

34. Arakan is divided into 3 districts, Akyab, Ramree and Sandoway, and lately the northern portion of Akyab has been placed under a separate officer designated the "Superintendent of Hill tribes Northern Arakan." Akyab, which extends from Chittagong on the West to the Talak River on the East has never been divided into Divisions of districts. Its head quarters are at Akyab which has a population of 15,743 souls and there are no other large or important towns in it, but there are 1,783 villages. The district has been divided into 5 Townships, each of which is presided over by an Extra Assistant Commissioner of the 3rd grade exercising Civil, Criminal and Revenue powers. The population is 271,933 producing a gross of Revenue of £157,046 or 11s. 6½d. per head of which £53,456 is derived from the land. With this Revenue the total cost of officials and Police of all kinds is £30,000 or 52 per cent on the gross Revenue. So sparse is the population that the average distance of villages from the nearest Court is 25 miles and the greatest distance 40. Ramree is the next district down the coast, having its head quarter town, containing 2,720 inhabitants, on the Island of Ramree. This is a small district containing 833 villages and is divided into 3 townships, the average distance of the villages from the nearest Court being 10 miles. The population is comparatively large viz. 127,230 souls, and the gross Revenue

derived therefrom is according to the Returns £31,674 which would give 11s. 4d. per head, of which £11,766 is from land tax. The total cost of all officials including the Police is £13,860 or 4 per cent on the Revenue. The district of Sandoway though not very much smaller has a population of 46,187 souls only and 395 villages, producing a Revenue of £11,112 or about 5 shillings per head of which £4,823 is derived from the land tax. It is divided into 2 townships and the cost of the Officials and Police of all kinds was £7,592. Owing to the smallness of the population the average distance of the villages from the nearest Court is 21 miles. Sandoway the head quarter town has a population of 1,506 souls only. The difference in the rate of taxation in, and in the cost of the Government of, each district in Arakan is great: this is due to various causes. The larger or smaller amount of land under cultivation; the larger or smaller population; and the number of officials required either from the sparseness of the population on the one hand or the requirements of a large town on the other. The average incidence of taxation in the whole Division is 9s. 2d. per head, and the cost of officials of all kinds 16.30 per cent on the gross Revenues.

35. Pegu with an area of 33,440 square miles is divided into 5 districts, of which Myanoung is the most populous. The Rangoon district has an area of 9,800 square miles and a population of 358,075 souls, of whom 82,678 are in large towns, viz. 72,675 in Rangoon; 6,686 in Nyoungdon on the Irrawaddy river, where a small stream, the Nyoungdon river, carries off some of the waters of the Irrawaddy to the Hleing or Rangoon river and 3,317 in Pegu, the former capital of the Taline Kingdom which extended across the whole valley and as high as Prome, situated on the Pegu river. Deducting these there remain 275,397 souls spread through 1,513 villages. The gross Revenue realized in this district was £428,769, this is a large increase over 1867-68 when the gross Revenue was £387,192. The land Revenue increased but slightly from £81,003 to £81,021. The average amount of taxation per head was therefore £1-3-11 against £1-2-0 in 1867-68. The cost of all Government officers including Police was £21,428 against £17,661: that is 4.9 per cent of the total Revenue against 4.5 per cent in 1867-68. Notwithstanding the comparatively

large population the average distance of the villages from the nearest Court is no less than 26 miles.

36. The Bassein District with an area of 8,954 square miles has a population of 291,217 souls, last year the number of inhabitants was 274,540. This district has no less than 6 towns with more than 2,000 inhabitants, besides 1,563 villages ; last year the number of villages was 1,555. In all of these 6 towns except Pantanau the population has increased. The total increase in the whole 6 being from 37,849 to 39,932, the increase in the town of Bassein alone having been from 16,733 to 18,530. The gross Revenue realized in this district has increased from £107,189 to £125,566, the amount realized from land increasing from £34,828 to £36,049 : the incidence of taxation was thus only 8s. 7d. per head of the population. The cost of all Government officials fell from £ 16,342 to £ 14,834. The villages in Bassein are so scattered that the average distance from a Court is 34 miles, and yet there are 15 Courts in the district.

37. The Myanoung district is the most populous, but judging from the amount of the taxes not by any means the richest in the Province. The inhabitants number 393,627 souls against 380,505 in 1867-68. Of these 37,123 are contained in 6 towns of which Henzadah the largest contains 14,551, Myanoung the present head quarter town of the district containing only 5,829. In none of these towns has there been any large increase, and in three of them a decrease, so that the real increase has been amongst the rural population, who are spread amongst 2,159 villages. The Courts are more evenly distributed over the country for although there are only 14 Courts yet the average distance of the villages from a Court is only 20 miles. The gross Revenue realized in the Myanoung district increased from £91,027 to £94,167 of which £37,001 was realized from land against £37,439 in 1867-68. The amount of tax paid by each individual was thus 4s. 9d. only. The total cost of all Government officials fell from £ 16,342 to £15,598, and the percentage to gross Revenue was therefore 16.5 against 17.9 in 1867-68.

38. The Prome district with an area of 5,500 square miles had during 1868-69 a population of 360,712 souls of whom 51,929 were

in 5 towns (25,095 in Prome alone) and the rest scattered in 2,385 villages. This district although neither the largest nor the most populous has more villages than any other. The population last year was 332,493 of whom 50,041 were in towns: the population of Prome having been 23,420. This town is rapidly increasing in size: it is now inferior only to Rangoon and Maulmain, and is considerably larger than Akyab or Bassein, both Sea ports. The Revenue realized in the district is not very large, *viz.* £ 79,765, but it is more than last year when it was £ 75,564, and amounts to 4s. 5d. per head against 4s. 6d. in 1867-68. The cost of all Government officers fell from £ 41,487 to £ 21,318 but there must assuredly have been some error in the Returns last year. The average distance of the villages from the nearest Court is 20 miles.

33. From the Returns furnished the population of the district of Toungoo. Toungoo seems to have considerably diminished, from 80,059 souls to 76,950, whilst at the same time the gross Revenue has increased from £14,933 to £15,724; and that portion of it derived from land from £3,097 to £3,233; at the same time that the cost of all officers of Government fell from £8,662 to £5,013. The rate of taxation per head thus increased from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 1d. but the cost of administering the district fell from 57 per cent of the gross Revenues to 38 per cent.

40. The population in the whole of the Pegu Division. Pegu Division increased from 1,419,046 to 1,480,581, that is by 61,567 souls or 4.16 per cent; the Revenues increasing from £675,906 to £743,993 or by 12 per cent. The progress made by this Division was, judging from these figures, good, but the land tax fell off, and the increase in the gross Revenues is due to an increase in taxes which do not show the real material prosperity of a country. The crying want is population, for there are in the whole Division, including in the calculations the large and populous towns of Rangoon and Prome, only 40 souls to a square mile; but without main roads and feeders there can be no hope of much immigration, for although the inducements to immigration are strong; a settled Government, fixed, if heavy, taxation (for in treating of the taxation per head all the local taxes, that is taxes spent in the Province under the immediate control of the Chief Commissioner without being carried to the credit of the Imperial Government, have been) omitted, the right to

accumulate, protection, highly fertile waste land given on the easiest terms and exemption from capitation tax for 5 years, yet, owing to the want of roads, to the means of conveying the produce of the fields to the nearest market, immigrants hesitate and Burma remains with its small population and its large culturable waste.

41. The population of the Amherst district, the largest in the Amherst. Province and which has an area of 15,144 square miles, increased from 219,538 to 226,539; of these 66,022 were in the town of Maulmain against 65,566 last year, and the remaining 160,973 were spread amongst 569 villages, the same number as last year. According to the Returns the gross Revenue fell from £149,240 to £108,592, the amount received from the land tax having, however, increased from £33,607 to £33,879. This would give a taxation of 9s. 1d. per head. The total cost of officials of all kinds fell from £23,917 to £15,824 or 14.5 per cent on the gross Revenue. There are altogether 19 Magistrates or 1 to every 797 square miles and to every 11,907 inhabitants.

42. Shwè-gyeen has an area of 8,793 square miles and a population of 132,311 souls, of whom 7,651 are in the town of Shwè-gyeen and the remaining 124,660 in 700 small towns and villages: last year the population was only 126,107. The gross Revenue has slightly fallen off, viz: from £24,097 to £24,067, the amount realized from land falling from £5,421 to £5,069, but at the same time the cost of all the Government officers in the district has decreased from £18,456 to £12,058. The incidence of taxation was thus only 3s. 7d. per head per annum, and the cost of administering the district 49 per cent of the gross Revenues. There are only 9 Magistrates, and the average distance of villages from the nearest Court is 12 miles.

43. The Tavoy district with an area of 7,200 square miles Tavoy. has a population of 71,185 no less than 15,253 of these being in Tavoy town, the remaining 55,932 occupying the 193 villages of the district. The population both of the district and of the Town has, therefore, increased since 1867-68 when they were 66,974 and 14,506 respectively. The gross Revenue, also, has increased from £19,245 to £19,386, the land Revenue, however, falling from £9,276 to £9,139. The average amount of tax paid by each individual was thus 2s. 6d. The cost of the Government officials was only £6,247

(against £8,255 last year) or 32 per cent of the gross Revenue. There are only 5 Magisterial Officers altogether in the district and the average distance of villages from the nearest Court is 10 miles.

44. The Mergui district has an area of 7,760 square miles with a population of 43,281, of whom 10,216 are in the Town of Mergui and 33,065 in 182 villages. The gross Revenues increased from £12,637 to £13,314, but the land tax fell from £5,316 to £5,169, which, it will be observed, is larger than the amount levied in Shwè-gyeen a larger and more populous district : the amount paid by each individual was, therefore, about 6s. 1d. The average distance of villages from the nearest Court is only 3 miles.

45. Taking the whole 4 districts of the Tenasserim Division together, the population has increased from 424,517, of whom 97,141 were in towns, to 473,016 of whom 99,142 were in towns. At the same time the gross Revenues have considerably fallen off, principally in Amherst, from £206,220 to £165,363, the land Revenue falling off slightly from £53,623 to £53,257, and the cost of administering the Division falling from £60,523 to £43,762 ; so that the tax paid was about 4s. 10d. per head and the cost of all Government officers amounted to 26 per cent on the gross Revenues and to about 1s. 10d. per head of the population.

D. Population.

46. The population of the Province has been incidentally touched upon in the preceding section, but only incidentally. The total population of the Province numbers 2,395,985 souls, against 2,329,312 in 1867-68, or an increase of 66,673 or 2.86 per cent. This would be a fair enough increase were it due to increased births, but by far the largest portion of it must be attributed to immigration, from India, from Upper Burma, and from China.

47. The number of houses increased from 480,666 to 494,883 and the masonry houses increased in number from 802 to 883. That only 883 houses out of 494,883 or 0.17 per cent should be masonry would, if unexplained, lead to the formation of an opinion regarding the prosperity of the Province which would be highly erroneous. In British Burma nearly all houses are built of wood ; at first doubtless because cheaper than masonry, but now because it is necessary for

the health of the inhabitants that there should be a current of air underneath to disperse the vapours which, in a hot damp climate, rise from the soil carrying with them disease and death. A low house is almost invariably an unhealthy house, and though the number of masonry houses is increasing yet it is asserted by almost all sanitary officers, and their opinion is supported by experience, that the ground story of a masonry house or a low wooden house is rarely as healthy as one well raised though it is not always positively unhealthy. Taking Rangoon as an instance; houses are rising in every direction, but beyond the limits of the town, where ground is expensive and room an object, these houses are almost invariably built of wood and raised some 10 or 12 feet from the ground. For British Burma a return of the number of houses shingled or roofed with zinc as compared with those thatched would be a far better criterion of prosperity than one which merely distinguishes masonry houses from others.

48. The population it has been shewn increased from classification. 2,329,312 to 2,395,985 souls. The adult males and females increased to about the same extent, the former by 48,000 in round numbers, the latter by 47,000, whilst the number of children, if the returns are to be taken as correct fell, the males by 23,000 and the females by 6,000: this, however, is hardly possible. There is always great difficulty in getting correct returns of life as the value of the statistics is not realized by those native subordinates who have to collect them, and the figures given in the Return regarding population must be accepted with a broad margin. The number of Europeans has but slightly increased, from 1,508 to 1,547; and the number of East Indians has fallen by 493. The Hindoos and Mussulmans have both increased by about 2,000 each. The number of non-agriculturists has fallen by no less than 655,000, the number of agriculturists increasing by 11,000 only. It must again be noted that the figures in this Return are only approximate, and are, from the sources whence obtained, liable to very numerous errors.

49. Probably the most remarkable figures given are those which shew the emigration and the immigration, from which it would appear that although there were 64,827 immigrants yet that there were no less than 60,928 emigrants. Of these, however, a large number were passing from district to district, and were not emigrants in the real sense of the word. In the Frontier district of Prome the number of immigrants was about

10,000 the number of emigrants being about 6,000: the majority of these latter probably left the district to proceed south. It is from the two seaports of Rangoon and Maulmain that the emigrants are large and these are the coolies who annually return to the Madras coast after having spent the working season only in Rangoon receiving high wages but paying no taxes.

E. Fiscal.

50. The settlement in British Burma is not on the same footing as in other Provinces of India. Here it is difficult to get the people to take a 5 or a 10 years' lease, though the terms are extremely liberal. The principle on which it is carried out is to accept the area of a holder willing to take a settlement as that shewn in the land tax rolls, unless the holder objects, in which case his land is measured. On this area either accepted or measured, a rate is fixed, calculated according to the productiveness of the land, its distance from a market for the sale of its produce, the facilities for conveying the produce to such market and the local price of the produce. If the settlement is accepted the land holder is allowed until the settlement has expired, to increase his cultivation to any extent by taking up waste land without paying any more than the sum originally fixed upon, in addition to which he is authorized to allow a fixed proportion of the area which he cultivates at the time of settlement to lie fallow, and the rate on such fallow land falls at once to 3 pence an acre, not only this but on occasions of real loss from murrain amongst his cattle, or drought or damage from inundation the cultivator can obtain the remission of a proportional amount of his land tax. Last year 793 square miles were "settled." This year the area increased to 1675½ square miles; the area actually under cultivation being, as shewn before, 3044 square miles: doubtless of the difference between these two or 1368 square miles a portion is under settlement. Since the close of the year a larger Revenue Settlement Establishment has been sanctioned which is gradually being constituted as a separate Department working directly under the Chief Commissioner's orders but in conjunction with the district Officers, and the Chief Commissioner has every hope, from the selection of the principal Officer, that during the year the Department will be organized on a footing which will tend to increase the area "settled" annually, and that it will work on rules and in a manner which will

not only increase the Revenue but will facilitate its collection whilst giving greater satisfaction to the people.

51. The first Officer who was appointed to the charge of this Department was Mr. A. M. Russell who was transferred from the Central Provinces, but who, at his own request, was re-transferred. The duty of supervising the Department then fell on Mr. R. McLeod to whom the thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due for the very efficient manner in which he conducted his duties, an efficiency which the Chief Commissioner was led to expect from his knowledge of Mr. McLeod's previous long and good service.

52. The total surveyed and assessed cultivated area of the Province, that is excluding "Toungyas" *i. e.* hill gardens; or patches of cultivation on the hills which every year, after the crops have been gathered, are abandoned for new spots the following year, a wasteful system of cultivation which is discouraged as much as possible—was 1,944,442, an increase of 11,040 acres over last year; and of this not a single acre was under irrigation from Government works, but 12,576 acres from private works. Last year the number of acres irrigated by private works was returned as 1909 only, but this was clearly an error for in the Prome district the return of the area of this irrigated cultivation was blank this year it shews 10,103 acres, and it is certain that in that district, especially in the Mengdoon and Mengdat townships in the north on the west bank of the Irrawaddy, irrigation has always been carried on.

53. The rate of assessment per acre varies from 10 shillings annually in some parts of Amherst to 6 pence in some parts of Sandoway, Myanoung and Toungoo. The rate is fixed according to the productiveness of the soil and the facilities for bringing the produce to the nearest market. Were there numerous roads throughout the Province cutting the country in every direction as there are in other parts of India the rate per acre could in many cases be raised and the land Revenue be largely increased. An expenditure on main lines of road and on feeders, the cost of the former of which only, perhaps, need be defrayed from Imperial Revenues, would bring in a speedy and a certain return to the Imperial Treasury.

54. With the exception of the recipients of large grants of land the vast majority of the land holders are the actual cultivators, though it can-

Surveyed and assessed area in acres.

Varieties of Culture.

not be doubted that in many cases, especially in Akyab, there are holders of land who employ labourers to cultivate for them, and some who let their land. It may, however, be safely asserted that with a few exceptions all land owners are proprietary cultivators paying separately and direct to Government. The average holding is very small, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

55. The Revenue of the Province is derived from direct and indirect taxes : the indirect are the customs, excise, &c. and the direct are the land tax, capitation or poll tax, salt tax, fishery tax and tax on forest produce. The principal upon which the land tax is levied is as follows : the Province is divided into Divisions, the Divisions into districts, the districts into townships, the townships into circles, and the circles into tracts of country called "quengs," and these "quengs" constitute the smallest portion upon which a separate rate of assessment is fixed : this however relates to the rates of assessment on rice lands. The rate on Orchard and Miscellaneous cultivation varies ; in some places it is assessed at the highest rate paid for rice land in the same circle, in others special rates are fixed. All land left fallow, except in the case of land under settlement when only a certain portion can be so left, pays 3 pence an acre. It is not of course meant that in the case of land under settlement the whole of it may not be left fallow if the owner so chooses, but in such a case he can only claim to pay tax at the fallow rate on a certain fixed proportion of his land. Toungyas, that is hill gardens, are not assessed by measurement but by the number of persons engaged in cultivating.

56. The capitation or poll tax is taken from all men who are less than 60 but more than 18 years old, married men paying twice as much as bachelors or widowers. The general rate is 10 shillings annually for married men and 5 shillings for bachelors and widowers, but those rates are not universal, and in some places they are as low as 4 shillings and 2 shillings annually. All females, males under 18 or more than 60 years of age, Government servants, religious teachers, students and schoolmasters, and those who from blindness, insanity, or from other causes are unable to gain a livelihood as well as all immigrants for the first five years after they arrive in the country are exempt. In some towns no capitation tax is levied, but a land assessment in lieu thereof from which Government servants are not exempt. This is calculated at 13s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per 100 square feet on all land covered by buildings, and 6

shillings an acre on all land not so covered.

57. The tax on fisheries is levied in two ways: 1st by a tax on all nets or traps used, according to a fixed scale varying according to the kind of net or trap, and 2nd by the sale of the fishery or pond. These are sold annually, not to the highest bidder, but at a fair valuation, and if possible to the villagers residing near the fishery. The right that is purchased is that of catching fish for sale, but any one may catch fish for his own consumption or for that of his family notwithstanding that the fishery has been sold. The salt tax is levied upon the pots employed in the manufacture; earthen pots holding about 6 gallons being charged for at the rate of from 1s. 6d to 1s each for the year; and iron cauldrons, which are sometimes used, at 10 shillings each, or at the same rate as the earthen pots according to capacity.

58. The total amount of the Revenue demand under all heads is given in the following table:—

ITEMS OF REVENUE DEMAND.	Revenue demand.				
	Total demand for 1866-67.	Total demand for 1867-68.	Total demand for 1868-69.	Increase in 1868-69.	Decrease in 1868-69.
1 Land, including collection on Bees' wax Edible birds' nests, &c.	£ 396,687	£ 309,609	£ 309,563	...	46
2 Fisheries,	52,627	53,903	61,111	7,206	...
3 Salt,	5,308	8,753	11,082	2,329	...
4 Capitation tax and land assessment in lieu,	215,120	220,242	225,714	5,472	...
5 Excise including net profit on sale of opium,	87,685	93,000	111,184	18,184	...
6 Customs including fines and confiscations,	120,415	201,266	289,972	88,706	...
7 Marine,	5,061	4,206	6,344	2,138	...
8 Forest Revenue including excise on Foreign Timber,	55,186	75,669	105,713	30,044	...
9 Stamps, Revenue and Judicial,	38,158	42,843	53,471	10,628	...
10 Postage Stamps,	6,599	7,009	10,590	3,581	...
11 Assessed Taxes,	...	13,759	9,822	3,937	...
12 Gaol manufactures,	4,068	9,533	10,716	1,183	...
13 Coast Lights,	...	3,543	5,602	2,059	...
14 School fees,	317	451	...	...	...
15 All other items,	22,539	19,674	20,110	846	...
Total £.....	918,770	1,063,360	1,230,994	171,968	4,434

from which it will be seen that the total demand increased from £1,063,460 to £1,230,694. There was a small falling off in the land Revenue of £46. In the Arakan Division there was a falling off of £1,535 whereas in Pegu there was an increase of £108 and in Tenasserim an increase of £298, giving a decrease of £1,129 in the Province altogether: these figures relate only to actual land Revenue; and the difference between them and those in the table is caused by the receipts on account of Forest produce. This decrease in the Land Revenue in the Arakan Division was mainly in the Akyab district where it amounted to £1,674, (there was a slight increase in Sandoway reducing the total decrease of the Division,) and was owing to a falling off in the area under rice cultivation, 14,810 acres, due to the losses by cattle murrain which was very severe for two years in this district, and to the damage done by the cyclone of November 1868. The only other item in which there has been a decrease is Assessed Taxes which fell off by £3,937. This was universal, and was due to a change in the Act under which the tax was levied. The largest increase was in Customs; it amounted to no less than £88,706. The increase in value of Exports and Imports in Arakan (Akyab) alone was £135,527, but nearly half the increase in export values (£291,520) was owing to an extraordinary export of Treasure on private account. The increase in the Customs duties was £11,556. In Rangoon the increase in the Revenue was £63,464, and in Bassein £12,266. This is mainly due to a very large increase in the import of piece goods, with which the market has now, it is much to be feared, been overstocked, indeed there can be little doubt that the Rangoon market is glutted, and that there are sufficient piece goods and muslins, especially the latter, to last for some years, unless there is a sudden and unlooked for increase in the demand. In Tenasserim (Maulmain) the increase in Customs duty was £2,249. The next largest increase was in Forest Revenue, realized by officers of the Forest Department, amounting to £30,044. The Excise Revenue increased considerably, partly from a greater sale of opium, and partly from an increase in the receipts from the spirit licenses, the cost of which was raised. The increase in the stamp Revenues or £1,063 was due to the enhanced rate of Stamp duty.

59. The amount of the Revenue realized at the close of the year was £1,189,708 leaving outstanding £26,950. Much of this outstanding Revenue has not been paid in because those from whom it is due have suffered much from their crops being

damaged or from murrain amongst their cattle; and it is proposed to remit no less than £14,336.

60. The land and other direct taxes are collected by "Thoo-gyees" who are the most important and influential men in their circles, and are paid in by them direct to the district Treasury. For this duty they receive 10 per cent on their collections up to £500, and 5 per cent on any excess over that sum. These men have not only Revenue duties to perform, were these all clerks would answer every purpose, but they are the chiefs of their circles, men of position and influence, responsible to a certain extent for their circles, and looked up to by all. Their position therefore, is partly political, and they are a, perhaps unknown but none the less important, wheel in the machine of administration to break or weaken which would be seriously to impair the strength of the machine, if nothing worse.

II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A Legislative.

61. The Administration of this Province has no legislative power, and no Bills were submitted to the Council of the Governor General for making laws and regulations. The want of laws on certain points, as for instance for Municipal improvements, and the necessity for amending some Acts, as the Recorder's Act, XXI of 1863, is seriously felt, and at last has become so strong that arrangements are this year (1869-70) being made to endeavour to obtain legislative action. Though it would be highly inadvisable to have for this Province a separate and distinct Code of laws yet there can be little doubt that the circumstances of British Burma are in many points so utterly different from those of any other Province in India that Local laws, not Local rules but laws duly passed by the Council but affecting only Burma, are much wanted. Were the Province better known, were the habits and line of thought of its inhabitants more generally understood laws framed for the good of the people would be more numerous, and less would be left to that "equity and good conscience" alluded to in the old regulations, an equity and good conscience which must change with every individual, and which causes the law now, speaking generally, to "vary with the length of the Chancellors foot" though it may not be that "roguish thing" which Chief Justice Coke called the English system in his

time; but assuredly *miser est servitus quia jus est vagum et incertum.*

B. Various Judicial Tribunals.

62. In the two towns of Rangoon and Maulmain Civil and Criminal justice is administered by town Magistrates and Recorders, the latter being the Sessions Judges and the Courts of original Civil jurisdiction, for though there are Small Cause Courts yet these are presided over by the two Recorders, in truth properly speaking there are no Small Cause Courts but, in practice, the suits are divided into cases above £50 and cases below that amount.

Beyond the limits of these two towns the Commissioners of Divisions, Deputy Commissioners of districts, and Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners are the officers who administer justice.

63. The various Criminal Courts are divided into Courts of subordinate Magistrates of the 1st and 2nd Class, of Magistrates with full powers, of district Magistrates, of Sessions Judges and the Chief Court, the latter of which is presided over by the Chief Commissioner, and is the Sudder Court of the Province. In addition to these, however, there are the Courts of Honorary Magistrates several of whom have been appointed but few of whom except Dr. Mountjoy, a holder of a grant of land in Akyab and now officiating Civil Surgeon of that town, ever exercise their powers; several officers in charge of gaols, Forest Officers and Officers of the Public Works Department have at various times been invested with judicial powers but except the first, whose jurisdiction is confined to the precinct of the gaols of which they are in charge, these officers but rarely try cases and in the case of Forest Officers the only cases they try are breaches of Forest Rules. Various Superintendents of Police, also, were invested with Magisterial powers in March 1866, but guided by a Minute by the late Chief Commissioner Sir A. P. Phayre and by the Police Act V of 1861, they do not try cases but exercise such Magisterial powers as may be necessary to bring offenders before the Magistrate, such as issuing warrants for the apprehension of criminals or taking the deposition of witnesses whose death may be considered imminent &c., but they do not exercise these powers except in the absence of the ordinary Magistrate, and only in order to of-

fenders being eventually brought before him; they do not even try and punish members of the Police force under Section 29 of Act V of 1861.

64. The various Civil Courts in this Province work under Act VIII of 1859 as amended by the Local Acts I and XXIV of 1868. The

Jurisdiction and constitution of Civil Courts.

first of these classifies the Courts and fixes their jurisdiction, and lays down certain special rules for this Province regarding appeals, &c. The second enables the Governor General to invest Courts with extended powers in the sense of enabling them to entertain suits of a lower value than that fixed in Act I of 1863, in fact to modify, in special cases, the rule that a suit must be brought in the lowest Court competent to try it, without repealing or altering for this Province the terms of Section 6 of Act VIII of 1859 or of Section 9 of Act I of 1863 which embody that rule.

65. The classes into which these Courts are divided are 1st Grade,—having jurisdiction in suits of not more than £50 in value, and presided over by Extra Assistant Commissioners of the 3rd Grade or in Burmese “Myookes,” that is “heads of townships” into which every district is divided.

2nd Grade—having jurisdiction in suits of more than £50 in value but of not more than £300, presided over by Extra Assistant Commissioners of the 2nd Grade called in Burmese “Tsetkays.” These are situated in the large towns and take the place, it may be said, of Small Cause Courts.

3rd. Grade—having jurisdiction in suits of not more than £500 nor less than £300 in value, presided over by Extra Assistant Commissioners of the 1st Grade or by Assistant Commissioners.

4th. Grade—having original jurisdiction in suits the value for which exceeds £500 and in appellate cases, and presided over by Deputy Commissioners.

5th Grade—having appellate jurisdiction only and presided over by Commissioners of Divisions.

6th Grade—having special appellate jurisdiction and presided over by the Chief Commissioner.

66. Such Judicial Revenue work as there may be is carried out by the Deputy Commissioners of districts, in whose Courts all Revenue suits should be brought, but a Deputy Commissioner may refer a Revenue case to one of the Assistant Commissioners serving in his district, or may em-

Revenue Courts.

power any such Assistant Commissioner to try such cases without a special reference in each case. All appeals from Assistant Commissioners lie to the Deputy Commissioner, and from an order of a Deputy Commissioner to the Commissioner of the Division, who may if he sees fit revise the order of any subordinate notwithstanding that the period during which an appeal might have been preferred has expired.

It is clear therefore that the Deputy Commissioner's duties are multifarious and onerous, and that he is as regards Revenue matters somewhat of a judge in his own cause, for he is charged with, and is responsible for the Revenue administration of his district.

67. The total number of Judicial Officers in the Province is 183 of whom 24 viz: the stipendiary magistrates of Rangoon and Maulmain, 8 Honorary Magistrates, 12 Superintendents of Police, and 4 Officers in charge of Gaols, exercise criminal powers only, the latter within their gaols only, and the Superintendents of Police of a very limited kind; 3 viz: the two Recorders, and the Rangoon Cantonment Magistrate exercise criminal and civil powers; 110 exercise criminal, civil and revenue powers, and the remaining one, the Conservator of Forests exercises special powers in trying cases connected with the breach of the Forest Rules only.

68. The real criminality of the population is shown by the non-bailable offences and these increased from 7456 to 8114, or by 8.82 per cent, the population having increased by 3.22 per cent only. This increase in serious offences was not, however, equally spread over the Province. In Arakan the number increased from 782 to 973 or by 24.42 per cent and here the population increased by 1.53 per cent only. This large increase in crime is due, mainly, to a very sudden increase of dacoity in the Akyab district, of which offence there were 20 cases against 8 the year before, and to an increase in the number of thefts in the Ramree district, which rose from 210 to 359 cases.

69. In the Pegu Division non-bailable offences increased from 5001 to 5430 or by 8.57 per cent and bailable from 8259 to 8617 or by 4.34 per cent the population increasing by 4 per cent about. Murders increased from 38 to 41 cases but dacoity decreased from 199 cases to 135 and in the Tenasserim Division also serious crime increased from 1678 non-bailable cases to 1711. In 1867 there was a sudden and serious increase in

the number of dacoities committed in the Prome, Bhamo and Myanong districts, so much so that while in these three districts there occurred 189 cases of dacoity, in the remainder of British Burma there were only thirty nine. During the past year the number of dacoities in these three districts numbered only 102, while in the remainder of the Province they numbered 85. Thus while dacoity in these districts has fallen by eighty seven cases, it has increased by forty eight cases in the remaining nine districts. Looking into the several district Returns it will be seen that the increases have taken place in the Rangoon, Toungoo, Shwè-gyeen and Akyab districts. The crime in Toungoo and Shwè-gyeen is due to foreign traders, both Frontiers having been very unsettled from the proximity of the rebel prince Myeengoon in the Karennee States. On the Toungoo Frontier the people were hard pressed for food, and the Burmese officials were employed in meeting the hostile advances of the Prince rather than in maintaining order on our border. Here the crimes took place in the early part of the year. In Shwè-gyeen on the other hand the dispersion of the Prince's adherents after his entry into British Territory, let loose a lot of free lances and petty chiefs who resumed an old quarrel regarding the possession of forests in the Siamese Shan States. The men working the forests and encamped on the British side of the Salween suffered from the attacks of the rival factions.

In Rangoon and Akyab the increase is not so satisfactorily accounted for, although it is probable that in the former district the criminal classes were excited and worked upon by the followers of the rebel Prince, who himself venturing into Rangoon with the view of a plundering attack on the town was captured about the middle of the year. In the Akyab district an organized gang sprang up under the leadership of a man acquitted of murder, and committed six dacoities before the police succeeded in breaking them up; this however was successfully done, and under circumstances of considerable difficulty from the nature of the country and the inclemency of the season.

70. On the whole, dacoity has materially decreased during the past year, the altogether exceptional virulence of the crime in the Prome district during 1867 (due, without doubt, mainly to foreign influences—the mischievous results of the rebellion in Upper Burma in 1866) greatly moderated during 1868. Especially in the portion of the district where the lawless of our

own subjects had been most troublesome; the destruction of the Pounding gang in December 1866 restored complete peace to the circle formerly over-ridden with crime. The same good effects were felt in the neighbouring district of Myanoung.

71. In Bassein the remaining influential members of a desperate and long existing gang of bushrangers was accounted for during the past year. Shwè Moung's death may be said to mark the close of a class of criminals whom we inherited from the Burmese Rule, and who long infested the Pegu Division. Yearly they have been captured or destroyed, and thus the type of crime has greatly changed.

72. As concerned in 102 of the 187 dacoities, 365 persons were brought to trial, of whom 207 persons or fifty per cent were punished. This is an improvement on the previous year when there were 229 cases of dacoity, 264 persons brought to trial and 158 convicted.

73. The crime of robbery has increased from 188 to 206 cases, the increase being solely in the Pegu Division. As concerned in eighty eight of the cases, 184 persons were brought to trial of whom 84 were convicted. In 1857, 157 persons were brought to trial of whom 73 were convicted, the results are nearly the same in both years. Housebreaking of kinds has increased from 343 to 548, mainly from an increase in the Prome District. As concerned in 123 of these cases, 164 persons were brought to trial of whom 104 were convicted; not so good as in 1867, when for the lesser number of offences 155 persons were brought to trial and eighty one convicted. Theft has increased from 5801 cases to 6274. As concerned in 3197 of these 4501 persons were brought to trial of whom 2829 were convicted. Fifty one per cent of all thefts ascertained to have occurred were brought up against forty five per cent in 1867, but the proportion of persons convicted to those brought to trial fell from sixty five to sixty two per cent. The actual result is, however, that the crime increased 8 per cent while the number of persons convicted rose 17 per cent. 514 cases of receiving stolen property were brought up against 575 cases the previous year. As concerned in these, 837 persons were brought to trial against 608 in 1867, and the proportion convicted is the same in both years, viz: 60 per cent. The value of property stolen has decreased from £55,083 to £50,390 while the proportion re-

covered is nearly the same, viz ; 30 per cent in 1867 and 29 per cent in 1868.

74. As to the general disposal of all non-bailable offences, fifty three per cent of those ascertained to have occurred were brought to trial against 49 per cent the previous year, while the proportion of persons convicted to those brought to trial has receded from 62 to 60 per cent. The actual results are as follows. In 1867, 5665 persons were brought to trial for 7456 non-bailable offences, and of them 3413 persons were convicted. In 1868, 6683 persons were brought to trial for 8114 non-bailable offences, and of them 3992 were convicted; that is heinous crime increased by nearly 9 per cent, while the number of persons convicted for that class of offences was more numerous by 17 per cent. The action of the Police therefore was on the whole more effective.

75. The total number of persons pending trial at the commencement of the year was 290, of whom ^{Result of Criminal trials.} 22 were before the Sessions Courts, and 268 before the Magistrates, 170 being before the subordinate stipendiary magistrates. The total number of persons brought to trial during the year was 33,756 against 32,165 last year. The increase was mainly due to an increase in cases brought to trial on summons, the persons so brought to trial having increased from 13,414 to 14,979. These were mainly insult and petty assault cases, and is most probably attributable to the effect of the Stamp Act which came into force during 1867, which first imposed a Stamp fee in petty criminal cases, for before this Act was passed a fee of 2 shillings on each summons, 1 shilling on each subpoena, and 4 shillings on each warrant was levied: sometime after the Act had been in force the Government ordered the discontinuance of the levy of these fees, and the consequence was that people very soon found out that not only would they not have to pay the fees in addition to the Stamp duty as they had to do at first, but that they would have to pay less as Stamp duty than they paid before as fees: the Stamp Act thus practically made it cheaper to bring petty criminal charges before the Courts, and this was speedily taken advantage of. That a large number of these cases were frivolous and vexatious, and the results of a momentary fit of anger or of a still worse feeling may safely be asserted from the fact that 3253 persons were discharged without trial.

76. The total number of cases decided in the Arakan division was 2390, the average duration of which was 3.75 days: no less than 1466 were decided in one day. This, however, is not so good as in 1867 when the average duration was 2.90 days. It was in the Akyab district that the greatest increase in duration took place viz: from 3.88 to 5.84 days. The number of witnesses examined was 7672 against 6586 in 1867, and 7271 were detained one day only against 6252 in 1867.

77. In Pegu the average duration of cases was 4 days against 3 days last year. The cases in the Prome district were decided rapidly, 1019 out of 2798 having been decided in one day, and the average duration being 4 days. There was a slight improvement in Rangoon, the average duration of cases having been 6 instead of 7 days.

The Returns show that out of 24171 witnesses 19999 were examined in one day, and none were detained more than 15 days.

78. In the Tenasserim Division the average duration was 4 days as in Pegu, but some of the cases, in the Amherst district especially, took a long time to decide—5 from 90 to 120 days, and in this district one case had at the end of the year been pending since the 6th August 1868.

79. The average duration of cases in the Courts of the Magistrates exercising full powers, i. e. with power to award two years' rigorous imprisonment and to enquire into or determine all cases according as they have to be committed to the Sessions or not, was 32 days against 23 days last year: in the Courts of the Chief Magistrates of districts the duration was 16 days: and in those of the stipendiary subordinate Magistrates, which are the ones which come most in contact with the people 10 days. The average duration in the Sessions Courts was 7 days, but it is impossible that the period between the date of commitment by the officer who enquired into the case, and the date on which the trial commenced can be included, or the average would be much more than 7 days.

80. The total number of persons punished was 18656 against 17830 last year, of these 16 were sentenced to death. The large majority of persons punished are simply fined, 13,072 having been thus punished; fewer by 566 than last year: the number imprisoned and the number flogged both increased; the number

imprisoned and fined, increased slightly, and the number imprisoned and flogged though still only 29 was more than double that of last year. The largest increase was in the number of persons ordered to find security for good conduct viz: from 305 to 551. The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code which enable a Magistrate to call upon any one found lurking within his jurisdiction without ostensible means of livelihood to furnish security for his good conduct and in default to commit him to prison have been much more acted upon, and indeed the general state of crime rendered this very necessary.

81. The amount of the fines fell from £3,597 to £2,676, but no less than £2,216 were realized against
Arakan
£2,913 last year. Only £91 were ordered to be paid in compensation under Section 44 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and £58 were so paid.

82. In the Pegu Division on the other hand the amount
Pegu
of the fines imposed increased in every district, especially in Rangoon, Myaoung and Prome; the total increase being from £12,049 to £15,057. The amount realized also increased from £9,293, to £10,702. They appear to have been much better realized in the Town of Rangoon during 1867 than during 1868, and in the Cantonment the whole of the fines imposed, £212 were paid in. In the Bassein district there was very little change, the amount imposed increased by £10 about, whilst the amount realized diminished by £40. The amount awarded in compensation rose from £760 to £1,046 and the amount paid in compensation rose from £355 to £623.

83. In the Tenasserim Division the amount of the fines
Tenasserim
imposed increased from £5,786 in 1867 to £6,211, but the amount realized decreased to £3,549 from £4,218. This is far from satisfactory; the largest decrease was in the Amherst district where the amount realized fell to £1,019 from £1,599, and this although the amount of the fines imposed increased from £1,670 to £2,207; it was thus less than half, and so in the Tavoy district where the amount realized was £237 whilst the amount imposed was £627.

84. It will conduce to a clearer understanding of the working
Recorders' and Small Cause Courts.
of the various Courts, if those of the Recorders of Rangoon and Maulmain, which work under a special Act are treated of separately.

The Civil Business of the four Courts—the two Recorders and the two Small Cause Courts—of the Province during the last 3 Calendar years 1866, 1867 and 1868 was:—

Regular Suits.

	RECORDERS' COURTS.						SMALL CAUSE COURTS.					
	Rangoon.			Maulmain.			Rangoon.			Maulmain.		
	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pending at the commencement of the year.	16	25	46	54	46	17	70	86	270	67	73	45
Instituted.	212	351	593	173	129	163	2,380	2,145	2,097	2,156	1,425	1,693
TOTAL.	228	376	639	227	175	180	2,450	2,231	2,367	2,223	1,502	1,738
Disposed of	203	330	495	118	158	153	2,364	1,961	2,112	2,150	1,457	1,671
Pending at the close of the year.	25	46	144	46	17	27	86	270	255	73	45	67

Miscellaneous Suits.

	RECORDERS' COURTS.						SMALL CAUSE COURTS.					
	Rangoon.			Maulmain.			Rangoon.			Maulmain.		
	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868	1866	1867	1868
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pending ...	5	12	18	10	11	16	2	31	23	11	13	15
Instituted...	153	403	400	359	435	390	746	756	630	1,175	761	845
TOTAL...	158	415	418	369	476	406	748	787	653	1,186	774	860
Disposed of ...	146	397	397	358	460	396	717	764	620	1,173	759	852
Pending ...	12	18	21	11	16	10	31	23	23	12	15	16

85. The number of suits instituted in the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon is rapidly increasing, and this year exceeds the number instituted in 1867 by 242 or 68.9 per cent, and the number instituted in 1866 and in 1867 taken together by 30 or 5.3 per cent. This, probably, is principally due to the fact of Act V of 1866 having come into force during the year, (on the 1st May 1868), by virtue of Notification No. 509 of the Government of India in the Home Department, dated 31st March 1868. By this Notification the two Recorders in British Burma were invested with the powers of a High Court under that Act, and the consequence was that the files of the Recorder's Court then became crowded with suits on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes of the value of 6 shillings and upwards, because by the Act such suits have to be brought in a High Court.

86. The number of regular suits instituted in the Maulmain Courts has risen from 129 to 163, that is by 26.35 per cent, but has not yet reached the same figure as in 1866 when it was 173. In 1867 the number of cases sank very considerably, and it may be that the increase in 1868 was a natural rise from an abnormal depression. It may be in part due to a largely increased, and it is to be hoped steadily reviving, trade. The Imports and Exports to and from Maulmain during the last 3 years were valued at,

		IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	TOTAL.
		£.	£.	£.
1866-67	.....	636,931	649,650	1,286,581
1867-68	.....	635,217	604,372	1,239,589
1868-69	.....	676,068	839,813	1,515,881

It is also probably due to the numerous failures which took place amongst the Native merchants, especially in 1867, the creditors having abstained from resorting to Courts which they dislike until they found that by no other means could they recover their money.

The effect which Act V of 1866 had on litigation in Maulmain was very small, for from a return lately received it appears that the number of suits instituted under this Act during the year was only 2, the value of which aggregated £401.

87. In order to judge of the real amount of work done it is necessary to consider together the cases instituted and dis-

Cases disposed of in both Courts
Rangoon.

posed of in each Court, the Recorders' and the Small Cause Courts. Taking therefore the figures given in the preceding tables we have:—

Regular Cases.

	1866	1867	1868
1	2	3	4
Pending - - - - -	86	111	316
Instituted - - - - -	2,592	2,596	2,690
Total. - - -	2,678	2,607	3,006
Disposed of - - - - -	2,567	2,291	2,607
Pending - - - - -	111	316	399

Miscellaneous Cases.

	1866	1867	1868
1	2	3	4
Pending - - - - -	7	43	41
Instituted - - - - -	899	1,159	1,280
Total- - - - -	906	1,202	1,271
Disposed of - - - - -	863	1,161	1,217
Pending - - - - -	43	41	54

which shews that 40 more Regular cases were disposed of in 1868 than in 1866, and 316 more than in 1867 (principally in the Recorder's Court). It shews also, however, that notwithstanding this increase in the number of cases removed from the file, 288 more cases were pending at the close of 1868 than at the close of 1866, (principally in the Small Cause Court), and 83 more than at the close of 1867 (chiefly in the Recorder's Court); whilst, owing to the disposal of 56 more Miscellaneous cases than in 1867 and 354 more than in 1866, the number pending on that file at the close of the year had but slightly increased, notwithstanding that 71 more such suits had been instituted than in 1867 and 331 more than in 1866.

58. In the Small Cause Court 1693 Regular cases were instituted against 1429 in 1867 and 2156 in 1866. Here, as in the Recorder's Court, the increase has been decided, but not large enough

Small Cause Court Matrimonial Regular cases instituted.

to equalize the statistics of 1866 and 1868 and probably the increase is due to the same causes in both Courts.

89. The Miscellaneous cases instituted increased Small Cause Court Maulmain. Miscellaneous cases instituted. from 761 in 1867 to 845, but were considerably less than in 1866 when they numbered 1175. The increase was however large enough to more than compensate, as regards the number of cases to be disposed of by one Judge, the decrease in Miscellaneous cases instituted in the Recorder's Court.

90. The number of Regular cases disposed of by the Recorder in his own Court was 153, that is Cases disposed of in both Courts in Maulmain. 5 less than in 1867 and 28 less than in 1866. The consequence was that 27 cases were pending at the close of the year or 10 more than at the close of 1867. Altogether there were 5 more cases to be disposed of in 1868 than in 1867, and that this increase was so small, notwithstanding the increase in cases instituted, was owing to the fact of there having been only 17 pending at the commencement of the year instead of 46 as at the commencement of 1867. Of the cases disposed of 2 were under Act V of 1866 cases instituted. The decrease in Miscellaneous cases disposed of was marked, they fell to 396 from 460, but owing to 75 less having been instituted the number pending at the close of the year was only 10. In the Small Cause Court the Regular cases disposed of rose to 1671 from 1457, so as very nearly to keep pace with those instituted, the increase in pending cases being 22, the total number 67, very nearly as many as in 1866 when it was 73. The Miscellaneous cases disposed of in this Court increased to 852 from 759 or by nearly 100, and exceeded the number instituted by 7, thus reducing the cases pending at the close of the year to 8 from 15 in 1867.

91. The value of the Suits instituted in the Rangoon. Court of the Recorder of Rangoon fell considerably, by 38.28 per cent, and was lower than it was in 1866, and this notwithstanding that the number was more than double that of 1866 and 242 more than that of last year. In the Small Cause Court also the value decreased from £18,162 to £16,524 or by £1,638, the number being less by 42 only; reducing the average value from £8-8 to £7-18-0.

92. In the Recorder's Court in Maulmain the Maulmain Recorder's Court. value of the suits instituted fell from £48,887 or by £2,010 or 13.95 per cent

although the number increased from 129 to 163. Two cases were under Act V of 1866 and their value was £401, deducting these from the figures given in the Returns we have 161 as the ordinary Regular cases instituted, and £48,486 as their value, this gives an average of £301; the average in 1867 was £395 and in 1866 £237. It is probable that the average in 1867 was unusually high from several very heavy suits being brought during that year owing to the failures amongst the merchants; certainly there was one such of very large amount.

93. In the Small Cause Court in Maulmain the value of the suits instituted rose from £10,041 to £11,201 that is by £1,160 or 11.56 per cent, the number increasing from 1457 to 1671, that is by 214. The average value during the last 3 years was, in 1866 £7-6 in 1867 £6-18 and in 1868 £6-12.

94. The average duration of the cases in the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon has increased by 32.14 per cent; and in the Small Cause Court has increased by a month—that is, as the average duration in 1867 was 25 days, has more than doubled—and is more than 3½ times as great as in 1866.

95. The average duration of suits has decreased in Maulmain, in the Recorder's Court from 2 months in 1867 to 1 month and 8 days, or by 36 per cent, and in the Small Cause Court from 15 to 11 days, or by 26.67 per cent.

96. The following table gives the value of suits disposed of and the costs:—

Courts.	Value of cases decided.	Costs.			Percentage.		
		Value of Stamps.	Costs other than Stamps.	Total costs.	Of Stamps to value.	Costs other than stamps to value.	Total costs to value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Recorder's Court Rangoon	£ 51,004	£ 4,373	£ 2,787	£ 7,160	8.57	5.46	14.03
Recorder's Court Maulmain	45,017	1,885	1,187	3,072	4.18	2.65	6.83
Small Cause Court Rangoon	16,574	1,765	682	2,447	10.65	4.12	14.76
Small Cause Court Maulmain	10,945	1,167	658	1,825	10.67	5.96	16.63

It is somewhat remarkable that the cost of Stamps in Rangoon is double that in Maulmain in the Recorder's Court, whilst in the Small Cause Court it is very much the same. Again in the costs other than Stamps, the amount charged in the Recorder's Court in Rangoon is double that charged in Maulmain, whereas in the Small Cause Court the amount under this head is larger in proportion in Maulmain than in Rangoon.

The probable explanation of this vast difference in the costs in Stamps in the two Recorders' Courts, is that in the Rangoon Court a large number of suits were decided under Act V of 1866. These suits numbered 277, their value was £13,098 omitting shillings and pence, or about £47 each, that is they were of small value. It will be observed that in suits of small value the costs in Stamps are much larger comparatively, as exemplified by the figures for both Small Cause Courts. More than half the suits decided in the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon were cases under Act V of 1866 and to this may be attributed the fact that the percentage of the value of Stamps in that Court nearly equalled the percentage in the Small Cause Court, and nearly doubled the percentage in the Court of the Recorder of Maulmain, where two only of such cases were decided.

The difference in costs other than Stamps is also remarkable. In the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon it was more than double the amount in the Court of the Recorder of Maulmain; whilst in the Small Cause Court such costs were slightly larger in Maulmain than in Rangoon.

97. The Chief Commissioner would here express his thanks to Mr. Housman, the Recorder of Rangoon, for the manner in which he has conducted those duties which have brought him into contact with the Executive Government.

Services of officers.

98. The number of regular suits instituted in the Commission Courts fell from 18,306 to 18,261 or by 24 per cent; suits connected with immovable property and with divorce decreasing by 267 and 199 respectively, and suits connected with moveable property increasing by 421. The decrease in the first occurred, with one exception, in every Grade of Court in all three divisions: in the Court of the 3rd Grade in Pegu, presided over by Extra Assistant Commissioners of the 1st Grade and Assistant Commissioners and in

*Commission Courts.
Suits instituted.*

these only there was an increase of 15. Similarly the only Courts in which there was an increase in divorce cases were the 1st and the 4th Grade Courts in Tenasserim, in the former of which it amounted to 12, and in the latter to 42.

The increase in suits connected with moveable property was almost entirely in the Courts of the 2nd Grade and amounted to no less than 1482 or 9.84 per cent: which was met by a decrease of 1061 or 7.04 per cent in the remaining Courts, especially those of the 1st Grade in Pegu where the number of such suits fell by 753, from 7349 in 1867 to 6596. It is clear, therefore, from the Returns that litigation in all Courts except those of the 2nd Grade, to speak generally, has largely decreased, whereas in these Courts it has largely increased, and further that this increase has been solely in suits connected with moveable property. The explanation of this is not far to seek. The Courts of the 2nd Grade are established in large towns, and consequently, represent Small Cause Courts; the majority of the suits which come before them are about money and trading matters, the number of suits connected with immoveable property having been only 8.90 per cent of the whole in 1867 and 7.42 per cent of the whole this year. It appears clear, therefore, that litigation has increased amongst the inhabitants of towns, but decreased amongst the rural population.

99. The Returns do not shew separately the value of suits connected with immoveable and moveable property and divorce, an omission which will be supplied next year. The total value of suits fell from £130,488 to £129,057 that is by £1,431 or 1.09 per cent. The number of suits instituted having also decreased the average value of each case has remained at £7. This decrease in value was, however, in one division only, where it amounted to no less than £5,249 or 18.98 per cent, the value of suits instituted having diminished from £27,644 to £22,392.

100. The number of cases on the files for disposal in the 1st Grade Courts in the Arakan division was 1232, of which 1219 are returned as disposed of, leaving 13 pending at the close of the year. It would give an erroneous idea of the work performed by the Courts to allow this to remain unexplained. Of the 1219 suits entered in the Returns as disposed of no less than 171 were compromised and 312 withdrawn or otherwise disposed of, so that the whole regular work of the Courts was to decide in 736 cases

Suits disposed of,
1st Grade Courts.

in 135 of which *ex parte* decrees were given, leaving 601 as the number of cases in which a formal trial took place, or 49.30 per cent only of those returned as disposed of. Of these 1.81 per cent only were decided in 1 day; 47.74 per cent in more than 1 but less than 8 days; and no less than 50.45 in more than 8 days, of which 75 lasted from 25 to 30 days, 42 from 31 to 45, 14 from 46 to 60 and 6 from 61 to 120. At the end of the year, however, the case longest pending had been on the files for 27 days only, and in this respect the Courts of this Grade in this division compare favourably with those in Pegu and in Tenasserim as will be shewn further on. In 99 cases out of the 736 in which decisions were given, appeals were preferred: that is in 13.31 per cent were the litigants dissatisfied with the orders passed: last year the percentage was 9.67 only, the number of cases *decided* having been 868 and the number of appeals 84. The decisions were upset in 46.50 per cent of the number in which the appeal was decided, against 44.15 per cent last year.

Owing to the decrease in the number of suits the total amount paid as costs fell from £1,357 in 1867 to £1,234; the amount paid as stamp fees falling from £745 to £703 and the costs other than stamps to £531 from £611.

101. In the Pegu division there were 158 suits pending at the commencement of the year which with 7945 instituted gives 8103 as the number on the files for disposal. Of these 8046 were removed, leaving 57 pending at the close of the year; a very great improvement. Of the 8046 removed from the files 1872 or 23.26 per cent were withdrawn and compromised and in 5166 or 64.20 per cent was a judgment given, in 637 *ex parte*. Thus in 56.30 per cent only of those shewn as disposed of was a formal trial held and judgment given. The duration of cases cannot be considered as favourable, for no less than 50.36 per cent took more than 8 days to decide, of which 88 were concluded in from 16 to 24 days, 27 in from 31 to 45, 6 in from 46 to 60, and 11 in from 61 to 120. The case longest on the file at the close of the year had been 5 months and 12 days pending. Out of the 5166 cases in which judgment was given 538 or 10.41 per cent were objected to by the suitors and appealed against; of the 538 appeals 428 were decided of which 217 or 50.71 per cent in favour of the appellant and 211 or 49.29 per cent in favour of the respondent, in other words the decisions were reversed in more than half the cases in which appeals were preferred.

The actual amount paid by the suitors as costs was considerably more this year, having been £8,380, against £7,740 in 1867, but the larger portion of this was paid to Government as stamp fees, that is £5,553 or 66 per cent of the total costs against £4,869 or 62.90 per cent in 1867. The remarkable point about the costs levied in these Courts in this division is that the amount credited to Government as Stamp fees is 66.26 per cent of the whole, whereas in Arakan and Tenasserim it is only 56.13, and 56.93 per cent, and thus apparently the costs other than stamps must be levied on a different scale.

102. In the Tenasserim division there were 67 cases pending at the commencement of the year, and 2104 instituted, and thus 2171 for decision. Of these 2091 only were cleared from the files, leaving 80 pending, not so good a result as in 1867, when, however, there were fewer cases for decision, and when fewer were decided. Of those struck off the files, 503 were withdrawn compromised or otherwise disposed of; 1587 having been decided on trial, in 56 only of which were *ex parte* decrees given. Thus in 75.89 per cent decrees were given, and in 24.11 per cent the suitors themselves settled or withdrew the cases they had instituted. There was a slight falling off in the rapidity with which these Courts worked. Only 2.20 per cent were decided in one day against 3.35 per cent in 1867; 54.18 per cent in more than 1 but less than 8 days against 54.39 in 1867, and 43.62 per cent in more than 8 days against 42.26 in 1867. The number decided in 2 days, and in 4 days increased considerably, but so did those decided in from 9 to 15, from 16 to 24, from 25 to 30, and from 46 to 60 days especially. The case which at the close of the year had been longest on the file had been pending for 17 months and 24 days. The number of appeals preferred against the 1587 decisions given in these Courts in this division was 328 or 20.03 per cent, or about twice as many as in Pegu, and considerably more than in Arakan. Of these 328 appeals 294 were decided, 132 or about 45 per cent in favour of the appellants, that is reversing or modifying the decree of the Lower Court, and 162 or about 55 per cent in favour of respondent, confirming the decree of the Lower Court.

The total amount paid as costs was £2,027 against £1,781 in 1867, but what is very peculiar is that far from this increase being caused by the higher rate of stamp duty, or by a larger amount of stamp duty being levied on the larger number of

cases, the amount realized from stamps actually fell from £1,191 to £1,156 or from 66.90 per cent of the total costs to 56.93 per cent, the costs other than stamps increasing from £589 in 1867 to £871 or from 33.10 per cent to 43.07.

103 It has already been noted that these Courts are situated in the large towns, and that the majority of the cases which come before them are connected with moveable property. In the Arakan division the number of cases on the files for disposal increased from 766 to 1307 or by 70.62 per cent, and the number disposed of from 758 to 1288, the number pending at the close of the year being 19 against 8 at the commencement. Of these however only 981 or 76.96 per cent were decided on trial, and of these 216 *ex parte*, 307 having been compromised withdrawn or otherwise disposed of. Notwithstanding the very large increase in cases instituted and disposed of the number of appeals preferred fell from 98 to 69, a very satisfactory improvement, that is from 11.29 to 7.03 per cent of cases decided, and at the same time 72.13 per cent of the appeals decided were in favour of the respondent, the decisions being changed in 27.87 per cent only; not only is this good in itself but it is an improvement on last year when the decisions of these Courts were changed by the appellate Courts in 36.04 per cent of the appeals decided. The length of time taken to decide the cases also has decreased; 3.10 per cent were decided in one day against 2.37 per cent in 1867; 46.82 per cent in more than one but in less than eight days against 44.20 last year, and 50.08 against 53.43 in more than eight days; some of the suits, however, appear to have been pending for a long time and at the close of the year one had been on the file for three months and 16 days, but then it must be remembered that the work had nearly doubled. The average duration of cases was 9 days.

Although the suits increased so much in number yet the costs increased only from £1,010 to £1,683; an examination of these figures shows that the costs for Stamps increased from £655 to £1,263, or from 65.44 per cent of the whole to 75.07; costs other than stamps increasing from £346 to £420 only, that is falling from 34.56 to 24.93 per cent.

104. In the Pegu division the number of suits for disposal including those pending at the commencement of the year increased from 2237 to 2596, the number actually cleared off the files increasing from 2214 to 2579, and thus reducing the number of cases pending at the close of the year from 23, at which

figure it stood at the end of 1867, to 17; of these 2579 cases 2072 or 76.46 per cent were formally tried, in 33 the decision being given after an *ex parte* hearing, and 508 or 28.54 per cent were compromised, withdrawn, or otherwise disposed of, not so good as last year when 80.21 per cent were decided on trial. Owing to the duration of cases in these Courts in 1867 not having been given by the Commissioner in the Report for that year, it is impossible to draw any comparison between the length of time taken to decide cases in 1867 and in 1868. In the latter year no less than 29.10 per cent of the cases were concluded in one day, and 51.43 per cent in more than one but less than eight days, leaving only 19.47 per cent decided in more than eight days. The average duration was $9\frac{1}{4}$ days only. At the close of the year one case had been pending for 8 months and 26 days. The number of appeal against the decisions of these Courts also increased from 144 to 203, that is from 8.10 to 9.79 per cent of the suits decided, but even this is not unsatisfactory, and tends to shew that the decisions of these Courts give satisfaction as a rule. The decisions were upheld in 57.87 per cent of the appeals decided during the year, which is about the same proportion as in 1867 when they were upheld in 57.50 per cent: this is the most unsatisfactory portion of the working of these 2nd grade Courts in this division.

The costs have risen from £1,844 to £3,105 or by 68.31 per cent, that is in a larger proportion than the number of suits decided increased but the increase in costs other than stamps was slight, from £615 to £776, the value of stamp papers filed having risen to £2,329 from £1,228, and being 75.01 per cent of the total costs, almost exactly the same as in Arakan, against 66.62 per cent last year.

105. In the Tenasserim division the suits for disposal increased but very slightly, from 1127 to 1134, but the number of suits disposed of fell from 1123 to 1108, raising the number pending at the close of the year from 4 to 26. Of the 1108 cases which were disposed of 897 or 80.95 per cent were decided on trial, of which 39 were decided *ex parte*. These Courts have done considerably more work this year than they did last, as the number decided on trial in 1867 was 699 only, of which 51 were decided *ex parte*. The rapidity also with which they worked has improved: the cases decided in one day fell from 6.86 to 8.15 which is most probably due to the comparatively smaller number withdrawn and compromised,

the number of cases decided in more than one but less than eight days increased from 55.39 per cent to 66.07, the number which took more than eight days to try diminishing from 37.75 to 30.78 per cent. The case which at the end of the year had been longest pending had been on the file for 9 months and 3 days. The number of appeals preferred fell from 143 to 118 that is from 12.64 per cent of the cases decided to 10.66 per cent, of these 109 were decided, and of these 57.79 per cent were in favour of the respondent.

The costs increased slightly from £702 to £754 mainly in the value of stamp papers which was 63.18 per cent of the whole against 64.58 per cent last year. The number of cases decided in Arakan was only 180 more than in Tenasserim and yet the total costs were £929 higher, of which £749 were in stamps, but this is most probably due to the greater value of the suits decided, for the value of the suits instituted was in Arakan £11,528 but in Tenasserim £4,712 only.

106. There were 18 cases pending at the commencement of the year in the Courts of this Grade
3rd Grade Courts. in Arakan, and 522 were instituted during the year, so that there were altogether 540 for disposal on the files, the number for disposal in 1867 having been 706; of these 540 cases 533 were disposed of leaving 7 pending, that is rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the number pending at the end of 1867. Of these 62 were rejected, 140 compromised or withdrawn, and 331 only decided on trial, in 58 of which the decree was *ex parte*, so that in reality it was only in 273 cases out of 533 that a formal trial was held or in 51.21 per cent of those removed from the files or 50.55 per cent of those for disposal during the year, and 25.92 of those instituted were compromised or withdrawn. Of the cases disposed of 17.23 were decided in one day, 41.57 in more than one but in not more than eight days, and 41.19 in more than eight days. This is a great improvement over last year, when only 1.74 per cent were decided in one day, 50.00 in more than one but not more than eight days, and 48.25 in more than eight days. The average duration also fell from 1 month and 13 days to 25 days. The appeals against the decisions of these Courts were 71 or 21.45 per cent: the decisions appealed against were upheld in 70.59 per cent of the (68) appeals decided.

The costs in these Courts amounted to £749 against £610 last year. The increase was solely in the value of stamp papers filed, due to the Stamp Act, and was from £385 to

£505 the costs other than stamps decreasing from £244 to £225, due probably to the smaller number of suits. Thus the value of stamp papers was 63.14 per cent of the total costs.

107. In the Pegu division the number of suits for disposal, of which 25 were pending from 1867, was 1447, of these 1422 were removed from the files, and 2 were transferred leaving 23 pending. Of these 1422, 1014 were decided on trial, but 187 of these were decided *ex parte*, 144 were compromised, and 164 withdrawn, so that the number of those which did not come to judgment through the action of the parties was 21.65 per cent of those cleared from the file. In the Rangoon Cantonment Small Cause Court no less than 105 cases were decided *ex parte* and only 86 after trial. In no other Court is the number decided in the voluntary absence of the defendant so large as this. The duration of cases in these Courts is on the whole satisfactory, 18.40 per cent having been decided in one day, and 33.28 per cent only having lasted more than eight days. This is mainly if not entirely due, however, to the statistics of the Rangoon Cantonment Small Cause Court being included as every case decided in that Court was decided in one day.

The number of appeals preferred was 75 or 7.39 per cent only of the cases decided, and 65 of these were tried during the year, but in 53.84 per cent of these the decision was reversed. The costs increased from £1,666 to £2,716, but though as in the other Grades of Courts there was a large increase in the stamp fees levied *viz*: from £1,169 to £1,755 or of 50.08 per cent yet the costs other than stamps increased from £496 to £962 or by 94.36 per cent, and it is not at all clear how this was. The ratio of costs other than stamps to the total costs during the two years 1867 and 1868 was 29.80 and 35.40 respectively.

108. The work of these Courts in Tenasserim was very light; 12 suits remained pending from 1867 and 35 were instituted during the year, making 47 only on the files altogether for disposal, and 42 of these were disposed of, 5 remaining pending at the end of 1868. Of these only 7 or 16.66 per cent were compromised or withdrawn, and of the 35 tried in one only was the decision given *ex parte*. There is therefore a decided contrast between the work in this division, as far as the 3rd Grade Courts are concerned, and that in the other two. None of these cases were decided in one day, 59.52 per cent more than one but not more than eight, and 40.48 in more than

eight days. As regards the duration of cases, the 3rd Grade Courts in Tenasserim do not contrast favourably with those in Pegu or in Arakan: at the end of the year one case had been pending for 3 months. The percentage of cases appealed to cases decided was 22.85, and in 62.50 per cent of these the decision appealed against was upheld; not so good a result as in Arakan but better than in Pegu.

The costs increased slightly from £137 to £224, the percentage of costs other than stamps increasing in a greater ratio than the stamp fees, as in Pegu. The value of the stamps filed in 1867 was £105 or 77.17 per cent of the total costs, whereas in 1868 it was £142 the proportion falling to 63.21 per cent.

109. The working of these Courts throughout the Province was on the whole satisfactory though there is still room for improvement. Over 22 per cent of cases decided appears to be a large proportion for appeals from the decisions of Officers who should have knowledge and intelligence, but in only two divisions were the appeals as numerous as this *viz.*, in Arakan and Tenasserim; the decisions here were upheld in over 70, and 62 per cent respectively but in Pegu when only 7 per cent of the decisions were appealed against, the decisions were reversed in 53 per cent. The duration of suits was not excessive, though a large number were by one means and another withdrawn from the cognizance of the Judges.

110. There are, including that of the Superintendent of Hill Tribes, 13 Courts of this Grade, and the number of original cases which came before them is but small. In Arakan there are 4 of these Courts. The number of suits in them for disposal, the whole of which were instituted during the year, was 4, all for moveable property, 2 of which were in the Court of the Superintendent of Hill Tribes and 2 in that of the Deputy Commissioner of Ramree, the whole of which were disposed of. One suit lasted 1 day, one 2 days, one from 9 to 15, and one from 16 to 24 days. The decision in none of these cases was appealed against, and the total costs amounted to Rs. 48 only.

In the Pegu division there were only 2 original suits tried in the 5 Courts of this Grade, both of which had been instituted during the year and which constituted all for trial. One in Rangoon was decided in from 91 to 120 days, and one in Prome in from 61 to 90 days. No appeal was preferred in either of these suits.

In Tenasserim the only 2 suits on the files of the 4 Courts were decided during the year, 1 in 2 days and 1 in from 61 to 90. No appeal appears to have been preferred in either of these cases. The total costs amounted to £33, of which £23 or 70.69 per cent were for Stamps.

111. The number of appeals for trial in the Arakan Division by the Deputy Commissioners was 241, of which 16 were pending from the previous year against 250 in 1867, of which 15 had remained pending from 1866; of these 221 were disposed of, 14 by the rejection of the petition; 2 were compromised, 6 withdrawn or dismissed in default and 207 tried, 2 being decreed *ex parte*, 78 for the appellant, and in 127 the decree was for the respondent the decision of the Lower Court being upheld. The average duration was about 20 days only. Out of these 13 were carried up to the Commissioner in 2nd appeal but no less than 7 of the petitions were rejected, and in 4 the decision was upheld, and 1 being adjusted the Appellate decision of the Lower Court was reversed in 1 case only. This is satisfactory evidence of the manner in which the Deputy Commissioners of this Division performed their appellate work, as in 84.62 per cent the judgment was supported either by rejection of the petition or after hearing, and reversed in 7.69 per cent only. The value of the appeals was £2,380 against £3,322, this decrease followed naturally on the decrease in the value of the original suits in the Lower Courts generally. The total costs, however, increased from £310, of which £293 were paid for stamps and £16 for costs other than stamps, to £370, of which £242 were for stamps, and £128 for costs other than stamps.

In the Pegu Division 733 appeal cases were disposed of against 623 in 1867, leaving 127 pending at the close of the year against the same number in 1867. The number of petitions of appeal rejected out of these 733 was 19 or 2.57 per cent against 11 or 1.76 per cent last year. The number withdrawn decreased from 45 to 30, and the number compromised increased from 2 to 3. The number in which an *ex parte* decree was given increased by 1, from 3 to 4. The number in which the decision of the Lower Court was reversed increased from 282 to 310, but inasmuch as the number in which the decrees of the Lower Court was upheld increased in a greater proportion, viz: from 275 to 331, this is not so unfavourable to the Lower Courts as might at first sight be supposed. The duration of the cases was hardly satisfactory; in the Myingung

district the average duration was no less than 5 months and 23 days, and at the end of the year one case had been pending for 8 months and 27 days.

In the Tenasserim Division there were 46 appeals pending at the commencement of the year, and 408 instituted during the year, so that there were 454 for disposal. Of these 456 were disposed of against 344 in 1867 out of 390 which were for disposal that year: the number, therefore, of such cases left pending was reduced from 46 to 18. Of these 31 were rejected against 24 last year, in 199 against 184 the decree of the Lower Court was confirmed, but in 181 against 127 the decree of the Lower Court was reversed or modified, and 15 were otherwise settled against 9 in 1867: these figures do not speak well for the Lower Courts. In the Amherst district no less than 67 decrees were reversed or modified against 45 confirmed. The rapidity with which the Appellate Courts in this division worked was very good. The longest average duration in any district was one month and 22 days, in Shwegyeen it was only 8 days and in Amherst only 7. This great improvement in the latter, for last year the working of this Court was unfavourably noticed and was indeed bad, is entirely due to the energy and zeal of Licut. Col. Horace Browne, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of Prome. There were 30 appeals from decisions given in these Courts, of which 1 was rejected, and in 18 the decree of the Lower Court was supported: 6 cases being otherwise settled it follows that the decisions of these Courts were reversed or modified in 5 suits only.

112. These are purely appellate Courts and entertain appeals in original suits decided in the 4th Grade Courts, that is, in Courts trying cases over £ 500 in value, and second appeals or

5th Grade Courts.

appeals from appellate decisions given in the 4th Grade Courts when such appellate decisions reverse or modify those of the Courts of original jurisdiction.

113. Two appeals were pending at the commencement of the year in the Court of the Commissioner of Arakan and 11 were instituted making 13 for disposal against 22 last year none of which had been pending from 1866: the whole of these 13 were disposed of, 7 of which were rejected, withdrawn, or dismissed in default, 1 in favour of appellant and the remaining 4 were decided in favour of the respondent, so that 75 per cent the finding of the Lower Court was upheld: the duration of these appeal suits was 7 days only, and their total value

was £66 only, this is a decided improvement on 1867 when the average duration was 11 days, and the total value £331. The total costs fell from £30 to £18, due possibly, to the smaller number instituted. The value of stamp papers fell from £28 to £8 or by £20 or 28.92 per cent, at the same time however, the costs other than stamps increased from £2 to £10. It may here be noticed that of the suits instituted 7 were connected with immoveable and 4 with moveable property.

114. In the Pegu division 3 appeals were pending from 1867 and 50 were instituted making 53 in all for disposal. Of these 45 only were disposed of and 9 remained pending. No less than 32 of the appeals instituted were connected with land, and 4 were for damages for personal injuries or wrongs. Of these 45 cases 6 were never brought to trial at all the petitions being rejected, 7 were remanded, and 2 withdrawn, so that in point of fact 30 only were disposed of by the Commissioner after trial, of which 20 were decided in favour of the respondent. The duration of these cases was no less than 1 month and 19 days, a falling off of 6 days from last year. The costs increased from £79 to £141, the value of the stamps filed increasing considerably, from £54, to £109, the costs other than stamps increasing from £24 to £35.

115. In the Tenasserim division 2 appeals were pending and 28 instituted making 30 for disposal; the whole of which were disposed of, and 19 of them were connected with immoveable property. Of these 1 only was rejected and 6 withdrawn, leaving 23 for disposal by trial of which no less than 13 were decided in favour of respondent. The average duration was 25 days an improvement since 1867 when the average duration was 1 month and 8 days. The total amount of costs increased from £43 to £84 of which the largest increase was in the value of stamp papers filed, these increased from £34 to £53.

116. The Court of the 6th grade is presided over by the Chief Commissioner, and its jurisdiction is confined to Special Appeals from the appellate decisions of the Courts of the 4th Grade,

Chief Court.

even though such appellate decisions do not modify or reverse the original decree of the Lower Court. This being the distinction between a second appeal which lies to the Commissioner of the division and a special appeal which lies to the Chief Commissioner that a second appeal can only be had when the decision of the Lower Court is reversed or modified by the

decision of the lower appellate Court on a point material to the case whilst there is no such restriction as regards special appeals. The number of special appeals preferred was 23 which with the 3 pending at the commencement of 1899 make 26 for disposal, but of these 10 or 27.27 per cent were rejected, and in the remaining 16 the appellate decision was upheld; in other words the decisions of the lower Appellate Courts were not interfered with once and 1 case remained pending: the average duration of cases in this Court was 1 month and 8 days.

117. The extent to which arbitration is resorted to is always an important one. There can be little

Arbitration.

doubt that in a large number of disputes the people prefer to have their differences settled in their own village by their own village elders to proceeding some distance to a Civil Court to file a plaint, and to remain there some days away from their own private concerns till the case is finished, and in many cases the dislike to a continuous absence, although it may be but for a few days, leads to compromises, to cases being struck off by default and to *ex parte* decrees. These in the whole Province amounted to no less than 7034, that is, 1669 decreed *ex parte*, 1979 compromised, and 3395 struck off in default or otherwise disposed of, and although it is certain that all these were not owing to the dislike to attendance for some days at Court yet there can be hardly any doubt that many of them were. The people have been accustomed for ages to have their differences settled by arbitrators (who receive a fee) and, consequently, they are content with such an award and hardly ever dream of disputing it, for them it is as binding as any Civil Court could make it.

118. The Registration Act has never been extended to this

Registration of deeds.

Province and deeds are registered under local rules. The number registered is not large even in the two towns of Maulmain and Bassein where, under an order of the Governor General issued under the Indian Council Act, the registered owner of land is recognized by the Courts as the *bond-fide* owner.

The only places in which wills were registered were 3, Maulmain 3, Bassein 1 and Prome 2; all of which are stations at which there are a comparatively large number of Europeans. Rather more than 833 deeds of permanent

ance were registered, no less than 545 in Pegu, 390 of which were in Rangoon.

The number of deeds of temporary conveyance registered was 471, 445 being in the Pegu Division 407 of which in Rangoon alone. Except in the sea port towns of Akyab, Rangoon, Bassein, and Maulmain registration is but rarely resorted to as its value is not realized, the people believing that they can take as good care of the original as a Registrar, and, consequently, thinking that to pay a fee of 4 shillings to register would be waste of money.

119. The working of the various Courts has, considering them as a whole, improved, yet the Courts of the lowest grade are, it must be confessed, sadly in need of still further improvement. The Judges are selected from amongst the most influential of the people, for an aristocracy as usually understood there is none, and like most Burmans they have little other education than that which they received as boys in some Buddhist monastery and that which they have received by contact with the world. They have now indeed to pass examinations and though this makes them read up the Acts in which they are to be examined yet they do not understand what they learn and have little or no power of applying it. The Chief Commissioner is far from wishing to see Extra Assistant Commissioners of the 2nd and 3rd Grades selected from youths who have received some smattering of education in a Government or a Missionary School to the exclusion of the old class of hereditary and highly influential men who were originally appointed, or rather retained, by the British Government for political reasons; any improvement, however, can only come from the spread of education, in the sense of a knowledge and practice of habits of regularity, order, and method, of self control and of accuracy, a knowledge and practice which can only be arrived at slowly and after years of teaching, as European nations have been gradually taught, in a word by the spread of civilization in its broadest sense; and by a closer and more rigid supervision by the Deputy Commissioners, a supervision which it is now almost physically impossible for them to exercise, considering their multifarious duties, and the enormous size of their districts—Amherst is nearly as large as the whole Province of Oudh, and, unlike it, is mountainous and covered with dense forests,—and the utter absence of any means of communication other than those provided by Rivers—for there are only 655½ miles of Road in the whole Province

and no first or even second or third class Roads between any two Head Quarter Towns of districts. Considering all this, the manner in which the duties of the Judges of the Courts of the 4th Grade have been carried on reflects very great credit on the officers who have held those appointments.

120. It cannot be doubted that one of the great wants of British Burma is a Judicial Commissioner:

Judicial Commissioner.

the duties performed by this officer in the two other Administrations—Oudh and

the Central Provinces—are here performed by the Chief Commissioner, who in his executive capacity has as much to supervise and as many responsibilities as would suffice for one individual; in addition to which he cannot but think that to erect the Chief Executive officer in a Province into Chief Judge is making him in many cases a Judge in his own cause, having to determine many points which intimately affect the Revenue and the well being of the Government for which he is responsible. The double duty, in most countries considered incompatible, of having to administer a country, and of being the sole presiding Judge in the ultimate Court of Civil appeal is one which entails so much responsibility, so much anxiety, and such an extreme amount of labour, that no where, except in British Burma, is it imposed upon any officer.

121. The thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due to the 3 Commissioners, Lieut. Colonel Arlagh, Lieut. Col. Stevenson, and Lieut. Colonel Ryan; to Lieut. Colonel Horace Bavin, Major Duff, Captain Street, Major McMahon, Captain Plant, Captain Strover and Captain Watson Deputy Commissioners, and to the following Assistant Commissioners, Mr. Barr, Mr. Lloyd, Lieut. Gower, Capt. Furlong, and Capt. Evanson.

The following Extra Assistant Commissioners also deserve favourable notice; Moug On, Moug Shwè Bya, Moug Kan Rau, Moug Shwè Att of Tavoy, Moug Shwè Beng.

Mr. J. V. Douglas de Wet, B. A. L. L. B., the Government Advocate at Maulmain has carried out his duties to the entire satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner.

C. Prisons.

122. The number of Prisons remained exactly the same as in 1867, viz: 2 central gaols, at Rangoon and Maulmain; 1 1st class district gaol at Akyab; 5 2nd class district gaols, at

Kyouk-phyoo, Sandoway, Bassein, Prome and Toungoo, and 7 lock-ups at Henzadah, Myanoung, Thayetmyo, Sittoung, Shwè-gyeen, Tavoy and Mergui. At the end of the year the long projected change of transferring the Prome district gaol from Prome to the frontier garrisoned station at Thayetmyo was carried out, as the gaol there was then reported to be complete and ready for the reception of Prisoners, the district gaol at Prome being converted into a Lock-up.

123. The total number of persons in confinement at the commencement of the year was 3,510 of whom 67 were insane persons not sentenced Prisoners, 115 were in confinement for safe custody pending trial, and 32 were Civil Prisoners, leaving a gaol population of 2,296, of whom 140 were under sentence of simple imprisonment, 2,156 being under sentence of transportation or of rigorous imprisonment. On the last day of the year the number in confinement had increased to 4,156, of whom 76 were insane persons not sentenced to imprisonment, 39 were Civil Prisoners, and 223 were in confinement for safe custody pending trial, leaving a gaol population of 3,813 of whom 315 were under sentence of simple and 2,498 under sentence of transportation or of rigorous imprisonment. Thus every class of person in confinement except Civil Prisoners had increased. The Lunatics are placed in gaol for safe custody and for treatment, and the necessity for the Lunatic Asylum which is now being constructed in Rangoon is shewn by the extent to which these unfortunate individuals have increased: it cannot for a moment be doubted that a gaol is not a fit place for these people, yet it is the fittest hitherto existing in this Province. The decrease in the number of Civil Prisoners was due to causes over which the gaol and Magisterial authorities had no control. The increase in Prisoners pending trial has already been remarked on in that portion of this Report which touches on the working of the Judicial Courts, as has the increase in convicted Prisoners. The increase in the number of Prisoners sentenced to transportation was from 475 to 753. No distinction is made between those Prisoners who have been transported to this Province to undergo their sentence, for in former days the gaols in Arakan and Tenasserim were places of transportation for convicts sentenced in India, those who have been sentenced to transportation in the Province who, by reason of the comparative shortness of their sentence, will have to remain here inasmuch as being Burmans they cannot be sent to

the Penal Settlement of Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, and not having been sentenced to 14 years they could not be sent to Bombay, and those who will be sent to Bombay on a favourable opportunity occurring.

124. Several of the gaols have been much overcrowded during the year, and what is to be done with this large number of transportation convicts is becoming a very serious question; unless they are removed from the Province more accommodation must be provided; for though it is true that some of the smaller gaols have had less than their full complement of inmates, yet the establishments sanctioned for these gaols were calculated on the average number of Prisoners in them when the scale was sanctioned, and an increase in the number of convicts would entail increased expenditure in establishments there with no appreciable decrease elsewhere, in addition to which these gaols are by no means easy of access for a body of convicts and their guards. Nor is this all. The congregation of a large number of convicts in small gaols in order to relieve others which are overcrowded is to run a serious danger and to incur a great expense. There is the danger of outbreaks followed by an increase of serious crime in the districts in which these small gaols are situated and from which the transferred Prisoners have escaped during the outbreak, and there is the expense entailed by paying the passage of those who have to be released, from the gaol to which they may have been sent to the place where they were tried; for it would be most impolitic to release them and leave them in a strange place where they had no friends and no means of support; they would naturally, indeed they must under such circumstances, resort to crime to live. It is true that this expense would have to be incurred unless every Prisoner underwent the whole of his sentence in the gaol nearest to the place in which he was convicted, which would render necessary, larger gaols and larger gaol establishments all over the country, an expense which the system of central gaols was partly intended to obviate, but central gaols are, as their name indicates centrally situated and the cost of transferring released prisoners thence is consequently less, whilst by confining prisoners in such gaols the danger of outbreaks and of escapes is reduced. It is manifest, therefore, that unless the criminal population diminishes, of which there is not much likelihood, more accommodation in the central gaols must be provided. An examina-

tion of the accommodation for convicted criminal prisoners in the various gaols and of the number in confinement will shew to what extent and where there was overcrowding. In Arakan there is accommodation for 342 convicted prisoners; there were 625 in confinement at the end of the year deducting all those sentenced to transportation some of whom are transmarine ticket of leave convicts. In Pegu there is accommodation for 1,156; there were 1,682 in confinement at the close of the year. In Tenasserim there is accommodation for 923 convicted prisoners; there were 775 in confinement on the last day of the year, excluding all under sentence of transportation some of whom, however, were in confinement. Thus in Tenasserim only was there no overcrowding; and taking the whole Province there were 3,082 convicted criminal prisoners in confinement, whilst there is accommodation for 2,421 only, so that had they been distributed and those gaols in which there was room filled, still there would have been overcrowding. Doubtless every endeavour was made to lighten the evil, some were in hospital, others were put into what was perhaps an empty pending ward, but at the best the gaols were overcrowded, and the whole arrangements had to be disturbed, and, consequently, the discipline affected, to lessen the evil. That in such a state of things the health of the prisoners was excellent speaks volumes for the various Superintendents and officers in charge, executive and medical.

Health.

But the health of the prisoners depends

as much perhaps on food and clothing as on any thing else. The average cost of both these decreased, yet the admissions to hospital, have but slightly increased from 3,195 to 3,429, the percentage of admissions to inmates during 1867 and 1868 being 28.26 and 28.79 respectively. The number of deaths fell from 164 to 138, and the percentage of deaths to inmates to 4.02, and to admissions to 1.13, and this at the time that the number released on account of sickness fell from 41 to 6 and in 1868 to 4.

125. The grand total of expenditure in all the gaols of the Province during the last 5 years with the annual profits of the gaol labour fund

Expenditure.

such as the following:—
 1. Salaries of the gaol officers and other persons employed in the gaols.
 2. Salaries of the gaol labourers.
 3. Salaries of the gaol watchmen.
 4. Salaries of the gaol sweepers.
 5. Salaries of the gaol cooks.
 6. Salaries of the gaol washermen.
 7. Salaries of the gaol porters.
 8. Salaries of the gaol carriers.
 9. Salaries of the gaol messengers.
 10. Salaries of the gaol attendants.
 11. Salaries of the gaol assistants.
 12. Salaries of the gaol clerks.
 13. Salaries of the gaol scribes.
 14. Salaries of the gaol interpreters.
 15. Salaries of the gaol translators.
 16. Salaries of the gaol interpreters and translators.
 17. Salaries of the gaol interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators.
 18. Salaries of the gaol interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators.
 19. Salaries of the gaol interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators.
 20. Salaries of the gaol interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators and interpreters and translators.

and the net cost per prisoner are given in the following table :—

Years.	Gross expenditure.	Profit.	Net expenditure.	Prisoners.	Average.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1864	23,549	2,156	21,393	3,833	5 11 7
1865	23,965	2,914	21,051	3,700	5 13 9
1866	35,671	4,068	21,603	3,602	5 19 10
1867	25,457	5,391	20,045	3,521	5 13 9
1868	25,324	6,615	18,709	3,725	5 0 5

The results shown are highly satisfactory in the reduction of gross expenditure, and in the increase in the profits of gaol labour. The slight decrease in the gross expenditure is due to the fact that in the cost of inspection, of guards, both Police and gaol, and of clothing there has been a decrease sufficiently large to outbalance the increase in the cost of diet, medicines, additions and repairs and contingencies. Comparing the expenditure in this Province with that in others it appears that in 1867 the cost of establishments in British Burma was exceeded by that in Bombay only. This year it has fallen to £ 2-15-2 or less than the expenditure under the same head in 1867 in Bombay, Madras, the Central Provinces and Mysore. In expenditure on diet this Province stood 5th. This year, notwithstanding the actual increased expenditure, the average cost has fallen, owing to more prisoners being confined, from £ 3-0-6 to £ 2-18-7 which will not, however, affect the place the Province held. The average cost of the clothing has fallen from £ 0 5-6 to £ 0-4-3, the Province of Oudh only shewing a less expenditure. The expenditure on contingencies has, however, increased, the average per prisoner rising from 7 shillings and 2 pence to 9 shillings and 6 pence. The general average cost per prisoner during the last 5 years is given in the following table, the figures in which are highly satisfactory, shewing a reduction of more than 8 shillings per head.

	1864			1865			1866			1867			1868.		
1	2			3			4			5			6		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Akyab ...	6	..	8½	6	3	11	7	3	3½	8	10	10½	6	18	4½
Kyook-Phyoo ...	3	3	7½	3	16	1½	3	9	8	2	16	3½	6	12	8
Sandoway ..	3	7	1½	3	1	9½	3	6	1½	3	1	2½	2	16	3
Rangoon ..	5	12	9½	5	2	2½	7	12	2	7	2	9	5	19	4½
Bassein ..	8	3	0½	9	7	4½	8	8	6	7	5	7½	7	7	4
Henzadah ..															
Myanoug ..															
Prome ..	8	12	1½	7	10	3	6	19	11	7	12	8	9	19	7½
Thayetmyo ..							10	14	9	14	5	7	10	3	4
Toungoo ..	2	...	9½	14	5	7	11	19	6½	13	...	9½	9	9	7½
Maulmain ..	4	8	4½	4	5	1	5	10	8½	5	15	0½	5	9	2
Shwé-gyee ..	3	6	10½	8	3	9½	8	14	11	7	10	11½	12	10	8
Sittoung ..															
Tavoy ..	22	12	..	12	2	1½	8	11	9½	16	16	6½	14	6	8
Mergui ..	20	19	9½	9	..	3½	13	1	7	12	4	2½	18	5	0½
	6	2	10½	6	9	6½	7	2	6½	7	4	6	6	15	11½

The average cost per prisoner varies from £14-6-8 in Tavoy to £5-9-2 in Maulmain. Last year the difference was much greater; Tavoy was the most expensive gaol then also but Kyook-Phyoo was returned as the cheapest. The gaols in the Province now stand in the following order as regards cheapness.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Maulmain. | 5. Akyab. | 9. Thayetmyo. |
| 2. Rangoon. | 6. Bassein. | 10. Shwé-gyee. |
| 3. Sandoway. | 7. Toungoo. | 11. Mergui. |
| 4. Kyookphyoo. | 8. Prome. | 12. Tavoy. |

A very small gaol like that at Tavoy or Mergui must always cost more per prisoner than a large one like that in Rangoon.

126. The receipts are from the gaol manufacturers, and the table (in paragraph 125) shows that a highly satisfactory increase has taken place.

This increase has been steady and marked. In 1864 the profits amounted to £ 2,156 only, whereas last year they rose to £ 6,615, that is more than 300 per cent. The sudden increase in 1866 may perhaps be attributed to the appointment of Superintendents to the 4 largest prisons, but that this increase has continued is undoubtedly due to the formation of

a separate Department with separate officers, and one independent head.

127. There must always be some difficulty in introducing intra-mural labour into gaols, as so few kinds are at the same time punitive and remunerative. The principle upon which hard labour should be enforced when awarded by the magistrate is to give the newly received convict, for the first portion of his sentence, a severe and uninteresting kind of labour to perform, one which is extremely punitive, such as that of stone breaking or of pounding bricks. From this he can, by good conduct, gradually rise to carpentering or to labour of that class, and this is the system adopted in this Province. The principal kinds of labour are stone breaking, brick pounding, rice cleaning, turning driving wheels, carpentering, iron work, basket work, and weaving; and some of them are highly remunerative as is shown by the average gains of those prisoners employed in remunerative labour having been £4-16-8. That the work done is good is proved by purchases to the value of £ 4,003 having been made by the public in Rangoon and Maulmain.

128. The number of Prisoners who escaped during the year increased to 81, a larger number than have escaped in any one year since 1864; of these 81, 41 were recaptured, leaving 40 still at large in addition to the somewhat numerous body who escaped before and had not been retaken. It cannot be doubted that many if not most of these escapes are at any rate facilitated by a want of due attention to the gaol rules, an inattention due more to a want of realization of the fact that every rule, however trivial it may appear, is really of importance than to any systematic neglect. There were 4 outbreaks in the sense of Prisoners forcing their way out of confinement, but only one of these, from the Maulmain central prison, was serious. On this occasion the prisoners were nearly all recaptured almost immediately.

129. Of the total number in gaol at the end of the year, 57 or less than last year were females. Twenty three were under 16 years of age: the majority were between 30 and 40 as in 1867 but no less than 71 were over 60, 65 had been more than 8 times convicted, 101 had been 3 times, and 173 twice, last year only 50 had been 3 times convicted but 211 had been twice. No less

than 4,430 could read and write, and 233 were well educated. As might be expected the majority of those in confinement were labourers by trade, and 652 were agriculturists, or men moderately well to do, 247 were pedlars, 220 boatmen and 219 shopkeepers, 4 were village elders, 9 Revenue Collectors, and 26 Policemen.

130. The general administration of the gaols has on the whole been satisfactory: the average cost per prisoner has diminished; the receipts from remunerative labour increased;

Services of officers.

and, notwithstanding the overcrowding, the health of the prisoners has remained very good; fewer escapes and outbreaks, and perhaps a somewhat severer discipline would have left nothing to be desired. The officers to whom these good results are mainly due are Dr. Kelly the Inspector General of Prisons, who for a portion of the year was in charge of the Rangoon gaol. Dr. Donnelly the Superintendent of the Maulmain central prison; and Dr. Maingay, who succeeded Dr. Kelly as Superintendent of the Rangoon central prison, and whose untimely death whilst in the discharge of his duties during an outbreak of the prisoners but a few days ago, the Chief Commissioner has to deplore. Although the circumstances of this sad occurrence did not occur during the period of which this Report treats, it may be added that in the death of Dr. Maingay the Province has lost the services of one of its most talented and most valuable officers.

D. Police.

131. The following table gives some details regarding the number of police entertained, discharged at their own request and by Superintendents, and the number punished by the

Magistracy during the year,—

1 DISTRICTS.	2 Sanctioned Strength.	3 Number of persons enlisted during the year.	4 Number of persons discharged at their own request.		5 Number of persons discharged by Superintendents.				6 Number of persons punished by Magistracy.	
					For Misconduct.		On account of changes in Station or Establishment.			
						P.ct.		P.ct.			P.ct.
Akyab.....	512	219	80	15	63	12	62	13	32	6
Ramree.....	342	68	40	11	21	6	0	0	7	2
Sandoway.....	229	40	6	2	8	3	7	0	19	8
TOTAL...	1,083	327	126	11	92	8	69	6	58	5
Rangoon.....	442	49	9	2	27	6	4	0	9	2
Do. Town ...	195	28	5	2	23	11	0	2	1	0
Bassein.....	351	102	55	15	38	10	0	0	9	2
Myanoung.....	389	420	210	54	161	41	49	12	60	15
Prome.....	1,238	446	344	27	32	2	7	0	63	5
Toungoo.....	298	79	40	13	26	8	8	2	5	1
TOTAL..	2,908	1,124	663	29	307	10	68	2	147	5
Amherst.....	659	282	242	36	26	3	0	0	14	2
Maulmain Town ..	149	87	50	33	18	12	19	12	17	11
Tavoy.....	200	16	11	5	4	2	1	0	1	0
Mergui.....	226	44	28	12	13	5	0	0	3	1
Shwè-gyeen	456	216	183	40	13	2	0	0	20	4
TOTAL..	1,690	645	514	30	74	4	20	1	55	3
British BARRA ...	5,661	2,096	1,303	22	473	8	157	2	306	4

It will be seen that the number of constables discharged still continues very high, both in cases of voluntary discharges and those by Superintendents.

132. The figures on the whole however show how inadequate the former rates of pay were to retain men in the lower grades, and how much the efficiency of the establishment was thereby necessarily affected. It is hoped that the better wages now offered to Constables may introduce something like permanency in the service, and may introduce a better class of men. The numbers discharged by the Superintendents for misconduct are high in the Akyab (including the town), Bassein, Myanoung and Toungoo districts, and in the towns of Maulmain and Rangoon. In the other districts they are moderate. On this matter a good deal depends on the discretion and judgment of the Superintendent. It is of the very greatest importance that men should learn to look on service in the Police as permanent, so long as they conduct their duties properly, but on the other hand the retention of indifferent or misbehaved men is as great an evil as giving a character of shiftiness to the Force.

The number of policemen punished by the Magistracy has increased from 3.2 to 4.3 per cent.

133. In addition to the regular Police there are a certain number of village police that is to say in each cluster of villages one individual is appointed, on a salary of £ 12 a year, to be "Goung" or Head man. These men are not here as in India the village servants as they have more than once been supposed to be but they are the head men. Men having authority, the most influential men within the small area for the supervision of which they are appointed, who value their salary little but their position and authority much. Formerly their pay was charged to the Imperial Revenues but at the close of the year the Government sanctioned the total cost of the Goungs or Village Police being transferred as a charge on Local Funds, viz: on the Police portion of the 5 per cent cess on Land Revenue. At the same time an increase of pay was granted to the Constables and to a portion of the Serjeants. The effect may thus be described. In the Pegu and Arakan Divisions, one third of the Serjeants will receive £ 3 monthly and the remainder £ 2. In the Tenasserim Division there is no change as there have always been two grades of Serjeants there. Then as regards the Constables, those in the Pegu and Arakan Divisions will receive pay in three classes, one ninth of the force will draw £ 1-10 monthly, two ninths £1-4 and six ninths £1-2. Formerly the rates of pay were £1-2, £1 and 18s. respectively. In Tenasserim there is no change in

the first or second classes, who have always received £1-10 and £1-4, but the pay of the third class is raised from £1 to £1-2.

The effect of this may be first noticed here. The 5 per cent levied on the land tax is devoted 1 per cent to the construction and repair of roads, 1 per cent to education, .25 per cent to village or rural post, and 2.75 per cent to police. The effect of the orders regarding the pay of the village police has been to exhaust in rather more than one year not only the whole of the 2.75 per cent realized in that year, not only the whole 5 per cent realized in that year, but almost the whole of the 5 per cent realized during the 4 years that the *cam* has been levied. How the roads and education and the post are to be paid for, nay how the village police themselves are to be paid for out of a sum which is not sufficient to pay for half of them including all that amount which should be devoted to education, roads and post is a question which yet remains to be settled. It may be settled by a large reduction in the number of "Goungs"—which will be followed by a proportionately large increase in crime. The increase to the pay of the regular police brings their wages more nearly on a par with those of the labouring classes, and it is to be hoped will induce a better style of men to enter the police, as well as retain them in the Department. We have suffered greatly from the inadequacy of the pay of the lower ranks.

134. There was in some districts a difficulty in keeping up the Force, and the endeavour to do so necessitated the admission of men but ill suited for police work, when pressure was brought on them, as during the past year, discharges and punishments became numerous, most seriously affecting the efficiency of the Department.

The new rates of pay came into force on the 1st January, it remains to be seen whether they have a beneficial effect, by rendering the establishment more permanent in the lower grades.

135. The accommodation for the Force in the shape of station houses is improving since the Department was granted a small annual allowance for Petty Construction and Repairs. Much however still remains to be done to put the Police in a creditable position in this respect. It may be noticed that the men hut or house themselves, and it is only for the men on duty that station houses are now being constructed. These should, throughout the Province, be substantial and of respectable appearance.

136. Attention is being given to the education of the men, but it may be as well to mention that the Police Schools are not kept up to teach men to read and write, but to instruct them in their Police duties. The standard of education in British Burma among the ordinary population is far higher than in India. There is no conventional division between the arms-bearing and the education classes, indeed there is no separate caste or sect, which can be individualized as educated, with the meaning that in that respect they are distinct from the mass of the people. Our best educated native Inspectors and Officers of minor grades can generally handle a gun or a dâh as well as they can write a report.

Police Education.

137. The following table showing statistics regarding nonbailable offences since 1862 will show the work of the Police :—

Statistics of nonbailable offences.

Years.	Percentage of cases brought up to those ascertained to have occurred.	Percentage of persons convicted to those brought to trial.
1862	62 per cent-	47 per cent.
1863	54 do.	47 do.
1864	48 do.	55 do.
1865	49 do.	61 do.
1866	47 do.	64 do.
1867	49 do.	62 do.
1868	53 do.	60 do.

combining the two averages of cases brought up and persons convicted, it will be seen that the police working is more effectual than in the early years of the Department, but latterly the tendency is to bring up more cases, while convictions are falling off.

138. The action of the Police during the year in repressing violent crime has been good: the Promé district especially, owing to the strenuous exertions and the excellent qualifications of Captain T. Lowndes, has been comparatively singularly free from serious offences, and special thanks are due to this Officer for his unwearied exertions. To Major Duncan, the Inspector General of Police, and to Major Hamilton who is officiating for him, as well as to Major Duval and Major Munro the thanks of the Chief Commissioner are specially due.

F.—Marine.

139. Only one Government Steamer, the "Nemesis," which was employed in connection with this Province during the year, and just previous to its close she was ordered to Calcutta for repairs. Her place was taken up early in March by the tug Steamer "Alexandra" which was hired in Calcutta by the Marine Department. The "Nemesis" made a few trips on Light house duty, one to the Southern ports with the Chief Commissioner on a tour of inspection and two to the Arakan Coast for specie which had accumulated in the Treasuries of Rangoon and Sandoway. She would have been employed on active duty more often had her machinery been in good order. It was, however, frequently out of repair, so much so that the vessel was almost useless during the South West Monsoon.

140. The Dalla dockyard is still in the occupancy of Messrs. Todd, Findlay & Co., the Agents of the Irrawaddy Flotilla and Burma Steam Navigation Co. Limited, on a monthly tenure.

141. The light houses on the coast of this Province which have been erected from Imperial Funds are the "Alguada" on the reef of that name off the mouth of the Bassein River, the "Cocos" on Table Island the most northerly of the "Cocos" group of Islands in the Bay of Bengal, and the "Kriahna" on a small island named which forms the most southerly portion of the Bassein Gulf of Martaban, about 60 miles from the mouth of the Rangoon river. The latter was not entirely completed during the year, and was not lighted until June 1869. The Port Fund light houses are one on Double Island off Amherst at the entrance to the Maulmain river, one off the port of Akyab, and two in course of construction, one at the mouth of the Rangoon river, and the other about 3 miles north-east of the mouth of the China Bucker branch of the Irrawaddy.

142. The realizations on account of Coast Light dues during the year were £5,602 against £5,542, in the preceding year. This large increase is due to a greater trade having been carried on in 1868-69 with Europe and Western India. On account of harbour light house dues the receipts were £1,915 in 1868-69, and £1,493 in 1867-68, whilst the amount collected during the former year from ships entering the Rangoon river

as dues for the Light vessel stationed at its mouth was £2,399.

143. In December 1868, Her Majesty's Steam Frigate "Spiteful" arrived on the coast of Tenasserim for duty in the Mergui Archipelago with a view to put a stop to the piracy which had long prevailed among the Islands which lie near the boundary line of British and Siamese territory. She remained on the coast about 4 months during which time, happily, there was no necessity for active interference.

144. The Chief Commissioner desires to record his sense of the services rendered during the year by the late Captain Harold Lewis for some years Master Attendant of the Port of Rangoon, by Mr. John Mack the present officiating incumbent of that office, and by Mr. A. J. Dodd, Master Attendant of Maulmain, since transferred to officiate at Bassein.

III.—STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

A. Finance.

145. The collections made under Land Revenue, although less than those of the previous year, are no indication that this source of Revenue is decreasing, as a comparison of the monthly income shows that the Land Tax of the Burmese year 1230 was collected earlier than that of the year 1231, consequently the income of the Financial year 1868-69 was less both at its commencement as well as at its close, in the former case the income is mixed up with that of the year previous, and in the latter with that of 1869-70. The Miscellaneous Revenue including Capitation Tax has however increased by upwards of £10,000 being clear evidence of the continued prosperity of the Province.

146. The Revenue of the Forest Department is entirely dependent on the state of the timber market and as this has improved of late, the income of the department has increased considerably.

147. The decrease in the Excise Revenue is very great both under License Fees as well as under Opium. The falling off under the former head is owing principally to a de-

Land Revenue.

1867-68	585,443
1868-69	505,530

Decrease 79,913

Forest.

1867-68	64,231
1868-69	31,750

Decrease 32,481

Excise.

1867-68	128,440
1868-69	121,730

Decrease 6,710

cision of the late Recorder of Rangoon, in consequence of which the amount realized at auction from the Farmer was much less than usual: the amount realized by fines is less by £15,000 than in the previous year.

148. There is a very slight decrease under Assessed Taxes: and from the fact that penalties are rarely levied, it is probable that the Tax is not unpopular.

Assessed Taxes.	
	£
1867-68	10,498
1868-69	10,273
Decrease	225

149. The Customs Revenue has increased by upwards of £80,000 and this increase is not only from exports, but also from imports, under which latter there is an increase of upwards of £15,000. There has also been a large revenue derived from warehouse and wharf rents amounting to nearly £1,000. It is very possible that the large amount realized as export duty is owing to the rice shipments in February and March last, being nearly double the quantity shipped in February and March 1868, thus increasing the revenue of 1868-69, and decreasing that of the succeeding year. This is apparent from the fact that while the sums realized in April, May and June 1868 amounted to £80,000, the amount collected in the corresponding months of 1869 will not amount even to £60,000.

Customs.	
	£
1867-68	200,301
1868-69	284,893
Increase	84,692

150. The income from the Salt Revenue is annually increasing and it is satisfactory to observe that while the duty on imported salt shows an increase of £3,000, the realizations from the Tax on manufacture within the Province, has likewise increased by £2,000.

Salt.	
	£
1867-68	9,321
1868-69	14,897
Increase	5,076

151. There is also a large increase in the Stamp Revenue, principally from the sale of Stamp paper. A very trifling amount was realized from fines and penalties.

Stamps.	
	£
1867-68	42,958
1868-69	52,970
Increase	10,012

152. The income under Law and Justice is also increasing, partly from larger amounts being realized as fines, but principally from the receipts of the Rangoon Gaol from the causing the income from Gaol Manufactures to be in excess of that of the previous year.

Law and Justice.	
	£
1867-68	24,144
1868-69	24,032
Increase	1,012

153. The increase under Police receipts is due solely to

Police,
£
1867-68 17,460
1868-69 33,437

Increase 15,977

close of 1867-68, borne by the Imperial Revenues.

154. The Marine receipts of the year have been considerably swelled by the amount realized for Coast Light Dues, being nearly £2,000 in excess of the realizations in the previous
- | |
|---------------|
| Marine, |
| £ |
| 1867-68 4,340 |
| 1868-69 7,224 |

Increase 2,884

year. The remaining portion of the increase is due to the sale of coals to vessels of the Royal Navy and to the sale by auction of the balance of the stores formerly kept at Maulmain.

155. In the Education receipts there has been a slight decrease under "sale of books," but it is satisfactory to observe that the income derived from schooling fees has been augmented by nearly £40.
- | |
|-------------|
| Education, |
| £ |
| 1867-68 483 |
| 1868-69 608 |

Decrease 30

by nearly £40.

156. The income from Interest gradually increases every year, owing to the hopeless insolvency of the Maulmain and Bassein Port Funds, which necessitates further advances being made to them from Imperial Funds.
- | |
|---------------|
| Interest, |
| £ |
| 1867-68 680 |
| 1868-69 1,023 |

Increase 343

The whole question of the solvency of Local Funds is under consideration.

157. The Revenue derived from such sources as are not connected with the other service heads is invariably fluctuating. The larger amount realized in 1867-68 is owing to large sums having been received from the sale
- | |
|----------------|
| Miscellaneous, |
| £ |
| 1867-68 2,817 |
| 1868-69 1,481 |

Decrease 1,336

of old stores and to numerous unclaimed deposits having been written off.

158. There is an apparent decrease in receipts from Local Funds but this is only nominal as in the accounts for 1867-68 a transfer of £10,200 was effected in consequence of an error which had occurred in a previous year. The increases exist in the Municipal and in the
- | |
|----------------------|
| Local Service Funds, |
| £ |
| 1867-68 100,000 |
| 1868-69 108,913 |

Decrease 887

Port Funds.

159. The decrease under this head amounts to £4,200, principally in the Judicial Department, but a portion of it, £1,700 under Marine De-

Deposits,

posits, is on account of Little Basses Light dues having been credited to that head in 1867-68.

160. There is a decrease under this head of about £2,300, owing chiefly to larger transfers having been made in the former year.

Advances Recoverable.

161. The bill transactions of the Province have been reduced by nearly £30,000 owing to the extension of the money order system and to the greater check now exercised over the issue of Remittance Transfer Receipts.

Bills drawn.

162. The transactions under this head have been increased by larger remittances being made of small silver and copper coin, and also by transfer entries on account of the Forest Department.

Cash Remittances received.

163. The remaining heads of account appertain to other Governments. The decrease under Public Works receipts is caused principally by smaller expenditure from Local Funds.

HEAD OF ACCOUNTS.	1867-68.	1868-69.
Public Works Department,	77,509	59,123
Military Department,	94,188	99,164
India and other Govts,	92,419	61,416
Postal Department,	10,204	12,121
Electric Telegraph Dept.,	12,510	12,517
Money Order Department,	24,679	48,211
Bills of other Governments,	56,784	49,061

164. Military receipts show a slight falling off which is attributable to a smaller quantity of stores having been supplied to Port Blair, the cost of which is entered by transfer in the Books. The credits to India and other Governments are less than in 1867-68 owing to the following circumstances:

- i Smaller indents for small silver and copper coins.
- ii Abolition of rule for crediting to London the value of stores received from England.
- iii Transfer adjustment in 1867-68 of the balances of the Port Funds.

165. It will be observed that the income of the Postal Department has increased by £2,800 while that of the Electric Telegraph Department shows a falling off of £300 probably owing to the recent reduction in the rates charged for messages. It is extremely satisfactory to observe that the income of the Money Order Department had doubled itself during the past year. The public have evidently great confidence in the Department, and drafts are largely made use of by the foreign settlers in the Province, although it is much to be regretted that the Burmese as yet ignore the Department altogether and still continue the practice of making remittances

ances in specie. The question of getting them to understand and value the Post Office, Telegraph and Money order system is one of importance which has received much consideration during the year. The system at present in force of appointing ministerial officers to the several Agencies has resulted in a very heavy loss to the Government, three embezzlements having occurred during the year amounting to several hundred pounds, and there can be little doubt but that similar embezzlements will constantly occur as long as the system continues. The amount drawn by bills on other Governments has decreased slightly, and this is probably owing to the increased business of the Money Order Department.

CASH BALANCE.		
Details.	1867-68	1868-69
Bills	£ 6,162	30,374
Expenses	306,329	282,187
Gold Silver,	16,768	13,988
Copper,	15,067	13,950
Total,....	345,126	320,647

166. The opening cash balances of the two years show an increase of upwards of £80,000 occasioned by the Calcutta Treasury not drawing bills on Akwab as had formerly been the practice.

167. On the whole it will be seen that the Imperial Revenue of the Province has increased by about £120,000 and that the Charges have also increased by £33,311, giving a net annual increase of £86,701.

1867-68	1,966,323
1868-69	1,906,336
Increase	120,014

168. The payments on this account have annually increased as the balance of the Police Superannuation Fund accumulated. The Fund having now been abolished, no payments will hereafter be made on this account.

Disbursements.
Interest on Service Funds.

	£
1867-68	1,022
1868-69	1,214
Increase	192

169. The principal increase is on account of Customs and Assessed Taxes, over neither of which can there be much control, the refunds being made in accordance with the respective Acts: upwards of £1,900 are, however, refunds on account of short shipments of rice payable for in advance. It may be noticed that the refunds on account of value of spoiled stamp paper although small in amount are increasing every year.

Revenue Refunds and Drawbacks.

	£
1867-68	4,296
1868-69	10,919
Increase	6,623

170. The increase here is slight and is principally on account of refund of fines paid under orders of a court. There is however a corresponding increase of £1,800 in the fines realized by the courts.

Miscellaneous Refunds.	
	£
1867-68	1,001
1868-69	1,025
Increase	24

171. Under Land Revenue charges there has been an unavoidable increase, owing to the introduction of the new acting allowance rule under which officers can draw deputation allowance while acting for each other in the same class. All other payments with the exception of travelling allowance have decreased and great credit is due to all officers for having kept their expenditure within budget limits.

Land Revenue.	
	£
1867-68	83,728
1868-69	84,471
Increase	743

172. The Revenue Survey Department in this province was created in December last, and the payments made are therefore for four months only. The transactions of these four months show that the expenses will be extremely heavy, and it will be necessary to keep them down as far as possible.

Revenue Survey.	
	£
1867-68	—
1868-69	2,101
Increase	2,101

173. The Revenue Settlement was also created as a separate department in 1868-69, but the expenses although heavy, are necessary, and do not amount to much more than £200 per mensem.

Revenue Settlement Department.	
	£
1867-68	263
1868-69	1,008
Increase	1,235

174. The excess disbursements in the Forest Department are fully covered by the increased revenue realized in that Department. The heads under which the excess expenditure has been incurred are Transport charges, purchase of stock, and Plantations.

Forests.	
	£
1867-68	33,048
1868-69	42,325
Increase	9,277

175. The decrease in the debits to the Excise Department are only nominal, as a portion of the cost price of opium indented for from Calcutta during the year will appear in the accounts for 1869-70, there having been some delay in complying with the indents. There is a very considerable falling off in the amount paid as awards, owing to the decision of the Recorder referred to at the commencement of this Report under "Excise Receipts."

Excise.	
	£
1867-68	20,348
1868-69	7,804
Decrease	12,544

176. The decrease in these payments is in consequence of the practice of paying commission to Thoo-gyees (local tax collectors) for the collection of the Tax having been discontinued

Assessed Taxes.	
	£
1867-68	890
1868-69	359
Decrease	531

during the past year.

177. The increase in the Customs Department is caused by the Establishments having been revised and the pay increased.

Customs.	
	£
1867-68	11,967
1868-69	14,776
Increase	2,789

178. In the Salt Department there has been a slight decrease, but it is only nominal, as the debits of 1867-68 include sums which should have been paid in the previous year.

Salt.	
	£
1867-68	680
1878-69	649
Decrease	40

179. The increased Sales of Stamps will fully account for this increase which is principally for discount paid to the vendors. There is, however, only a very small portion paid in cash as the discount is given in stamps.

Stamps.	
	£
1867-68	1,107
1868-69	1,467
Increase	350

180. The charges for the Secretariat Department have been augmented by the revision of the establishment, involving higher rates of pay as well as increase in number.

Chief Commissioner and Secretariat.	
	£
1867-68	12,500
1868-69	15,430
Increase	2,930

181. In this instance the increase is due almost entirely to the circumstance that under the new acting allowance Rules higher rates are allowed to the officers acting for absentees, but there is also a slight increase for contingencies, over which charges a strict control is this year being exercised.

Commissioners.	
	£
1867-68	14,536
1868-69	14,952
Increase	416

182. The charges of the account office show a decrease, partly owing to the absence on leave of the officer holding permanently the appointment of Accountant General, and partly by a reduction of the contingent expenditure of the office.

Account off- ^{ce} .	
	£
1867-68	6,513
1868-69	6,021
Decrease	492

183. The post of Sanitary Commissioner was created during the past year, and no comparison can therefore be made under this head

Sanitary Administration.	
	£
1868-69	1,545

184. The increase in the cost of these Courts is attributable almost entirely to the new Furlough Rules, and very slightly to the cost of increased Establishments and of contingent expenditure. The excess expendi-

Civil and Sessions Courts.	
	£
1867-68	23,771
1868-69	27,665
Increase	3,894

ture for acting allowances amounts to upwards of £3,000.

Criminal Courts.	£
1867-68	5,805
1868-69	4,088

Increase 1,717

Courts of Small Causes

1867-68	297
1868-69	297

Increase

187. In the Recorders' Courts there is also an increase in expenditure, owing to the revision of the

Establishments attached to the Courts,

Recorders' Courts.	£
1867-68	4,988
1868-69	7,410

Increase 2,422

but this is fully compensated for by the larger sales of Stamps which have been realized during the past year.

188. The expenditure on Gaols has been very much augmented, and it is to be observed that a

Prisons.	£
1867-68	24,010
1868-69	27,063

Increase 3,053

great portion of it is for diet, clothing and contingencies, while the expenditure for Superintendence and Establishments has been reduced by about £250. The increase noted in the margin, however, includes an increase of £1,600 under Gaol Manufactures which is of course fully covered by the larger income derived therefrom.

189. In the Police Department there is an increase of

Police.	£
1867-68	130,714
1868-69	134,467

Increase 3,753

£2,000, due to the employment of extra police in the Prome and Myanung districts. The remaining portion of the

increase is for clothing, travelling allowances and contingencies, due in great part to the entertainment of this extra force, but no increase has been incurred for Superintendence.

190. In the Marine Department the debits have been very

Marine.	£
1867-68	19,184
1868-69	22,439

Increase 3,255

much swelled by transfers on account of payments made for the "Nemesis" in previous years in Calcutta, and which were only recently communicated to this office. There has also

been an increase in the payments made on account of the Light House tenders "Alguada" and "Phara."

191. This increase is owing almost entirely to the numerous

grants-in-aid to private schools, especially to those attached to the S. P. G.

Education, Science and Art.	£
1867-68	7,370
1868-69	11,500

Increase 4,130

Mission, and to a grant to the Horticultural Society. For Government schools and superintendence the expenditure has slightly increased to the extent of £ 400, for contingencies principally.

192. In the Ecclesiastical Department the increase has been small and is caused by the appointment of a Missionary Clergyman to minister to the congregations in the stations on the Irrawaddy at which there is no resident chaplain.

Ecclesiastical.	
	£
1867-68	4,674
1868-69	5,212
Increase	538

193. There has also been a slight increase in the Medical Department on account of salaries, being the effect of the new rules issued regarding the pay of Covenanted and Uncovenanted Medical Officers.

Medical.	
	£
1867-68	11,235
1868-69	11,799
Increase	564

194. The expenses for printing amounted in 1868-69 to a very considerable sum, and although the charge is in greater part nominal, the work having been performed by the Gaol Press and the cost credited per contra to Gaol manufactures, yet it is evident that stringent measures should be adopted to limit the amount of printing work executed on Government account.

Stationary and Printing.	
	£
1867-68	4,688
1868-69	5,779
Increase	1,091

195. It will be observed that the Political expenditure is nearly as much as in the previous year. The expenditure in 1868-69 was on account of the Bhamo Expedition, for muskets supplied to the King of Burma to the value of £3,400, and also owing to an expenditure of £1,000 for the erection of a Bazaar for the wild tribes in the Arakan hills.

Political.	
	£
1867-68	14,457
1868-69	13,630
Decrease	827

196. Under this head of account are included all charges which cannot be classified under any particular department of the Government service. They naturally increase every year but it is satisfactory to observe that the increase in 1868-69 was trifling, and is owing entirely to the amounts paid as rewards to officers for passing in Burmese, and to rewards paid for the destruction of wild animals.

Miscellaneous Services.	
	£
1867-68	3,009
1868-69	3,162
Increase	153

197. The payments for Pensions &c. naturally increase every year, but in the year 1868-69 the excess is due to the payment of a gratuity to the widow of an officer of the Forest department who met with his death while in the execution of his duty.

Pensions, &c.	
	£
1867-68	2,761
1868-69	3,042
Increase	281

198. In the Local Fund department the decrease is caused solely by the smaller expenditure incurred through the P. W. D., as the charges in the Civil department have very much augmented of late. There is also a very large debit of £

Local and other Funds.	
	£
1867-68	69,918
1868-69	59,097
Decrease	10,821

There is also a very large debit of £

21,474 to the 5 per cent cess Fund on account of cost of village Police which in former years was borne by the Imperial revenues. It may also be here remarked that the sum charged by the P. W. D. for the superintendence of Local Fund expenditure amounted to as much as 38 per cent on the value of the work done.

199. It is not possible to account for the decrease in the repayments of deposits. Under Judicial Civil deposits there is a falling off to the extent of £11,836 which may possibly be owing to delay in the final adjudication of suits in the Recorders' Courts, but it cannot be stated for a certainty that this is the actual cause of the decrease.

200. Under this head the debits are less by £7,300 than in the previous year, and it is to be hoped that the strict application of the rules on the subject of advances will continue annually to lower these payments to a considerable extent.

201. The decrease in the payments of bills amounts to nearly £40,000 and the cause thereof has been fully explained above under the head "Bills drawn."

202. The increase under this head has been similarly explained above under "Cash remittances received."

203. The debits to the P. W. D. are less than in the previous year, owing, it is believed, to the smaller expenditure from Local Funds. The payments to the Military department are less than in 1867-68 as a large number of elephants were purchased in the latter year.

204. The debits to other Governments have been very much increased by the remittance to Calcutta of nearly £340,000 against £80,000 in the previous year.

The closing cash balance was more than £40,000 less than that of the previous year owing to large remittances to

Calcutta. A reference to the details will show that, notwith-

Deposits—	£
1867-68	51,142
1868-69	39,215
Decrease	11,927

Advances Recoverable	£
1867-68	60,379
1868-69	54,463
Decrease	5,816

Bills Paid,	£
1867-68	154,309
1868-69	114,572
Decrease	39,737
Cash Remittances sent,	£
1867-68	589,286
1868-69	639,391
Increase	50,105

HEADS OF ACCOUNT	1867-68	1867-68
	£	£
Public Works Department,	336,684	296,806
Military	324,783	297,080
India and other Governments ..	177,923	300,421
Postal Department	8,062	8,329
Electric Telegraph Department.	18,287	19,686
Money Order	4,564	10,034
Bills of other Governments	6,608	11,672

CASH BALANCES.		
Details.	1867-68	1868-69.
	£	£
Notes	30,874	30,595
Rupess	282,187	228,750
Small Silver	12,066	17,175
Copper	12,066	9,033
Total..	328,047	285,573

standing the fact of small silver and copper coin having been imported from Madras and Calcutta to the extent of £20,000 during the year, the demand for small change is very great, especially in the border districts, from which it is probably carried over into foreign territory. It will also be seen that the balance in notes has been very considerably increased owing to the Merchants at the sea Ports having recently found it more profitable for them to pay the Customs dues in notes of the higher denominations obtained from Madras and Calcutta, than to import the specie itself, or to obtain bills of exchange.

205. On the whole it will probably be considered very satisfactory that the Revenue derived from nearly every Department of the Government Service has largely increased during the past year, while on the other hand although the cost of each Department has been augmented, the extra cost is but trifling and has been fully met by increased revenue derived from the Province.

General remarks.

It is also worthy of notice that while the total Revenue derived in 1867-68, exclusive of Port Blair, was £ 1,086,322 only, in the following year it amounted to £ 1,206,336 being an increase of £ 120,014, and that while the disbursements of 1867-68, amounted to £461,078 those of the year 1868-69, were £494,391 being an increase of £33,313 only. The net revenue of 1867-68 was thus £ 625,244 and that of 1868-69, £711,945 being an increase of £86,701.

206. The Chief Commissioner desires to record his thanks to Mr. C. R. Kiernander who has repeatedly been in charge of the Accountant General's Office and whose exertions have been untiring.

Services of officers.

B. Public Works.

207. The progress during the year has been very satisfactory so far as the outlay on Imperial works is concerned. The grants were originally fixed as follow :—

Imperial	£ 247,500
Local	„ 65,800
Total.....	„ 313,300

208. These grants were subsequently modified, and stood at the close of the year as under :—

Imperial.....	£ 287,000
Local	„ 66,800
Total.....	„ 353,800

against which an outlay was incurred of £250,506 Imperial and £26,215 Local, or

Total of grants..... £ 303,300

Total of expenditure..... „ 276,631

Difference, expenditure less than grants „ 26,579

209. The following table gives the details of expenditure on the different heads of service.

Imperial Outlay.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	EXPENDITURE.		TOTAL.
	Original Works.	Repairs.	
	£	£	£
Military... ..	51,890	9,438	61,328
Civil Buildings	51,965	6,480	58,445
Agricultural... ..	25,183	1,475	26,658
Communications	49,347	8,311	57,658
Miscellaneous Public Improvements. ...	6,647	904	7,551
Total Works and Repairs... ..	184,982	26,508	211,490
Establishments. ... ..	.....	.....	26,579
Tools and Plant. ... ..	.....	.....	2,145
Grand total, Imperial Outlay.....	.....	.....	250,507

210. The foregoing figures are exclusive of a charge of £2,031 against profit and loss, and an increase to Provincial Stock to the value of £1,138.

Local Outlay.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	EXPENDITURE		TOTAL.
	Original Works.	Repairs.	
	£	£	£
Military... ..	14	233	247
Civil Buildings	25	.....	25
Communications	351	316	667
Miscellaneous Public Improvements ...	12,844	5,263	18,107
Total works and Repairs... ..	13,234	5,812	19,046
Establishments ... ..	.....	.....	7,164
Tools and Plant ... ..	.....	.....	.....
Grand total Local Outlay.....	.....	.....	26,215

211. Over the Imperial grant of £ 237,000, an excess outlay of £ 13,506 was incurred, mainly due to the fact that towards the close of the year a reduction of £ 12,500 was made in the Budget on account of London supplies. But for this reduction, the outlay would have kept pace with the grants as originally assigned. The short outlay of £ 4,008 from the grant for Local works is due to the preparation of many projects having been held in abeyance mainly owing to want of funds.

212. RANGOON—Very good progress was made on the works of the Pagoda defences, on which an
 Military. outlay of £ 9,600 was incurred. The excavation of the South and West ditches was nearly completed, and the same may be said of the masonry of their revetments. The demi and South West bastions were also nearly completed and the glacis was well forward. The drawbridge, on the West side was also finished with the exception of the iron work. The quantities of work done were :—

200,000 cubic feet of excavation.

80,000 cubic feet of brick masonry.

40,000 " " of rubble masonry.

The assistance of the Sapper Company, which arrived from Madras during the year, was most valuable, a great deal of the masonry having been executed by it. On the Harbour defences (Monkey Point Battery) a sum of £ 3,120 was expended. For this nearly the whole of the concrete foundations were put in, over which two courses of artificial stone ($\frac{3}{4}$ feet in height) were laid. Some piling was also provided. The work was done under difficulties, owing to the rise and fall of the tides. The artificial stone is most excellent in character. Much of it was made in boxes measuring 3.33 x 1.66 x 2, though eventually it was found feasible to form the stone *in situ*. All the work has been thoroughly well done, though at a cost exceeding the estimate.

The metalling of the North East Boundary Road has been completed at a total cost of £ 1,550, of which £ 760 were spent during the year. On the road leading from the Great Pagoda to the Royal Lakes, £ 1,310 have been spent in collection of material for metalling and in the provision of masonry drains; the work will be completed during 1869-70. On some other roads in Cantonments £ 940 were spent on earthwork, metalling, constructing and widening some culverts.

European Infantry Lines.—The brick drains in the European Infantry Lines have been completed, the outlay during the year being small. The Military Workshops were completed for a total sum of £ 2,250, the outlay for the year being £ 380. The building is of brick masonry with corrugated iron roof. £ 130 were spent in putting a new iron roof on the Solitary Cells, £ 240 on altering some latrines, and £ 240 on the construction of a new latrine. Work was commenced on the Reservoir to the East of the Barracks, though the outlay was very small.

Royal Artillery Lines.—A Sergeants' Mess and Recreation Room was constructed at a cost of £ 780, and a small sum was spent on the completion of a well.

Native Infantry Lines.—£ 250 were spent on the construction of an Expense Magazine, and £ 260 on some other necessary buildings.

Commissariat.—Four Cattle Sheds and one Hospital Shed commenced in the previous year, were completed at a total outlay of £ 890. The Elephant Shed was also finished, the outlay during the year being £ 110. Fencing the Godowns in Cantonments on an estimate of £ 980, was half completed, the outlay being £ 560. About £ 380 were spent on construction and alterations of some other buildings.

Ordnance.—The upper story to the Arsenal Godown has been finished for a sum of £ 3,200, of which £ 1,500 were spent during the year. Nothing has been done on the Ordnance Magazine, the matter being still under consideration. A fair start has been made on the Quarters for the Ordnance employees, nearly £ 1,700 having been spent on the Staff Sergeants' Quarters, the walls of which are up to a level with the verandah roof. About £ 360 have been spent in the provision of temporary accommodation for three Non-Commissioned Officers of the Department whose houses were demolished, the land on which they stood being required for the Pagoda works.

General.—On the new Military Wharf, £ 850 have been expended on the abutments, and some extra screw piling. The whole of the site of the European Infantry Lines was carefully contoured by Lieutenant Tomkins, R. E., with the view of laying down the position of the proposed new barracks for the Garrison of Rangoon.

213. MAULMAIN.—The total outlay at this station was only £ 510, of which £ 370 were spent on shingling some buildings in the Native Infantry Lines.

214. THAYETMYO.—*European Infantry Lines*.—The eight single men's barracks and the Band barrack were completed, the outlay for the year being £ 1,030: the total cost of the eight barracks is £ 35,400, and that of the Band barrack, £ 3,380. On the paving of the basements of the married quarters, £ 590 were expended. The construction of the Hospitals was still in abeyance owing to the sites not having been finally settled. Much correspondence has taken place on the subject. The Female Hospital was also deferred. The Quarter Guard and Cells are nearly completed, the outlay during the year being £ 3,570. The Canteen is complete, the total outlay being £ 1,600, of which £ 1,400 were spent during the year. Quarters for Staff Sergeants and Band Master have been completed on a total outlay of £ 1,870, of which £ 960 were spent in 1868-69. The Quarter Master's Store Room is finished at a total outlay of £ 1,380 of which £ 720 were spent in the present year. The School-room was still in abeyance for want of standard pans. On the Sergeants' Mess and Library, £ 760 were spent, the estimate being for £ 1,750. The building is of teak timber. The verandah roofing is complete. A Swimming Bath is under construction, one-fourth of the brickwork being about finished. The outlay was £ 220. The roofing and flooring of a new Orderly Room are completed at a cost of £ 470. The estimated cost of the building is £ 920. About £ 370 were spent on the provision of some covered ways between the Barracks.

Royal Artillery Lines.—The brickwork of the Hospital is completed and the materials of the superstructure partly collected. The outlay during the year was £ 1,900. The Quarter Guard and Cells were passed in completion of the work, the outlay being £ 310. A further outlay of £ 160 is reported on the Stables completed in 1867-68. More than 3/4ths of the Harness room is complete at an outlay of nearly £ 1,500. The Canteen has been finished for £ 280. The School-room, commenced in 1867-68, is very nearly finished, the outlay up to the year being £ 480. The Staff Sergeants' Quarters, are complete, the total cost being £ 930. On a new Orderly Room about £ 280 have been spent. The roof is finished, and materials have been collected for the walling and flooring. The roofing and flooring of the Sergeants' Mess (new) are complete on an outlay of £ 490. The brickwork of the Cook-house also finished.

Native Infantry Lines.—The Native Infantry Hospital was reported as complete last year, but a further outlay of £ 190 has been incurred in the present year. Solitary Cells were constructed and completed for £ 140.

Commissariat.—The Bullock sheds are complete, the outlay for the year being £ 270. The foundations of one Elephant shed are complete, and materials for both sheds have been collected. The outlay during the year was £ 850. A further sum of £ 120 was expended on the Gram godown which is now complete.

General.—About £ 540 were spent on Urinaries and Dry-earth sheds. The completion of Wells in the Infantry and Artillery Lines is reported, but a further deepening of them is stated to be necessary.

215. *Toungoo.—European Infantry Lines.*—The Hospital is still in abeyance, its construction in wood or masonry not having been determined on. On the Quarter Guard and Cells, £ 490 have been spent on the collection of material; but no work has been put in hand. The Superintendent of Works does not think the delay, as explained by the Executive Engineer, to be satisfactory. The Sergeants' Recreation Room is finished, the outlay during the year being £ 200. £370 were spent on the construction of a Swimming Bath, the walls of which are up to the wall-plates.

Royal Artillery Lines.—£ 230 were spent on the construction and completion of the covered passages, in addition to those reported in the former year.

Native Infantry Lines.—All the Cook-rooms were re-roofed at a cost of £ 750, and a sum of £ 220 was spent on a new Latrine which is completed.

Commissariat.—The improvements to the Godowns have been completed for an outlay of £ 970 of which £ 370 were spent in the present year. Quarters for two Staff Sergeants were very nearly completed at a cost of £ 780. On a Road and Bridge leading to the Cattle sheds £ 310 were expended, the work being completed.

General.—On some Stone groynes in the Sittang river £ 240 were spent. The works are not complete.

216. *Customs.*—On the Custom House at Akyab, £ 1,680 were spent, and the Executive Engineer reports that the building is now "virtually finished." For the present it will be made over for the reception of the Civil Courts, until the new Pub-
Civil buildings.

lic Buildings are available. The Building is a very good one.

Telegraphs.—Telegraph offices at Myanounng and Henzadah have been completed at a cost of £ 1,440 although out-offices still remain to be provided for the latter ; they are however in course of construction. The offices at Rue and Pabroo were also in progress but the work on them has not been reported. The office at Maulmain was completed for a total of £ 950, of which £ 470 were spent during the year. Some materials were collected for the out-offices sanctioned on an estimate for £ 480. £ 1,370 were spent on adapting the Deputy Commissioner's office at Rangoon for a telegraph office, of which £ 270 were spent in 1868-69. The building is now an extremely good one and is provided with an iron roof.

Ecclesiastical Buildings.—£ 70 were spent on the Protestant Church at Port Blair. The Church was reported as nearly ready for use. Plastering only remains to be executed. The building is constructed of rubble masonry with ashlar quoins, buttresses, voussairs, and string courses. A design for a small Church at Bassein was prepared in the office of the Chief Engineer and sent to the Executive Engineer for the preparation of the necessary estimate. A design was submitted for the Church at Toungoo, but it was not approved, and orders have been issued for the preparation of a new drawing and estimate on the design approved for Bassein. A small teak built Roman Catholic Church was built during the year at Port Blair for £ 373 half the outlay having been met by subscriptions. £ 350 were spent on improvements to the Roman Catholic Chapel at Toungoo. And £ 439 were spent on railing in the Town Church, Rangoon, and building a Chowkedar's house. A Graveyard at Donabyo was enclosed for £ 120. The work is nearly completed.

Educational.—A sum of £ 1,400 was paid away as a grant-in-aid to St. Paul's school at Rangoon, under the orders of the Government of India communicated to the Chief Commissioner in P. W. D. letter No. 393 A dated 27th May 1868.

Court Houses.—The Court House at Promie is reported as "very nearly completed," the outlay during the year being £ 2,160 the work is very good. The progress on the Court House at Toungoo was slow, only £ 710 having been spent during the year ; the walls are all finished and the woodwork of the verandah roofs put up. The woodwork of the floors is also finished and the doors and windows were in pro-

gress. The work was stopped by the Chief Engineer, pending the submission of a revised estimate. Some alterations were made to the Myanoung Treasury at a cost of £180. Some filling in of the low ground opposite the Myanoung Court House was commenced, the outlay being £70. Work was in progress on the the Court Houses for Extra Assistant Commissioners in the district of Akyab, and £710 were spent by the Deputy Commissioner by whom the buildings were supervised. The buildings were much damaged by the Cyclone of November 1868, and some of them will have to be entirely renewed. The total outlay on them to the close of the year was £1,210 of which £500 were spent in the preceding year. For the new Public Offices at Akyab, £1,850 worth of materials have been collected, of which £1,200 worth were collected in 1868-69. At Bassein, £140 were spent in fixing a palisade around the Treasury.

An official residence was purchased for the Chief Commissioner at a cost of £ 3,014, and improvements and repairs made to the value of £ 375. A ball room was also partially constructed on an estimate of £ 1,170, the outlay during the year being £ 510. A new P. W. D. Store Yard was enclosed and completed for £ 680.

Gaols.—£ 280 were spent on the completion of the Gaol at Bassein. The total outlay on this Gaol is £17,260 against the sanctioned estimate of £ 17,550. The new Gaol at Thayetmyo was finished with the exception of the drains. The total outlay is £ 17,340 against the estimate of £ 15,530, and the outlay during the year was £1,440. Considerable progress has been made towards the completion of the Toungoo Gaol in which £ 1,220 were spent during the year. £ 280 were spent on Guard Houses and out-offices for this Gaol and it was hoped that the work would be speedily completed. The Myanoung and Henzadah Lock-ups were satisfactorily completed at a cost respectively of £ 1,820 and £ 1,880. Of these amounts £1,050 and £1,300 were spent during the year. The site for the Prome Lock-up was determined and work to the extent of £1,130 was executed. The sanctioned estimate is for £1,800.

217. On the great embankment (No. 6) in the Myanoung district, £16,330 have been spent. The Executive Engineer reports that the variation of the river prevents the work being carried South of

the 45th mile. It is to be regretted that the Executive Engineer does not give any details of the work actually done during the year. The total outlay on the embankment is £80,230. About £400 have been spent on the sluices which it is proposed to replace with iron doors. The subject is under the Chief Engineer's consideration. The Patashin embankment was finished, the outlay for the year being small.

The Donabyo embankment was completed, the outlay during the year being £470. The total outlay is £1,410. Inspection Bungalows have been finished at Myanoung, Kyan-ghéen, Akhyo, Thambyadeing, and Henzadah. The outlay was including the outlay on out-offices, about £1,400. On the out-offices of the Akhyo, Kanoung, and Shwè-gyeen Bungalows, there was an outlay of £270. The works are still in progress. £110 were expended in forming an enclosure for the P. W. Store-yard at Myanoung. On the Survey of the Nawoon and Leymyethna embankment £800 were spent, and 4 miles of embankment thrown up at a cost of £2,400. On the Henzadah Protective embankment, work was done of the value of £2,030. No details of the work are given. The Kanoung Protective embankment was partly constructed for £630, and £130 were spent on the Myanoung Protective embankment, which last is still in progress. The Survey for the Zaloon embankment was put in hand.

During the year a scheme for the protection of the country East of the Irrawaddy was prepared and submitted to the Government of India. The project consisted of a marginal embankment running from a point about 10 miles North of Myanoung down to the Panlang Creek, the line of steam communication between Rangoon and the Irrawaddy during the monsoon months. Subsidiary embankments and roads were also proposed, together with a line of embankment on the West of the Hline, a river flowing generally parallel to the Irrawaddy. By this project it is hoped that many hundred square miles of country now more or less flooded will be protected from inundation, thus leading to a great development of cultivation and consequent large increase to the revenues of the State.

218. *Rangoon and Prome Road*—In the 1st section, two small culverts were constructed. In the 2nd section £7,950 were spent on 18 miles of earthwork, which is completed throughout the section with the exception of a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Metal has been carted for 9 miles

of the road and quarried for s. Slag ballast is under preparation for 15 miles. Three temporary Bungalows have been constructed. On the 3rd section, £8,440 have been spent, for which the following work has been performed. 11,120,000 of earthwork have been excavated, 26½ miles of roadway have been dressed off, the whole length of the section (40½ miles) has been cleared of jungle, and materials for one bungalow have been collected. The completion of the earthwork in May 1869 was anticipated. On the 4th section £3,400 were expended on dressing and on the collection and preparation of material for the metalling, and the jungle throughout the section (22½ miles long) has been cleared away. The Inspection Bungalow at Zeegoung was being rapidly proceeded with. On the 5th section £870 were spent, principally on metalling and jungle clearing. The alignment of 11 miles of the Prome and Meaday road was proceeded with, £ 1,050 being spent on the earthwork.

On the Pongday and Tahpoon Branch road, £ 1,780 were spent on completing the earthwork and providing 2 miles of metalling through the towns of Pongday and Tahpoon. Manufacture of brick ballast is going on vigorously. The culverts are all completed and the Tahpoon Inspection Bungalow going on well. On the large bridges between Prome and Meaday the outlay has been as follows;—

Engmah.....	£	260
Wetpouk.....	„	810
Naloindeen	„	210

Total... „ 1,280

The Engmah bridge is nearly finished, and the other two bridges are in progress. A temporary bridge was thrown across the Boolay stream on the Meaday road at a cost of £ 510; and another at a cost of £ 240 was put up on the Prome road across the Noweng stream.

A railing costing £ 130 was put against a side cutting on the Rangoon and Prome road. £ 100 were spent on metalling a portion of the Prome and Tonghoop road. About £ 190 were spent on raising a portion of the Prome and Meaday road. £ 210 were spent on raising and metalling a portion of the Rangoon and Prome Road in the Upper Pegu division, and £ 180 on raising a portion of the Tahpoon Branch road.

On the Rangoon and Pegu road, £ 11,600 were expended. With the exception of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the whole of the earthwork is finished, the jungle all cleared away and laterite for metalling 10 miles near Pegu has been quarried.

A 2nd class Bungalow has also been erected at Wannet-kow. £ 930 have been spent on 7 culverts and 1 bridge.

On the Hline Boay (Nyoung Ben Zeik) road, £ 580 were spent for work done in 1867-68. Nothing was done in 1868-69, no funds having been provided in the Budget.

On the 2nd section, Yeh road, £ 1,560 were spent on the construction of laterite piers and abutments for the bridges.

Three brick culverts have been constructed and materials collected. On the Branch Line to Amherst £ 1,740 were spent on bridge work. Five bridges were brought to completion, more or less. The survey of the 3rd section of this road was put in hand and £ 80 were spent. Surveys were also made for the Oim-ba-dat and Kyketo Canal, the Thatone and Zeymeythway road, and for a bridge across the Yeng Ngyan creek.

On the Toungoo and Tantaben road, £ 1,500 were spent in earthwork. The Cholera Camp road was commenced, and for £ 2,190 nearly the whole of the earthwork was completed. A sum of £ 130 was spent on some small works of communication in the station of Myanoung.

219. On the iron Customs Wharf, Rangoon, a sum of £ 190 was spent for painting. The iron Jetty at Bassein is all but finished. The outlay during the year was £ 850. The Jetty at Maulmain was also nearly completed. A small fund was expended on the provision of fenders to the Dallah Dockyard wharf. The clearance of jungle at Diamond Island was proceeded with till the convicts were withdrawn. The outlay was £ 50. The lighthouses on the Krishna Shoal, China Bucker, and Eastern Grove were well advanced, the whole of the framing having been completed. The sum of £ 4,510 was paid on their account. The first named lighthouse was lighted on the 11th June 1869. An experimental screw pile was put down at the Oyster Reef, which proved the feasibility of erecting a lighthouse on the reef. The outlay was £ 270. A small sum was spent on materials required for the out-offices of the Double Island lighthouse.

220. A fully detailed project for the construction of a Railway between Rangoon and Prome was initiated, prepared and submitted by the Chief Engineer, for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner. For a portion of the distance, two alternative lines were proposed, one lying to the West of the Pegu Yoma Range and the other skirting the Western bank of the Hline River. This latter line would also serve as an embankment shutting out the floods of the river to Westward and would form a portion of the general scheme proposed by the Chief Engineer for the reclamation of vast areas of country lying to the East of the Irrawaddy.

The line would be about 166 miles in length and its estimated cost is about £1,500,000. As the whole of the papers are now before the Government of India, it seems unnecessary to say more on the subject at present, especially as the Government of India have not informed the Local Administration of the Province whether it has received their assent, or whether it has been favourably referred to in the despatch to the Secretary of State regarding the extension of the Railway system throughout India.

221. *Rangoon District.*—Kokein road, leading from Rangoon to the Prome Road. A small expenditure of £ 90 was incurred on this road for some small items of work in part of sanctioned estimate. The earthwork and culverts are finished as reported in the previous year, and the road will probably be metalled during 1869-70.

Prome District.—A sum of £ 40, was spent in raising and metalling a road at Shoaydoug to connect the old and new alignment of the Pongday section of the Rangoon and Prome road.

Akyab District.—An outlay of £ 370, was incurred by the Deputy Commissioner on construction of rest houses and bridges on the route between Akyab and the Naf Ferry towards Chittagong. This work has since been transferred to the Executive Engineer for completion by departmental agency.

222. *Akyab.*—In the town and station of Akyab about 1½ miles of municipal roads were metalled at a cost of £ 180, and an expenditure of £ 400 was incurred in constructing new culverts. A drain and over fall on *Point road* was improved and put into proper order at an outlay of £ 75. About one mile of

road in the Shoebya quarter of the town was raised and put into proper section at a cost of £ 140. A sum of £ 40 was expended in finally completing the Main Pier and Foreshore, some additional improvements to the face of the Pier were also effected at a trifling cost.

Ramree.—A small outlay of £ 140 was incurred in carrying out some additions and improvements to the Bazaars at Ramree.

Bassein.—The Talaing-kyoung creek bridge and new public latrines in the town of Bassein were completed during the year. Expenditure on the former amounted to £290, and on the latter work to £ 155.

Bassein District.—New Bazaars have been put in hand at Ngathaing-kyoung, Yaygyeen, Pan au, and Kyoon Pyau. The aggregate expenditure on these buildings during the year amounted to £ 520. They will be completed during 1869-70.

Maulmain.—During the past year all local works in the town of Maulmain have, necessarily, been held in abeyance from want of funds to carry them out.

The Civil and Medical authorities considering it desirable, on sanitary grounds, that the old burial grounds in the town should be closed, a grant of £500 was made (by loan from the 1 per cent Income tax fund) for the purchase of a piece of land for the formation of new burial grounds. £ 430 were also expended on the River face wall and Strand road, principally on account of demands payable for work done during the previous year. This work is at present held in abeyance, there being no funds available for its completion.

Tavoy.—At Tavoy £ 190 were expended on the construction of new masonry culverts on the town roads.

Henzadah.—A new wing Bazaar for general wares has been completed at this station, as also a new Fish and Meat Bazaar. The total outlay on these two buildings has amounted to £2,810, of which £845 were expended during the year under review.

Myanmying.—A new Bazaar has also been in progress at this station, and is well advanced towards completion, the masonry walls having been finished the roof nearly so. A small quantity of work on the latter and the raised platforms

for stalls being all that remains to be done. The outlay during the year was £1,600.

Kyan-gheen.—A very fine Bazaar has been built at this station, the total cost of which has amounted to £2,050, of which amount £390 were expended during the year.

Yaygyeen.—A small outlay of about £ 50 has been incurred on the Bazaar at this station, in providing a mat ceiling, the Bazaar sellers having complained that the occupation of the building was rendered very unpleasant owing to the great heat thrown off from the iron sheets with which the building is roofed.

A sum of £ 30 was also spent in the Myanour division during the year on various other trifling works.

Rangoon.—The expenditure on *new* works in the town of Rangoon has been considerably restricted from want of funds to carry out necessary improvements.

A sum of £ 560 was expended in raising and metalling roads and streets. £1,000 on raising low ground in town blocks. £ 340, in enclosing, raising and draining Fytche square; and £ 2,340, on new masonry drains in Blocks B. I and B. II, the latter work being nearly completed at the close of the year.

The Poozoondoung Floating Jetty has been provided with protective piers at a cost of £ 170.

A Refreshment shed or Bazaar was also erected near the Public offices at a cost of £ 110, which was met by a loan from the 1 per cent Income tax fund; to be eventually repaid from the rents of the stalls.

Thayetmyo.—In the Town of Thayetmyo a sum of £200 was spent on the improvements of street roads, and £130, on the completion of Police guard houses, a Slaughter shed and three wells, which were in progress during the previous year.

Shoaydoug.—An outlay of £130 was incurred during the year on some trifling items of work remaining to be done on the new Bazaar at Shoaydoug which was last year reported to have been completed.

223. The Chief Engineer has lost the services of his able
Establishments. coadjutor, Lieutenant Colonel W. S. Olyphant R. E. by his departure on furlough.

Lieutenant Colonel D. Briggs, B. S. C. took up the office of Superintending Engineer in February last.

The services of the following officers are favourably noticed:—

Mr. J. H. HARDING, Controller, 3rd Class, 1st grade, British Burma.			
Capt. E. J. L. TWYNAM, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, Prome Division.			
Mr J. BENNETT,	"	"	2nd "
Rangoon Town Division.			
Lieut. W. P. TOMKINS, R. E.	"	"	3rd "
Garrison.			
Mr. W. H. DUNN,	"	"	4th "
Upper Pegu Roads.			
Mr. J. M. ALGIE, Offg.	"	"	4th "
Arakan			

Forests.

224. Girdling work has been carried on during the dry season of 1868-69, in the following divisions as laid down in table 3 of the Revised working Plan.

The Forests selected and number of trees girdled, are:—

	<i>Forest.</i>	<i>No. of trees girdled.</i>
Rangoon division... Thoungzai.....		2025
Tharrawaddie " ... Shoaylay and Bwet.....		5085
Sittoung " ... Myehla.....		2011
Salween " ... Lower Thoungyeen.....		2000
Prome " ... Choungzouk.....		1000
	Total ...	<u>12,071</u>

or 71 trees in excess of the number fixed.

Valuation Surveys were held by the officers supervising the girdling operations in the above mentioned Forest tracts except the Lower Thoungyeen. In addition to these, the Conservator held valuation surveys 15 in number during his tour, and revised the girdling work in the Lower Thoungyeen. The total area over which these surveys were held, is 4831.5 acres.

Forest topographical surveys have been made of the Myohla Forest, Sittoung division.

Part of the Shouyay Forest, Tharrawaddie division.

"	"	Mokha	"	"	"
"	"	Theungzai	"	Rangoon	"
"	"	Choungzouk	"	Prome	"

In the Sittoung Division the tracts proposed last year for Reservation, viz :—

	ACRES	A.	P.
Kanee.....	437	—2	—7
Thoukyaghat.....	3519	—15	—7

Total 3957—2—2 or 6.18 sq. miles.

have been favorably reported on by the Deputy Commissioner, and orders are shortly expected from the Local Government for their final demarcation as state Forests.

In the Rangoon Division the small block selected at Kye-kpyoogan of 205 acres, 2 annas and 6 pies, has since been increased to an area of 1753 acres, 10 annas and 8 pies or 2.74 sq. miles. Application has been made to Government for the additional area, and as the Commissioner of Pegu has reported favourably on the application, its transfer to the Forest Department will doubtless, shortly take place.

The reservation of the following tracts in the Tharrawaddie division, has been favourably reported on by the Civil District Officers and the Commissioner of Pegu, and final orders for their demarcation are about to be solicited.

Baber District	1	Choungwah Forest...	1 1624 sq. miles
Mimboo District.	2	Gwaydouksan.....	2.04
	3	Thitcho.....	2.21
	4	Lower Pyahgyee.....	0.8952
	5	Upper do.	1.626
	6	Lower Tapan	1.0544
Toungnyo District.	7	Upper do.	1.5857
	8	Toungnyo Hill.....	5.5
	9	Nyanlay.....	9.125
Prome District.	10	Payzingay	2
	11	Kanee	1
	12	Bwet Choung	4.51
	13	Upper Padingben...	8.75
	14	Lower do. ...	8.74
	15	Shaboung	3.48

37-6377 Sq. Miles

In the Salween division the following tracts have been preliminarily demarcated, surveyed and mapped.

Yonzaleen District.	}	1. Sinzway-Choung.....	14 Sq. Miles.
		2. Mochoung.....	6 „
		3. Wahmoo-Choung.....	2½ „
			22½ Sq. Miles.

225. **Blasting operations** have been carried on in the following localities :—

Shoaylay Forest	Tharrawaddie division...
Koonoung „	Sittoung..... „
Western „	Prome „

226. **Every attention** has been paid to this important work during the past year.

The total area cleared and now being brought under teak cultivation at Kyekpyoogan, in the Rangoon division is 130 acres. An addition of 180 acres has been made to the Pyoon-Choung Thoukyaghat plantation in the Sittoung division. The Queaymakeing plantation of the Tharrawaddie division has been extended by an additional clearing of about 100 acres, specific details regarding which, have not yet come to hand.

227. During the year 188 plants brought over from Ootacumund, Madras Presidency, were successfully planted out;—according to latest accounts the surviving plants 168 in number are progressing satisfactorily.

228. The following is the outturn of timber from Government Forests :—

Yield of the Forests in British Territory.

Brought down by Permit Holders.

	Logs.
Prome East and West	10,620
Rangoon Divison	1,131
Sittoung „	11,861
Salween „	18,171
	41,783

Brought down by Government Agency.

From the Tharrawaddie Division ...	16,955	
Sleepers „ ...	3,318	
From the Rangoon Division ...	3,975	24,248
Drift and Miscellaneous timber....		3,704

Total 69,785

229. It will be observe that the outturn of the Government Agency is upw r s of 7,000 logs in excess of 1867-68, owing chiefly to the ncaped timber of the former year forming a portion of the above figure. The Southern Forest having lapsed to Government last season contracts were immediately entered into, and 1,648 logs brought out: the outturn of timber by Permit Holders continues to be satisfactory.

Permit Holders.

230. No progress can be recorded under this head. The stock in hand is large but there is no demand for this class of timber. When once reduced to this size, that is, 10 feet lengths, timber is utterly worthless in the market, and unless sold as Sleepers yield no adequate return for their cost.

Sleepers.

231. 37 Eleph nts have been purchased for contractors costing £4,573. With the Southern Forest thrown on our hands, the number of Contractors has increased. There is no reason to deprecate any enlarged expenditure under this he as it is always returned by the Contractors, and bears interest at 10 per cent per annum.

Elephanta,

232. Timber imported from Foreign Territory is as follows :—

Foreign Timber,

	LOGS.	PIECES.
Sittoung	8,589	2,301
Irrawaddie	9,570	20,053
Salween	88,882	"
TOTAL	106,991	22,354

233. The receipts of the Department are, as given in sub-joined statement:—

Financial.

Heads.	Kadoe.	Home or Forests.	Total.
	£	£	£
I.—Sale of timber brought out by Govt. Agency...	.....	28,163	28,163
II.—Sale of timber to permit holders.....	.....	26,522	26,522
III.—Duty on Foreign timber.....	21,400	.....	21,400
IV.—Permit Fees.....	.....	2,189	2,189
V.—Grazing dues.....	.....	.....	.....
VI.—Sale of fruits.....	.....	.....	.....
VII.—Sale of confiscated drift and Waif timber.	.....	1,844	1,844
VIII.—Fines and forfeitures.	.....	104	104
IX.—Miscellaneous Receipts.	.....	1,569	1,569
Total Receipts...	21,400	60,391	81,791

The charges during the year 1868-69, are:—

Conservancy and working £32,334
 Establishment..... „ 9,978

Total... „ 42,312

or £6,133 in excess of the Budget caused by increased expenditure on a larger outturn of timber than was contemplated, heavy part payments on timber of 1869-70, and purchase of elephants.

Under establishments the expenditure has been £9,978 or a saving of £1,541.

The expenditure may be thus divided:—

HOME OR FORESTS

Conservancy and working . £31,208
 Establishments „ 6,878
 40,076

KADOE.

Maintenance „ 1,131
 Establishment..... „ 1,105
 2,236

£42,312

showing a surplus of Receipts over charges of £39,431.

Omitting the net Revenue on Foreign timber we have a clear cash surplus of "Forest or Home".

Revenue of ————£20,171 which is in excess of 1867-68; more than £15,000 in excess of 1866-67, but still falls short of 1865-66.

To this net Revenue, however must be added the following items not yet collected but which belong to the year under review.

Permit Revenue due on timber worked out in 1868-69, but not yet recovered.....	£	6,522
Value of 30 elephants in excess of 1867-68.....	"	3,706
Difference of value of stock of 1868-69, as compared with 1867-68.....	"	11,894
Value of timber sold by Public Auction at Rangoon, at end of March, to be credited in 1869-70.....	"	1,515
Total of assets of 1868-69...	"	23,639
The total surplus of 1868-69, on account of Forests is.....	£	48,910
Kadoe or Foreign.....	"	19,164
or a total of.....	"	62,974

in favor of the Department.

The Budget estimate of Receipts as accepted by Government was	"	69,760
Charges.....	"	86,180
Estimated Surplus...	"	33,580

The actuals are		
Receipts.....	"	81,648
Charges.....	"	42,813
Surplus.....	"	39,335

It will be apparent, therefore, that while there has been expenditure in excess of the Budget grants it has been more than compensated for by the increased Receipts of the year.

234. During the year under review only two matters of General special interest have to be noticed.

Dr. Schlich Deputy Conservator in charge Rangoon division, was deputed during the dry season to examine and report upon the Pynkadoe Forests of Arakan. He did not return from this arduous duty until the 14th April 1869. His report is awaited with much interest.

The Executive establishment has been increased under the terms of Government Resolution No. 449-9 F dated 28th

December 1868, by the nomination of two Sub-assistant Conservators, Messrs. P. Aylmer and M. Nightingale who arrived at Rangoon in February 1869.

The thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due to Captain *Services of Officers.* Seaton the Conservator of Forests, to Lieutenant Stenhouse, Mr. Slym and Dr. Schlich.

D. Agriculture.

235. The principal crop is rice of which there were 1,667,262 acres, less than last year when 1,682,110 acres were returned as under rice cultivation. It was in Akyab, Sandoway, Amherst and Mergui that the decrease took place. The area under "Toungya", or hill garden cultivation is returned at 51,352 acres, but as the area of Toungya, is never measured this can only be accepted as approximate and how nearly approximate it is impossible to say. The area of land on which mixed fruit trees were grown was 50,249 acres against 45,106 acres in 1867-68, and mixed cultivation other than fruit trees covered 35,156 acres against 26,627 acres last year. No less than 21,646 acres were cultivated with Dhunnee, the Nipa-palm, the leaves of which are used for thatching houses, and from the stems of which a toddy is obtained; this is very little more than last year. Vegetables were cultivated on 13,736 acres mainly in the Myanoung, Prome and Amherst districts, and Plantains were grown on 12,768 acres of which not one was in Sandoway. In the Akyab District alone chillies cover 2,104 acres; betel-nut is grown, in Amherst and Shwè-gyeen. Tobacco is grown specially in Prome, but very excellent tobacco is produced in Arakan. In Sandoway there were 25 acres of Mulberries, which apparently are not grown elsewhere, though silk is made in Prome. In Akyab there are 100 acres on which tea is grown,—the Kolapansang estate—and the tea obtained there is very good. There is a very small amount of indigo cultivation, 133 acres, in Akyab, Ramree, Sandoway and Myanoung; oil seeds are, according to the returns, cultivated mainly in the Myanoung district, but there is a good deal of Sessamum grown in the Shwè-gyeen district, and sent down the Beeling River, and the Dondamee Stream to the Salween, and Maingmain.

236. The number of cows and bullocks increased from 388,190 to 419,887, and this notwithstanding the murrain. In Akyab where the disease was worst they decreased

from 82,470 to 81,060, and in Toungoo also the number diminished, but they increased everywhere else especially in Prome where they were 110,651 in 1867-68 and 132,642 in 1868-69 such an enormous increase as this appears to be almost impossible, and would lead to the idea that there must be some inaccuracy in the Returns of this year or of last. The number of ponies also increased slightly. The number of ploughs increased by about 3,000, but the number of boats decreased. The buffaloes suffered in the same way as the cows and bullocks, and the murrain considerably reduced their number; in Akyab alone they diminished from 82,710 to 47,117.

Rates of Rent and Produce. 237. The most fertile land appears to be in the Myanounng, Prome, Toungoo and Sandoway Districts, where the average yield of rice per acre is said to be lbs. 2,500.

E. Prices of Produce and Labour at the end of the year.

Produce. 238. The average price of rice has fallen from 4s. 10^d. for 80 lbs. to 4s. 4^d., the price of cotton, however, has risen from 12s. 4^d. to 16s. 5^d. The price of wheat also has risen from 6s. to 10s. In short with one or two exceptions everything has become much dearer. The average price of a buffalo has gone up from £ 6-8-0 to £ 6-18-6, and the value of teak timber has increased by 5s. a ton, as at the end of the year its average cost was £ 4-14-6. In Maitmain it was as high as £ 5 a ton.

Labour. 239. The price of labour has varied but very little; the wages of skilled workmen is as high as 4s. a day in Akyab and Toungoo, and as low as 1s. 4^d. in Shwè-gyeen. Unskilled labour is nearly the same everywhere; in Rangoon it is about 2s. a day, but the average is from 1s. to 1s. 6^d.

F. Mines and Quarries.

Mines and Quarries. 240. The only Mines of any importance in the Provinces are the Tin Mines in the Mergui District, worked by Chinese; of which there are 6, one at Malwood, one at Tenasserim, one at Lanya, one at Boklyn, one at Hkyoung Tanoung, and one at Hkyoukyee Hkyoung. The out-turn during the year, was

106,691 pounds, valued at £ 3,465. Tin is obtainable almost every where in the Mergui District, but the most productive mines are to be found in the townships of Malwoon, Tenasserim, and Lenya, Malwoon being the richest of the three. The Malwoon mines have been farmed out to a Chinaman for ten years, at an annual rent of £ 272; the lease expires in June 1870. It is expected that an English Company will be started to work the tin mines in Mergui, if liberal inducements offer. Coal and Lime are also obtainable in Tenasserim and Lenya; and white marble in the various islands in the Mergui Archipelago, but none of these are sought for, nor worked. There is no doubt that Mergui is the richest district for minerals throughout British Burma, and tin mines would be very remunerative if properly worked; but as yet, excepting the Chinese, no speculative people have entered the field.

The mineral resources of the Shwè-Gyeen district are of a comparatively limited nature, and the geological features of the country rather

Mineral Resources of the Shwè-Gyeen district.

difficult to contend with—Copper, Galena, Tin, Iron, and Antimony ores exist in this district. Coal is also to be found but of an inferior quality—Iron was formerly obtained in large quantities at a spot on the Toungoo road, 10 miles north of Shwè-Gyeen, but the mines were given up, on account of large importations of this metal from Europe—Gold is washed for in the Shwè-Gyeen river, and its tributaries. About 10 years ago, the Burmese used to wash for gold, but the results were not found to pay. Last year, a Mr. Abernethy, an Australian Gold-digger, was induced to come and try his fortune; he examined the alluvial deposits found in the various streams, which traverse the Shwè-Gyeen district. Assisted by Government, he went to work earnestly, and penetrated further than the Chinese miners generally worked; but to his great disappointment found nothing sufficiently remunerative to reimburse a European labourer. He however left the district with an impression, that Gold existed in large quantities below his workings.

G. Manufactures.

241. The principal Manufactures in British Burma are silks—putsoes and thamines, that is waistcloths for men and petticoats for women, which are woven in Arakan and Tenasserim, and in the Prame district of Pegu, at Prame and Shwedoung on the

bank of the Irrawaddy 9 or 10 miles south of Prome, and here also cotton goods and twist are made. In the Prome district very good lacquered ware is manufactured, lac-cane and bamboo work being covered with a red and yellow or black and yellow lacquer. The markets for these articles are mainly in Arakan, Tenasserim and the Straits Settlements. Cutch is extracted in the Prome district, and is exported to Bengal and to Europe.

Trade.

242. The total value of the trade of this Province during 1868-69, was £10,658,688 against £9,950,987 in 1867-68, an increase of 7.11 per cent. The *Seaborne* trade of the former year amounted to £8,544,183 of the latter to £7,405,838 an increment equal to 15.37 per cent, and the *Inland* commerce of Pegu was of the value of £2,114,504 in 1868-69, against £2,545,149 in 1867-68, a decrease to the extent of 16.92 per cent. The exports seawards amounted to £4,447,718 of which Merchandize was of the value of £3,666,720 and Treasure £780,997, whilst those of the previous year were £3,281,517, Merchandize being £2,777,775 and Treasure £503,742; the percentage increase on the aggregate was, therefore, 33.53 in favour of 1868-69, the Merchandize shewing an improvement to the extent of 32 per cent, and the Treasure of 55.03 per cent. The *Seaborne* Imports were of the value of £4,096,465 in 1868-69, Merchandize being £3,150,007 Treasure £946,457 and in 1867-68, £4,124,320 of which Merchandize amounted to £3,089,177 and Treasure to £1,035,143; these figures show a slight falling off of .67 per cent in the gross import trade which was due to a much smaller importation of Treasure, the Merchandize exhibiting an increase of 1.96 per cent and the Treasure a decrease of 8.56 per cent.

Countries with which Trade was carried on.

243. The following table shows the countries with which the Seaborne trade was carried on during the last two years:—

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS.		IMPORTS.	
	1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,270,111	2,151,972	848,152	1,031,131
France	9,737	25,059	...	235
Other countries				
in Europe... ..	42,914	66,340	45,455	11,605
United States	16,257	8,071	...	16,291
Mauritius	8,633	3,080	7	353
Aden ... ..	...	...	90	846
Ceylon	30,625	17,379	10,187	6,234
Straits	164,227	179,392	354,105	293,199
China	9,092	...	255	...
Siam... ..	6,030	3,731	7,953	6,552
Other countries in Asia	...	...	2,805	...
Australia ... ..	...	...	...	4,854
Nicobars... ..	945	2,175	11,540	13,019
Indian Ports	1,127,911	1,458,408	2,389,743	2,082,715
Provincial Ports.	595,035	532,111	454,028	629,431
Grand Total £	3,281,517	4,447,718	4,124,320	4,096,465

The Exports to Foreign countries in 1867-68 were of the value of £1,557,627 or 47.46 per cent of the aggregate, and the coasting trade £1,723,890 or 52.55 per cent. In 1868-69 the export trade with Foreign countries had increased to £2,455,023, equivalent to 55.20 per cent of the gross, and the coasting trade to £1,992,694 or 44.80 per cent. During the first named year the Imports from Foreign ports amounted to £1,269,009 or 30.77 per cent and from the coast to £2,855,811 or 69.23 per cent, and in 1868-69 the Foreign import trade was of the value of £1,371,299 or 33.48 per cent and the coasting trade £2,725,165 or 66.52 per cent. The percentage of the coasting trade in Imports appears very large but is accounted for by the fact that over one third of the Piece goods and Twist and Yarn brought into the Province comes *via* Calcutta, and Madras and that almost all the specie imported is from the coast, a large trade is also carried on with India in Gummies, Betel-nut and Tobacco. With regard to exports it may be stated that a large coasting trade is carried on in Cutch, Rice,

and Timber, a very large quantity of the latter being required every year for the Indian Railways, and that all the Treasure exported, with the exception of about £10,000 in 1868-69, and £ 27,500 in 1867-68, was shipped to the coast ports.

244. Of the gross Seaborne Exports, ARAKAN furnished £ 761,724 PEGU, £ 2,772,829, and TENASSERIM £ 913,174. The increase in the

Seaborne Exports.

value of exports from the Ports of the first named Division is £ 291,520 or 62 per cent, which is made up by an increment in *Rice* £ 92,500, *Miscellaneous* £ 10,250, and *Treasure* £ 185,000, the improvement in *Merchandies* was thus only £ 105,000 and that mainly owing to the paucity of ships in the preceding year, in consequence of which a large quantity of *Rice* had to be held over until freights became reduced. There has, therefore, been but little real progress in ARAKAN during the year just closed. From PEGU the exports increased by £ 644,455 or 30.27 per cent, the principal increase being in *Cotton*, *Cutch*, *Petroleum*, *Rice* (husked and unhusked), *Precious Stones* and *Treasure*, the latter to the extent of 4.28 per cent. TENASSERIM shows a very considerable improvement in its export trade the increase being £ 230,226 or 25.73 per cent, exclusively in *Timber*, the other articles being pretty evenly balanced, some showing a slight increase others a like decrease. It is gratifying to observe that the staple of the trade of Maulmain has increased to such an extent during the last year, and it is to be hoped that better days are dawning on that town whose commerce has been in a state of great depression for a considerable period. The declared price of the *Timber*, too, has increased some 6 shillings per ton, which is a matter for further congratulation, as there is every reason to believe that a *bona fide* and not a mere speculative business has been carried on.

245. Among the principal items of export *Copper* fell from

Principal Items of Export.

Mds. 1,016, £ 2,642 in 1867-68, to Mds. 858 and £ 2,064 in 1868-69, owing to the non-arrival of the usual caravans with the produce of Yunan; *Raw opium* increased to Mds. 48,927 and £ 75,053, the market in England having been in a favorable state; *Cutch* increased by Mds. 80,938 and £ 58,037 due in a certain measure to a more extensive manufacture within British territory, but mainly to the abolition of the *Jade Stones* increased from Mds. 4,355 and £ 86,405, to Mds.

5,916 and £ 42,237 also owing to exemption from taxation; *Petroleum* increased considerably, the trade being almost exclusively a coasting one as the product has been driven out of the European markets by the American oils and the produce of Great Britain itself; *Rice* (husked and unhusked) increased to the extent of 36.67 per cent, but it is probable, unfortunately, that shippers to Europe will lose heavily on their transactions, for with this large increase prices in the Local market were quite equal to, if not in excess of, the range in the preceding year. But it must not be overlooked that the shipments for the year which ended on the 31st March 1868, were considerably less than they otherwise would have been owing to the want of Vessels which was experienced, particularly at Akyab and Bassein, and that the exports for 1868-69 were in consequence greater. The total quantity exported during the year was 446,109 tons of which the Home Ports took 44,761 tons, the Foreign Ports 400,619 tons and the British Burma Ports including the Andamians 729 tons. In the previous year the shipments aggregated 325,917 tons—Home Ports 56,081 tons, Foreign 268,802 tons, Provincial 1,034 tons. Of the quantity shipped in 1868-69, ARAKAN furnished 111,192 tons, PEGU 305,059 tons and TENASSERIM 29,858 tons and of that exported in 1867-68, there were shipped from ARAKAN 97,876 tons, PEGU 200,302 tons, TENASSERIM 27,739 tons. The increase in ARAKAN has not equalled the expectations formed when framing the Report for the preceding year, for a very large quantity of rice, which but for the absence of Vessels and the high freights which consequently prevailed in the season of 1867-68 would have been shipped within that official year, was shipped in the following one: this quantity was estimated at 25,000, tons and, presuming that this was not in excess of the tonnage actually in stock, there has been a considerable decrease in the quantity exported from the Division. The falling off is accounted for by a less quantity of land having been under cultivation in consequence of the heavy loss in Cattle by murrain which took place in 1867, and by the very serious damage done to the Crops by the disastrous Cyclone which swept along the Coasts of the Division in November 1868. From PEGU the increment in the seaborne trade is very large, and is due in a measure to a paucity of tonnage in the season of 1867-68, but mainly to a very excellent harvest, the quantity of grain being much in excess of the previous year and the quality

superior. TENASSERIM is not a large rice producing country and the trade in grain is comparatively small. The small decrease in value shewn is said to be owing to a falling off in the demand for the Coast of India. The shipments of *Timber* were somewhat in excess of the previous year in ARAKAN, and slightly less in tonnage in Pegu, but in TENASSERIM the increase was no less than tons 36,308 or 58.10 per cent with augmented prices. The gross tonnage shipped during the year was 118,972 of which the Home Ports took tons 74,344 the provincial ports tons 3,499 and Foreign ports tons 40,229.

246. The total value of Seaborne Imports during the year was £ 4,096,465 being a slight decrease as compared with the previous year. The value of Imports into the

Seaborne Imports.

ARAKAN Division was £573,309 against £729,302 in 1867-68, into PEGU £2,785,255 against £2,689,063 and into TENASSERIM £737,901 against £705,956. It will be observed that there was a decrease in the first named Division of no less than £ 155,994 of which about £ 112,500 were in *Treasure*, and the remainder in *Merchandize*, chiefly in Twist and Piece Goods. This latter is no doubt owing to the impoverished state of the people through the heavy losses, among their farm stock by murrain, and the devastation made among their crops by the Cyclone of last November and subsequent unseasonable rains. The ravages of Cholera, also, to a certain extent affected the Commerce of the Division especially in the Akyab District. PEGU shews an increase on the aggregate of the year to that of the previous year of £96,193—the decrease on *Treasure* being £34,066 the increment on *Merchandize* £130,259. In addition to this, however, there were goods bonded on the 1st of April 1869 in Rangoon of the estimated value of £190,000. The principal articles of *Merchandize* which exhibit an improvement are Betel-nut, Twist, Crockery, Cutlery, Hardware, and Piece Goods, whilst Raw Silk, *Timber* and Miscellaneous show a considerable decline. TENASSERIM also displays an increase of £31,945, but there was a falling off in the value of *Merchandize* imported, whilst there was a large increase in the amount of *Treasure* received into the Division, entirely on account of Government, the figures for 1868-69 being *Merchandize* £494,764, *Treasure* £243,138, and for 1867-68 *Merchandize* £519,569, and *Treasure* £186,388.

The chief decrease in Merchandize was in Twist and Piece Goods and is attributed to an overstocked market, very heavy imports having been made in 1867-68. A very large importation of Salt from England and the Continent of Europe was made into PEGU during the year which found a pretty ready market at prices which have no doubt paid the importers, but which are very much below those hitherto realized for the Salt manufactured in this Province. It yet remains to be seen whether the population generally will become consumers of *Foreign Salt*, but should they do so, and the difference in price in favor of the imported article will certainly be an inducement to them, the local manufacture will be greatly reduced, and probably in course of time be almost extinguished as it has been along the seaboard of Bengal, but this will not be a matter for regret, for although the salt manufacturers may for a time be distressed, they will soon find abundant means of utilizing their labour in this sparsely populated country, and in the end perhaps, find the land a more profitable investment for their toil than the sea. But independently of this a new and important source of freight will be opened up for ships which now come to the Ports of British Burma in ballast to load with Rice, and if this should lead to even a slightly diminished rate of freight for Rice, the staple of British Burma would be placed in a better position to compete with the product of Cochin China, and Siam.

247. No goods were declared through the Rangoon Custom House for Export to territories beyond Upper Burma during the year 1868-69, but for Upper Burma itself,

Treaty Goods.

there was a very large increase in the goods cleared through at 1 per cent duty as stipulated by the Treaty. The total value was £ 52,438, against £ 5,012, in 1867-68 and consisted of:—

Cotton Piece Goods.....	£	24,460
Silk do.....	"	6,184
Raw Silk.....	"	5,769
Woollen Piece Goods.....	"	4,757
Cotton Twist and Yarn.....	"	5,280
Spirits and Wines.....	"	489
Salt (Europe).....	"	685
Sundries.....	"	4,564

Total £...52,438

This amount, however, forms but a very small proportion of the actual trade in the Articles quoted carried on with the countries beyond our Frontier, and it may be expected that as Agencies of European Houses become established in Mandalay the quantities of goods entered for direct exportation to Upper Burma will rapidly increase.

248. The amount of Customs Dues realized during the year was £287,259, being £88,065 in excess of the realizations in the preceding year, and £ 83,393 over the largest amount previously recorded—in 1864-65 when the duty collected aggregated £203,866. Some portion of this increase is due to a larger quantity of Piece Goods, &c. having been imported direct from Europe into Rangoon during 1868-69 than in 1867-68, but the increase is mainly due to the extra duty of one anna per maund levied on Rice.

249. No particulars of the Ships which conveyed the Commerce of the ARAKAN Division have been furnished, but the following tables contain a comparative statement of the number of vessels with their tonnage which entered into, and cleared from the Ports of PEGU, and the Chief Port of TENASERIM during the year of review and the preceding one.

ENTERED.

PORTS.	1867-68.		1868-69.		INCREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Rangoon.....	599	246,854	792	347,775	193	100,921
Bassein.....	83	26,184	118	55,457	35	29,273
Maulmain.....	419	114,649	535	168,339	116	53,690
Total...	1,101	387,687	1,445	571,571	344	183,884

CLEARED.

PORTS.	1867-68.		1868-69.		INCREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Rangoon.....	592	261,416	774	331,793	182	70,377
Bassein.....	98	33,749	106	47,077	8	13,328
Maulmain.....	479	132,28	592	167,510	113	34,833
Total...	1,169	427,793	1,472	546,380	303	118,587

250. The trade with Upper Burma and the Shan States through Thayetmyo and Toungoo has shewn a great falling off in the year 1868-69 as compared with 1867-68, the EXPORTS having been of the value of £1,232,407 in the former year against £1,478,117 in the latter, and the Imports £882,097 and £1,067,031 respectively. This decrease, great as it is, does not, however, imply that the Commerce carried on with the countries beyond our frontier is declining, for although the value is less by about £430,000 than the total of the preceding year, it is still much in excess of previous years, and about £500,000 above the average of the 5 years immediately anterior, in which is included the large aggregate of 1867-68. The last named year was without doubt an exceptional one, and the increase shewn in that year over 1866-67 was not only unprecedented, but also abnormal. Upper Burma had just recovered from the rebellion which had been devastating its territory for some time, and its population required more than the usual supply of goods of European manufacture, whilst owing to the disturbed state of the country and consequent paucity of cultivation, a large quantity of *Rice* was called for, and in this article alone there is a decrease of £180,000 in value out of the gross decrease of £245,000 on Exports. Then with regard to Imports, there can be no doubt but that produce accumulated in the hands of the people during 1866, awaiting a favorable opportunity for its despatch, and that immediately the country became settled every means was adopted for speedily bringing it to market. This is exemplified by the great increment in Raw Cotton, Cutch, Jaggery and Molasses, Lacquered-ware, Cotton piece goods of native manufacture, Sessamum Oil, Tea, and Miscellaneous Articles, the latter especially having been enormously increased by remittances of Specie for Rice and Piece goods. But some portion of the increase in Exports during 1867-68 must be attributed to the impetus given to trade by the reduction of the duty on the part of the Burmese Government to five per cent *ad valorem* which, unfortunately, was not met by an equal demand, and the consequence was that there was a decrease in all articles of Exports during 1868-69 with the exception of *Crackery-ware*, *Woollen piece goods* and *Miscellaneous*. In Imports too there was a general decrease, the exceptions being *Cotton*, *Gram*, *Orpiment*, *Sessamum Oil*, *Timber* and *Wheat*, but this decrease after allowing for a much

smaller quantity of Specie having been sent down from Upper Burma, is mainly due to goods of European manufacture, and of the manufacture of the people of British Burma, successfully competing with Goods from beyond the frontier, the former being especially shewn in a decrease of £70,000 in the value of Cotton and Silk piece goods imported from Upper Burma, the latter in the falling off in the importation of Lacquered ware and Cutch.

The following table shows the proportion of trade carried on at each of the frontier Stations in 1868-69 as compared with 1867-68.

PLACES.	YEARS.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	TOTAL.
		£.	£.	£.
Thayetmyo.	1867-68.	1,382,307	980,984	2,363,291
	1868-69.	1,154,205	801,083	1,955,288
Toungoo.	1867-68.	95,811	86,047	181,858
	1868-69.	78,203	81,014	159,217

251. The Chief Commissioner begs to acknowledge the services of the following officers:—Mr. Edwards and Mr. W. Twenlow.

Services of officers.

Charitable Institutions.

252. The number of Dispensaries in this Province is 15 all of which receive direct support from Government.

Number of Dispensaries

253. A branch Dispensary at Akyab was so much damaged by a Cyclone that visited that place that it was found necessary to close it and it has only lately been re-opened.

Position of the Dispensaries and considerations regarding their future extension

A Dispensary is established at each Head Quarter Station of a District, and one at Henzadah one of the largest towns in British Burma.

They have hitherto been principally dependent on the aid received from Government but it is hoped that with the advance of wealth and enlightenment they will gradually become self-supporting.

At present though confidence in European science is undoubtedly on the increase there has not been that liberality shewn towards these Institutions by the native community as would induce the Local Government to recommend any extension to the number as yet.

The value of scientific surgical aid is more thoroughly appreciated by the Burmese than the other branches of medical science, and in those Districts where the Dispensaries have been established for any length of time the cases brought in for surgical treatment are in proportion far in excess of the others.

254. During the year the 14 Dispensaries have treated 35,665 patients or 1.07 per cent of the population, The number treated in 1867 was 30,840.

Number of persons treated during the year.

As no new Dispensary was opened during the year this increase in the number of patients may be looked upon as a sure sign of the increasing popularity of these Institutions and although the number of persons treated is still small in a population of 2,404,000 souls we may fairly hope that their influence is gradually and surely extending.

255. There is one measure which it is most desirable before long to introduce into this Province, and which would help more than in any other

Medical College.

way to popularize Charitable Institutions, that is the establishment of a Medical College where a knowledge of the elements of Medical science might be made attainable to Natives of the country. At present the entire staff of the several Dispensaries is composed of Natives of India, and with a difference in caste, creed and language, it is impossible to expect that the benefits of scientific medicine will be demonstrated and brought home to the people in the way that they would be if administered by means of native agency. There is every reason to believe that with Burmese who are entirely free from all caste feelings and prejudices the profession of medicine would be both taking and popular, and any opening to the attainment of such would be eagerly seized upon.

256. Four Lock Hospitals were sanctioned by Government for the following places:—

Lock Hospitals

Rangoon.

Maulmain.

Akyab.

Bassein.

The large floating population at the sea port towns has made the necessity for these institutions apparent, for some time past, and more particularly in Rangoon where the magnitude of the evil to be combated is most severely felt.

257. A Lunatic asylum has also been sanctioned and is in course of completion at Rangoon.

Lunatic Asylum

258. The following statement shows the receipts and charges on account of the several Dispensaries during the year:—

Receipts and charges.	Akyab.	Ramree.	Sandoway.	Rangoon.	Bassain.	Myanong.	Henzadah.	Prome.	Thayemyo.	Tongoo.	Maubin.	Shwegyen.	Tavoy.	Mergui.	Grand Total.
Balance in hand at commencement of the year.	£. 342	£. 18	£. 12	£. 451	£. 129	£. 90	£.	£. 62	£. 77	£. 358	£. 511	£. 56	£.	£.	£. 2,106
Contributors,	236	176	3	83	108	57	31	46	28	48	153	20	19	19	1,008
Receipts from Patients,	88	.....	.....	294	51	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	255	3	1	.....	694
Government Contributions,	340	48	48	1,354	80	63	63	66	72	36	221	165	36	103	2,695
All other Sources of Income, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	8	5	.....	.....	.....	17
Total Receipts	1,006	242	63	2,182	370	214	94	174	177	450	1,145	244	56	103	6,520
Total Charges,	669	191	54	1,808	120	95	63	67	72	36	643	184	46	103	4,149

The total income of the Dispensaries was £4,414 sterling, of this sum £2,695 represent the government grant. £1,008 were received by donations and subscriptions, and £711 from paying patients and other sources. The balance in hand at the close of the year was £2,371.

259. The general supervision of the Hospitals and Dispensaries has been satisfactory, and the services of the following officers deserve special notice.—Surgeon J. J. Heffernan and Assistant Surgeon B. T. Suffrein.

Services of Officers.

Electric Telegraph.

260. On the 3rd December 1868, the Rangoon office was moved into the new building on the Strand, in which it is to be permanently located. This has proved a great boon to the establishment, who are now provided with excellent quarters. Out-houses are still required, and will shortly be erected.

Offices.

The Maulmain Office was also removed on the 16th September into the quarters provided by Government. The building is a two storied one, the lower floor occupied by the Post office, and the upper by the Telegraph. The accommodation is all that could be desired.

At Myanoung also a new office has been built by Government, into which the Department was moved on the 15th October 1868.

The Superintendent's office has also been provided with rooms in the new Public office buildings at Rangoon, which have been occupied from the 14th May 1868.

By these arrangements, all the offices in the Division have been provided with Government buildings, most of which are permanent. New offices are being built at Thayetmyo and Henzadah. The Shwè-gyeen office is a converted barrack with a thatched roof. It will be necessary to build a permanent office instead. At Toungoo, the office must be thoroughly re-constructed, or a new one built. The latter will probably be, by far, the best plan as the present building is very old.

Lines.

261. The Division is subdivided as follows:—

1st.—Sub-division Rangoon to Henzadah, and Rangoon to Thyethamine, (a village on the Sittoung where the line crosses the river,) length 176 miles. Assistant Superintendent Mr. S. Porter in charge.

2nd.—Sub-division Maulmain to Toungoo, 234 miles. Inspector Mr. P. W. Kingsley in charge.

3rd.—Sub-division Henzadah to Thayetmyo 169 miles, Assistant Superintendent Mr. E. L. McGrath in charge.

Of the above the Rangoon town lines are double for 5½ miles, and also the section Shwè-gyeen to Thyethamine 18 miles; 6½ miles of the line between Padoung and Myanoung is carried on the same posts as the Padoung-Tonghoop section of the Arakan Division.

During the year an entirely new span over the Sittoung at Thyethamine was erected at a narrower part of the river. The Shwè-gyeen Rangoon, and Shwè-gyeen Maulmain lines which crossed the Shwè-gyeen river on separate masts were taken down and a new span erected both wires being supported on the same masts. This span had to be increased by 150 feet in consequence of the right bank of the river having been cut away very much during the previous monsoon. One of the masts of the Tantabin span (7 miles from Toungoo, where the Sittoung is again crossed) had also to be taken down and removed further back, from the same cause, increasing the span by about a hundred feet.

The reconstruction of the section Toungoo to Shwè-gyeen was completed early in the year. The supports were re-distributed at 20 to the mile and the line insulated. No angle insulators were supplied, and as no provision was made in the estimate for subdividing angles, the wire was not placed on the insulators at the very sharp angles. This was done to save the insulators, as it was found that they were not strong enough to bear the strain of No. 1 wire.

The insulation and reconstruction of the Pegu Thyethamine section, has also been completed. The supports are all new, planted at 20 to the mile, fitted with Robinson Insulators in tubular brackets.

The Pegu Rangoon, and Rangoon Henzadah sections are in very bad order. The supports are very old and in most cases quite rotten. For the last three years the reconstruction of these sections has been put off with the view of constructing an entirely new line along the Pegu and Prome roads. It is very necessary that this should be done next year. The Rangoon Henzadah section is in a very precarious state, and it is a difficult matter to keep it working at all.

From Henzadah to Thayetmyo the line will soon have to be thoroughly reconstructed, as nothing but ordinary annual repairs have been done to it for several years.

261-a. The lines in the whole division were interrupted two ^{Interruptions} days longer than during last year. Comparing the working of each section with the previous year the greatest improvement is shewn in the Rangoon Henzadah line.

On the Rangoon Shwè-gyeen and Shwè-gyeen Toungoo sections the interruptions were more numerous. This is accounted for by the fact that when the line was uninsulated a tree falling on it did not necessarily break the wire. The latter was left slack on purpose to avoid this, and the result was that it was carried down to the ground or within a few inches of it under the tree and only drawn taut on either side, no less than 7 trees have been removed in three or four days within 50 miles, from the Toungoo line, not one of which had broken the wire. Every time a line runner was sent out, 3 or 4 trees were found on it. It was mainly by this arrangement that the interruptions on this line were reduced to one-fourth what they were in previous years. The case is quite different now that insulators are used. The wire, when any strain is put on it between two supports, is held firmly by the insulators, the round stalks of the latter allow them to turn slightly out of their proper position and kink the wire, which is only jammed more firmly by this. The result is that the lug of the insulator is torn out and the wire smashed. One or more damaged insulators are found every time the wire is broken.

262. The total amount received was £9,745, an increase ^{Receipts} of £381 over the previous year's receipts.

263. The Burman lads under instruction at the request of the ^{Borneo signallers} King of Burma are not far advanced as yet. One can receive 10 words a minute the other five. They know nothing whatever of Telegraphy beyond signalling and would of course be perfectly useless if left to themselves in an office. Arrangements have been made to instruct them in the connections of an instrument and office, making up batteries &c.

Post Office.

264. With the commencement of the official year 1863-69 ^{Steam Line} a weekly line of Steamers was established between Calcutta and this Province, running *via* Akyab every alternate week, with an extension to the Straits Settlements once in four weeks. The new arrangement has worked very regularly and has given much satisfaction.

Weekly communication with the frontier station of Thayetmyo on the Irrawaddy was also carried on with much regularity by the Steamers of the Flotilla Company. On the other routes the system of communication in force in the previous year were continued with the exception that the service to and from Madras was made a four weekly instead of a monthly one.

265. The number of Covers of all descriptions received into the Post Offices of the Province during 1868-69 was 631,675 against 535,954 during the preceding year, an increase of 17.36 per cent; and the number despatched increased from 541,334 in the latter year to 624,337 in the former, or 15.22 per cent. Of the receipts in 1868-69 there were brought into Arakan letters of all descriptions 53,145, and Books, Parcels, and Newspapers 25,420, into Pegu 317,976 and 115,808 respectively, and into Tenasserim 90,079 and 29,247. The receipts in 1867-68 were in Arakan 46,915 and 21,059, in Pegu 264,163 and 92,260, and in Tenasserim 85,436 and 26,301 respectively. Of the Covers despatched, Arakan contributed Letters &c. 83,664, Books, Parcels &c. 26,373 in 1868-69 against 70,870 of the former and 16,680 of the latter, in 1867-68 Pegu 330,530 and 81,597 against 284,920 and 63,065 and Tenasserim 92,775 and 9,398 against 87,687 and 9,406.

IV. STATISTICS OF INSTRUCTION.

266. There has been but little change during the year. In Rangoon there are two churches for Anglicans, one in the Cantonment and one in the Town, to each of which a Chaplain of the Bengal Presidency is attached. The Cantonment Chaplain also visits Bassein. At Maulmain there is a Chaplain of this branch of the Church, who also visits the Southern Stations of Tavoy and Mergui. At Toungoo and Thayetmyo there are Anglican Chaplains, the first of whom is a Shan, Shwé-gyeen. The stations on the Irrawaddy were formerly visited by the Thayetmyo Chaplain, but this duty is now performed by one of the Missionary priests of the S. P. G. in Rangoon. At Akyab there is a Chaplain belonging to the Church Missionary Society.

The Roman Catholic branch of the Church

mission in this Province presided over by the Right Reverend Bishop Bigandet Vicar Apostolic of Ava and Pegu, and Bishop of Ramatha *in part inf.*

The largest mission of all is that of the American Baptists who have long had a mission in British Burma, but who have made far more progress amongst the simple minded Karens than amongst the more astute Burmans.

B. Education.

267. The Returns of the Education department show 178 schools receiving aid from Government with 5,544 pupils, and an average daily attendance of 4,854. Last year a total of 212 schools (including certain Buddhist monasteries in Rangoon and Maulmain receiving indirect aid from Government in the shape of grants of books, and visited by circuit teachers in pursuance of Sir A. Phayre's scheme for spreading vernacular Education) was reported with an average daily attendance of 5,365 pupils. There has been, therefore, a net decrease of 35 schools and 511 pupils. The main decrease is in the aided village schools, 20 of which have become independent of State aid. The remaining decrease is not fully accounted for and must be attributed to inaccuracy in the Returns for 1867-68 due to the novelty of the department, and to the absence of an adequate agency of inspection. From Table 3 in the note on the state of Education in India in 1866-67, the very meagre appearance in which of the statistics of this Province is mainly due to the fact of the department being then so badly organized, it appears that in no Province, not excluding Hyderabad and Mysore and Coorg is the supervising agency so weak. In the following table is given the estimated Revenue and

Inspecting and
Superintending
Agency.

Charges during 1869-70 of each Province, the total grant for Education, deducting the amount of the grants to the three Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, the amount of these grants allotted to superintendence and inspection, and the strength of the controlling and inspecting agency.

Provinces.	Estimated Revenue.	Estimated Charges.	Grant-in-aid for Education, 1900-1901.				
			Total.	Devoted to the maintenance and improvement of existing schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.	Number of Teachers.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Oudh,	£ 1,667,000	£ 960,180	£ 24,000	£ 6,412	1	12	13
Central Provinces,	1,131,600	1,138,305	20,190	8,767	1	23	23
British Burma,	3,246,800	744,330	11,530	1,500	1	—	1
Bengal,	16,270,740	6,553,300	248,061	31,716	1	32	33
N. W. Provinces,	61,50,000	3,155,200	108,945	31,921	1	107	109
Punjab,	3,642,300	2,508,215	71,305	12,053	1	37	39
Madras,	7,650,700	6,970,430	104,780	19,450	1	25	25
Bombay,	9,511,000	8,900,740	101,722	10,732	1	25	25

and from this it will be seen that even in the Central Provinces, where the expenditure exceeds the revenues, the grant for Education is larger and the controlling agency is numerically 23 times stronger.

268. Of the 178 schools supervised by the Education Department, 2 are English schools of the Higher Class, 22 are Middle Class Anglo-Vernacular schools, 140 are Lower Class or Primary schools, including 31 Buddhist Monasteries, 7 are Normal or Training schools, 6 Female Schools, and one Gaol school. Five only of the whole number are directly maintained by Government; the remainder receive aid under the Grant-in-aid Rules, excepting the Monastic schools, which are indirectly aided by the supply of books and licensed teachers. Of the 272 unaided schools mentioned above 10 are Mission schools—all except two being primary village schools, and 122 are indigenous secular village schools.

The principal progress during the year has been in the Middle Class or Anglo-Vernacular schools, indicating an increasing demand for English education.

The numbers attending the Government schools of the middle class has increased, and seven additional schools are on the list of aided middle class schools.

The following statement shows the number and distribution in each district of the schools supervised by the Education Department and of the pupils attending them:—

DISTRICTS.	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.				PUPILS ATTENDING.			
	Government.	PRIVATE.		Total.	Government Schools.	PRIVATE SCHOOLS.		TOTAL.
		Missionary.	Others.			Missionary.	Others.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rangoon, ...	1*	48	90	69	15	1,581	149	1,745
Bassac, ...	---	49	---	49	---	1,568	---	1,568
Pathe, ...	---	32	---	32	---	349	---	349
Prome, ...	1	5	---	6	63	153	---	216
Toungoo, ...	---	---	---	---	---	374	---	374
Maulmain, ...	1	5	12	20	220	564	148	932
Tavoy, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	45
Mergui, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Shwe-gyee, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Akyab, ...	---	---	---	---	---	275	---	193
Rangoon, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	97
Shan State, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL ...								

From this statement it will be seen how small an extent the initiative has been taken by the Government in carrying out the work of the Education Department. It will be seen that the Government has only a few schools in each district, and that the majority of the schools are private. This shows that the Government has not yet taken any effective steps to improve the education of the people of British Burma.

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Mergui, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Shwe-gyee, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Akyab, ...	---	---	---	---	---	275	---	193
Rangoon, ...	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	97
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TOTAL ...								

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and how unequally the direct agency of Government has been distributed.

A marked contrast is exhibited in the extent to which education has penetrated in the several districts. Those of the Pegu Division show a far more satisfactory return than those of either Arakan or Tenasserim. Sandoway in the former, and in the latter Shwegyeen, Tavoy and Mergui are lamentably behind other districts in the matter of education on which in Mergui and Shwegyeen nothing whatever is being expended by Government.

The large increase in the number of these schools is principally due to the exertions of the Reverend J. E. Marks of the S. P. G. Mission who has established 4 additional schools, 3 on the Irrawaddy and 1 in a crowded suburb of Rangoon, and who has since, with the assistance of H. M. the King of Burma, established a school in Mandalay. It is to be hoped that these schools will flourish as the parent school of the S. P. G. in Rangoon has flourished, and will not languish for want of close personal supervision. The cost of the education given in these schools has satisfactorily diminished from £5-6-0 annually per head to £3-17-9; and the cost to Government from £1-6-0 to £1-1-4.

269. The following Table gives comparative statistics of the aided schools of the lower class.

Number of Institutions.		Number on the rolls at the close of the year		Average daily attendance.		Total Expenditure.	
1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.
181	140	3,258	2,548	.....	.....	1847	.....

Of the 140 schools entered in this statement, 81 are generous monastic schools, and 109 are village schools under Missionary superintendence. The reports of the latter are generally satisfactory and the returns have been compiled with greater accuracy than heretofore, but the information cannot be accurate nor can the schools be expected to produce legitimate results in the absence of all inspection. It also be remembered that they are, with few exceptions, confined to the Karen race and are not affecting the mass of the population.

270. The progress of Female Education has not been very marked during the year, but a promising beginning has been made in several quarters, and the five aided schools reported last year have continued in successful operation.

From the following comparative statement it will be seen that the attendance has considerably increased.

Number of Institutions.		Number on the Rolls at the close of the year.		Average daily attendance.		Total Expenditure.	
1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69
5	6	408	439	298	347	£ 2153	£ 3086

The cost of education is £ 5-14-0 per pupil against £ 8-0-0 last year, and the cost to Government has fallen from £ 2-14-0 to £ 1-19-0.

Two English schools were opened but both were closed during the year: one at Akyab until an efficient mistress could be obtained, and the other at Kyoakphyoo for want of accommodation. Two Vernacular girls schools have been opened in Maulmain in which instruction is given in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and Needlework; and it is very satisfactory to find that such schools, so likely to be highly useful, are popular even when professedly of a Missionary character. At present the daughters of all those who object to the conversion of their children to Christianity, and of these there are not a few, are practically excluded from all education except of the most elementary kind, and this will remain so until undenominational female schools are established. Such education as these schools would give would be the surest method of raising the people to a higher stage of morality than that in which they now are, for there can be no more effectual means of purifying and refining a nation than to elevate the mothers of the future generation.

271. The progress of education has on the whole been retarded by the operations of the opium factory, though no advance was made in carrying out Vernacular instruction owing to the doubts which existed as to whether the plan which had been in force for two years was to be further developed or to be abandoned. Now that it

* Including £ 870 building grant.

has been finally settled that the system of spreading Vernacular Education through the monasteries is to be pushed on, while at the same time the other plan of making greater use of the indigenous village schools is to be carried out as well, the only want is a larger inspecting and controlling staff; and without this little or no progress can be made, until the people have been educated up to that point from which they will realize the value of education for their children, a point which has not been reached amongst the lower classes in England.

An attempt has been made during the year to ensure a better classification of the various schools in the Province than that hitherto obtaining, and the Director has been in communication with the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay on the subject, but the introduction of such standards as are in force in that Presidency must depend upon increased agency of Inspection, and it is to be hoped that additional agency will shortly be sanctioned when a stricter classification will be possible.

272. The following is a comparative Return of the aided schools of the higher class, that is those which teach up to the University entrance examination :—

Higher class schools.

Number of Institutions.		Number on the rolls at the close of the year.		Average daily attendance.		Total Expenditure.	
1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69	1867-68	1868-69
2	2	202	195	176	173	£ 2,024	£ 1,933

Though the number on the rolls has fallen yet the average attendance is comparatively far better.

273. The 4 Government schools which exist in the Province at Akyab, Kyoukphyoo, Prome and Maulmain are all middle class, that is according to the present classification teaching up to a standard below that of the University entrance. The number of pupils on the rolls increased from 512 to 553, but the average attendance fell from 413 to 411. The decrease took place in every school except in that at Maulmain, which under a new Head Master has made considerable progress. The fees collected increased from £417 to £465, also mainly in the Maulmain

Government Schools.

school. The expenditure from Imperial Revenues increased by about £131, the total expenditure increasing from £2,071 to £2,202. The average cost of educating each pupil was rather less this year than last viz: £5-3-0 instead of £5-3-7 about, whilst the cost to Government increased from £4-3-4 to £4-8-4 about. The Maulmain school has made very satisfactory progress, but the Akyab, and Prome schools, especially the latter, have not been well managed.

274. The following is a comparative table of the aided schools of this class:—

Aided Middle class schools.

Number of Institutions.		Number on the roll at the close of the year.		Average daily attendance.		Total Expenditure.	
1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1867-68.	1868-69.
11	18	1,157	1,325	933	1,062	£ 7,143	£ 8,017

275. The thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due to the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. P. Hordern, B. A., for the manner in which he has, under many difficulties, carried out the work of the Department.

C. Scientific and Literary.

276. The only Literary Institution is the Rangoon-Young Men's Literary Society, which receives an annual grant of £30 from Government, and the annual subscriptions to which amount to £48. It has a large lending Library containing many excellent standard works and is of much use in encouraging a taste for sound literature. The class of works which it contains and which are taken out and read is far higher than would be supposed, and it is an institution well worthy of Government support.

277. The number of newspapers published is the same as last year, but one which had formerly a bi-weekly issue has now a daily one. These papers depend almost entirely on their Provincial circulation, and treat mainly of those subjects which affect the Province. The number of books published is small and almost

the whole of them are of a religious nature written and published for missionary purposes; of current vernacular literature there is none.

V. STATISTICS OF LIFE

3. Vaccination.

278. Vaccination has again this year as last been carried out on the Dispensary system than which nothing could well be more unsatisfactory not to say dangerous. As soon as the Native Vaccinator attached to the Dispensary goes out into the district away from the Civil Surgeon, his returns become untrustworthy, and no reliance can be placed in his work, as often or not he inoculates the children brought to him with some vile disease. This has since been remedied and a regular vaccination establishment properly controlled and with a proper system of inspection has been established, but this was not till after the close of 1868-69. The total number of persons vaccinated increased to 10,342 from 8,398, and the successful cases from 7,140 to 8,493; at the same time that the cost of the Dispensary vaccinators fell from £760 to £721; still this is very nearly 2s. a case; indeed in Rangoon it cost £ 30 to vaccinate 30 people of which only 12 were successful operations; and in Sandoway £30 to vaccinate 60 people, the operation succeeding in 40 cases.

Conclusion.

279. Little now remains to be recorded; the examination Rules for Junior Officers of the Commission have been amended, so as to render them more suitable to the circumstances of the Province; and the examinations in Indian History, Jurisprudence and Political economy which qualify for admission to the Staff Corps have been carried out; a commencement has been made in consolidating the Administration of the Province, and in leaving less to individual energies and opinions, and the material progress and the elevation of the people has been fostered.

280. The thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due to his Secretary, now Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Major H. Nelson Davies, and to his Assistant Secretary, now Assistant Commissioner and officiating as Secretary, Lieutenant Horace Ralph Spear-

man for the efficient aid which he has received from them, as also to his Secretary and Assistant Secretary in the Public Works Department, Lieutenant Colonel Fraser, C. B. R. E., and Mr. W. B. Macrone.

Special thanks also are due to Major Sladen, Political Agent at Mandalay for the manner in which he conducted the duties of the Agency at Mandalay, and the tact, discretion and firmness which he shewed when dealing with the Burmese Government; and to Mr. J. C. Davis, Superintendent of Hill Tribes, in Northern Arakan, for his labours in quieting and controlling the tribes placed under his charge, a duty which he has performed with energy and zeal.

Surgeon A. J. Cowie, was appointed Sanitary Commissioner during the year on a Sanitary Department being created. His knowledge of the country, his zeal, and his energy, have been of the greatest service.

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