

REPORT

ON THE

17

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA

During 1876-77.

IN THREE PARTS:

PART I.—SUMMARY.

„ II.—DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

„ III.—STATISTICAL RETURNS.



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Part I.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA, 1876-77.

INTRODUCTION.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ADMINISTRATION, 1876-77.

THE year whose history is recorded in the following pages was one of general tranquillity. Friendly relations were maintained

throughout the year with the countries beyond the British frontier; while a large measure of exemption from violent crime, and a plentiful harvest, combined to promote the prosperity of our own people. The absence of stirring events and memorable changes may affect in some measure the attractiveness of the narrative; but, to all interested in the well-being of this province, the perusal will, it is hoped, afford a satisfactory summary of material and social progress. The population of the country, though increasing, still continues too scanty for its agricultural requirements, and the sums annually expended in its government are by no means large; but a fairer estimate of its importance as a province of British India can be formed from other data than these. Its area is as extensive as that of Great Britain; the soil is richly productive, though wide tracts remain yet uncultivated; its trade, already large, is developing rapidly; and not only is its revenue advancing year after year, but even now, after the cost of every branch of the Administration is defrayed, nearly three-quarters of a million sterling are annually contributed to the Imperial exchequer.

2. Affairs in Upper Burma remained unchanged during the year. Nothing occurred to interrupt the usual course of friendly intercourse, and business of every kind was transacted without friction or difficulty. Towards the close of 1876, the Court of Mandalay was thrown into mourning by the death of the Chief Queen,—a lady whose benevolence had endeared her to her subjects, and whose influence and counsels were valuable to the King's administration. An Embassy under the charge of an important official travelled in Europe during the year,

Introductory.
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Upper Burma.

and succeeded in negotiating a treaty of commerce with Spain. The most striking event however, and one that gave rise to considerable excitement in Mandalay, was the passage of an escort of British troops through Upper Burma into Yunan to meet the Mission from China under Mr. Grosvenor. The sad story of Mr. Margary's fate and the course of the negotiations which followed need no repetition. At the time when the approach of Mr. Grosvenor's party was announced, both the Chinese and Burmese Governments repudiated all authority over an extensive border tract through which the only roads from one country to the other run. The passes along this tract are occupied by wild tribes of mountaineers, who own no regular or settled allegiance, but stand in awe alike of Burmese and Chinese officials when they assume a resolute attitude. It was at first considered impossible for the Mission to traverse this portion of the road without permission from one government or the other; but as each declined the responsibility of safe conduct across this border, it was decided that a guard of British troops should proceed as far as Manwyne. The King of Burma, after some hesitation, consented to the transit of a body of one hundred Europeans and two hundred Madras sepoy through his territory; and the force was accordingly sent by steamer from Thayetmyo to Bhamo, whence they marched overland to Manwyne. From that point, Mr. Grosvenor and his companions were escorted back without mishap to British territory. Demands for the extradition of fugitive criminals traced to Upper Burma were made and complied with from time to time as freely as could be expected. In a somewhat loosely organized Government, such as that of Ava, allowance must be made for the difficulty of always maintaining an effective check over the management of outlying districts. That our relations with this Court were throughout the year of an even and pacific tenor may be ascribed to the judgment and moderation of Colonel Duncan, who continued to hold the post of Resident during that period.

3. Intercourse with Chiengmai (or, as the Burmese write it, Zimmay) was not altogether of so satisfactory a character. The petty states united under this name are nominally under the Siamese Government; but its authority practically extends little farther than the nomination of the chief, who is thereafter almost independent. This circumstance, coupled with the distance at which Chiengmai itself is situated from Bang-

kok, and the want of easy means of communication between the two places, renders the difficulty of transacting business very great. The treaty of 1874 with Siam has been shewn by experience to be of little practical advantage. The deputation under its provisions of an English officer from British Burma to Chiengmai in 1875 was not followed by any real co-operation in the suppression of frontier disturbances; and the continued supineness of the Chiengmai officials, and their refusal of all assistance, either in the control of crime, or in obtaining civil redress for British subjects, has been the subject of serious remonstrance. It may be hoped that this state of things will be remedied by the appointment of an English Vice-Consul to reside at Chiengmai. At the other extremity of our Eastern frontier, early in 1877, the peace of the Mergui district was temporarily threatened by the arrival of a large body of turbulent Chinese refugees from Renong, a neighbouring Siamese town. They had been driven from there in consequence of an aggravated riot in which they had taken part, and it was feared that their presence in British territory would lead to disturbances. The police force in the Mergui district was strengthened; but fortunately, contrary to expectation, the men dispersed quietly by various routes into the Siamese country.

4. The affairs of Western Karennee demand but a cursory glance. Its northern frontier was visited and marked off early in 1876 by a party of English officers in pursuance of the previous year's treaty. The Burmese police posts south of the border, which had not then been removed, were subsequently withdrawn at the instance of the Resident at Mandalay. This little principality, consisting, as it does, of a number of petty chieftainships without any real ruler, is in itself sufficiently contemptible; but its internal condition chances to be of some moment to this province from the number of criminals who find their way thence across the frontier. These men, after committing dacoities and other offences within British jurisdiction, escape to their own country, where they find a secure asylum; for the authority of the Karennee chiefs being merely nominal, there is no one of whom their extradition can, as matters at present stand, be effectually demanded. It has been represented that the forbearance of the British Government, which has recognised and secured the independence of these Western Karennee chiefs, demands the capture and surrender of such criminals.

5. In the Hill Tracts of Northern Arakan, although the tribes settled within our administrative frontier were entirely at peace

Arakan Hill Tracts.

amongst themselves, there was one instance of aggression from without. A village just within the northern border was attacked by a gang of Shandoos, and eight of the inhabitants were carried off captive, while three were either killed or wounded. Previous experience had shewn that it was vain to seek satisfaction by peaceful means, and it was deemed necessary to send a force of police to chastise the raiders. A party of a hundred men, well armed, starting from the frontier post of Dalekme, penetrated to the stronghold of the Shandoos, some days' march to the north, and, the place being evacuated on the approach of our force, the village was destroyed. The result of the expedition was that all the captives were brought back by the headmen of the tribe, who promised to amend their ways in future. The internal affairs of the district present a still more pleasing picture. Forbidden to adjust their differences by the ancient method of violence and retaliation, the various clans settled within the border have free recourse to the Court of the Superintendent. The number, both of civil and criminal cases, increased during the year,—a fact which clearly indicates the growing confidence of the people in the power and integrity of their rulers. The law administered is simple, and in civil matters local customs are, as far as possible, adhered to. Taxation is very light, and, to avoid suspicion, the population has never been numbered. Having a climate more varied and temperate than that of the plains, and a fertile soil watered by broad, deep rivers, this district only requires cultivation to make it prosperous and wealthy. At present, the obstacle that stands in the way of agricultural enterprise is the scantiness of the population and the want of labour. In a locality so near the thickly-peopled districts of Eastern Bengal, such a difficulty cannot be of long continuance, and, during a recent visit of the Chief Commissioner to the Tracts, it was ascertained that there were already indications of a large settlement of cultivators from Chittagong.

6. The existing method of collecting the land revenue in British Burma, though extremely simple, is subject to a serious drawback,

Surveys and settlements.

which has been repeatedly dwelt on in former reports. Less than one-fifth of the land is under settlements, none of which are for a longer period than 10 years. The remainder is annually measured and assessed by revenue officials styled "Thoogyees," upon whose diligence and accuracy the realization of the full amount due to Government depends. The local Survey Department, when engaged in testing the measurements of the Thoogyees, have discovered year after year gross errors and defects; and it is computed that if an adequate staff of Settlement Officers were employed to make correct measurements of cultivated area all over the province, the revenue from this source would be increased, without any enhancement of present rates, by at least 25 per cent. During the last two years, in a portion of the Rangoon district alone, deficiencies to the extent of 23.78 have been disclosed, and the revenue thus raised by £9,179, or 28 per cent. Nor is this state of things justly attributable to dishonesty on the part of the Thoogyees, who, capable or incapable, are the best class of men that can be found for the multifarious duties assigned to them. The only remedy possible is a proper revenue survey of the whole province, proposals for which are under the consideration of the Government of India. The area under settlement, exclusive of annual leases, is 489,227 acres, or 8,448 less than in 1875-76, some leases having lapsed. In Rangoon and Bassein, most of the leases have expired, and it has not been thought desirable to renew them till the question of a survey has been decided. No grants of waste land were made under the rules of 1865; nor was much progress shewn in re-surveying old grants. The necessity of this work has been fully proved, but it cannot be carried out without appointing a special officer for the purpose. Recently, such an arrangement has been effected.

7. The history of 1875 indicated sufficiently clearly the extent to which the course of crime in this country may be affected by political events beyond the frontier; and the absence in 1876 of any such disturbing elements in the sphere of police operations is matter for congratulation, for there were more than usual internal difficulties to contend against. The increase of offences coming under police cognizance was considerable, though its importance was not so serious as would at first sight appear. The numbers of the force, too, though augmented, were not practically greater than in the previous year, for the whole of the additional strength entertained was required for the newly-formed Karen Hills sub-division east of Toungoo, which heretofore had not formed a part of the general police district. Various circumstances had rendered it desirable to bring this tract under more careful administration, and it was found necessary to station over a hundred men in various localities the e for this purpose.

Police.

The police force of the province consisted of 22 gazetted officers and 6,880 non-gazetted officers and men, or nearly a hundred more than in the previous year. The cost of its maintenance was £149,853, an increase of £2,150 over 1875. There was one man to 12.9 square miles of area and to 439 of population. The number of cognizable cases reported was 21,310, or nearly 3,000 more than in 1875; and in 61 per cent. of them the offenders were discovered and convicted. The proportion of convictions obtained was thus 3.3 greater than in the preceding year. It would seem from this that the source of the large accession of crime which has occurred is not to be found in any deterioration of police efficiency: the cause is probably to be sought elsewhere, as an analysis of the statistics of crime will shew. Of the 21,310 offences on record, 7,703, or more than one-third, were of a minor and unimportant character, no less than 4,091 falling under the head of public and local nuisance. If this class of offences be left out of account, the increment in 1876 was 1,351 cases, and this represents the difference in crime, properly so called, between the two years. Of these, nearly 900 cases were of simple theft, and over 240 more were of house-breaking or receiving stolen property. Thus, by far the largest part of the increase was in offences against property. This consideration, coupled with the fact that large exports of grain kept the price of food unusually high throughout the year, points clearly to the conclusion that during 1876, if in no previous year in this province, a rise in the price of food has caused a corresponding augmentation of crime. Offences of the graver kinds have either diminished in number or remained stationary. Murder, dacoity, robbery, and cattle-theft have all decreased; while under the head of grievous hurt there were 111 cases in 1876, against 110 in 1875. Under the head of murder, though the decrease was small, from 77 to 73 cases, yet the percentage of detection is much improved. Dacoity declined from 38 to 28 cases, and even of the latter number more than a third were traceable to trans-frontier gangs. The importance of such a result will not be lightly estimated, if the formidable aspect which this crime has in former years assumed be borne in mind. Cases of robbery decreased from 108 to 84, but in only 40 per cent. were convictions obtained. Under the head of cattle-theft, there was a decrease of nearly 10 per cent., and the returns shew that its detection has improved. In an almost exclusively agricultural country, the necessity of keeping this offence down is peculiarly urgent. In dealing with house-breaking, the police

signally failed. The number of cases reported largely increased, and in less than one-third of them were the offenders convicted. Gambling, a fertile cause of crime among a people passionately devoted to it, appears from the returns to have extended simultaneously with theft. The two are no doubt intimately connected, and any check imposed upon the former will certainly re-act on the latter. A judicious extension of the provisions of the Gambling Act has been suggested, and is under consideration. In the detection of theft, the police worked better than in 1875; but the proportion of stolen property recovered was small.

A general review of the work of the police leads to the conclusion that, while they may be everywhere relied on pretty certainly to maintain peace and order, and to prevent crime of a serious or violent character, they fail in that professional skill which long experience alone gives, and by which alone secret crimes can be detected. This, as has often been remarked, is the necessary consequence of their organization as it at present stands. The continual changes of members, to which the force is subjected, renders it impossible that it should at any time contain a large number of experienced men; and these changes again are due, perhaps, as much to the unattractiveness of the service, as to the indolent, volatile character of the people. Within the year, out of the 6,880 men composing the force, 1,234 voluntarily resigned, 795 were dismissed, and over 200 left the force in other ways. The number of recruits enlisted was 2,389, or more than a third of the whole number of men entertained. Similar figures recur regularly year after year in spite of every effort to retain men in the service. Dismissals are regularly reported to the Inspector-General, and injustice, when necessary, corrected; but the evil arises not so much from dismissals as from resignations, and is only partially remediable. Lately, some authority with respect to enlistment and discharge has been entrusted to District Officers,—a measure which it is hoped may tend to their greater permanence in the service.

For the duty of guarding jails, the class of men locally obtainable are especially unfitted, and some difficulty has been experienced in getting this work efficiently carried out. An attempt was made during the year to get recruits from Upper India for this purpose; but it remains to be seen with what success this expedient will be attended. As a quasi-military force, the Goorkhas in the Arakan Frontier Police have done excellent service; and if they would take employment in the

plains, the police of the province would be greatly improved by the admission of more of them into the department.

8. The statistics of the criminal courts are to a certain extent a repetition of those which have just been noticed. They shew that, for a total of 29,508 offences of all kinds reported to Magistrates, 45,324 persons were put on their trial, of whom 31,808 were convicted and 13,807 acquitted or discharged. There was thus, as the police returns also shewed, a considerable increase of crime during the year, though it was for the most part of a minor description. Even so, the fact is not one which can be viewed altogether without misgiving, especially as the only cause which can be with probability assigned for it has existed in an aggravated degree during 1877. It may be said, on the other hand, with some reason, that the continual growth of the population of the country, the improved facilities of communication, and the greater vigilance exercised in all departments of the administration, are all reasons for expecting heavier criminal returns, and that the increase of this particular year is, after all, nothing but an unusually large fluctuation. It is to be hoped that the experience of another year may prove this view to be correct. In the punishments inflicted in 1876, the chief difference observable from those of the preceding year was the greater proportion of fines. This is explained by the fact that offences appropriately punishable by fine also bore a larger proportion to the whole number. Two-thirds of the fines inflicted were realized. Sentences of solitary confinement and whipping are both on the increase. The frequency with which security for good behaviour is demanded from suspected persons has received attention, and cases of this kind will come under closer supervision. Three days was the average duration of cases throughout the year; and, of over 72,000 witnesses examined, only about 8½ per cent. were detained more than one day. In this and some other particulars, a doubt has been suggested as to the accuracy of the returns, not only from the extremely satisfactory results they exhibit, but from the known fact that they are not invariably prepared on a uniform system, or with an intelligent idea of the object for which they were intended. It may be safely concluded, however, that there was but little unavoidable delay in the despatch of business. The Native Magistracy appear to have done their work conscientiously and well. The return of appeals from the decision of Subordinate Magistrates shews that their sentences, if not always legally correct, have at least,

generally speaking, the merit of substantial justice, and are as a rule, acceptable to the people. The proportion of appeals from the decisions of Magistrates of the 1st class was four times as large as that from the subordinate courts; but only about one-fifth of the appellants were successful.

9. As was to be expected from the operations of the police and of the criminal courts, the jails of the province were more than usually full. In fact, the number of prisoners confined was greater than it had ever been before, even when convicts were received from beyond the sea. The number received into jails during the year was 9,257, or 965 more than in the previous year; the daily average of prison population was 4,822, and the largest number on any one day 5,481. Taken altogether, the jails contain sufficient space for the prisoners that are from time to time confined in them; but that space is not conveniently distributed, and the consequence is that a process of transfer from jail to jail within the province, involving much expense, is continually going on. In 1876, the number of these transfers was 2,167. The principle is carried out, as far as possible, of releasing offenders near their homes, instead of letting them loose in large towns, and one move, nearly always for this reason, necessitates a second. A reference to the census returns shews that the class which furnished the largest quota of convicts in proportion to its numbers was that of Hindoos; Christians came next, with a total of 454, amongst whom were included 253 Europeans, principally court-martial prisoners and sailors. Juveniles were fewer than in 1875, but their number might have been further reduced had the provisions of the Whipping Act been fully utilized, whipping being a form of punishment to which Burmese Magistrates very rarely resort. A reformatory is required, and will before long be established, for the thorough segregation of this class of convicts. At present, all that can be done is to keep them in central jails, and there separate them from adults as far as practicable. A total of 2,664 prisoners, or 19·33 per cent. of the whole, were offenders against whom previous convictions were on record. This is an abnormally large proportion, such as is probably not reached in any other province in India. For the treatment of this class of delinquents, the smaller jails contain unfortunately but few punitive appliances. The number of convicts who succeeded in making good their escape from custody was only three, and none of these had unexpired terms of more than one year. This is perhaps the smallest number

ever recorded in this province. It speaks very well for the vigilance of the guards. On the other hand, an extraordinary instance of pusillanimity and bad discipline was exhibited by the police in charge of the Moulmein Jail on the occurrence of a disturbance there early in the year. The prompt arrival of a body of native troops fortunately prevented a general escape of the prisoners, though not without loss of life. Punishments inflicted for petty prison offences were numerous, notwithstanding that the conduct of the prisoners was reported to be on the whole good. Forty-seven per cent. could read and write more or less, and the rest were wholly uneducated. The cost of maintaining and guarding prisoners in all the jails of the province, excluding charges for buildings, amounted to £30,299, or £2,141 more than in 1875. The cost per head was also rather higher in 1876, owing chiefly to a general rise in the price of rice. This was compensated by the financial success of industrial operations. The employment of convicts as jail servants was curtailed to the lowest possible limits, and more hands were thus left free for labour. A steam saw-mill brought out from England at great expense for the Rangoon Jail, which in the previous year had broken down owing to defects in the machinery, was put in working order by jail artificers. Gardening was carried on diligently, and greater quantities of vegetables than before were raised, both for sale and for prison consumption. The nett result of these measures was a profit of £13,850 earned by manufacture, a larger amount than in any previous year. A sum of £12,626 was spent on buildings. Of this, the Akyab Jail, which is under re-construction, absorbed £5,858, and the Rangoon Jail £2,652. The costliness of durable masonry structures, such as are required for a central jail, is a serious financial difficulty which it will take some years to overcome. The death-rate in 1876 was 2.63 per cent of average strength, against 2.35 per cent. in 1875. Cholera in some of the smaller jails, and some unhealthiness at Moulmein, were the causes of the greater mortality. There was some overcrowding in places, but without any evil effect. Between the ages of 16 and 40, the death-rate was much higher than between 40 and 60. Among under-trial prisoners it was 7.37; and of convicts, the greatest mortality (4.78) was among those who had been under six months in jail; and the lowest (0.79) among those who had undergone terms exceeding seven years.

10. The operation of Act XVII. of 1875, by which the Civil courts are regulated, discloses imperfections in the provisions relating to

Civil Justice.

the superior courts, which will probably require amendment at an early date. It is understood that when the present law was passed, it was accepted as a provisional measure; and the experience of the two last years has shewn the inconvenience arising from the constitution of the "Special Court," in which the Recorder and Judicial Commissioner sit together to hear appeals and references from one or the other in his original jurisdiction.

The subordinate courts, in which the bulk of the civil business of the country is carried on, perform their work satisfactorily. No effort is spared, in the translation of legislative Acts and otherwise, to bring legal knowledge within the reach of the people in their own vernacular; and the native judiciary, whose administration of justice has always been popular, are thus gaining year by year a sounder acquaintance with the law they have to dispense. The number of civil suits instituted during the year under report was slightly larger than in 1875, a decrease in the town of Rangoon being more than balanced by the increase elsewhere; while in the value of property under litigation there was some diminution. These fluctuations are small, and call for no remark except in the town of Rangoon, where the business of the preceding year had been abnormally heavy, owing to commercial panic, and a re-action naturally occurred. For 31,966 suits instituted, there were only 8,605 applications for execution of decrees. About half of these were executed in full, and some satisfaction was obtained on most of the remainder. The average duration of contested suits was in the Recorder's Court (omitting exceptionally protracted cases) 48 days, in the Rangoon Small Cause Court about 19 days, and in the District courts 11 days,—figures which indicate, on the whole, sufficient diligence in the despatch of business. As regards the detention of witnesses, the returns shew a considerable improvement on the previous year. A larger number—38,000—were examined, and fewer were detained beyond one day. Unfortunately, from some instances that have come to light, it is clear that statistical returns are not everywhere so intelligently prepared as to be altogether trustworthy. Of the total number of appealable decisions passed in the subordinate courts, which was reported to be 11,501, appeals were brought in the Courts of Deputy Commissioners against 1,291; and of these only 37 per cent., or four per cent. of the whole number appealed against, were modified or reversed. These proportions are much the same as those recorded last year.

11. The work of registration was carried on at 87 offices, of which three were newly opened during 1876-77. There were 2,918 deeds registered compulsorily under the provisions of the Act, or 305 more than in the previous year; but the number voluntarily registered was only 200, against 176 in 1875-76. The total value of immovable property affected by the former class of documents was £558,169, which represents an increase of £167,295 over that in 1875-76. The receipts of the department amounted to £1,013, and its expenditure was £495. The reports of the year only corroborate the remark, often before made, that the natives of the country, as a rule, neither appreciate nor understand the law, and that those who avail themselves of it are chiefly foreigners,—natives of India for the most part and money-lenders.

12. The year under review witnessed a satisfactory progress in the administration of municipal affairs. Though it cannot yet be said that the provisions of the law are everywhere thoroughly understood and acted on, yet much useful work has been done, and there has been no lack of zeal and interest displayed by local committees. Many elementary questions connected with finance and other subjects, whose solution was essential to the easy and regular operation of the Municipal Act, naturally arose on its first introduction. The responsibility of committees with regard to education, police, and sanitation, and their duties in many other respects, have had to be explained and insisted on, and some points of detail remain yet to be settled before the plan of local government can be brought into perfect order. But there is no reason to doubt that the system is well suited to the circumstances of the larger towns in the province, as shewn by the marked and beneficial results already attained. The total income of the seven towns to which the Act has been extended was £128,814, the expenditure was £115,779, and the balance at the close of the year was £12,535. The heaviest items of expenditure were,—public works, £51,194; conservancy, £15,892; and police, £10,670. The municipality of Rangoon deserves special notice, not only as by far the most important in population and revenue, but because taxation is higher, and the improvement of the town is consequently progressing much more rapidly than elsewhere.

13. The garrison of the province consisted of two battalions of Europeans and five batteries of

artillery, with four regiments of Madras infantry and a company of Madras sappers. The strength of the force at the end of the year was 2,837 Europeans and 2,296 Natives. It was maintained at a cost of £283,388, including charges under the heads of Pay, Commissariat, Medical, and Ordnance. The troops in the province in 1875 numbered 1,990 Europeans and 2,626 Natives.

14. The rice trade of 1875 was protracted till late in the season, and the returns of 1875-76 thus included much of the shipping which would ordinarily have belonged to 1874-75. The aggregate number and tonnage of the ships which visited the ports of the province in 1875-76 was thus far beyond that in the previous year. During 1876-77, a retrogression is shewn: 2,551 ships, of 1,005,654 tons, came into port; and 2,700 ships, of 1,021,636 tons, were cleared. If a number of native craft of no importance be left out of account, the decrease is found to amount practically to from 60 to 70 ships, and nearly 152,000 tons, each way. Owing to the fact above stated, however, this diminution is chiefly factitious. Only 1,751 vessels, of 1,017,725 tons, came into port in 1874-75; and in the year before, the number was 1,781 vessels, of 973,467 tons. The reason of the real decrease, which was slight, was probably a diminution of the quantity of rice and timber available for foreign export. There was a large increase in the steamer and boat traffic on the Irrawaddy. The Flotilla Company now possess a fleet of 14 steamers and 26 flats, with an aggregate tonnage of 14,000. Two years ago, it had but nine steamers and 16 flats. Nineteen steamers, of 26,235 tons, arrived in the province through the Suez Canal, and 63 steamers, of 71,427 tons, sailed for Europe. During the year under report, there were eight light-houses on the coast of the province, including the Oyster Reef, which was first lighted in May 1876. A complete system of coast lights now prevails. The vessels provided for visiting the light-houses were very unsuitable for the purpose. No thoroughly seaworthy steamer was at any time available, one that was employed for a time being found quite useless in the south-west monsoon. The port-funds, with which the Pilot Fund is now amalgamated, had an aggregate revenue of £41,861, the expenditure was £33,920, and a balance of £18,624 remained at the close of the year. The port of Amherst was re-surveyed by the Indian Marine Department, and two beacons erected to mark its approaches. Many improvements have been effected on the Strand bank at

Rangoon, and the needs of the port may at no distant date require the creation of a port trust. At Bassein, also, the funds have been largely used in improving the foreshore.

15. The year passed over without any serious floods, such as those which occurred in 1875. The

Weather and crops.

rainfall, though here and there light, was on the whole seasonable and favourably distributed. The harvest was plentiful, and was housed without injury in spite of late showers. Out of a gross land revenue of £426,918, it was found necessary to remit only £4,128 on account of loss from drought, floods, or similar causes. The meteorological records of the province have hitherto been imperfectly kept, and afford but meagre data for comparisons of any kind. Suitable observatories were opened during the year at Rangoon, Moulmein, and Bassein, and provision was made for others at Thayetmyo, Toungoo, and Mergui. The highest temperature in the shade registered during the year was 108 degrees at Thayetmyo, and the lowest reading was 43 degrees at the same station.

16. Notwithstanding destructive visitations of cattle-disease, and in some localities a light rainfall,

Agriculture.

there was an increase of over a hundred thousand acres, or 3.81 per cent., in the area under cultivation, accompanied by an addition of nearly £12,000, or 2.66 per cent., to the land revenue. Towards the close of the year, moreover, the demand for rice for exportation was so great that in some places the price rose to nearly 50 per cent. above the ordinary rate. The result of these high prices and great demand will, as in former years, largely stimulate production throughout the country. Six-sevenths of the land under tillage produces no crop but rice. The increase in this was 76,836 acres; in gardens and orchards, 5,400 acres; and in miscellaneous cultivation, 21,155 acres. Under the last head come a number of valuable dry-season crops not extensively grown, the wider introduction of which is very desirable. Among the products referred to are tobacco, cotton, sugarcane, and various kinds of pulse. Experiments in the first have been made at a Government farm on the Koladyne river in the Akysab district. In the cultivation of the plant the natives of the country are quite successful, and occasionally turn out excellent leaf; but being ignorant of the proper method of curing, the produce is not well suited for the European market. Tea of very good quality is grown on one small estate in Arakan. *Toungya* or *jhoom* cultivation prevails in hilly

and thinly-peopled localities, but no trustworthy returns are available to shew its extent. Agricultural shows were held at the head-quarters of three districts with partial success. They may gain popularity if continued regularly for some time, especially if held at a time when fairs or festivals bring numbers of people together. The Agri-Horticultural Society of British Burma deserves a passing mention. Having an income of only £600 per annum, its operations are necessarily on a limited scale; but it has been active in distributing seeds and plants, and endeavouring to introduce valuable exotic products. Whatever its actual success may have been hitherto, it is no small gain that an intelligent interest in this important subject has been awakened and kept alive in the chief town of the province.

The cattle-disease already referred to prevailed chiefly in the Arakan and Tenasserim divisions. In the former, 60,000 head of cattle are said to have perished; and the Amherst district, in the latter division, suffered heavily. The disorder is not, as was at first supposed, rinderpest or any kind of infectious malady. It appears to arise from want of care in protecting the animals from the effects of great and sudden changes of climate. They are left idle during the hottest months of summer, with dry food to eat, and not an over-abundant supply of water. When the rainy season sets in, they eat the fresh herbage greedily, being worked very hard at the same time, and are not well sheltered from the rain at night. Disease in the form of dysentery is the natural result. The Veterinary Class was unavoidably in abeyance during the year, but has since been re-opened. Its importance to an agricultural community may be estimated by the fact that, according to the returns received, the number of cattle in the country—buffaloes and oxen—was over 1,300,000.

The rate of assessment on paddy land varies from one to ten shillings an acre. The average is about three shillings and three pence, in addition to which, it must not be forgotten, the export duty on rice indirectly throws another burden on the ryot. The enhanced price of rice caused a corresponding dearness of other vegetable foods, and some rise in the rates of wages followed. Unskilled labour was worth from one shilling to one and six pence a day; while coolies or carriers earned two shillings a day during the shipping season.

17. The administration of the whole of the forests of the province having been found too heavy a charge for a single Conservator, it

Forests.

was determined in October 1876, as an experimental measure, to form two divisions with a Conservator for each. The Tenasserim forests, with an estimated area of 550 square miles of teak-growing country, form one division, and those of Pegu the other. In the operations of the year, measures of conservation and reproduction have received necessarily a much larger degree of attention; while a necessity is becoming felt of reducing consumption as far as possible. The work of demarcating State reserves was actively carried on in both divisions. To the 614 square miles already defined, 802 square miles were added, and plans were prepared for adding 570 more. The area protected from forest fires is not yet very large; but during an unusually protracted hot season no very serious loss from fire was sustained. The cultivation by various methods of teak and other valuable timber was continued. Plantations were cleared and sown with teak and pyimma (*Lagerstræmia reginæ*); a considerable area was roughly sown without preliminary clearing,—a very inexpensive yet effective plan; and, wherever it was found practicable, migratory cultivators in forest tracts were encouraged to plant teak in their clearings before relinquishing them. An attempt was unsuccessfully made to introduce the *Hevea elastica* in the Tenasserim division. Ten additional acres were brought under cinchona plantation, and seedlings and cuttings were extensively distributed. By a survey of the Mergui Archipelago some useful information was collected, especially regarding the eagle-wood tree, from which a valuable scented resin is obtained. The total quantity of timber taken out of the various Government forests was somewhat less than in the previous year. Girdling operations, preparatory to felling, were altogether suspended, and it is not intended for the present to resume them. Indeed, until the forest establishments in the province are much strengthened, it will be necessary to concentrate attention upon the surveys and demarcation of State forests. All but two leases of Government forests had expired, and these have lapsed since the close of the year, so that the whole of the forests will, for the future, be under direct Government management, and it will be possible to keep the quantity of timber felled within just limits. The import of teak from beyond the frontier continues enormously large, though somewhat less in 1876-77 than in the previous year. The gross revenue of the department was £155,146, and its expenditure was £100,508. The nett revenue was thus £54,648, or £84,480 less than in the preced-

ing year. The decrease is accounted for by the cessation of the exceptional demand for timber for the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, which was fast approaching completion. The market, too, was depressed, and prices were on an average four shillings a ton less than in 1875-76. From a year's experience of the working of the rules of March 1876 bringing 12 kinds of wood under reservation, it is manifest that certain modifications are necessary in many points of detail. These it is proposed to refer to a committee of Forest and District officers. While the interests of Government have to be protected against the free use of Government forests for purposes of trade, care will be needed to secure to the villagers the rights and privileges to which they are entitled.

18. Indications are not wanting that the country may eventually be found to possess abundance of mineral wealth; but, generally, progress in explorations has not been very marked. Limestone and petroleum occur both in Pegu and Arakan; and recently prospecting for earth-oil in the Akyab and Kyouk-hpyoo districts has been prosecuted with an energy which promises success.* Lead, iron, copper, antimony, and tin are found in Tenasserim. The tin mines of Mergui have long been known, but it seems doubtful whether they are of any great value. A lower rent than last year was realized from those worked by Chinese labourers; and an English firm, which had sunk a considerable amount of capital at Malewoon was obliged, after a heavy loss, to resign its lease, the lodes of ore becoming smaller and smaller as they were followed up. The value of the whole outturn during the past two years from all the mines has not much exceeded £6,000

19. The main industries in the province of commercial importance are those connected with the rice and timber trade. There are some 47 steam mills in various places—the largest number in Rangoon—engaged in husking and cleaning rice for exportation. The majority of the steam saw-mills are at Moulmein, the port from which most of the timber is shipped to foreign ports. The indigenous manufactures of the country produce little or nothing beyond what is required for home consumption. Many are interesting from the fact that they are peculiar to Trans-Gangetic India; and of nearly all it may be said that the processes used are original, and the product

* A well yielding 200 gallons a day has been discovered since the above was written.

out of all comparison finer and more finished than would be expected from the rude instruments employed. The characteristics of Burmese art are boldness and originality of design, and picturesque effect united, as a rule, with much roughness of execution. This is particularly exemplified in the wood-carving with which all buildings of any pretension are more or less ornamented. Silk, lacquered-ware, and designs in silver are among the most justly admired of Burmese handicrafts.

20. The rapid growth of the trade of British Burma could scarcely be more forcibly illustrated than by the returns of the year 1876-77.

Trade.

77. The total value of the imports and exports, maritime and inland, of the province, which was in 1875-76 £13,385,392, amounted in the year under report to £15,954,287, shewing an increase of over two-and-a-half millions sterling, or 19 per cent. The value of the inland trade was £3,070,465, against £2,870,532 in 1875-76, both imports and exports having largely increased. In the seaborne trade, the increase under the heads of imports and exports is by no means equal, that under the former being £2,206,234, and that under the latter only £162,638. Of the whole increase in the trade, only £846,696 was in merchandise, the remaining £1,522,266 being in specie. Exclusive of specie, the private import trade was the largest ever registered in the province, amounting in value to £4,709,404, and exceeding that of the preceding year by £888,005. Of the merchandise exported in 1876-77, the aggregate value was £5,516,654. There was an advance of three per cent. in exports to foreign ports, but a decline of seven per cent. in those of the coasting trade, and altogether the diminution amounted to £15,308; but this was compensated by heavy remittances of treasure. The year 1874-75 was the only year in which the value of imported goods has at all approached that under notice. Comparing these two years, it is found that the increase during the latter has been chiefly in piece-goods, tobacco, woollen goods, oils, provisions, seeds, and sugar; while the imports of gunny bags, raw silk, beer and wine, metals, and machinery have declined. Of rice, the main staple of the export trade, the year's outturn was but little short in quantity of that of 1875-76; while the value was recorded as much higher, 710,788 tons, valued at £8,842,848, having been shipped, against 721,209, valued at £2,881,721, in 1875-76. This rise of price, as well as the extraordinary amount of specie imported, was no doubt the result of the

scarcity in Southern India, to meet which every available bushel of grain in this country had to be bought up. In fact, so great was the demand, and so high the prices to be realized by those who had any stocks of grain to dispose of, that at one time it seemed likely that the apparently reckless sales of their grain would involve the agricultural classes here in the distress that prevailed in India. With regard to the inland trade, the bulk of which is with Upper Burma, complaints have been made of the unjustifiable interference of His Majesty the King with private trade, and of his disregard of treaty obligations. The subject has received the attention of Government.

21. Sea defences, embankments, the Irrawaddy and Sittang Valley railways, and the Sittang Canal were among the chief objects to which the attention of the Public Works

Public works.

Department was directed during the year. Under the first head, the most urgent need is at Rangoon, where, not only is the greater part of the trade of the province centred, but access to the port is easy at all seasons. Efficient protective works could be placed without excessive cost at the junction of the Rangoon and Pegu rivers; and the necessary surveys for this purpose being completed, a proposal was sent up for the sanction of the Supreme Government soon after the close of the year under review. At a time of great political disturbance in Europe, the necessity of such a measure deserves prominent notice. The high floods of 1875 had given warning of the necessity of raising and strengthening the main line of embankments on the west bank of the Irrawaddy, and, by the timely completion of this work, the danger incurred by a still higher flood in 1877 was happily circumscribed. The Rangoon and Irrawaddy Railway was pushed on rapidly in spite of some exceptional difficulties, and by the end of March was all but completed as far as Prome. The line was publicly opened to traffic on the 1st May, and has been worked successfully during the past nine months. The political and administrative necessity of carrying on the railway to the frontier has been pressed upon the Government of India, and sanction asked for the estimate of £370,000 to finish the line and the defensive works in connection with its terminus at Allanmyo. The survey of the Sittang Valley Railway was in progress during 1876-77, but requires revision. The section to the town of Pegu, a distance of 55 miles, is complete and satisfactory, and could be at once undertaken. For the entire length, according to present estimates, an expenditure of £6,500 a

mile would not only open up fertile districts, as yet without any proper means of communication, but would secure the frontier military station of Toungoo, which, from its present isolated position, is exposed to some risks. The Sittang Canal, connecting the Pegu and Sittang rivers, was not completed, owing to unavoidable delay in finishing the masonry work of the locks. It was the most important work carried out with provincial funds. More than £80,000 had been spent on it by the end of the year. The aggregate expenditure of the department from Imperial and Provincial funds was £572,540, of which £35,450 was devoted to irrigation, or rather reclamation works, £360,047 to railways, and the remainder to public buildings, roads, and other minor objects.

22. Early in 1876, a legislative enactment of the highest importance to this province received the assent of the Governor-General in Council. Its character, and the large

Legislation.

interests affected by it, are sufficiently explained in the title, which runs, "An Act to declare the law relating to interests in land, and to regulate the assessment and collection of land revenue, capitation tax, and other taxes in British Burma." The measure gives legal effect to the rules under which the revenue administration of this province has been hitherto carried on, and, by its declaration of the rights of holders of land and regulation of procedure in the settlement of land and realization of Government revenue, will be of incalculable benefit to the country. An Act relating to the immigration of native labourers, and a Regulation to amend the Arakan Hills Civil Justice Regulation, 1874, besides eight Acts of general application, were also passed, and the Burma Forest Bill was under consideration.

23. The telegraph lines of British Burma cover a distance of 1,271 miles,—415 in the Arakan and 856 in the Pegu division. During the

Telegraph.

year, a new cable was laid across the Irrawaddy at Prome; 67 miles of the line from Rangoon to Prome were removed to the railroad; and a survey was taken in hand for a line to connect Mergui and Tavoy with Moulmein. The line from Bassein to Diamond Island, and the submarine cable from Elephant Point to Penang, were laid during the year, and were both ready for use soon after its close. Of the five stations in Arakan, that at Aykab alone attracts profitable traffic. The number of messages from and to stations in the Pegu division

increased by 12.4 and 9.62 per cent., respectively; but the value of the former was less than in the previous year. The working of the line from the frontier to Mandalay, under the King's establishment, was not improved, the British Burma share of receipts for messages to and from Upper Burma falling from £1,042 to £673.

24. The number of post offices remained 23, the same as in the previous year. At Rangoon and Prome, the increase in the work of the

Post office.

department was considerable. The mail services were, as a rule, carried on regularly and punctually. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company were able to deliver mails twice a week, instead of once, between Rangoon and Mandalay; and letters for Moulmein were carried by a new steamer of unusual speed. The contract for the conveyance of the Toungoo mail broke down, and a new engagement, at an increased cost, had to be entered into.

25. Owing to a decline in the customs collections on account of the famine, and the necessary restriction of forest operations,

Revenue and finance.

the year 1876-77 did not shew such extraordinary advance in the revenue as has been observed in previous years; on the other hand, notwithstanding fluctuations under some heads, there has been little diminution in the gross amount collected. Imperial and Provincial collections aggregated £1,711,913 and £54,189; while those on account of local funds and municipalities were £150,806 and £100,109, respectively. A decrease of £33,889 in Imperial receipts was almost exactly compensated by the increase under the heads of local and municipal funds; and Provincial receipts were £12,037 more than in 1875-76. The decline in Imperial revenue occurs chiefly under two heads,—those of Customs and Forests. The former is at once one of the largest and most variable items in the budget of the province. In 1876-77, it shewed a decrease of £40,902, consequent partly on the exceptional receipts of the previous year, with which comparison is made, and partly on the loss of duty on large shipments of rice diverted by local scarcity from the European market to India and Upper Burma. In the revenue from forests there was a decrease of £22,761, which, so far as it resulted from the policy of reducing the consumption of timber and from the abandonment of the permit system already alluded to, is no matter for regret. The revenue of 1875-76 was, however, fortunately increased by the demand for railway material; while

the slackness of the market in 1876-77 largely diminished the import duty collected on foreign timber brought down by the Salween. There was a satisfactory increase under the main heads of land revenue, capitation tax, excise, and stamps, by which small diminutions under the heads of land assessment in lieu of capitation tax and fisheries were more than counterbalanced. The figures relating to capitation tax, it may here be noticed, clearly shew the rate at which population is progressing, notwithstanding that a recently adopted method of calculation, which is elsewhere described, shows it as less in 1876-77 than in 1875-76. The loss of revenue from fisheries is rather apparent than real, as it is for the most part due to improved drainage and extended cultivation. Over expenditure from Imperial funds in some of the most important departments, such as the Military and those of Railways and Telegraphs, the Local Administration has no direct control; and it does not fall within the scope of this report to give any detailed account of such items. In those which are, more or less, under provincial management, the figures of 1876-77 differ but little from those of the previous year, with one exception,—that of Forests, under which head the disbursements increased by £19,029. This variation is fully explained in its proper place in the report.

26. The District returns shew the population of the whole province to be 2,942,605, or less by 68,075 than it was computed to be in 1875-76; but the figures of that year, were, as in previous years, based on the assumption that there is a regular annual increase of 2½ per cent. A regular census is taken every year however by the revenue officials; and although the trustworthiness of the result is, to say the least, questionable, it has been thought desirable to fix the number according to their returns. The number of births registered during the year was 57,007, or 20·10 per mille of population; that of deaths was 42,401, or 14·41 per mille. The inaccuracy of these statistics has been often acknowledged, and no valuable conclusions can be safely based upon them. In 17 towns, for example, with a population of over 5,000, the rate of mortality registered was 30·27 per mille,—a result which it is difficult on any supposition to reconcile with the other figures. Cholera appeared in an epidemic form at Akyab and Prome, and 8,678 deaths throughout the country were attributable to it. Deaths from small-pox, though below the average, were nearly twice as numerous as in the previous year;

their ratio to population was 0·46 per mille. There were 5,269 deaths from bowel complaints, and 24,728 from fever,—the proportions to population being 1·83 and 8·62, respectively.

27. Emigration of natives of British Burma to other countries is of very rare occurrence. Immigration is unceasing from all quarters. Burmese and Shans from Upper Burma come down in large numbers every year, and, though the majority of them return after a few months' stay, many no doubt remain and these, from their affinity with the natives, are the most useful class of colonists that come into the country. Of the Chinese immigrants, a good many settle in the province; but the multitudes of Bengali and Madras labourers who arrive at the beginning of every dry season nearly all return to their homes as soon as the approach of the rainy weather brings their occupation to an end. Even of these, however, there must be an annually increasing residuum of permanent residents. The importation by the State of Bengali immigrants ceased at the close of 1876. There were estimated to be 6,545 of them in the province at the end of March 1877, and their nett cost to Government was £7,630 up to that date. Some initiatory arrangements for the introduction of Madras immigrants, under the Burma Labour Law of 1876, were in progress during the year.

28. Sanitary measures were undertaken in the municipal towns of Rangoon, Bassein, Prome, and Akyab. Markets were cleansed and supplied with water, roads and drains were improved, swamps were filled up, and generally greater activity was shewn in the introduction and enforcement of conservancy arrangements. In Rangoon, a project for supplying the town with pure water from reservoirs at a distance was set on foot, and received the sanction of the Government of India, by whom the necessary funds for the construction of the work are to be advanced. In all but the large towns, wants more primary and urgent preclude the possibility of any large expenditure on sanitation; and only those rules are enforced which the people can carry out for themselves without expense or serious inconvenience.

29. There are two native superintendents of vaccination and 81 vaccinators employed in various parts of the country. They vaccinated 28,065 persons, and in 23,285 cases the result was successful. In the previous year, of 24,218 cases, 20,014 were successful.

ful. The cost of the establishment was £1,282, or 13d. for every effectual operation. During the rainy season it was found that failures were much more frequent than at other times; and, travelling being also difficult, little work was done for four months of the year. Lymph was distributed to professional inoculators, who vaccinated some thousands of persons,—with what effect it was not ascertained. On the whole, the progress made during the past 10 years affords good ground for thinking that vaccination is steadily gaining ground in popular estimation, and will within a reasonable time be as largely resorted to in this as in any other country.

30. Eighteen civil dispensaries were open throughout the year, and a new one was under construction at Thatone. The number of

Medical relief

patients treated rose to 69,675 from 64,780 in 1875-76. Burmese, who adhere with remarkable tenacity to their own system of medicine, formed, at most, only one-half of the whole number; and it is noticeable that the increase was entirely among out-patients. The diseases of most frequent occurrence were fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, rheumatic affections, and skin diseases. Of in-patients 25·87 per cent., and of out-patients 5·80 per cent., were treated for injuries. Mortality was highest in cases of cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea, and respiratory diseases. For 82 major and 930 minor operations performed, only six deaths occurred, and these all ensued in cases of the former class. The aggregate income of dispensary funds was £11,725, of which £1,699 was voluntarily subscribed; and the expenditure amounted to £8,602. In addition to seven lock hospitals already existing, a new one was opened at Hensada early in 1876. Three only of the eight are at stations garrisoned by European troops, where Act XXII. of 1864 is in force. No very great success in the enforcement of the law for the prevention of venereal disease can yet be claimed. Even in Rangoon, where there is a special detective agency, and where the supervision is strictest, an effective control over prostitution does not appear to have existed; while elsewhere, attempts made at registration were as ineffectual as in former years. Laxity in detection is imputed to the police, and Magistrates appear to have been unduly lenient in their punishments. No trustworthy information is available to shew what effect the measures at present in force have had on the health of the garrisons. The total cost of lock hospitals was £1,971, or rather more than in 1875. The number of inmates in the Rangoon Lunatic Asylum

was 214, of whom 156 were patients of 1875, and 58 were admitted during the year. Ten died, 85 were discharged as wholly or partially recovered, and 169 remained at the end of the year. Forty of the whole number confined were criminals. The expenditure amounted to £1,842; and £184 were earned by the insanes. The average cost of each inmate was £10 per annum.

31. The principle upon which the educational policy of Government is based is that the instruction of the people at large, and not of any portion or section of them, is the

Education.

only legitimate object of State intervention, and that this must be effected, as far as possible, through the agency of existing indigenous institutions. Accordingly, although a few English schools have been established by Government, and aid has been given to others conducted by private persons, the object and proper limit of the operations of such schools is to provide the means of higher education, especially as regards the introduction of Western science, which, as experience has shewn, cannot be inculcated through an oriental language. Thus, in latter years the chief aim has been to utilize and improve the means of instruction available in the country; and this aim, notwithstanding the eagerness shewn by the people themselves to gain a knowledge of English at the cost of every other study, has been kept steadily in view. The Buddhist monasteries, which form by far the most important class of native schools in Burma, are the best auxiliaries of the Education Department. After much patient labour and many experimental measures, the confidence of the monks in charge of these institutions has been for the most part won over and their co-operation secured, though it cannot yet be said that this task has been completely effected in all parts of the country. Within the last few years, however, a careful abstention from needless interference has been practised, and this, combined with a judicious system of inspection and rewards, is practically bringing most of the monastic schools within the pale of State influence. The lay indigenous schools, though few in number, have been equally fostered and helped; and, as they have readily accepted all the assistance offered them by government, their status has largely and rapidly improved. To Christian missionary schools of every denomination liberal aid has always been afforded, and, although all have not perhaps profited by it in an equal degree, the support given them has on the whole been justified by the results which they have achieved.

During the year under report, the operations of the Education Department have been wide-spread and successful. Its organization is now so far complete that no radical reforms were found necessary in any direction; and the innovations of the year were confined to the opening or closing of schools in one or two places, the introduction of some alterations in the conduct of examinations, and other unimportant changes. Since the close of the year, the appointment of a second Inspector of Schools in the place of two of the present Deputy Inspectors has been sanctioned, it having been found that the time had come for a wider system of European supervision. The record of the year's work, however, while it does not describe the introduction of many new measures, contains abundant proof that those which are now in force have been actively carried out. Not only were the results both of university and of local examinations, more than usually favourable, but the statistical returns shew that the influence of the department, especially through the working of the high school in Rangoon, has acted beneficially upon those indigenous schools the improvement of which is its chief care.

The number of schools of all classes under State control increased from 1,206 to 1,310, and the pupils in attendance from 38,447 to 47,787. This increase is due almost entirely to the number of primary schools brought under inspection for the first time during the year; for, while only one new Government school was opened, one Mission school was closed, and Government and Mission schools together can claim only about 600 of the additional 9,340 pupils. The expenditure incurred by Government increased during the year under report, as in former years. Considering what has been effected, it might be thought that a growth of expenditure ought to occasion no disappointment; but the fact is that only about half the increased expense was incurred in the direction whence the best results were obtained, while the other half was devoted to non-indigenous schools. The gross expenditure was £43,487; and of this, £31,456, or £2,447 more than in the previous year, fell to the share of Government, the remainder being privately collected. The average cost of each pupil was a little over 18 shillings, or about two shillings less than in 1875-76, owing to the large access of primary school pupils, whose cost to Government is very trifling.

The indigenous schools (of which the vast majority are, as has been observed, monastic) are under the control of nine Deputy Inspectors, who as a rule visit each at least once a year,

holding examinations and distributing rewards to both masters and pupils, according to the proficiency of the latter, under five fixed standards. This is the manner in which most of the primary schools obtain Government support; but some 26 of them have trained assistant masters supplied them. The number of pupils who qualified for prizes increased to 4,527, from 3,851 in the previous year; and this, too, notwithstanding increased stringency in the examinations, necessitated by lack of funds. In fact, it was found impossible, from this cause, to distribute rewards in all cases where they were fairly earned. The proportion of scholars who were successful differed so much in various parts of the country as to compel the conclusion that great disparities actually exist in the state of education in different localities. The system of giving aid by supplying assistant masters is beset with difficulties arising, both from the impossibility of getting competent men in sufficient numbers, and from the distrust naturally felt by school masters in accepting as their subordinates strangers with whom they have no connection. Both difficulties will only be solved by lapse of time.

The number of Government cess schools—in some of which English is taught, in others not—remained 15, the same as in the previous year. As a whole, schools of this class do not realize the expectations which led to their establishment. Their cost is very heavy in proportion to the number of children they educate, to say nothing of the quality of the education given. The number of middle class schools has not varied. Ten are connected with missions, and seven are wholly supported by Government. The former appear both less expensive and more flourishing than the latter, as might be expected, considering their origin and the advantages secured by a better teaching staff. Of the six high schools, only one—that at Rangoon—really deserves the title, though all are designed to, and will eventually, impart a higher class of instruction. All were favourably reported on. Two pupils from the Rangoon school gained the distinction of passing the Calcutta University entrance examination; they are the first boys educated wholly in British Burma who have done so. The institution possesses in its Principal, Mr. Gilbert, an officer who devotes his best energies to the promotion of its interests. The Diocesan School was found, when examined towards the close of the year, to be in a very unsatisfactory condition; but additional support has been given to it by Government to enable it to tide over its difficulties, and, under a new manage-

ment, there is every prospect of a successful revival. The Medical Class has been finally closed, having attracted but few pupils from the outset. The Normal Class at the Rangoon High School numbered 26. It is under excellent supervision, and its value cannot be over-estimated. There were 22 girls' schools under State control—one supported entirely by Government, and the remainder aided. The number of their pupils exhibited a large increase, which was fully shared in by the Government school,—notwithstanding the failing health and energy of its head mistress, who has since retired. The good management of St. John's Convent entitles it to prominent notice; and the S. P. G. College, under Mr. Marks, maintains its popularity. Seven schools, denominated Special, in which Karens are taught in their own language, received State subsidies. In some of these the pupils are not taught Burmese at all,—a defect which should be remedied, for the result, whether designed or not, is to maintain the antagonism which has long existed between these wild tribes and the more civilized inhabitants of the country. All these schools render valuable aid in the instruction and enlightenment of a large section of the population, and fully deserve the support accorded to them.

Part II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

In the Administration Report for 1872-78, pages 1 to 21, the following subjects have been treated in a permanent form for reference :—

	Pages.
Physical features of the country, area, climate, and chief staples	1 to 12
Historical summary	13
Form of administration	14
Character of land tenures, system of survey and settlements	15 & 16
Civil divisions, British territory	17 & 18
Details of the last census	19 to 21

Changes in the Administration.

2. On the 1st May 1877, Mr. Rivers Thompson, C.S.I., was confirmed in the appointment of Chief Commissioner of the province in succession to the Hon'ble Ashley Eden, C.S.I., who had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Confirmation of Mr. Rivers Thompson's appointment.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

3. Relations with Upper Burma have remained undisturbed. The death of the chief Queen in November 1876 was a heavy bereavement to the Court at Mandalay, and a real loss to the State, in many departments of which her counsels were wise and her influence benevolent. An Embassy, of which the Naygya Woondouk was the principal member, travelled in Europe throughout the year, visiting almost every capital on the continent, and negotiating a commercial treaty with Spain. It returned in June 1877. As far as Lower Burma was concerned, the passage of the escort from Thayetmyo to China, to meet Messrs. Grosvenor, Baber, and Davenport, created perhaps as much stir and excitement on both sides of the frontier as any other event during the year. The circumstances that led to the despatch of the mission, of which Mr. Grosvenor was at the head, are well known. When the party started, it was not decided whether they were to return by the way they came or through Burma. The latter route having been adopted about the end of 1875, steps were taken by the Resident at Mandalay to open communication with Mr. Grosvenor, who was by this time approaching Yunnan. A letter from him, announcing his safe arrival there on the 6th March, was received by Captain Cooke at Bhamo about the 27th. The necessity of sending an escort of British troops to conduct the mission from the Chinese to the Burmese frontier

Upper Burma.

had already been discussed and recognized, and though the Court at Mandalay hesitated for a time to accede to the proposal, their opposition to the measure was eventually overcome. A doubt had arisen as to jurisdiction over that portion of the route which lay between Manwyne and Bhamo. Mr. Margary was escorted by a Burmese guard from Manwyne to Bhamo, and it sometimes happens that the Chinese authorities send an escort over the same road. Till recently, however, it had been understood that the Nampoung, a stream which is crossed some 80 miles north-east of Bhamo, was the boundary between Burma and China. The Chinese now maintained that their jurisdiction extended only to Manwyne, a small town 20 miles north-east of the Nampoung. As a matter of fact, the whole of the country from Sekkaw, a point some 16 miles north-east of Bhamo to Manwyne, which is very mountainous, is occupied neither by Burmese nor Chinese. The inhabitants are a wild hill race known as Kakyens, who hold the less accessible localities, and Shans, who occupy the valleys. The former can scarcely be said to own any authority beyond that of their chiefs, while most of the Shans are Chinese subjects. Provided that both the Burmese and Chinese Governments are willing that this portion of the route shall be traversed safely, either can afford protection against any molestation. The Burmese Government, in engaging to guard the road from Bhamo to the Nampoung, undertook all that could be expected of it. As the Chinese, however, declined all responsibility for the safety of the party from Manwyne onwards, it became necessary to secure it by sending a small force of our own. The consent of His Majesty the King of Burma having been obtained to their passage through his territory, 200 men of the 67th Regiment and 100 of the 6th Madras Native Infantry, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Jebb, went up by steamer to Bhamo, and from there marched across the hills to Manwyne, a distance of some 56 miles. Communication with the party from China had meanwhile become more frequent, and the progress of the troops was timed so that they should meet it in Manwyne. This was accomplished on the 12th May, and the Chinese guard that had hitherto accompanied the mission made over charge to Colonel Jebb. All returned without accident to Bhamo, and thence proceeded to British territory. Much forethought and care had to be exercised to secure this result. Not only had baggage-cattle to be procured and every provision made for the passage of the troops over very difficult country, but great precaution was necessary to avoid raising alarm and suspicion, both in and beyond Upper Burma, as to the object of the expedition. The collection of some 650 mules in Bhamo was in itself no light task, and it appears to have been no less hard to deal with their drivers when collected. From the time of leaving Thayetmyo, not a single soldier was allowed to land in any inhabited part of the country until the whole party was ready to start from Bhamo. That no counter-measures of any kind occurred was due to the cautious management of Colonel Duncan, the Resident at Mandalay. The arrangements made by Captain Cooke, the Political Agent at Bhamo, too, were very complete, and the conduct of the troops was admirable throughout.

4. Requisitions on the Court of Ava for the extradition of criminals

have obtained as fair and courteous a hearing as in former years. The position of the Court is not without its difficulties. The authority of the Government over its officials in distant places has always been of a loose, intermittent character, and during 1876 its hold appears to have relaxed on the Thayetmyo and Toungoo border, especially the latter, to an unusual degree. Willingness, however, has always been evinced to comply with requests for amendment, and in one or two instances troublesome frontier officials have been recalled at the Resident's instance, so that on the whole no ground for dissatisfaction can be said to exist. Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Duncan, C.S.I., was confirmed in the appointment of Resident at Mandalay on the 28th January 1876. Captain C. B. Cooke held the post of Political Agent at Bhamo throughout the year.

5. In February 1877 a very alarming series of riots took place at

Panong, a large town immediately opposite the southernmost point of the Mergui district. The Chinese, to the number of about 2,000, who work in the tin-mines under the local official there—in consequence, probably, of some dispute about their wages—rose and murdered a number of Siamese, and set fire to some adjacent villages. They resisted in a body the attempt of the Siamese authorities to arrest six of the ringleaders, and finally drove the former into a small fort. Being ill-armed, however, they could do no more; and in the end, after 200 Chinese and 30 Siamese had been killed, the insurgents were compelled to flee in various directions. Large numbers of both parties took refuge in British territory; and, from the turbulent character of the Chinese, grave apprehensions were entertained that the peace of the country would be disturbed by dacoities or other outrages. Fortunately, the refugees soon dispersed to different places beyond our frontier without doing any mischief. News of these events reached Rangoon about three weeks later, when a detachment of police, under a European Inspector, was sent off on the first opportunity to the Deputy Commissioner of Mergui. Order and security were maintained throughout the district.

6. Another year's observation of the working of the treaty of 1874

with Siam affords but little ground for anticipating any practical advantage from it. The supineness and inefficiency of the Siamese Court at Chiengmai is as difficult to deal with as it is veracious and disappointing. A proposal to establish a Vice-Consulate there has been under consideration, and has been finally adopted since the close of the year, though its expediency appeared at first doubtful in view of the short time during which the treaty has been under trial, as well as the expense of the measure and its probable distastefulness to the rulers of Chiengmai. On the other hand, the results of the visit of the Assistant Commissioner of Salween to Chiengmai in 1875 were not such as to afford hope that any reform could be effected by any influence so far removed from the Chiengmai Court. The frontier officials are jealous, and employ every device to evade their obligations.

On the occasion of a dacoity in June 1876, in which £5,000 in silver specie were carried off, no assistance could be obtained from the governor of the district, although it was certain that the offenders could have conveyed most of their spoil but a short distance. The guard-stations on the Salween river are not only inadequately maintained, but the so-called police who occupy them appear to be inhabitants of neighbouring villages, compelled to serve unpaid, and driven to obtain a subsistence by malpractices; and this, too, notwithstanding that their support has been made a pretext for raising the duty on timber. Efforts made by the Assistant Commissioner of Salween to secure an effective supervision of the traffic across the river by the establishment of a ferry at a fixed point were resisted for a time by the Siamese authorities. The only countervailing consideration with regard to these and similar difficulties is that our intercourse with Zimmay is not of long standing, and that in course of time a more cordial understanding can scarcely fail to be established.

7. The affairs of Western Karennee, "Red Karen" country, have demanded but little attention during the past year. The demarcation of its northern frontier early in 1876 was not immediately

Western Karennee.

followed by the removal of the Burmese police-posts south of the line laid down; but, on representations made through the Resident at Mandalay, these have since been withdrawn. The number of Red Karens who immigrate to Lower Burma as labourers and their lawless habits are becoming matters of serious moment. They are very ready in the use of arms, and bold and ruthless beyond the Burmese in the commission of dacoities and other serious crimes; while their activity in travelling enables them almost to defy ordinary police pursuit. Once arrived in his own country, all hope of capturing a Karennee criminal is virtually gone; for neither the nominal sovereign, Khoontee, nor probably any other chief, has sufficient authority to enforce extradition, even if he desired to do so. The formation of a hill sub-division in the eastern part of the Toungoo district has provided the means for a more strict surveillance of the frontier. In future, more rapid and trustworthy intelligence will be obtained of events in Karennee than has hitherto been possible, and an effective control will be exercised over the by-no-means considerable traffic that passes in this direction.

8. In the Hill Tracts of Arakan, the chief object aimed at is the suppression of clan feuds and the rapine and bloodshed to which they lead: crime of other descriptions is rare. During the year

Hill Tracts, Northern Arakan.

under review, the tribes within the district have been kept at peace amongst themselves, but, as in the previous year, there has been one case of aggression from without. In May 1876, Langayoke, a village not far from Dalekme, the most northern police-post, was attacked by 20 or 30 of the Yaklain clan of Shandoos, whose home is some days march to the north of the border. One man was killed, two were wounded, and eight were carried off captive. The futility of trying to obtain redress by negotiation unsupported by force had been demonstrated in 1875 by the ill-success of the Inspector-General of Police on

his visit to the Mro tribe, who had been guilty of a similar outrage. A punitive expedition was accordingly determined upon, and towards the close of the ensuing November, a hundred men of the Hills Police, armed with Snider rifles, under Mr. Buckle, the Superintendent, started for Khamoon, the Yaklain chief's village. The captives not being delivered up, hostages were seized, and the village burnt and abandoned. The expedition returned without mishap; and within a few months all but one of the captives were brought in and delivered up by the chiefs of the tribe, who promised to abstain from future aggressions. A subsequent expedition against the Mros was equally successful, but a narrative of it must be left to form part of the history of 1877-78. The experience of the past two years has clearly shewn that these lawless tribes are far more amenable to superior strength than to diplomatic advances, and that, in the end, a prompt and vigorous shew of force is the wisest and most effective method of securing reparation for past, and immunity from future, aggressions.

9. Notwithstanding interruptions and alarms from without, the improvement of the people and the development of the resources of the country under our immediate control have received considerable attention during the past year. The operation of the two regulations passed in 1874 continues to afford satisfactory results, and seems to shew that the law now provided is well suited to the district. The courts of the Superintendent and his Assistant decided 119 civil cases during the year under review, against 108 in 1875; while criminal cases increased from 27 to 50. It is perhaps premature to draw any conclusions from these figures, but the courts appear at all events to be freely resorted to. In matters affecting hill usages and customs, the decision of disputes is rightly referred to the arbitration of chiefs, subject to the Superintendent's approval. Taxation is light, and the assessment of four shillings per house is the simple method of collecting the revenue. The amount realized was £588, or £52 more than in the previous year. It has not been found expedient to prepare accurate census returns, owing to the timid and suspicious disposition of the people. The population of the district for the year under review is, however, estimated at 12,816, while in 1875-76 it was 12,442. The increase is attributed mainly to the fact that one whole village of 200 souls immigrated from beyond our frontier. No revenue has hitherto been derived from excise, nor is the introduction of spirituous liquors desirable among a people who would probably yield very soon to an intemperate use of alcoholic liquor. To check any such tendency, a portion of the Excise Act has recently been extended to the Hill Tracts with a view of regulating the manufacture and sale of a stronger preparation used chiefly by the Goorkha Police.

Civil, criminal, and revenue administration.

10. The district possesses great natural advantages of soil and climate, and there is good water communication. Tea, coffee, cotton, and tobacco could no doubt all be very profitably cultivated if once the initial difficulty of obtaining labour were overcome.

Capabilities of soil and climate.

present, tobacco of good quality is extensively grown for export by hill-people, and a Government farm has been established at Myoung for the improvement of its cultivation. Teak plantations have been made, and very profitable results are anticipated. Various other plants have been, and are, under experimental cultivation; and when the capabilities of the country are known, there can be little doubt it will become one of the richest and most flourishing regions in Arakan. Arrangements had been made for a communication by steam launch between Akyab and Palukwa, but the boat intended for that purpose was most unfortunately lost in a severe storm in the Bay of Bengal at the end of last November. Measures are under consideration which it is hoped will soon see such communication permanently established.

1. The police force consists of 256 men, of whom 109 are Goorkhas and Tipperahs, 68 Hill-men, 48 Mughs or Munnipoories, and the rest of various races.

Police.

The Goorkhas are contented, and do admir-

ably service; and the whole force is thoroughly efficient and adapted to the work it has to perform. The substitution of 120 Snider and Enfield rifles for the old muskets has proved advantageous. The men are proud of the weapon, keep them with great care, and have been taught to use them skilfully.

2. The dispensary at Palukwa, the head-quarters station, has proved of very great value throughout the year. No less than 897 in-patients and 1,668 out-patients were treated with a very large measure of success, and two-thirds of these were hill-men.

Dispensary.

II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Surveys, Settlements, and Waste Lands.

13. Allusion was made in the Administration Report of 1875-76 to the grave inaccuracies in the returns of area shewn by many of the thoogyees in their assessment-rolls as revealed by the results of re-measurements carried out by the officers of the local Survey Department. During 1876-77 the operations of the department were again confined to the Rangoon district, where further disclosures were made, the effect of the year's work on the thoogyees' measurements being an increase of 16,004 acres to the areas of seven circles surveyed, with an addition to the revenue of £3,829. These are startling results, and shew clearly the urgent need that exists for the work of re-survey being vigorously prosecuted. It is not implied that the errors detected arise so much from dishonesty on the part of the thoogyees, as from their ignorance of, and want of capacity for, their duties; but they discover a state of matters calling for immediate remedy, and this would be best secured by a regular professional revenue survey of the entire province. The Chief Commissioner has already pressed such a measure on the attention of the Supreme Government, and the proposals made are still under consideration. There can be no reasonable doubt that, if a settlement were made, based upon a detailed survey under European direction, the land revenue would be increased, even at the existing rates of assessments, by at least 25 per cent., throughout the country. The results of the past two years' operations in the Rangoon district may be summarised as follows:—
“Fifteen circles containing, according to the thoogyees' rolls, a cultivated area of 166,721 acres, were surveyed and the actual area was found to consist of 206,293 acres, an increase of 89,572 acres, or 23.78 per cent., the revenue being raised thereby from £32,646 to £41,825, an increase of £9,179, or 28 per cent.”

Towards the close of the year the department was engaged in surveying fisheries, allotments near the town of Rangoon, and some of the waste land grants.

Area under settlement for the past two years.

14. The area under settlement for the past two years is shewn below:—

DISTRICT.	AREA UNDER SETTLEMENT.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1875-76.	1876-77.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Akyab	59,265	59,264	..	1,001
Northern Arakan .. ..	..	..	..	..
Kyauk-hpyoo	54,504	54,500	..	4
Sandoway	8,583	6,875	..	1,708
Rangoon	1,074	574	..	500
Thakwa	7,780	7,578	..	152
Bassein	11,919	11,750	..	162
Henzada	118,650	118,861	209	..
Prango	154,459	154,264	..	105
Thyestayo .. ..	..	..	..	..
Toangoo	23,694	23,694	..	..
Shwe-gyao .. ..	..	..	..	..
Am'arat	9,517	9,517	..	..
Tavoy	38,263	38,250	..	18
Mergui .. ..	..	..	..	..
Total	492,675	489,227	..	3,448

In the more important districts of Rangoon and Bassein, the greater portion of the settlement leases have expired, and it has been considered inadvisable to renew them until the question of carrying out a professional revenue survey in the province has been finally decided.

15. No more grants of waste land under the rules of 1865 have been made, but under the local revenue rules Grants of waste land. small grants for the purposes of rice and garden cultivation have been made to the extent of 21,933 acres in the Pegu division, and 4,746 in the Tenasserim division, with exemption from revenue for periods ranging from one to 12 years.

16. Little has been done in the matter of re-surveying these grants during the past year, two only having been re-surveyed. It is impossible to carry on this work without having a special officer Waste land grants, Rangoon district. and establishment appointed for the purpose. There yet remain

20 grants to be re-surveyed in the Rangoon district alone, whilst in Arakan a commencement has not yet been made. No grants were resumed by Government during the year.

Wards' estates.

17. There are no Government or Wards' estates in British Burma.

III.—PROTECTION.

I.—Legislative Authority.

[Vide Report for 1872-73, page 26.]

Course of Legislation.

18. During the year under report, the Acts of general application passed by the Legislative Council of the Government of India were as follows :—

I.—The Indian Telegraph Act.

V.—The Reformatory Schools Act.

VIII.—The Native Passenger Ships Act.

IX.—An Act to enable the Government of India to declare certain coins of Native States to be a legal tender in British India.

XI.—The Presidency Banks Act.

XII.—An Act for the repeal of certain obsolete enactments.

XIII.—An Act to amend the law relating to merchant seamen.

XVI.—An Act to amend the Stage Carriages Act.

19. The following Acts, which relate solely to the province, received the assent of the Governor-General in Council on the dates specified :—

II.—An Act to declare the law relating to interests in land, and to regulate the assessment and collection of land revenue, capitation-tax, and other taxes in British Burma,—18th January 1876.

III.—An Act to regulate the transport of native labourers to British Burma, and their employment therein,—25th January 1876.

Regulation No. V.—A regulation to amend the Arakan Hills Civil Justice Regulation, 1874.

20. The Burma Forest Bill was introduced into the Council of the Governor-General of India on the 6th December 1876, and referred to a Select Committee for report.

Police.

21. The police force of the province during 1876 consisted of 22 gazetted and 569 non-gazetted officers and 6,261 men. This is equivalent to one in every 13 square miles, or in every 439 of population. The total number is greater by about 100 than in the previous year. The force comprises as many as nine different nationalities, but of

course of the year by far the largest part of it; men of other races are only here and there entertained for special or local duty. The number of dismissals was 8·2 per cent. of the total strength, or 0·6 per cent. more than in 1875; while voluntary resignations decreased from 18·4 per cent. to 18. The subject of this instability in the composition of the force has been frequently discussed. It need only be added here that orders have been issued during the year giving the District Magistrate fuller control over the internal management of his police, and that it is hoped some amendment will follow in this respect. The returns shew a considerable decrease in the number of men who received pecuniary rewards for exceptional good service; but it must be explained that some difficulty has been experienced in getting correct information on this head, and that the decrease has not been so great as it appears. The total cost of the police was £149,853, of which £8,611 was defrayed by municipalities and other sources, and the remainder from imperial revenues. The sum of £4,798 was spent on the construction and repair of station-houses and other buildings. Much yet remains to be done in this direction, a large proportion of the existing structures being of not very durable materials. Systematic instruction was given during the year with, generally speaking, good results, although these are to a large extent nullified by the large number of dismissals and resignations which are continually taking place. In some districts, too, the work of patrolling is so heavy that but little leisure is left for any but the most necessary duties.

22. Our political relations with Upper Burma were fortunately not of such a nature as to add to the difficulty of police administration on this side of the frontier. The circumstance which most largely affected the state of crime was the great rise in the price of food throughout the province, caused, not by any scantiness in the supply here, but by increased exports to meet scarcity elsewhere. The area of police operations was extended by the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner, with two European inspectors, six sergeants, and 110 constables to take charge of the hill country which forms the eastern portion of the Toungoo district. This tract is thinly populated by rude tribes of Karens, largely resembling in their habits and mode of life the hill people of Arakan, though within our frontier it had not heretofore been under thorough administrative control. Next cold season it is intended to station an Assistant Commissioner permanently at Laketho, a central locality, which will be connected by a good road with the head-quarters at Toungoo.

23. The number of cognizable offences reported was 21,310, or 2,911 more than in 1875; and the police were employed in the investigation of 1,019 non-cognizable cases. Of the increase in cognizable crime, more than one-half consisted of petty offences against special and local laws. If these be left out of the account, the difference between the two years, which represents the increase of real crime, was 1,351 cases. Of these, 897 were of simple theft, 121 of house-breaking, 122 of receiving stolen property, 76 of rioting, and 100 of simple hurt.

24. There were 73 cases of murder, against 71 in 1875. Of the former, 54·8, and of the latter 48·8, were prosecuted to conviction, so that during the year under review detection has improved. The murders were attributable in 25 cases to quarrels, in 14 to desire of plunder, in 13 to jealousy and matters connected with women, in 10 to desire of revenge, and in four to blind rage. Attempts to murder have risen from eight to 18 cases, while the percentage of detections has fallen from 75 to 54. Under the two heads of culpable homicide and causing death by negligence there were 87 cases, against 89 in 1875; and detection has improved, 68 per cent. of the offenders having been prosecuted to conviction, against 61 per cent. in the previous year.

25. Of grievous hurt there were 111 cases, or one more than in 1875. In 79 per cent. convictions were obtained,—a satisfactory proportion. The offence of hurt by dangerous weapons was less frequent than in the previous year, the number of cases having been 258. During the previous four years, the number had increased from 125 to 323 per annum. The excitable temperament of the Burmese is answerable for a large proportion of these cases of offence against the person; and it deserves notice, as shewing a cause which police vigilance may suppress, that in frequent instances the anger which led to the wound or homicide was the result of gambling or drinking disputes. The readiness to take the law into their own hands which the people exhibit is partly attributable also to the fact that the bulk of them have not yet been a generation under the control of a Government able under all circumstances to vindicate its own authority and to redress private wrongs.

26. *Dacoity*, an offence which from various causes has always been very prevalent and of a very serious character in this country, has diminished materially during the last few years. The number of cases, which was 65 in 1872, fell to 28 in 1876; and of the latter number, more than one-third were committed either by gangs from beyond our frontier, or in places so close to it that the offenders were able to escape by crossing into foreign territory. Two of the 28 cases occurred in the hill sub-division of the Toungoo district, where in former years they would not have been reported, owing to the absence of police-stations. In the district of Toungoo there were six other cases beside these; and Thayetmyo and Bassein contributed four each. In Toungoo and Thayetmyo, the frontier districts, the police had to contend with peculiar difficulties, owing to the unusually disturbed condition of the border townships of Upper Burma. This was especially the case on the Toungoo side, where the authority of the Burmese Government over its subordinate officers appears to have grown more than commonly effete. Representations on the subject were made to the Resident at Mandalay, and received the King's attention. It deserves especial recognition that the Prome, Akyab, Sandoway, Mergui, and Salween districts enjoyed complete exemption from dacoities during the past year; while the number in the Rangoon district, owing to the successful disruption of two notorious

gangs, fell from 17 in 1875 to a single very doubtful case in 1876. Of the two dacoities in the Arakan division (both committed in the Kyouk-hpyoo district), the most serious was the act of foreigners from Upper Burma on the frontier town of Aeng. The robbers were severely handled by the local police, and most of the plundered property was recovered. Similar vigour was displayed on the Yahine frontier of the Amherst district, where the force under Shwe Kye (since promoted for his gallantry to be an Assistant Superintendent) pursued and routed a large gang of Siamese dacoits, of whom three were killed and one, who had been severely wounded, was drowned in crossing the river Thoungyin. Sergeant Shwe Nee in the Tavoy district dealt equally well with another gang from Siam, all five of whom were captured with the whole of their booty. It is not so satisfactory to have to record that after two years of tranquillity this crime has revived in Bassein; that, out of four cases, one only was successfully prosecuted, and that the well-known leaders of the gang are still at large. The percentage of sentences in which convictions were obtained was 38, against 23 in 1875; while the proportion of convictions to arrests was 41 and 54 per cent. respectively. Detection was thus better than in the previous year, although less discrimination was used in making arrests.

27. Robbery decreased from 108 cases in 1875 to 84 in the year under review, but of the latter only 40 per cent. were prosecuted successfully, against 43 per cent. in the previous year. House-breaking advanced from 872 to 993 cases, while its detection has retrograded from 82 to 31 per cent. The increase occurred almost wholly in Henzada, Rangoon (district), Thayetmyo, and Sandoway. It is explained that the marked failure of the police in their detective action is to a certain extent only apparent, because many cases in which the offender is discovered and convicted are found by the Magistrate to be mere house-theft, while every case of reported house-breaking in which a conviction is not obtained remains on the books as such. The explanation is probably sound enough so far as it goes, but there is reason to believe that if, in the districts where this class of offence is shewn to have increased, sufficient vigilance had been used in carrying out preventive measures, the evil might have been checked.

28. Cattle-theft, it is satisfactory to find, diminished. The number of cases, which was 821 in 1875, fell to 750, or nearly 10 per cent., in the year under review. Population being thin and pasturage abundant, cattle are numerous, and cattle-lifting is one of the most frequent and troublesome offences which the police have to deal with. Their action in detecting it has generally improved, and very much more might be accomplished if the necessity of reporting thefts at once could be impressed upon owners. Days are lost in fruitless search, and, by the time the robbery is brought to the cognizance of the police, the stolen cattle have passed through several hands, rendering recovery and conviction almost impossible. The successful prosecution and punishment of several gangs of cattle-thieves in the Myanoung township shews what may be effected

by vigorous and concerted action in a single district. In the Thayet-myo district, too, where cattle-lifting increased under previous mismanagement, measures have been taken which should shew good results. The repression of elephant-stealing on the Kyoukgoung frontier by Siamese depredators is due to the vigilance of a Karen sergeant. The percentage of convictions in 1876 was 27, as against 21 in the previous year. Very much more has to be done to rid the country of a great evil, which in places affects seriously all agricultural operations.

29. The most remarkable feature in the police returns of 1876 is the large increase in the number of ordinary thefts. There were 7,612 cases reported in 1875, and 8,509 in 1876, giving an increase of 897 cases, or nearly 12 per cent. The value of the property stolen moreover, omitting that taken in dacoity, diminished somewhat, so that a larger number of the offences must have been of a petty character than in the previous year. Some part of the increase may, as the Inspector-General remarks, be only apparent, owing to the fact that petty offences have been more frequently and honestly reported. The cause of it, however, is not far to seek. The harvest of 1876, which was above the average, gave facilities for a large export of paddy, and was followed by a very great rise in the market price of rice, the universal food of the people of the province. The agricultural classes, as recent events have proved, were ready to sell every spare bushel of their grain. Nor was this all. In Upper Burma, the harvest of 1876 was so injured by drought that great scarcity ensued, and towards the close of the year immigration to Lower Burma received a considerable impetus. It is only natural that, as is known to be the case, there should be a large proportion of bad characters among these immigrants, and all of them leave behind them one great restraint from crime,—the opinion of their fellow-countrymen and relatives. This affords some explanation of the great increment in the class of offence under discussion. In the matter of detection, the police worked better during the year under review than in 1875. The percentage of detection increased from 39 to 44; 633 prosecutions were instituted for the offence of receiving stolen property, against 509 in 1875, of which 73 per cent., against 72, were to conviction; and the proportion of stolen property recovered increased from 80 to 82 per cent. It is in preventive action that the police failed.

30. Of gambling, the Inspector-General says:—"This fruitful source of crime shews some increase in the returns, 4,016 persons having been convicted under this head, against 3,327 in the previous year. * * * Where the Act is not in force, gambling is, I fear, steadily on the increase. The matter is one of moment, for increase of gambling means to a certainty, in Burma, an increase of crime. But the police are powerless to stop gambling where the Act has not been extended." These observations are no doubt just, and measures are under consideration for remedying the evil complained of. In many cases some extension of limits already laid down for the purposes of the Act is probably desirable.

31. Under the head of simple hurt there is an increase in the number of reported cases of 101, or about 20 per cent. This offence was made cognizable by the police for the first time in 1875, and most probably it was at first imperfectly reported. Latterly it would seem to be the case that the police in some instances accept reports and make investigations and arrests in cases too trivial to come within the meaning of section 828; and it is more than probable that the present increase is due to more accurate, or perhaps excessive, reporting. As regards adequacy of punishment, for the purpose of checking these violent offences against the person, nothing remains to be done. The Judicial Commissioner, who was consulted during the past year, has reported that the subject has engaged his attention, that monthly lists of sentences are submitted to him, and that no insufficient sentence is allowed to pass unnoticed.

32. Rioting or unlawful assembly would seem to be answerable for three-fourths of the augmentation in Class I. Rangoon, Thonkwa, Henzada, and Kyouk-hpyoo, in which most of these offences occurred, must have been more turbulent than the general tranquillity of the country would lead one to suppose. Apparently 1,202 persons were brought to trial under the sections of the code which refer to these offences. The Inspector-General has not referred to the matter specifically in his report.

33. A general survey of the operations of the police during the year, although re-assuring so far as their ability to cope with all the more violent and serious species of crime is concerned, does not convey a very favourable impression of their detective skill, or their power to prevent and check that very numerous class of minor and furtive offences which are the usual concomitant and pest of a dense population. Murder, culpable homicide, grievous hurt, hurt by dangerous weapons, dacoity, robbery, and cattle-theft—offences the prevalence of which has heretofore been the chief difficulty and the chief reproach of the police administration—have all either diminished or remained stationary in number; while the population of the province is known to be increasing at the rate of some 70,000 or 80,000 a year. Theft, receiving stolen property, and house-breaking, on the other hand, have all increased at a rate out of all proportion to the growth of the population. The truth seems to be that to deal effectually with the latter class of offences, a special training, a long experience, and a thorough knowledge of localities and individuals is required, such as few members of the police force have the opportunity, coupled with the necessary aptitude and perseverance, for attaining. This is a subject which will increase year by year in importance and urgency. There is apparently an entire want in the police force of a purely detective agency, and it will probably be found that the only way to meet the difficulty will be to select and train men specially for detective work, and to employ them in that alone. The growth of Rangoon itself and the character of its very mixed population claim the introduction of some special arrangements in this direction.

34. The following is a summary of the police statistics of the year :

Summary of police statistics.

—There were 21,691 cognizable offences investigated by the police, including 381 cases reported in 1875 ; of the whole number,

13,262, or 61 per cent., were prosecuted to conviction. There were 31,794 persons arrested and 31,131 put on their trial for these offences ; 78 per cent. of the latter were convicted. If Class VI. be omitted from the account, the number of cognizable cases investigated by the police in 1876 is 13,974, of which 6,656, or 47.6 per cent., against 48 per cent. in 1875, were prosecuted to conviction ; and of the 13,184 persons brought to trial for them, 9,890, or 71 per cent., against 74 per cent. in 1875, were punished. The following table shows the general results of police action against the different classes of crime, and illustrates the remarks above made :—

Class.	Percentage of cases prosecuted to conviction to cases investigated.		Percentage of convictions to persons brought to trial.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
I.	77	82	69	77
II.	61	62	64	64
III.	29	29	66	64
IV.	75	74	70	72
V.	40	45	71	72
VI.	86	11	85	83

If success in detection and in pressing charges to conviction be trustworthy tests of the comparative efficiency of the police in various localities, Rangoon town and cantonments, the Bassein and Salween districts, and the Hill Tracts of Arakan have been the best administered ; and the Rangoon, Hensada, and Sandoway districts and Moulmein town, the worst. The contrast between the Rangoon town and district was as striking last year as in 1875. Some allowance may be made for the officers in charge of the latter, which from its large heterogeneous population, the widely ramified trade which passes through it, and other causes, is one of the most difficult police districts in the province. There are, however, other causes to account for the comparative failure. The Inspector-General speaks of the "not very good material" at the disposal of the District Superintendent, and the charges of laxity of discipline and frequent abuse of power commonly brought against the Rangoon District Police are not entirely without foundation. The subject has engaged considerable attention lately, and it is hoped that some amendment is taking place. In Hensada, which is also very low in the order of merit, there are similar defects and difficulties. In the lighter classes of crime, there has been a deplorable failure in detection. The District Superintendent has had to contend against failing health, which has at last compelled his departure from the country. This district, the most populous in the province, is much too large for a single officer, and proposals have been submitted to the Government

of India for the erection into a separate district of the portion which lies on the eastern bank of the Irrawaddy. In favour of Moulmein town and Sandoway nothing can be said.

35. It has been suggested that endeavours should be made to recruit the police from a better class, or to enlist natives of India. A difficulty would arise from the increased expenditure, and for the general constitution of the force it would be impossible to ignore the claims of the native population to police service under Government. For the work of guarding the central jails at Rangoon and Moulmein, indeed, the expedient has been found absolutely necessary on account of the frequent outbreaks which occur there. Recruiting is now going on in Upper India, and it is hoped that the new force will begin to act during the present year.

Criminal Justice.

36. THE statistics of the detection and prosecution of crime are appropriately explained and illustrated by those of the criminal courts which now follow. The administration reports of the past two years have enumerated the criminal courts of the province, and have described the manner in which jurisdiction in criminal matters is distributed amongst them. It will be sufficient here to say that no legislative changes affecting them have been made during the year. The provisions of the law regarding high courts are somewhat complex, and may eventually be found to require amendment. There has been a considerable access of criminal business before the courts, whose present weak establishments are scarcely equal to the additional pressure, and proposals for strengthening the ministerial staff of subordinate courts are under consideration.

37. The following is a comparative statement of the work of the criminal courts for 1875 and 1876 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Persons under trial.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Undisposed of.
1875 ..	26,614	39,689	12,734	26,264	201
1876 ..	29,503	46,324	15,807	31,809	230

There has thus been an increase of 2,889 cases of reported crime during the past year, and the greater part of this is attributable to the districts of Rangoon, Bassein, Thayetmyo, and Amherst, and Rangoon town.

38. These figures agree generally with those of the police statistics. There has been a large accession of offences against special and local laws, and of petty crime generally ; but in few

Increase of petty crime.

of the graver kinds of crime has there been any material increase. The only considerable and important augmentation has occurred under the heads of theft and house-breaking. This is no doubt to be accounted for by the prevailing dearth of food: It must not be forgotten, however, that the population of the province is growing rapidly, while means of communication are improving. The former circumstance necessarily gives rise to some increase of crime, while the latter facilitates its discovery, and both help to swell the returns. The construction of the railway, for example, besides introducing a new class of offences, will also no doubt have the effect of bringing to light others in remote places, which might otherwise have remained unreported.

COURTS IN THE TOWN OF RANGOON.

39. During the year 1876 there were 46 cases and 86 persons brought for trial before the Recorder as a court of sessions and high court. Of these, excluding three which remained

Recorder's Court.

pending at the close of the previous year, 31 cases were committed by the Magistrate and 10 by the Assistant Magistrate of Rangoon. The two cases in which European British subjects were tried by the Recorder sitting as a high court were committed for trial one by the Town Magistrate of Rangoon, and the other by the District Magistrate of Prome. In the former case, sentence of death was passed and confirmed by the high court at Calcutta. Of the total number of persons committed for trial, the charge was withdrawn against three, 24 were acquitted, 53 were convicted, five remained for disposal at the close of the year, while one case, regarding the detention of a lunatic, was referred for the orders of the Local Government under section 426 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Of the 53 persons convicted, three were sentenced to death, three to transportation for life, 15 to transportation for a term of years, and 32 to various periods of rigorous imprisonment. There were 12 appeals from the Court of the Town Magistrate, and 13 from that of the Assistant Town Magistrate; and of these, 24 were disposed of during the year. The number of cases of revision disposed of was six. In 1875 there were 44 cases committed to the court as a court of sessions, and three as a high court, and there were 29 appeals.

10. In the Rangoon Magistrates' Courts, there were 3,890 cases and 8,705 persons brought to trial. Of the latter, 1,348 were acquitted or discharged, and 6,607 convicted, a percentage of 76.5 allowing for committals and pending cases. The

remarks already made about crime generally throughout the province are particularly applicable to the town of Rangoon. The increase in non-bailable offences has been only 19, while that in bailable offences has been 285. The former occurs chiefly under the heads of murder and hurt of various kinds; the latter is due to the increased number of prosecutions for petty offences. The percentage of detection to cases of reported crime has increased from 58 to 64. The number of cases of house-breaking has diminished to 19, and 16 persons were

convicted under this head. Cases of theft and possession of stolen property numbered 831, against 832 in 1875; while convictions increased from 418 to 481.

Punishments inflicted.

41. The following is a comparative statement of the punishments inflicted in 1875 and 1876:—

Description of punishment.	Percentage to total number of sentences.	
	1875.	1876.
Rigorous imprisonment	12.4	12.5
Fine	80.2	81.7
Whipping	8.5	2.7

Fifty-five persons were ordered to find security for good behaviour, and 96 were bound over to keep the peace. The total number of witnesses examined was 5,993, of whom 5,540 were detained one day, 375 two days, 67 three days, and only 11 more than three days. The average duration of cases was three days in the Magistrate's and two-and-a-half days in the Assistant Magistrate's Court.

42. The nationalities of the persons tried by the Magistrates in Rangoon during the past three years is shown below:—

	1874.	1875.	1876.
Burmese	3,496	3,160	4,244
Chinese	350	277	448
Natives of Bengal and Upper India	1,719	1,146	1,919
Madrassees	2,516	2,013	1,204
Chittagonians	409	317	457
Europeans and East Indians	118	192	433
Total	8,608	7,101	8,705

The number of European and Eurasian criminals is rapidly growing, although most of the offences with which they were charged during 1876 were of a trivial nature. Four Europeans only, all of the sea-faring class, were convicted of crimes requiring a more severe punishment than three months' imprisonment. The number of Madrassee offenders, on the other hand, appears to be steadily diminishing.

COURTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER.

43. The district returns shew a total of 25,291 offences, for which 37,619 persons were put on their trial, against 22,706 offences and 32,788 persons accused in 1875. Of those tried in 1876, 25,201 were convicted and 11,766 acquitted or discharged. For 1875 the corresponding figures were 21,335 and 11,453, so that, if crime has increased, it has also been more energetically detected and punished. The number of sessions trials was 234.

44. The following table of punishments inflicted serves further to illustrate what has already been said about the course of crime during the year:—

Description of punishment.	Number of sentences.		Percentage of total number of sentences.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Death	30	31	..	..
Transportation	40	43	..	..
Solitary confinement	120	321	..	..
Severe imprisonment	4,221	4,707	19.1	19.1
Simple imprisonment	295	290	..	..
Fine only	14,246	16,494	64.5	68.9
Whipping	1,000	1,151	4.5	4.7
Surety and recognizances	1,118	1,100	5.6	4.8

45. The class of punishments which has most grown is, it will be observed, that with which the lightest offence are visited. It need not by any means be assumed that fines have been unduly resorted to for the punishment of crimes meriting graver penalties. The increase of minor offences already alluded to, which has been the result of a stricter application of conservancy rules and various local bye-laws, has naturally resulted in a larger number of fines than before. The total amount imposed was £33,648; and of this, £22,414, or over 66 per cent., was realized,—a sufficiently large proportion, although less than that of the previous year, when, of £27,683 imposed, £19,518, or over 70 per cent., was collected. The average amount of each fine was as much as £1-17-0.

46. Sentences of solitary confinement have increased by 200, and sentences of whipping by 164. Both of these are advances in the right direction, as these punishments have hitherto been too little used. Simple

imprisonment was inflicted in a large number of cases,—a fact due no doubt to the operation of the Excise Act.

47. There was an increase of more than 100 in the number of persons called upon to give security for good behaviour. The number imprisoned in default was 757. The Henzada district is pre-eminent in this respect, with a total of 185 of these orders, of which 142 were passed in the Tharawaddy sub-division. Similarly, of 88 and 139 such orders in the Prome and Rangoon districts, 64 and 86 were passed in the Pongday and Syriam sub-divisions respectively. The question is one to which attention has often been directed. In defence of the frequency of these prosecutions, it is urged that those called on to give security are generally confirmed opium-smokers and habitual thieves, that they are well known as such, and are never convicted without respectable non-official evidence. It cannot but be regretted, nevertheless, that the number of cases in which this so-called preventive jurisdiction of Magistrates has been exercised is on the increase. It is remarkable that every person called upon to furnish security in Kyouk-hpyoo and Toungoo was imprisoned in default. If the sum demanded as security is unreasonably high, sureties will not be forthcoming; and this is a point upon which it is right to insist that Magistrates shall act with caution and judgment.

48. The average duration of cases throughout the year appears to have been three days. This is much the same as in 1875, and is sufficiently short. The detention of witnesses has been less than in the previous year, 66,298 witnesses having been examined, of whom, if the returns are accurate, only 5,629, or 8.5 per cent., were detained two days or more, while 60,664, or 91.5 per cent., were examined on the day of their arrival in court. In 1875, of 51,609 persons, 6,020, or about 11.5 per cent., were detained for two or more days, the remainder, or 88.5 per cent., being dismissed the day of their arrival. Of 342 witnesses detained for more than three days, 142 belonged to the Rangoon district, which was noticed last year as being at fault in this respect. In some districts there has been a strange reluctance, the Judicial Commissioner remarks, on the part of the Magistrates to avail themselves of the rule which allows them to pay the expenses of witnesses in warrant cases; but the rule is more generally acted on than in 1875.

49. There were 11,121 persons convicted in the courts of Subordinate Magistrates, and of these, 481, or over four per cent., appealed. Judging from the fact that more than half of those who did appeal succeeded in getting their sentence modified or reversed, the Judicial Commissioner attributes the low proportion of appeals to "the lightness and perhaps the substantial justice, rather than the legal correctness, of the sentences passed by the Burman Magistrates." The class of offences they have to deal with, however, is not the most serious, and the bulk of their sentences are, and must be, probably, fines, against which it is often not worth while to appeal; while a prisoner in jail can appeal without any additional inconvenience, and always with more or less chance of gaining something by it. Curious

ous instances of unsound decisions given by Extra Assistant Commissioners have been recorded, but much importance is not to be attached to these as furnishing any test of the general efficiency of this branch of the judicial service. Burmese Magistrates do their work, generally speaking, conscientiously and well. They can lay no claim to be subtle lawyers, and their judgments may be wanting in legal correctness; but if substantial justice is done in the petty cases which come under their cognizance, there is every ground for satisfaction.

50. The number of sessions trials has increased from 212 to 234.

Court of Sessions.

Of these, 63 were in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner sitting as a sessions court for the districts of Rangoon, Thonkwa and Bassein, 132 were before Commissioners of Divisions, and 39 in the Court of the Judge of Moulmein. The total number of convictions appear to have been 131, a much smaller proportion than last year. The proportion of convictions was highest, it is noticed, in the court at Moulmein, where trial is by jury.

51. Of 3,649 persons convicted by Magistrates of the 1st class,

Courts of Magistrates of 1st class.

690, or nearly 19 per cent., appealed, a proportion four times as large as in the case of Subordinate Magistrates. The explanation is sufficiently obvious, especially when it is stated that only 130, or 18 per cent., of the appellants were successful. There were 10,523 persons tried summarily,—nearly a quarter of the whole number tried; and of these summary trials, the largest number in one court was 3,125 before the Town Magistrate at Moulmein. Under the enlarged powers conferred by section 36 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Magistrates of districts tried 217 persons, and of these a very large proportion (185, or 85 per cent.) were convicted. The proportion of convictions in sessions courts was 67 per cent.

52. In the Court of the Judicial Commissioner sitting as a high

Appeals.

court, the number of persons who appealed was 156, against 136 in the previous year; and only 40 were successful. In the cases of 14 the sentence was reduced, and in those of 26 only, or 16 per cent., was it reversed. In no case was the decision of a sessions court reversed. There were 815 cases brought before other appellate courts, of which 783 were decided within the year. The average duration of each case was six days, which represents sufficient promptness in the despatch of business.

53. As a court of revision, the Judicial Commissioner had before

Judicial Commissioner's Court as one of revision and reference.

him the cases of 524 persons, an increase of 37 on the preceding year. It is explained that monthly statements of sentences passed are now submitted to the Judicial Commissioner by every court in the province, and many cases are called for on perusal of these. The sentence passed was confirmed in respect of 291 persons, reversed in respect of 169, and reduced in respect of 52, and the sentences passed on 11 persons were enhanced. As a court of reference, the Judicial Commissioner confirmed 19 and modified 5 capital sentences.

Prisons.

54. The prisons of British Burma were enumerated in last year's administration report. During the year under review, a new sub-divisional lock-up was under construction at Pongday, but was not finished. Similar buildings are still needed in at least five other sub-divisions. Almost all the existing jails are built to a great extent of wood,—a fact which explains the large expense annually incurred for repairs, and which will ultimately necessitate much re-construction. A heavy outlay will thus be needed for some years to come before all the requirements of the province in this respect are adequately fulfilled.

Description of prisons.

55. The selection of prisoners for release on the 1st January 1877 gave rise to an immense amount of labour and correspondence, especially in the Office of the Inspector-General of Jails, and the work of inspection was thus considerably impeded. Seven jails in consequence remained unvisited.

Inspection.

56. The total number of convicts remaining in jail on the last day of the previous year, together with those admitted during the year, was in 1876 13,780, while in 1875 it was 12,893, the difference being 887, although the number remaining from the previous year was 4,523, or 78 less than in 1875. These figures do not, of course, include prisoners who, through transfer from jail to jail, have been twice brought on the books of the department, though the statistical returns shew both.

Jail population.

57. The number of convicts received into jail in 1876 was 9,257. In 1875, the number was 8,292, or 965 less. With the exception of Moulmein and Myanong, where there were small decreases, and Prome, where there was a large decrease, in the number of admissions, the increment has been pretty evenly distributed among all the 16 jails and lock-ups of the province. Prisoners under sentence of one month or less were this year for the first time retained in the lock-up at Ngathaingyoung, to the relief of the Bassein Jail, where all from that sub-division were formerly sent. Similarly, prisoners from the district of Thonkwa or Ma-co-bin were retained in the new headquarters lock-up there, instead of, as formerly, being sent to the Henzada, Bassein, or Rangoon Jail.

Admissions.

58. The daily average number of prisoners in confinement was in 1873, 4,824; in 1874, 4,786; in 1875, 4,546; and in 1876, 4,822. That of the year under review is thus less by two than that of 1873, that of 1875 being exceptionally low. (The daily average of the Moulmein Jail has been increasing, consequent on transfers from the Rangoon Central Jail to relieve overcrowding. The numbers confined in the Akyab Jail have been decreasing year by year, owing to fewer local convictions and shorter sentences. The Toungoo Jail has never had such a high daily average number confined in it.)

Daily average population.

The number remaining at the end of the year was in excess of the number remaining at the end of any former year. The greatest

number of convicts confined on any one day was 431, which is the largest number ever confined in the jails of this province.

59. The number of transfers from jail to jail within the province was 2,167, or 204 more than in the previous year. From Rangoon, 198 prisoners

Transfers.

were sent to Moulmein, to relieve overcrowding and 374, originally sentenced in other parts of the country, were transferred a short time previous to the expiration of their sentences to the jails of the districts where they were originally sentenced, there to be released. This procedure, although attended with much trouble and expense, is undoubtedly productive of good results. It has tended to diminish crime in the town of Rangoon, and is in the majority of cases a great boon to the prisoners themselves. The necessity for transferring prisoners to undergo sentence arises, of course, from the fact that the existing jail accommodation, if sufficient, is not appropriately situated. The matter is one which can only be gradually dealt with. The large, strong jail at Toungoo has hitherto seldom had more than 120 inmates, though capable of containing 307, because it has been found less costly to transfer the Shwe-gyeen long-term prisoners to Moulmein. In future, it is intended to send to Toungoo all sentenced in Shwe-gyeen to two years and upwards, improved means of communication having rendered this feasible.

60. The number of prisoners released on appeal was 224, or 2.41 per cent., of all convicted; two were released on account of sickness, 7,423 on expiry of

Releases.

sentence, and 633 on payment of fine. Sixty convicts were transported beyond seas, against some 48 in the previous year; but the circumstances which led to the transportation of some of these were a little exceptional. Four were ringleaders in a jail outbreak at Rangoon, and 15 others were convicted of conspiring to wage war against the Queen. The average number annually transported during the past five years has been about 45: it will probably be largely augmented in consequence of recent orders of the Supreme Government, under which transportation will not be restricted to prisoners sentenced for life, but will include all of seven years and upwards. Twenty-three prisoners, or six more than in 1875, were executed.

61. The proportion of criminality among the various classes of the population during the past two years is shewn in the following table. The

Religion of prisoners.

large number of Hindoo criminals is again conspicuous, and appears to be still on the increase:—

Religion.	Population in 1875.	Number in jail.	Percentage in jail in 1875.	Population in 1876.	Number in jail.	Percentage in jail in 1876.
Christians ...	55,201	601	.71	57,030	454	.78
Mahomedans ...	107,595	703	.65	110,018	755	.68
Hindoos ...	50,407	703	1.79	40,302	745	1.84
Buddhists ...	2,631,418	10,513	.39	2,697,377	11,064	.41
Others ...	118,803	874	.48	121,725	701	.66
Total	2,953,184	12,893	.43	3,027,194	13,780	.45

Of the 454 Christians, 253 were Europeans, principally court-martial prisoners and sailors confined in the Rangoon Central Jail.

62. The returns shew that, of the total number of convicts, 11,046, or 80.16 per cent., were between 16 and 40 years of age; 2,880, or 17.27

Age of prisoners.

per cent., were between 40 and 60; 213, or 1.54 per cent., were over 60, and 141, or 1.02 per cent., were under 16. The number of offenders under 16 years of age has declined. There were 123 boys and 18 girls in 1876, against 165 boys and 13 girls in 1875. The number under 12 years of age was 23 boys and two girls, against 13 boys and four girls in the previous year. One girl was only eight years-old, one boy was nine, five boys were 10, five were 11, and 12 boys and one girl were between 11 and 12 years of age. Fifty-seven boys were sentenced to whipping, and the remainder, with the girls, to various terms of imprisonment,—in nearly all cases under one year. Sixteen boys and three girls had been previously convicted, two having been more than three times in jail. All the girls and 88 of the boys had received no education whatever, 34 were returned as knowing a little, and only one as well educated. Imprisonment was inflicted on this class of offenders less frequently than in former years, but the number imprisoned is still larger than it ought to be if a wise discretion were in all cases exercised. Magistrates appear often to forget that the law provides correctional punishment by way of whipping. All juvenile prisoners whose periods of sentence admit of it are now transferred to central jails, where special wards are set apart for them. Those in the Rangoon Jail are employed in the printing press, and are taught to read and write their own language every evening. The Superintendent reports that they have made some progress, and that their conduct has been good. This method of segregation, however, is not satisfactory, and it has been decided to establish a reformatory, rules for the management of which are under consideration.

63. Only 33 per cent. of those imprisoned are shewn as having been engaged in agriculture, and only three per cent. were women. Both proportions are remarkably small as compared with

those in other provinces, especially that of women. The heading "Non-agriculturists," under which 6,859 persons are classified, is very indefinite, and includes labourers of all kinds and artisans. Persons of no occupation numbered 1,273, Government servants 448, domestic servants 192, and persons of independent property 26. Of the females, 339 were married, 29 were unmarried, and 93 were prostitutes.

64. Statement No. III. shews an increase in sentences of imprisonment for more than one year, and a decrease under other heads. The proportion of sentences of simple imprisonment

Classification of sentences.

has fallen from 8.19 to 6.05 in the year under report. It is abnormally large in Rangoon, Henzada, Ma-oc-beng, and Ngathaingyoung. Out of a total of 119 persons sentenced to simple imprisonment for failing to furnish security for good behaviour, as many as 99 come from the single district of Henzada. The subject demands the attention of all Judicial Officers. There are, of course, cases in which

simple imprisonment may be a more appropriate punishment than rigorous, although the latter would be legally admissible; but such cases are rare. The jail authorities can vary at discretion the labour to be performed by a prisoner sentenced to hard labour, according to his state of health and other circumstances; but a sentence of simple imprisonment binds them to leave him absolutely idle, which is a condition as prejudicial to the prisoner as to the interests of the community. It has been said on high authority that such prisoners "leave prison morally worse than when they entered it," and imprisonment to such a class can neither be reformative nor deterrent.

65. The number of prisoners who had been previously convicted was 2,664, or 19·93 per cent. and 17 per cent. greater than in 1875. This proportion is probably larger than that in

Re-convictions.

any other province in India. In Bengal and the Punjab in 1875 it was 12·22 and 19 per cent.; and in the North-Western Provinces last year it was 11·80. Sandoway, Myanong, Hensada, and Prome shew the largest numbers of re-convictions; and one case at Moulmein deserves prominent notice, where a prisoner was received in jail who had undergone imprisonment on nine previous convictions, receiving in each case a short sentence. This is a strong illustration of the fact that imprisonment for short terms as against habituais entirely fails of its object; and where punishment has proved so notoriously inadequate, either to reform or deter the criminal, it is clear that the offender should have been committed to the court of sessions, and not disposed of summarily by the Magistrate. As regards the treatment of this class of delinquents in the jails, the appliances available are apparently insufficient in most of our jails to impose really punitive labour. In Rangoon, however, a crank recently set up in connection with the jail machine shop should supply all that is required for the purpose, and it must be left to the jail officials to see that the labour is not shirked. In Bassein, where really strict treatment appears to have been resorted to, the result has been a reduction of the percentage from 4·15 in 1875 to 17·12 last year.

66. Including under-trial and convicted prisoners, the total number who escaped, or who attempted to escape, was 86. Of these, 19 were concerned in an outbreak from the Moulmein Jail, and

Escapes.

were at once secured; and of the remaining eight convicts and nine under-trial prisoners, five and seven respectively were recaptured. The number of convicts who really escaped therefore was only three, and none of these had unexpired sentences of over a year. This is perhaps, as the Inspector-General observes, the most satisfactory record of the kind yet published in the province. It is no doubt mainly the result of the prohibition of extramural labour, which has latterly been enforced throughout the province.

Seven out of the 19 men who mutinied at Moulmein were sentenced to less than seven years' imprisonment, and the remainder to longer periods. That the attempt was quelled so successfully was due entirely to the prompt and vigorous action of the 15th Regiment,

M. N. I., to the Colonel and officers of which the thanks of the Local Government were conveyed. On the occasion of the discovery of a more serious plot in the Rangoon Jail during 1875, the Chief Commissioner directed that all Jailors and Deputy Jailors should pass an examination in colloquial Burmese, most of them having been found to be ignorant of it. The necessity for this order has been now further illustrated, but it does not appear that much progress has yet been made in the matter.

67. The subject of jail guards was under consideration during the year. It was at first suggested, in view of the frequent outbreaks which have occurred, that at Rangoon and Moulmein military guards were desirable. This measure was found to be attended with considerable difficulty, and has not been carried out; but the necessity for it has to some extent been obviated by the establishment of a preconcerted system of communication between the jails and barracks, by which troops can, if necessary, be summoned. The original difficulty, however, lay in the inefficiency of the police force employed in this duty; and that difficulty, arising from a low rate of pay and other circumstances, is not yet wholly removed. To meet it, endeavours have been made to enlist a higher class of men, and the Inspector-General of Police has sent an agent to recruit in Upper India. It is hoped that his efforts will be attended with success, but some time must elapse before the result is known.

Jail guards.

68. The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to be on the whole satisfactory, with some exceptions which deserve notice. The outbreak at Moulmein has already been alluded to. It was commenced by five long-termed prisoners, who, while being locked up in a work-shed, seized some tools and with three others rushed out into the work-yard. The inner gate being open for a cart to pass in, offered no obstacle, and the eight men made their way to the outer gate. The turnkey outside threw the gate open and fled in terror. The convicts then made for the police guard-house outside the jail, and, the police running away, got possession of arms and ammunition. With these they returned to the jail, broke open the gates of three more work-yards, and tried to induce other prisoners to join them. Only 11 did so, and in the meantime an alarm had been given, and a party of the 17th M. N. I. had arrived. On meeting them the prisoners fired on them and the fire was returned. Two prisoners got back safe into the jail, two were re-captured unhurt, eight were severely wounded, and seven were killed. This was on the 26th February. In January, the Jailor, Mr. Rundle, was struck down by a prisoner armed with a piece of wood, but was rescued by the Deputy Jailor and a prisoner-warder. In the Rangoon Jail on the 6th January, the Deputy Jailor, Mr. Cobie, was murdered by a European life-convict already under sentence for murder. On the 30th December, the habitual prisoners and life-convicts in the Rangoon Jail became mutinous, because they had been debarred from the remissions granted to other convicts on the 1st January. Sixteen of the ringleaders had to be flogged before the usual order and discipline were restored.

Prison offences.

The number of punishments inflicted for prison offences appears to have been 5,182, which represents a percentage of 106 on the daily average number of convicts. This is a reduction of over four per cent. on the figures of 1875. The proportion varies to a remarkably large extent in different parts of India, from 18 in Oudh to 128 in Lower Bengal. In this province it is unusually high,—a natural result of the incorrigible character of the jail population. The proportion of floggings decreased by more than six per cent., from 49.28 to 42.78. The proportion of corporal punishments to the whole number in Lower Bengal in 1875 was only 12 per cent. The rattan appears to have been used on almost every occasion at Thayetmyo, Henzada, Mergui, and Ma-oo-beng. At the last place, the enormous percentage of 480.95 of the average daily population incurred some kind of punishment, which in only one case out of every 20 was other than corporal. The principal prison offences were, being in possession of forbidden articles, such as, tobacco or the like, and spoiling or not finishing work. Reduced diet has been found an effective deterrent against petty offences. Solitary confinement cannot be much resorted to for want of cells.

69. Of the whole number of convicts imprisoned, 9.42 were able to read and write well, 37.86 could read and write a little, and the remaining 52.72 per cent. could do neither. It is satisfactory to find that during the latter part of the year, in the larger jails, a system of teaching was established, and that, so far as could be observed, it promised well. A daily average of 121 were under instruction.

Education.

70. A daily average of 206 prisoners were employed as prisoner-warders and work overseers, or 3.99 per cent. of the average, number of prisoners of all classes, which was 5,152. Amongst this number there were 172 cases of punishments, or 83.49 per cent. of the daily average. As a rule, they are very favourably reported on. They were better conducted than the free warders, of whom 108.21 per cent. had to be punished, some of them very severely, by imprisonment. The most serious crime committed by a prisoner warden was escape from lawful custody.

71. The total cost of maintaining and guarding prisoners throughout the province was £30,299-18-11, or £2,141-11-3 more than in 1875. The causes of this difference are satisfactorily explained. It was due to an increase both in the number of prisoners confined and in the cost per man. The latter was £5-18-4, or more than six pence higher than in 1875. The following is a detailed statement of the expenditure for the last two years. Under-trial, civil, and excise prisoners have been included in calculating the cost per head in those items only which they have a share in (see Note to Chapter II. of Prison Administration Report for 1875):—

	1875.		1876.		Differences.
	Expenditure.	Per head.	Expenditure.	Per head.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Rations	11,277 5 7	2 7 10	12,761 17 11	2 10 6	— 2 8
Fixed establishment ...	9,170 3 3	1 18 4	9,232 8 4	1 16 1	— 2 0
Police guards	4,605 8 1	0 19 3	4,601 10 7	0 18 0	— 0 5
Hospital charges	654 0 2	0 2 9	831 11 10	0 3 3	— 0 6
Clothing	679 11 6	0 3 0	906 5 7	0 3 9	— 0 9
Contingencies	1,771 19 1	0 7 5	1,963 4 8	0 7 8	— 0 6
Total	28,158 7 8	5 17 9	29,299 18 11	5 18 4	— 0 9

A general rise throughout the country in the price of rice caused a corresponding rise in the cost of rations, and there was a slight enhancement in the rates per man under the heads of hospital charges, clothing, and contingencies. This increment, in calculating the cost per head, is somewhat neutralized by the distribution over a larger number of prisoners of the cost of guarding, which amounted to about the same as in 1875. The Toungoo Jail guard was reduced in strength, but the saving thus effected was counterbalanced by augmented expenditure elsewhere. The increase under the head of contingencies arose mainly from the greater number of transfers from jail to jail in 1876, occasioned by the necessity of relieving local overcrowding, and other causes. The cost of clothing during 1876 cannot be compared with that in 1875, the accounts for the two years not having been thoroughly separated, owing to delay at some jails in preparing bills. The cost per head at various jails ranged from £4-13-11 at Thayetmyo to £15-1-3 at Mergui. During the year under review, as in the two preceding years, the former seems to have been the most economically managed jail in the province. At Henzada there has been a marked improvement in this respect. Rangoon, too, stands high in the comparative list, notwithstanding the heavy expenses of the European jail.

72. The statistics of the employment of convicts shew that considerable progress has been made in this direction since 1875. Although there were more prisoners in jail in 1876, the daily average number of prison officers and prison servants diminished from 226 and 476 to 206 and 369, respectively. The number employed on manufactures, on the other hand, increased from 2,462 to 2,729, or 10 per cent., notwithstanding that the average number of prisoners available for work would seem to have been only 55 in excess of that in the previous year. The proportion of prison officers to the total number shown as effectives was 5.53, against 6.16 in 1875; and the proportion of prison servants was 9.91, against 12.98. At Ngathaingyoung and

Mergui there were 25 per cent., and at Shwe-gyeen 20 per cent., of prison servants,—an enormous number when the simple nature of their duties is considered. At Akyab, one of the cleanest and best ordered jails in the province, there were only 4.92 per cent. of prison servants; while of the larger jails, only those at Rangoon and Thayetmyo employ more than 10 per cent. The prohibition of out-door labour last year, except under the special sanction of the Local Government, is reported to have been found beneficial. A daily average of only 35 prisoners were employed extramurally.

73. Jail manufactures have been carried on energetically, and with very great success, during the year under report. The accounts stand briefly thus:—

Dr.			Cr.		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
Cash drawn from Treasury	18,198	0 11½	Cash and transfer credits in Treasury	29,420	0 7½
Decrease in amount of outstanding bill	600	6 9½	Increase in value of machinery and plant	3,965	17 11½
Decrease in value of raw material in stock	921	8 7	Increased value of manufactured goods in stock	184	16 7½
Balance in favour of manufactures	13,850	18 10½			
Total	33,570	15 2½	Total	33,570	15 2½

The cash profit, or difference between the amount drawn from the Treasury and that credited, was £11,221-19-7½. In no previous year has the balance in favour of manufactures reached £10,000. The least pleasing part of the above statement is the increase, amounting to about 50 per cent., in the value of machinery and plant. A portion of this however is only apparent, as the value of some machinery made over by the Jail Department to the State Railway has not yet been ascertained or credited to the former in consequence of the necessity of communicating with the Store Department at Home on the subject. The diminution, on the other hand, in the amount of outstanding bills and in the value of raw materials in stock is matter for congratulation.

The improvement now under notice has been most marked in the Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Thayetmyo, and Tavoy Jails. At Rangoon, during 1875, a new steam saw-mill, which had been erected at very great cost, completely broke down. The machinery supplied from England was radically defective, and was set to work too early, so that the masonry foundations sank. The task of completing the needful repairs was entrusted to the jail authorities. They were executed at a far more moderate cost than that estimated by the engineers who were consulted on the subject, and so successfully that the saw-mill has been since kept uninterruptedly at work. The financial failure of the Rangoon Jail in 1875 and its success in 1876 have been mainly attributable to these circumstances. The Moulmein Jail cleared the large sum of £2,400 from miscellaneous manufactures. Tavoy has

made the greatest stride of all. Instead of, as heretofore, being worked at a loss, the manufactures of that jail have in 1876 been made to produce a higher average of earnings per man, *vis.*, £6-16-11½, than those of any other in the province. At the Ngathaingyoung, Sandoway, Shwe-gyeen, and Toungoo jails the average earned was below £1-2-0. More should eventually result from manufactures in the Bassein and Thayetmyo jails. Both are newly constructed jails, under excellent superintendence, and needing only better appliances to secure financially larger returns.

74. There was a daily average of 213 convicts employed in jail gardens during 1876 against 203 in 1875.

The quantity of vegetables supplied for jail consumption increased by 108,427 lbs. and that sold by 58,927 lbs. The value of the former is estimated at £159-14-0, and the price of the latter was about £73-14-0, so that, although only 10 more men were employed, the gross profit realized was about £299-3-0 more than in 1875. At 11 out of 16 jails, the gardens produced all the vegetables required for rations; and at Thayetmyo, Myanoung, and Henzada there was a large surplus for sale. At Toungoo, little more than half what the jail needed was produced; while at Ma-oo-beng and Ngathaingyoung no cultivation worth the name was undertaken.

The following statement shews the gross cost of jails under all heads, the details of the head office expenditure, and the net cost after deducting the receipts and the balance in favour of manufactures:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
<i>To Maintenance and Guarding.</i>									
Rations	1,036	4	6						
Fixed establishment	9,297	17	0						
Police guards	4,620	8	0						
Hospital charges	835	14	6						
Clothing	313	5	4						
Contingencies	1,975	4	4						
Expended on additions, alterations, and repairs by P. W. Department	19,460	16	4						
Do. do. Jail Department	165	13	9						
<i>Inspection charges.</i>									
Salary of Inspector-General	1,200	0	0						
Do. Deputy do.	130	0	0						
Do. of clerks and servants	382	16	0						
Contingencies	88	6	9						
Travelling expenses	74	2	4						
Total							1,865	5	1
				30,479	8	8			
				12,626	12	1			
							44,971	5	10
<i>By Receipts.</i>									
Extraneous labour profits	230	11	0						
Balance in favour of manufactures	18,068	7	1						
Sale proceeds of surplus vegetables	162	11	7						
Miscellaneous receipts	175	8	6						
Net cost to Government				14,385	18	2			
							30,706	7	8
Total							44,971	5	10

The net cost to Government, as shewn in Statement No. XIV. in the appendix, is £ 38,934-6-11. The reason of the difference between this and that shewn above is that in the former only cash receipts are shewn, while in the latter credit is given for increase in the value of manufactured stock and plant and machinery. A sum of £12,626 was spent on the construction and repair of buildings during the year under review; in 1875, the amount so spent was £18,056. The expenditure of 1876 was distributed mainly as follows:—£5,858 was spent at Akyab on the new jail in course of construction; various additions, alterations, and repairs in the Rangoon and Moulmein jails were effected at a cost of £2,652 and £522 respectively; nearly £500 was similarly spent at Bassein; Henzada Jail was enlarged at a cost of £574; and sums of £588 and £1,678 were spent on the construction of new lock-ups at Pongday and Ma-oo-beng.

75. The average net cost per head of average strength was for the whole province £8-9-5; at Rangoon, £8-9-4; at Moulmein, £4-0-9; and at Thayemyo, £9-11-11. In 1875 the gross expenditure was £48,188-14-5 and the nett cost £37,511-19-5, the average net cost per head of prisoners being £7-16-1.

76. Among convicted prisoners, the number of deaths in 1876 was 127, or 2.63 per cent. of average strength, against 107, or 2.35 per cent., in 1875. The increased mortality was principally due to visitations of cholera at Kyouk-hpyoo, Prome, and Ma-oo-beng; to unhealthiness in the Moulmein Jail shewn by the prevalence of remittent or, possibly, enteric fever and of hospital gangrene, and to the seven cases of violent death at the time of the Moulmein outbreak.

77. There was considerable overcrowding in the Rangoon Jail and the Shwe-gyeen Lock-up throughout the year, fortunately without any evil effects, although subsequent events have shewn how imprudent it is to calculate upon such impunity. The Rangoon Jail was relieved by transfers to Moulmein, and the surplus at Shwe-gyeen was directed to be transferred to Toungoo, where there is three times more accommodation than has heretofore been required. At Moulmein too, where there is room for 1,649 prisoners, the average daily strength was only 1,048, so that, except for the cost of removal, there is really no absolute reason why any jail should retain more than its proper complement.

78. The rate of mortality was highest at Prome, Ma-oo-beng, Kyouk-hpyoo, and Henzada; and lowest at Rangoon, Bassein, Ngathaingyoung, Mergui, Sandoway, and Shwe-gyeen. At the last four places no deaths occurred. There were no deaths among prisoners under 16 years of age or among females. Between the ages of 16 and 40 the rate of mortality was much higher than between 40 and 60. Among under-trial and civil prisoners, it was 7.37 and 2.89 respectively. Statement No. XIX. again shews that the highest

death-rate, 4.78, was among prisoners who had been under six months in jail, and the lowest, 0.79, among those whose term of confinement had exceeded seven years.

79. The number of civil prisoners was somewhat greater in 1876 than in 1875. That of offenders against excise rules reached the high daily average of 109. This class is unfortunately very numerous in Burma, and few jails have good and sufficient accommodation for them. It is a common complaint in the province that offenders of this class can only be sentenced to civil imprisonment; but in the present state of the law this is unavoidable. The daily average of under-trial prisoners confined in jails remained about stationary, those confined in police custody being far more numerous than in the previous year. The amount chargeable on the Jail Department for dieting the latter at three pence a head rose from £692-10-0 to £977-2-0.

80. Statement No. XXII. shews particulars regarding lunatics confined in jails. The daily average number was 29; 22 were released, 23 were transferred to the lunatic asylum, one died, and 90 remained at the end of the year. They cost £6-8-9½ per head of average strength.

81. Of 464 male and 26 female trans-marine convicts on ticket-of-leave in British Burma at the commencement of the year, four were released by orders received from the Governments in India in whose territories they were originally tried and sentenced, two were remanded to jails for misconduct, 25 males and three females died, and 493 males and 28 females remained at the end of the year.

82. The various State prisoners confined in the province remained where they were in the previous year,—
State prisoners. Ram Singh with his followers from the Punjab, and Salim and Nursoo from Baroda are in Rangoon, and the three Kuka prisoners, Lukka Singh, Brahma Singh, and Jowar Singh, at the Kyouk-tan outpost jail at Moulmein.

Civil Justice.

83. The civil courts of British Burma are regulated by Act XVII. of 1875, which came into force on the 16th September in that year. Further experience of its provisions leads to the conclusion that some of them (especially those which relate to the more important tribunals) are wanting in simplicity, and will probably require alteration. By far the largest share of the civil judicial work of the province, however, is disposed of by Burmese Judges, the constitution of whose courts undergoes but little change from legislative amendments which from time to time take place.

84. The satisfactory administration of justice by native officials has been noticed with commendation in the reports of previous years; nor does the

Character of Subordinate Judicial Service.

history of the past year goes to disappoint the expectation before expressed, that, with the advance of education generally throughout the country, the efficiency of these courts will shew corresponding progress. That the Burmese do not understand our legal system nearly so thoroughly as the natives of India is undoubted. The fact is not surprising, and must be accepted with indulgence, for no blame is due. Many of our present Extra Assistant Commissioners were born and bred under Burmese rule, and gathered their earliest and most fixed ideas of law and justice from the usages and traditions of Burmese courts. How widely these differed from our own few of us can probably appreciate. The main points of difference were, perhaps, that native courts admitted money penalties for almost every offence, and decided almost all civil suits by compromise; and these are the two main directions in which fault is found with Burmese Judicial Officers. We can neither hope nor desire to eradicate old customs and traditions at once: the thorough introduction and acceptance of a foreign legal system is the work of generations, and the more gently and gradually it is introduced, the firmer will it eventually become rooted.

85. The work of translating Legislative Acts into the vernacular has been carried on steadily in the face of great difficulties, arising partly from the want of a sufficient number of competent translators, and partly from the inherent difficulty of the work, Burmese being a language poor at best, and singularly ill-adapted for expressing the elaborate conceptions of Western lawyers.

86. The office of Judicial Commissioner was held throughout the year by Mr. Quinton. Mr. Sandford resumed the appointment, however, early in 1877, and, before the Judicial Report was completed, Mr. Quinton returned to India, so that the results of the latter officer's personal observation during tours of inspection remained unrecorded. Beyond this, there were no noteworthy changes or transfers of Judicial officers.

87. The following comparative statement of the work of the Superior courts in 1876 and the preceding year contains nothing calling for special notice:—

COURT OF APPEAL OR REFERENCE.	APPEALS.		REFERENCES.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
High Court, Fort William, or Privy Council ..	2	1	..	..
Special Court	14	1	8	2
Recorder's Court .. .. .	..	..	27	9
Judicial Commissioner's Court	15	105	32	18

General summary; suits instituted.

88. The civil business of the entire province, in comparison with that of 1875, is exhibited in the following statement:—

INSTITUTED.						DISPOSED OF.					
Suits.		Appeals.		Total.		Suits.		Appeals.		Total.	
1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
30,228	32,300	1,345	1,421	31,908	32,419	30,258	30,611	1,819	1,255	31,563	31,908

The increase in the number of suits instituted amounts to 421. There was a decrease in the Rangoon Small Cause Court of 545, and in the Moulmein Judge's Court of 375, cases. The increase was distributed mainly as follows:—In the Akyab district 293, in Thonkwa 315, and in Bassein 457 cases. Of the total number of suits disposed of in 1876, 11,847, or 88 per cent., were contested; while in 1875, out of 31,563 disposed of, 10,939, or 34 per cent., were contested.

89. There were 8,605 applications for execution of decrees, and in 6,674, or 77 per cent., of these, some satisfaction was obtained, 4,223, or 49 per cent., being executed in full. In the Rangoon Small Cause Court, if the returns may be accepted, out of 2,647 applications, 1,449 were completely, and 1,144 partially, complied with, 54 being still pending at the end of the year,—that is to say, some satisfaction was obtained in every single case disposed of.

COURTS EXERCISING JURISDICTION IN THE TOWN OF RANGOON.

90. The civil work disposed of during the year in the Recorder's Court consisted of 198 regular suits and 368 miscellaneous cases. A detailed comparison of the business of the past two years is exhibited below:—

Year.	Number of regular suits instituted during the year.	Number of miscellaneous suits instituted during the year.	Total number of suits instituted during the year.	Number of regular suits disposed of during the year.	Number of miscellaneous suits disposed of during the year.	Total number of suits disposed of during the year.	Number of regular suits pending at the close of the year.	Number of miscellaneous suits pending at the close of the year.	Total number of suits pending at the close of the year.	Value of suits instituted during the year.	Value of stamps filed during the year.	Value of suits disposed of during the year.
1875	191	317	498	141	315	456	17	16	33	44,023	2,235	68,054
1876	198	363	519	128	308	436	25	11	36	31,474	2,984	52,370
Increase	35	46	61	...	63	59	28	...	13	...	699	...
Decrease	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	6	...	10,608	...	15,678

The total value of suits instituted during the year was £31,474, and the value of court fee stamps filed was £2,984, being an increase of £599 on receipts for stamps over the year 1875, although the value of suits instituted in that year was £42,062, and more than double the amount received from the same source in 1874.

91. The regular civil business of the past five years has been as follows:—

Year.	Number of suits filed.	Value of property under litigation.	Average value of each suit.
		£	£
1873	141	67,900	480
1875	179	77,100	430
1874	124	28,200	227
1875	121	42,062	348
1876	166	31,474	202

The value of property under litigation thus largely declined during the year under report. Leaving out of account exceptionally protracted suits, the average duration of contested cases was 48 days and of uncontested cases 33 days. It was remarked last year that the decrease of important litigation might with some probability be attributed to prolonged delay in the despatch of business, nor do the statistics of 1876 furnish any grounds for withdrawing or modifying that opinion.

92. The character of the miscellaneous work of the Recorder's Court is shewn below:—

Nature of miscellaneous cases.	Nos.
References from Small Cause Court	9
Proceedings under Land Acquisition Act	2
Applications for review of judgment	4
Ditto for new trial	5
Ditto to sue in <i>forma pauperis</i>	22
Ditto for letters-of-administration and probate	89
Ditto for removal of attachment	16
Ditto for discharge from jail	5
Ditto under section 4 of Act XXIII. of 1861 for an order to the Small Cause Court to entertain a suit when one of the defendants resides out of the jurisdiction	24
Ditto for license to practice as Advocates	14
Processes forwarded by other courts for service	61
Applications for execution of decrees	68
Decrees of other courts forwarded with certificates of non-satisfaction	52
Other miscellaneous suits	42

There was one appeal to the Privy Council from the Recorder's Court. Four admiralty cases were instituted during the year, valued £1,589 collectively: two were withdrawn, and two decided *ex-parte* plaintiff. There were 15 petitions presented under the Insolvents' Act, one of which was by creditors for an order to adjudicate a party insolvent, and 14 were by the parties themselves for the benefit of the Act. In the first case the party was adjudicated an insolvent; eight petitioners received their personal discharge, four had their petitions for discharge dismissed, and two cases were pending at the close of the year.

98. The working of the Small Cause Court was much more satisfactory during 1876 than it was in the previous year. The court of the 1st Judge was provided over from the beginning

Small Cause Court.

April by a barrister of considerable experience, who worked energetically. In the 2nd Judge's Court, independently of favourable reports received from the 1st Judge and the Recorder, the statistics shew that an improvement has taken place in the manner in which business is disposed of. The proportion of contested cases increased, the percentage of *ex-parte* cases was sufficiently low, and a fewer cases were decided in favour of plaintiffs.

94. The whole work of the two Judges, when compared with that in 1875, shews a falling off. But as 1875 was an exceptional year, two commercial panics having given rise to extraordinary litigation, the comparison should be made with 1874. The number of suits instituted in the three years 1874, 1875, and 1876 were 4,197, 4,883, and 4,929 respectively, shewing an increase during the year under review over 1874 of 732, or 17.5 per cent. The total value of suits for the three years was £84,407, £54,423, and £40,138, the increase in 1876 over 1874 being £5,781. The average value of suits was the same as in 1874,—£8: it was £10 in 1875. The actual work done by the two Judges was as follows:—

Court.	Number of suits disposed of.	Contested.	Percentage of contested cases to total disposed of.	AVERAGE DURATION	
				In contested cases.	In uncontested cases.
1st Judge	1874	2,999	812	27.5	11.5
	1875	3,587	808	22.6	22.75
	1876	3,277	906	27.6	18.5
2nd Judge	1874	1,198	309	25.9	9.5
	1875	1,821	239	13.1	10.25
	1876	1,767	302	17.1	21.43

The Judges' work, of which contested cases form the main part, has thus been greater than in 1875. The duration of cases has been somewhat long perhaps in some instances, but not sufficiently so to be for remark.

95. Before the 1st Judge there were 202 regular cases pending from 1875. He disposed of 8,277 regular suits in 1876, but at the close of that year there were only 96 pending. Of these, one only was pending over two months. The number of cases decided after contest was 906; but 35 more out of the 49 regular suits withdrawn, with leave to sue afresh, were also contested. The proportion of regular suits heard *ex parte* before the 1st Judge was 37.5 per cent. of the number for disposal. There were 542 suits dismissed for default, but the great majority of them had been compromised out of Court, and the parties did not trouble themselves further in the matter.

96. The 2nd Judge commenced the year with 10 regular suits pending. He disposed of 1,786 suits, and had a clear file at the close of the year. He decided 302 suits after contest, as against 289 in 1875; while the number of suits decided *ex parte* was 35.35 per cent. of the number for disposal. Out of the 302 contested cases, 231 were in favour of the plaintiff, either wholly or in part, and 71 for the defendant. This proportion is more in accordance with the 2nd Judge's own work in 1874 (when he decided 188 for the plaintiff and 126 for the defendant) than his work in 1875, when 225 were decided in favour of the plaintiff and 14 only for the defendant. It is a result also more in accordance with the working of the 1st Judge's Court for some years past and with that of the Recorder's Court.

COURTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER.

97. In the courts subordinate to the Judicial Commissioner, there were 25,638 suits instituted, including 119 from Northern Arakan, and 25,548 disposed of during the year. The former figures represent an increase of 840, or 3.3 per cent. over those of 1875, which, again, were 3.9 per cent. higher than those of 1874. The increase is somewhat surprising, for litigation had grown beyond what was expected in 1875, and the reverse was to be anticipated in 1876, as actually did happen in Rangoon. It seems impossible to suggest any general explanation of the fact.

98. The following is a statement of the number and value of suits disposed of since 1871:—

Year.	Number of suits disposed of.	Total value.	Average value.	Year.	Number of suits disposed of.	Total value.	Average value.
1871..	22,325	185,177	8 5	1874 ..	23,802	173,966	7 6
1872..	23,013	164,840	7 9	1875 ..	24,806	193,810	7 16
1873..	21,238	166,290	7 15	1876 ..	25,548	190,555	7 9

99. About a tenth of this year's suits were for sums of 10s. and under,—a fact which is remarkable among people so well-to-do and so little inclined to litigation as the Burmese. The total and

Result of suits.

average value of suits is less this year than last. Of the 25,548 cases disposed of, 10,595, or 41.2 per cent., were contested, against 40 per cent. in 1875. The proportion of cases decided in favour of plaintiff was 61 per cent., or 16 per cent. less than in 1875. The number of suits dismissed for non-appearance of either party was 4,063, or 5.8 per cent.; while 4,256, or 16 per cent., were decided *ex parte*. The former proportion is very high. Both are pretty much the same as in the previous year. In the nature of the suits instituted during the two years no great difference is observable. The increase that has occurred during the year under report has been in suits for money on unwritten contracts and for damages on account of torts.

100. The average duration of contested suits throughout the province was 11.4 days, and of uncontested suits 5.9 days. This represents sufficient speed in the disposal of business. Nor are

Duration of suits.

the returns of any court very much above or below this average, except those of the Judge of Moulmein, which shew 30 and 16 days, respectively. In this, as in the Rangoon civil courts, the value of the suits is larger, and the cases probably are more complicated. At any rate, there is no reason for questioning the diligence of the Judge.

101. According to the returns, the detention of witnesses has been much less prolonged than in 1875.

Attendance of witnesses.

Thirty-eight thousand witnesses were examined, against 30,000 in 1875; and only 2,200 were detained beyond one day, against 3,800 in 1875. In the Shwe-gyeen district, more than a fifth of the whole number examined were detained two days. In no other district was the proportion above half that time. In the Hensada, Prome, and Rangoon districts, the returns under this head are the least favourable, though the result of a recent inspection of several offices goes to shew that the method of calculating the detention of witnesses and the duration of suits is not made on any uniform plan. Most Extra Assistant Commissioners have no kind of idea of the object for which the registers are maintained. In one instance on record, it was found that a return, which was in the form of a diary, had been prepared for two months in advance. If accuracy in such returns is desirable, and any deductions have to be made from the returns, it would be reasonable that the Deputy Commissioners should at some pains to instruct their subordinates in this particular part of their duty. As matters stand, the most fictitious returns are now put in with an ingenuousness which, if innocent, is very remarkable.

102. From statement No. VIII. (Civil), there appear to have been 18,809 decrees passed. The number of applications for execution was 5,824, or 31.8 per cent. of that total. On 46 per cent. of these, full satisfaction, and 31 per cent. partial satisfaction, was obtained. The small number of applications for execution is not a matter of any moment, unless it

can be proved that no payments are made out of court. The probability is, on the contrary, that the reason of so few applications being made is that most decrees, being for small amounts, are settled without the intervention of the courts, and there is good reason for congratulation that their aid is so seldom required. Only 448 persons were actually imprisoned in execution, although 2,087 processes of arrest were issued. The number of processes of sale in regard to movable property was 759, and in regard to immovable property 504. The latter have increased by six. The number of miscellaneous cases before the courts was 4,809, of which 4,766 were disposed of during the year. Of these, 151 were cases of rejection or return of plaints: the remainder were applications,—1,268 for arrest or attachment before judgment or injunction, 2,687 relating to execution of decree, 224 for leave to sue as a pauper, 256 for review of judgment or for a new trial, 48 for a certificate to collect debts, and 74 for grant of probate or letters-of-administration. In Bassein, there were 369 applications for arrest or attachment before judgment. How many were granted does not appear, probably an unduly large number, or so many applications would not have been made.

103. The financial result of the existing process fee rules seems to have been that, during the year, the

Process fees.

receipts amounted to £8,300, and the expenditure to £6,000. The surplus realized gives a stronger claim to the increase which has been asked for on account of ministerial establishments.

104. The total number of appealable decisions passed in the subordinate courts was reported to be 11,501, and the number of appeals made to the

Appeals.

Courts of the Deputy Commissioners 1,291. These figures give the same proportion as was observed in last year's report. The proportion of reversals or modifications to appealable decrees was only four per cent., and the proportion to decrees actually appealed was not quite 37 per cent. The work of the appellate courts was heaviest in the Courts of the Deputy Commissioners of Hensada and Bassein, on whose files there were 191 and 177 appeals, respectively. There were no arrears in the appellate courts. From the decrees of the Deputy Commissioners in original suits, there were only five appeals; and of these the decree was confirmed in three cases, modified in one, and reversed in one case. There were 102 appeals instituted in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, and of these only 88 were admitted on the file. The decree of the lower appellate court was confirmed in 33, and reversed or modified in 34 cases. The number of references to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner on points of law was eighteen.

Registration.

105. The total number of registration offices open throughout the province during the year was 37. Of these, the offices at Syriam and Allanmyo in the Pegu division, and that at Malewoon in the Mergui

Work of the registration offices.

district of Tenasserim, were new. An office opened in the Pegu subdivision of the Rangoon district in the end of 1875-76 was by an inadvertence omitted from the returns for that year. No changes took place in the constitution or working of the department during the year. The total value of the immovable property transferred, either temporarily or permanently, by registered documents was £558,169, compared with £390,874 in 1875-76,—the total number of compulsory registrations rising from 2,613 to 2,918 deeds, and of optional registrations from 176 to 200. Under the latter head, the progress made is, as usual, very slow: the advantages and protection afforded by registration are not very well understood by the people generally, and, except in the chief towns and larger district stations, the means and opportunity of explaining its objects are in a great measure wanting. This can only be remedied by increasing the number of registration offices; if there is a difficulty in finding persons competent or willing to do the work. The Act is by no means easily construed, and a simplification of the rules under it would probably have a good effect.

106. So little acquaintance has been made with the Act, that the transactions in this division are almost entirely confined to the town of Akyab, those in the head-quarter towns of Kyouk-hpyoo and Sandoway and in the interior of districts being quite insignificant. In Akyab, the results depend greatly on the commercial activity or otherwise of the port year by year, although, even there, many large transactions occur between traders and agriculturists in the matter of rice-purchases which might very properly form the subject of a registered contract. In the interior, the people are, as a rule, poor; wealth gathers slowly, and little property changes hands.

107. In this division, the number of documents of all kinds registered rose from 2,265 in 1875-76 to 2,455 in 1876-77, the increase in the total value of the property and other matters dealt with being no less than £186,784. The only notable movement was at Rangoon, where the amount of registration of immovable property greatly exceeded the statistics of the previous year. Optional registration has, however, made no advance. In Fassein, owing to some misconception as to the effect of the Municipal Act of 1874 on the title to property within town limits, registration of immovable property transactions fell away greatly, capitalists being chary of advancing money on what they regarded simply alleged property in land. There was, however, an increase of 17 per cent. in the registration of other deeds. In the newly-opened office at Syriam, a remarkable amount of work was done: 132 documents were registered, Burmans being parties to 104 of them; and in cases both parties were Burmans. All the documents registered were mortgages of property from agriculturists to brokers, against which advances at a very low rate on the growing crops. Elsewhere the results call for no special remark, except that they indicate little or no progress.

108. In Tenasserim, 875 documents of all sorts were registered during the year, or 88 more than in 1875-76, 658 being for the sale, mortgage, &c., of

immovable property over £10 in value, 80 in connection with movable property, 54 for immovable property under £10 in value, and the balance for money and miscellaneous obligations. The same drawbacks exist in this division as elsewhere: the people are slow to appreciate, either the necessity for registration, or the security it affords to their property; while there is reason to believe that in outlying quarters such a thing as registration is still utterly unknown.

109. The receipts of the department under all heads was £1,014,

Financial results: made up as follows:—

I.—Fees on registration of documents affecting immovable property	...	...	£ 742
II.—Fees on documents affecting movable property	...	...	„ 128
III.—Fees on miscellaneous registration	...	...	„ 8
IV.—Fees from other sources	...	...	„ 146

while the total expenditure was £497 only, of which £96 were paid as salary to the Sub-Registrar at Rangoon, the only officer in the department who receives remuneration for his services. All clerical establishments are, as a rule, paid by fiscal fees.

110. The following table exhibits the general financial and working results of the department for the last two years:—

Financial and working results for two years.

OFFICE.

OFFICE.	Number of office documents registered in Books III, and IV.		Total amount of ordinary fees.		Total of other receipts.		Total receipts.		Total expenditure.		Balance.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
ARAKAN	1	1	440	375	79	20	109	90	30	36	79	63
	1	1	5	13	2	...	1	9	...	...	1	2
	1	1	0	8	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	4	3	454	396	82	30	111	102	30	36	81	66
	Total											
PEGU	3	4	1,308	1,567	473	78	376	551	273	265	105	206
	5	6	24	53	9	...	4	9	...	...	4	9
	2	3	362	391	33	...	73	44	...	...	47	31
	4	4	176	105	33	...	29	32	...	...	21	23
	4	4	376	230	38	...	46	44	...	...	32	33
	3	3	219	149	39	...	39	33	...	...	13	9
	Total											
TENASSERIM	20	23	2,305	2,455	617	95	569	713	347	342	223	370
	3	3	573	588	123	27	147	150	94	104	53	9
	1	1	13	63	9	...	5	11	...	...	4	9
	1	2	73	62	11	...	11	19	...	...	6	8
	2	2	52	45	7	...	7	7	...	...	4	5
	2	2	126	168	17	...	18	19	...	...	10	14
	9	11	837	875	169	30	188	190	108	117	80	82
	Total											
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH BURMA			33	37	3,726	145	3,681	4,013	485	405	363	518

Municipal.

111. Three years have now elapsed since the British Burma Municipal Act became law, and throughout that period seven towns have been subject to its provisions. During the past year

the business of organizing the machinery of local government had been for the most part completed, and the system was everywhere in perfect operation. So far the working of the Act has been easy and efficient. Local committees take an intelligent interest in municipal affairs, and shew sufficient zeal for progress and improvement, while the representation of various classes of the people among their numbers does not fail to operate both as a check and a support to the official element.

112. The following tables summarize the receipts and expenditure of the seven municipalities during the year 1876-77 :—

Receipts and Expenditure.

Receipts.

Towns.	Balance at credit on 1st April 1876.	Tax on houses or lands.	License fees.	Lease of tolls at farris.	Wharf tax.	Rents of houses, gardens, and markets.	Fines and escheats.	Conservancy.	Grants from provincial and local funds.	Loans and recoveries of advances.	Lighting tax.	Miscellaneous.	Income during the year.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Akyab ...	1,878	8,828	942	268	125	931	881	...	2,285	...	...	656	9,060	10,939
Rangoon ...	18,578	14,916	8,846	699	1,554	3,098	2,068	5,498	11,086	...	3,602	1,419	52,785	66,811
Bassein ...	2,518	2,865	1,280	418	72	2,499	864	...	500	...	...	178	8,121	10,684
Henzada ...	3,047	794	256	50	176	1,487	187	...	1,480	...	...	165	4,565	7,612
Prome ...	3,678	3,105	875	80	224	3,259	468	...	...	...	...	27	7,988	11,666
Moulmein ...	3,187	4,192	2,177	110	1,481	1,094	688	...	1,000	...	...	675	11,867	14,554
Toungoo ...	705	2,164	552	148	28	2,783	150	...	...	...	...	134	5,898	6,603
Total ...	28,579	81,854	14,878	1,717	3,605	15,101	4,260	5,498	16,251	...	8,602	2,969	99,785	128,814

Disbursements.

	MANAGEMENT.		Police.	Advances recoverable: refund of deposits.	Conservancy.	Lighting.	Watering.	Public works.	Interest on debt.	Repayment of debt.	Miscellaneous.	Total expenditure.	Balance at credit on 31st March 1877:
	Head Office.	Cost of collection.											
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Akyab ...	369	805	300	...	1,124	...	...	4,857	...	...	2,185	6,570	2,669
Rangoon ...	6,001	551	4,244	...	10,024	8,990	3,487	28,907	682	3,000	4,708	65,592	719
Bassein ...	1,189	257	1,261	...	516	81	...	5,859	...	...	671	9,204	1,480
Henzada ...	79	129	534	...	649	14	...	1,872	...	1,500	620	4,297	3,815
Prome ...	616	177	1,011	...	2,535	...	...	1,465	106	2,000	675	8,619	3,049
Moulmein ...	1,979	400	2,705	...	614	...	238	7,056	...	...	998	13,490	1,064
Toungoo ...	549	170	625	...	500	664	32	2,718	...	...	556	6,014	589
Total ...	10,029	1,989	10,670	...	15,892	4,699	3,757	51,194	788	6,500	10,061	115,779	12,585

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1877

MUNICIPAL

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transaction the prudence of which is now questionable. A number of roads were more or less thoroughly repaired; old and dangerous buildings were inspected and, where necessary, removed; the construction of a river wall to protect and improve the Strand bank was carried on; and bazaars and slaughter-houses were kept in a proper sanitary condition. Schemes for improved night conservancy, street lighting, water-supply, and drainage came under discussion, but advanced very little further, and better and more practical results may be expected during the ensuing year. A Municipal Engineer would be a valuable acquisition to the Committee, who shew no lack of interest in their work.

117. Municipal affairs in this town continued to prosper. The work of the Committee was however very light, as, years before the Municipal Act came into force, Toungoo had, under the supervision of an energetic District Officer long resident there, been thoroughly provided with good roads, public buildings, and conservancy and lighting arrangements. The funds at the disposal of the Committee during the year, including an opening balance of £705, were £6,608, of which taxation provided £2,871 and bazaar rents no less than £2,566. The expenditure amounted to £6,014, including a grant for educational purposes of £191, the rest being devoted to the maintenance of roads, police, water-supply, drainage, and general conservancy purposes. One-sixth of the expenditure was on establishments.

118. Satisfactory results were achieved by the Bassein Municipality during the year, its funds being laid out economically and to great advantage on works of general public utility. The Committee is composed of 18 members, and its income for the year, besides an opening balance of £2,518, amounted to £8,121; while the expenditure was £9,204, of which £105 were laid out on original works; £2,141 were devoted to road-making, £233 to bridges, and £1,447 to extensive repairs and alterations in the two public bazaars of the town, one of which yielded during the year a return of 28 per cent. on its cost. The conservancy arrangements were greatly improved, swampy ground was filled up, and other necessary measures adopted, with a marked improvement in the general public health. Since August 1876 the town had the benefit of an able Municipal Engineer. The municipality is free from all liabilities, and had £1,430 in hand at the end of the year. The measures adopted for the collection of the municipal tax could not have been very thorough, nearly one-half of the tax having been uncollected when the year closed,—a state of things requiring immediate remedy.

119. The Henzada Committee had at their disposal when the year opened a sum of £8,047; they collected a revenue from all sources of £4,565 during the year, and, after disbursing £4,297 (inclusive of £1,500 in part repayment of a loan of £2,740 from Provincial Services), had at the end of 1876-77 a balance of £8,315. The chief source of income—the capitation tax—is levied in Henzada alone of all the municipal towns,

and added during the year £1,479; bazaar-rents amounted to £1,280, a return of 10 per cent. on the original cost of the building, which is moreover an ornament to the town. A masonry structure to serve as a lock-up and magazine was finished during the year, £700 were expended on roads, and the town drainage much improved. The flourishing state of the funds would, however, admit of more work being carried out in this direction than has been yet attempted.

120. The municipal affairs of Promé, the present terminus of the railway, were well administered by a Committee of 17 members. At the beginning of the year, they had a floating cash balance of £3,678, hampered however with a debt of £2,000 to one of the local funds. This was duly paid off; and at the close of the year, after expending a sum of £8,612 on works and establishments, the real cash balance in hand was £3,049. The year's income, exclusive of the opening balance, was £7,983, derived in nearly equal proportions from taxes and from bazaars, houses, &c. The attention of the Committee was directed chiefly to the metalling of roads, the construction of drains, and the general cleansing of the town, which is reputed not unjustly to be unhealthy.

Military.

121. The province was garrisoned throughout the year by the 1st Battalion of the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers stationed at Rangoon, with a company at Port Blair, and the 89th (Princess Victoria's) Regiment stationed at Thayetmyo and Toungoo. Besides these, the 1st, 5th, and 7th Batteries of the 5th Brigade, the 7th Battery of the 6th, and the G. Battery of the 9th Brigade, Royal Artillery, were also stationed in the province, being distributed proportionately between Rangoon, Thayetmyo, and Toungoo. The total strength of the European troops at the beginning of the year was 2,106 men, 501 were recruited during the year, 84 died, 142 were invalided, 94 were discharged or deserted; and the numerical strength at the close of the year was 2,337 men.

122. Of Native troops, there were distributed, amongst the above military stations and Moulmein, the D. Company of Sappers and Miners, and the 4th, 6th, 15th, and 17th Regiments of Madras Infantry. The strength of these at the end of the year was 2,296 men, against 2,437 men at the close of 1875; 80 men were recruited during the year, 62 died, and 140 were discharged.

123. The entire military strength of the province for the year amounted to 4,408 fighting-men of all arms, besides 575 camp-followers, and was maintained at the following cost:—

Total strength and cost of the garrison.		
Pay Department	..	£302,242
Commissariat Department	..	.. 75,072
Medical Department	..	.. 5,765
Ordnance Department	..	.. 259
Total	..	£383,338

113. The Rangoon Municipality is by far the largest and most important in the province. Its population is almost double that of any other, and its revenue from fixed sources of income

Rangoon.

is nearly four times as great as that of Moulmein, the next richest. The average strength of the Committee was, throughout the year, 29 members, and the average attendance at special and general meetings 14. To secure proper attention to the multifarious subjects that have to be dealt with, the Committee is broken up into six sub-committees, who lay the result of their deliberations before the general body for final disposal.

114. The opening balance of the year under notice was £18,576, of which £10,000 was the unexpended portion of a loan of £27,000 received from Government at the close of 1875-76 for the

Financial position.

purpose of building a new market. The receipts of the year from taxation and other sources aggregated £52,785, of which £8,846 were the collections in the town of land assessment in lieu of capitation tax,—an Imperial item for the present made over to the municipality. The *bona fide* increase in revenue over that of 1875-76 was £1,524. The total expenditure amounted (including £3,000 in part repayment of loans) to £65,592 and the closing balance was £719. The estimates of expenditure were exceeded by £11,882 in consequence chiefly of increased outlay on miscellaneous public improvements, roads, and street-watering; while in the item of conservancy there was a saving of £3,895, besides minor savings of £1,287 under other heads. No new taxes were imposed during the year. The collection of those in force was made without any appreciable difficulty, except in the case of the conservancy tax, where, among the poorer classes, evasion of payment was frequently attempted; and there was a satisfactory decline in the number of remissions.

The drainage-system of the town is far from perfect; most of the drains are open, and only a small proportion are built of masonry; while the water-supply is not very abundant. The health of the town, nevertheless, continued good. Particular attention is devoted to conservancy work; but some difficulty was found in getting an adequate supply of labourers from India to carry out the night work. The water question is assuming a definite shape, and during the year a proposal was under consideration for the supply of a large quarter of the town, where the need is most urgent, from the Royal lakes. Within a few years Rangoon ought to be well supplied from natural reservoirs to the north of the town. The new bazaar, which has cost from first to last £27,800, was occupied by an average of 1,000 stall-keepers throughout the year, and its appearance was very much improved by the erection of a handsome fountain in the open space between the two wings. Much opposition to this bazaar was shewn by a private and financially powerful native bazaar company, whose hitherto unrivalled interests it seemed to threaten. Healthy opposition was however greatly needed, as there is ample room for both bazaars. In the important suburb of Kemendine, another bazaar on a large scale will be built as soon as funds are provided. Thirty thousand pounds were

expended on public works during the year. These embrace buildings, roads and bridges, drains, and canal tanks. A steam-roller for the roads was used with good effect; a fine iron bridge was thrown across the Poozoondoung creek, at a cost of £3,389; and 634 street lamps were in use, at a cost for lighting of 9s. 6d. each per mensem. The oil used is manufactured by an enterprising company in Rangoon; but it has been found somewhat inferior for ordinary purposes to the American petroleum. The administration of the year was not wholly without blot. Circumstances occurred which led to the Municipal Secretary being compelled to resign his appointment; and subsequently frauds were discovered to have occurred in his office, the result of which was that a clerk holding a responsible situation was criminally prosecuted and punished.

115. The affairs of the Akyab Municipality were throughout the year under the management of a Com-

Akyab.

mittee of 14 members, and its income amounted to £9,066, inclusive of grants-in-aid (£2,253) from provincial and local funds. House and land taxes contributed £3,828, and the balance was derived from taxes on ferries, tolls and carriages, and bazaar-rents. The expenditure amounted to £8,570, of which £4,185 were devoted to public works, £2,411 of that sum being disbursed in reconstructing and turning into a really commodious market (now yielding a handsome return) a bazaar purchased for £1,500 from a firm of merchants in Akyab. Roads, masonry drains, and culverts were made and repaired; the different town wells and pumps were put into order; and the general sanitary condition of the town was improved by the removal of masses of rank weeds and shrubs. The municipality has entertained an officer as Secretary and Engineer on £300 rising to £600; and the entire cost of the municipal establishment for the year, including his salary, was £800. Beyond a debt of £1,245 to the Akyab Port Fund, which will probably be repaid by the end of 1878, the municipality has no liabilities, and there was a balance of £2,369 in hand when the year closed. It contributes, in common with the other six municipal towns, three-fourths of the police charges of the town. Street lamps have not yet been supplied.

116. The municipal administration of Moulmein was not, in a pecuniary sense, altogether successful.

Moulmein.

Beginning the year with a balance in hand of £3,187, the Committee found themselves at its close, after expending £18,490, with a cash balance of £1,064 only. The income of the year was £10,867, or £150 less than that of 1875-76, notwithstanding the facilities for improving the position of municipal funds which the Act affords. One important item of revenue, which exists elsewhere, is wanting in Moulmein,—the land assessment in lieu of capitation tax; and when the new Land and Revenue Act comes into force, the question of extending this tax to Moulmein will have to be considered, unless indeed the deficiency can be met by raising the rate of the existing municipal tax. The Committee have spent £6,911 during the year on public works; but in this sum is included £3,000 laid out on the purchase of a property known as "Salween House", a

The force is commanded by a Major-General of Division, attached to whom is the usual staff, and it is under the orders and control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Presidency.

Marine.

124. There was a very marked decrease in the amount of tonnage, both entered and cleared, at the different ports of the province during the year, as compared with the returns of 1875-76.

The following table shews the comparative results of the two periods:—

Entered.

Ports.	1875-76.		1876-77.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Akyab ..	339	178,370	336	163,649	..	..	3	14,621
Rangoon ..	680	543,376	868	492,194	..	..	12	51,182
Bassein ..	146	94,918	130	72,732	..	..	26	22,186
Moulmein ..	555	363,697	543	306,365	..	..	12	56,432
Tavoy ..	355	87,938	411	30,965	56	..	..	1,973
Mergui ..	319	24,202	309	19,297	..	..	10	4,905
Kyook-hpyoo ..	61	21,182	64	20,562	8	..	..	570
Total ..	2,555	1,157,863	2,551	1,005,654	..	..	4	151,879

Cleared.

Ports.	1875-76.		1876-77.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Akyab ..	377	195,501	368	169,622	..	..	9	25,679
Rangoon ..	698	551,167	876	306,054	..	..	17	45,133
Bassein ..	149	96,450	137	81,398	..	..	22	7,152
Moulmein ..	618	367,606	598	303,675	..	..	20	63,931
Tavoy ..	443	24,740	456	21,145	13	..	..	3,597
Mergui ..	331	24,636	311	19,082	..	..	20	5,553
Kyook-hpyoo ..	61	21,182	64	20,562	8	..	..	570
Total ..	2,772	1,173,251	2,700	1,021,836	..	..	62	151,615

These figures do not include the statistics of the native craft known as *guddoon*, which ply between Akyab and the other coast towns. Of these, the tonnage entered and cleared at Akyab during the two years amounted to—

	Tonnage entered.	Tonnage cleared.
1875-76	5,848 ..	5,288 ..
1876-77	8,632 ..	2,636 ..

It is to be noted, in explanation of the small number of vessels entered as compared with the number cleared during the year, that the greater number of the 56 vessels shown as entered at Tavoy were native craft returning from coasting voyages, and which did not again put out to sea. Leaving this item aside, the decrease in the number of vessels entered and cleared respectively is about equalised. The decrease of the year is mainly attributable to the diminished quantities of rice and timber available for foreign export.

125. Nineteen steamers, with a tonnage of 26,235 tons, arrived in the province *via* the Suez Canal during the year, inclusive of the steamers of Messrs. P.

Henderson and Sons, which now ply direct between Glasgow and Rangoon at intervals of about five weeks, and are rapidly attracting a considerable passenger traffic; and 63 steamers, with a tonnage of 71,427 tons, sailed for Europe. Amongst these were a number of steamers which discharged their outward cargoes at Bombay, Colombo, Madras, Calcutta, the Straits ports and elsewhere, proceeding thereafter to the Burma ports for homeward cargoes of rice and other produce. In 1875-76 the arrivals were 24 steamers of 28,169 tons, and two sailing vessels, with salt from Italy, of 1,271 tons, the number of departures being 56 steamers of 65,867 tons.

126. There was a large increase in the tonnage employed in the river traffic between Rangoon and Mandalay, of which particulars will be found in the Inland Trade section, at page 107 of this report.

127. Weekly communication under the existing mail contract is kept up by the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company (Limited) between Calcutta, Akyab, Rangoon, and

Moulmein. A fortnightly steamer runs between Akyab and Kyook-hpyoo, between Akyab and Rangoon, and between Rangoon and the Straits Settlements *via* Moulmein. Others run once a fortnight between Rangoon and Madras, calling each way at Coconada and other ports between Madras and Orissa; while once a month a small coasting steamer leaves Calcutta for Singapore, touching on her way at all the Burmese ports. The Chinese traders in the Straits also run their steamers at irregular intervals between Penang and Rangoon; and another private company has three steamers plying regularly along the same part of the coast.

128. There are now eight light-houses on the coast of British Burma, including the Oyster Reef light-house of the port of Akyab, lighted for the first time

on the 1st of May 1876. Four of these lights are maintained from Imperial funds, and are known as coast lights, namely, the Oyster Reef, Cocos Island, Alguada Reef, and Krishua Shoal lights. The other four, —namely, Savage Island (Akyab), China Buckeer (Rangoon), Eastern Grove (Rangoon), and Double Island (Moulmein),—lights are placed off the entrances to Akyab, Rangoon, and Moulmein respectively, and are maintained by the port funds of these places. The entire cost of all the light-houses, in construction, maintenance, and repair, including the outlay incurred in shifting the position of the China Buckeer light in

1874, has been to March 1877 £302,280, their earnings for the same time having been £62,808.

129. With so perfect a system of coast lights, there should be few accidents to vessels. Several, however, occurred. The ship *City of Manchester* foundered on 14th November 1876, off Akyab, in close proximity to the Oyster Reef light-house; and the Norwegian ship *Doore* was wrecked at the entrance to Akyab Harbour. The *Lord Northbrook* and the *Parkfield* were stranded near the mouth of the Bassein river, and the Italian Schooner *Condore* off the Krishna Shoal. Since the year closed, a serious disaster has occurred in the sudden and total disappearance of the Krishna Shoal light-house in August 1877, with the eight native light-keepers who were on it at the time.

130. The duty of periodically inspecting the light-houses of the province devolves on the Port Officer at Rangoon, who is also Superintendent of Light-houses. His work is greatly retarded however, and loses much in efficiency through there being no suitable steamer permanently at the service of the Local Government in which the light-houses can be visited and provisioned, and assistance rendered promptly in case of sickness at all seasons and in all weathers. At present, the only vessel at the Chief Commissioner's disposal is the little steamer *Ava*, now an old vessel, somewhat crazy in her framework, and just able to hold her own in fine weather, but quite useless as a sea-going vessel in the south-west monsoon.

The *Ava*, which had been on special duty as tender to the Oyster Reef light-house during its construction, arrived (on the completion of that work) at Rangoon on 9th June 1876, but, being in need of repairs, left for Calcutta on 6th January 1877, from which time till her return on the 22nd August following the province was without a sea-going vessel of any sort, so that the inspection and provisioning of light-houses had to be carried out by the expensive and inconvenient method of chartering a small steamer on each occasion from a private firm of merchants.

131. The gun-boat *Irrawaddy*, built expressly for service at Rangoon and on the river generally up to the frontier, arrived in Burma on 26th March 1876, but having been sent from Calcutta without armament of any sort whatever, and not having been supplied with any up to the end of 1876-77, she has been practically useless for meeting any emergency had such arisen. It is intended however that, in the fine weather at the close of 1877, she shall proceed to Calcutta to be fitted with her guns.

132. Port funds are maintained at Akyab, Kyouk-hpyoo, Bassein, Rangoon, Moulmein, Tavoy, and Mergui, and, with the exception of the Mergui Fund—the trade of which has in it very few elements or prospects of expansion—are in a healthy condition. The Rangoon and Moulmein funds were able to make small grants during the year towards the municipal funds of these towns. A Sailors' Home (since opened on 1st January 1878) is now being built at Rangoon, partly with funds subscribed towards a

memorial of the late Lord Mayo's visit to Rangoon in 1871, a few days before his death, and partly from the resources of the Port Fund. The joint income of the seven funds during the year was £41,861, the expenditure £38,920; and they had an aggregate balance at their credit of £18,624 when the year closed.

133. There were 23 pilots (of whom nine are natives) engaged in the service of the port of Rangoon during the year, which was singularly free from casualties attributable in any way to their carelessness or incapacity. They worked well; but towards the end of 1876 a refractory spirit shewed itself amongst the European pilots, requiring severe measures to stamp it out. One pilot was removed from the service, another was suspended for 12 months, and two for six months each. This seems to have had the desired effect, and the service has worked more smoothly since. Steps have been taken for replacing the old pilot-vessel *Spy* by a new and larger schooner, which will probably be finished and ready for sea during 1878. The Pilot Fund is now amalgamated with the Port fund.

134. The pilot service of the other ports is only under supervision in so far as that all licenses are issued, and may be withdrawn, by the Local Government on cause being shewn. At Moulmein there were during the year 10 full draft European pilots, besides two holding special steamer licenses, and 15 natives on drafts varying from 14 feet to full draft. At Akyab there were five European pilots, of whom one was dismissed for misconduct during the year; and at Bassein there were three on full draft, six on drafts of from 12 to 18 feet, and two natives, one of whom was under suspension throughout the year for incompetency.

135. During the year the port of Amherst and its approaches was resurveyed by Lieutenant Jarrad, R.N., of the Indian Marine Department; and two beacons to serve as permanent marks along the eastern shore of the Moulmein river between Amherst and half way creek have been put up. The survey of the Mergui Archipelago, which was to have been undertaken during the season, was postponed, owing to the services of the officer intended for this duty having been required for survey work on the Madras coast.

136. There has been a large decrease in the Imperial Marine expenditure for the year, the reduction being almost entirely in the item of stores, the cost of which fell from £8,925 to £4,072, while the receipts were about £1,200 in excess of those in 1875-76.

1876-77.

Imperial Marine Expenditure.		
Pay and allowances	.. ..	£ 4,424
Stores	.. ..	.. 4,072
Light-houses	.. ..	.. 7,880
Subsidies to Steam Boat companies	.. ..	.. 7,800
Miscellaneous	.. ..	.. 441
Total	.. ..	£ 24,117

Marine Receipts.

Shipping fees	£ 371
Coast light dues	„ 6,761
Miscellaneous	„ 587
Total	£ 9,569

187. The following ships of Her Majesty's Navy visited the port of Rangoon during the year, and stayed for a few days there :—

Visits of Men-of-war.	S.S. Nassau, S.S. Diamond, and S.S. Arab.
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The French and Italian men-of-war *Duchaffant* and *Christoforo Colombo* also put in at Rangoon during the year.

IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

198. Cultivation is increasing year by year steadily and satisfactorily, considering that the country is thinly populated, and that labour is both scarce and dear. The area under cultivation of every sort throughout the province was 2,838,520 acres, compared with 2,729,464 acres in 1875-76; while the revenue demand rose from £445,055 in that year to £456,918 in 1876-77. This is equal to a percentage of increase in area of 3.81 and in revenue of 2.66, the ratio of progression in both being about the same as that of the previous year, notwithstanding heavy cattle mortality, and a light rainfall in some of the districts.

139. The total area under rice crops amounted to 2,455,387 acres, as against 2,379,001 acres in the preceding year. The increased cultivation amounting to 76,386 acres over that of 1875-76, with an additional revenue of £6,656 occurring in the Pegu and Tenasserim divisions; while in Arakan, for reasons which have not been satisfactorily explained, both the cultivation and revenue slightly fell off. The cause of this is being enquired into. In Pegu, the improvement (4.36 per cent. in area) has been found to be largely due to the remeasurement of land and the correction of the tax collectors' returns, in which there were discovered many glaring discrepancies, attributable not to any fraudulent intention perhaps, but to the ignorance and incompetency of some of the men employed.

140. Under this head are included cocoanuts, plantains, betel-nuts, mangoes, guavas, doorians, custard-apples, &c., &c. The last-mentioned fruit grows very abundantly in the Prome and Thayetmyo districts; and an increasing cultivation of doorians and mangosteens is being carried on in the Mergui district. Oranges of delicious quality are largely grown near Shwe-gyeen, and fetch four shillings a hundred in the market—the greater part of the crop finding its way to Rangoon. The Sapodilla plum (*Acras Sapota*) called by the Burmese “thoo-ta-bat,” which has, when ripe, the appearance of a green fig and the flavour of a pear, is also grown in a hill garden near Shwe-gyeen and at Twantay near Rangoon, but is met with nowhere else in the province. This fruit is very highly prized by the natives, and the Twantay crop is sent annually as a present to the King of Burma. The increase in orchard cultivation for the year amounted to 5,400 acres, with a corresponding addition to the revenue of £1,308, the total area being 155,984 acres, compared with 149,984 acres in 1875-76, the revenue having been £33,834 and £35,142 respectively in the two years. The increase is general over the whole province, cultivation of this nature finding more favour year by year among the hill tribes of Arakan, as being a more profitable source of livelihood than that to which they had in former times been accustomed. The opening of the Irrawaddy Valley Railway (May 1877) will doubtless give an impetus to fruit and vegetable cultivation, particularly in the

districts along the line, where the Chinese, who make excellent gardeners, are settling down in increasing numbers every year.

141. These consist chiefly of tobacco, cotton, teel seed, sugar-cane, and chillies. There was a very large increase, both in the area under cultivation and in the revenue derived from this source, 85,825 acres having been under assessment, as against 64,170 acres in 1875-76; while the revenue rose from £9,701 to £18,099, the chief improvement being observable in Pegu. The whole province is well adapted for a much more systematic and extensive production of many staples than the instincts and ideas of the Burmese will ever take into consideration. Potatoes have been grown with gratifying success in the Karen hill tracts beyond Toungoo, and this form of industry shews every symptom of becoming permanent. Tobacco-growing is also attracting the notice of private capital and enterprise in Northern Arakan, and, with the direct encouragement which has been given to its development by Government in starting an experimental farm under skilled supervision, tobacco may eventually have an important bearing on the future prosperity of that part of the country. According to native calculations, the average production of tobacco in Arakan is 370lbs. an acre; but according to Dr. Browne, who was for some time in charge of the Government experimental farm the yield of properly cultivated ground would be 800lbs. per acre. The tobacco-producing soil is so rich that no rotation of crops is necessary, and, beyond a little weeding, the plantations require only occasional manual labour. The crop is sown in November and reaped in April. The cultivation also of wheat, flax, and other products, has been attempted in different districts, but with very partial and uncertain results. Tea of very good quality is grown on one small estate of 110 acres in Arakan, and is said to be worth about 8s. a pound in the London market. The outturn of the crop of 1876 was 25,374lbs., against 16,982 lbs. in 1875. Eighty men and one hundred women and children are employed on the estate.

142. *Toungya* (or, as it is termed in India, *jhoom*) cultivation is carried on in most of the outlying and thinly populated parts of the province; but, as civilization spreads, it will gradually dwindle away, and be succeeded by a more rational and permanent form of agricultural industry. *Toungya* cultivation consists in clearing a patch of rich forest land, setting fire to the fallen trees and bushes, and then sowing in the ashes a miscellaneous crop of cotton, paddy, pumpkins, and other vegetables, all of which ripen in about five months. The crop is sown in May and reaped in November. The returns of the area cultivated cannot be depended on as in any degree correct, the nomadic habits of the people rendering accuracy impossible. To remove a feeling of discontent that had sprung up amongst the hill tribes of Northern Arakan (where *toungya* cultivation is largely carried on), owing to the very unequal incidence of the taxation, a new system of levying the revenue was introduced in 1875, and has been attended with the best results in producing content and satisfaction amongst the tribes:—

Each house pays two rupees (four shillings) per annum. This covers house or capitation tax, and allows the owner or owners of each house to cultivate to any extent

they like without further tax demand. The simplicity of this procedure is a protection against fraudulent demands on the part of the tax collector. The tribes, who neither read nor write, have simply to count their houses to know whether a village has been asked to contribute more than the fixed Government demand.

143. During the year agricultural shows were held at the headquarters of the Shwe-gyeen, Mergui, and Thayetmyo districts, and also in the town of Kyeik-hto and are reported to have been fairly successful. Very little enthusiasm in the matter is, however, shewn by the agriculturists, whose interest would be more readily secured by some additional attraction, such as a public *pooy* or dramatic performance to be held simultaneously with the shows, or by the latter being fixed for the same dates as some of the larger native festivals, when the people visit the chief district towns in crowds. The prizes are given for samples of grain, silk, tobacco, cotton, &c., and for live-stock, of which latter some fine specimens are brought forward, the Burmese taking a great deal of pride in the appearance of their cattle.

144. Stock.—The Arakan and Tenasserim divisions of the province were visited during the earlier part of the year by a most serious outbreak of cattle-disease. In Arakan, it is stated that as many as 50,000 buffaloes and 10,000 head of other cattle were swept away by it; while great numbers also died from its effects in the Amherst district of Tenasserim. The Pegu division escaped almost entirely from the murrain. By the end of August 1876, the worst was over in Amherst, and the plague had nearly died out; but as the Veterinary Instructor for the province had at the beginning of the year resigned his appointment, there was unfortunately no one on the spot available to deal with, and study the phases of, the disease while it lasted. In November 1875, another Veterinary Instructor was obtained, and, after visiting Amherst and carefully investigating the matter on the spot, he submitted a report, in which, after shewing that the disease was not (as had been previously supposed) imported by foreign cattle, he goes on to say:—

In a former letter on the subject of cattle-disease, addressed by me to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, I stated that I considered this disease to be pure rinderpest. At that time I was not acquainted with the facts which I have since collected with regard to the outbreak. I therefore beg to state that I was in error in making such a statement in my former letter with regard to remedial measures for the future. I beg to state that I do not think that quarantine is at all necessary in connection with such an outbreak as that of 1875 and 1876. Lastly, because I do not think the disease was either contagious or infectious; and, 2dly, because I do not think quarantine could be carried out with any advantage without incurring enormous expense, as it would require a large staff to make the measure work properly, and the persons so employed should be highly paid and of the strictest probity. Unless intelligent persons were appointed, such a measure would prove vexatious and useless.

If the people can be induced to take more care of their stock, and adopt measures to protect them from the vicissitudes of the seasons, doubtless the mortality will become much less; but so long as buffaloes are permitted to starve during the months of February, March, and April of each year, and then worked almost to death at the time of cultivating the paddy, so long will they continue to die. When the rains set in, fresh grass springs up very quickly; this grass contains very little nourishment, the animals devour a large quantity of it in order to satisfy the cravings of hunger, and on such food the poor beasts are worked from morning till night, and when night comes they are turned out in the rain with not a dry spot to lie on. It cannot, therefore, be wondered at that dysentery should attack them.

I would also beg to refer to the dearth of water which exists in many parts, and the hard-lipped buffaloes suffer from a scarcity of water. Large open tanks in which these animals could wallow would be of the greatest service.

Foot-and-mouth disease was introduced by the Shan cattle in December 1876 and January 1877; but as the mortality from this disease is very small, no not think any special measures are needed for its suppression.

145. **The Veterinary class** was unavoidably in abeyance during the year, and no satisfactory proof was afforded that the passed pupils of the former year had profited much in the treatment of cattle. The revival of the class under the new Instructor (Mr. R. F. Frost, B.A.) has been attended with the usual difficulties of a fresh start, and a much smaller number of pupils than were looked for have joined it. The work is, however, being conducted with much zeal and interest by the Instructor, and successful results are anticipated.

146. **According to the district returns**, the number of buffaloes in the province was 686,541, or 7,123 less than in the previous year, attributable entirely to the ravages of disease in Arakan and Tenasserim. In Amherst alone, the decrease was 14,000 head,—this loss being compensated for, however, to the extent of nearly 50 per cent. by the increase of stock in other parts. Cows and bullocks, which only suffered to a comparatively slight extent from murrain, rose from 664,480 to 689,517, or an increase of 24,037 head, the improvement being some 31,000 head in Pegu and 10,000 head in Tenasserim, with a decrease of over 9,000 head in Arakan.

147. **Of horses and ponies**, there were during the year 6,191 (almost entirely ponies), against 6,915 in 1875-76.

Other stock. The want of brood stallions is much felt throughout the province, there being now only one left of two that were brought from India in 1875, and the subject is receiving the attention of Government. Of elephants, there were 1,261 and 1,235 in the respective years; of sheep and goats, 19,151, against 18,741; and of pigs, 101,181, against 99,700. The aggregate number of carts was 180,016, compared with 180,964 in 1875-76; of ploughs, 255,260, against 280,186 in that year, accounted for by the dearth of cattle and plough-oxen for working them in some parts, owing to the ravages of disease and the consequent hindrance to agriculture; and boats built during the year were of larger tonnage than the old ones they displaced, and this would explain the apparent falling-off in numbers. Oil, rice, and sugar mills and saw-pits worked by hand increased considerably; while there were some 70 steam rice and saw mills at work in different parts of the province, the rice mills being mostly owned by European mercantile firms at Rangoon, Bassein, Akyab, and Moulmein.

148. **RATES OF RENT, PRODUCE, &c.**—The rate of paddy land assessment depends on the fertility of the soil, the situation of the land, the average local

price of grain, and the facilities or otherwise for disposing of produce. The assessment varies from a shilling to as much in some localities as 10 shillings an acre. The average for the year under notice was about five shillings an acre. The rates for land devoted to the cultivation of cotton, oil seeds, and sugar were on an average the same as those of the previous year. The yield of cotton varies considerably, ranging from 150lbs. to 480lbs. an acre; while in Northern Arakan

it is much more prolific than the highest of these figures. Oil seeds, the cultivation of which is very profitable, yield an average of 550lbs. to the acre, the highest returns being found in the Akyab and Kyaukp-hpyoo districts. In other staples, the yield was about the same as in previous years.

149. **The great export demand** that sprang up towards the close of the year caused the price of rice to rise in some places to nearly 50 per cent. over ordinary rates. The advance was chiefly noticeable in the Rangoon, Bassein, Amherst, and Mergui districts, and, as a consequence, the prices of other vegetable foods rose in proportion. At one time, indeed, there were serious apprehensions of absolute scarcity, and the high rates bore very heavily on the poorer sections of the community, who were only relieved by the arrival of the new crop of rice. Labour, from the want of which the province suffers so much, commanded somewhat higher average rates than usual. Unskilled labour is valued at a shilling to one and sixpence a day; while skilled artisans, such as house-builders and painters, earn from half a crown to three shillings easily. During the shipping season, at the rice ports, an ordinary Madras coolie earns two shillings a day. These men come over to the province in swarms for the rice season alone, and contrive to save from December to May sums varying from £10 to £40 apiece, with which they return to their homes, and support themselves there until the next rice season comes round. In this way the province derives little or no benefit from these temporary immigrants, and the aggregate sum of money annually carried away by them must amount to a very large figure. They are drawn chiefly from the pariah classes of the towns on the Coromandel coast, and, not having been accustomed to agriculture, do not, when once in Burma, betake themselves to rural occupations, by which a living could be so easily earned.

Weather and Crops.

150. **The year was not marked** by any unseasonable irregularities in regard to rainfall, such as the severe inundations of 1875-76. The monsoon, of which a few premonitory symptoms appear usually in the last week of April, broke generally over the country in May, and, except in two districts of Arakan, where the fall was scanty at the opening of the season, and in the Thayetmyo district of Pegu, where the supply of rain was both deficient in quantity and unequal in its distribution, there was little ground for complaint. In some places the harvest was more than usually abundant. Rain continued to fall here and there until nearly the end of November, more particularly in the Rangoon and Bassein districts, but fortunately without doing any appreciable injury to the standing crops, which, as a rule, were well harvested, the remissions of revenue for the year on account of damage, &c., amounting only to £4,128 out of a gross land revenue of £126,918. The following table shows the average rainfall in each district of the province for the past five years as compared with the actual rainfall of the past year:—

No.	STATIONS.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total rain-fall, 1876.		Average rain-fall for previous 70 years.	
		Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.
1	Akyab	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Kyaukpadaung	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Sandoway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Rangoon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Bassein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Henzada	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Prome	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Thayetmyo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Toungoo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Moulmein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Tavoy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Mergui	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Shwe-gyee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

151. The Meteorological records of the province have hitherto been of little value, amounting merely to a rough statement of the amount of rainfall, the temperature, and the atmospheric pressure, but quite useless for purposes of comparison with the results of observations taken in other parts of India; and the only observatory in the province was that at Akyab, under the Telegraph Department. Observatories under properly qualified supervision were, however, opened during the year at Rangoon, Moulmein, and Bassein; and instruments will be provided in 1877 for three other stations,—Thayetmyo, Toungoo, and Mergui; but a series of mean results of any comparative value will not, of course, be available until after the lapse of some years. The mean pressure of the barometer was highest in November and December at Akyab and Rangoon, and in January and February at Moulmein. It reached its lowest during the rains in June, July and August. The highest temperature in the shade for the year was 108° registered at Thayetmyo in April and May, the lowest being 48° registered at Thayetmyo on the 11th February.

Agri-Horticultural Society.

152. The Agri-Horticultural Society of British Burma has now been in existence for nearly twelve years as a corporate body, and has an income of about £600 a year, nearly the whole of which is expended in the purchase of seeds and plants, and in maintaining the gardens of the Society at Rangoon, in which experimental cultivation of all sorts is conducted. It is partially supported by grants-in-aid from the local Government and from the Municipality of Rangoon, and depends for the rest upon the yield of the gardens and the voluntary subscriptions of its members. These, from the ever-shifting character of the European population, vary considerably in amount year by year; but notwithstanding this drawback and the unavoidable want of interest which follows, the affairs of the Society have continued to flourish under the energetic interest taken in them by the honorary council of management and such of the members as are permanent residents in Burma. The Society has undoubtedly done much good by distributing seeds and plants through the province, and by encouraging the growth of exotic products, such as vanilla, cinchona, potatoes, tea, and oil-yielding plants, the cultivation of which—especially potatoes—has been attended with some success. The Society owes much of its popularity and well-being to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Hardinge, whose interest in its affairs has been incessant, and of the utmost value.

Phayre Museum.

153. In the year 1871, a Museum was built in the gardens, as a memorial of Sir Arthur Phayre, the first Chief Commissioner of the province, after whom it is named. Its success is now secured, and specimens of natural history, both living and dead—the gift, for the most part, of residents in Burma—are constantly being added to the

collection, which is rapidly outgrowing the capacity of the building. The wild animals attached to the Museum are a source of great attraction to the natives, who pay a small charge for admission. During the year the Museum was visited by no less than 239,427 persons, of whom 181,524 were Burmese and Chinese. It received during the year a grant-in-aid from Government of £160.

Forests.

154. The year was distinguished by the experimental appointment of an Additional Conservator, the entire forest charge of the province being found too extensive for efficient control by one Conservator only. The appointment was given to Mr. Ribbentrop, who had acted for Major Seaton during the absence of that officer in Europe; and on the 20th October of 1876 (a few days after Major Seaton's return) the Tenasserim forests were formed into a separate charge, under the superintendence of the latter, with head-quarters at Moulmein, the Pegu forests being placed in charge of Mr. Ribbentrop. In the Tenasserim circle, it is estimated that there are 550 square miles of teak country, besides large tracts covered by *padouk*, *eng*, and other valuable timber.

155. At the close of 1875-76, the area of State reserves in Tenasserim amounted to 17 square miles. During 1876-77, an additional area of 47 square miles of proposed reserves was demarcated, and the surveys and plans prepared for the reservation of a further area of 170 square miles. The work was carried out satisfactorily, it being found practicable, without hurting the interests of the Karen cultivators in the locality, to exclude from the new forest boundaries all of their villages but three. These, as soon as the Conservator finds a favorable chance of inducing the people to remove, will also be excluded, their present position, owing to the carelessness of the Karens with fire, being a direct menace to the safety of the reserves. Much activity in demarcation work was also shewn in Pegu. The State reserves in that circle at the close of 1875-76 amounted to 597 square miles. To these, 26 square miles were added of fuel-reserves only, and sanction was given to the settlement of the Thongzai teak reserve, comprising 70 square miles, and of five others, aggregating 159 square miles. Besides this, 400 square miles were selected for reservation in the Tharrawaddy division. The work was carried out with much good judgment by the officers concerned, and will be vigorously prosecuted in the other divisions until finished.

156. The dry season of 1876-77 was an unusually protracted one, but no serious forest fires were reported. Some 448 acres were burned down in Pegu, and a portion of the Sinzway State forest, in Tenasserim, was also destroyed. Beyond these accidents, for the latter of which the Karen hill-men were solely to blame, no other dis-

asters occurred. The system of fire-tracing adopted by the department has so far proved successful. The entire area protected from fire throughout the province now amounts to 70,792 acres. The work has been done at an outlay of £3,620, the greater portion of which was expended in Pegu.

157. These were few and unimportant, and not one of them involved a charge of causing injury by fire. A new Forest Bill is now before the Legislative Council, and it is proposed, after the Bill becomes law, to revise the existing forest rules, which in some respects are found not to be sufficiently stringent or comprehensive.

158. The total area under *taungya* teak cultivation within reserves in Pegu amounted at the close of the year to 1,789 acres; while in Tenasserim some 99 acres were cleared and sown with teak seed during the year. Little progress will, however, be made for some time in this very desirable form of cultivation, as it is prohibited in all reserves except those that have been fire-protected for several seasons, and much space will not be available for the work until the girdling of trees (at present forbidden) is resumed within the reserves. The Karens in the tracts still unreserved will receive full encouragement to sow teak in their *taungya* grounds, and, notwithstanding the careless habits of these people, a considerable proportion of the young seedlings may be expected to escape the ravages of fire, and add hereafter to the value of the unreserved tracts by the time these come under the direct control of the Forest officers.

159. At Magayee, in the Rangoon division, a plantation has been formed, consisting of 302 acres sown with teak and *pymma*, the cost of the work amounting to £2,198; and, as a reserve from which to provide for possible failures in the sowing, a small nursery of 20 acres was also prepared, consisting of teak, *pymma*, *thitkadoo*, and *padouk*. The experiment has, however, been quite a success, having been carried out with much care. The "dibbling in" process, to which allusion was made in the Administration Report of 1875-76, was also adopted, at a cost of £31, on some 500 acres of ground in the Tharrawaddy division; but, owing to some defect in the method of sowing, plants came up on about 100 acres only. A further experiment has been made since the year closed, and there can be no doubt that this form of cultivation will, if persevered in, play an important part in the maintenance and future yield of our teak localities.

160. An attempt was made during the year to introduce the *Hevea elastica* into the province, Major Seaton having brought some plants with him from England in Wardian cases. All of them died, either on the voyage, or shortly after reaching Burma. More success attended *Cinchona* cultivation, the area under which in the Sittang division was increased by 10 acres. A large number of seedlings and cuttings of *Cinchona condimini* were distributed to missionaries, but they have not done so well as those of *Cinchona succirubra*, which grew admirably.

161. A special and interesting report on these was submitted during the year by the overseer temporary charge of the South Tenassarim division,—Mr. James Lee (since dead). His attention was devoted chiefly to collecting information about the akyaw or eagle-wood tree (*Aquilaria agallocha*), its extraction, and the value and destination of the resin or gum yielded by it. It was found that, although small quantities of insect dammer, bees' wax, and honey are collected from the forests on the different islands, the lumps of hard scented resin found embedded in the trunk of the akyaw tree form the only valuable item of forest produce actually removed for purposes of trade or barter. The yield is about 8,500lbs. annually, and varies in price from two to 12 shillings a pound. Of the natural history of the tree, little is known, and even its identity is disputed, as the Selungs who live on the island say that the scented resin is yielded by two distinct species of trees. The resin is bartered by these people—who appear to be dying out, there being now a population of some 600 souls only on the island—with the Malays and Chinese who visit the island, for tobacco, rice, and sometimes opium. The bulk of the akyaw is sent to China, where it is used chiefly for incense and medicine. It has not been thought of sufficient consequence, on the strength of Mr. Lee's report, to take any measures to interfere with the Selungs in the matter of the akyaw, from which and from fishing they derive their only means of gaining a livelihood. They are very shy of strangers, of a timid disposition, and acts of oppression would probably follow any attempt to "farm out" the right of collecting the akyaw to an outsider.

162. Satisfactory progress was made in blasting rocks in the bed of the Hlowa stream, Prome district, 62,236 cubic feet having been destroyed during the year, at a cost of £106, being a third more work done, at an outlay of £10, less than was effected in the year before. Other streams had also to be cleared of quantities of *toungya* refuse.

163. The girdling of trees in reserved forests was altogether suspended during the year in accordance with the orders of the Government of India.

164. All leases of forests in Pegu have expired, and the only two remaining in Tenassarim will expire in December 1877, when the whole of the forests of the division will come under direct

Government agency.

Outturn of timber from Government forests.

165. The total quantity of timber extracted from the different Government forests during the year was—

	Logs.	Pieces.	Sleepers.	Tons.
Teak ..	58,884	..	44,498	46,481
Other woods..	2,157	1,282	..	2,609

besides a quantity of scantlings and some saplings.

This outturn is less than that of 1875-76 by 116 tons of teak and 9,146 tons of other timber; but the falling-off in the latter item is traceable to the fact that no sleeper pieces were required for the Railway, whereas in the previous year 9,716 tons were extracted for that purpose. The figures for 1876-77 were further affected by the veto placed on girdling operations, and by the falling in of nearly all existing forest leases. The mischief caused in former years, by the impunity with which the Karens in Tenassarim were allowed to cut down whatever trees they chose, will within a short time affect seriously the outturn from the forests on that side; but the field is open for the reproduction on the denuded spaces of teak and other woods, both by Government and by Karen agency,—a work to which it is hoped the attention of the Forest officers will now be energetically devoted.

166. The demand for these woods has not answered the expectation formed of them. Some *thitka* was tried as railway sleepers, but failed; and the only other sales of it during the year were for furniture-making. The stock on hand at the end was 600 logs, and, owing to a growing demand since then, a portion of it has been sold at satisfactory prices.

167. This timber requires to be well seasoned before being brought into use, and a considerable stock is kept on hand. The gun-carriage factories at Madras and Bombay took 180 tons of *padouk* during the year.

168. The imports of teak from beyond our frontier, although again very large, were short of the previous year's importations by 18,083 logs, as shewn in the following table:—

Imports of foreign teak.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Decrease as compared with 1875-76.	Increase as compared with 1875-76.
	Logs.	Logs.	Logs.	Logs.
By the Salween	138,609	124,490	14,119	..
Do. Sittang	88,827	89,502	..	1,175
Do. Irrawaddy	12,030	6,891	5,139	..
Total ..	188,966	170,883	18,083	..

Compared however with the average annual imports of former years (say about 75,000 logs a year), these figures are still unusually high; and, as regards the imports by the Sittang, are attributable

to the increased activity which has of late been shown by the lease-holders of the King of Burma's forests. These forests are being rapidly depleted, and, before many years have elapsed, will be entirely ruined.

166. Owing chiefly to the curtailment of the old permit-system, the quantity of British teak entered for

British teak.

payment of revenue at Kadoe again decreased largely, 7,582 logs only having been

brought down by permit-holders, as against 14,127 logs in 1875-76 and 21,110 logs in 1874-75. But the figures of any particular year are always more or less affected by the abundant rainfall or the contrary of each season, and the consequent facility or otherwise for floating out the timber into the main channels.

170. The deficient rainfall of the year prevented a good deal of first-class foreign timber from coming down

Revenue collections at Kadoe.

to Kadoe: the market was not very active, and the timber offered for sale was of some-

what poor quality; but, notwithstanding these drawbacks, the revenue collected at Kadoe amounted to £21,624, against a budget-estimate of £22,500. The copious rainfall of 1877 will admit of the floating down of much of the best timber stranded in the creeks during the year under notice.

171. The grand total of gross revenue accruing to the department during the year amounted to £155,146, of which

£100,450 belonged to Pegu and £54,696 to Tenasserim. It is thus summarized:—

Receipts.

	£.
I.—Revenue from timber—	
(a) Value of timber brought to depôt by direct departmental agency ..	116,042
(b) Revenue from timber removed by permit-holders, &c. ..	7,548
(c) Do. from confiscated drift and waif wood ..	2,882
II.—Revenue from minor produce, grazing dues, and sale of grass ..	1,820
III.—Duty on foreign timber at Kadoe ..	21,624
IV.—Miscellaneous receipts, fines, &c. ..	3,230
	155,146

Against this there were the following:—

	£.
<i>Disbursements.</i>	
A.—Conservancy and working ..	82,206
B.—Establishments ..	18,297
	100,503
Net revenue ..	54,643

or £31,480 less than the exceptionally high net revenue of 1875-76. The chief cause of the decrease is found in the fact that less demand existed for timber for the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, which was fast approaching completion. In other respects there were satisfactory

increases under such heads as salving operations, revenue from sales of the twelve species of wood reserved under the notifications 33 and 34 of 8th March 1876; while the diminished revenue (£8,252) derived at Kadoe in the form of duty on foreign timber was much more than counterbalanced by the activity shown in sawing up and selling quantities of British timber.

172. The chief item of increase in expenditure under the Head A.

Expenditure.

was caused by the cost incurred in bringing timber to depôt, the figures being £66,186 in 1876-77, against £49,886 in 1875-76. From

this amount, however, there should be deducted £10,296, expended in converting at the depôt a quantity of timber for which profitable sale could not at once be found. Fire-protection cost £1,800, as compared with £570. The other items call for no special remark. Under the head of establishments, there was an increase in salaries of £2,000, of which £1,200 were the pay of the Additional Conservator; and, as a consequence of the energy with which forest demarcation was carried on through the year, there was an increase of £800 in travelling allowances.

173. The timber market was in a depressed state for a great part of the year, and prices were on an average four shillings a ton less than in 1875-76.

174. A cargo, consisting of 700 tons square timber, besides some crooks, planks, and scantlings, was shipped by the *Dreadnought* for Government dock-yard purposes at home. The timber was

very carefully picked out, but, notwithstanding this, some of it was unfavourably reported on when examined on its arrival in England. A second order for 800 tons has since been received, but it is doubtful if as much timber can be found in the depôt coming up literally to the required standard.

175. The machinery sent out from England for this purpose broke down at the first trial, the component parts being of ill-proportioned strength. *Bamboo-crushing rollers, for paper-manufacture.*

Owing also to some misunderstanding with the shipping agents at Rangoon, the crushed fibre prepared by the machinery could not be forwarded to England, and the experiment in this way failed altogether, after costing about £150. By subsequent orders from Government, further experiments are not for the present to be made.

176. The department was happily free from any serious casualties during the year, although cholera and fever were rife, and many of the Forest officers underwent a good deal of exposure. Several

members of the subordinate establishment, however, were carried off by the above diseases.

177. The Additional Conservator submitted with his annual report a subsidiary one on the working of notifications 33 and 34 of 8th March 1876 reserving certain species of timber, and regulating the issue of permits for these and for cutch trees. The subject is one requiring careful handling, as

Health of officers.

Reserved species of timber.

it involves some intricate questions of detail which can best be dealt with by a Committee of experienced Forest and District Officers, to whom the Chief Commissioner proposes entrusting the reconsideration of the rules. The greatest caution and moderation are necessary to avoid in any way forfeiting the good-will of the people affected chiefly by their working.

Mines and Quarries.

178. The metalliferous minerals in the province are confined principally to the Tenasserim division, limestone and petroleum alone occurring in Pegu and Arakan. Of limestone, there are some valuable quarries in the Bassein, Thayetmyo, and Kyouk-hpyoo districts. It is also met with in Amherst. The petroleum wells in Kyouk-hpyoo are in the hands of natives, who pay a small rent annually by way of royalty on each well. The oil obtained is described as being of good quality and very clear. The yield is however but small, and is entirely used for local wants. Four wells exist in the Prome district, one of which was worked during the year with some success. Two European firms applied for and obtained permission to "prospect" for petroleum in the district. One of them has not hitherto availed itself practically of the concession; and the other has only made a very partial and imperfect start in the search for oil. Wells are also found in the Borong island near Akyab, and there, too, prospecting has been allowed within defined limits.

In Tenasserim, lead, iron, copper, and antimony are met with, and gold dust in the Shwe-gyeen river, but not in such abundance as to repay the necessary outlay in prosecuting the search for any of them.

179. The tin mines of Mergui, in the townships of Lenya and Malewoon, have always attracted attention. During the past two years, the following have been worked by the Chinese at the ground-rents stated:—

1876-73.				1876-77.			
Mines	6	at £10 each	.. 60	Mines	3	at £10	.. 30
	2	" £7-10	.. 15	"	2	" £7-10	.. 15
	1	" 25	.. 5	"	3	" 25	.. 15
"	4	" £2-10	.. 10	"	5	" £2=10	.. 12-10
	<u>13</u>		<u>90</u>		<u>13</u>		<u>72-10</u>

The Malewoon mines were worked during the year by Messrs. W. S. Steel and Co. The following figures shew the outturn of the past two years:—

1876-75.	1876-77.
Cwts.	Cwts.
397, valued at £ 903	458, valued at £1,082

a great portion of the yield being tin-sand. Messrs. Steel and Co. have, however, been greatly disappointed in the results, and at the close of the year resigned their mining lease to Government, after having expended a considerable amount of capital in constructing

roads, buildings, and machinery. The lodes, which at first promised well, gradually tapered away, and were finally lost in the hard trap rock. The failure of this experiment is much to be regretted on every ground: the lessees have lost a great deal of money; and the hope that the mining works would attract population and create a permanent productive industry on the spot is now removed.

In the Lenya township, where the mines are worked by the Chinese, no machinery is used, but cuttings are made below the surface, and the earth carefully sifted. The metalliferous deposit is then melted in a rude furnace. During the past two years the Chinese have exported 1,025 cwts., valued at £4,196. The export market was depressed in 1876-77; and 493 cwts. of smelted tin remained in the hands of traders at Mergui when the year closed.

180. Coal is found up the Tenasserim river in Mergui. It is of inferior quality, and unlikely to be worked so long as wood fuel is plentiful.

Manufactures.

A great variety of manufacturing industries and trades are carried on throughout the province, the principal ones being rice-clearing, timber-sawing, silk and cotton weaving, boat-building, and the manufacture of salt, *ngapee*, and other articles for native use and consumption.

181. There are now about 47 steam mills in the province for the preparation of rice for shipment to Europe. Improved machinery for polishing the grain has been introduced during the last two years, and a trade is gradually springing up in white rice ready for table use. The chief timber trade is carried on at Moulmein, where a number of steam saw mills are employed.

182. These are found in every Burmese household: the women of the family work them, and, besides providing all the clothing required for domestic use, they weave large quantities for sale or for barter. Some of the designs, which greatly resemble the chequers of a Scotch tartan, are decidedly pretty: the dyes used in staining the yarn produce clear bright colours, and, although the texture is rather rough, it is stout and lasting.

183. The manufacture of salt is carried on in most of the seaboard districts, but chiefly in Bassein and Kyouk-hpyoo. The cost of its production, however, exceeds the price of European salt, which is now being largely imported: the local article is fast losing ground, and will gradually disappear altogether as a branch of industry.

184. This condiment, which is a main article of food with the Burmese, entering into every meal they eat, is a preparation of fish, emitting an overpowering, and, to European nostrils, an offensive, smell. It is still manufactured in great quantities; but amongst the well-to-do Burmese a taste

has grown up for English tinned provisions and the manufacture of *ngapee* has declined slightly of late years.

185. The umbrella of the country is made of stout paper, saturated in oil and carefully dried. This is pasted on a framework of bamboo, and forms a very efficient protection from the sun. It is extensively used, and the work of umbrella-making gives employment to a large number of persons.

Umbrellas.

186. The rearing of silk-worms, which might otherwise be a large and profitable industry, is interfered with by the prejudice so prevalent amongst Buddhists against the destruction of animal life. The process by which the silk is obtained involves the death of the worm, and the consequence is that only a limited section of the people engage in the work. The silk is of a coarse, rough texture, and is prepared chiefly in the more northerly districts of the province where the mu berry is cultivated.

Silk.

187. The manufacture of lacquered-ware boxes and drinking vessels is carried on in the Prome and Thayetmyo districts, and no Burmese household would be complete without them. The boxes can be adapted for many purposes,—the smaller ones for jewel boxes, and the larger ones for provision and clothes boxes. The process of manufacture, which in some of its details is not very inviting, is thus described by a recent writer:—

Lacquered-ware.

The shell of the box, or whatever the article may be, is of the finest bamboo work, and on the flexibility of the article the value is regulated. This shell is first covered with a wash of cowdung sufficiently thick to fill up the crevices and give the whole an even surface; when dry, a second coating of cowdung mixed with siasel oil is applied, and allowed to dry gradually in a vault below ground, at a temperature of 120 deg. F^t. When thoroughly dry, which takes about four days, all irregularities or unevenness are removed by an artificial piece of pumice stone made of sand and lac. A third coat, consisting of bone-charcoal worked up with melanorrhoea oil, is now laid on, and forms the ground of the whole pattern. The box is again placed in the vault, where it remains sufficiently long to thoroughly dry. Now commences the designing of the pattern, which is performed entirely with a style. The whole of the black ground is removed, except such portion as is intended to form part of the design. This is either accomplished on the lathe or by the hand alone, according to the figure to be described. The next colour of the pattern, which is composed of a Chinese body-colour and melanorrhoea oil, is now laid on, and the box replaced in the vault for a fortnight or more, when a similar process is followed, and the whole of the last coating removed but that next in the design; and so on until the whole pattern is completed, when the box is put on a lathe, and the colours made to blend by a process of pumice-stoning, the final polish being given with a little oil and paddy husk. Thus it will be seen that, with the exception of the artificial pumice stone, lac in no form is used in the manufacture of these boxes.—*Strickell's Flora Elastica in Burma Proper.*

188. The goldsmiths and silvermiths of Burma have acquired an extensive and well-merited reputation for the richness and beauty of the work they prepare. It is of no great variety in regard to pattern or design, and is almost entirely confined to bowls, cups, and teapots, in the style of which there is much sameness. Some of the specimens, however, are admirable, the carving and chasing being in very bold and grotesque relief, and, although somewhat rough when closely inspected, they will, after a few finishing touches from a skilled English workman, bear favourable comparison with similar ware of European design.

Gold and silver ware.

189. Another form of Burmese artistic industry which is perhaps less generally known is a rude form of tapestry or pictures of Burmese dramatic

Tapestry.

scenes, sewn on a background of scarlet cloth, and bedecked with minute gold and silver spangles. These are somewhat gaudy, but are suitable for screens.

Trade.

190. An abstract of the value of the seaborne trade of the province during the year under report and that immediately preceding is given in the following return, from which it will be seen that merchandise improved to the extent of £846,696, and treasure increased by £1,522,266:—

Description of trade.	1875-76.			1876-77.				
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.		
PRIVATE. { Foreign ...	Imports.	1,228,401	82,175	1,285,576	2,170,025	68,273	2,238,297	
	Exports.	3,734,070	4,607	3,738,677	3,642,883	15,681	3,658,564	
	Coasting ...	Imports.	2,191,997	608,692	2,700,290	2,539,379	1,800,408	4,339,787
		Exports.	1,797,999	248,495	2,046,397	1,667,791	415,520	2,083,311
Total ...	9,353,360	817,570	10,170,930	10,226,058	2,299,881	12,525,939		
GOVERNMENT. { Foreign ...	Imports.	120,415	...	120,415	141,741	...	141,741	
	Exports.	82	...	82	9,890	...	9,890	
	Coasting ...	Imports.	105,545	82,465	139,080	71,310	60,500	131,810
		Exports.	43,322	41,080	84,402	21,501	53,000	74,501
Total ...	270,361	78,545	348,929	244,582	113,500	357,862		
GRAND TOTAL ...	9,623,744	891,115	10,514,859	10,470,440	2,413,381	12,683,821		

191. Before commenting on the trade of the province conducted by private persons, it may be well to notice, once for all, the Government transactions. The figures given above—which are not always accurate in consequence of the difficulty experienced in getting from the heads of some public departments the values of goods imported by them—show that the value of merchandise brought into the province on Government account during the year of report was slightly less than that of the previous year.

From foreign countries.

193. The principal items from foreign countries were as follows:—

	1875-76.		1876-77.	
	£.		£.	
Building, &c., materials	956			
Canes			390	
Glassware	396			
Hardware and cutlery	950		6	
Instruments	145		125	
Ale, beer, and porter	6,756		15,084	
Machinery	1,816		140	
Military and other uniforms			1,438	
Paper	489		14	
Provisions	139		203	
Railway material	106,916		123,977	
Arms, books, cabinetware, metals, stationery, wheat, candles, &c.	452		661	

These goods, which are mostly sent out by the Secretary of State from England on indent, were landed almost exclusively at Rangoon. In 1875-76, the whole of the foreign imports were from the United Kingdom; in 1876-77, goods of the value of £141,451 were from the same country, and of £290 from the Straits, the latter being the value of some canes and rattans brought in for the Jail Department.

Coastwise.

198. The Government imports coastwise during the two years consisted of—

	1875-76.		1876-77.	
	£.		£.	
Apparel	995		1,320	
Arms, &c.	8,878		580	
Books, &c.	1,237		2,132	
Drugs and medicines	1,260		485	
Hardware and cutlery	146		1,364	
Instruments	1,914		2,618	
Machinery	1,621		925	
Copperware	7,166		150	
Military and other uniforms	800		13,880	
Opium	20,650		34,839	
Paper	372		537	
Provisions	269		907	
Railway material	40,414		2,859	
Stationery	3,404		1,394	
Telegraph material	8,987		3,786	
Teak timber	6,790		1,810	
All other articles	7,678		1,872	
Total	106,565		718,100	

In 1875-76, a considerable quantity of railway material for the Irrawaddy Valley State Line was brought from Kurrachee to Rangoon; and the value of the goods sent to the province from Bengal was £45,987; from Bombay, £20; and from Madras, £9,454;

while the inter-provincial traffic amounted to £15,089. The coastwise imports in 1876-77 were from Bengal, £46,222; Madras, £14,281; and inter-provincial, £10,807.

194. The chief item of export to foreign ports on account of Government was a cargo of timber supplied by the local Forest Department at Moulmein to the Admiralty in England. The coasting exports of merchandise also consisted principally of teak timber to the value of £13,899, and were mostly to Bengal. The treasure transactions are entirely inter-provincial, being revenue transferred from one treasury to another.

195. There are seven ports in this province, and the private trade of the year was divided amongst them according to the following statement:—

Port.		1875-76.		1876-77.	
		£.		£.	
Rangoon	Imports	2,062,183		2,766,658	
	Exports	2,401,291		1,549,190	
	Total	4,463,474		4,315,848	
Akyab	Imports	4,995		628,324	
	Exports	465,944		247,728	
	Total	470,939		876,052	
Bassein	Imports	13,296		24,584	
	Exports	426,918		6,551	
	Total	510,218		31,135	
Kyonk-hpyoo	Imports			3,206	
	Exports			3,990	
	Total			7,196	
Mergui	Imports	13,493		30,815	
	Exports	14,032		35,625	
	Total	27,525		66,440	
Moulmein	Imports	107,999		852,061	
	Exports	473,590		423,191	
	Total	581,589		1,275,252	
Tavoy	Imports	1,635		84,128	
	Exports	12,828		17,765	
	Total	14,463		101,893	
GRAND TOTAL	Imports	2,386,379		4,332,786	
	Exports	3,264,543		3,083,310	
	TOTAL	5,650,922		7,416,096	

196. It will be observed that the foreign import trade is confined almost exclusively to Rangoon, which took 98 per cent. of it, while Akyab took a mere trifle, Kyouk-hpyoo nothing, Moulmein nearly five per cent., Tavoy 78 per cent., and Mergui and Bassein the remainder in about equal proportions. The three ports in Tenasserim have a trade with the Straits Settlements. The European import-trade may be said to be entirely with Rangoon, whence the other parts of the province and Upper Burma obtain their supplies. Of the exports to foreign countries, Rangoon shipped 62 per cent., Akyab, Bassein, and Moulmein slightly over 12 per cent. each, and Tavoy and Mergui less than one per cent. between them. As regards the

coasting trade, Rangoon participated to the extent of 64 per cent. in the imports, and to a similar extent in the exports; Akyab took 15 per cent. of the imports, and contributed 12 per cent. of the exports; Moulmein, 19 per cent. of the former, and 20 per cent. of the latter; and the balance was divided among Mergui, Tavoy, Bassein, and Kyouk-hpyoo in the order named.

197. The statistics of the private trade shew a much more satisfactory state of affairs in the year of report than in 1875-76, the gross value of the merchandise, both import and export, having increased by £872,698, or 9.33 per cent.; and of the transactions in treasure, by £1,482,311, or 181.30 per cent.

198. The private trade, including treasure, of the last two years has been in the following proportion:—

		Imports.	Exports.	Total.
		Percent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1875-76	Foreign	16.6	36.8	53.4
	Coasting	26.5	20.1	46.6
	Total	43.1	56.9	100.0
1876-77	Foreign	17.9	30.9	48.8
	Coasting	34.6	16.6	51.2
	Total	52.5	47.5	100.0

The positions of the foreign and coasting trade, and of the imports and exports, have been reversed by the large imports of treasure from Bengal to meet the requirements of the rice season. In 1875-76, the value of treasure formed but 18.8 per cent. of the coasting imports: in the year of report, the percentage was 41.5. A large increase also took place in the value of specie exported coastwise, the percentage in 1876-77 having been 20, and in the preceding year 12 only.

199. The private import trade in merchandise, viz., £4,709,404, was the largest ever registered in the province, and £888,005 in excess of that recorded in 1875-76. The value of the traffic from foreign countries increased from £1,629,401 in 1875-76 to £2,170,025 in the year under review, or by £540,624, equal to 33 per cent.; while the coasting traffic also increased from £2,191,997 to £2,539,379, or by 16 per cent. The following statement gives details of the quantities and values of the principal goods imported from foreign ports and coastwise during the year 1876-77:—

Articles imported.	Denomination.	1876-77.	
		Quantity.	Value.
			£
Apparel (including haberdashery, &c.)	Value	..	80,446
Candles of all sorts	lbs.	683,997	28,370
Canes and rattans	Cwt.	16,862	11,634
Coals	Tons	47,917	57,450
Cotton twist and yarn	lbs.	5,300,546	481,680
Do. piece-goods	Yards	43,916,423	940,768
Dyeing and colouring materials	Cwt.	2,926	9,408
Earthenware and porcelain	Value	..	68,752
Glass (including beads, &c.)	..	..	26,212
Jute, manufactures of—gunny bags	No.	5,285,904	165,188
Leather, and manufactures of	Value	..	19,801
Liquors—			
Ale, beer, and porter	Gallons	147,478	35,903
Spirits	"	128,237	92,306
Wines and liquors	"	52,464	27,389
Other sorts	"	65	23
Machinery and mill work	Value	..	93,904
Metals—			
BRASS	Cwt.	2,659	19,191
Copper	"	8,061	40,901
Iron	"	128,297	105,810
Steel	"	6,938	8,312
Tin	"	8,139	10,049
Zinc or spelter	"	1,983	3,460
Oils	Gallons	946,821	132,773
Provisions	Cwt.	103,846	170,048
Salt	Tons	29,415	59,771
Seeds	Cwt.	52,970	40,203
Silk (raw)	lbs.	170,643	67,501
Do. piece-goods	Yards	4,257,489	452,874
Spices (betel-nut)	lbs.	19,655,225	199,028
Sugar	Cwt.	66,055	76,887
Tobacco	lbs.	21,218,203	342,169
Umbrellas	No.	452,888	23,064
Wool, manufactures of—piece-goods	Yards	1,098,616	205,630
All other articles	Value	..	621,929
Total Merchandise	£.	..	4,709,404
TREASURE.			
Gold	£	..	81,534
Silver	£	..	1,837,146
Total Treasure	£	..	1,868,680
GRAND TOTAL, MERCHANDISE AND TREASURE	£	..	6,578,084

200. The only previous year in which the import trade in merchandise was at all equal to that detailed above was in 1874-75, and it will therefore be well to compare the statistics of that year with those of the year under review. In 1874-75, apparel to the value of £90,276 was imported, being £9,830 in excess of the value in 1876-77; candles have increased from £20,814 to £28,370; canes and rattans, from £10,717 to £116,34; coal, from 36,790 tons to 47,917 tons, but the value decreased from £62,684, to £57,450, owing to a large decline in price in the interim; cotton on twist and yarn have increased in quantity 203,713 lbs., but decreased in value £29,647, owing to reduced valuations; cotton piece-goods have increased from £784,270 to £940,768, or by £156,498; dyeing and colouring materials have decreased from £1,7517 to £9,408; earthenware and glass have both increased, the one £4,671, the other £976; gunny bags, of which the supply in 1874-75, owing to the Bengal famine, was most abnormal, decreased from 10,616,230 to 5,285,904, and in value from £365,925 to £165,138; leather goods increased but £177; liquors (spirituous) decreased from 143,055 to 128,237 gallons, while the value increased from £827,50 to £92,306; and beer, wines, &c., fell off in value to the extent of £22,511, the imports of beer having considerably diminished; machinery and mill-work have decreased from £102,362 to £93,901, the demand for rice-mills being now almost satisfied; metals have also decreased in value to the extent of £48,643; oils have increased from £95,957 to £132,773; provisions, &c., from £132,028 to £170,048; salt has decreased slightly in quantity, 30,744 to 29,415 tons but in value from £74,388 to £59,771; seeds of all kinds have increased from £20,848 to £40,203; raw silk has experienced a serious decline, the quantity imported in 1874-75 having been 275,018 lbs., against 170,643 lbs. in the year of report, the values of which were £106,197 and £67,501 respectively, the falling-off being due chiefly to a decreased demand for Upper Burma; the trade in silk piece-goods has diminished even more seriously, the values in the respective years having been £638,319 and £452,874, the falling-off being mostly in Indian goods; sugar has increased largely both in quantity and value, the latter from £54,998 to £78,687; tobacco, also, from 13,238,326 lbs. to 11,218,203 lbs., and from £174,187 to £342,169; umbrellas, owing partially to a revision of the tariff, have decreased in value from £25,309 to £23,084; woollen goods have considerably improved in value, viz., from £162,898 in 1874-75 to £205,630 in 1876-77.

201. As Rangoon is the great entrepôt for the import trade of the province, the state of the market for foreign goods at that port during the year of review maybe here noticed. At the commencement of the official year, stocks of goods imported from Europe were comparatively light. In April, the demand for most descriptions of goods for local consumption was brisk, but the markets beyond the frontier were dull, owing to the return of the Shan traders to their homes prior to the breaking of the

State of trade in Rangoon, the principal port, during 1876-77.

S. W. monsoon. With the beginning of May, the most active season may be said to have passed, goods declined in value, and purchases were smaller. From Mandalay there was no improvement to report: the escort sent to the frontier of Western China, to bring through the Grosvenor Mission, seems to have somewhat unsettled the minds of the up-country dealers; and the King of Burma having ordered the construction of a bund around Mandalay to protect that city from the overflow of the River Irrawaddy, all the available people were employed on the work night and day, which caused a partial stoppage of business. In June, the local market shewed but little improvement; but advices from Mandalay were more encouraging, as the arrival of Mr. Grosvenor and his party in Rangoon safely, and the return of the escort to Thayetmyo, gave more confidence to the bazaar dealers. During the following two months, business was in a normal state; but in September the markets beyond the frontier were temporarily paralysed in consequence of the King having leased out

Farming out of customs duties in Upper Burma

the collection of the customs revenue to the Moola Ibrahim, a Surattee merchant, who has been a resident for some time in Upper Burma, and who has had large dealings with His Majesty. The amount paid for this monopoly for a year has been variously stated at from five to seven lakhs of rupees. Previous to the farming out of the customs, duty had been assessed on the market prices of produce; but Moola Ibrahim, on assuming charge of the collection, insisted upon levying on the rates laid down in the tariff, which, in accordance with clause 4 of the treaty of 1867, is prepared yearly by the British Resident at Mandalay and the ministers of His Majesty the King of Burma. These rates appear to be much higher than those usually ruling in the markets. The action of the farmer, therefore, caused much dissatisfaction among traders, the export dealers particularly, and the latter entered into an arrangement not to ship any produce to British Burma until a reduction in the assessment was made. The Chinese merchants are among the principal dealers in the raw produce of Ava, and they pay for their purchases with the proceeds of piece-goods and raw silk which they export from Rangoon in large quantities. As they did not require funds for the purchase of produce during the suspension of shipments, they naturally ceased to send goods to Mandalay, and, as a consequence, there was stagnation in the Rangoon markets. Soon, however, they petitioned the King on the subject of the heavy duties imposed, and His Majesty ordered some concessions, which led to a resumption of shipments. Trade continued somewhat dull until the close of January, when there was a considerable improvement; but business, locally, was done cautiously; while for the markets beyond the frontier but few purchases were made, owing to attempts on the part of the King or his ministers to monopolise the trade in piece and other goods. As

Trading proclivities of the King of Burma.

the official year progressed towards its close, the Royal Trader brought pressure to bear on the bazaar dealers to induce them to sell to his representatives alone. This many of the dealers were compelled to do, and the goods were retailed in the bazaars at Mandalay by His

Majesty's agents. He also sent brokers to Rangoon to purchase goods, and forbade his subjects to buy from the independent dealers, who were thereby left in possession of large stocks of goods which they ultimately had to sell to the King, who took a lengthened credit. This interference on the part of His Majesty greatly retarded the trade between Upper and Lower Burma, and led the European and Native merchants to memorialise the Local Government on the subject.

202. The following statement of goods, passed through the Rangoon Custom-house at one per cent. duty for Upper Burma during each of the last five years, shews that there was a slight falling-off in the year of report as compared with the previous year, when the decrease below the value recorded in 1874-75 was very great:—

Description.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76	1876-77.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Cotton piece-goods ..	132,429	135,191	171,233	115,987	170,958
Silk ditto ..	53,239	71,958	90,874	104,753	64,551
Woollen ditto ..	10,111	12,887	15,695	11,821	18,712
Raw silk ..	39,156	55,609	69,603	54,743	45,549
Cotton twist and yarn ..	141,479	148,507	178,585	116,634	128,323
Spirits ..	606	771	733	959	1,119
Wines ..	272	387	429	239	418
Salt (Europe) ..	27,769	18,971	22,497	21,432	21,821
Metals (exclusive of machinery)	1,412	1,798	4,768	8,536	2,529
Candles ..	6,019	2,414	3,811	2,676	3,024
Sugar ..	2,423	4,201	8,488	2,018	2,841
Earthenware and porcelain ..	2,942	2,605	9,048	2,899	4,846
All other articles ..	14,190	25,800	26,259	58,503	21,906
Total ..	432,047	481,099	606,517	495,695	486,587

The trade in cotton piece-goods during 1876-77 almost recovered the position it held in 1874-75, and woollens exhibit a decided increase; but in the more costly silk goods and raw silk there was a very heavy decrease; while cotton twist and yarn was still far below the average value in the three years preceding 1875-76. The increase in spirits is to be regretted, but it is somewhat surprising that the consumption does not progress with more rapid strides, seeing that the one per cent. rate is a nominal tax, the 1,898 gallons cleared for beyond

the frontier having yielded as duty £11 only; while had they been passed for consumption in British Burma the amount would have been £735. The exports of European salt slightly improved, as also candles and sugar; while the trade in English crockeryware more than doubled.

203. The King also extended his trading to the raw produce of the country, which is shipped in large quantities to Rangoon, people being in some instances forbidden to sell to any one but His Majesty's agents, who, it is said, obtained the articles at a low value, and subsequently disposed of them to Chinese and other dealers for export to British Burma. Being royal goods, they were shipped free of duty, the customs monopolist being sacrificed to royal interests.

204. The continued interference of the King of Burma with the trade carried on within his territories has a very depressing effect on the markets, and unsettles the minds of the traders, so that they cannot conduct their business with regularity and despatch, as they are never sure what new whim may seize His Majesty, or what branch may next meet with his intervention. Trade, therefore, does not flourish nor increase so rapidly as might be expected from the numerous concessions which the British Government has made in favour of Upper Burma. The frontier duties, when abolished in 1863, were yielding upwards

of £60,000 per annum, and, were they now in existence, would return over £100,000. By allowing foreign goods to be forwarded to Ava under a duty of one per cent. only, while the people of our own territory have to pay five per cent. on general goods and above 100 per cent. on the spirituous liquors they consume, nearly £30,000 per annum are sacrificed; and the large quantity of rice taken by the population beyond the frontier—the trade in which is almost entirely in the King's hands, and which would be available for shipment seawards if not so taken—is allowed to pass up the Irrawaddy free of duty, while rice exported to foreign countries by sea is assessed with duty at the rate of 4½d. a maund, or 10s. 2½d. a ton. The shipments to Upper Burma during the last 10 years have been but little below 600,000 tons, which represent a further concession of upwards of £30,000 per annum. Under such circumstances, it is not unreasonable to press that treaty rights demand a closer observance.

205. In the export trade in merchandise during 1876-77, the value of which aggregated £5,516,654, against £5,531,962 in 1875-76. There was an improvement in the transactions with foreign countries to the extent of three per cent., but a falling-off in the coasting traffic of over seven per cent. The value of the produce, &c., cleared for foreign ports was £3,848,863 in the year under review, and £3,734,070 in the previous year, an increase in favour of 1876-77 of £114,793; while the coasting trade decreased from £1,797,892 to £1,667,791, or by £130,101.

particulars of the principal goods exported in the year report will be found in the under-noted return:—

Articles exported.	Denomination.	1876-77.	
		Quantity.	Value.
			£.
Latex (raw)	Cwt.	4,074	32,171
Opium (raw)	"	120,239	211,383
Drugs and medicines	Value	..	2,405
Spices and vegetables	"	..	14,963
<i>in and Pulse—</i>			
Rice in the husk (paddy)	Cwt.	1,611,109	286,460
Do. not in the husk	"	12,604,561	3,056,388
<i>and Resins—</i>			
Cutch and gambier	Cwt.	290,274	265,102
Opium (raw)	Cwt. & No.	31,041 & 312,103	65,697
.. ..	Cwt.	3,839	6,159
.. ..	lbs.	19,514	10,648
.. ..	Value	..	520
.. ..	Cwt.	9,269	16,047
.. ..			
Copper	"	1,991	8,395
Lead	"	6,658	7,975
Tin	"	2,407	9,071
.. ..	Galls.	454,387	43,613
.. ..	lbs.	2,499,728	29,481
.. ..	Cwt.	4,077	65,138
.. ..	lbs.	2,190,926	40,957
Teak	Cubic tons	114,863	782,466
Other timber	Tons.	1,707	6,723
Other articles	Value	..	550,258
Total Merchandise	£	..	5,516,654
Gold	"	..	1,782
Silver	"	..	429,419
Total Treasure	£	..	431,301
Total Merchandise & Treasure	£	..	5,947,955

206. The aggregate of the export trade in merchandise during 1876-77 was £15,808 less than that in the previous year. Of the principal articles exported during the two years, the shipments of raw caoutchouc, 4,074 cwt. in 1876-77, against 2,250 cwt. in 1875-76, with values of £32,171 and £19,919 respectively; of raw opium, 120,239 cwt., against 180,068 cwt., the respective values being £211,383 and £346,182, a very large decrease; of rice

	1875-76.	1876-77.
	Tons.	Tons.
Europe	595,227	549,226
Straits Ports	74,697	51,942
Other Foreign Ports	9,931	17,784
Bengal	774	8,632
Bombay	6,858	8,360
Madras	52,507	63,559
Provincial Ports	1,215	925
Pondicherry .. ..	..	115
Karikal .. ..	..	250
Total	721,909	710,783

the total recorded value being £2,881,721 in the first-named year and £3,342,848 in the year under review; of cutch, in 1876-77, 290,274 cwt., valued at £265,102, and in 1875-76, 181,394 cwt., of the value of £156,852, an increase of 108,880 cwt., and £108,250; of raw hides, 31,041 cwt., worth £65,697, against 52,618 cwt., and £77,642; of horns, 3,839 cwt., with a value of £6,159, against 3,763 cwt. and £4,647; of mineral oil, 464,387 gallons, valued at £48,613, against 186,693 gallons and £8,167; of jade-stones, 4,077 cwt., estimated to be worth £65,138, against 2,362 cwt., valued at £41,918; of teak and other timber, 116,570 tons, with a value of £789,188; while in 1875-76 the quantity exported was 141,598 tons, with a recorded value of £9,702,558.

207. The export trade was, on the whole, it is believed, satisfactory to those concerned in it during 1876-77. The quantity of rice available for shipment to Europe in the calendar year 1876 was owing to the inundations during 1875 and the large demand for Upper Burma, upwards of 100,000 tons less than in the preceding year, and as a consequence prices went up, and those who had held their cargoes must have made much money.

208. It may not be uninteresting to note here a few particulars regarding the rice trade of the province for some years past. In the following statement will be found the exports of this grain during each of the last 13 official years, which shew that the minimum shipments in any one year during that period was 248,101 tons, and the maximum 811,106 tons, the latter being due to the famine which existed in Bengal towards the end of 1873 and during the early part of 1874. The average annual shipments of the first six years of the term amounted to 374,300 tons, while the average per annum for the second six years was 641,676 tons, an increase equal to 71 per cent. The exports during the year under review—710,783 tons—were considerably in excess of the latter average, and have been exceeded in three years only, viz., in 1872-73, when large quantities of rice, which rightly belonged to the preceding year, were shipped in

Shipments during official years.

873-74, when the demand was so great for Bengal, and slightly in 875-76:—

Year.	Arakan.	Rangoon.	Bassein.	Tenasserim.	Total, British Burma.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
364-65	121,377	259,290	64,225	25,046	469,938
365-66	120,472	202,125	62,649	40,951	426,197
366-67	81,331	107,859	26,90	32,162	248,161
367-68	97,976	163,142	37,160	27,735	325,913
368-69	111,192	244,610	60,549	29,858	446,109
369-70	69,185	181,964	51,063	27,429	329,641
370-71	153,571	220,101	44,391	42,038	440,001
371-72	105,894	265,612	55,274	60,381	487,162
372-73	173,252	415,028	74,927	57,143	720,350
373-74	162,788	482,479	88,495	77,344	811,106
374-75	141,416	389,937	69,743	49,169	670,225
375-76	136,274	389,821	113,957	81,157	721,209
Average per annum 1876-77	121,216 143,185	276,819 408,136	64,085 104,516	45,868 59,946	507,988 710,783

209. The rice crops in Burma are sown in June: the heavy rains of the south-west monsoon commence early in May as a rule, and continue until about the end of October, sometimes extending into November; the harvest takes place in December and January. About the middle of the latter month a commencement is made in bringing the produce to market. The bulk of the quantity destined for export may be said to have passed through the hands of the millers by the middle of April, and the season is virtually over with the close of June. The statistics of the rice trade are therefore more constant for the calendar than for the official year, as the latter ends in the middle of the season, —on the 31st March. If the crop is early, or the shipping has reached the ports in large numbers, the exports during the last three months of the fiscal year are large; if the harvest is late, or ships tardy in arrival, a large proportion of the shipments is made after the 1st April.

210. The exports during each calendar year are the actual quantities of the preceding year's crops available after providing food for the people. Ordinarily, on account of the pressure of competition in the market, the stocks retained in the country are very little in excess of its requirements for the year. The undernoted statement compares the shipments for the last 12 calendar years, together with a portion of the current year (1877) to foreign countries, to India, and Upper Burma, Pegu being the granary from which the people and the frontier supply their wants when their own rice crops short:—

Year.	DUTY-PAYING EXPORTS OF RICE.			Non-dutiable exports of Rice.	Total.	To Upper Burma.	Grand Total.
	To Europe.	To Straits, China, &c.	Total.				
1865	Tons. 156,700	Tons. 108,797	Tons. 355,407	Tons. 24,002	Tons. 380,009	Tons. 39,644	Tons. 419,653
1866	170,652	77,327	247,979	68,888	316,867	17,010	333,877
1867	261,420	29,063	290,483	170,170	460,653	90,427	551,080
1868	319,474	10,634	330,108	14,077	344,185	78,010	422,201
1869	295,337	21,070	316,407	80,622	397,029	66,026	463,055
1870	300,944	73,167	374,111	47,741	421,852	100,283	522,135
1871	360,728	65,753	426,481	15,414	441,895	64,628	506,521
1872	522,179	103,141	625,320	19,655	644,975	28,576	673,551
1873	499,647	71,175	570,822	30,565	601,387	28,302	629,689
1874	471,668	29,723	501,391	290,938	792,329	13,045	805,374
1875	595,090	60,313	655,403	24,003	679,406	67,413	746,819
1876	484,859	64,070	548,929	44,600	593,529	72,768	666,297
1877, up to 31st September	463,783	23,945	487,728	122,621	610,349	66,510	676,859

The annual average of the first six years, 1865—1870, is 448,887 tons; of the second term, 1871—1876, 680,644 tons, a difference of 52 per cent., against 71 on the statistics of the financial years. The latter quantity has been exceeded during 1877, up to the 30th September, since which date there have been further shipments both to the Madras coast and to Upper Burma. The largest export in any one year during the first six named above was in 1867, when a demand existed for grain for the Orissa coast; and during the second six, in 1874, when about 280,000 tons were sent to Calcutta for the famine districts in Behar and Bengal. The decrease of about 100,000 tons shewn in the exports during 1876, as compared with 1875, was due mainly to the great inundations in the Bassein and Henzada districts in the latter year, caused by the extraordinary rise of the River Irrawaddy, which breached and overtopped the embankments in several places, and destroyed large areas of crops. Unfortunately, this great rise has been surpassed in 1877, and similar results have followed in the same districts. During the current year (1877) there has been a large demand for the Madras famine.

211. British Burma is a granary from which any large and unexpected demand for the continent of India can be at once supplied, because a considerable increase in price, consequent on scarcity

British Burma a granary for India.

in this great staple food of the people of the East, will stop shipments to Europe, and direct the grain to the local markets. This was the case in 1867, 1874, and again in the current year. A great impulse will probably be given to the extension of rice cultivation from the large demand and high prices of the present season; and the successful completion of the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway will certainly lead to wider developments of the cultivation and trade. The province needs, however, very much more assistance from Imperial resources for the reclamations of its wastes and the opening out of its communications in the interior, both by land and water. Of the rice imported from eastern countries into Europe, it is estimated that Burma supplies between 80 and 90 per cent.

212. The value of the private trade with foreign countries during the year under review reached the large aggregate of £6,102,841, of which the imports were £2,238,297, and the exports £3,864,544. In 1875-76, the total value of this trade was £5,424,254, the imports being £1,685,577 and the exports £3,738,677. The increments in favour of 1876-77 have therefore been 12½ per cent., 88 per cent., and 8½ per cent. respectively. The total of the trade under each head is in excess of that recorded in any previous year, although the imports of 1874-75 were but £24,924 less, and the exports of 1872-73 only £184,89 below the amount in 1876-77.

213. The principal increases in imports were £420,000 in cotton goods, £65,000 in metals, £55,000 in woollen goods, £20,000 in earthenware, £10,000 in candles, £17,500 in liquors (chiefly in malt liquors), and about £50,000 each in hardware and cutlery, paints, provisions, and umbrellas;

while the decreases were £88,000 in machinery, £16,800 in salt, and £10,000 in raw silk. In exports, the value of caoutchouc (raw) improved to the extent of about £10,000, rice and paddy £210,000, cutch nearly £60,000, jade-stones £28,000, and wax and miscellaneous over £8,000 each. On the other hand, raw cotton decreased by £67,500, hides and skins over £10,000, lac close upon £5,000, and teak timber £110,000.

214. The imports of treasure in 1875-76 amounted to £56,175 of which £45,081 were from the Straits Settlements, and the balance from Siam;

and in 1876-77 to £68,272, to which the Straits contributed £55,491 and Siam £12,781. The exports were respectively £4,607 to the Straits Settlements and £15,681 to the Straits and Siam, the latter taking £170 only.

215. The trade with each of the principal foreign countries during the last two years has been as follows:—

Treasure.

216. The particulars of the trade via the Suez Canal are given in the following statement:—

		1875-76.	1876-77.
Private	Imports ..	£. 1,147,554	1,466,726
	Exports ..	425,489	878,199
Government	Imports ..	70,767	59,293
	Exports ..	82	86
Total	Imports ..	1,218,311	1,526,009
	Exports ..	425,571	878,285

These figures show that 80·84 per cent. of the private import trade from Europe was brought through the canal, and 41·8 per cent. of the Government goods during 1876-77 mostly by the monthly steamers from Glasgow; and that the private exports to Europe by the same route formed 12·15 per cent. of the total European trade under this head. During the season, many cargoes of rice are shipped via the canal, besides those carried by the Glasgow steamers; the latter convey the bulk of the caoutchouc, cotton, catch, hides, and horns.

217. The gross value of the private coasting trade in merchandise in the year of report was £4,207,170 while in the preceding year it was £3,989,889 an increase in favour of 1876-77 of £217,281 or 5½ per cent. In the same years the transactions in treasure by private parties amounted to £2,215,928 and £756,788 respectively, the difference being £1,459,140. Specie was received into the Province during the year under review from Bengal £1,866,482 from Bombay £170,000, from Madras £87,260; a total of £1,578,742; and the exports were to Bengal £229,444 and to Madras £2,505, together £231,949, leaving a balance in the province of £1,341,793, which, with the excess of coasting imports of merchandise over exports, may be taken as having been applied to make up the difference between the values of imports from, and exports to, foreign countries, which was £1,678,838 in favour of the latter. The inter-provincial transactions in treasure were—imports £226,666; exports £183,570.

Proportion of country and foreign produce imported.

	£.
Country produce	1,534,231
Foreign goods	1,005,147
Total	<u>2,539,378</u>

which was contributed by—

	Country.	Foreign.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
Bengal	984,622	736,307	1,671,019
Bombay	15,256	2,378	17,634
Madras	274,574	86,798	311,167
Provincial ports	307,109	229,404	536,513
Indian ports not British	2,670	1,75	3,045
Total	1,534,231	1,005,147	2,539,378

The grand total of this trade may be considered fairly correct, but the division of the imports into country and foreign having been made in a somewhat arbitrary manner by the compilers, cannot be accepted as very reliable. Since the close of the year measures have been taken to register the coasting trade with more accuracy than hitherto. The import trade from Bengal increased from £1,388,411 in 1875-76 to £1,671,019 in the year under review; that from Bombay, from £8,154 to £17,634; that from Madras, from £240,984 to £311,167; that from Indian ports not British, from £223 to £3,045; while the inter-provincial import trade decreased slightly, the value in 1875-76 having been £559,224, and in 1876-77 £536,513.

Principal articles imported coastwise.

219. The principal articles imported coastwise in 1876-77 were as follows:—

Countries		1876-76.	1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£.	£.	£.	£.
United Kingdom	Imports	1,225,400	1,808,480	577,714	..
	Exports	2,944,123	3,001,689	575,178	..
Austria	Imports	1	..	..	1
	Exports	7,641	..	..	7,641
Belgium	Imports	34	..	..	34
	Exports	9,450	..	..	9,450
France	Imports	187	126	..	11
	Exports	8,803	6,126	..	2,688
Germany	Imports	14,740	7,545	..	7,195
	Exports	20,201	21,785	1,584	..
Holland	Imports	6,987	6,001	..	886
	Exports	8,829	..	..	8,829
Italy	Imports	24,216	7,167	..	17,049
	Exports	..	8,208	8,208	..
Malta	Imports	..	..	..	..
	Exports	29,400	72,863	44,403	..
Norway	Imports	164	789	624	..
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Gibraltar	Imports	..	..	..	..
	Exports	..	10,105	10,105	..
Sweden	Imports	15	..	..	15
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Cape of Good Hope	Imports	110	241	131	..
	Exports	8,664	8,881	167	..
Eastern Coast of Africa	Imports	43	..	..	43
	Exports	..	..	..	..
EGYPT	Imports	..	..	..	..
	Exports	9,425	68,788	74,353	..

Mauritius	Imports	753	7	..	746
	Exports	8,379	1,880	..	6,899
Reunion (Bourbon)	Imports	..	10	10	..
	Exports	..	..	..	..
South America	Imports	851	77	..	374
	Exports	2,218	..	..	2,218
United States	Imports	..	10	10	..
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Aden	Imports	92	..	..	92
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Arabia	Imports	145	1,825	1,250	..
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Borneo	Imports	17	..	..	17
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Ceylon	Imports	1,585	1,008	421	..
	Exports	15,108	70,839	55,236	..
China	Imports	12	20	8	..
	Exports	14,973	..	..	14,973
Java	Imports	1,223	..	..	1,223
	Exports	7,867	5,170	..	2,747
Siam	Imports	12,865	14,111	1,675	..
	Exports	25,264	37,849	11,405	..
Straits Settlements	Imports	828,690	826,574	..	40
	Exports	626,016	540,869	..	65,147
Turkey in Asia	Imports	5	..	..	5
	Exports	..	..	..	..
Australia	Imports	2,265	1,029	..	2,296
	Exports	1,655	12	..	1,643

Total	Imports	1,885,578	2,229,297	553,721	..
	Exports	2,738,677	2,964,544	126,667	..

ARTICLES	BENGAL.		ROHMAY.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Animals living ...	No.	£.	£.	£.
Apparel ...	7,493	7,578	1	6
Cabinetware ...	Value	43,196	135	135
Candles ...	Ibs.	11,114	219	219
Carriages, &c. ...	Value	2,366	...	...
Cordage and rope ...	Value	2,661	280	280
Cotton twist ...	Gwt.	16,245	30	50
Ditto piece-goods, grey ...	Ibs.	2,180,443	20,418	1,938
Ditto, white ...	Yards	4,729,747	...	...
Ditto, coloured ...	...	2,970,895	10,300	267
Ditto, handkerchiefs, &c. ...	No.	1,228,423	2,920	87
Ditto, other sorts ...	Yards	62,288	35,554	223
Cotton thread ...	Ibs.	111,578	...	...
Drugs and medicines ...	Value	40,460	...	...
Dyeing materials ...	...	4,416	355	355
Earthenware ...	...	4,974	...	...
Fruits, coconuts ...	No.	4,109	14	14
Ditto, other sorts, and vegetables ...	Value	6,024,773	11,351	...
Glass manufactures ...	...	18,943	580	580
Grain and pulse—gram ...	...	9,614	243	243
Ditto, paddy ...	Cwt.	2,090	1,054	...
Ditto, rice ...	...	1,628	1,043	...
Ditto, wheat ...	...	3,708	1,604	...
Ditto, other sorts ...	...	12,533	7,573	...
Hardware and cutlery ...	Value	12,533	63,276	...
Hides and skins ...	Cwt.	329	818	610
Gunny bags ...	No.	4,707,284	153,729	...
Leather, and manufactures of ...	Value	...	...	...
Liquors—ale, beer, &c. ...	Galls.	6,171	9,119	16
Ditto, spirits ...	...	4,511	4,449	14
Ditto, wines and liqueurs ...	...	4,743	4,787	13
Machinery, &c. ...	Value	...	17,157	3
Metals, brass ...	Cwt.	875	7,778	600
Ditto, copper ...	...	2,594	17,819	224
Ditto, iron ...	...	6,380	6,478	8
Ditto, tin ...	...	692	6,478	...
Oils ...	...	159,854	24,405	44
Paints and colours ...	Galls.	664	5,723	6
Paper and pasteboard ...	Cwt.	...	...	6
Provisions ...	Value	...	5,883	15
See, ...	Cwt.	27,675	43,699	294
Silk, raw ...	Ibs.	24,690	27,880	125
Do. Piece-goods ...	Yards	6,793	2,704	101
Soap ...	Cwt.	1,719,188	12,423	2,808
Spices, betel-nut ...	Cwt.	6,214	1,076	...
Do., other sorts ...	Lbs.	17,224,491	183,288	...
Sugar, &c. ...	...	1,621,814	18,145	435
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	Cwt.	22,322	26,594	...
Do., manufactured ...	Ibs.	12,652,108	129,389	...
Umbrellas ...	No.	970,533	16,503	45
Woolen piece-goods ...	Yards	44,218	4,773	...
Do., other sorts ...	Value	642,765	97,523	...
All other articles ...	...	1,123	1,388	...
Total ...	...	1,671,019	...	17,634

ARTICLES	MADRAS.		PROVINCIAL PORTS.		INDIAN PORTS NOT BRITISH.		TOTAL.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
...	508	469	738	2,005	...	...	8,730	10,688
...	...	2,195	...	4,885	...	...	...	61,283
...	...	284	...	2,294	...	...	...	11,421
...	...	...	30,360	1,267	...	...	97,708	3,622
...	...	285	...	...	...	...	...	4,223
...	1,979	2,689	...	1,107	...	...	11,529	20,270
...	15,820	615	267,256	24,813	...	...	2,472,227	196,566
...	44,494	522	614,811	9,859	...	...	5,361,242	85,927
...	19,978	1,254,618	25,825	...	...	...	5,704,500	125,605
...	204,126	24,721	1,464,266	44,211	684	80	8,270,560	204,229
...	109,011	4,220	62,100	1,144	...	...	259,478	7,412
...	2,229	129	8,235	29	...	1	117,654	2,653
...	30	5	12,221	1,422	...	...	52,624	4,971
...	...	699	...	1,502	...	...	...	2,294
...	...	85	...	584	...	...	...	7,449
...	1,267	...	5,013	...	...	40	...	10,664
...	804,753	2,172	422,427	2,252	...	...	4,022,223	15,721
...	...	6,114	...	12,577	...	...	...	22,219
...	...	247	...	1,784	...	...	...	11,029
...	651	206	...	1,417	...	...	...	4,022
...	...	639	...	1,821	...	...	...	9,965
...	1,267	775	...	2,745	...	...	23,770	11,425
...	28	15	...	4,220	...	...	...	9,936
...	989	222	...	4,023	...	...	...	17,537
...	...	241	...	5,374	...	...	...	2,629
...	1,429	6,220	651	2,227	...	...	...	6,474
...	14,925	172	251,000	11,021	...	...	5,273,034	104,922
...	690	110	...	622	...	...	...	15,875
...	48	54	22,622	5,205	...	...	22,253	7,224
...	229	229	19,227	16,479	...	...	22,940	20,229
...	...	145	...	4,420	300	28	...	7,222
...	...	75	671	2,013	...	...	...	27,229
...	...	19	190	4,224	...	...	1,176	10,227
...	...	9	12	11,777	...	...	2,224	22,224
...	...	1	804	1,622	...	...	12,145	22,224
...	628,022	74,715	224,229	21,708	19,500	2,670	1,222	2,222
...	12	65	220	522	...	...	947,222	120,229
...	...	4	...	622	...	...	...	6,229
...	6,122	22,227	32,540	42,022	...	...	...	6,222
...	9,022	6,222	5,124	8,222	...	...	75,422	112,971
...	...	...	11,222	62,222	...	...	62,222	27,717
...	...	...	12,122	12,741	...	...	12,741	6,222
...	...	...	...	2,172,224	...	...	2,172,224	224,000
...	...	...	...	229	...	...	6,222	8,941
...	...	...	622,227	7,112	2	1	17,272,227	190,502
...	...	...	22,222	22,222	...	...	6,222	44,273
...	...	...	...	47,111	...	...	47,111	62,222
...	...	...	...	22,022,227	...	...	22,022,227	212,440
...	...	...	...	1,044,222	...	...	1,044,222	12,722
...	...	...	...	62,272	...	...	62,272	7,142
...	...	...	...	53	...	...	619,201	111,227
...	...	...	...	53	...	...	...	1,725
...	...	...	...	85,421	...	...	...	142,645
Total ...	...	211,127	...	622,612	...	3,044	...	2,629,272

220. The animals brought into the province coastwise are chiefly sheep, goats, and cattle from Calcutta.

Particulars of these imports. Apparel for both European and Native wear is imported in large quantities from Bengal.

Furniture and carriages of Indian manufacture come mainly from Calcutta, but Madras sends small supplies also. Candles of foreign make are received from Calcutta. Cordage and rope for marine purposes are largely supplied by Calcutta, where it is manufactured. Cotton twist of Indian manufacture is sent to the province from Bombay and Calcutta, the latter also supplying large quantities of English goods. Of cotton piece-goods, Calcutta sends us great quantities of white shirtings of European make, and of grey goods manufactured at Bombay; Calcutta also supplies coloured goods of foreign make, while Madras sends considerable quantities of sarries, dhooties and handkerchiefs of local (hand-loom) manufacture. English thread is obtained from Calcutta. Drugs and medicines, consisting of alum, salamoniac, assafetida, &c., are imported from Bengal, from whence indigo, crude vermilion, and aniline dyes are also brought. Cocoanuts are imported in large quantities from the Nicobar islands, which are classed under Bengal, and from the Madras coast. Potatoes and onions are brought in from Bengal and Madras. European glassware is also supplied from Calcutta. Table rice is imported from Bengal and Madras for consumption by the natives of those presidencies resident in Burma, and considerable quantities of paddy and rice are sent from one port to another within the province. Large supplies of hardware and cutlery of European manufacture are received from Calcutta by the bazaar dealers. Tanned goatskins and hides are imported from the Madras coast, and are worked up locally. Gunny bags of power-loom manufacture, used for bagging rice, are mainly supplied by the Calcutta mills. Boots and shoes and Cawnpore harness are sent down in considerable quantities from Calcutta, which also furnishes large supplies of metals of all sorts. Coconut oil is received from Bengal, and coconut, castor, gingelly and groundnut oil from Madras. English provisions are imported in large quantities from Calcutta by the bazaar dealers; and Madras sends us supplies of salted fish and other articles. Teal seed and other seeds are received from Bengal. The supply of English silk piece-goods from Bengal are small; but large quantities of handkerchiefs and loongyee cloth of Indian make, mostly Upper India, as well as goods of Chinese manufacture, are received through Calcutta. Soap of Bengal make is imported extensively. The bulk of the supplies of betel-nuts, which are largely consumed by the Burmese, come from Bengal, as well as of other sorts of spices; while Madras also sends us pieces of various kinds. Sugar is supplied chiefly by Bengal; but a small quantity coming from Madras. The supply of unmanufactured tobacco from Bengal and Madras is enormous, nearly the whole of the requirements of the province being furnished by these two presidencies. Umbrellas of European make are imported from Calcutta by Native dealers, who also bring down very large quantities of woollen piece-goods of European manufacture, and supplies of Cashmere shawls, blankets, and other kinds of warm clothing made up in India.

221. The exports of merchandise to Indian ports were almost entirely country produce, for, out of a total value of £1,157,900, the value of foreign

goods was but £32,950. The inter-provincial export trade, however, was about equally divided between country and foreign produce, the value of the one being £238,424, and of the other £366,249. To Pondicherry and Karikal, country produce of the value of £5,068 was shipped, and foreign goods valued at £155 only. The exports to Bengal were of the value of £912,006 in 1875-76, and £492,804 in the year of report,—a very heavy decrease, mostly in raw cotton and timber; to Bombay £249,855 and £168,925 respectively; and to Madras, £189,161 and £501,672 in the respective years, the latter large increase being due to the heavy shipments of rice made to that presidency. The export trade between the several ports of the province was of the value of £504,678 in 1876-77, and £546,864 in the preceding year while the French ports on the Madras coast took rice, teak and sundries valued at £5,218 against a value of 1,506.

Principal articles exported coastwise.

222. The principal exports coastwise during the year under review were—

ARTICLES	BENGAL.		BOOMBAY.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
males, living No.	224	2,042	2	40
tea, raw Cwt.	37,225	65,708	...	...
1. twist lbs.	42,973	2,121	...	...
1. piece-goods Yards	3,72,204	6,301	276	7
in and pulse—gram Cwt.	100	40	...	...
Mitto, paddy Cwt.	54,714	5,904	...	...
Mitto, rice "	17,738	2,000	87,200	17,283
Mitto, pulse "	2	1	...	...
resins and resins—cutch, &c. "	1,02,262	100,750	...	...
skins and skins No. & Cwt	10,205 1,072	1,015	...	...
iron, unmanufactured lbs.	12,484	7,105	...	...
... .. Cwt.	7,204	12,254	94	197
brass "	904	4,780	...	...
lead "	4,207	5,207	...	...
tin "	1,414	5,822	...	...
... .. Galls.	2,00,921	21,522	245	40
teak Cub. tons	22,022	127,022	12,022	142,017
other timber Tons	520	4,224	...	...
piece-goods Yards	26,022	5,022	...	...
other articles Value	...	27,708	...	240
Total ... ..	...	402,202	...	162,024

MADRAS.		PROVINCIAL PORTS.		INDIAN PORTS NOT FACTORY.		TOTAL.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
...	200	4,722	604	1,020	...	1,122	9,120
...	1,221	2,221	1,245	1,243	...	20,211	20,422
...	27,210	1,222	261,221	25,220	...	4,124	20,227
...	22,422	1,222	27,212	20,222	...	21,222	24,222
...	14,222	4,222	1,222	222	...	12,222	4,222
...	12,222	22,222	2,111	220	7,224	1,240	22,222
...	1,222	22,222	15,222	4,222	27	22	1,222
...	20,222	2,222	2,224	1,022	...	22,217	10,422
...	2,122	2,022	1,224	1,222	...	1,122	11,222
...	22,222	2,222	10,422	2,222	...	42,222	6,410
...	222	2,222	272	...	...	2,222	...
...	112	20	1,122	222	...	12,222	7,222
...	1,222	1,222	210	242	...	2,122	15,222
...	12	20	144	222	12	22	1,122
...	1	1	122	204	...	4,222	5,512
...	2	11	221	1,222	...	1,222	7,222
...	22,222	2,422	2,22,422	21,222	...	2,22,222	55,222
...	12,122	204,171	2,144	17,222	424	2,717	22,222
...	22	21	722	2,222	2	2	1,222
...	4,142	721	74,742	11,422	...	1,02,271	17,222
...	...	12,222	...	211,722	...	...	222,222
...	...	201,271	...	52,42,722	...	5,217	1,222,721

223. The animals exported from this province are principally the sturdy ponies which are brought down in large numbers annually from Upper Burma and the Shan States to the eastward of that country. Raw cotton, mainly the produce of Ava, is yearly shipped in large quantities to Bengal for working up in the local looms and for export to the United Kingdom. The trade during the year of report was most active in April, July, August, and March. The coasting export trade in cotton twist and yarn and cotton piece-goods is chiefly from Rangoon to other ports of the province, the chief port being the *dépôt* for these European goods. Grain and pulse are exported principally to the Madras coast, and during 1876-77 the demand was much greater than usual, owing to the failure of the crops in that presidency. The bulk of the catch shipped coastwise is sent to Bengal, whence it is largely exported to America: owing to a considerable demand for Calcutta having sprung up in October and November 1876, prices of the article were very high in the Rangoon market; the largest shipments were made from November to March. The exports of hides and skins were about equally divided between Bengal, Madras, and the Provincial ports. A considerable quantity of rough ivory, consisting of elephants' tusks, is sent to Bengal annually; also of sticklac, which is worked up in the lac manufactories in Calcutta. Tin produced in Southern Tenasserim, and lead from Upper Burma, are shipped to Calcutta. Mineral oils are now purified and distilled in Rangoon, from whence a large quantity of burning oil is sent to Calcutta, where it enters into brisk competition with American petroleum; the shipments of crude earth-oil to Chitragong are also very extensive, and the interportal trade is considerable; Rangoon is the *dépôt* for the supplies from Upper Burma. Teak wood is supplied in large quantities from Moulmein and Rangoon to Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. The coasting trade in woollen goods is chiefly inter-provincial. In all other articles there is also a large inter-provincial trade.

Inland Trade.

The inland trade of British Burma is carried on solely with the territories of the Kings of Burma and Siam, the great highways by which it passes into Upper Burma being the rivers Irrawaddy and Sittang, on both of which, near our frontier, regularly organised customs establishments have existed from the time that Pegu became a British possession. A large traffic is, however, carried on by numerous land-routes leading both into Upper Burma and Siam through different parts of the province; but no systematic attempt has ever, until the present year, been made to supervise it, or to collect statistics of its nature, value, and extent. In accordance with instructions issued by the Government of India in 1875, measures were taken during the year for appointing registering clerks at 13 main points of the frontier; and although they were, unavoidably, not employed until some months of the year had passed, the results of their work for the period over which it

extends, imperfect as they admittedly are, nevertheless prove that a trade of very considerable extent does exist by land, and is well worth the outlay involved in recording it. The measure is in the meantime an experimental one, and will only succeed by gradually and cautiously accustoming the traders to the process, and by educating the agents employed until they are qualified for the work.

224. The entire value of the trade recorded amounts to £3,070,465, as against £2,870,532 in 1875-76. Of this amount, imports shew £1,589,762, and exports £1,480,703, as against £1,514,613 and £1,355,919 in 1875-76. Of the import trade, the entire value of that recorded at Allanmyo and at Toungoo amounts to £1,546,110; while of the export trade, the value registered at these two stations was £1,463,241. If from the last figures are deducted £23,987, being the value of the exports and imports recorded at the five registering stations attached to Allanmyo, it will be found that the total value of the traffic, both export and import, by these channels was £2,985,964, as against £2,870,532 in 1875-76.

The result, then, of the establishment of the various registering stations throughout the province is found to be a clear addition for the period over which the statistics are spread of £84,501. These statistics were collected during the best season of the year, when the trade by the various routes is chiefly carried on, and if, say, one-third of their recorded value is estimated as representing the entire value of the traffic for the remaining months, the effect is an assumed addition to the trade of the year of £112,668.

EXPORTS.—Turning to the exports, which have increased in a much larger ratio than the imports, it will be found that of those conveyed by the Irrawaddy and land-routes connected therewith, the value exceeded that of the previous year by £107,215, the increase in the value of the exports *via* Toungoo amounting only to the trifling sum of £108. If, as is suggested, the increase in the exports is attributable to improved customs administration in Upper Burma, and greater security for trade, the same argument might be held applicable to the imports likewise, which, however, do not seem to have improved in anything like the same degree, owing doubtless to the system of monopolies and arbitrary taxation practised by the King of Burma.

225. The quantity of grain exported for consumption in Upper Burma, which in 1875-76, owing to a poor harvest there, had been nearly three times in excess of the exports of the three previous seasons, is again largely in excess of the exports of that year, as shewn in the following table:—

			Tons.	£.
1872-73	..	..	26,655	62,284
1873-74	..	..	24,718	60,431
1874-75	..	..	21,544	82,406
1875-76	..	..	65,994	218,110
1876-77	..	..	76,931	301,117

The greater portion of the rice purchases are made on the King's account (who has agents in all the rice-growing districts of British Bur-

ma, to buy it up), and are intended for soldiers who receive their pay in kind, and for sale to the people in localities where the crops have been poor. No rice is exported *via* Toungoo. The whole of this grain passes into Upper Burma free of all duty, and diminishes proportionately the amount of dutiable exports from our seaports to Europe. It is feared that very little benefit accrues to our own subjects under the system, which, while it decreases yearly the area of land under cultivation in the King's territories, enriches only those middlemen who are employed by him to make usurious advances to our cultivators in British Burma.

226. There has been a satisfactory increase under this head, both in the trade by the Irrawaddy and by Cotton twist and yarn. Toungoo. Political considerations doubtless disturbed the trade of the previous year in yarns and twist, for which there is ordinarily a large and steady demand.

227. There is a very marked improvement in the quantity of cotton and woollen piece-goods exported during the year; while there is a falling-off in Piece-goods. silk piece-goods of 56,783 pieces, and a decrease in their value of £52,890. The figures for the past three years are shewn in the subjoined statement:—

Description.	1874-75.		1875-76.		1876-77.	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
		£.		£.		£.
Cotton	405,300	239,280	467,965	165,158	..	228,449
Silk	203,284	163,518	224,472	166,191	177,689	113,301
Woollen	5,987	81,979	5,158	25,658	..	39,380

The bulk of the trade *via* Toungoo in cotton and woollen piece-goods is in the hands of Shans, who bring down ponies and cattle, and take away these articles in barter.

228. The trade on the Irrawaddy in raw silk for Upper Burma increased by some 20,000lbs., but there was a falling-off in value of £8,418. This trade appears to be growing less valuable year by year, although possibly the overstocked markets for manufactured silk goods in the previous year had something to do with the decrease in price. It is also said that a great deal of the silk now exported is of an inferior quality, known as Cochin raw silk, and that this is gradually displacing the better and more expensive sorts. Supplies are also brought to Mandalay *via* Bhamo direct from China. The following table shows the entire export trade in raw silk for the past five years:—

	lbs.	£.
1874-75	175,859	107,447
1875-76	191,514	84,211
1876-77	200,896	90,809
1875-76	153,220	70,046
1876-77	178,895	62,280

It is very doubtful whether much reliance is to be placed on some of these figures, the discrepancies between quantities and values being in certain years so glaring.

229. The exports of betel-nut *via* the Irrawaddy and Toungoo amounted to 57,188 maunds, valued at £51,828; against 64,627 maunds, valued at £51,840, in 1875-76. Of this quantity, 50,623 maunds were carried *via* the Irrawaddy, and were valued at £45,968. Although the quantity is greatly less than was exported in 1875-76, the value is fully equal, and is owing, it is stated, to the greater proportion of the nut being Arakan betel, and much dearer than other descriptions of betel-nut. A small quantity was the produce of the Straits of Malacca.

230. In these, the favourite relish of the Burmese, there has been a great decrease both in the quantity and value of the exports. The quantity carried by the Irrawaddy amounted to 448,594 maunds, valued at £149,098, as against 460,832 maunds, valued at £171,611, in 1875-76. The exports *via* Toungoo were 15,293 maunds, or 2,436 maunds over those of the previous year. The value of the trade has been decreasing for the past three years, although the consumption has remained much about the same. No reason is assigned for the steady falling-off in value, unless it be that the quality of the exports has deteriorated.

231. The greater part of the salt exported to Upper Burma is of English manufacture, and is carried up-country under the one per cent. transit duty. The quantities exported during the year amounted to 418,568 maunds, against 420,768 maunds in 1875-76, the falling-off by the Irrawaddy route having been 2,200 maunds, while there was only a decrease of some 50 maunds by Toungoo. The local manufacture is year by year dwindling away before the increased importations of foreign salt.

232. No accurate estimate as to the quantity of crockery and earthenware exported can be given; but the declared value of the trade carried by the Irrawaddy during the year was £12,597, against £11,198 in the previous year; while that by Toungoo (never at any time very great) was £208, as against £216 in 1875-76.

233. The miscellaneous exports comprise, amongst others, such items as iron, dyes, drugs and medicines, tanned leather, and the like. The value of these exports for the year *via* the Irrawaddy is given as £285,436, as against £287,993 in 1875-76, those in the Toungoo returns being given as of the value of £15,565, against £10,641 in 1875-76, and consisting of elephants, fermented liquors, sewing cotton, twine, rope, &c.

234. The total value of the goods exported to Upper Burma by the Irrawaddy from Rangoon under the one per cent. duty system in force under the treaty of 1867 with the King of Burma amounted to £515,155, the chief items being cotton piece-goods, twist, and yarn.

IMPORTS.—Amongst the different kinds of produce imported beyond the frontier, the chief items are raw cotton, petroleum, and cotton piece-goods, sessamum oil, jaggery, cutch, pickled tea, lac, bequered-ware, and jade-stone; while amongst the minor articles, there are timber, tobacco, grain, metalware, &c., and small quantities of gold-leaf, indigo, copper, dyes, stick-lac, horns, &c.

235. The imports of raw cotton, one of the chief staples grown in Upper Burma, have fallen-off very much, as the following figures shew:—

Years.	Maunds.	£.
1872-73	206,690	128,013
1873-74	84,598	82,853
1874-75	77,298	95,769
1875-76	189,337	226,940
1876-77	115,890	141,901

The demand in 1875-76 was doubtless, like that of 1872-73, exceptional, the cotton crop in China having failed in many places, and thus induced large shipments to the Straits by the Chinese traders from Rangoon; but some reasons which have not been given must exist to account for the great decrease in quantity, as the price, which in the previous year averaged £4-12s. rose in 1876-77 to £4-18s. and actually reached £5-2s. per 100 viss of 365lbs. A great proportion of the cotton was clean cotton, and this fact partly accounts for the great disproportion between the quantity imported and the amount earned as its value.

236. The working of the King of Burma's petroleum wells is in the hands of one individual, and the quantity exported in any year depends mainly on caprice. As a re-action, probably, from his policy of holding back the previous year, the exports rose from 92,977 maunds, valued at £92,907, in 1875-76, to 189,620 maunds, valued at £93,309, in 1876-77.

The price, which might, in the face of such a large increase in quantity, have been expected to fall, rose at the same time from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per maund, large quantities being taken by the Rangoon Petroleum Company, who probably had to accept such terms as the market chose to dictate.

237. In these, the trade has somewhat improved during the year, as shewn by the figures below:—

Goods.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Increase.
	£.	£.	£.
.. ..	40,990	44,855	5,878
.. ..	62,351	91,997	32,546

The improvement in the quantity of cotton goods imported via the Irrawaddy is owing to "a quantity of cotton piece-goods of a dearer kind, of which curtains are usually made, having been brought down; while the increase in silk goods carried by that route is attributed to large shipments of cheap silks used for native dresses, and partly to the trade via Toungoo having fallen-off considerably, owing, it is said, to the traffic being prevented, by the malpractices of the King's officials, from crossing the Ningyan frontier.

238. A great deal of the cutch brought down from Upper Burma is conveyed across the frontier in carts, and, until registering establishments were opened in 1876, this traffic passed unrecorded. The imports of 1876-77 by the Irrawaddy were no doubt augmented by the addition of the recorded cart traffic by the land-routes, the figures being 106,907 maunds, valued at £56,987, against 54,046 maunds, valued at £27,524, in 1875-76. Cutch is one of those items with which the King now and again exercises a mischievous interference. The trade by Toungoo, which was injured in this way during the year 1875-76, was not meddled with during the year under notice; and the result has been that the imports rose from maunds 4,939, valued at £1,841, to maunds 11,402, valued at £4,179.

239. The imports of these have fallen away from 259,814 maunds, valued at £92,907, to 200,983 maunds, valued at £74,176, a higher impost on their manufacture having been levied by the King, who bought up large quantities for his own purpose of trade in violation of the terms of the existing treaty.

240. There were increased imports of hides, but, although prices were high, their total value was less than before, a greater proportion of them having been skins of calves and goats. The extent of the imports during the last five years are shewn in the following table:—

	Pieces.	£.
1872-73	250,328	25,680
1873-74	291,847	46,208
1874-75	239,471	48,759
1875-76	207,981	42,389
1876-77	231,283	40,989

The quantities are not likely to increase, but the improved value would point to the probability of greater care being taken in removing the skins from the carcases.

241. The trade in these is very trifling, ivory, on the export of which there is a restriction, being brought down by stealth only.

242. This item again shews a large decrease. The value of the trade has been going down steadily year by year for the last four years. The

imports in 1876-77 were 5,819 maunds, valued at £7,347, against 9,903 maunds, valued at £14,092, in 1875-76. The imports may to a certain extent have been affected by the low prices ruling, and partly by increased production in British Burma.

243. The imports of timber by the Irrawaddy off in value by £12,468 as compared with 1875-76; but no comparison can be shewn of the tonnage in each year. The quantity may have been affected by a want of water in the creeks to admit of the logs being floated out. The chief trade of the province enters the country by the Sittang at Toungoo from the King of Burma's forests near the frontier. These forests have been very actively worked for the past year or two, and the outturn from them has been gradually increasing, as shewn by the following figures:—

	Tons.	£.
1872-78	9,114	86,456
1873-74	18,529	104,129
1874-75	37,878	111,878
1875-76	38,327	153,495
1876-77	39,587	159,120

244. There was an abundant crop of gram in 1876-77, but, owing to a plentiful rice harvest in the province, there was less demand for the former, and prices fell very much in consequence. Wheat—for which the soil of Upper Burma is well adapted, and where, under systematic and intelligent cultivation, it might become a staple product—was imported to the extent of 44,794 maunds, valued at £8,144, besides a trifling quantity *via* Toungoo. The food requirements of Upper Burma affected the exports to a large extent, and the above quantity is only about one-half of that brought down in the previous year.

245. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and forty-one maunds of tobacco, valued at £12,322, were imported during the year, chiefly by the Irrawaddy, against 11,135 maunds, valued at £5,880, in 1875-76. The quantity brought down has been steadily increasing, both in amount and value, for the past five years. And there is some prospect, now that Government is giving support and encouragement to its cultivation, that the internal production of British Burma will be widely extended before many years have elapsed. The trade in dyes, which had been gradually lessening for the three previous years, has recovered, and is now equal to the value at which it stood in 1872-73. The chief increase was in safflower and an expensive dye called by the Burmese *nee-pa-tsai*. Large quantities also of jackwood dye, the cheapest of all country colouring-substances, were brought down during the year.

For the first time, the imports of wet or pickled tea have been shewn separately from those of dry tea. The quantity brought down the Irrawaddy was 21,875 maunds, valued at £41,007, as against 17,964 maunds, valued at £31,918, in 1875-76, the rise in the value being attributed to the action of the King of Burma, who for the time took to buying the tea wholesale from the Shan manufacturers and retailing it to dealers at a large advance on cost price. Imports by Toungoo were entirely stopped on this account. The trade in dry tea, which is almost exclusively carried on by the Irrawaddy, is increasing, 124 maunds having

come down, valued at £276, against 49 maunds, valued at £99, in the previous year.

246. The number of ponies imported has again increased, the figures being 1,947, against 1,428 in 1875-76; while the value is £19,198, against £14,710 in that year.

Ponies and mules.

247. Owing to the failure of the crop in Upper Burma, the imports of seshamum oil fell away by 20,818 maunds, valued at £12,850: while the minor articles of trade, such as hardware, metalware, copper, precious stones, &c., shewed the ordinary fluctuation of trade, there being no noticeable rise or fall in any of them.

Seshamum oil.

Hardware, copper, &c.

248. The tonnage engaged in carrying the river trade has again increased, the steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company (11 in number) and those of the King of Burma (four in number)—which last, however, only ran occasionally for traffic—having made in all 125 trips upwards and the same number downwards, against 102 upwards and 105 downwards in 1875-76, and 84 and 86, respectively, in 1874-75. The King also had two launches plying to Rangoon during the year for the use of his officials and friends. The magnificent fleet of the Flotilla Company, who have hitherto had, with short interruptions, a monopoly of the steamer trade on the Irrawaddy, has year by year improved in strength and efficiency; but it remains to be seen how far their interests will now be affected by the opening of the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, which will possibly divert from them some of the traffic of the districts on the left bank of the Irrawaddy. As a fact, however, there is little reason to doubt that there is sufficient traffic, both in goods and passengers, for both agencies. It might *prima facie* be supposed that the increasing carrying-power in the shape of steamers would affect the traffic by boats; but such is not the case, as will be seen by the following table:—

YEAR.	EXPORT.		IMPORT.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1875-76	9,361	83,002	8,906	89,952	18,267	172,954
1876-77	9,112	90,720	11,049	111,266	20,161	201,986
Increase	..	7,718	2,143	21,314	1,894	29,032
Decrease	..	249	..	..	..	..

The number of boats engaged in the export trade has decreased by 249; but this is due to the fact that the boats used in 1876-77 were of a larger size, their aggregate tonnage being, however, greater by 7,718 tons than that of the boats employed in the previous year.

There has been a large increase both in the boats and the tonnage engaged in the import trade. During the year, 242 boats left Toun-goo for Upper Burma, against 218 in 1875-76, their cargoes consist- ing mainly of ngapee, dried fish, betel-nut, and salt.

THE LAND ROUTES.—It has been found impossible to amalgamate the statistics of the trade registered at the different land stations with those of the traffic on the Irrawaddy and Sittang; but the following short review embraces the main features of the trade passing by each land station, its character, and its extent:—

249. ARAKAN DIVISION.—The route from Kyouk-hpyoo via An.—Kyouk-hpyoo is the only district in the division which carries on an inland trade with a contiguous foreign state; and, during the year under notice, the aggregate traffic, both import and export, amounted in value to £11,050, as compared with £10,642 in 1875-76, being an increase of £408, confined entirely to the import trade.

250. The export trade is no doubt much crippled by the fact that, whereas no duty whatever is levied by our officers on goods brought from Upper

Burma, all goods or produce exported from British territory are subjected to duty by the King's officials. Whether this is done by the King's order, or is simply a species of black mail extorted by the officials for their private benefit, is not very clear; but the effect is to induce traders to bring down large quantities of produce from Upper Burma, and to carry back with them only such goods in return as will yield a large profit after paying duty in the King's territory.

Hence it is that silver coin shews, comparatively, so largely in the returns, namely, £3,27. Of the items which form the export trade, the principle ones are ngapee, or prepared fish, and betel-nut. Of the former, 706 maunds, valued at £548, were carried into Upper Burma. A small trade is done in drugs and medicines. They consist of certain roots and herbs used by the

Burmese for medicinal purposes.

There is no trade whatever in these.

251. These consist of catch, cotton and silk goods of native make, lac, metals, teel seed, steatite or soapstone, jaggery, and pickled tea. The trade of the year was valued at £5,788, of which £3,290 are represented by catch, of which large quantities are used by the Arakanese. The imports of lac during the year were nearly twice as large as those of the previous year, but, owing to the low prices ruling in the bazaars, the value of the trade was considerably less.

252. PEGU DIVISION.—The value of the trade recorded from 15th November 1876 to 31st March 1877 by the five registering clerks stationed at villages along the Pegu frontier line was, as already stated, £23,387. Further, being for only a portion of the year, they do not represent more than a fraction (although probably a large fraction) of

the traffic passing by the routes to which they refer. Of the imports, catch, bulls and bullocks, and raw cotton formed the chief items; whilst a small traffic was carried on in seshamum oil, silk dress-pieces of native make, and yellow cloth for Buddhist priests' robes. Only seven ponies were recorded as having been imported; but this is probably a mistake. The exports consisted of paddy, rice, and ngapee (dried fish).

253. TENASSERIM DIVISION.—In this division, seven points were fixed on as registering stations, namely, three in the Amherst and four in the Salween district. The returns for the Amherst district embrace only the work of seven months in regard to two of the registering stations, and that of five months in the case of the third. A trade with Siam is known to exist from the districts of Tavoy and Mergui, but no report was submitted for the present year. This will be done in future.

254. The total value of the trade so recorded amounted to £41,544, of which £5,991 represent the exports, and £35,553 the imports. Value of the trade in Amherst district.

255. The greater proportion of the import trade was in live animals, which contributed £31,242, horned cattle figuring for over £20,000, ponies for £754, and elephants (entered in the returns under the head of "Other kinds") for £9,716. Of the remaining items of import, the only article of consequence is silk, the value of which is given as £3,385, thus leaving a trade for all the remaining items put together of £938 only, which is probably very far from the real truth. Nevertheless, live-stock and silk are undoubtedly the main factors in the import trade, which, it is believed, would expand considerably if funds were available to improve the roads between Moumein and the frontier.

256. The raw silk imported is very inferior, and is brought from semi-independent states on the confines of China; while the manufactured silk goods are produced in the Shan states.

257. No information of much value has been obtained on this subject, although enquiries have been made in every direction. It is generally understood, however, that duties are levied by the petty governors or rulers in the Siamese states, independent of the central authority at Bangkok, and that they vary in scale according to the caprice or the needs of the person exacting them, and the likelihood or otherwise of their being paid. The same remarks apply to the exports. There will be better opportunities of considering the subject more fully in next year's report.

258. Little reliance can be placed on the figures returned as the value of this traffic, none of the items which compose it being of such a nature as to admit of their being readily measured or counted. They consisted chiefly of metals and cotton and silk piece-goods. Of the cotton goods, two-thirds of the entire quantity were of Indian make. The silk goods are composed chiefly of Burmese body-cloths made in

Burma, and of English handkerchiefs. The Deputy Commissioner of Amherst, basing his calculation on the amount of traffic recorded during the months under review (which were the months in which trade is mostly carried on), assumes that (leaving out live-stock) the value of the entire trade, both import and export, for the year, is probably equal to £15,000. He is of opinion that the enquiries which the registering clerks are obliged to make in carrying on their duties are of a sufficiently "prying" nature to alarm, and perhaps to scare away, the Shan traders, and that the system has already led to corrupt practices and to untrustworthy statistics.

The report on the land trade registered at the three stations fixed for the purpose in the Salween district of Tenasserim, embracing the period from 1st June 1876 to 31st March 1877, is very painstaking, and shows a keen interest in the subject. The trade of the district is carried on exclusively by pack-bullocks or pack-men, and is chiefly confined to the dry season of the year,—from October to May. There are in all some eight routes that trade takes through the district, five of which converge on a pass close to the head-quarters station of Mhpooon, the others crossing by different and more distant points of the district. The principal trade is with Siam and the northern Shan states; and at a point far up on one of the routes leading from the latter, a route from Upper Burma strikes in. Owing, however, to the heavy exactions levied by the Burmese officials in the name of the King, this traffic has been practically strangled. The whole of these routes enter British territory at four points, namely, Loomatee, Mollido, Dabgwin, and Koozait, the last of which is 70 miles from Mhpooon, at the southern extremity of the district, and has only since recently become of some importance through the annually increasing number of cattle brought across the Salween at that point. The District Officer was absent on deputation for nearly the whole period during which registration was carried on; consequently, the matter was left altogether to the free will of the traders themselves as to whether they should record the contents of their packages or not, the result being, it is believed, that, at the utmost, not more than 20 per cent. of the traffic was actually brought on the registers. Little faith can therefore be placed in the figures returned. The roads are described as being very bad; in fact, mere tracks over the hills and across gorges, through which in the rains heavy streams find their way; and the result is that travelling is made both dangerous and fatiguing.

259. These consisted chiefly of cutch, stick-lac, provisions, and oil from the Shan states, and of manufactured silk dress-pieces made in Zimmé. There is also a trade in jaggery, hides, brass pots, &c., besides many minor items of which no record appears in the present returns. The value of the registered import trade is given as £2,851.

260. As usual, the exports were greatly in excess of the imports, being returned as of the value of £6,165. They consisted chiefly of rice, copper, and iron gongs, cooking and drinking pots, cotton twist and yarn, pieces of cloth, and provisions, such as biscuits, sardines, candles and matches,

tobacco in the shape of cheroots, lacquered boxes, &c., &c. The rice exported is for the use of foresters working on the Siamese side of the Dabgwin ferry.

261. It is not, perhaps, easy to obtain anything like the precise truth as to the imposts levied in the different native states through which these trade routes pass. The dues appear to extend from one shilling per bullock load levied by Khoontee, the titular Chief of Western Karennee—the route through whose country is not much frequented, owing to the dangers to which the traders are exposed from dacoits—up to as much as 12 shillings levied on the Mobyay road by the local governor or agent of the King of Burma. This gross abuse of the treaty arrangements with the King was brought to the notice of the Government of India in July last, and a representation of the case has been made to the Burmese Government through the Resident at Mandalay. The revision of the expired treaty with the King of Burma, and the strict enforcement of treaty rights, would give hopes, in dealings with a civilized ruler, of improvement in our commercial relations; but, whatever may be the wishes or intentions of the King, the ministers and courtiers about him, and the agents at a distance on a long line of frontier, are practically beyond his control, and have large opportunities, which they do not neglect, of exacting extortionately in their own interests and in restraint of trade. The same remarks apply with equal force to the irregular practices on our Siamese borders.

Public Works.

262. The average strength of the working staff of the provincial Public Works establishment for the year was—

- 1 Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
- 9 Executive Engineers, of whom one was Assistant to the Chief Engineer, and Assistant Secretary.
- 17 Assistant Engineers.
- 28 Upper subordinates.

This shows a decrease of one Executive Engineer, an increase of three Assistant Engineers, and a decrease of one Upper Subordinate, as compared with the working strength of the previous year. The staff employed on the Irrawaddy Valley Railway was strengthened by the addition of one Assistant Engineer. Towards the end of March 1877, Mr. Prince, Engineer-in-Chief, made over charge of his duties to Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. Trevor, V.C., R.E., and proceeded on two years' furlough. Three additional executive Engineers were engaged throughout the year on the Rangoon and Sittang Valley Railway survey.

263. The following abstracts of the tabular statements forming the appendices to the report present a comparative view of the working of each separate budget:—

Expenditure.

Excluding expenditure on State Railways from the accounts of the current year, as extraordinary works for which provision is made from loan funds, the total appropriation and outlay on ordinary works, as contrasted with similar returns for the three preceding years, is exhibited in the following table:—

SERVICE HEADS.	Original budget grants.	Final grants.	Outlay.	DIFFERENCES.	
				More.	Less.
Imperial Ordinary ... { Military ...	£ 31,380	£ 31,330	£ 30,975	£ 455	£ 405
... { Other services ...	8,570	8,970	8,461	509	1,109
Total Imperial Ordinary	39,950	40,300	39,436	364	514
Imperial Irrigation (Agri-cultural) ... { Capital Revenue ...	22,200	33,200	30,547	2,653	1,653
... { Ordinary, Agricultural ...	4,760	4,700	4,369	331	401
... { ...	600	600	634	34	34
Total, Imperial Irrigation	27,560	38,500	35,550	10,940	7,967
Imperial State Railways. { Bangoon and Irrawaddy Valley State Railway	275,000	295,000	303,508	28,008	28,508
... { Bangoon and Sittang Valley Railway Survey	8,200	7,100	6,588	1,100	1,612
Total, State Railways	283,200	302,100	310,096	18,900	26,940
Grand Total, Imperial	340,900	380,900	434,931	40,000	34,931
Provincial Municipal Local ... { ...	108,000	108,211	107,403	808	597
... { ...	24,981	37,913	1,849	13,932	1,849
Grand Total, Provincial and Local	132,981	146,124	109,252	13,932	3,698
GRAND TOTAL ON ALL BUDGETS	473,881	527,024	544,183	53,143	48,629

Prognost.	1875-76.		1874-75.		1873-74.		1872-73.	
	Totals.	Excess.	Totals.	Excess.	Totals.	Excess.	Totals.	Excess.
Imperial Ordinary ... { Final Grant ...	£ 44,032	£ 44,117	£ 38,301	£ 33,935	£ 30,000	£ 24,149	£ 1,63,000	£ 1,63,187
... { Outlay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Imperial Irrigation ... { Final Grant ...	80,000	28,915	20,000	34,149	1,63,000	1,63,187	1,63,000	1,63,187
... { Outlay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Provincial ... { Final Grant ...	1,54,000	1,41,915	1,63,000	1,63,187	1,63,000	1,63,187	1,63,000	1,63,187
... { Outlay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Local and Municipal ... { Final Grant ...	65,407	45,168	66,878	54,689	66,878	54,689	66,878	54,689
... { Outlay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Totals ... { Final Grants ...	2,87,439	2,68,136	2,08,176	2,78,950	2,08,176	2,78,950	2,08,176	2,78,950
... { Outlay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of lapses on Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charges for establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The outlay against appropriations under Imperial Ordinary and Provincial Services is very satisfactory, the lapses being insignificant. Under Imperial Irrigation, the expenditure has fallen short of the final grant by £8,050; but this has been satisfactorily explained. The large lapse of £9,057 under Local Works is, however, to be regretted; but a considerable portion of it is accounted for by the difficulty experienced in utilizing the large increase that was made to the budget during the latter portion of the year. Much difficulty is found in getting contractors to come forward and tender for local works which, as a rule, have to be carried out in isolated localities; but Executive Engineers have instructions to arrange early in each year for the execution, as far as possible, of all local works provided for in the budget.

264. The ratio of establishment charges to the outlay for works and repairs during 1876-77 as compared with the figures of the four preceding years, is shown in the following table:—

Services.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
<i>Provincial Establishment.</i>					
Imperial Ordinary ..	18.23	16.6	23.68	23.00	23.00
Do. Irrigation ..	19.80	22.5	23.12	23.00	23.00
Provincial ..	19.29	20.6	15.88	17.27	31.87
Local ..	17.21 5.75	15.9	14.0	14.00	14.00
<i>Railway.</i>					
Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley line ..	..	..	20.38	17.60	15.50

The mean percentage under the first head comes to 25.84, or 95 higher than that of the previous year, and is accounted for by the smallness of all the grants of the year, except that for Imperial Irrigation. Establishment charges on Imperial Ordinary, Imperial Irrigation, and Local have been fixed at 23, 23, and 14 per cent. respectively on actual expenditure on works and repairs: consequently, the percentage on Provincial Services rises or falls according to the sums allotted on all four budgets; and as the money to be spent in 1876-77 was small in comparison with the grants of previous years, the proportionate cost of establishment to works and repairs is unavoidably higher than has ever been the case before.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

265. MILITARY.—*Rangoon.*—During the year a commencement was made, towards carrying out measures for the defence of the town and harbour of Rangoon from hostile attack. Correspondence originating in the building of a vessel in the Rangoon river as far back as February

1874, led to the discovery that the groundwork of the old battery at Monkey Point was not, as had been asserted by the Port Officers, being gradually washed away by the force of the tide and disappearing in the mud of the river bed. The whole subject was accordingly again taken up by Government, and suitable positions for heavily armed batteries at Rangoon were surveyed by Major Newmarch, R.E., and a party of Madras sappers. The barracks to be built from which the sappers had to march every day to their work were a long way off, and but little progress was made, the actual work done in connection with the Monkey Point battery consisting of a detailed trigonometrical survey of the river banks for three miles round the spot. With the aid of the survey, a project in detail was prepared, with estimate of cost, for a solid shot-proof battery to mount seven 9lb. M. L. guns on Moncrieff carriages. The papers are now under the consideration of the Supreme Government. Nothing was done during the year towards the erection of batteries lower down the Rangoon river, or for the protection of the town and shipping of Moulmein.

266. A hospital with out-offices, for the women of the Royal artillery was sanctioned, at an estimated cost of £1,026; but the work was not proceeded with, a subsequent proposal having been made for a general hospital for the use of the whole of the European troops in Rangoon. The machinery for water-supply to the first section of the new company barracks, completed in 1875, arrived in 1877, and is about to be put in position. The entire expenditure on these barracks to the end of 1876-77 was £18,073. The second section was finished, and the buildings handed over for occupation during the year; of the third section, consisting of two company barracks with out-houses, one barrack was nearly completed, the expenditure for the year being £4,963; and a useful barrack parade-ground, levelled and drained, was begun and finished for £558, against an estimated cost of £617.

267. The two godowns, which were three-parts finished in the previous year, were completed and made over for use early in 1876, some minor improvements having been added to them. Their total cost was £8,115, against an estimate of £8,063.

268. On these, £4,448 were spent during the year in sinking and repairing wells, building new out-houses for married families, constructing a practice range, making covered-ways from barracks to workshops, filling in low ground round store godowns at the Commissariat wharf, building an engine shed for a steam flour mill, &c., &c.

269. *Thayetmyo.*—Very little was done towards this work (which had been sanctioned in 1875) beyond digging the foundations. Rapid progress has since been made however, and the work will soon be finished. The entire cost is estimated at £2,762. An estimate was sanctioned towards the close of the year for masonry platforms to mount two centre and two muzzle-pivoting R. M. L.

64-pounder guns on the river face of the redoubt. The work was well completed within the year, and the guns mounted, at a cost of £406.

270. The remodelling of the existing stables at Thayetmyo was sanctioned in February 1877, at an estimated cost of £2,158, but too late in the year to allow of much progress beyond carting bricks to site, the actual outlay being only £45. The balance of the year's appropriation (£900) was expended in brick-making for the military buildings generally throughout the station.

Royal artillery stables.

271. The work on the single-storied barrack in the redoubt, for 80 men and four sergeants, made little progress, owing to a short supply of bricks. When the year closed, the masonry of the foundation and plinths was finished, and the superstructure raised about eight feet all round. Bricks were also made for continuing the work in 1877-78. The expenditure for the year was £2,400.

Barracks.

272. These cost £2,120. Drains were made round the elephant sheds, roads were formed and metalled, jungle was cleared in the cantonment, and a good deal was expended in the usual annual repairs to roads and to the general staff buildings. Pumps were also provided for the wells in the European infantry lines.

Minor works and repairs.

273. *Toungoo.*—The old tiled roof of the artillery cook-house being much decayed was removed, and a light corrugated iron one substituted for it, at a cost of £291. The fireplaces were also lined with thick plate iron.

Repairs to cook-houses.

274. A second latrine for one regiment was begun and finished in a satisfactory manner during the year, at a cost of £384. It consists of a dry-earth shed and two ranges of latrines, each 83½ ft. by 11½ ft., connected by a court yard 83½ ft. by 16 ft.

Regimental latrines.

275. The work of protecting the river bank and the Strand road at Toungoo was begun and finished emergently during the year, it being found that a part of the road above No. 2 groyne was in such danger of being washed away by erosion in the rains. About 1,800 cubic feet of heavy rubble stone were used in the work, and the road is now effectually protected.

Protection of river bank.

276. Two thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven pounds were expended on these. Amongst other work done, a concrete floor was added to the elephant shed, and the gun shed was floored, cook-houses were renewed, and the wells in the lines at Shwe-gyeen were repaired.

Minor works and repairs.

277. *Moulmein.*—After much correspondence between the military and civil authorities for several years, a suitable site for this range was selected, near the village of Toungwine, about five miles from the Cantonment. The work was commenced and finished within the year for £647, against an estimate of £709, in accordance with the standard design for troops armed with the Snider rifle.

New rifle-range at Moulmein.

278. These cost £1,028. A well was sunk and temporary barracks erected at the rifle range at Toungwine, and the elephant shed at Moulmein was extended.

Minor works and repairs.

OTHER SERVICES.—Civil Buildings.

279. **POSTAL.**—A new post office was commenced and finished during the year at Kyouk-hpyoo for £315. Sanction was also given for a new one at Promé, with accommodation for the Deputy Post Master, and by the close of the year the framework was in position and the heaviest part of the work completed. It is estimated to cost £489. On general repairs, £150 were expended.

Kyook-hpyoo. Promé.

280. **TELEGRAPH.**—The quarters for telegraph signallers at Akyab, sanctioned in 1875, were commenced and completed during 1876-77, at a cost of £999, or £26 less than the sanctioned estimate. They are substantial, but, being the work of a Bengalee contractor, are not so well finished as similar work done by Chinamen. Out-houses are still wanting. A telegraph office at Amherst was finished and occupied in September 1876, its cost being £638, against an estimate of £698; and £268 were laid out in repairs to buildings.

Akyab. Amherst.

281. **POLITICAL.**—The usual annual repairs of the buildings occupied by the ex-Begum of Delhi and the Kooka prisoner Ram Singh were effected at a cost of £44.

Rangoon State prisoners.

282. **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.—Light-houses.**—This important undertaking off the coast of Arakan was finished in April 1876, and lighted for the first time on 1st May following. Its total cost from first to last was £65,220, against a sanctioned estimate of £58,269,—the excess being due to the fact that the cost (£7,200) of the steamer *Ava*, which acted as tender during the progress of the work was, by an oversight, omitted from the revised estimate. Two additional water tanks had to be added, at a cost of £76. Annual repairs to the Imperial light-houses amounted for the year to £378.

Oyster Reef.

283. **IRRIGATION.**—The Donabyoo section was finished in October 1876, at an entire cost (including £699 expended during the year in levelling up portions that had sunk) of £14,842, against a sanctioned estimate of £14,854; and the whole of the embankment is in good order. A very satisfactory advance was made with the Taboo section, labour being readily available. About 20 miles of the entire length of 27 miles were either completed or well advanced at the close of the year, the total outlay up to that time having been £7,824 out of a sanctioned estimate of £12,351. During the year, 4,041,540 cubic feet of earthwork were thrown up and partly dressed. So thoroughly have the completed embankments been strengthened by being raised to a height of three feet above

Raising and strengthening embankments.

the high flood-level of 1875, that they are now said to be secure against all danger from ordinary floods. The total outlay on this work amounted at the end of 1876-77 to £16,862, against an estimate sanctioned for £30,464. During the year, 10,006,819 cubic feet of earthwork were excavated, thrown up, and partly dressed, at a cost of £7,345, distributed as follows :—

	£.
Kyangyeen embankment	...	...	...	554
Myanoung	...	...	...	1,830
Henzada	...	...	...	5,461
				7,845

284. A 2nd class teak wood inspection-bungalow at Magee-laha on the Taboo section, like those at Kyonesha and Zeemin-gone, referred to in last year's report, was built during the year at a cost of £628, against an estimate of £597.

285. This work consists of three sections. The raising of the Dounghoon embankment to a height of three feet above the high flood-level of 1875, a work emergently undertaken in 1875-76 as

the 1st section of the Thatone plain reclamation scheme, was finished, at a total cost of £1,919, or £53 below the estimate. In raising this embankment, it was found that it had the effect of causing the spill-water from the Seeling river to collect against it to a greater height than had been expected, and, as a precautionary measure, a small bank, two feet high, was raised on the crest of the embankment, at a small additional cost of £52. In connection with the 2nd section, namely, the extension of the Dounghoon embankment along the left bank of the Seeling to protect the Thatone plain from spill-water, an outlay of £5 was incurred on a survey, the total cost to the end of 1876-77 being £78. On the 3rd or drainage section, an estimate of £113 was sanctioned and worked out at a cost of £93 for surveys during the year. The entire project for the reclamation of the Thatone plain has been received, but, as there is little hope of the work being put in hand for several years to come, further observations are being recorded as to flood-levels and discharges,—the results of which may involve a remodelling of the scheme as it now stands.

286. The work on the protective bund from Myit-kyo to Pym-bongye, in the Shwe-gyeen district, has been carried on with energy and much success.

At the close of the year, the whole embankment, 18 miles long, had practically been finished, all that remained to be done being the filling in of the side slopes to proper gauge. The cost of the work up to the end of the year was £22,981. The deepening of the old Pynkynn creek, by which the greater part of the rainfall on the Pegu plain will discharge itself, was nearly finished, at a cost to date of £1,003. Six miles of deepening have been carried out, of which two were done during the year, and a little more may be wanted.

287. Surveys in connection with a proposed line of embankment from Mengyee to Yandoon, on the eastern bank of the Irrawaddy, were sanctioned

at an estimated cost of £990 in January 1876; and about 70 miles out of 90 were surveyed and levelled, extensive surveys and sections being taken of the Irrawaddy river, including a triangulation of about 180 miles of its course, with nearly 40 cross-sections. These will all be of much use in connection with the detailed report on the discharge of the river now being drawn up by the local Executive Engineer.

288. A number of petty requisitions and repairs, costing £8,894, were attended to during the year.

Minor works and repairs. Amongst these were a well for the Kyonesha inspection bungalow, wing walls and laps to three sluices in the Henzada section, cost of investigation on the flood discharges of the Irrawaddy, cost of wells at Ngawoon and Myogwin bungalows, and of closing a sea breach in the Darien plains, Amherst; repairs to the Dounghoon embankment, Martaban district, and to the Pouk-ta-doung embankment in the Kyonk-hpyoo district. This last embankment is in bad order, and a good deal of it has been destroyed by the action of the sea. It has not been financially a success, nor has land within the protected area been readily taken up, so that much expenditure does not seem called for.

289. STATE RAILWAYS: *Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley Line*.—A few of the chief facts connected with the origin and history of this scheme may be given here. The project for a railway

to connect Rangoon with Prome was first mooted in 1868, but it was not till March 1873 that the Chief Engineer submitted for sanction an estimate for £735,000, with a note on the probable paying prospects of the line. In July 1874, orders were received to commence the first 30 miles of earthwork, with a view mainly to finding work for the immigrants arriving from Bengal; and in December following the Secretary of State for India sanctioned the whole scheme. From that time the work was pushed on with so much energy and rapidity that in March 1877 trains could run right through its entire length, and it was opened by the Chief Commissioner for public traffic on the 1st of May following. The Engineering staff deserve much credit for the vigour displayed by them in carrying out the work. There were fewer obstacles in the form of sickness, scarcity of labour, &c., than in the former year; but in the locality of the 40th mile much mortality from fever occurred amongst the workmen. A second revised estimate, amounting to £1,138,948, has been submitted to Government for certain suburban lines proposed by Mr. Molesworth, and for a line between Phayre street station and Dunnedaw, with branches into the private mercantile yards; but orders have not yet been passed on it. For purposes of construction and account, the existing line to Prome has been divided into six divisions, known as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Workshop, and Store divisions. A great deal of work in the form of banks and cuttings, raising ground, regulating surfaces and gradients, was carried out in divisions 1 to 4; and, speaking generally, the earthwork of the whole line was, with some trifling exceptions, finished within the year.

290. In the 1st division, the bridge-work was entirely finished, with the exception of some minor details in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. In the 2nd division, the bridges of the old

Bridges.

Prome road were utilized, as far as possible, for the railway; but at the Beeling river, seven spans of 20 feet each had to be provided, and, as the bricks for this and for the large bridge over the Thongzai stream had to be manufactured, the work proceeded slowly until February 1877, when rapid progress was made, and by the end of March the masonry-work was up to the ground-level and the iron-work of one of the 98-foot spans of the Thongzai bridge was in position. Several small bridges were also raised to suit the gradients. In the 3rd division, the earthwork behind the abutments of most of the old bridges was removed, and the holes filled with ballast; while, in the case of a few, concrete footings were placed to each abutment. Some new 14-foot span bridges were begun and finished, and a number raised or lowered to suit the gradients. Bridge-work in the 4th division had before been in a backward state, but good progress was made during the year, and at its close little remained to be done.

291. In and about Rangoon, in the 1st division, the crossings were finished, and four of them provided with gates and gate-keepers' lodges. Earthen approaches and cattle guards were supplied elsewhere, and mile-posts fixed along the line; likewise grade-posts for about 80 miles. In the other three divisions, the earthwork of all the level crossings was finished, and the grade and mile-posts nearly all placed in position. Material trains were able to run constantly before the year closed without danger.

Level crossings.

292. The work under this head outside Rangoon was in a generally backward state at the close of the previous year, and, although the contract for the whole of the 1st division was given out in December 1876, no progress was made owing to want of funds. In the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th divisions, timber was collected, cut, and in some places the posts placed in position.

Fencing.

293. Materials for ballasting the entire line, except the 1st division, had been collected in 1875-76, and were all laid down during 1876-77, the deficiency in the 1st division being made up from local laterite quarries. The progress made was quite satisfactory.

Ballasting.

294. In the 1st division, the entire permanent-way was laid down for a single line throughout and for a double line from Phayre street to Dunnewadaw, teak sleepers only being used.

Permanent way.

Delaying in the 2nd division was completed satisfactorily in spite of some trouble as to experienced workmen. That in the 3rd division was finished on the 18th March, when the leads towards both Rangoon and Prome were connected with the work of the 2nd and 4th divisions. The operations were attended with contractors' blunders, and much consequent vexation and delay; and during September 1876 the work was at a standstill. From that time till completed,

it was pushed on very satisfactorily. In the 4th division, all the permanent-way was laid during the year, except some sidings, the materials being carried to Prome.

295. All the teak sleepers for the 1st division, got from the Forest Department in the previous year, were placed in position. In the 2nd division,

Sleepers.

18 miles were laid with teak sleepers and with 44,969 pyngado sleepers, which latter were cut and brought to site during the year. In the 3rd division, no less than 107,669 sleepers in all were obtained locally; and of these, 62,256 (teak and pyngado) were cut up in the workshops or bought from contractors. The wants of the 4th division had been supplied in the previous year by contract.

296. The Phayre street station, a very substantial building, was close on completion at the end of the year; the first reserved carriage shed (out of two proposed) as also goods shed No. 1

were finished, or nearly so; while goods shed No. 2 and the goods platform were both well advanced. A good deal in the way of clearing and preparation for roads was done in and around the station yard. The stations at Hmawbee and Teik-gyee were also finished, with their subsidiary buildings. The stations of Okkan, Thongzai, and Leppardan, in the 2nd division, were completed, and the sheds at the two latter had made good progress. In the 3rd division, all the stations were finished, with their out-offices, and only a few minor details were wanting; while in the 4th division, four 3rd class stations,—Poungday, Thaigon, Simmesway, and Mosa,—were completed, except the out-houses at Thaigon. At Prome, the station and out-houses, station master's house, and two staff quarters were finished, and sheds of all sorts were well advanced; as were also goods sheds at Simmesway, Poungday, and Thaigon.

297. The bulk of the rolling-stock was built in temporary workshops at Rangoon and Prome erected in 1876-76; but permanent workshops are being built at Engsein, on high ground nine

miles from Rangoon, and the work has made satisfactory progress, notwithstanding a want of funds, the greater part of the grant of the year for this purpose having been diverted to the supply of more urgent requirements, with a view to the early opening of the line.

298. Turn-tables at Phayre street station, and at Leppardan and Prome, were in course of construction when the year closed. Signals at all stations had been put up, or were being

Station machinery.

so, and all crossings and points along the line had been placed in position. The wells at four stations were finished, and those at most of the other stations well advanced, temporary arrangements being also made, where wanted, for watering engines.

Rolling-stock.

299. The following was the position of this branch of the work at the close of the year:—

	Built.	Building.	Remarks.
<i>Engines—</i>			
Class A.	1	..	
.. E.	10	1	
<i>Carriages and Wagons—</i>			
2nd class .. ..	..	4	
3rd do. .. ..	..	43	
Composite .. ..	..	4	
Brake-vans	2	9	
Home boxes .. ..	..	8	
Cattle trucks	13	..	
Covered goods	63	170	
Low-sided goods	28	..	Running as bal-
Ballast wagons	13	..	last wagons.
Powder vans .. ..	..	4	

800. Sanction was given by the Supreme Government in November 1875 for a survey of the ground from Prome to Allanmyo, and by the end of 1875-76 the field-work (42 miles) of the

Extension to Allanmyo.

main line had been finished, as well as an alternative section 11 miles long. In 1876-77 the plotting was finished, and an estimate for the whole project, amounting to £372,494 (exclusive of defensive arrangements at the frontier), was forwarded to India in December 1876. This was returned for revision, and a reconsidered scheme, to cost £377,355, was submitted in July 1877. Orders on the latter are still awaited.

801. *Rangoon and Sittong Valley Line.*—The survey of this line, as stated in last year's report, was completed in 1875-76 by a staff of three Engineers and three Surveyors. The portion from Rangoon to Pegu (57 miles in length) ran, with the exception of the first 10 miles, through ground but little known, and destitute of any better roads than mere wheel tracks. The balance of the line (112 miles long) followed the Pegu and Toungoo road now under construction. In 1876-77 it was resolved to survey an alternative line direct from Rangoon to Pegu, crossing the Poozoondoung creek near the rice mills, and following in the northerly course the waterbed between the Pegu and Poozoondoung rivers, to find a better crossing over the

Pegu river near the town of Pegu, to survey all the streams between Pegu and Toungoo across which the line must pass, and to take borings at all the larger streams on the whole line. The direct line, as surveyed, crosses the Poozoondoung river about eight miles above its junction with the Rangoon river, and runs on tolerably high ground parallel with it (at about a mile's distance) till it meets the trial line of last year at Yayazun, 29 miles from Mangladon, on the Irrawaddy Valley line. Twelve miles would be saved under his scheme, which would, moreover, cross over fewer water-courses, and tap a more populous district than the other. I will accordingly be embodied in the revised project. The results of a search for a better crossing near Pegu were not very satisfactory, and further experiments will be made with better boring tools. The survey of the various streams to be crossed from Pegu to Toungoo was divided into two sections,—one, from Pegu to the Kwon river, 72 miles; the other, from the Kwon river to Toungoo, 42 miles. On the former section, careful surveys and cross-sections, in length 123 miles, were made and taken, but only with great trouble, as many of the smaller streams were found to be choked with grass and drift-wood. The same obstacles were met with on the Kwon to Toungoo section, through which three large rivers run. These, besides some 18 small streams of over 50 feet span, were surveyed and sectioned, the beds of all being found to be more or less blocked up with grass and fallen timber. The survey work covered a length of 652 miles.

No. 1.—Rangoon to Pegu.

No. 2.—Pegu to Kwon river.

No. 3.—Kwon river to Toungoo.

802. The borings on the 1st and 3rd sections (Rangoon to Pegu, and Kwon river to Toungoo) were not satisfactory, and will be repeated. Those on the 2nd section (Pegu to Kwon river) gave better results, stiff clay and sand being met with at depths varying from 20 to 70 feet.

Borings.

803. The in-door work during the rainy season was devoted by the Engineering Staff to preparing the project for the line on the basis of the operations of the first season. This is now being revised in the light of the information since obtained.

Indoor work.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

804. *CUSTOMS.*—The lascars' quarters and the boat-house referred to in last year's report were completed, at a cost of £537, and a cook-house will be added. The flat roof of the lascars' godown at Moulmein was in so dangerous a state that it had to be removed. An estimate was sanctioned, amounting to £634, for a pent iron roof in its stead, and the work was about half finished at the close of the year.

Akyah.

Moulmein.

305. The repairs to customs buildings at Rangoon, Akyab, Bassein, and Moulmein cost £187. No minor works were carried out during the year.

Annual repairs.

306. JAILS.—At a cost of £66, the roofs of the new solitary cells for Europeans, which leaked badly in some places, were repaired and the fissures stopped up, small iron gratings being also

Rangoon.

inserted in each cell door to improve the ventilation. The work of extending the present solitary cells for natives, by adding 16 more, besides a new block of 24 cells, was sanctioned for £3,331. The extension was completed during the year, and the materials collected for the new block. The jail hospital had added to it a surgery, cook-house, dead-house, and well, at a cost of £415. The surgery is 20 feet square, has boarded sides, glazed windows, and an asphalted concrete floor. The wards and other works in the Akyab Jail, which were in hand during 1875-76, were finished finally, two additional wards for male prisoners and one for male civil prisoners

Akyab.

being about three parts completed. Work was suspended on the block of solitary cells, which were well advanced, as the plan requires revision and alteration. The expenditure on them to the end of the year was £11,916, and a good deal of work has still to be done. It was intended to build brick walls in lieu of the existing wooden palisading round the different wards, at a cost of £570; but money not being available, only portions of masonry walls

Bassein.

were put up here and there where the palisading was much decayed. The work will be carried out as soon as practicable. About half the work of building 12 solitary cells in the central jail (sanctioned in December 1875) was carried out during the year; but as the

Moulmein.

Officiating Inspector-General of Prisons thought the design defective, the work was stopped, and remains in abeyance. It was originally intended to add a cook-house and a small block of solitary cells to the other improvements in the lock-up at Henzada; but as they were not found to be absolutely needed, and would have still

Henzada.

further curtailed the open space inside the enclosure, the idea was given up. The alterations have cost to the end of 1876-77, £2,074, against a sanctioned estimate for £2,165. In 1875-76, £572 were spent on a lock-up for Ma-oo-bin; but additional space being demanded while the work was going on, the scheme had to be revised, at an estimated cost of

Thonkwa.

£2,938. During 1876-77, £2,202 were spent, and the work finished and occupied, some parts of the outside wall remaining in an uncompleted state. The lock-up at this station is a very primitive one, and was inspected by the Chief Commissioner in the middle of 1876,—the result being that all idea of improving it was abandoned. The necessary survey in connection with the selection of a suitable site has been ordered for an entirely new jail, towards

Shwe-gyen.

which, however, the only progress yet made has been the collection of some materials at site. The small lock-up at Pongday was finished at a cost of £382, against an estimate of £764. Some racks

Pongday.

appeared in the surrounding wall, but have not further opened out, and the wall appears now to have settled down firmly. Beyond buying and shipping materials for the work, nothing was done towards the new lock-up for this station sanctioned in 1876 for £2,858, owing to

Sandoway.

no Public Works Officer being available to supervise it; but it is expected great progress will be made in 1877-78. These cost £1,136. Additions were made to the outside guard-house and to the civil female ward at

Minor works and repairs.

Thayetmyo, to the jail and the outer wall, Moulmein, besides some additions at Bassein and Ngathain-gyoung.

307. POLICE.—At Henzada, a new police chowkee and magazine were begun and finished, at an outlay of £561, half the cost being met by local funds.

Henzada.

Minor works and repairs for the year cost £123.

308. MEDICAL.—A ward at the rear of the Rangoon Lock Hospital, to accommodate some 40 patients, was begun and finished during the year, and a brick wall to screen the inmates took

Rangoon.

the place of the palisade. These additions and alterations cost £1,031, against an estimate of £1,167, and nothing further will, it is thought, be needed for some years to come. Satisfactory progress was shewn here, the hospital and dispensary, with out-houses, having been finished and occupied. The hospital is

Ma-oo-bin, Thonkwa.

much too large for present wants, but it is hoped that, as the people come to appreciate its advantages, they will resort freely to it by degrees. It was estimated to cost £1,459, and, with a few subsequent additions, has actually cost £1,430.

In minor works and repairs, £804 were spent during the year. At Toungoo, the lock hospital was fenced in and a new ward built; a padded ward for violent patients and inebriates was provided at the Rangoon General Hospital, and the lock hospital at Bassein was reconstructed.

309. ECCLESIASTICAL.—A further grant-in-aid of £300 was made towards the cost of the Presbyterian church at Rangoon; and £1,118 were expended in the purchase of a dwelling-

Rangoon.

house for the Town Chaplain, under the orders of the Government of India dated 26th October 1875. The Chaplain pays as rent, £5-10-0 a month, or six per cent. on the cost of the house. At Thayetmyo, the work of enclosing the new cemetery and building a chowkeedar's house was held in abeyance, owing to more pressing military works having to be

Thayetmyo.

done, and to an insufficient supply of bricks.

On minor works, £229 were expended. Amongst other matters, a masonry wall was built round the Native Christian cemetery at

Toungoo. The large outlay on repairs (£557) was to the military churches in Rangoon cantonment, and executing the usual repairs to churches and cemeteries elsewhere.

810. EDUCATIONAL.—No important works were carried out, but £273 were spent in the ordinary annual repairs to school buildings, and £10 on minor works.

811. GENERAL.—The new law courts at Rangoon, which were well advanced at the end of the previous year, were very satisfactorily completed, and handed over for occupation on 1st December 1876. The building is substantially built, and provides courts and offices for the Judicial Commissioner, the Recorder, 1st and 2nd Judges of the Small Cause Court, Bailiffs Office, Government Advocate's chamber, Advocates' room, and a strong lock-up for prisoners awaiting trial at the sessions. The total cost of these courts to the close of the year was £18,008, against finally revised estimates amounting to £18,187.

812. A latrine, carriage stand, &c., begun in 1875-76 for the public offices, were completed in March 1877, at a cost of £1,091.

813. The court-house for the Deputy Commissioner of Thonkwa was finished and handed over early in the year, and has been found in every way suitable. Its total cost has been £3,955, against an estimate of £4,106; but record racks have since been supplied, costing £176; and £94 were laid out in raising the level of the court compound.

814. The circuit-house had out-houses added to it, at an outlay of £260, against an estimate of £282, and has been much improved thereby.

815. An excellent court-house, built of teak, was begun and finished for the Assistant Commissioner at Pegu for £812. It stands on a fine site, is very substantial and commodious, and has been so highly approved that it will be adopted as a model for similar buildings elsewhere.

816. The old telegraph office at Padoung was converted during the year into a court and dwelling-house for the Assistant Commissioner, at a cost of £306, against an estimate for £252. A record-room and attached property-room for the Judge of Moulmein, with masonry walls and corrugated-iron

roof, was begun and finished during the year, except the roof materials, which could not be bought locally when wanted. Eight hundred and forty-four pounds were spent during the year, against an estimated total cost of £1,107. Minor works cost

£694, and repairs £2,264, the chief items being record racks for the Judge's Court, Moulmein, conversion of a cause at Thayetmyo into a small cause court, improving the Executive Engineer's Office at Prome, and making additions to sundry other public buildings in different places. The repairs include the usual repairs to Government house and furniture and to all public buildings in the

817. COMMUNICATIONS.—This road, which branches off at the 21st mile of the Rangoon and Prome road, is 34 miles long, and cost to keep it in good order during the year, £1,096, or £32-4s. a mile, against £32-10-0. in the previous year. Metal was also collected and laid down where required, at an extra cost of £1,134. The first section of this road,

27 miles, was nearly raised throughout to a proper height above the flood-level of 1875, at an entire cost of £2,027, against an estimate of £2,466. Bridging was pushed on to the full amount of the estimate, and was then suspended, pending consideration of a railway project from Rangoon to Toungoo, the total amount laid out on bridges to the close of the year being £9,900, against an estimate of £9,816. Some small bridges in the upper part of the section will be estimated for in the railway scheme. All metalling work on the road was stopped early in the year, after £370 had been spent, further expense on this account being useless if the road is to be appropriated for a railway. A quantity of laterite is now lying on the berms of the road, and will be very serviceable as ballast for the permanent line. These consist of 90

miles of road, for which £2,860 were appropriated and fully used during the year, 1,801,362 cubic feet of earthwork being thrown up, at an outlay of £1,835. The permanent inspection bungalow at Choung-zouk, on the 77th mile from Toungoo, was finished at a cost of £238; and £307 were spent in making temporary bridges and approaches to keep the road open in the dry season. Annual repairs, &c., cost £21-10-0 a mile, or £1,936 altogether. A final payment of £76 was made on account of the Kwon Choung bridge completed in 1875-76.

The bridge has cost a total sum of £978, against an estimate of £923. The bridge across the Kauleeya stream was finished, at a cost of £997, against an estimate of £923, which will be still further slightly exceeded, owing to the enhanced cost of the timber used. The bridges over the Yaynway and Beingda streams, and also the rebuilding of the Pyoo bridge, will be taken in hand by the Railway Department, who are carefully surveying the localities of the two former. The reconstruction of the Kaboung bridge, near Toungoo, will also be left to the Railway Staff, £714 having already been spent in making bricks for the work. An estimate for £41,043 has been received for building 242 permanent bridges on the 2nd and 3rd

sections, but is held over pending a decision on the railway question. Two hundred and eighteen pounds were spent during the year in bringing materials to site for some of the bridges; but all work has since been at a standstill. The first section, which includes a branch road to

Thamine (80 miles), was kept in fair order for £51 a mile, or £1,512, which is not considered too much for a road over which so much heavy traffic is constantly passing in the dry season. On the 5th section (36 miles), from Pongday to Prome, £2,670 were expended on material and maintenance for the year; and efforts are being made to get from

the hills in the locality a better kind of metal for the road, as the heavy traffic on the road is too much for the later and burnt clinkers now used for dressing it. Eighty-three pounds were spent on rings to prevent accidents at the approaches to some of the bridges. The 6th section, from Prome to Meaday (45 miles), was maintained fairly throughout the year for £1,068, an extra sum of £914 being laid out in collecting and spreading metal, chiefly on the first seven miles out of Prome. The high floods of 1875 caused much damage to the approaches of the bridge across the Boolai, and, from the tortuous nature of the stream, the channel of which appears to be shifting, some trouble is expected.

818. The 1st and 2nd sections of this road, with a branch to Amherst (53 miles), are fully bridged and metalled, and were maintained throughout the year for £1,101, or £21 a mile.

The traffic over the road is light, except for the first 16 miles out of Moulmein. A project is under consideration for rebuilding the large iron bridge over the 1st tidal creek, but has not yet been matured, and traffic meanwhile crosses by a temporary bridge. The 3rd and 4th sections of the road from Quanlah (58 miles) run through a wild, thinly peopled tract, covered with dense jungle not easily kept down. During the year, £1,830 were spent in demarcating and jungle-clearing, of which 17½ miles were finished, besides 13½ miles of ditching. More progress would have been made but for an outbreak of cholera amongst the men. The 1st section of this road, 37 miles, extends from Martaban to Thatone. Its demarcation has been completed, and the jungle cleared away, except over half a mile. Up to the end of 1876-77, £3,462 had been spent on the road, and the road almost entirely re-aligned. Some outlay (£107) was also incurred in repairs, &c., to the portion demarcated in 1875-76. A commencement was also made with the earthwork and bridging of the first 11 miles from Thatone, so as to provide a 7-foot pathway to the Thoug-zone hills, access to which, or to Moulmein, except by boat, would otherwise be impossible during the rains. Five hundred and ninety-nine pounds were spent on this work.

819. In the final estimate of the Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley Railway, the Government of India, on 26th May 1875, included an extra sum of £50,000 (as recommended by the Chief Commissioner) to provide a new cart road in lieu of the part of the Prome road (101 miles) which had been taken up by the railway; and a small portion of the new road, where it ran close to the line, was taken in hand by the Railway Staff, and £3,479 laid out upon it in 1875-76. To make the new road parallel with, and close to, the railway was then shown by District Officers to be a mistake, and it was recommended that it should be diverted so as to pass near the larger villages lying at only a few miles from the line. This change of plan put greater pressure on the resources of the Railway Department than they could, conveniently do their own proper work, satisfactorily bear, and the road had to be made over to a new provincial division called the "Railway and Supplementary Feeder Roads Division." Owing to floods, nothing

could be done till November following, after which good progress was made. The line has been divided into six sections, and will be, when finished, about 108 miles long, but will not, probably, be over seven miles longer than the old road made over to the railway. It starts from Hmaabee station, 29½ miles from Dunnedaw, Rangoon, and runs partly to the west and to the east, and partly close alongside the line to Pongday station, 181 miles from Rangoon. The 1st section is seven miles long, ends at Moung-da-ga, a large village five miles west of the railway, and was well advanced at the close of the year. The 2nd section also runs to the west of the railway, with which it again connects at the Teikgyee station. About six miles of it were surveyed and demarcated, the country carefully examined, and the general direction of the road fixed upon. The first part of the 3rd section forms a loop between the Teikgyee and Okkan stations, is 28 miles long, and runs at an average distance of three miles west of the line, the second part, from Okkan to Thongzai, being on the east side of the railway. The earthwork of a quarter of the first part and all the second, about 14 miles altogether, was thrown up and dressed during the year; but, from the difficulty in bringing timber to site, bridging was not begun. Nothing was done beyond some preliminary surveying on the 4th section, from Thongzai station to near Tsanuy (20 miles). This section runs at a distance of five miles to the east of the railway. On the 5th section, from Tsanuy to Konit-yua (23 miles), no actual work was done, but it was found that a cheap and useful line of road could be formed some three or four miles east of the line. The Railway Staff took in hand the 6th section, from Konit-yua to Pongday station, (20½ miles), completing the whole of the earthwork, and making a start with some of the bridges. This much needed road cost, to the end of 1876-77, £11,110. There are consequently £38,890 still available to finish it.

820. The Prome and Pongkoug road was found after all the earthwork had been finished, to have been insufficiently raised in view to a recurrence of such floods as those of 1875: a revised estimate will consequently be necessary, the work having already cost £4,450, against a sanctioned estimate of £3,727. Besides this, £476 have been spent in collecting and distributing metal, and £310 in the repairs, &c., of temporary bridges. A great deal still remains to be done to place this road in proper order. On the maintenance of the first section of this road, £293

Prome and Toungoo: 110 miles. were expended during the year, besides £950 in part of a special repair-estimate for £1,676 for opening out the entire road for cart traffic from end to end, 85 miles being thus made passable, in addition to 50 miles done in the previous year. There are frequent landslips on the road, and considerable sums will be needed to keep it in repair year by year.

The first section only of this road has been finished, and some years will likely pass before its further extension towards Toungoo is taken in hand. The portion already made has been about three parts metalled, and much traffic now passes over it. Eight hundred and twelve pounds

were expended in its general maintenance and in renewing some bridge-work and culverts during the year. This road extends to 11 miles, and, the traffic on it being constant and heavy, incessant outlay is needed to keep it in even tolerably fair order. Its maintenance for the year cost £975. This road, 21 miles long, was sanctioned in 1874-75. Up to the close of 1876-77, 15 miles had been finished

Poungday and Tabpoon road.

roughly and opened for traffic, at a cost of £3,114, good progress being also made in metalling the first 10 miles out of Thayetmyo, and some advance made with the bridge over the Kaway Choung at the 3rd mile. The outlay on the last work, which requires some revision in its design, was £820 to the close of the year.

321. The different provincial roads leading from or in the neighbourhood of large towns were kept in good repair throughout the year, the outlay being,—at Moulmein, £490; Toungoo, £1,070; Prome and Thayetmyo, £268; Rangoon, £1,342; Akyab, £1,116.

Provincial roads.

322. On these, £364 were expended in raising them (emergently) to a height of three feet above the flood-level of 1875.

Kanoung and Myanoung canals.

323. The road running due east from Leppardan station to the supplementary road at Way-young-bin-zin (6½ miles) advanced satisfactorily; six miles of the earthwork were completed, and arrangements made for timber for the bridges. Seven hundred and eighty-three pounds were spent on it during the year. A short feeder road was also begun and finished between Poungday station and Hmat-taing village for £978; while another, 1½ mile long, between Thayet-pouk and Myoung-dabouk bridge on the Prome and Poukoung road, was well advanced at an outlay of £158, against an estimated cost of £162. Owing to surveying establishments being short-handed, the progress on these feeder roads generally has not been very satisfactory. They are much needed to aid in developing the railway traffic.

Railway feeder roads.

324. NAVIGABLE CANALS.—Seventeen miles of the Pegu and Sittang canal have been quite finished, and the remaining seven miles dug to various depths. During 1876-77, these seven miles were deepened as much as the water in the bed permitted, and two miles of bund were strengthened, at a cost of £7,702. The excavations for the year amounted to 9,772,861 cubic feet, and the work has cost from the beginning a total sum of £53,867, against an estimate of £54,836. At the Pegu lock, 24 wells were sunk and hearted with concrete in the outer gateway, thus completing all the foundations of 48 well blocks. The superstructure of the inner gateway was raised two feet and completed, and one pair of gates hung and fitted with sluices, &c. The sill of the outer gateway was finished, and the superstructure raised two feet above it. The lock chamber was also dug to its full extent. The total outlay on this lock was to the close of the year £8,199, against an estimate of £9,071. Good progress was made in well-sinking at the Sittang lock, the 10 H. P. engine purchased

Pegu and Sittang canal.

expressly for the work having proved most serviceable. Twenty-three additional wells were built on their curbs during the year, thus completing the total of 50. The 24 wells in the inner foundations were sunk and hearted with concrete, the superstructure was raised 14 feet, and the two sills were finished. In the outer gateway, 26 wells were sunk and seven of them hearted with concrete, the hearting of the rest being held over till April, the driest month of the year. The lock-chamber was dug out to its full dimensions, and four new gates were nearly half finished by the end of the year. This lock has cost £9,219, against an estimate of £10,467. In subsidiary work, satisfactory progress was made: two outfalls were begun and finished, sheet-piling round the outer gate foundations of the Sittang lock was completed, &c., &c., and the materials for two inspection bungalows were brought to site. It is confidently hoped that the canal will be opened for traffic towards the end of 1877-78. It has cost to the end of 1876-77 a gross total expenditure of £80,281.

325. An outlay of £30 was incurred in removing jungle and snags from the Madamo Yay-gyaw creek in the Bassein district.

Improvements to creeks.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKS.

326. BUILDINGS.—A small wooden police station was built from cantonment funds near the railway bridge on Pagoda road for £65; and, at an outlay of £525 from the same source, all the cantonment roads were kept in good repair. A house for the Customs Officer in charge of the Soolay Pagoda wharf and warehouses was completed at a cost of £790, and made over during the year. The work was well done. The building is of brick up to the first floor, and of teak above, roofed in with corrugated iron. Semi-permanent quarters for custom-house preventive lascars were also built at Monkey Point for £182.

Rangoon cantonments.

Rangoon.

327. The work of constructing this building, designed by Mr. H. M. Mathews, Executive Engineer, Rangoon Town Division, was nearly finished at the close of the year. The house is very handsome, and adds to the appearance of the Strand road. It has been built partly from funds subscribed (£1,079) for a memorial of the late Lord Mayo, the balance being charged against the Port Fund of Rangoon. The estimate of cost sanctioned amounted to £5,978, and of this £4,523 had been spent up to the end of the year.

The Sailors' Home.

328. The new hospital and dispensary is a fine commodious building, well situated and quite suitable for its purpose. Good progress was made with it during the year, and it would probably have been ready for occupation in March 1877 but for the want of funds. Its cost has been hitherto met from Municipal, Dispensary, and Port funds, £3,352 having been spent out of a revised estimated cost of £5,218. Out-offices will be added when funds are available; meanwhile, those of the old hospital are being used.

Moulmein.

329. At each of these stations, new hospitals were under construction during the year. At Akyab, owing to objections raised locally to two alternative sites, nothing was done beyond preparing materials at a cost of £818. The building at Shwe-gyeen was three parts

Akyab.
Shwe-gyeen.
Ngathain-gyoung.
Pantanau.

finished; the ground-floor of the main building had not been asphalted, and the female ward was only half finished. Delay occurred in the arrival of materials at site. Expenditure for the year, £885. The Ngathain-gyoung dispensary was finished during the year for £579, against an estimate of £570. The contractor for the Pantanau dispensary being engaged elsewhere until late in the year, the work was delayed; but the materials were at site, and the work of building actually begun, when the year closed. Expenditure to that date, £860. A new police guard-house at Donabyoo, begun in 1875-76, was finished,

Donabyoo. | Yandoon.
Allanmyo. | Pantanau.

at a cost of £396, against an estimate of £415. At Allanmyo, a new police office was about three parts finished, the expenditure being £390 out of a sanctioned cost of £542. Very little progress was made with two school-houses sanctioned for Pantanau and Yandoon, as a contractor could not be found till very late in the year. Materials were got to site of the value of £226, but nothing more was done.

330. COMMUNICATIONS.—The Kokine road, Rangoon, was maintained at a cost of £108. The Dallah and Twantay road having to be resurveyed, the earthwork was only begun in

Rangoon. | Hensada.
Thonkwa. | Bassein.

January 1877. The first section, five miles long, was nearly finished by the close of the year; but contractors for the 2nd and 3rd sections at reasonable rates not being available, the Public Works Department took up the work. One thousand nine hundred and six pounds were expended during the year, against an appropriation of £3,440 and an estimate amounting to £5,877. A sum of £188 was expended on the Ma-oo-bin Strand road (about 1½ mile long), chiefly in brick-metalling. This road passes in front of Ma-oo-bin, the head-quarters station of the new district of Thonkwa, formed in 1875, and has cost, to the end of 1876-77, £898. The work of building a bridge over the Natncoo Cheung, Hensada district, was almost finished, at an outlay of £821, some flooring and hand-railing having still to be added. The road from Ngathain-gyoung to Kyoon-pyau, via Pandau (12 miles), in the Bassein district, was finished during the year, its entire cost having been £1,874, against a revised estimate of £1,905.

331. MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.—The Soolay Pagoda wharf and warehouses were finally completed. Superintendent's quarters were finished, as also the minor work of tram-

Rangoon.

ways to expedite the storing and delivery of goods, and a boundary wall with railings to face the Strand road. Expenditure for the year, £652. The old iron godowns at Latter street wharf having been burnt down accidentally on 12th December 1876, the work of replacing them was

at once taken in hand, and by the close of the year the framework of the new godowns was in position and ready for the iron sides and roofing. Eight hundred and fifty-five pounds were expended, out of an estimate for £1,579. Besides these works, a number of improvements were carried out to the Strand bank, and the older wharves and godowns built upon it. Lewis street was extended to the river's edge for £75; the approaches to China street godowns were metalled for £109; and eight new wooden platforms were provided for £69 to facilitate the unloading of heavy cases at Soolay Pagoda wharf. Materials were got to site, at a cost of £256, for a jetty greatly needed at the end of Crisp street; and a buoy and general marine store shed was begun near the Master-Attendant's office. The custom-house iron wharf, which had sunk considerably, was raised successfully by November 1876, preparatory to its being enlarged, so that large steamers can come alongside. To the close of the year, £1,902 had been spent on the work, but it was stopped temporarily, owing to the non-arrival from England of some of the piles and heavy iron-work required. For £587, the whole of the Port Fund buildings were thoroughly repaired.

332. At Bassein, a project for improving the Strand bank and protecting it from the erosive action of the river was sanctioned in September 1876.

Other towns.

A good start was made, 114,500 cubic feet of earth and 2,239 tons of ballast having been placed in position, and two timber jetties arranged for. The estimated cost is £2,171, and of this £738 were spent during 1876-77. The custom-house pier at Akyab underwent special repairs, at a cost of £1,582; but it is expected that about as much more will be

Akyab.

required. Signs of decay in important parts of the structure have been shewing themselves recently, and it will be desirable that an entirely new pier, on improved lines, replace the existing one as soon as funds can be collected. Ninety-six pounds were expended in the usual annual repairs to the marine buildings. At Myo ngmya, Bassein, a small bazaar was completed for £406. Some progress was made with the large new bazaar at Tavoy, the central shed being roofed in and the boundary sheds well advanced: the surrounding walls were about three parts finished, and materials to finish them were got to site. The bazaar is estimated to cost £5,886, of which £2,574 had been spent to the end of 1876-77; and, as the Tavoy Town Fund is at a low ebb, the work may not be finished for a very long time, as inter-loans between local funds are now prohibited by the Supreme Government. The iron-work of the main wharf at Moulmein received extensive repairs, at a cost of £269; but the wooden framework, and particularly the piles, are greatly decayed, and will soon have to be renewed. A very good road was made for £246 between the Thayetmyo dispensary and the cantonment, about half a mile's distance. The town of Pegu was much improved by the construction of a number of raised and metalled roads, and an embankment to keep out the river when flooded, at a cost of £625. The bazaar at Ma-oo-bin was finished at a total cost of £971, including a concrete floor. The bazaars at Ngathain-gyoung and Donabyoo were each enlarged, at an outlay

of £777 and £830 respectively; and £121 were expended in collecting materials for the erection of a rough timber pier at Pantanau.

Telegraphs.

833. The telegraph system of British Burma is divided into two distinct sections, known respectively as the Arakan division, extending from the Naaf estuary on the northern border of Arakan to the river Irrawaddy at Padoung in the Prome district of Pegu, and the British Burma division from Padoung to Prome with lines from the latter station northward to Thayetmyo and southward to Rangoon, from which stations various branch lines run to different points in the Pegu and Tenasserim divisions.

834. The total length of the line in this division is 415½ miles, and of wire 423 miles. No new works of construction were carried out during the year; but general repairs were effected along the whole line, and a great deal of tree jungle was cut down. The line is throughout in good condition, and was repeatedly tested during the year by means of "Wheatston's bridge," which discovered many faults that would otherwise have been undetected. The number of offices was five, as in the previous year. None of them, except that at Akyab, are likely ever to pay their expenses, being merely stations of observation, and maintained for departmental purposes.

835. The section of the line from the west bank of the Irrawaddy opposite Prome to Padoung was made over on 1st September 1876 to the Arakan division; and a new cable was laid across the Irrawaddy from Prome on the 19th of the same month to replace the old one which had become defective. The cable from Bassein to Diamond Island was completed so far as the above ground portion of the line was concerned. The sub-marine cable across the Bassein river a few miles below the town, and from the mainland to the island, has been laid down since the year closed, and the line opened for traffic. The line from Rangoon to Prome, as far as the 32nd mile, was lifted from its former track, and now runs alongside the Irrawaddy valley (State) Railway; and a section of 35 miles from Padoung to Prome was similarly treated. The working of the line will thus be greatly improved, and there will be fewer accidents from trees falling across the wires. A line was also constructed in the town of Rangoon, carrying several wires between the town offices and the mills at Kozondoung owned by mercantile firms, to whom Government rents the wires.

During the year, a survey was being made of the proposed extension of the line from Moulmein to Tavoy and Mergui to meet a possible line from Bangkok; but, from want of funds, it is not likely to be constructed for some time.

836. The total length of line in the British Burma division was, at the end of the year, 856 miles, and of wire 1,453 miles, against 780 miles of line and

1,016 miles of wire in 1875-76. Of the wire, 998 miles only are insulated.

837. The Eastern Extension and China Telegraph Company were engaged towards the end of the year in laying the sub-marine cable to connect Elephant Point (at the mouth of the Rangoon river) with Penang, and the work was completed on the 8th April 1877. It is intended to add, in 1877-78, a wire from Elephant Point to Prome to serve for the international traffic expected through the Penang cable.

838. The number of messages of all kinds originating in the division increased by nearly 12·4 per cent. over that of the previous year, each office in the division, except Elephant Point, contributing towards the increase. The number of messages to the division also rose in about the same proportion, and were distributed fairly over all the stations. Paid messages originating in the division increased by 9·62 per cent.; but their value was 5·30 per cent. only in excess of those of the previous year, owing, it is supposed, to the more general use of abbreviated codes.

839. The working of the Mandalay line in Upper Burma was again unsatisfactory, the British Burma share of the receipts on messages from Upper Burma reaching only £314, as compared with £555 in 1875-76; while the share of the receipts for messages sent to Upper Burma fell from £487 to £359.

Post Office.

840. There was no increase during the year in the number of post offices in the province, which stood at 23 when the year began. A new post office building was completed just within the year at Kyouk-hpyoo, and another was nearly finished at Prome.

841. Both the sea and river services were maintained with fair punctuality and general satisfaction throughout the year. The water in the Irrawaddy fell to an unusual extent, and the steamers had to proceed very cautiously; but no accidents occurred. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company are year by year adding to the strength and efficiency of their excellent fleet, and maintained throughout the year a regular twice-a-week service, thus giving two exchanges of mails a week between Rangoon, Mandalay, and intermediate stations, although only one is stipulated for in the contract.

842. Up to within a week of the close of the year, the Overland and Calcutta mails for Moulmein were carried by the fast steamer *Rangoon*, when, owing to some defect in her machinery, she was withdrawn for a short time. By means of the *Rangoon*, the mails were delivered in Moulmein as a rule nearly three days in advance of contract time.

843. The former contractor for the conveyance of the mails to Rangoon and Toungoo. Toungoo having altogether failed in acting up to his engagements, a fresh contract was entered into with Messrs. Cohen Brothers and Co., of Rangoon, and came into operation on 17th February 1877 at an increased monthly charge of £10, the service now costing £80 a month. The work under the new contract has hitherto been well done.

844. Very little advance was shewn over that of previous years in the amount of postal traffic passing through any of the offices during the year, with the exception of the Rangoon, Mandalay, and Prome offices, in each of which there was a considerable increase of business.

V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

845. The gross receipts of revenue from all sources in the Civil Department in 1876-77 amounted to £2,017,017, distributed as follows:—

	£.
(a)—Imperial	1,711,913
(b)—Provincial	54,189
(c)—Local funds	150,806
(d)—Municipalities	100,109

As compared with 1875-76—

(a) shows a decrease of	33,889
(b) shows an increase of	12,037
(c) and (d) show an increase of	34,058

Total increase of 12,204

846. The population of British Burma in 1875-76 numbered 3,010,662, and in the year under report, as is elsewhere explained, it is stated at 2,942,605, so that the receipts of the former year give an incidence of 18s. 8½d. per head, of which 11s. 7½d. were Imperial, 3½d. Provincial, and 1s. 5½d. Local; and in the latter year of 19s. 8½d. per head, of which 11s. 7½d. were Imperial, 4½d. Provincial, and 1s. 8½d. Local.

847. The expenditure on the civil administration, Imperial and Provincial, was £704,941, as compared with £675,965 in the previous year, an increase of £29,006. The surplus in the Civil Department was £1,061,161, available for military and public works, and share of the cost of the Imperial Government.

Local funds' and municipalities' disbursements were £262,584, as compared with an expenditure of £212,034 in 1875-76, shewing an increase of £50,500.

848. The following tabular statement shews the gross receipts and disbursements on account of Imperial and Provincial Services of this province for each of the past eight years:—

Revenue and disbursements for past eight years.

Details of items.	1869-70.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
<i>Gross Revenue.</i>								
Civil Department (Imperial and Provincial)	1,191,866	1,204,927	1,254,378	1,416,298	1,537,458	1,520,459	1,787,954	1,766,102
Public Works Department	5,285	4,665	4,687	4,018	4,266	6,848	4,891	6,306
Total	1,197,151	1,209,592	1,259,065	1,420,316	1,541,724	1,527,306	1,792,845	1,772,408
<i>Gross Charges.</i>								
Civil Department (Imperial and Provincial)	516,866	497,002	496,714	500,170	544,860	625,357	675,985	704,941
Public Works Department	182,004	148,885	168,644	203,254	215,038	207,487	233,883	182,819
Total	698,870	645,887	665,358	703,424	759,898	832,844	899,818	887,760
<i>Results.</i>								
Surplus in Civil Department	675,010	707,925	757,659	916,128	982,698	895,096	1,112,019	1,067,467
Deduct net public works expenditure	177,359	139,220	168,957	199,286	210,763	200,644	218,992	176,000
Net surplus available for military expenditure and for a share of the cost of the Central Government	497,651	568,705	588,702	716,892	771,936	694,453	893,027	891,467

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that the net aggregate surplus of eight years commencing 1869-70 has been £5,631,488. The surplus in 1869-70 was £497,671, in 1876-77, £895,148, or an increase of nearly 78 per cent.

The net charge of the troops stationed in Burma in 1876-77 is given by the Comptroller of Military Accounts at £283,889. This would leave £601,809 available for remittance to India. British Burma remitted to India in 1876-77 net cash £446,850, and advanced for the construction of the State Railway £294,720.

(a)—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

349. Receipts.—The Imperial receipts for 1876-77, as compared with those of the previous year, shew a decrease of £38,889, or 1.9 per cent. In this year the customs decreased £40,942, or 8.70 per cent., entirely under exports, due to the large shipments of rice to the Indian ports on account of the Madras famine, and to the fact that in the first quarter of 1875-76 heavy collections were received that had been expected in 1874-75, but which, owing to late shipments, had not been realized.

350. The realisations from land revenue, capitation tax, land assessment in lieu of capitation tax, fisheries, and miscellaneous aggregated £385,876 in 1876-77, against £328,655, an increase of £11,721. This increase is due to early collections this year.

Territorial revenue.

Land tax.

351. The details of the land revenue demand for the years 1875-76 and 1876-77 are appended:—

	1875-76.	Bomissions.	1876-77.	Remissions.	Net increase after deducting remissions.	Decrease.
	£		£	£	£	£
1.—Land ..	446,945		19,555	466,918	4,197	27,001
2.—Capitation tax ..	359,906		1,852	263,526	1,744	4,029
3.—House tax and land assessment in lieu of capitation tax ..	17,631	5	17,849	114	..	391
4.—Fisheries ..	79,584	208	77,653	469	..	2,191

There was a large increase during the year in the amount of land brought under assessment, and, notwithstanding a somewhat scanty rainfall here and there, the remissions of revenue were very small, resulting in an increase in actual revenue of 6.84 per cent. over the net collections of 1875-76.

352. The gross amount of tax realized was £263,526, levied on 648,688 persons, the figures of 1875-76 having been £259,605, levied on 638,905 persons. The net increase amounted to £4,028, or 1.56 per cent. over the figures of the previous year.

In Arakan, the collections were not altogether satisfactory, the increase being £91 only over the realizations of the previous year.

Capitation tax.

and pointing to the necessity for closer supervision. The new system of taxation in Northern Arakan, namely, a levy of four shillings per annum on each house in satisfaction of all revenue demands, has been quite successful, suits the tribes well, and has produced much satisfaction and content amongst them.

The returns from Pegu have not, it is feared, been prepared with strict accuracy, and, although upwards of two-thirds of the entire increase for the year have occurred in that division, the figures shew an increase of 1.81 per cent. only over the collections of the previous year. The chief improvement is shewn in the districts bordering on the railway, which has attracted population to its neighbourhood.

In Tenasserim, the net collections improved by 1.9 per cent., the increase being most marked in the Amherst and Tavoy districts, although there is a greater or less improvement in all the districts of the division.

353. There was a slight decrease in the amount collected both in Arakan and Pegu; while in Tenasserim there was an insignificant increase. The tax is levied in seven towns of the province, and is calculated on the area occupied by buildings. Although an Imperial tax, its proceeds are for the present made over for municipal purposes in such towns as have been declared subject to the British Burma Municipal Act of 1874. The decrease in Pegu, £298, occurs in Rangoon (£188), Bassein (£94), and Prome (£66), and is said to be due to alterations in town boundaries, disputes in certain localities as to the legality of the demand, the collection of the tax being thereby retarded, and (in Prome) to land having been taken up for railway purposes. In the town of Rangoon, the decrease is probably attributable to the fact that the tax recoverable from property standing on the Strand bank is dealt with by an independent committee, directly controlled by the Chief Commissioner, and whose collections are not included in the returns. The following figures shew the amounts collected in 1876-77, as compared with the previous year:—

	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£
Akyab	1,188	1,173
Kyauk-hpyoo	179	180
Rangoon	9,664	9,727
Bassein	2,373	2,179
Prome	2,188	2,071
Thayetmyo	784	783
Tarangoo	1,309	1,385

354. The gross collections of the tax on sea and inland fisheries in the year 1876-77, namely, £77,654, were less than those in 1875-76 by £1,980, the falling-off being chiefly in Pegu (£1,549), where the fishery revenue is steadily declining. There is no reason to regret this, in the process of abolishing the fisheries is effected slowly. Incalculable injury has been done in by-gone years to the culturable area by the fishermen damming up streams, and diverting them from their natural courses. Several fisheries were resumed in the Rangoon

district during the year, causing a decline of £1,068 in the fishery revenue of the district; and a further decrease may be looked for hereafter. As embankments increase in the Thonkwa district, the fishery revenue will there also fall away in value; but there will be ample compensation in the extra amount of paddy cultivation which will result. It is certain that many of the fisheries are too large and unwieldy to be worked to any advantage by one individual, or to the eventual profit of Government, the rents paid being so exorbitant, owing to the spirit of competition that has of late years sprung up, as to lead the lessees into difficulties. A number of the fisheries could well bear sub-division, and this will be taken into consideration on the completion of the work of demarcation now going on.

355. The receipts under this head in 1876-77 shew an increase of £861 on salt locally manufactured, as compared with 1875-76. On the other hand, a falling-off took place under duty on foreign salt collected by the Customs Department of £1,789, as the following statement shews:—

Collected by	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£	£	£
Deputy Commissioners, as excise	6,570	5,16a	4,557	5,416
Collectors of Customs, as duty	6,667	6,580	10,971	9,182
Total	13,237	11,744	15,528	14,600

The increased importations of foreign salt have for some years interfered with the demand for salt of local manufacture; but in the year under notice they fell off considerably, while, owing to high prices ruling, there was a considerable revival in the manufacture of the local article in the Kyauk-hpyoo district, which in former days was the chief source of supply for the whole province. The improvement also extended to the Amherst and Shwe-gyeen districts of Tenasserim; but there is little reason to doubt that it is merely transient, and will eventually be defeated as soon as foreign salt begins to be regularly imported at Akyab and Moulmein. In Pegu, the local manufacture is rapidly giving way before the large importations of English and Sicilian salt at the port of Rangoon, which are admitted on payment of an import duty of 4½d. per maund of 82lbs.

356. The gross collections in the year under review amounted to £429,562, as against £470,504 in 1875-76, or a net decrease of £40,942 as compared with the previous year. The import duty,

Customs.

including salt, contributed £110,120, an increase of £5,788; the export duty, £318,243, a decrease of £45,400; while the miscellaneous receipts made up the difference. The exports were affected greatly by the Madras famine, and by unusually large quantities of rice being bought up by the King of Burma for the use of his subjects; while, on the other hand, large shipments to Europe were made in the first quarter of 1875-76, which it had been expected would have been completed in March 1875.

857. The following tabulated statement shows the gross revenue from excise realized in the past five years:—

Excise.

Heads of excise.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£	£	£	£
Opium	66,173	73,563	62,065	67,415	97,261
Ganja	3,220	Sale abolished.	...	...	...
Spirits manufactured after the English method	14,350	17,193	16,634	24,703	29,246
Spirits manufactured after the Native method	10,523	14,967	17,670	23,433	19,076
Toddy	14,341	15,737	19,330	20,463	26,058
Total	109,808	121,453	127,989	156,001	171,661
License fees for the sale of imported liquors	5,326	6,326	6,400	9,215	...
Cus. and duty on imported liquors	29,180	34,081	28,573	36,337	...
Total revenue from Liquors and Drugs.	144,314	161,860	162,962	201,553	...

Deducting remissions, the net Imperial revenue of the year was £171,618, against £154,949 in 1875-76, an increase of £16,670, or 10.76 per cent. The increase in Arakan was entirely derived from opium, and more particularly from the enhanced fees obtained from the licenses to vend, the increase in the sale of the drug itself having been only a fraction over three per cent. In Pegu, nearly two-thirds of the entire increase in receipts were obtained from opium, the balance being derived mainly from spirits and from licenses for the vend of

imported liquors. In Tenasserim, the improvement over the previous year was but slight, less opium was sold (its sale being most probably affected by increased smuggling); while the fees for the license to vend were much enhanced.

858. The revenue from license and distillery fees and duties for the sale of liquors and drugs amounted in 1876-77 to £111,901, against £104,901 in 1875-76; sale proceeds of excise opium were £60,854, against £54,498; and fines, confiscations, and miscellaneous were £6, against £160. It will be seen that the total realizations in the year under review were £171,661, against £159,559 in 1875-76.

859. The net revenue derived from opium during 1876-77 was £97,275, an increase of £6,382 over the previous year. Of this £60,854 were from "sale proceeds of excise opium," and £36,921 for "license fees for the sale of opium," as against £36,395 in 1875-76, the receipts for both years being nearly stationary. The aggregate was obtained for 35,988 seers, and the average price per seer, inclusive of about £1 per seer for the license-fee, was £3-8-7, of which £0-14-6 is the price charged for the opium by the Government of India.

860. The amount realized as license fees and duty on spirits manufactured in Rangoon and Moulmein after the English method increased from £25,264 in 1875-76 to £29,246 in the year of report.

361. The license fees and still-head duty paid for the manufacture and sale of country spirits amounted to £19,076 in 1876-77, as compared with £20,424 in 1875-76.

362. For the right of vending fresh and fermented tari, £26,058 were realized in 1876-77, as compared with £22,312 in 1875-76.

363. The revenue from stamps in 1876-77, as compared with 1875-76, shews a small decrease. The receipts from judicial and revenue stamps in the year under report were £62,992, as compared with £63,495, being a falling-off of £503.

From postage and telegraph stamps the net revenue was £49,741 and £39,175, respectively, being an increase of £10,566 in favour of the year under report. The increase is almost entirely under telegraph stamps, a great deal of correspondence having been carried on by telegrams, instead of through the ordinary channel of the post office. The revenue from this source will, it is expected, continue to increase.

864. The revenue derived from "timber brought to depôt by departmental agency" shews a decrease of £20,467; whilst that derived from "wood removed from the forest by purchasers" increased by £2,633, and that derived from "confiscated drift and waif wood" decreased by £347. There was a sum of £1,821 realized as "revenue from minor produce," shewn separately this year. The revenue on foreign timber decreased by £8,252; and there is an increase of £1,851 under miscellaneous. The results of the two years shew that on the whole the revenue from forests decreased by £22,761 in the year under review.

865. There was no income tax assessed in 1876-77; but a slight receipt of £3 was levied, being on account of arrear collections.

Assessed taxes.

866. In the revenue of the post office there was an increase of £140 in 1876-77 over the previous year, the figures being £16,044 and £15,904 respectively.

Post office.

867. The revenue under Law and Justice, which is derived from the "sale of unclaimed and escheated property," fees, fines, forfeitures, and miscellaneous, amounted to £20,827, as compared

Law and Justice.

with £20,895 in 1875-76. A more general use of stamps, in lieu of cash for fees, is in operation.

868. These receipts show an increase of £1,183, as compared with 1875-76. The improvement is chiefly under "coast light dues," and is owing to the

Marine.

opening of the new "Oyster Reef Light-house" on the coast of Arakan.

869. The receipts in the year under review amounted to £1,286, and represent the interest paid on the loan to the Rangoon Municipality.

Interest.

870. Very heavy unclaimed deposits of more than three years lapsed to Government this year. The total receipts under Miscellaneous were £3,012, as against £1,109 in the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

Heads of accounts appertaining to other governments.

871. The following heads of accounts appertain to other departments and governments:—

	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Electric Telegraph Department ..	45,359	35,191	10,168	
Indian Money-order ditto ..	65,479	64,818	1,166	
Overland Money Order ditto ..	3,759	3,733	27	
Military Department ..	54,157	48,009	6,148	
Public Works Department ..	178,181	208,917		35,736
Indian and other governments ..	78,731	112,905		41,184
Bills of ditto ditto ..	44,632	34,004	10,628	

The Telegraph and Indian and Over and Money Order Departments show more activity in the year 1876-77. There is a falling-off

under the Public Works Department. The remittances from India and other governments show a decrease; while a slight increase occurs under bills drawn on other provinces, chiefly on Calcutta, the monetary transactions having resumed their ordinary course.

872. The opening cash balance of the year under report showed a decrease of £74,856, as compared with 1875-76. The following are the details:—

Cash balance.

Details.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£
Notes	86,077	64,139
Silver	412,370	358,417
Copper	10,902	12,637
Total ..	510,349	435,293

873. DISBURSEMENTS.—The charges of collection and the amount of refunds under the head of Land Revenue aggregated in the year of report £109,509, being a decrease of £1,248 over the charges of 1875-76. The decrease is due to savings in the pay of officers and establishments.

Land revenue.

874. In the year 1876-77, the expenditure of the Forest Department amounted to £100,504, or £19,029 in excess of the preceding year. The chief

Forests.

items of this large increase were the cost of bringing timber to depot, and of converting for future sale a quantity of timber for which satisfactory prices could not, owing to the depressed state of the market, be got at once. There was also the salary of the Additional Conservator to be provided for, and an increase in travelling allowances consequent on the activity with which the forest work of the year was conducted. The details of expenditure are,—conservancy and works, £92,212, establishment, £18,292, in 1876-77, as against £66,052 and £15,428 respectively in 1875-76. The net profit to Government from this department was £54,637, as compared with £96,427 in 1875-76, the revenues of which year on account mainly of the supply of sleepers to the Irrawaddy Valley Railway were exceptionally high.

875. The charges, including £48 for refunds under the head of Excise in 1876-77, were £883, a decrease of £461 over 1875-76. There were fewer refunds made in the year under report.

Excise.

876. The cost of establishments employed in the collection of the customs duty and salt duty in 1876-77 was £21,911 and £442 respectively, being an

Various accounts.

increase of £1,659 and £21 over that of the previous year. The refunds under these heads were £17,296 and £287. Under the heads of Stamps, and Law and Justice, the refunds were £460 and £7,025 respectively.

377. The expenditure of the Post office amounted to £9,278, as compared with £8,852 in the previous year.

378. The amount paid as interest on savings banks' deposit balances in 1876-77 was £409, as compared with £359 in the previous year.

379. The disbursements on account of Civil and Political establishments amounted in 1876-77 to £62,975, as compared with £56,967 in the preceding year. The increase is in the Political Department on account of the Western China Expedition, the Yunan Expedition and the Karennee Boundary Expedition.

380. The expenditure under this head for the year was £2,524, of which emigration and minor departments' charges were £578 and £602 respectively; while £602 were for tobacco-curing experiments under Dr. Brown.

381. The expenditure on law and justice was in the year 1876-77 £78,901, as compared with £75,340 in 1875-76. The decrease is under "Criminal Courts," and is due to savings from absentees.

382. The marine expenditure in 1876-77 was £24,187; that of the previous year, £27,015. In 1875-76, heavy charges for the cost of construction of the steamer *Irrawaddy* were adjusted, the total charges for building and repair of ships being in the year of report only £292, as against an expenditure of £4,988 in 1875-76. On the other hand, the increase for charges on account of light-houses and light-vessels in 1876-77 was £1,786, due to the establishment and stores for the Oyster Reef Light and stores for other light-houses. Seven thousand eight hundred pounds were paid as subsidy to steam-boat companies.

383. The ecclesiastical expenditure was £3,885 in 1876-77, being a decrease of £297 over the preceding year.

384. The medical establishments, that is, the pay of Civil Surgeons, amounted to £8,454 in 1876-77, as compared with £10,829 in the previous year.

385. There is an increase of £687 in the year under review for pensions and gratuities, the amount disbursed being £8,448, compared with £7,811 in 1875-76, the increase being due to an annuity of £100 paid to an officer of police as a solatium for severe injury sustained in the discharge of his duty, and a gratuity to a late Civil Surgeon on retirement.

386. The amount under this head paid in 1876-77 was £1,989, as compared with £8,844 in 1875-76.

387. The following statement shows the disbursements within the province during the last two years on various accounts other than the civil administration:—

	1875-76.	1876-77.	1876-77.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Telegraph Department	25,491	22,181	6,690	
Indian Money Order Department ..	16,245	17,523	1,277	
Overland ditto ditto	76	150	74	
Public Works ditto	581,186	540,636	9,492	
Military ditto	299,604	289,995		9,609
India and other Governments ..	698,388	502,936		195,452
Bills ditto ditto	12,952	22,418	9,461	

The prominent features in this table are the increases under Telegraph department and Indian and Overland money order transactions. The increase under the Public Works Department is due to the construction of the State Railway; while the decrease under India and other Governments is accounted for by smaller cash remittances than usual having been sent out of the province to India.

388. The closing cash balance of the year shews an increase of £28,864, as compared with that of 1875-76. The following are the details:—

Details.	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£
Notes	64,129	64,545
Silver	859,417	887,909
Copper	12,827	7,408
Total	435,898	459,257

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

389. **PROVINCIAL SERVICES.**—The Imperial allotment for the year was £299,886, as compared with £324,636 in 1875-76. The public works charges under Marine, £1,814, fell below the original grant of the year. The decrease was owing to an extra special allotment made in 1875-76.

390. Jail receipts amounted in 1876-77 to £27,896, as compared with £29,386 in the preceding year. The decrease is due to fewer convicts being employed on extramural labor. The details of the receipts are,—£19,128 sale proceeds of jail manufactures, £7,251 for printing, £1,100 hire of convicts and £417 for miscellaneous.

Jails. The details of the receipts are,—
 391. The receipts from fees for registering and copying documents were £956, against £785 in 1875-76.

392. The contributions from the Village Police Cess were £4,751; contributions from municipalities for cost of police, £10,516; gambling fines, £1,156; other fees, fines, and forfeitures, £223; cash recoveries and miscellaneous, £633.

393. The receipts from school fees were £2,290; subscriptions to the *Education Gazette*, £282; sale proceeds from books, £679; miscellaneous, £32;—an aggregate of £3,283, as compared with £3,230 in 1875-76.

394. Fees and fines (lock hospital) realized £549; proceeds of labour of inmates of lunatic asylum, £300; contributions for maintenance of lunatics, £35; other miscellaneous medical receipts, £74;—an aggregate of £958, as compared with £1,409 in 1875-76.

395. The sale of Gazettes and other publications amounted to £512, other press receipts £77, as against a total of £60 in 1875-76.

396. The receipts of the year amounted to £3,229, as compared with £418 in 1875-76. The increase is due to repayment of loans made by Provincial services, which amounted to £3,138; while a slight decrease took place in other sundry receipts.

397. A sum of £760 was credited as repayment of loans.

398. Receipts for rents, &c., realized £5,240, against £3,722 in previous year.

399. **DISBURSEMENTS.**—Provincial disbursements under the head of Jails of £1 and under Police of £243 were made as refunds against £33 and £240 respectively in 1875-76.

400. The expenditure on account of jails in the year 1876-77 amounted to £49,090, of which £19,208 was for jail manufacture, the receipts being £7,896. The expenditure was £9,881 less than in the year 1875-76.

The net cost, therefore to the State of the jails was £21,194, as compared with £29,085 in the preceding year.

401. The charges of this department were £495, as against £413 in the previous year.

402. The expenditure was £147,197, compared with £131,992 in the preceding year. The increase is mainly due to the gross charge of Municipal Police being shewn on the books this year, while only the portion paid out of provincial funds was shewn in 1875-76. The contributions from Municipalities in 1876-77 is shewn as a police receipt, and amounted to £10,516, while the total cost was £15,139. The extra increase in 1876-77 is chiefly for the Eastern Frontier Force.

403. The educational charges in 1876-77 amounted to £23,217, as compared with £21,597 in the preceding year. The increase is chiefly for purchase of books, maps, &c., for the middle class schools.

404. In the Medical Department, the expenditure for the year under review was £11,990, as compared with £10,834 in 1875-76. Of this, £329 were for medical establishments, £868 for vaccination, £1,490 for lunatic asylum, £2,093 for lock hospitals, and £566 for sanitation. The increase in 1876-77 was owing to the entertainment of more Native Doctors and greater supplies of medicines and instruments to dispensaries.

405. The cost of Printing amounted to £10,313, as against £11,095 in 1875-76. Of this, £5,713 was for work done at the Jail Press and credited to the Jail Department. The balance was the cost of the Secretariat Press.

406. The expenditure on minor establishments for the year 1876-77 was £3,865. The following are the details:—General management, £119; cemeteries, £190; conservancy establishment, £335; conveyance of mails, £1,200; survey of seaport towns, £1,234; Loomatee Sanitarium, £430; public exhibitions and fairs, £326; miscellaneous, £31.

407. The following were the disbursements under this head in the two years:—

	1875-76.	1876-77.
	£	£
Donations for charity	183	171
Rewards for destruction of wild animals	527	102
Books and publications	6	562
Donation to Phayre Museum	120	175
Vagrants	11	5
Various	84	644

408. For office-rent, rates and taxes, the expenditure was £814, as compared with £644 in 1875-76. The increase is under "Rates and Taxes."

Contributions to local funds.

409. No charges this year.

410. The expenditure on roads, miscellaneous public improvements, civil buildings, &c., was £108,295, of which £107,404 were expended by the Public Works Department and £881 by Civil Officers. The expenditure in 1875-76 was £144,147. The budget grant of the year was £109,100.

411. LOCAL FUNDS.—Omitting mere deposit funds, the local funds proper are—

- (a) The Five Per Cent. Cess for Roads, Police, Education, and Post,
 (b) The District,
 (c) The Town,
 (d) The Port,
 (e) The Pilot,
 (f) The Dispensary,
 (g) The Cantonment,
 (h) The Customs Confiscation, and
 (i) The Dalhousie Park.

b) and (c) are now amalgamated, except in some of the larger towns b) and (c) are cognate funds, (h) is a petty fund, and (i) is very small.]

The following tabulated statement shows in juxtaposition the receipts and disbursements, with opening and closing balance, of each fund during the year under review:—

	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Disbursements.	Closing balance.
	£	£	£	£	£
Five Per Cent. Cess	85,082	81,983	66,594	53,924	52,670
District	7,216	48,551	55,767	30,481	25,286
Town	26,558	9,760	36,318	29,719	7,689
Port	10,684	41,961	52,645	33,920	18,625
Pilot	1,104	11,759	12,863	12,863	..
Dispensary	1,929	3,296	5,165	3,341	2,824
Cantonment	952	3,356	4,308	2,898	1,415
Customs Confiscation	4,399	511	4,910	1,087	3,823
Dalhousie Park	592	269	842	198	644
Total	68,596	150,806	239,402	146,876	93,026

412. MUNICIPALITIES.—There are seven municipalities, with an income of £100,109 and an expenditure of £116,158. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure, with opening and closing balance, of each:—

	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Disbursements.	Closing balance.
	£	£	£	£	£
Rangoon	18,575	52,814	69,389	65,871	718
Bassien	2,518	8,121	10,639	9,214	1,420
Henada	3,047	4,565	7,612	4,298	3,314
Primo	3,678	7,984	11,662	8,612	3,050
Moolmain	3,197	11,861	14,848	13,778	1,070
Toungoo	706	5,898	6,604	6,014	590
Akyab	1,978	9,066	10,939	8,571	2,368
Total	28,579	100,109	128,688	116,158	12,530

The only noticeable feature in the figures under local funds is that, by recent orders, all town funds, with the exception of a few, have been amalgamated with their respective district funds, the receipts of which latter accordingly shew in the year under notice as £48,551, against £6,491 only in 1875-76; while the income of the town funds appears to be £9,750 only, against £24,326 in that year. The expenditure, however, from the District Fund goes to the benefit of the particular towns which contribute towards its resources.

VI.—METEOROLOGY, VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

Meteorology.

413. Previous to 1876 the meteorological records of British Burma may be regarded as almost worthless. The rainfall, temperature, and atmospheric pressure were roughly shewn, but as none of the barometers or thermometers in use at the civil dispensaries where registers were maintained had been tested with any standard instruments, the results were of no practical value for comparative purposes. The commencement made in 1876, alluded to below, will not produce a series of connected and unbroken returns before the end of 1878, and a series of mean results possessing any practical value for comparative purposes will not consequently be forthcoming until some time has elapsed.

414. During the past year a first attempt was made by opening observatories at different stations throughout the province to obtain scientifically correct readings and records of meteorological phenomena in Pegu and Tenasserim, and with this view a 2nd class observatory was opened at Rangoon in January, and 3rd class ones at Moulmein and Bassein in March and December respectively; while instruments have since been provided at three other stations, namely, Thayetmyo, Mergui, and Toungoo. The only observatory in the province heretofore with proper instruments was that maintained at the Telegraph Office, Akyab.

415. The Akyab Observatory remained, as formerly, at the telegraph office, the cistern of the barometer being 20 feet above sea-level. The thermometers are kept in a shed near the office.

416. The observations here during the year were supervised by Dr. A. Crombie, the Junior Civil Surgeon, assisted by several observers. The observatory is placed at the high school, the situation of which is good, the thermometer being kept in a wall-exposed shed. The cistern of the barometer is 40 feet above sea-level; and the anemometer is fixed on the roof of the school.

417. Here the observations were made at the civil dispensary, the cisterns of the barometers being 77 and 60 feet respectively, above sea-level.

418. The results, as indicating the general climatic conditions at Akyab, were correct throughout the year, those at Rangoon from the middle of January, and those at Moulmein from the middle of March; while

those at Thayetmyo, Mergui, and Toungoo are valueless, except as affording a rough indication of the climate of the year. The mean barometrical pressure was highest in November and December at Akyab and Rangoon and in January and February at Moulmein, and reached its lowest point during the height of the rains in June, July, and August. The highest temperature in the shade, 103°, was registered at Thayetmyo in April and May, the lowest being 48° recorded at the same place on the 11th February. The general plan organized by the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India does not embrace the records of observation at Kyouk-hpyoo, Sandoway, Hensada, Prome, Tavoy, and Shwe-gyeen. Observations of the rainfall and temperature at these stations will, however, continue to be taken, as properly verified instruments have been supplied for the purpose.

419. The rainfall of the year was slightly below the average; but it was distributed over a somewhat greater period than usual, and the crops were generally good throughout the province. The average rainfall of the previous five years, compared with the actual record of 1876, is shewn in the subjoined table:—

Rainfall.

No.	STATION.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total rain-fall, 1876.		Average rain-fall for previous five years.	
		Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.
1	Akyab	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Kyauk-hpyoo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Sandoway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Rangoon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Bassain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Henzada	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Prome	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Thayemyo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Toungoo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Moulmein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Tavoy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Mergul	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Shwe-gyeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics of Jails.

420. No addition was made during the year to the prison accommodation of the province, except that the Henzada Jail was enlarged to hold 124, instead of 61, prisoners. A number of prisoners were transferred to Moulmein from the Rangoon Central Jail, which, although not so overcrowded as in the previous year, still held an average of 120 prisoners over its capacity throughout the year, the excess number rising for a very short time to 249. The ventilation of the wooden buildings inside this jail is so thorough, however, that no ill effects resulted. There are still many defects and shortcomings to be remedied in the arrangements for bathing and for washing clothes, more especially in the Rangoon Jail; but as regards water, rations, clothing, and conservancy, the condition of nearly all the jails is satisfactory. The roof ventilation of some of the smaller jails is insufficient, but alterations will be gradually made.

421. There were 122 deaths from all causes during the year, out of a total jail population of 19,057 persons, being 20 deaths in excess of the number recorded in 1875, or 2.63 per cent. of the average strength, against 2.35 in that year. The daily average number of sick was 155, or 10 only over the average number in the previous year. The increased mortality is attributable mainly to cholera, from which there were 20 deaths, against five in 1875, or a percentage of 0.41 of average strength, against 0.10 in that year. An increased number of deaths also occurred from remittent fever, which prevailed to some extent in the Moulmein Jail, as did also hospital gangrene, resulting in the abandonment of the jail hospital and the removal of the wooden flooring. The unhealthy state of this jail was further proved by the increased number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhoea. In the other jails, very few deaths were caused by these diseases; and the generally improved health of the prisoners in the Rangoon Jail is attributed in a great measure, by the Civil Surgeon in charge, to the abolition of out-door labour. If the deaths from cholera be excluded, the death-rate (2.21 per cent.) was the lowest yet recorded. Seven prisoners were killed in quelling an outbreak at Moulmein, and two died by suicide. If these and the cholera deaths are deducted, the death-rate amounted to the small average of only 20.32 per 1,000 of daily average strength. The percentage of deaths from all causes to total population, taking convicts only, was 0.92,—a very low rate when it is borne in mind that 28.90 per cent. of the prisoners were over 40 years of age. None of the female prisoners died, nor were there any deaths amongst prisoners under 16 years of age. The death-rate was lowest amongst prisoners who had been confined for a number of years, and were thus probably, from being reconciled to their lot, less liable to illness; while the mortality amongst recently convicted and under-trial prisoners was higher than in any other class. The causes of this latter fact are not far to seek,—anxiety, fear, shame, and despondency being very active causes in developing bodily ailment.

422. At Rangoon, a new jail hospital was completed and occupied: it consists of two large sub-divided buildings; and in the hospital enclosure separate buildings were built, having asphalted floors, for cholera cases, contagious diseases, and lepers, besides a dead-house, a surgery, two new latrines, and a dry-earth shed. A new well was also added. As already mentioned, the hospital floor at Moulmein was removed and replaced by one of hard earth, which will be covered with asphalt.

Vital Statistics of general Population.

423. The returns submitted from the various districts shew the population of the whole province in 1876 to have been 2,942,605, as compared with 3,010,662 in 1875, or a seeming decrease of 68,075 souls on the population of that year. In calculating the figures for 1875, however, 2½ per cent. for assumed natural increase were added to the actual figures submitted by Commissioners, while no similar addition has been made to those of 1876, and in this way the discrepancy explains itself. According to the census taken on the 15th August 1872, when the population was returned as 2,747,148 souls, the natural ratio of increase up to that time was proved to have been about 2½ per cent. per annum; and applying this assumption to subsequent years, the population in 1876 would be 2,988,135 souls, thus bearing a very close approach to the actual returns.

424. There were 57,007 births registered throughout the entire province during the year, being a ratio of 20·10 per 1,000 head of population, as against 59,451 in 1875-76. Of male children, the number was 29,415, compared with 30,156 in that year, and of females 27,592, compared with 29,295,—the proportion of males for the year being as 106 to 100 females. Under the new rules of 25th October 1876 for recording vital statistics, and which took effect from 1st January 1877, it will be possible to secure gradually more approximate accuracy in these statistics, which are as yet confessedly imperfect; but there are many difficulties to contend with. In municipal towns, registration is nominally compulsory; but it does not seem to be sufficiently known amongst the people generally that a penalty attaches to its non-observance, hence many births are not recorded at all. In the rural districts, registration of births is not compulsory; and it may be accepted that the majority of the villagers omit to report them, the headmen gaining the most of their information on the point by chance.

425. The statistics of mortality are much more likely to be fairly correct on account of the ceremonious publicity with which the Burmese bury their dead. There were 42,401 deaths from all causes throughout the year, or an increase of 2,081 over the number reported in 1875-76, the excess being due chiefly to an increase in deaths from cholera (3,678, against 761) and from small-pox (1,335, against 752);

but the want of rural registration was so badly carried out in some of the most populous districts as to throw very great doubt on the value of the general provincial returns. The ratio of deaths per 1,000 of district population varied from 6·10 to 23·38 per cent.; while in the 17 towns, with a population of 5,000 and upwards, the total death-rate as registered was 30·27 per 1,000, compared with 21·21 per 1,000 in 14 towns for 1875. The latter rate was probably, however inaccurate; but, even allowing for this and for the additional three towns embraced in the figures for 1876, a death-rate of 30 per cent. is very high, and, while shewing that more thorough registration has been effected, proves at the same time that our towns are not in so healthy or sanitary a condition as the defective statistics of bygone years would lead one to suppose.

426. The highest rate of mortality for the year per 1,000 of total population occurred amongst children between the ages of one and six, and is returned as 1·14; but, from the absence of statistics of previous years, it is difficult to form any opinion as to the probable accuracy of what appears to be a very low death-rate. The highest death-rate by classes occurred amongst Hindoos (33·93 per 1,000), followed by Mahomedans (19·24), Buddhists, including both Burmese and Chinese (14·67), and other races (10·39). The apparently high death-rates amongst the two former classes are due less to excessive mortality amongst them than to the simple fact that they are chiefly residents of the large towns, where greater accuracy in registration is observed.

427. The year was not marked by any serious visitation of cholera (except at Akyab and Prome), or any other of the epidemics which from time to time visit the province. There were many deaths reported (as usual) as having occurred from fever, which, according to the returns, would appear to have been answerable for about half the mortality of the year; but, with natives, every illness is called fever, unless marked by strong and unmistakable symptoms of its real character. The following table shews the number of deaths according to diseases for the past two years:—

Years.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel-complaints.	Suicide.	Wounds and accidents.	Snake-bites.	Other causes.	Total deaths.
1875	761	752	25,075	5,212	43	207	192	8,128	40,370
1876	3,678	1,335	24,728	5,369	49	280	157	6,905	42,401

428. The total ratio of deaths from fever per 1,000 of population was 8·62 against 8·74 in the previous year. These figures are so nearly identical

that they only point to the continuance of the disorders of former years, under which all diseases betraying the slightest febrile appearance are at once declared to be fever, and classed as such. The statistical agents employed are to a great extent ignorant and incapable men, and this being so, the ascribed causes of death are rendered all but valueless. The system in force is however useful, in so far as it will gradually teach the people, although, until a better class of registering agents are forthcoming, possessed of a discriminating knowledge of the various diseases, any deductions to be drawn from the returns are likely to be very inexact, if not misleading. It is marvellous that the mortality, amongst the Burmese in particular, is not even greater than it is, considering the system of medicinal treatment to which patients are subjected, and the lofty contempt so generally shown for pure air and ordinary cleanliness.

429. With the exception of the year 1873, more deaths were caused by cholera in 1876 than in any previous year since the system of recording vital statistics (such as it is) has been in force. Beyond a few deaths in the towns of Moulmein and Tavoy, the Tenasserim division may be said to have been quite free of the disease; but it appeared in a generally sporadic form, travelling from north to south, all over the Arakan and Pegu divisions, assuming the epidemic state only in the towns of Akyab and Prome (the sanitary arrangements of which are very defective) and in some villages of the Kyouk-hpyoo district.

430. The number of deaths reported was 5,269, as against 5,212 in 1875, the ratio per 1,000 of population being respectively 1·83 in 1876 and 1·81 in 1875. These figures may be accepted (even in spite of their close similarity as to results) as tolerably accurate, since, notwithstanding the great ignorance which characterises the majority of the rural returns in regard to other diseases, there seems to be general accuracy in reporting, as such, deaths from diarrhoea, dysentery, and other ailments of the stomach and bowels attended with griping pains, even when accompanied, as they often are, by strong symptoms of fever. The mortality was again high in the towns of Shwe-gyeen and Shwe-doung, both of which were noticed in the report of last year, and in Prome and Thayetmyo. The last-named town has never been noted for outward uncleanness; but the sanitary condition of the others has been very far from satisfactory. The death-rate from bowel complaints in one or two districts is so low as to throw doubt on its correctness; but, setting this aside, the mean death-rate of the year was considerably less than 8·56 per 1,000 (the mean of the previous five years), and lower than in other provinces of India where registration is conducted with greater accuracy.

431. The practice of vaccination is slowly but surely gaining ground in Burma, although in many parts a deeply-rooted prejudice against it is still to be found. The mortuary returns of the year from small-pox amounted to 0·46

Deaths from small-pox.
Suicide.
Wounds and accidents.

per 1,000 of population, or nearly 50 per cent. less than the average ratio of the five previous years. The Arakan and Tenasserim

divisions are singularly free from the disease; some parts of Pegu had also a complete immunity from it; and it was only in the Prome and Bassein districts, and in the towns of Bassein and Tavoy, that any serious mortality occurred. Deaths from suicide, which were probably reported with perfect accuracy, numbered 49, compared with 43 in 1875: as elsewhere, they vary little year by year. There were 280 deaths from accidents and wounds, against 207 in 1875. One hundred and fifty-seven persons died from snake bite or the attacks of wild animals, compared with 192 in that year.

432. Nothing has been added during the year to the already existing information on the origin and geographical distribution of this disease.

Leprosy.

The anticipated efficacy of *gurjon oil* as a remedial agent has not been realized, and the results have been so little encouraging as to induce the Government of India to abandon for the present any further outlay in the experimental application of this form of treatment. An exact and scientific knowledge of the exciting causes of leprosy seems to be as far off as ever.

Vaccination.

433. In compliance with the orders of the Government of India, the statistics of vaccination are again compiled for the official year, as was customary previous to 1875. The department underwent no change in its constitution during the year, and consisted of two native Superintendents employed in the towns and districts of Rangoon and Moulmein, with 10 1st class and 21 2nd class Vaccinators, being one in excess of the previous year's number; and, where it was possible for some of the Civil Surgeons to occasionally leave their stations for a time, the work of the Vaccinators was inspected by them, and found to be satisfactory. Twenty of the Vaccinators are paid from provincial funds, five from local funds, and eight are maintained in municipal towns. It was found necessary to dismiss several of the Vaccinators during the year, and, although the pay is large and tempting, there was a good deal of trouble in getting men to fill the vacancies.

434. Supplies of lymph were received from England, and from the North-Western Provinces and Bengal, during the year. That from England failed in almost every case, and the work was not generally started through the province till October 1876, the results of vaccination in the rainy season being only very partial and discouraging, while, from the numerous failures, the people have come to put no faith in its efficacy at that time of the year. Nevertheless, the actual results were, for Burma, fairly satisfactory, as shewn in the following abstract:—

Operations.

Months	Number vaccinated.	Successful.	Unsuccessful, including doubtful, &c.	Total.	Average percentage successful.
1876.					
April	2,373	2,140	233	2,373	90.21
May	1,125	1,055	70	1,125	93.77
June	481	385	96	481	79.62
July	873	292	80	873	78.49
August	837	515	312	827	62.27
September	809	330	479	809	40.79
October	1,929	1,626	303	1,929	84.81
November	2,773	2,319	454	2,773	83.62
December	5,154	4,556	598	5,154	88.39
1877.					
January	2,643	2,185	458	2,643	82.67
February	3,684	2,804	880	3,684	76.11
March	5,316	4,784	532	5,316	89.99
Total	27,485	22,979	4,486	27,485	83.65
Hill Tracts, Northern Arakan,	94	54	40	94	57.44
Rangoon Jail	301	60	141	301	29.85
Military hospital	285	172	113	285	60.35
GRAND TOTAL	28,065	23,285	4,780	28,065	82.96

The above figures shew that, of the total number vaccinated (excluding those in the Hill Tracts, Rangoon Jail, and military hospitals), a percentage of 86.78 cases were successful. This is an improvement of 2.84 per cent. on the results of the previous year, when the percentage of successful cases rose to 83.89,—the highest figure recorded up to that time. The grand total for the province for the year shews that 29,065 persons were vaccinated during the year, against 24,218 in the previous year, and that the number of successful cases amounted to 23,285, compared with 20,014 in 1875. Lymph was distributed to a number of professed inoculators in the hope of inducing them to abandon their own pernicious system, and, although

it is known that several thousands of persons were vaccinated by these men, the results could not be ascertained, as they submitted no returns.

495. The progress made in vaccination during the past 10 years has been satisfactory, considering the many prejudices and obstacles thrown in its way, and is shewn in the following table:—

	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876-77.
Total number vaccinated..	8,836	8,251	9,350	23,144	14,076	16,377	18,469	21,154	24,218	29,065
Number of successful cases	7,086	5,862	7,249	18,101	9,569	11,565	13,931	17,648	20,014	23,285
Percentage of successful cases to total number vaccinated .	85.00	70.68	77.52	78.21	67.93	70.61	75.37	83.40	83.89	82.96

The people are too apathetic to take the trouble of themselves coming, or of sending their children, to be vaccinated; hence, only 115 cases are shewn as having been done at dispensaries, and, unless small-pox breaks out as an epidemic, it is most difficult to induce persons to submit to the operation at all. This arises more from their dread of subjecting themselves or their children to pain, than from any real prejudice against the practice; and when small-pox does actually make its appearance, they are generally eager to avail themselves of the vaccinator's services if one comes amongst them.

496. Now and again a wholesome lesson is taught to the country people as to the evils of inoculation, when a case of it turns out badly, and fatal small-pox ensues. An instance of the kind occurred in Tavoy district during the year, and so alarmed the people that they were only too glad to welcome the vaccinator; and when the Civil Surgeon subsequently paid a visit of inspection to the locality, he found that every man, woman, and child had been vaccinated. The State cannot, perhaps, afford to "buy out," as it were, these professional inoculators, by subsidizing them to an extent sufficiently ample to forego their system in favour of vaccination; their gains are still considerable as inoculators, and there is doubtless much truth in what some of them represent,—that when they do take honestly to the practice of vaccination, they are unable to make a living by it, as the people well know they can get it done gratis at the dispensary, or by a Government vaccinator.

497. The department cost for the year a total sum of £1,282, or £49 more than in 1875, provincial funds contributing £954; local funds £117, and municipal contributions £211. The travelling expenses of vaccinators amounted to £59 only, or about £1 each; and it is not likely that, with so small an outlay, much ground could have been

gone over. The cost of each successful case was high, namely, 13d. The sums contributed for vaccination purposes by the larger municipalities are very trifling; but greater liberality is promised, and it is confidently hoped that increased good results will follow, through the instrumentality of the native members of committees.

Sanitation.

438. The question of improved sanitary arrangements was taken up during the year in the municipal towns of Rangoon, Bassein, Prome, and Akyab; and in these, a number of most useful works were carried out. The system of drainage is, however, far from efficient anywhere: the wells are not sufficiently protected from impure and contaminating matter, and cesspits are, except in Rangoon, far too common. At Rangoon, extensive improvements took place in the drainage system, both in the shape of repairs and new works: a number of latrines were built, low ground was filled up, and tanks were excavated; while the work of conservancy was efficiently carried out, much care and attention being devoted to the watering of the public roads, improvements to the public washing tanks and slaughter-houses, and the cleanliness of the municipal markets. Since the year closed, a scheme for the supply of water to Rangoon, by conduit pipes leading from the Royal Lakes north of the town, has received the sanction of the Government, who advance the necessary funds. The work is expected to cost a gross sum of £80,000, and operations have been commenced for supplying water, in the first place, to the crowded suburb of Poozoondoung, where it is sorely needed. In the other towns mentioned above, sanitary measures tending in the same direction were adopted: the bazaars were cleansed and supplied with water from raised tanks, roads and drains were improved, and swampy ground filled up. As funds become available, greater progress will be made, the town of Prome in particular demanding much attention to bring it up to a satisfactory condition. Sanitary advance throughout Burma generally is greatly retarded by want of money. The majority of the towns and large villages were visited by the Sanitary Commissioner during the year, and directions given for carrying out any single improvements which the residents could themselves effect without expense. "Instructions regarding conservancy, drains, houses, cattle sheds, water, and infectious diseases have been prepared, and will be printed in the vernacular for circulation to the better educated and most influential members of the native community, and embodying also a plea for vaccination in preference to inoculation."

Emigration and Immigration.

439. Apart from the scheme of State immigration from Bengal, attempted by Government in 1874 (to the results of which allusion is made below), and from the recently sanctioned scheme of

immigration from the Madras coast under the Burma Labour Law of 1876, year by year large numbers of coolies arrive at the seaports to engage in the work attendant on the milling and export of rice; while numbers of persons from Chittagong on the north and the Malay Peninsula on the south visit the province for purposes of trade. The stay of the Madras men ends with the close of the rice season, when they retire with their earnings, the comings and goings of the others, and the length of their stay in Burma, being regulated mainly by the nature of the produce in which they trade, and the seasons at which long sea voyages can be most safely and comfortably made. Many Shans come annually from the provinces to the north and from Upper Burma into our frontier districts. Here and there they settle down permanently, and take to garden and other cultivation on a sufficiently large scale to earn a livelihood, but, as a rule, the majority of them return after a residence of one or two years. The Burmese themselves shift about to a considerable extent within the province from district to district, and chiefly towards a few central points. The opening of the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway has naturally caused a very appreciable increase of population in the tracts through which it runs, and has attracted to its neighbourhood numbers of families from the outlying and remote districts. The returns for the year shew that 83,301 persons in all came into the various districts, and that 67,961 persons left them; but this is in no way a test of migration, or indicative of actual increase or decrease of gross population, as it may be assumed that, for the reason given above, what one district lost another gained.

440. The total number of persons brought down from Bengal, under the immigration scheme of 1874, stood at the beginning of 1876-77 at 7,396. Up to that time 203 of these were reported at the depôt as having died, and 62 more died during the year, making an ascertained total of 265 deaths up to March 1877, or 3.5 per cent. There can be no doubt, however, that many of those who found their way into the interior of the country died there unknown to the authorities. Others absconded and returned to their homes in Bengal, and it is estimated that on 1st March 1877 there remained a balance of 6,545 souls in the province. The majority of these have elected to work as coolies in the rice mills, on the railway, and on other public works where high wages are always obtainable, and in this way have formed an important addition to the labour market: some have become domestic servants, and others have enlisted into the police, a very few only having settled down as agriculturists,—thus defeating the intention with which it may be said the scheme was originally started. The ease with which a day's wage can be earned in and near the larger towns not unnaturally causes a distaste for a cultivator's life in the jungle.

After the beginning of 1876 no further batches of emigrants were despatched from Bengal, and the depôt arrangements for their reception and housing at Rangoon were abolished early in 1877, the immigrants then in the country being considered as merged in the general population, and no longer possessing a claim on the State for

ther food, medical aid, or shelter; and the attention of the immigration office was devoted solely to the recovery of outstanding debts. The entire scheme has cost from first to last an expenditure by Government of £19,500. Of this sum, nearly £10,000 had been covered up to March 1876; and it was estimated that of the remaining balance, £6,000 might be regarded as good debts, of which perhaps £4,800 might be recovered in 1876-77. The result has fallen very much short of this expectation, the collections for the year amounting to £1,870 only. But from the way in which the men are attracted about the country, the difficulty experienced in proving, or getting them to confess, their identity is very great. Lists of those debtors whose whereabouts are supposed to be known, or where they are last heard of or seen, are in the hands of the various District Officers, and a few recoveries may be effected by their assistance.

441. The scheme of immigration from the Madras coast under the Burma Labour Law of 1876 was in its preliminary stage in March 1877. Some unavoidable delay occurred in passing the rules under the Act for the guidance of the officers on the Madras side, and beyond the appointment of an Emigration Agent at Coconada and a few other initiatory measures nothing was accomplished. About 10 immigrants have, however, since arrived in Burma.

Medical Relief.

442. Eighteen civil dispensaries, the same number as in 1875, were open throughout the year for the treatment of the sick. One is in course of erection at Thatone in the Tenasserim division; and those at Poulmein and Bassain, which have become quite unsuitable through age, are being replaced by new ones. The hospital at Akyab has been condemned, and sanction given for a new one in a better situation. At several outlying stations, where European Assistant Commissioners are posted, medicine chests have been supplied; and hospital assistants provided for Pabpoon, a very unhealthy station, and for Ngain-gyoung. The command of medical aid, in one form or another, will gradually be extended to other remote places as the necessity arises; but in so far as the indigenous population is concerned, there is no great urgency in the matter, as the Burmese do not take readily to our system of treatment; and although they are gradually acquiring a strong belief in the surgical skill of our Medical Officers, as is proved by the large number of cases of wounds and other daily injuries that are annually brought to the various hospitals for treatment, there is still a very general reluctance to accept implicitly our medicinal remedies, although every year sees a fair advance made towards the demolition of the popular prejudice on the subject.

443. The following table exhibits the attendance of in-door and out-door patients at each dispensary during 1876 in comparison with 1875:—

STATIONS.	ATTENDANCE.				OUTPATIENTS.			
	1875.		1876.		In-door.		Out-door.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Akyab ..	374	1,998	410	2,113	36	..	120	..
Kyauk-hpyoo ..	121	689	180	437	9	..	..	262
Sandoway ..	89	539	79	1,659	..	10	1,819	..
Palukwa ..	277	1,184	890	1,665	113	..	601	..
Bangoon ..	2,425	13,087	2,251	12,349	..	164	..	718
Ma-oo-bin ..	52	1,130	108	1,653	56	..	323	..
Bassain ..	261	3,182	253	3,174	..	8	..	9
Henzada ..	190	2,579	180	2,649	..	10	70	..
Myanong ..	106	727	124	755	18	..	28	..
Mengyee ..	51	1,612	18	1,609	..	23	..	103
Prome ..	250	2,111	281	1,942	21	..	..	176
Poungday ..	45	1,054	63	1,191	18	..	187	..
Thayetmyo ..	206	2,452	220	2,881	14	..	..	51
Moulmein ..	647	7,024	582	7,423	..	115	409	..
Pawpy ..	182	3,055	149	3,533	..	55	533	..
Mergui ..	127	2,554	158	3,068	31	..	539	..
Slwe-gyee ..	275	5,855	249	7,137	..	26	1,233	..
Toungoo ..	222	7,976	802	8,836	10	..	880	..
Total ..	5,980	58,750	5,917	63,758	326	389	6,316	1,608
	64,730		69,675					

There has been an increase again this year in the total of both classes of patients (the figures indicate the number of fresh admissions, and do not include the cases remaining on the 31st December 1875). No portion of this increase is due to the opening of a new dispensary, as was the case in 1875. There has now been a steady increase of the totals of in and out-patients for the last three years as follows:—

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total of both classes.	Net increase.	Number of dispensaries.
1873 ..	4,533	44,262	48,815	..	17
1874 ..	5,649	53,823	59,472	10,167	17
1875 ..	5,980	58,750	64,730	5,758	18
1876 ..	5,917	63,758	69,675	4,940	18
Total treated for four years ..	22,099	220,093	242,692	20,655	

Seven dispensaries shew an increase in both classes of patients, while three shew a decrease in both. There is a small increase of 63 in the total number of in-patients treated, the decrease being debitable chiefly to the Rangoon and Moulmein hospitals; whilst the hospitals at Sandoway Shwe-gyeen, and Toungoo shew a very large increase in the number of out-patients. The number of out-patients at a hospital is a very fair test of the popularity of the Medical Officers in charge of that department.

Average daily sick. 444. The average daily attendance at each dispensary is given below, with the exception of Tavoy, as the Civil Surgeon omitted to give the necessary information in his report:—

STATIONS.	1875.		1876.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.
Akyab	11-66	15-60	11-28	12-97
Kyauk-hpyoo	5-20	22-23	25-10	93-14
Sandoway	3-81	8-10	3-43	22-28
Palukwa	8-39	12-64	14-42	19-83
Rangoon	128-52	240-64	129-71	161-49
Ma-oo-bin	3-66	7-89	2-55	11-42
Bassein	11-59	16-26	12-00	30-24
Hennada	8-90	28-60	8-90	35-30
Myrnaung	2-00	9-00	2-00	9-00
Thayetmyo	2-66	6-16	2-75	5-66
Prome	12-80	64-60	13-40	63-30
Toungday	8-88	18-60	1-82	20-46
Tongyee	10-40	26-60	9-00	27-00
Moulmein	26-30	23-93	24-09	26-88
Tavoy	4-90	26-60	..	..
Sergui	8-70	42-80	10-02	53-43
Shwe-gyeen	13-64	49-48	9-40	36-64
Toungoo	15-48	45-47	16-77	53-36
Total	274-69	670-00	289-84	687-60

There is a slight increase in the total average of both classes of patients. Akyab and Shwe-gyeen shew a decrease in both classes,

markedly so amongst the out-patients at Shwe-gyeen. Sandoway, Ma-oo-bin, Thayetmyo, and Moulmein shew a decrease amongst the in-patients only. There is a very large decrease of 79-15 in the daily average of the out-patients attending at the Rangoon General Hospital, of which no explanation is afforded by the Civil Surgeon. Where the total number of admissions has exceeded that of 1875, and the daily average is less, it is probable the cases were unimportant, or the patients, being dissatisfied with the treatment they received, did not return.

Only three officers have shown the attendance of the Burmese separately: the rest have merged them into "other castes." The attention of Medical Officers has been again called to this point. Doubtless, however, most of the "other castes" were Burmese.

The ratio per cent. to total treated of the various castes and classes was as follows:—

NATIONALITY.	1876.	
	In-patients.	Out-patients.
Europeans	0-58	1-65
Eurasians	0-19	4-75
Mussulmans	1-82	15-93
Hindoes	2-59	15-46
Other castes	3-77	45-89

The only noticeable fact in the ratio of the different castes for 1876 is that the "other castes," doubtless nearly all natives of Burma, constituted very nearly one half of the total treated.

Percentage of the special diseases of admissions. 445. The following table shews the ratio per cent. to total treated of certain diseases during the years 1875 and 1876:—

DISEASES.	1875.		1876.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.
Fever	18-41	16-62	16-70	16-09
Cholera	1-16	0-5	1-05	1-46
Rheumatic affections	3-99	4-93	4-16	5-44
Syphilitic do.	4-81	3-00	1-08	2-99
Respiratory diseases	2-32	5-49	3-15	5-58
Dysentery	6-52	4-44	6-36	2-70
Diarrhoea	3-87	5-49	4-80	3-85
Skin diseases	1-78	5-58	4-80	8-37
Injuries	25-51	5-65	25-37	5-80
Other disease	32-75	31-62	32-75	18-40

The figures correspond very closely in most instances with those for 1875. Fevers formed 16·89 of the total treated in 1876, against 17·51 in 1875. Injuries formed 15·8 per cent. in both years; and dysentery 4·63 in 1876, against 5·48 in 1875. Venereal affections fell from 3·90 in 1875 to 2·03 in 1876.

Ratio of deaths to per cent. treated.

446. This table shows the mortality among certain special diseases:—

DISEASES.	Percentage.	
	1875.	1876.
Fevers	8·81	·49
Cholera	80·00	44·73
Rheumatic affections	7·75	·42
Syphilitic do.	9·00	·56
Respiratory diseases	17·24	2·03
Dysentery	29·07	5·48
Diarrhea	34·48	3·79
Skin diseases.. .. .	·92	No deaths.
Injuries	6·78	·91
Other diseases	8·45	·89

The percentage of deaths to total treated varies very considerably from that shewn in last year's administration report, which on examination, appears to have been incorrectly calculated. The information given under this head is, however, not of much real importance, because it is notorious that a very large number of the fatal cases are brought into hospital in a moribund state, and when they are far beyond any medical treatment. The returns for 1876 shew a total of 765 deaths among a total of 70,580 treated, which includes the number "remaining under treatment" on 31st December 1875 and the number admitted in 1876.

447. Eighty-two major and 930 minor operations were performed, with a mortality of only six amongst the former class. No death followed in minor operations. Many of the major operations were of much importance and interest.

Income and expenditure.

448. The total income for the year amounted to £11,725, against £9,450 for 1875, being an increase of £2,275.

Of this sum, £1,884 were received as subscriptions from Europeans, and £315 from Natives, total, £1,699, being about £24 more than was received in 1875. The expenditure amounted to £8,602, or

£1,917 more than in 1875. The total balance remaining at the credit of the seven dispensaries on 31st December 1876 amounts to £3,223. This balance has been arrived at by subtracting the total expenditure from the total income, as shewn in the different cash statements.

449. Hospital Assistants, in most instances, are not sufficiently acquainted with English to render much assistance in clerical work, so that the clerical labour falls on the Medical Officer,

General remarks.

in addition to the legitimate duty of attending to the sick. The want of further subordinate aid in this province is much felt: at present there is only a sufficient number of Hospital Assistants to fill existing sanctioned appointments, and no provision is made for such contingencies as sickness of subordinates, or emergent calls for extra medical assistance in the districts on account of the outbreak of disease. When such arise, they have been met by withdrawing a subordinate generally from the Rangoon General Hospital, much to the inconvenience and detriment of that institution. For the same reason, it has likewise been found necessary to refuse all private leave.

450. Including the hospital opened at Henzada on 14th February 1876, there are now eight lock

lock hospitals.

hospitals in British Burma; of these, five are worked under Act XIV. of 1868, namely, those at Akyab, Henzada, Prome, Bassein and Moulmein; while the remaining three, at Rangoon, Thayetmyo and Toungoo, the only stations garrisoned by European troops, are subject to rules framed under Act XXII. of 1864.

The accommodation at Moulmein and Prome, owing to the badly chosen and objectionable site of the buildings, was insufficient, and measures have been taken for the removal of the hospitals to better and more excluded positions; elsewhere it was ample and suitable for all requirements. The hospital at Bassein was completed during the year, and a new ward was added at Rangoon.

451. The statistical returns for the year were prepared with much more accuracy and uniformity than was previously the case, but the peculiar social

Accuracy of the returns.

conditions and customs of the province throw great obstacles in the way of an efficient enforcement of the law. The special detective agency at Rangoon was apparently insufficient, only 226 women out of 924 reported having been dealt with by the Magistrate. The register was increased, however, by 74 names, and the ratio of prostitutes to population (1 to 214) is probably tolerably near the mark. The attempts at registration made elsewhere were again as inaccurate and unsuccessful in their results as in bygone years, and are in some cases so daringly contradictory of what might be looked for as to be of little practical value. The prevalence of disease amongst the European troops at Rangoon is given as equal to 95·86 of the average strength of the garrison, compared with 11·29 in 1875, at Thayetmyo as 79·20, against 157·95, and at Toungoo as 122·27, against 60·92; but these figures cannot be implicitly accepted, and in the case of Rangoon and Toungoo, comparison with 1875 is impossible, as in the year under notice soldiers who contracted disease

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elsewhere, but were treated for it at these stations, are shown in the returns. At Toungoo, the increase of disease is startling, and would appear to be due largely to the absence of effective military control. The subject has been brought to the notice of the Major-General Commanding the troops in British Burma.

454. Over 90 per cent. of the licensed females in the province are stated to have been regular in their attendance at the periodical inspections.

Statistics of diseases.

This is a slight improvement on 1875, when the ratio was under 87; but the error in the Thayetmyo statistics, repeated from last year, renders both figures somewhat more favourable than the real proportion. At Prome and Toungoo, the examinations were held weekly; at Bassein, Hensada, and Moulmein, fortnightly; while at Akyab, Rangoon, and Thayetmyo no periods are specified. In the previous report the Deputy Surgeon-General mentioned that he had prescribed the rule that inspections should take place every seven days, and Civil Surgeons should distinctly record the number of complete examinations (*i. e.*, including every woman) they have conducted during the year. In each station, except Prome, the disease is represented as of a milder character than last year, and as to have decreased in amount, though there was a larger number of women registered. On the other hand, so far as can be gathered from the returns, there was a considerable increase of venereal cases in both the jail and general dispensaries.

A diminution of venereal disorder among registered women, happening concurrently with additional disease elsewhere, sufficiently proves what little effect can be exercised over the general population by the present partial and accidental system of supervision; and it is likely that the results of the Act would be less meagre and contracted were a little more vigour displayed by the police in the detection, and by the Magistrate in the punishment, of delinquency. The imperfections of the lock hospitals are admittedly very great, and the difficulties of detecting clandestine prostitution seem to increase rather than diminish every year. The women are rich enough to afford bribes, and the subordinate police are not unwilling to receive them; while on the part of the men infected, there is no assistance in securing convictions from their disinclination to disclose the woman from whom disease was contracted. Such as it is, however, the system has done good, and it is capable of other results if Magistrates are prompt in punishing where punishment is due.

453. The total cost of lock hospitals in the country during the period under report was £1,971, as compared with £1,868 in the year 1875.

Financial position.

This year, however, the receipts aggregated £617, or £1,354 in excess of previous contributions, so that the net expenditure was £121, a slight reduction on last year's outlay.

454. The management of the lunatic asylum at Rangoon during the year was satisfactory and, generally speaking, successful. The aggregate number of inmates for the year was 214, or 22 in excess of the number at the same date in the previous year. Of these, 156 were insanes

Lunatic asylum.

remaining from 1875; 58 were new cases (of whom 31 were Burmese, and 35 residents in the Rangoon district). Ten of the patients died; 35 were discharged, either as recovered or as fit subjects to be looked after by their relatives; and there were 169 patients in the asylum on the last day of the year. The proportion of complete to partial cures was 28 to 7, the ratio of the former having increased to 17·17 per cent., as against 15·93 per cent. in 1875. Compared with the average daily strength, the death-rate, 6·13 per cent., is also less than before; but if calculated on the number of admissions into the asylum, neither the number of recoveries nor of deaths is so favourable. The fact that two cases of distinct self destruction occurred, and that a third death happened under circumstances pointing strongly to its being one of suicide, shews the necessity for the closest supervision, and suggests a doubt as to the efficacy of the control exercised by the resident officers. Apart from this, the general management of the asylum was successful. Extra diet was found to be in many cases of more use than narcotics in allaying excitement: there was no resort to violent treatment, and no particular drug was used as a specific. The patients were employed in healthy occupation, such as basket-making, coir-pounding, oil-dressing, and gardening, with good effect; and the buildings, both externally and internally, were kept in the greatest cleanliness and order. The outlay for the year was £1,342, against £1,890 in 1875; and deducting from this £134 as the net profit on the work performed by the insanes, and £34 received as maintenance-money from the relatives of some of them, the average cost per annum amounted to £8 for each patient. The burden of supporting 40 criminal insanes out of the total number of patients for the year fell entirely on Government.

VII—INSTRUCTION.

Education.

455. The work of the Education Department during the year was energetic and prosperous. The field of its operations was largely extended, especially in the direction where extension was most desirable,—that of primary instruction; and there were substantial indications of vitality and growth in every part of the system now fairly established in the province. In the machinery of the department there was but little change. A Government middle-class school was opened at Sandoway; the Anglo-Vernacular cess school at Kyan-gheen was closed and re-placed by a Vernacular cess school at Yea-gheen; two private schools of some importance at Rangoon and Tsanyuay, and the American Baptist Mission girls' school at Prome, were closed; aid was given to two girls' schools in Rangoon; reform introduced in the management of the book depôt; and the control of local competitive examinations placed in the hands of the Central Board of Examiners. A proposal was, it may be added, made for the substitution of another Inspector of Schools for two of the present Deputy Inspectors; and since the close of the year it has received sanction, for the present, as an experiment only. From the results of the various examinations held throughout the year, it is manifest that the Education Department is really exercising a beneficial influence, and that the standard of scholarship in schools brought into connection with it is surely, if slowly, improving. This is especially the case in those of the higher class. Last year for the first time success was obtained in the Calcutta University Entrance examination by two candidates—boys from the high school—wholly educated in Burma. In the high school Entrance scholarship examination, too, a marked improvement over the previous year was observed in the attainments of those who presented themselves; and throughout the country, so far as can be judged from the results of inspection, the efforts made during the past few years to introduce a sounder and more practical course of study are beginning to bear good fruit. Satisfactory, however, as this progress is, it loses much of its importance by comparison with what has yet to be achieved before the province can be considered to have reached a creditable position in regard of education. However admirable the indigenous schools of the country may be, and however wide their influence, the knowledge which they disseminate is admittedly of the most rudimentary character; while higher education, properly so called, can scarcely be said to exist outside the small class not long formed at the Rangoon High School. The latter deficiency, again, is attributed to the low average as yet attained in knowledge of English, which was illustrated last year by the difficulty of finding students capable of being taught law or medicine through that medium; and until middle class education is diffused much more

extensively than at present, the expediency of devoting much attention to any higher studies is more than doubtful.

456. The following is an epitome of the statistical returns:—the number of Government schools increased during the year from 26 to 27, that of missionary schools under supervision decreased from 83 to 82; and the number of inspected schools of all classes was 1,251, against 1,147 in the previous year,—an increase of 104.

457. These schools were attended by, altogether, 47,787 pupils, or 1·64 per cent. of the population, which was an increase of 9,840 scholars, or ·08 of the population. This is especially gratifying, because in 1875-76 the entertainment of three additional Deputy Inspectors was not followed by any corresponding activity of inspection; and the wisdom of the measure, which then appeared open to doubt, is vindicated by the above figures. The expenditure of 1876-77 exceeded that of the previous year by £4,708, or a little over 10s. for each additional pupil brought under Government superintendence,—not an excessive cost, considering that, on an average of the whole, the cost of each pupil educated was somewhat over 18s. In Government and missionary schools, the increase in the number of pupils was 40 and 554 respectively; while in other inspected schools it was 8,748. In every class of schools the average number of pupils in each increased,—in Government schools, 1·4, in missionary schools, 17·8, and in other (i.e., indigenous) schools, 6·9. The continued growth of missionary schools may be accounted for, at least in part, by the large additional aid afforded them by Government. In indigenous schools, where, as a rule, no registers are kept up, the number of scholars is probably not very exactly ascertained; but if there is no reason to doubt of the general correctness of the estimates recorded, the conclusion to which they lead is that the difficulties of Government interference with these lay and monastic institutions are gradually being overcome, and that the indigenous schools under Government supervision are growing in popularity.

458. The gross expenditure during the year in connection with the department was £48,487, of which £81,456 was borne by Government, and the remaining £12,031 collected from other sources. Government schools provided education for 2,237 pupils, and 45,550 more were at schools more or less under its control. The average cost of each of these scholars was a little over eighteen shillings, or about two shillings less than last year. Expenditure has continued to increase largely, although the increment of 1876-77 (£2,447, or, including expenditure from private sources, £4,708) is somewhat less than that of 1875-76, which was £3,798 (or, including expenditure from private sources, £5,540), and notwithstanding retrenchments under the head of female education of £298, under that of building grants-in-aid of £866, and under that of miscellaneous of £488. Nor can it be said that the increased expenditure was altogether well directed, for at least one-half of it was devoted to fostering non-indigenous schools whose utility is confined within a comparatively narrow area.

459. The indigenous schools of the province are under the supervision of nine Deputy Inspectors, most of whom have more than one district in their charge.

Indigenous schools.

Some few schools receive aid in the form of trained assistant masters; and the aid given in all others is that of rewards to pupils and teachers for merit ascertained by examination of the former. Although this system has not been many years in force, it would appear to have already exercised a beneficial influence, for the number of pupils qualified for prizes is so much greater than in former years that it has been found desirable to raise the standards originally laid down. The total number of schools inspected was 1,246, and in these there were 41,917 pupils. In the previous year, the corresponding figures were 1,142 and 38,090 respectively. This extended area of inspection is perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the year under review.

460. The number of pupils who gained prizes increased from 8,851 to 4,527, and that, too, notwithstanding that the examinations appear to have been everywhere more stringent than formerly. The Deputy Inspectors have, in fact, found it impossible, with the funds at their disposal, to distribute rewards according to the strict letter of the standards now in force. A detailed comparison of the results of examinations in 1876-77 and the previous year is therefore less favourable to the former than it really should be. Even apart from this, however, the figures go to confirm the conclusion that the instruction given in indigenous schools is improving in quality; and if this improvement can be confirmed by the introduction of a thorough and systematic grounding in the rudimentary instruction of primary schools, though there may be not much to shew at first, the results will be eminently for the benefit of the people, and the later labours of the department will be comparatively light.

Results of inspection.

The following is a statement of the prizes awarded :—

STANDARD OF QUALIFICATION.	NUMBER OF PUPILS QUALIFIED FOR REWARD IN					
	Burmese.		Pali.		Arithmetic.	
	1876-76.	1876-77.	1876-76.	1876-77.	1876-76.	1876-77.
I. ...	1,384	1,307	165	408	518	500
II. ...	966	1,061	55	222	270	358
III. ...	462	566	29	184	186	234
IV. ...	189	175	5	22	45	60
V. ...	37	36	2	6	16	15

The proportion of pupils who earned rewards, out of the whole number examined, varied much in different districts. In Bassein one in every 4.5, and in Amherst only one in every 21.2, was successful. The difference may have been to some extent due to the idiosyncrasies

of examiners; but it seems pretty certain that it was largely the result of actual difference in the state of the education in various parts of the country. In the Amherst district, for instance, where most of the monks are Talines, it is reported that, so far from teaching arithmetic, or even Burmese, or their own language, their only function is that "of occupying the exceptionally luxurious monasteries which the Talines found." In the absence of any symptoms of better courses, such institutions do not deserve the recognition of Government. The number of pupils who passed the examination in Pali successfully has, it is observable, largely increased. Remark was made last year on the small value to be attached to the study of this subject as usually carried out. As the classical language of the country, and one to the acquisition of which much importance is attached by the monastic orders, there can be no objection to its study on a rational system of teaching. But its maintenance in the programme of Government schools can only be justified where the desire to learn the language is strongly marked, and the means of intelligent teaching are adequate. It is understood that a beginning in this direction has already been made in the high school.

461. The number of indigenous schools aided by assistant masters remained 26, the same as in the two preceding years; and the dearth of competent men is still assigned as the reason why no progress has been made. This is much to be regretted, for the schools to which they have been supplied seem to be in a very flourishing state, having an average attendance of about 60 pupils, or nearly double that of the monastic and Government cess schools. It is impossible to suggest any scheme which will at once meet the difficulty complained of; but it cannot be insuperable, and will gradually yield to the efforts being made with the normal classes. The small number of monasteries that have accepted aid in this form is attributed to the fact that priests are unwilling to receive as assistants other persons than their own former pupils, lest their influence should be weakened by the division of authority. This objection is only natural, and must be met by inducing promising monastery pupils to go through the normal course, and then return as assistants to their former masters. The popularity and usefulness of a school depend, and must depend, largely on the reputation of its principal master, apart from his ability to teach. Prejudices of the people in this respect cannot be successfully combated, but must be yielded to and taken advantage of.

462. The number of Government cess schools, Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular, was 15, as in the previous year. The attendance at them decreased, however, by 127 pupils,—from 623 to 496. The average attendance at each was but 33. The usefulness of this class of schools appears to vary much in different places, some few doing really good work, while others are ill-attended and utterly unsuccessful. In all but three, English was taught more or less, and in many there were girls among the pupils. On the whole, the results which they have to shew are not satisfactory; and the conclusion is unavoidable that there must be some radical

Indigenous schools aided by assistant masters.

remained 26, the same as in the two preceding years; and the dearth of competent men is still assigned as the reason why no

error, either in the principle on which they were founded, or in the plan on which they are managed. Possibly, in many instances, the failure may be rightly traced to the fact that the teachers were all young men in whom parents had no confidence. Whatever be the cause, the fact is undeniable that these schools, as a whole, were not in a flourishing condition; and this is the more strikingly apparent when they are compared with those of the indigenous class which were aided by assistant teachers. In the matter of cost, such a comparison is still more unfavourable. Twenty-six schools of the latter class, with, as a rule, large attendances—how large is not very apparent from the report—cost the State £629 only; while £2,100 was expended on the cess schools. It is true that the standard of teaching is higher in the cess schools; but it is a question whether this very fact does not militate against their efficiency, on the whole, for the teaching of English, in itself imperfectly carried out, generally absorbs more than its fair share of attention. However this may be, the necessity for a reform is undeniable, and has been fully recognized. The question is at the present time under consideration.

468. The number of Middle class schools remained at 17, the same as in the previous year, one private school of this grade in the Hensada district having been closed, and a new Government school opened at Sandoway. A second private school of some note was closed late in the year, but appears in the returns. The following is a summary of the statistical information under this head:—

Class of school.	Number.		Number of pupils.		Average daily attendance.		Total cost.		Average cost of each pupil.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Govt. schools ...	1	8	505	669	478	539	3,287	4,488	6-16-0	6-12-0
Aided do. ...	10	9	1,148	1,355	786	1,152	3,486	3,753	4-8-0	2-16-0

Of the Government schools, two, those at Promé and Bassein, seem to be working well. Both shewed satisfactory results in the large number of pupils in regular attendance, and in the order and discipline which prevailed. Of the remaining six, the best that could be said is that they were in general improving. The scant progress hitherto made is attributed chiefly to the great difficulty, already referred to, of obtaining a competent teaching staff. The concession of better remuneration to masters, and the establishment of a system of normal training, may be expected in time to bear good fruit.

All but one now closed of the aided schools were missionary institutions. They have the inestimable advantage of thoroughly zealous teaching, and, while their management is admirably efficient, its cost

is light. The comparative prosperity of these schools is therefore not surprising. They were, with scarcely an exception, so highly commended in the report that it is not easy to select any for special praise, although St. Paul's at Rangoon surpassed all others in the number of its pupils. The whole average cost of each pupil was everywhere small, and only one-third of it fell on Government, so that, as far as they go, mission schools are one of the most valuable agencies of the department. This is especially the case in regard of the provision they afford for the education of Eurasians,—a question which might, under some circumstances, present considerable difficulty.

464. Six schools are enumerated of the Higher class—three under direct Government management, at Rangoon, Moulmein, and Akyab, and three, namely, the town school at Moulmein and the Diocesan and St. John's at Rangoon—receiving Government aid. This classification is somewhat arbitrary, and has reference rather to what the schools are designed eventually to become than what they actually are. It is therefore satisfactory to learn that the Government schools at all events are steadily rising above the middle class level, and assuming the position which was contemplated in the revision of their status. The high school at Rangoon is the only one at present which really deserves the title. The small higher department class, formed in February 1876, increased during the year; and the fact that two of its number passed the Calcutta University matriculation examination shews that real progress has been made. It has had difficulties to contend with, as no masters have yet been appointed to the higher department, the work of which has been done by the existing staff of the school—itsself weakened from sickness and other causes. There is therefore some ground for the complaint that a strong reinforcement of teachers is urgently wanted. The subject has received attention, and recently application has been made for five additional teachers to be sent out from England. The increase of the boarding department, which continues to be self-supporting, is a favourable feature in the report of the school. The Diocesan School, notwithstanding the liberal subsidy given by Government, failed to retrieve its position. When examined by the Director in December 1876, it was in a very unsatisfactory state; the teaching was found to be defective, and the management of the institution was not such as to attract pupils. Serious financial embarrassment had also arisen, and the Director reported that, in his opinion, Government was not receiving any adequate return for its expenditure. An effort was made to solve these difficulties by an additional grant for an Assistant Master, but without success, for, since the report was written, the school had closed. That there is work for such a school to do in Rangoon is beyond question, and should it be re-opened, as is expected, there seems little reason to doubt that, under good direction, it will regain its former status. The results of the Director's examination of St. John's S. P. G. School seem on the whole to have been favourable, although they disclose even less reason for the denomination "Higher Class" than exists in the case of other schools to which it is applied. It would be satisfactory to learn that candidates from this school competed in the next

examination for scholarships. The most remarkable feature in the school is the large number of its pupils, and no doubt to the able management of the Principal, who, from the agency and material at his disposal, should be foremost in affording an opportunity of testing the relative merits of the pupils under his tuition. The utility of the normal class attached to the Rangoon High School has already been referred to. It consists at present of some 26 students, which is perhaps as many as can be conveniently instructed there. The benefits to be realized from their training must in the nature of things be of slow growth; but the fact that teachers in Burmese cannot be imported from outside, and that the agency available in the country must be found and improved, demands persistence in the efforts now successfully commenced. The failure of the Medical Class was noticed last year. The lack of interest shewn in the science, and the paucity of students, was rightly explained by the late lecturer. The fact is, that mere knowledge of English, such as is sufficient to enable a learner to understand lectures in that language, commands a far higher rate of remuneration than could be got by any knowledge of medicine short of the standard required for a diploma. In time, when students from the high schools have succeeded in sufficient numbers in passing the First Arts examination at the Calcutta University, some may be found willing to qualify for the medical profession in the Medical College at that presidency.

465. There were 22 girls' schools under the supervision of the department. Of these, only one—the Vernacula school at Rangoon—was a Government institution. The remainder were aided, seven being classed as English, and the other 14 as Vernacular. The number of pupils attending them increased from 3,528 to 4,328, or more than 22 per cent. In indigenous schools, where the attendance was mixed, the number of girls who qualified for prizes was 581, against 437 in the previous year. The English schools were devoted almost entirely to the training of European and Eurasian girls. By far the largest and most important of them was the St. John's Convent and Orphanage, with an average daily attendance of 262. The school was reported to be kept in admirable order in every respect. The other schools of this class for the most part worked well, with the exception of the "Eurasian Home," which had not attained a very high state of efficiency. The present mistress of that institution had, however, scarcely had time to effect much, having been only appointed in May 1876, but during her incumbency some progress was made. The report on the Government school was the least satisfactory. The advanced age of the head mistress had for some time impaired her energy, and lax supervision was not adequately compensated by her personal scholarship or reputation. Since the report was written, she has retired from Government service, and, with a change in the management, an improvement will no doubt take place. The school continued to be well attended, and in fact, during the year under review, its attendance nearly doubled, notwithstanding the drawbacks now referred to. The aided schools were for the most part very favourably reported on. It is evident that, with some

encouragement, female education is capable of very wide extension in the province. A desire for it already exists among the people, who appear satisfied, fortunately, to learn through the medium of their own language, so that a sound course of instruction need not be interfered with by strained efforts to teach English.

466. Under the head of special schools come some seven, aided by Government, but under the direct management of the American Baptist Mission, in which the pupils are Karens and the language in use Karen. During the year under report, it is satisfactory to find that there was a growing recognition of the inexpediency, long ago pointed out, of confining the education given to the Karen language, which is not, and never can be, the vernacular of the country. Progress was made, particularly at Bassein and Henzada, in this respect. The backwardness in Burmese noticed at Toungeon may be perhaps partly due to the fact that Karens and Burmese are more widely separated, geographically, than elsewhere,—a cause beyond the Superintendent's control: but the necessity of insisting on the study of Burmese becomes all the greater on that account. At Henzada, efforts are being made to improve the primary village schools,—an excellent example which it is to be hoped will be followed elsewhere. Hitherto, higher education has received far too exclusive attention in the schools of this mission. As regards all these special schools, the constant labours of the American Baptist missionaries throughout the province in the education of the Karen population are deserving of favourable recognition. It is by their efforts alone that education has reached these naturally timid tribes, and brought them under the benefits of civilising influences.

467. The operations of the Government Book Depôt were more extended in 1876-77 than in the previous year, the net proceeds of sales having risen from £659 to £902, while £1,697 was spent during the year on purchases and publication. For the further improvement of the institution, it is proposed to make some budget provision to meet commission and other charges, so that books may be sold at cost price; to remove as far as possible the restrictions which limit the market whence it may obtain supplies; and to make a slight increase of office establishment. The distribution of books at a low cost is, in the present circumstances of Burma, as useful a measure for the promotion of education as can be devised; and the provision of funds to meet commission charges for this end is expedient.

468. The balance sheet of the *Education Gazette* for the year does not display financial success, but it may reasonably be anticipated that late improvements in means of communication will add to the circulation of the periodical: it will at all events have a further trial.

469. The district committees continued to exercise that control and vigilance over schools, annual examinations, and inspecting agency within their respective jurisdictions without which a number of departmental orders would have remained dead letters. The

Girls' schools.

Special schools.

Government Book Depôt.

"Education Gazette."

District committees of public instruction.

relieved during the year by the Central Board of Examiners of responsibility of framing questions for, and determining the de of district prizes and vernacular scholarships, but did not to regulate the conduct of these examinations. Amongst those b took special interest in, and made valuable suggestions on, such ers, should be mentioned the committees of Akyab, Bassein, 1e, and Toungoo.

Literature, Science, Art, and Press.

0. The number of books published during 1876 was 69, or 19 more than in the previous year. Of these,

Books published.

16 were in English, 42 in the Vernacular, and 11 in more than one language. Nine educational and 60 non-educational in charac r. There were iginal works and one translation published during the year,—for irst time the corresponding numbers having been 29 and one in ; and re-publications numbered 16, against 20 in 1875. The al works published consisted, with one or two exceptions, of ts, tracts, and books on religious subjects published by the Ameri- 3aptist missionaries,—none of much importance. The re-pub- ous comprised religious, dramatical, and miscellaneous works in Burmese and Karen languages. The most valuable of them was Damathat, or Laws of Menu."

1. The Vernacular Literature Committee has continued to render good service in the selection of text-books and other educational works for schools.

A list of Burmese and Pali manuscripts ue, accessible in the monasteries and elsewhere throughout the nce, had been prepared during the preceding year by Inspectors of ols, and was submitted for their revision and approval. The ed manuscripts it is proposed to purchase or copy, and the library formed will be deposited in the Phayre Museum. During the an edition of the first part of the *Mahouhatalat* and of a ce of Translation Exercises was issued, and some 10 other works under preparation. The Committee had under their consideration posal made by Mrs. Mason to hand over, for the use of the Ban- High School, the whole of the Pali manuscripts and books belong- to the late Dr. Mason. Their value was found to be considerable, t was decided that they should be accepted, but that an adequate ipense ought to be given notwithstanding that they were offered reegit. The recommendation of the Committee has been carried nce the close of the year. The books and manuscripts are y the result of Dr. Mason's own literary labours.

2. The Rangoon Literary Society has now been established 20 years. It has 120 subscribers,—a larger numb r than in any previous year, and its income was £274, apart from the annual from Government of £80. It is thus, of course, in a better po- than ever for carrying out its design of affording facilities for

mental culture. During the year, considerable improvement was effected in the society's premises, new books and periodicals have been added to its stock, and a sum of £40 was set aside for fresh purchases. Lectures and debates remained in abeyance.

473. In a country whose material development is in a backward condition, the repression of crime, the improvement of internal administration, the construction of public works, and

Science and art.

other duties of an equally urgent charac r tax the energy and resources of the Government so heavily that but little of either remains to be devoted to objects of lighter import. Even the department spec- ially charged with the care of all that pertains to education in this province finds sufficient occupation in providing for such elementary wants as those of schools and books, and has but little opportunity of effecting anything within the domain of science and art. The subject is indeed only mentioned in this, its appropriate place, to shew that at least it has not been wholly lost sight of, and that if there is no pro- gress to report, it is not because the importance of the question has been under-rated.

474. There were two Government presses in the province,—one attached to the Secretariat, the other to the Rangoon Central Jail; and 13 private presses,—one in Akyab, nine in Rangoon,

Press.

one in Bassein, and two in Moulmein. Thirteen news papers were published, of which two were issued daily, one thrice, three twice, and six once a week, and one monthly,—the last named being a regimental paper issued by the 67th Regiment stationed at 'Thayetmyo. There were also various advertising sheets; and four monthly magazines were published by the Baptist Mission and other religious bodies in English, Burmese, and Karen.

VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

475. There is no fresh information on the subject of archæology to be recorded.

IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical.

476. There are eight churches of the Anglican communion in the province, *vis.*, two at Rangoon (Town and Cantonment), one at Moulmein, and one at Toungoo, each provided with a chaplain of the Bengal establishment; one at Thayetmyo, under the ministrations of a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, but since the close of the year a chaplain has been appointed to it; one at Akyab, with a clergyman of the Additional Clergy Society; one at Kyouk-hpyoo, which is visited by the latter periodically; and one at Bassein, which is occasionally visited by the Rangoon Cantonment or Town Chaplain. In addition, another missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel visits the stations on the Irrawaddy between Rangoon and Thayetmyo quarterly. The minister of Akyab further visits Sandoway, Toungoo, and An occasionally, and proceeds to Chittagong several times during the year: the clergyman of Toungoo visits Shwe-gyeen periodically: and Tavoy and Mergui are visited annually by the chaplain of Moulmein.

477. There is a Presbyterian church in Rangoon, with a congregation numbering 150 persons. The minister receives a monthly allowance from the Government in consideration of his services to some of the European troops.

478. The Roman Catholic clergymen at military stations also receive allowances from the Government; and the Right Rev. Bishop Bigandet, who presides over the Roman Catholic churches in Pegu and Tenasserim, is paid a monthly stipend of £90 for the compilation of certain ecclesiastical returns. The Roman Catholics have 49 churches and 29 priests in the various towns and districts of the province, and missions to the Karens and other hill-people. Their congregations aggregate 13,541 persons. Their annual receipts from Government amount to £600.

479. Protestant dissenters have 277 institutions, 275 ministers and teachers, and congregations numbering, it is stated, 37,493 persons. The principal churches are those of the American Baptist Society, whose missionaries have been very successful in converting to christianity the Karens in Pegu and Tenasserim, where there are many congregations presided over by pastors and teachers of their own race.

480. There is an Armenian church in Rangoon, with one minister and a congregation of about 200 members of that community.

481. Throughout the province, the Hindoo places of worship number 33, and the Mahomedan 241, the number of worshippers being 9,618 and 102,265 respectively. Buddhism is the religion of the indigeneous population, and its pagodas, shrines, and *kyoungs* are estimated to number 6,827, with 9,539 hpoongyees and 2,069,841 followers.

482. Under section 6 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act (XV. of 1872), licenses were granted to the Revds. A. Estabrook and H. W. Hale, duly recognized ministers of the Baptist church, to solemnize marriages within the province of British Burma, according to the usage of that church; and, under section 9, a total of 16 persons have been authorized to grant certificates of marriages between Native Christians.

Stationery.

483. No alterations have been made in the arrangements for the supply of stationery required by the province, particulars of which were given at page 161 of the Administration Report for 1873-74.

Part III.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

I.—STATISTICS OF PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND FISCAL GEOGRAPHY.

A.—PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE TERRITORIES UNDER THE CIVIL AND POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRITISH BURMA.

A.1.—Area cultivated and uncultivated, and communications.

Division.	PRINCIPAL GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY.	TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES.			UNAPPROPRIATED CULTURABLE WASTE IN ACRES.			COMMUNICATIONS—MILEAGE OF			REMARKS.	
		Cultivated.	Waste.		TOTAL.	Remaining last year.	Sold or granted during the year.	Remaining at the close of the year.	Water, disengaging navigable rivers and canals.	Trade roads, ist. and, and bridges.		Railroads.
			Culturable.	Unculturable.								
ARAKAN.	<i>British Possessions.</i>											
	Akyab ...	545	689	3,903	5,397	552,170	2,240	566,720	1,500	37	...	
	Northern Arakan ...	9	311	639	1,973	190,040	...	199,040	240	...	...
	Kyauk-hpyoo ...	165	404	3,740	3,909	253,415	304	257,821	694	128	...	
	Sandoway ...	67	68	...	3,667	43,257	...	43,257	130	124	...	
	Total ...	786	1,674	13,088	14,633	1,069,873	2,884	1,066,698	2,764	302½	...	
Pegu.	Bangona (dist. & town)	1,103	4,059	639	5,801	3,920,497	682	2,940,985	402	103 5 — 230	68 miles.	
	Thonkwa ...	318	2,290	2,628	5,440	1,467,987	3,847	1,464,140	1,400	34	...	
	Bassain ...	574	4,986	1,100	6,517	3,575,148	5,548	3,569,600	387	...	...
	Hmada ...	481	2,688	787	4,047	1,780,389	9,246	1,790,454	301	111*	66 miles.	
	Prome ...	287	646	1,964	2,867	413,304	1,735	413,569	40	153	36½ do.	
	Thayadyiyo ...	156	1,085	1,153	2,367	702,984	836	702,549	155	30 — 327	...	
	Total ...	2,869	15,698	8,417	26,979	11,843,179	21,939	11,621,946	2,765	681	170½ miles.	
TANAS-SERIM.	Amherst ...	464	4,610	9,929	15,903	3,060,278	1,739	3,072,549	500	68	...	
	Tavoy ...	115	2,543	3,542	7,200	2,972,468	631	2,971,907	140	20	...	
	Mergui ...	73	1,009	4,734	7,810	1,923,286	160	1,923,126	178	79½	...	
	Shwe-gyeeh ...	174	2,579	1,213	4,565	2,312,972	1,352	2,311,620	260	...	...
	Toungoo ...	63	8,222	8,023	6,354	2,072,229	1,041	2,072,161	600	...	...
	Salween ...	23	3,115	1,509	4,645	1,965,787	...	1,965,787	330	...	...
	Total ...	911	21,298	34,979	64,778	12,607,968	4,743	12,603,240	1,816	300	...	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	4,566	38,653	45,064	68,298	26,570,894	29,510	26,541,324	7,267	1,008	170½	

NOTE.—The area noted for the Hill Tracts is that portion within which order and regularity have to be maintained. The area of the Akyab district does not include that of the Hills; and the country beyond the fixed northern boundary of the Hill Tracts district, etc., 4,000 square miles, is thus excluded.

* Sixty miles running through Tharrawaddie has been appropriated by the Railway. † 4th class 60. ; 2d class.

A.2.—Character of the surface.

For details of this table, see Part III. of the "British Burma Administration Report for 1873-74," pages iv. to xvii.]

A.3.—Climate for 1876.

Places at which observations were taken, and year for which taken.	RAIN-FALL IN INCHES.				AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN THE SHADE.										CLOUD PROPORTION 0 to 10.								
	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	Total.	May.				July.				December.				January to May.	June to September.	October to December.				
					Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.	Mean of maximum readings.	Mean of minimum readings.	Highest readings.	Lowest readings.							
Year 1876.																							
Akyab	6.57	148.88	11.81	163.20	86.0	77.0	95.0	69.0	84.0	75.0	89.0	73.0	81.0	57.0	86.0	57.0	Not known						
Northern Arakan*	4.25	109.25	6.80	120.35	85.30	68.20	93.0	75.0	88.0	83.00	66.0	83.0	79.50	60.50	87.50	60.5	No observations are kept in this office of cloud proportion.						
Kyauk-hpyoo	12.80	148.00	19.20	181.																			
Sandoway	14.70	155.86	13.92	184.48	86.0	78.0	90.0	77.0	79.0	76.0	89.0	73.0	74.0	66.0	77.0	63.0							
Rangoon	15.25	69.68	9.19	97.68	No information available.				83.0	74.0	88.0	76.0	84.0	62.0	66.0	51.0							
Thonkwa†																							
Bassah	11.30	88.49	10.10	103.63	90.0	75.0	94.0	72.0	85.0	76.0	91.0	73.0	83.0	60.0	85.0	69.0							
Henzada	9.08	89.40	9.20	78.30	85.50	78.30	90.0	75.0	81.30	70.30	87.0	73.0	83.40	69.10	85.0	61.0							
Prase	5.90	87.18	5.85	48.41	89.20	82.70	100.0	75.0	84.40	78.30	87.0	73.0	82.10	62.40	88.0	60.0							
Thayetmyo	8.99	86.10	6.70	38.79	86.40	82.69	105.0	75.0	87.19	78.37	90.0	76.0	88.90	59.77	86.0	59.0							
Moulmein	31.15	184.17	5.68	190.0	88.54	75.03	94.0	73.0	84.83	75.0	87.00	73.0	89.09	64.48	68.0	56.50	Jan'y. 0	Feb'y. 2	March 4	April & May 10	Oct. 10	Nov. 10	Dec. 0
Tavoy	41.12	165.15	15.93	221.33	81.00	76.40	89.30	72.70	76.05	73.0	84.40	71.50	84.80	64.40	86.0	55.30							
Mergui	44.96	113.05	16.05	175.04	80.30	78.50	82.0	77.0	80.70	80.30	90.0	78.0	83.30	73.10	89.0	66.50							
Shwe-gyeen	17.60	123.10	7.20	146.90	87.0	78.0	90.0	75.0	87.0	79.0	87.0	75.0	80.0	59.0	88.0	55.0							
Toungoo	7.94	68.21	6.63	69.78	89.10		93.40		83.0		87.0		85.40		93.0	88.0							
PhaPoon†	9.0	86.0	4.0	99.0	82.0	76.0	96.0	73.0	79.0	74.0	82.0	73.0	80.0	57.0	86.0	54.0							
General average	16.12	103.06	9.71	128.93	87.30	76.97	94.27	76.05	82.63	75.03	84.13	73.92	82.38	62.13	84.60	60.42							

* The Superintendent has intimated that there being no scientific instruments, the Medical Officer is unable to supply the wanting information.
 † For the want of instruments no observations were taken. ‡ The cloud proportions were not registered during the year 1876.

B.—POLITICAL RELATIONS.

1.—Native States—None.

2.—Native Chiefs and principal Male Members of their Families.

Name of individual and State, and family to which he belongs.	Present position.	Caste or race and religion.	Age.	How educated.	How employed.	Has surname authorizing adoption or not.	Family follow primogeniture or not.	Has male heirs or not.	REMARKS.
ARAKAN DIVISION.—Nil.									
Pegu DIVISION.—Nil.									
TENASSERIM DIVISION.									
Khoontee, Western Karennee, of the Kyatphogyee family	Chief	Karennee—Heathen	53	Nil		None	Primogeniture	Yes.	
Moung Gyaw, Geiko Territory	Do.	Geiko — Ditto	40	Do.		Do.	Do.	Do.	
Tsawlaplawgyee, Eastern Karennee	Do.	Yinhalay — Ditto	42	Do.		Do.	Do.	Do.	

In governing their territories.

The Chief Authority in the province of British Burma is the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, established under Foreign Department (Political) resolution No. 212, dated 31st January 1902. The Chief Commissioner is assisted by a Secretary, a Junior Secretary, and an Assistant to the Secretary, three Commissioners of Revenue and Circuit, 14 Deputy Commissioners, one Superintendent of Hill Tracts, and 21 Assistant Commissioners, four Collectors of Sea Customs, a Director of Public Instruction, an Inspector of Schools, an Inspector-General of Police, an Inspector-General of Prisons, who is also Sanitary Commissioner and Superintendent of Vaccination, a Conservator of Forests, and (experimentally) an Additional Conservator. The usual staff of officers in the Public Works Department is also attached to the province. The Chief Commissioner exercises the powers of a Local Government under the law when such powers have been specially delegated to him by the Governor-General in Council; in all other respects, Political and Fiscal, he is the Chief Executive of the Local Government, and under the Government of India. The Judicial Officers are the Judicial Commissioner, the Recorder of Rangoon, the Judge of the Town of Moulmein, the Judges of the Small Cause Courts, Rangoon, three Town Magistrates, and one Assistant Town Magistrate.

The following is a statement of the area, population, revenue, &c., of the different Commissionerships, Deputy Commissionerships, and revenue sub-divisions of the territory:—

Division.	Name of executive district.	Number of judicial and revenue sub-divisions.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Chief towns with population.	Number of villages.	How many Civil and Revenue Judges of all sorts.	How many Magistrates of all sorts.	Maximum distance in miles of villages from nearest court.	Average of ditto.	Number of police.	Total cost of officials of all kinds.	REVENUE.	
													Land.	Gross.
ARAKAN	Akyab ...	9	5,337	264,119	{ Akyab ... 18,398 Myohoung ... 3,200 }	1,260	11	11	40 25'	451	8,90,498	5,87,993	19,63,431	
	Northern Arakan	1	1,213	12,615	{ Palukwa ... 312 Myouktoung ... 400 }	300	2	2	70 30'	257	21,856	2,995	5,11,177	
	Kyook-hpyoo ...	5	4,309	149,035	{ Kyook-hpyoo ... 2,820 Ramree ... 4,023 An ... 1,634 Cbednba ... 1,400 Myaiboung ... 1,230 }	963	6	6	48 0'0"	397	82,939	1,42,502	4,34,545	
	Sandoway ...	8	3,667	64,031	{ Toungoo ... 1,440 Sandoway ... 1,432 Khwa ... 1,007 }	407	4	4	184 24'	225	1,00,848	55,321	1,26,177	

PROV.	Rangoon town ...	2	45	83,323	.....	84	2	2	5	.....	245	28,570	9,798	6,74,223
	" district	6	5,646	261,392	.....	1,257	10	10	44	28	225	5,85,591	12,65,438	22,39,129
	Thonkwa ...	6	5,440	202,034	{ Yandou ... 6,906 Panbana ... 5,700 }	769	8	8	48	28	200	1,40,555	2,74,871	10,67,526
	Bassein ...	8	6,517	302,858	Bassein ... 22,417	1,455	11	11	76	34	480	2,55,505	4,26,370	16,86,466
	Honsada ...	13	4,047	501,213	{ Myanong ... 5,823 Honsada ... 16,429 Kyangheen ... 6,751 Zaloon ... 4,784 }	2,450	1	14	28	20	578	2,65,309	5,73,588	12,96,622
	Prome ...	17	2,887	272,996	{ Prome ... 25,024 Shwe-doung ... 12,428 Poungday ... 5,212 }	1,606	9	9	30	20	461	2,25,700	2,21,029	6,45,263
	Thayetmyo ...	5	2,397	147,228	{ Thayetmyo ... 10,437 Allazmyo ... 7,603 }	859	8	7	60	28	833	2,51,728	69,620	2,17,795
	Amherst ...	19	15,203	274,795	Moulmein ... 51,207	744	17	19	40	9	851	1,79,799	6,52,227	15,12,764
	Tavoy ...	4	7,300	77,965	Tavoy ... 15,120	265	5	3	68	10	181	73,177	95,121	2,21,462
	Mergui ...	5	7,810	51,945	Mergui ... 10,721	201	7	7	60	32	211	75,523	69,409	1,22,037
TENASSERIM.	Shwe-gyeen ...	7	5,585	126,281	{ Shwe-gyeen ... 7,238 Kyeikhto ... 2,670 Sithoung ... 1,087 Beeling ... 2,134 Kyook-kyee ... 1,643 }	562	8	8	30	12	363	1,10,112	1,05,093	2,51,217
	Toungoo ...	8	6,354	84,408	Toungoo ... 12,087	661	10	13	40	10	265	68,076	24,292	2,17,294
	Salween ...	1	4,546	25,769	Phapoon ... 948	258	2	2	60	25	241	64,342	2,615	24,214
	GRAND TOTAL ...	119	66,283	2,942,605	GRAND TOTAL ... 277,088	14,741	134	137	194	65	6,805	27,40,231	45,66,199	1,59,23,216

DISTRICT.	UNHABITED HOUSES.			POPULATION.					Number per square mile.
	Number of masonry dwellings.	Number of all other kinds.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children under 15 years of age.		Total.	
						Male.	Female.		
Kyab	54	62,084	62,068	167,800	67,880	42,415	46,485	284,119	53
Northern Arakan	...	3,147	3,147	6,323	3,700	3,361	2,498	12,815	10
Jyauk-kyoo	1	28,983	28,984	52,770	22,226	22,276	21,663	143,035	34
Sadoway	1	11,323	11,323	17,723	9,514	9,983	16,779	54,031	14
Total	56	105,516	105,572	181,787	104,878	77,985	87,420	500,000	34
Langoon town	670	12,526	13,206	22,103	20,224	18,879	16,106	83,322	18
district	...	61,785	61,785	92,015	60,743	61,941	57,394	281,992	66
Bonkwa	5	39,789	39,794	67,880	61,457	37,416	26,273	202,034	37
Uasin	40	32,401	32,444	112,043	103,155	45,099	38,561	302,858	43
Uasin	8	90,230	90,238	1,52,744	154,960	67,585	95,992	501,213	121
Uasin	180	60,402	60,583	69,707	65,119	44,468	61,704	272,998	95
Hayekyo	20	33,560	33,608	42,210	42,220	25,983	22,707	147,228	61
Total	945	274,512	274,487	502,723	506,977	333,571	307,589	1,791,645	66
Uasin town	206	5,990	6,206	20,000	19,990	8,786	8,225	51,607	4,014
Uasin district	...	40,274	40,274	62,120	51,851	67,908	55,980	228,186	14
Uasin	1	13,677	13,678	22,222	24,000	17,263	15,362	77,866	10
Uasin	2	9,508	9,505	14,980	14,967	11,767	11,012	51,846	6
Uasin	1	27,211	27,213	23,928	24,228	24,523	20,497	126,231	24
Uasin	21	20,944	20,925	22,117	19,798	22,428	19,650	64,405	13
Uasin	...	6,208	6,208	6,767	6,771	6,322	5,680	26,780	6
Total	231	124,577	124,608	173,206	164,503	139,647	126,504	650,990	13
TOTAL	1,293	500,605	501,697	953,801	874,355	570,953	600,490	2,942,605	33

POPULATION.

CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION.								OCCUPATION.		Prevailing languages.	Emigration or Immigration during the year.	Remarks.
Christians.			Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Karenas, Shans, Pareses, Jews, &c.	Buddhists and Jains.	Abyssinians.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.			
Europeans.	East Indians & other mixed classes.	Natives.										
128	150	29	1,468	57,789	...	207,183	17,381	125,292	70,017	Burmese, Arakanese, Hindoostani, and Bengali.	E. 2,165 I. 2,571	
4	...	1	2	1	...	1,473	11,325	7,061	5,754		E. 72 I. 292	
7	25	...	187	3,920	...	134,644	10,972	51,270	73,620		E. 1,740 I. 1,435	
6	10	...	48	1,908	...	47,645	4,413	32,253	3,778		E. 1,240 I. 796	
140	125	30	1,720	63,588	...	300,926	43,401	195,786	171,375		E. 5,217 I. 5,004	
681	2,067	1,125	9,173	8,349	767	60,370	...	304	83,018		E. 408 I. 688	
10	13	...	273	2,373	...	227,127	52,187	37,931	244,061		E. 6,262 I. 8,121	
8	3	...	78	626	...	201,519	...	18,381	163,633		E. 7,303 I. 14,583	
115	128	17,800	1,444	2,022	19	279,793	925	25,937	276,221	Burmese.	E. 3,168 I. 2,476	
48	122	4,122	1,042	1,129	80	486,732	7,987	70,904	430,908		E. 6,420 I. 7,718	
45	44	334	945	1,217	4	270,400	...	32,926	240,072		E. 4,906 I. 6,107	
11	40	...	575	918	5	130,630	15,080	14,030	112,128		E. 4,747 I. 4,160	
819	3,312	23,991	13,530	17,049	675	1,656,490	76,179	220,413	1,571,229		E. 32,836 I. 33,071	
285	1,113	425	11,745	8,983	9	29,002	33	...	...	Burmese, Taline, and Bengali.	E. 19,542 I. 23,898	
12	50	1,638	1,905	4,967	...	214,716	...	37,058	186,130		E. 5,816 I. 11,091	
17	70	...	526	661	...	70,592	...	18,000	59,266		E. 657 I. 485	
15	195	...	333	2,533	...	46,750	...	23,180	28,666		E. 752 I. 1,265	
9	54	...	738	70	...	135,401	...	17,103	119,178		E. 128 I. 266	
12	6	101	522	1,404	8	63,290	...	6,118	78,245		E. 1,520 I. 1,419	
4	...	29	18	7	...	25,711	...	24,641	11,125		E. 1,703 I. 782	
354	1,468	3,263	15,807	18,534	17	612,402	35	126,741	482,610		E. 20,918 I. 20,136	
1,313	4,395	25,664	31,057	90,171	602	2,659,878	119,615	542,942	2,225,217		E. 67,961 I. 63,801	

Survey.—None.
Settlement.

Nature of settlement.	Area in miles.	Annual revenue assessed.	Date of expiry of settlement.	Remarks.
Settled in perpetuity ...	...	Rs. ...	...	A fixed yearly rent based on the actual extent of cultivation on date of settlement.
Do. for 20 years or upwards ...	...	...	...
Do. for 10 years and under 20 ...	1,126	5,63,281	1877—1885	
Do. under 10 years... ..	106	65,637	1877—1884	
Do. in progress	40	28,591	...	
Total	1,312	6,08,649		
Settlement previously made, including record of rights ...	75	11,867		
Do. without such record	241	1,81,973		
Settlement during the year ...	(Detailed ... ..)	...	...
	(Summary ... ..)	...	...

APPENDICES.

E.—FISCAL.

2.—Surveyed and Assessed Area in acres.

DISTRICT.	CULTIVATED.				UNCULTIVATED.			Total area assessed.	ASSESSMENT.			REMARKS.	
	Irrigated		Unirrigated.	Total.	Grazing lands.	Culturable.	Unculturable waste.		Gross amount.	Rate per acre on cultivation.	Rate per acre on culturable land.		Rate per acre on total area of settlement.
	By Government.	By private individuals.											
ARAKAN.	Akyab	...	310,261	310,261	...	546,730	2,477,920	310,261	5,97,908	8 As. to Rs. 2-8	2 As.	Rs. 1-8	
	Northern Arakan	...	105,936	105,936	...	267,931	2,302,000	101,038	1,42,716	Rs. 1-5-11	...	Rs. 1-4-4	
	Kyauk-hpyee	...	40,871	40,871	...	40,463	2,352,521	40,871	55,821	4 As. to Rs. 1-10	2 As.	12 As. to Rs. 1-10	
PAGU.	Rangoon town	...	3,209	3,209	...	...	339,040	...	3,209	9,076	6 As. to Rs. 2-0	2 As.	Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2-0
	Rangoon district	...	652,849	652,849	...	49,839	702,228	...	702,228	12,62,628	6 " " 2-0	2 " "	...
	Thonkwa	...	192,928	192,928	...	10,612	1,850,860	...	308,254	3,74,508	1 Rs. " 2-4	2 " "	" 1-4 to Rs. 2-0
TENAS-SERIE.	Bassein	...	371,300	371,300	...	4,917	70,400	...	376,307	4,22,180	4 As. " 3-0	2 " "	" 1-11-3 average.
	Henzada	...	121	121	...	7,308	504,000	...	507,516	5,75,228	Ditto	2 " "	" 4-0 to Rs. 3-0
	Frome	...	44	44	...	...	1,250,580	...	124,254	2,31,920	6 As. to Rs. 2-8	2 " "	" 6-0 to " 3-0
TOTAL.	Thayetmyo	101	1,945	1,945	...	12,533	732,200	...	100,426	20,949	Ditto	2 " "	" " " 3-0
	Amharat	...	226,925	226,925	...	3,078,424	6,354,580	227,321	4,63,227	8 As. to Rs. 3-0	2 As.	1 Rs. to Rs. 2-8	
	Tavoy	...	73,221	73,221	...	2,367,839	2,266,820	67,768	24,191	6 " " 1-8	2 " "	6 As. to Rs. 2-8	
TOTAL.	Merga	...	65,728	65,728	...	1,921,514	3,029,780	46,180	62,820	6 " " 3-8	2 " "	...	
	Shwe-gyan	...	85,712	85,712	...	2,320,808	1,159,308	83,625	1,03,028	6 " " 3-0	2 " "	6 As. to Rs. 2-0	
	Toango	...	2,104	2,104	22,942	2,073,361	1,869,978	27,837	34,293	8 " " 1-8	2 " "	2 " " Rs. 1-8	
TOTAL.	Balwee	102	14,165	14,165	...	1,908,322	965,760	...	14,369	6,415	6 " " 2-0	2 " "	...
	Total ...	151	4,497	2,765,400	2,769,908	83,942	14,822,227	24,550,666	2,227,444	45,63,425	...	...	...

APPENDICES.

3.—Varieties of Tenures held direct from Government.

NATURE OF TENURES.	Number of estates.	Number of villages.	Number of holders or shareholders.	Gross area in acres.	Average area of each estate.	Average assessment of each estate.	Revenue rate per acre.	Supposed net profit per acre.
Great zemindarees paying more than Rs. 50,000 revenue of primogeniture	458,817	13,119	481,335	2,680,323	5	Rs. 5	As. 2 to Rs. 5	Rs. 5 to Rs. 12
Large zemindarees	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small zemindarees	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Proprietary cultivating communities paying in common	1	...	1	653	653	...	...	...
Proprietary cultivators paying separately	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Holder of revenue-free tenures { In perpetuity For life	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Landholders who have redeemed the revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purchasers of waste lands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	458,818	13,119	481,335	2,680,175	...	...	...	...

4.—Varieties of Tenures not held direct from Government.

[This form must always remain blank in the Administration Reports of British Burma. There are no zemindaree rights in the province, and no lands are cultivated excepting those which are held direct from the British Government.]

5.—Register of Transfers.

NATURE OF TENURES TRANSFERRED.	NO. OF TRANSFERS RECORDED.			AVERAGE AREA IN ACRES OF EACH HOLDING TRANSFERRED.		
	By voluntary sale or gift.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.	By voluntary sale.	By compulsory sale.	By inheritance.
Great zemindarees, complete
Shares in ditto
Large zemindarees
Shares in ditto
Small zemindarees
Shares in ditto
Villages owned by cultivating communities
Shares in ditto
Holdings of proprietary cultivators	18	...	21	5.5	...	8.3
Intermediate holdings of a transferable character
Holdings of ryots at fixed rates
Holdings of ryots with rights of occupancy
Revenue-free tenures
Grants	2	...	...	1,044

IX

E.—FISCAL.
B.—Land Revenue.

DESCRIPTION OF REVENUE	REVENUE LAST YEAR.		REVENUE THIS YEAR.		Cost of collection.	Net collections during the year.	Outstanding balances on 31st March 1876.	Number of sales for arrears of revenue.	Revenue of estates sold.	Cause of increase or decrease of revenue, with explanations of any items realized in addition to the annual assessed revenue.
	Assessed.	Realised.	Assessed.	Realised.						
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	
From settled estates bearing revenue in past years										
Settled estates added to revenue-roll during present year										
Settled estates taken off revenue-roll during present year										
Collections from Government estates	53,52,874	47,27,116	54,86,860	48,96,795	565,438	57,89,331	571,670	3	492	
Income from sale of Government estates										
Miscellaneous land revenue not included in above										
Total ...	53,52,874	47,27,116	54,86,860	48,96,795	565,438	57,89,331	571,670	3	492	

II.—STATISTICS OF PROTECTION.

A.—LEGISLATIVE.

- 1.—Statement of Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of British Burma in the year 1876, and sanctioned as required by Law.—None.
- 2.—Statement of Bills proposed or pending in the Legislature of the Province of British Burma in the year 1876.—None.
- 3.—Statement of Draft Bills submitted by the Chief Administrative Authority of the Province of British Burma for the consideration of the Legislature of India during the year 1876.—None.

—Statement showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of British Burmah, on the last day of the year 1876.

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL. including those which have powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid and unpaid Judges.	Number of judicial divisions.	Average area of each division in square miles.	Average population of each division.	Number of tribunals.	Composition of tribunals, stating number of Judges in each, and Jury or Assessors if any.	Judicial powers of each tribunal, original and appellate.
ditto exercising criminal powers only, paid.	2	...	...	3	1 do.	Magistrates of the 2nd and 3rd classes under section 20 of Act X. of 1872.
ditto exercising civil and criminal powers only.	1	...	...	1	1 do.	Magistrate of the 1st class under section 20 of Act X. of 1872, and powers of a Small Cause Court to try suits up to Rs. 50 in value.
ditto exercising civil powers only, paid.	2	...	...	2	1 do.	Civil original jurisdiction up to Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 5,000 as courts of grade (2) under sections 12 and 13 of Act XVII. of 1875. One Judge has powers of a Small Cause Court to Rs. 100 in value.
ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers, paid.	97	...	...	97	1 do.	Magistrates of the 2nd and 3rd classes under section 20 of Act X. of 1872. Civil original jurisdiction up to Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 as court of grade (1) and grade (2), defined in section 12 of Act XVII. of 1875, with revenue powers under the rules of the province.
ditto exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers, paid.	1	...	...	1	1 do.	Magistrate of the 3rd class under section 20 of Act X. of 1872. Civil original jurisdiction of whatever value or amount under section 2(a) of the Arakan Hills Civil Justice Regulation, 1874. Revenue powers as prescribed in the Arakan Hills District Laws Regulation, 1874.
Cause Courts continued under section 13 of Act XVII. of 1875.	2	...	...	2	1 do.	Civil original jurisdiction in civil suits up to Rs. 1,000 under section 13 of Act XVII. of 1875.
Magistrate of the Town Division.	1	...	...	1	1 do.	Civil original powers, and criminal appellate under Act XVII. of 1875; also powers of a Small Cause Court with jurisdiction up to Rs. 1,000 under section 13 of Act XVII. of 1875.
Magistrate of 1st class exercising criminal powers.	2	...	...	2	1 Judge.	Magistrate of the 1st class under section 20, Act X. of 1872, and Justices of the Peace.

Statement showing the various Judicial Tribunals, Original and Appellate, existing in the Province of British Burmah, on the last day of the year 1876.

Prescribed qualifications of Judges previous to appointment.	TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES.				AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY OF EACH PAID JUDGE.		Total cost of tribunals.	Net receipts from stamps.	Executive or other functions exercised by the same officers.	Average number of days in the year devoted to judicial work.	Average number of Advocates attached to each tribunal.	NUMBER OF CASES DECIDED DURING THE YEAR.							
	Covenanted.	Commissioned Military Officers.	Uncovenanted.	Native.	European.	Native.						Criminal.	Civil.	Revenue.	Appellate.				
																Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	1	...	5,200	...	9,600	...	...	...	1,983	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	2,400	...	2,400	...	...	...	120	229	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	4,500	9,518	...	...	...	2,462	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3	1	5	68	4,470	2,070	2,10,888-8-11	...	...	...	9,637	16,254	2,297	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	1,200	1,668 7-0	...	...	...	23	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	1	6,000	6,000	25,302	...	...	...	16	10,647	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	14,240	...	29,300-10-8	...	...	...	6	24	295	...	...	...	...	...	5
...	3	...	21,210	...	47,808	...	...	...	13	4,707	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

CLASS OF TRIBUNAL, Distinguishing those which exercise powers in one department from those exercising powers in two or three departments, and those consisting of paid and unpaid Judges.	Number of judicial divisions.	Average area of each division in square miles.	Average population of each division.	Number of tribunals.	Constitution of tribunals, stating number of Judges in each, and Jury or Assessors, if any.	Judicial powers of each tribunal, original and appellate.
Magistrates of districts exercising criminal, civil, and revenue powers, as also special powers under section 26 of Act X. of 1872 ...	16	16	1 ditto.	Magistrates of the 1st class under section 20 of Act X. of 1872. Civil original jurisdiction in all suits, of whatever value or amount, with appellate civil powers over all courts of grade 1 and grade 2, as defined in section 13 of Act XVII. of 1875. Revenue, original, and appellate powers as in the Revenue Rules of the province; also additional powers under section 26 of Act X. of 1872. Magistrates of full powers have the chief executive control over their districts, and have powers to hear appeals from the orders of 2nd and 3rd class Magistrates in their districts, and are also Justices of the Peace.
Sessions Courts ...	3	...	...	3	1 ditto with assessors in Sessions trials.	Powers of Court of Sessions under section 18 of Act X. of 1872. Appellate jurisdiction, criminal, civil, and revenue, over all chief courts of districts and Magistrates of the 1st class.
Court of the Judicial Commissioner ...	1	...	...	1	1 Judge.	Powers of a High Court

Prescribed qualification of Judges previous to appointment.	TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES.				AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY OF EACH PAID JUDGE.		Total cost of tribunals.	Net receipts from stamps.	Executive or other functions exercised by the same officers.	Average number of days in the year devoted to judicial work.	Average number of Advocates attached to each tribunal.	NO. OF CASES DECIDED DURING THE YEAR.				REMARKS.
	Europeans.				Rs.	Rs.						Criminal.	Civil.	Revenue.	Appeal.	
	Covenanted.	Commissioned Officers.	Uncovenanted.	Native.												
...	4	5	6	...	8,943	...	90,447	...	...	...	5,345	708	235	...	...
...	...	13	4	...	16,280	...	2,76,407-10-6	...	Rs. 2,07,188	Sundays and holidays excepted.	1,925	97	2,993	1,050	...	
...	...	3	...	...	23,520	...	68,497	...	...	...	67	Mis. cases. 2	Mis. cases. 210	384	...
...	1	...	...	...	26,666-10	...	90,972-12	3,106	...	...	41	...	...	* 538	...

*144 Criminal appeals at Court of Sessions.
110 Criminal appeals.
54 Civil ditto.
280 Revision.

NAMES OF TRIBUNAL,	Number of judicial divisions.	Average area of each division in square miles.	Average population of each division.	Number of tribunals.	Composition of tribunals, stating number of Judges in each, and Jury or Assessors if any.	Judicial powers of each tribunal, original and appellate.	Prescribed qualification of Judges previous to appointment.
Orders of the High Court (Civil, Criminal, Admiralty, Insolvency)	1	46	...	1	1 Judge & 5 Jurors.	Ordinary original civil jurisdiction in suits of every description, except those which are cognisable by a Court of Small Causes. Admiralty jurisdiction, as exercised by a High Court throughout British Burma, including the territorial waters thereof. Insolvency jurisdiction under the 11th and 12th Vic., Cap. 21, within the towns of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, and Bassein. Powers of a District Judge. Powers of a District Judge under the Indian Divorce Act throughout British Burma. Powers of a High Court in respect of the court of Small Causes of Rangoon. Criminal. Powers of a Court of Sessions as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure in the town of Rangoon. Criminal appellate jurisdiction. Powers of a High Court for the trial of European British subjects throughout British Burma. Powers of a High Court in respect of the Magistrates of the town of Rangoon.	Barrister of not less than five years' standing.

ABSTRACT.

Judicial Commissioner.
 Recorder.
 Commissioners.
 Judges of Courts of Small Causes.
 Judge.
 Deputy Commissioners, 1st grade.
 ditto ditto, 2nd do.

4 Deputy Commissioners, 3rd grade.
 3 ditto ditto, 4th do.
 5 Assistant Commissioners, 1st do.
 6 ditto ditto, 2nd do.
 5 ditto ditto, 3rd do.
 15 ditto ditto, 4th do.
 6 Supernumerary Assistant Commissioners.
 1 Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner.

TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES.				AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY OF EACH PAID JUDGE.		Total cost of tribunals.	Net receipts from charges.	Executive or other functions exercised by the same officers.	Average number of days in the year devoted to judicial work.	Average number of Advocates attached to each Tribunal.	NUMBER OF CASES TRIED IN THE YEAR.		
Covenanted.	Commissioned Military Officers.	Uncovenanted.	Native.	European.	Native.						Criminal.	Civil.	Appeal.
...	...	1	...	Rs. 30,000	Rs. ...	Rs. 44,206 8 0	Rs. 20,327 8 0	One of the Judges of the Special Court.	13	43	24 Criminal appeals. 6 Criminal miscellaneous.	4 admiralty. 13 Insolvency.	

ABSTRACT.

5 Extra Assistant Commissioners, 1st class, 1st grade.
 4 ditto ditto, 1st do., 2nd do.
 7 ditto ditto, 2nd do., 1st do.
 4 ditto ditto, 2nd do., 2nd do.

21 Extra Assistant Commissioners, 3rd class, 1st grade.
 22 ditto ditto, do., 2nd do.
 23 ditto ditto, do., 3rd do.
 5 Town Magistrates.
 2 Assistant Cantonment Magistrates.
 3 Honorary Magistrates.