

'RECORDAK' MICROFILM SERVICE

TITLE OF DOCUMENT FILMED REPORT ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA | 1884 85

PLACE OF ORIGIN INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. Brown DATE 21/8/57

INCHES



CENTIMETRES

KODAK LTD.

RECORDAK DIVISION

LONDON

649
1

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BRITISH BURMA
DURING 1884-85.

IN THREE PARTS:
PART I.—SUMMARY.
„ II.—DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.
„ III.—STATISTICAL RETURNS.



RANGOON:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BRITISH BURMA.
—
1885.

PART III.—STATISTICAL RETURNS.

	<i>Page.</i>
I.—Statistics of physical, political, and local geography ...	iii.
II.—Statistics of protection ...	xiii.
III.—Statistics of production and distribution ...	lxvii.
IV.—Statistics of instruction ...	cxxxvi.
V.—Statistics of life ...	ciii.
<hr/>	
APPENDIX TO PART III.—Returns of the Telegraph Department ...	civ.
<hr/>	
INDEX TO PART I: SUMMARY ...	cix.
INDEX TO PART II: DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS ...	cxi.
INDEX TO PART III: STATISTICAL RETURNS ...	cixv.

PART I.
—
SUMMARY

OF THE
ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR BRITISH
BURMA FOR THE YEAR 1884-85.

SUMMARY

OF THE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR BRITISH BURMA FOR THE YEAR 1884-85.

In this report, as in the reports of previous years, rupees have been converted into pounds sterling at the conventional rate of Rs. 10 per pound. The record of police, judicial,

Introductory.

jail, sanitary, and railway administration is that of the calendar year 1884; in other cases the year of report is the official year ending on 31st March 1885. In this introduction in some cases brief mention is made of events of interest which have happened between the close of the year of report and the date of writing.

2. Throughout the period of report the political relations between the Indian and Burmese Governments were the same as in former years. But various incidents affecting primarily the

Political.

domestic economy of Upper Burma gave ground for apprehension in this province. Rumours concerning the disturbed state of parts of the Burmese kingdom were prevalent from time to time. Towards the close of the year 1884 the important town of Bhamo was taken by Chinese and Kachin raiders. Somewhat earlier report of barbarous executions in the jail at Mandalay had reached Rangoon. Throughout the year uncertainty prevailed concerning the projects of the Myingun Prince, who continued to reside at Pondicherry. These circumstances combined to cause some disturbance of the trade between British and Upper Burma and some anxiety regarding the possibility of the continuance of peaceful relations between the Indian Government and the kingdom of Ava. The correspondence between the two Governments, conducted through the Chief Commissioner, was confined for the most part to matters concerning the extradition of criminals. Meanwhile the agents of the Burmese Government concluded or negotiated commercial treaties with France and Germany; and in May 1885 the first French Consul arrived at Mandalay. Since the close of the year of report circumstances have rendered necessary the active intervention of the Indian Government in the affairs of the Ava kingdom. At the present moment a British army is occupying the capital, and is practically in possession of the country.

Relations with Siam continued on the most friendly footing. The new treaty regarding Chiengmai and the adjacent provinces was ratified early in the year, and a British Vice-Consulate was established at Chiengmai.

3. The legislation of the year which specially concerned British Burma was of more than usual extent and interest. The law relating to Municipalities was finally settled and the

Legislation.

position of Municipal Committees was accurately defined. As far as can be judged, the new Act has worked satisfactorily, and will prove efficient in regulating the course of local self-government. The Burma Gaming Act has supplied a want long felt, and has strengthened the hands of the authorities in dealing

with the most pernicious forms of public gaming. It is reported to have fully effected the purposes for which it was enacted. Some minor changes concerning the jurisdiction of Civil Courts and other similar matters were effected by a short Act amending the Burma Courts Act of 1875. The question of the judicial arrangements of the province is reserved for consideration in connection with the establishment of a Chief Court. A Bill providing for these matters is now before the Supreme Government. In the mean time an Act was passed (in the current year) to provide temporary relief for the Recorder of Rangoon. Besides the Acts above mentioned, which were of general interest, a Water-works Act for Rangoon and a short measure to amend the Burma Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act were passed. The Bill dealing with the subject of town lands has been returned to the Chief Commissioner for reconsideration.

4. There was a considerable increase in the number of offences cognizable by the police. The increase occurred for the most part under the heads of serious offences against the person, minor offences against property, and miscellaneous offences. The number of dacoities, robberies, and other grave crimes against property, taken together, scarcely differed from the number in the previous year. There was an increase in the number of ordinary murders. In the matter of detection, police action was scarcely, if at all, more successful than in 1883. Judged by the percentage of convictions to the number of cases investigated, the police were more successful in detecting murderers, robbers, and housebreakers and less successful in detecting dacoits and cattle-thieves, while the results in the case of ordinary thefts were the same as in the previous year. Upon the need for the effective working of the preventive provisions of the law much stress has been laid, and these provisions were extensively used. Over 2,000 potential criminals were brought before the Courts; and about two-thirds of them were required to give security for good behaviour. As regards the members of the police force, the history of the year affords some ground for satisfaction. There was a decrease in the proportion of the force that left the service; and the conduct of the police is said to have been good. Police expenditure was somewhat less than in the previous year.

5. The number of criminal cases brought before the Courts increased to about the same extent as the number of offences reported. The bulk of the work was, as usual, disposed of by the subordinate stipendiary magistracy, though the number of cases tried by Honorary Magistrates greatly increased. The percentage of convictions by all Courts was somewhat lower, that of acquittals and discharges a fraction higher, than in 1883. The number of sentences of transportation decreased, and there was but a nominal increase in the number of sentences of imprisonment for terms between two and seven years. On the other hand, the number of sentences of death and of imprisonment for terms exceeding seven years was greater than in the previous year. The punishment of whipping was freely inflicted. The amount of fines imposed and realized and the amount awarded as compensation were larger than in 1883. The business of the Courts was despatched with reasonable promptitude. The number of appellants, and also the number and proportion of the cases in which appeals were wholly or partially successful,

showed a considerable increase as compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year.

6. The number of prisoners confined in the jails of the province continued to increase, but not to the same extent as in 1883.

Jails.

The daily average number of prisoners during the year of report was 6,721. The measures for securing the recognition of habitual offenders were fairly successful. There was an increase in the number of habitual offenders recognized, and 87 per cent. of these received enhanced sentences. Discipline was efficiently maintained. The number of escapes was small; while the large increase in the number of punishments was due partly to the issue of orders requiring *all* punishments to be recorded and partly to the facilities for the infliction of minor punishments afforded by the mark system. The infliction of corporal punishment was carefully controlled; and the percentage of whippings to the total number of punishments was less than half the percentage in the previous year. The health of prisoners not much the same as in 1883. The average death-rate among convicts was slightly lower, but the average death-rate among under-trial and other prisoners was higher than in the previous year. The ratio per mille of admissions to hospital (935·58) was less. A serious epidemic of cholera occurred at Akyab, but other jails were almost entirely free from this disease. The highest death-rates were at Akyab, Tavoy, and Mergui; the lowest at Shwegyin, Thayetnyo, and Ma-ubin. The cost of jail administration increased from £37,112 in 1883 to £44,997 in the year of report; but the gross cost per head of each prisoner was less than in the previous year. The Reformatory School at Paungdè was efficiently managed under the supervision of a committee of visitors with the Judicial Commissioner as president.

7. Regarding the administration of civil justice in the past year but brief comment is required. There was a considerable

Civil Justice.

increase in the number of suits filed (35,476) as compared with the number in the previous year (32,957). The number of suits disposed of increased to a corresponding extent. The work of the Appellate Courts was lighter than in the previous year. The fact that in 63 per cent. of all appeals decided the decision of the original Court was upheld is an indication that the work of the subordinate Courts is of fairly good quality. The cost of litigation in original suits was 15·7 per cent. of the value of the subject matter. Efforts are being made to reduce the cost of litigation. (There was much discussion during the year on the question of the re-organization of the Civil Courts, especially with a view to the strengthening of the superior Courts in Rangoon, and the establishment of a satisfactory Court of final appeal. It is hoped that before the Administration Report for the current year is written these matters will have been settled.)

8. The number of documents registered increased from 8,176 in 1883-84 to 9,498 in the year of report. The increase was

Registration.

common to both compulsory and optional registration. The value of the property affected by registered documents increased from £1,254,169 to £1,608,822. Several new offices were opened and, towards the close of the year, a special officer was appointed as Inspector-General of Registration. This appointment gives increased facilities for the inspection of registration offices and should be productive of improvement in the quality of the work done by subordinate officers, and of extended knowledge of the advantages,

and in some cases necessity, of registration among the people. For the most part the work of Registering Officers was efficiently performed during the year.

9. The only indigenous manufactures of the province which are of any general interest, or in which any progress is made, are the art industries. The most important of these

Art industries.

are gold and silver work and wood-carving. Under the direction of an officer, who devotes much time and trouble to their supervision, some of the Burmese silversmiths and wood-carvers have made good progress in the production of works of art. The object of the measures taken by the local Government in this matter is to develop the natural artistic capabilities of the people without tempting the artists to submit to European or other foreign art standards.

10. But little progress was made during the past year in the development of the mineral resources of the province. The quest of oil in Arakan has been checked by financial difficulties in which the Boronga Oil Company has become involved. In Thayetmyo

Mining industries.

prospecting for coal was continued; but as yet success has not been attained. The project for extracting lead at Titawlé, in the Salween district, has not been abandoned; but the measure of success which the experiment is likely to meet cannot yet be estimated.

11. The Forest Department was efficiently administered. But, owing chiefly to the great fall in the price of teak, the net revenue fell from £129,145 in 1883-84 to £45,874 in

Forests.

the year of report. The expenditure was less than in the previous year. A net addition of 184 square miles was made to the area of reserved forests in the Pegu circle. In the Tenasserim circle no additional reservation was completed during the year. Three hundred and fifteen square miles of forest-land were surveyed at an average cost somewhat lower than that incurred in 1883-84. The operations of the Working Plans division extended over 154 square miles of reserved forest. Fire-protection was successfully carried out over a larger area than in the previous year. The outturn of the forests, both in teak and in other timber was greater than in 1883-84, the quantity extracted in the two years being 132,700 and 118,857 tons respectively.

12. Towards the close of the past calendar year the new Municipal Act came into force and at the beginning of 1886 ten towns were constituted municipalities under its provisions. Since

Municipal.

the close of the period of report other municipalities have been formed, and proposals are under consideration for extending the Act to several important towns wherein a desire for self-government has been expressed by the inhabitants. The few months of the past official year during which the new Act was in force were devoted to the consideration of the measures rendered necessary by the changed conditions under which municipal government will henceforth be administered. The second general elections were held in the six towns in which the people enjoyed the privilege of electing their own representatives. The results showed that the elective system was understood and appreciated. In places where, on the occasion of the first election, public attention was but feebly roused, the people now displayed a hearty interest in the matter, and seats were warmly contested. Since the close of the year the elective system has been extended to

Prome; and in several other towns the people have expressed a desire for its introduction. Among the most important municipal works of the year was the completion of the drainage and water-supply schemes at Prome. Much interest was taken by most Municipal Committees in the spread of education in their towns, and in some cases measures were adopted for the extension of the education of girls. An indication of the enlightened spirit which animates local bodies composed for the most part of unofficial and Native gentlemen is the fact that the compulsory Vaccination Act is now in force, at the instance of the Committees, in three of the chief towns of the province, and that the extension of the Act to a fourth town, Pegu, was only hindered by the difficulty in constituting a Bench of Native Honorary Magistrates for the trial of breaches of this law.

13. The total number of vessels engaged in the foreign trade of the province was 1,149; in the coasting trade, 8,950. In both cases the number was lower than the average of the

Commercial marine.

three preceding years. Only four serious casualties occurred among the shipping in the ports or near the coasts of the province. Of these, two were wrecks caused by a cyclone on the Arakan coast. Port funds were maintained at the seven ports of the province. In Rangoon, the affairs of the port were efficiently administered by the Port Commissioners. Reductions were made in the rate of port fees and in landing charges at Rangoon; and £70,947 were spent on the maintenance and improvement of the port. Marine surveys were made of the Tavoy river, Mergui harbour, Cheduba straits, and the approaches to Sandoway and Taungup. Surveys of parts of the Rangoon river were also made.

14. In the value of the trade of the province as compared with the value in the previous year there was a serious falling off. In the

Trade. ✓

year of report the total value of the trade, both sea-borne and inland, inclusive of treasure transactions, amounted to £21,648,756 as compared with £24,099,123 in the year 1883-84, there being thus a decrease of £2,450,367. To the extent of £5,30,000 this decrease was due to the transfer of that amount of the Currency Department balances to the Bank, by which transaction the Bank was enabled to forego importing that amount. The rest of the falling off was confined to the sea-borne trade, and was there apparent in all branches, export and import, foreign and coasting. It was most marked in the foreign export trade, the value of which was nearly £1,300,000 less than in the previous year. This was due almost entirely to the depressed state of the rice trade, consequent on a short harvest in January 1884 and on the large increase in shipments to Europe from Saigôn and Bangkok. Besides rice, the principal articles of export for foreign markets are teak timber, raw cotton, catch, hides and horns, spices, and jadestone. The decrease in the import trade, which amounted to £500,000, was due to the fact that the markets were glutted by the excessive importations of previous years. The imports of cotton and woollen goods, earthenware, metals, and machinery decreased. On the other hand there was an increase in the importations of silk goods, coal and coke, provisions, matches, and salt. In spite of various circumstances which adversely affected commercial relations with Upper Burma, the value of the inland trade of the province was greater by nearly £200,000 than in 1883-84. The bulk of this trade was carried by the Irrawaddy river between commercial centres in Lower Burma.

and Mandalay and Bhamo. From Upper Burma imports to the value of £1,708,716 were received by this route during the past year. The chief articles imported are raw cotton, cotton piece-goods, cutch, wheat, gram, hides, earth-oil, ssesamum-oil, jadestone, silk goods, unrefined sugar, pickled tea, ponies and goats, and teak. In cotton and silk goods and cutch there was a marked decrease, but the trade in wheat, gram, hides, earth-oil, and sugar was more valuable than in the previous year. The exports to Upper Burma consisted of yarn, raw silk, cotton, silk and woollen goods, earthenware, rice, metals, kerosine-oil, ngapi, and salt. The value of the exports of rice and paddy and other provisions, and of silk and silk goods, was larger than in 1883-84; while the export trade in cotton goods, earthenware, metals, and sugar was less extensive than in that year. Some export and import trade is also carried on by the Sittang river and by various land routes in the Arakan, Irrawaddy, and Tenasserim divisions.

15. Under present arrangements survey and settlement operations will, at least for some years to come, be confined to the 10 districts which produce rice in quantities more than sufficient for local consumption. It is expected that the survey and settlement of these districts will be finished by the year 1899. The survey and settlement of the districts of Hanthawaddy, Pegu, Bassein, and Tharrawaddy were practically completed in previous years. During the year of report the cadastral survey of Henzada and Akyab was continued. The cost of the survey was £28,069, the outturn of work being comparatively greater and the expenditure comparatively less than in 1883-84. The settlement of the Prome district was completed, that of the Henzada district continued, and that of the Akyab district begun in the past year. In Akyab a great deal of the work consisted of the settlement of large waste-land grants made under old rules. Revised rates of land revenue assessments were sanctioned for six districts, the results of the revision of rates and the correction of faulty measurements being an increase in the revenue demand of £7,962. Supplementary survey operations for the purpose of maintaining a record of all changes in the tenure of the land were carried on in four districts, and steps were taken to secure a closer and more effective supervision of the thugyis' work than had hitherto been exercised. Enquiries have recently been made as to the extent to which sub-tenures exist in Burma. It has been found that in the settled districts 81,840 acres of cultivable land are rented by sub-tenants at an average rent of eight shillings and five pence per acre.

16. The operations of the Agricultural Department comprised efforts to encourage private enterprise in trials with new staples, experiments in the cultivation of new products, the introduction of improved methods in respect of cultivation already practised, measures for improving the native processes of preparing raw products for the market, and the invention of new agricultural implements or the improvement of those already in use. The experimental farm at Kyauktan was carried on under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, and the value of various kinds of manure was tested by experiments made at Alón. In the Arakan Hill Tracts successful attempts were made to grow tea, pepper-vine, cinnamon, Manilla hemp, and Liberian coffee; and in Mergui the last named product was successfully cultivated. The first attempt at the systematic cultivation of indigo was made

during the year. Continued efforts were made to develop the cultivation of sugar in the cane-producing tracts of the Shwegyin district, and the native processes of sugar manufacture were carefully examined with a view to their improvement. The attempts which have been made to introduce a more effective plough than that used by Burman cultivators have hitherto been unsuccessful. A slight modification of the ordinary native plough has now been devised, with what success is not yet known. Since the close of the year, with a view to the encouragement of tobacco-cultivation, the rate of assessment on land devoted to the growth of tobacco has been lowered. Up to the present time other products have made little progress as compared with rice. This is evident from the fact that out of 4,800,356 acres of cultivated land (including fallow land) 3,630,340 acres, or 84 per cent. of the total, were last year devoted to rice-growing.

17. The net land revenue demand of the year amounted to £705,386, or £20,407 more than in the previous year. There was an increase of 103,340 acres under cultivation and of 64,342 acres in the assessed area left fallow. Of the net demand more than 85 per cent. was collected before the close of the official year; and on the 30th June 1885 only £5,495 remained outstanding. The ease with which the land revenue was collected is indicated by the fact that only 18 defaulters were committed to prison during the year. The amount of land revenue remitted (£5,843) was less than half the amount remitted in 1883-84. The capitation-tax demand increased from £308,891 to £315,790. Except in Arakan, the number of defaulters committed to prison was small. Fishery revenue decreased from £121,761 to £118,356. The decrease occurred chiefly in the Thôngwa and Bassein districts, and was due to the discouragement of the reckless competition for fishery leases which prevailed in former years. Customs receipts fell from £516,750 in 1883-84 to £423,194 in the year of report. The decrease was common to both export and import duties, but was more strongly marked in the case of the former. The excise revenue increased from £261,057 in 1883-84 to £261,633 in the past year. For the last four years excise receipts have been nearly stationary. The opium revenue was somewhat less than in the preceding year. The consumption of opium appears to be decreasing in Arakan, and to a less marked degree in Pegu and Irrawaddy. But illicit trade in opium is still carried on to a great extent in spite of special efforts made to prevent it. In all other branches of excise revenue the receipts were slightly higher than in the previous year. Stamp receipts increased from £88,839 in 1883-84 to £97,982 in the year of report. The increase was chiefly due to an increase in the returns from the sale of court-fees stamps. Towards the close of the year the Excise and Stamp Departments were placed under the control of a special officer. The large decrease under the heads of customs and forest receipts reduced the total net revenue demand of the year to £2,175,455 as compared with £2,344,127 in 1883-84.

18. The provincial finances continued to be administered under the arrangements made in 1882-83, and notwithstanding the exercise of rigid economy in all branches of the administration, the provincial funds would have closed the year with a deficit but for the receipt of an extra contribution of £66,200 from imperial funds. The gross revenue receipts of the year amounted to £2,688,119, or less by £284,053 (9.55 per cent.) than in the previous year. The decrease was common to the three major heads—imperial, provincial, and local funds—but was greatest under the head

of imperial receipts. In municipal receipts there was an increase. These statistics do not include the accounts of the Rangoon municipal fund or of the Rangoon port fund. An examination of the imperial and provincial accounts separately gives the following results. The imperial receipts amounted to £1,250,528, or less by £219,754 (14·9 per cent.) than in the previous year. The imperial expenditure amounted to £252,544 as compared with £242,179 in 1883-84. Provincial receipts decreased from £1,350,379 in 1883-84 to £1,288,088 in the year of report. The extra contribution from imperial funds is included in the latter sum. The expenditure debited to provincial funds amounted to £1,380,456 as compared with £1,445,410 in the previous year. The cost of civil administration amounted to £1,129,362, or £14,692 less than in 1883-84. The surplus available for military charges, share of the cost of the imperial administration, &c., was £900,611, or £262,526 less than in the previous year. The net remittances to India amounted to £1,095,903.

19/ In no branch of the administration was financial pressure more keenly felt than in the Public Works Department. The total expenditure of the year, exclusive of outlay on railways, amounted to £340,732 against £444,516 in 1883-84. The provincial expenditure amounted to only £247,080, of which £63,057 were devoted to establishment and tools and plant, £188,656 to original works, and £50,214 to repairs. Some important works for the defence of Rangoon were begun towards the end of the official year and have since been completed. No other military works of importance were undertaken. The greater part of the expenditure on provincial works was spent on the construction of roads, the outlay on original works under this head amounting to £78,120. The works are described in detail in the body of the report and call for no further notice here. Provincial expenditure on embankments amounted to £35,888, of which sum nearly £30,000 was spent on original works. The capital outlay on State railways during the year 1884 amounted to £865,940, of which £302,940 were spent on the Sittang line. The revenue outlay amounted to £128,349 as compared with £101,052 in the previous year. The earnings amounted to £210,542 against £156,289 in 1883-84. The number of passengers carried on the two lines was 2,734,100. The Sittang railway was opened for traffic as far as Nyaunglebin, 33 miles from Rangoon, in August 1884, and in the current year was opened throughout its whole length from Rangoon to Toungoo. The total cost of the Toungoo line has been about £1,225,000. Apart from the actual profits which may be realized from the traffic on this line, the outlay will be well repaid by the opening out of a new trade route, by increased facilities of communication between Rangoon and the Toungoo frontier. As an example of the improvement immediately effected in the rate and cost of through communication between Rangoon and Toungoo, it may be mentioned that each relief of the Toungoo garrison used to occupy 25 days and cost Rs. 49,000 for the journey to and from Toungoo and Rangoon. Now the relief occupies two days and costs Rs. 9,400. As soon as affairs in Upper Burma are settled, the speedy extension of the railway to Mandalay and eventually on to Bhamo may be attempted.

20. The postal and telegraph services were efficiently performed during the year. Additions were made to the number of imperial and district post offices, and there was a

considerable increase in the number of covers which passed through the post. The total number sent out by both imperial and district post was 4,295,696. Several new telegraph offices were opened. The number of messages despatched was 178,976 as compared with 154,828 in the preceding year.

21. The ratios of births and of deaths registered in the province were higher than the means of the previous five years. This may
Vital statistics and medical relief. to some extent be ascribed to an improvement in the system of registration, but as regards the death-rate, it must be noted that the past year was exceptionally unhealthy in Burma. The number of deaths from cholera recorded was 5,515, and 6,102 deaths from small-pox were registered. Vaccination operations were carried on with success throughout the year. The total number of persons vaccinated was 89,923 as compared with 73,269 in 1883-84. Three new dispensaries were opened during the year, and these institutions fully maintained their popularity. The Rangoon Lunatic Asylum, the only institution of its kind in the province, was efficiently managed. An examination of the statistics of the asylum indicated that madness is more prevalent among Hindus and less prevalent among Burmans than among other classes of the population.

22. Good progress in educational work was made during the past year.
Education. The number of schools under inspection is larger and the number of pupils in these schools increased from 127,583 to 137,504. The proportion of pupils who passed one or other of the departmental standards was considerably larger than in 1883-84. The total expenditure on education from all sources amounted to £80,848, a sum far larger than that spent in former years. Much attention was paid to the encouragement of higher education, and plans for the establishment of a college in Rangoon under the management of the Educational Syndicate are now well advanced. The training of schoolmasters, on which the extension of sound education among the people mainly depends, was successfully carried on at the Rangoon Normal school; and satisfactory progress was made in the training of schoolmistresses. The number of girls attending school increased, and their success in passing various examinations was satisfactory. The control of educational institutions is now almost entirely in the hands of Municipal and Town Committees, who for the most part have shown due appreciation of their responsibilities in this respect.

23. Much archæological work was done during the year. The archæological
Archæology. survey of the Prome district was continued and researches connected with the archæology of the Thayetmyo district were also made. Later in the year the Government Archæologist visited Rangoon, Thóngwa, Bassein, Pegu, and Sandoway. A sketch of the operations of the year is given in the body of the report.

BRITISH BURMA SECRETARIAT, }
 RANGOON : }
 The 4th December 1885. }

PART II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

[*Note.*—In the Administration Report for 1882-83 the following subjects have been treated in a permanent form for reference:—

	<i>Pages.</i>
Physical features of the country, area, climate, and chief staples	8—5
Historical summary	6—6
Form of administration	6—8
Character of land tenures, system of survey and settlement	8—11
Civil divisions of British territory	11—12
Details of last census	13—14
Legislative authority	23
General system of public instruction	144—147
Literary societies	153
Ecclesiastical jurisdiction	167

In accordance with the orders of the Government of India these chapters are not reproduced in this report.]

I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Changes in the Administration.

THE appointment towards the close of the official year of a Commissioner of Stamps and Excise, who is also Inspector-General of Registration, was the only administrative change of any importance made during the period of report.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

2. Throughout the year peaceful relations were maintained with the Kingdom of Ava. The border district of Thayetmyo was comparatively free from organized crime and the transfrontier officials were for the most part helpful in bringing offenders to justice. The Toungoo frontier was less quiet, but no serious disturbance took place. The Myingun Prince remained at Pondicherry. Rumours concerning his designs on the Burmese throne were prevalent; but he committed no overt act against the peace of the Ava Kingdom. Towards the close of the year an attempt was made by the Nagabo Prince to levy war on the Burmese monarch; but, being found with a band of armed followers in British territory, the Prince was arrested and placed in temporary confinement. In October 1884 some excitement was occasioned by the report of barbarous executions of prisoners in the jail at Mandalay. In December last a band of Chinese and Kachins attacked and took the flourishing town of Bamaw, and for a time dominated the northern part of the Burmese kingdom. The town was soon re-taken by the Burmese troops and the leader of the raiders was executed. The houses of the English and American missionaries were sacked, and they themselves escaped with difficulty. Although the trade of the province with Upper Burma was carried on without serious interruption, the absence of a representative of the Indian Government from Mandalay was much felt. In the course of the year the Burmese Government concluded a commercial treaty with France and negotiated a similar treaty with Germany.

3. Friendly relations were maintained with Siam and the Siamese Government afforded cordial assistance in the maintenance of peace on the borders. A new treaty relating to the Siamese provinces of Chiengmai, Lakôn, and Lampunchi, concluded in September 1883, was ratified in May 1884. In these provinces many British subjects are engaged in work in the forests and questions relating to the extradition of offenders on both sides of the frontier frequently arise. The presence throughout the year of a British Vice-Consul at Chiengmai conduced to the security of British subjects and contributed a valuable means of acquiring infor-

mation concerning these little-known territories. Proposals for extending the extradition clauses of the Chiengmai treaty to all the Siamese provinces contiguous with Burma are under consideration.

4. In February 1885 a messenger from Po Bya, a Chief of West Karenni, visited Rangoon for the purpose of discussing certain matters with the Chief Commissioner. The visit was of no political significance.

5. The Arakan Hill Tracts were free from disturbance during the year.

II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Surveys, Settlements, and Waste Lands.

SURVEYS.

6. Two cadastral survey parties and two topographical survey parties were at work in the province during the year. The outturn and cost of the cadastral parties were as follows:—

Cadastral survey.

Districts in which party worked.	TOTAL AREA CADASTRALLY SURVEYED.		Total cultivated area included in foregoing.	FIELDS CADASTRALLY SURVEYED.		Cost				Average total cost per acre, being column 10 divided by column 8.
	Square miles.	Acres.		Number.	Average area.	Of cadastral work.	Of advance survey.	Of revision survey.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Acres.		Acres.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
Henzada ...	682	404,813	164,838	501,019	0·88	18,167	...	1,178	14,245	0 8
Akyab ...	562	359,616	154,604	1,180,812	0·12	14,002	1,643	628	17,168	0 11
Total for 1884-85...	1,194	764,429	319,442	1,681,831	0·19	28,069	1,643	1,801	31,518 ^c	0 10
Similar total for 1883-84.	1,749	1,118,940	597,156	2,618,377	0·37	31,479	14,818	6,373	52,670	0 11

* Note.—In addition to this expenditure a sum of £358 was expended on revision survey in the Prome district.

The outturn was proportionately about 14 square miles more per party than last year, and the cost was reduced from 11d. per acre to 10d. In addition to the cadastral work shown in this statement both parties also did topographical work. The Henzada party surveyed 23 square miles on the 4-inch scale at a cost of £58 and 256 square miles on the 2-inch scale at a cost of £157. The Akyab party surveyed 70 square miles on the 2-inch scale at a cost of £185 and completed 2½ square miles on the 64-inch scale in the town of Akyab.

7. The forest survey party completed 315 square miles on the 4-inch scale and nearly 37 square miles on the 2-inch scale at a total cost of £10,500, or about £30 per square mile.

Topographical parties.

The Shwegyin party surveyed 1,142·45 square miles at a cost of £11,195, or about £98 per square mile. The country surveyed is situated on both sides of the Youngoo railway line and consists of large plains covered with dense forest and kaing grass, in which the work of the surveyor was tedious and difficult. The small number of villages and the want of carriage added to the difficulties of work. The cultivated area is only 109·43 square miles out of the total area.

SETTLEMENTS.

8. Settlement operations were continued in Henzada and Prome, and begun in Akyab. Prome was completed during the year and the operations in Henzada will terminate at the end of the present season. There will then be only one cadastral and one settlement party at work in the province. The total expenditure on survey and settlement work from February 1879 up to the end of March 1885 has been as follows :—

Cadastral survey	...	...	...	...	£.
Settlement	...	...	...	...	140,477
			Total	...	422,895

9. The revised assessments sanctioned in 1885, and taking effect from the 1st July of the present year, gave the following fiscal results :—

Districts.	Old land revenue.	REVISED ASSESSMENTS		Increase or decrease of rates now to be levied as compared with old assessments.
		At maximum rates.	At rates now to be levied.	
	£	£	£	£
Hanthawaddy and Pegu	40,847	50,800	48,367	+ 2,520
Tharrawaddy and Prome	28,582	29,048	26,457	+ 2,875
Bassein and Henzada	28,083	29,635	25,650	+ 2,567
Total	87,512	108,983	95,474	+ 7,962

The new rates are to stand for 15 years, except in one tract of Henzada, which is subject to floods, and in the garden tracts of the Bassein and Henzada districts, where the lands were considerably under-measured and where it was not, therefore, considered advisable to enhance the revenue suddenly.

In one tract of the Pegu district, where the current rates were very low and where the proposed rates would have raised the revenue at one stroke from 167 to 492 per cent., it was not considered advisable to call upon the cultivators to pay treble or quadruple their old revenue, and intermediate rates were sanctioned for a period of five years. The cultivated area, as disclosed by the survey and settlement, exceeds the area returned by the thugyis in the year next preceding the settlement by—

- 15 per cent. in Hanthawaddy and Pegu ;
- 44 per cent. in Tharrawaddy and Prome ;
- 5 per cent. in Bassein and Henzada.

Sub-tenants.

10. The percentage of land held by tenants, and rents paid by them, is given as follows in the latest Settlement reports :—

Districts.	Number of tenants.	Area held.	Rent paid.	Revenue paid.	Total paid.	Incidence per acre.
		Acres.	£	£	£	s. d.
Hanthawaddy and Pegu	1,926	37,560	7,566	7,165	14,781	7 10
Tharrawaddy and Prome	2,898	7,984	1,896	1,066	2,972	7 5
Bassein and Henzada	4,019	36,806	11,416	5,886	16,801	9 3
Total	8,841	81,340	20,867	13,637	34,504	8 5

The rent fixed by custom in Burma is 10 per cent. of the gross produce measured after harvest, plus the land revenue. Of late years this custom has

been gradually disappearing. Rents are now generally fixed in advance, no abatement is allowed for any damage done to the crop, and the percentage of the gross produce demanded as rent is often considerably in excess of that formerly fixed by custom. In many instances the rent is paid in money and not in kind.

A class of landlords who have no interests in common with the cultivators is slowly forming. This class consists of money-lenders, traders, and pleaders, and their number was in Bassein and Hensada in 1888-84 estimated as 24.18 per cent. of the total number of landlords. Their number is given as 16.86 per cent. in 1884-85. Steps have been taken to ascertain the number of this class of landlords in the different districts under supplementary survey and to obtain returns showing their increase or decrease from year to year. If legislation ever becomes necessary in Burma regarding the tenant classes, it will probably be due to the changes introduced in the tenancy customs by landlords of this class.

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY.

Work of the supplementary survey.

11. Supplementary survey operations were carried on during the past year in the following districts :—

	Number of circles.		Area in square miles.	
Hanthawaddy	98	1,199.73	
Pegu	35	2,090.52	
Tharrawaddy	24	818.95	
Bassein...	84	1,611.64	
Total	119	4,710.74	

This year the work will be extended to the districts of Prome and Hensada, and the area under supplementary survey will comprise—

	Number of circles.		Area in square miles.	
Hanthawaddy	97	1,226.47	
Pegu	35	2,090.52	
Tharrawaddy	27	1,035.70	
Bassein	48	2,033.28	
Prome	68	700.66	
Hensada	6	168.66	
Total	200	7,470.29	

Hitherto the practice has been to extend supplementary survey operations to the tracts settled in the previous year, and the settlement rates were applied where they were lower than the existing rates, whereas the current rates were continued when the settlement rates exceeded them. It was, however, represented that the practice of having one set of rates in the year immediately following settlement and the sanctioned rates in the following year disturbed the minds of the cultivators and led them to think that the rates were not permanently fixed. It was, therefore, determined to allow the revenue to be assessed at the old rates on the thugyis' areas in the year following settlement, and to introduce the sanctioned rates and correct measurement in the year next but one. In the Pegu district, when the assistants had been appointed to the new circles, and all arrangements made for carrying out the work under the former system, the correct measurement and transition rates were adopted during the past year.

12. The inspection of the work done by the thugyis and their assistants showed that there were defects in the system which required the amendment of the Directions. Revised Directions were therefore issued, laying down more strictly the method to be followed in checking the work. District Officers and their subordinates were directed to check thoroughly a certain proportion of the work. These Directions also defined in more detail the nature of the assistant's work and fixed his position with regard to the thugyi. The title of the assistant was altered from *lettank-thugyi* to *waikroye* (circle clerk). The question of all wing thugyis to work their circles without an assistant was

Revised Directions to Revenue Officers concerning supplementary survey.

left undecided, as experience has not yet shown whether a thugyi can manage his circle single-handed under the present system.

13. The talksayes were for the first time stationed at the thugyis' headquarters and it is said that the results of this change are unsatisfactory. The area under paddy-cultivation only increased by 1,785 acres and garden and miscellaneous cultivation by 262. The slight increase in the area under paddy is, probably, due to the fact that cultivators availed themselves more widely of the fallow rules.

Hanthawaddy.

14. Fifteen new circles were brought under supplementary survey. The area under paddy-cultivation increased by 17,061·86 acres, and that under garden and miscellaneous cultivation decreased by 6·21 acres.

Pegu.

15. There was an increase of 17,809 acres in the area under paddy-cultivation. This increase is attributed to the extension of cultivation and to revenue-free grants being measured on expiry of the term of exemption. The assistants in this district have not yet been stationed at the thugyis' headquarters, as they were not considered sufficiently experienced to work away from the immediate supervision of the Superintendent.

Tharrawaddy.

16. The revenue decreased by £194 on account of the increase in the area of land assessed at fallow rates. This area rose to 32,904 acres, chiefly owing to the lack of plough-cattle.

Bassein.

Sales of holdings.

17. The statistics collected concerning sales of land show—

District.	Number of cases.	Area in acres.	Average selling price per acre.		
			£.	s.	d.
Hanthawaddy	... Not given.	Not given.	Not given.		
Pegu	... 976	20,080	0	14	6
Tharrawaddy	... 1,426	Not given.	1	11	9
Bassein	... 264	4,418	6	3	1

Tenant occupancy.

18. The statistics collected under this head show—

District.	Number of tenants.	Average area of tenancy.	Incidence of rent, &c., per acre.	
			Acres.	s. d.
Hanthawaddy	...	2,048	20-91	8 1
Pegu	...	2,869	28-94	8 8
Tharrawaddy	...	1,886	8-24	9 7
Bassein	...	645	15-79	8 7

About 1½ per cent. of the sub-tenants have held their position for more than five years. The number of sub-tenants has increased considerably in all these districts except Bassein.

WASTE LANDS.

19. It is only in the Akyab, Pegu, and Hanthawaddy districts that many grants of waste lands under the old rules exist under the old Waste-land Rules of 1839-41 and 1865.

The boundaries of all the grants in Pegu and Hanthawaddy have been determined by the Settlement. In Arakan the grantees contended that they were entitled to retain all the land within the boundaries described in the original deed and that they were only bound to pay revenue on the specified proportion (three-fourths or other) of the area named in the original deed. The discrepancies between the areas named in the original documents and the area found by

the Survey ranged from zero to 450 per cent. This claim, therefore, could not be admitted; but, as the discrepancies discovered were due to laxity and mistake in the procedure under which the grants were originally made, the case appeared a suitable one for compromise, and the Settlement Officer was authorized to propose compromises to grantees who held much larger areas than those named in the original documents. The basis on which such compromises might be offered was—

- (1) the grantees should be allowed to choose whether they would have—
 - (a) the areas enclosed within the boundaries described in the deeds of grant so far as such boundaries could be identified by the Boundary Officer, or
 - (b) the acreage specified in their deeds of grant;
- (2) when the grantees elect to take their boundaries as described in clause (a), the Settlement Officer was empowered to offer them revised assessments of the grants which might take the form—
 - (a) of lower rates than those stipulated in the deeds of grant, or
 - (b) of a lower proportion of assessable area than that stipulated in the deeds of grant, or
 - (c) both lower rates and a lower proportion of assessable area than stipulated in the deeds of grant.

Twenty-three grantees accepted terms of compromise on the basis described, and the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the rates proposed by the Settlement Officer and recommended by the Commissioner of Arakan. The grantees were allowed up to the 31st May to accept terms of compromise; this date was not, however, strictly insisted upon and compromises were, as a matter of fact, accepted as late as the month of August. Orders have now issued to enforce strictly the rules and the terms of the grants against those who have not effected a compromise.

20. The area granted with terms of exemption under the ordinary revenue rules during the past five years is given in the following statement:—

Division.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Arakan	5,640	4,033	2,859	1,906	1,785
Pegu	17,411	29,321	10,170	21,794	18,844
Irrawaddy	21,110	19,121	9,675	16,763	28,079
Tenasserim	8,613	6,997	5,797	6,610	5,186
Total	52,773	61,382	28,471	46,997	66,844

The area granted has slightly increased in Tenasserim, and in Irrawaddy there has been a considerable increase. In Pegu and Arakan there has been a slight decrease. It is explained that in Pegu the number of applications has been so large that it was not possible to survey all the lands applied for during the current year; the grants have been issued since the close of the year and the decrease is, therefore, only apparent. The large increase in Irrawaddy is due to the reclamation of the Ma-ubin island. The embankment round the island has now been completed and the competition for the lands thus rendered culturable has been keen. The whole area granted on the reclaimed lands up to March 1895 amounted to 33,825 acres. The increase in Tenasserim is due to the clearing of new land on the Toungoo railway line. Shans and Karens are settling on these lands, which were formerly almost inaccessible, and Burmans are giving up petty trading to undertake cultivation. A large increase may be expected for some years to come along the railway line in the districts of the Tenasserim division.

III.—PROTECTION.

Legislation.

21. The following Acts affecting British Burma were passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year 1884-85 :—

1884.

The Legal Practitioners Act.
 The Burma Courts Act.
 The Agriculturists Loans Act.
 An Act for the validation of certain licenses to solemnize marriages.
 The Burma Gaming Act.
 The Burma Municipal Act.
 The Rangoon Waterworks Act.
 An Act to repeal the Straits Settlement Emigration Act, 1877.

1885.

The Burma Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act.
 The Negotiable Instruments Act.
 An Act to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1862.
 An Act to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1875.
 An Act to amend the Excise Act, 1881.

22. Five of these Acts affect this province exclusively. (The Burma

Local Acts.

Courts Act was framed for the purpose of quieting doubts which had arisen regarding the jurisdiction of certain subordinate Civil Courts; at the same time the Chief Commissioner was empowered to vary the number and local limits of jurisdiction of the Courts of the lower grades; and several minor changes in the law were made for the purpose of remedying practical inconveniences which had been experienced under the working of the Courts Act of 1875.)

The Burma Gaming Act was passed for the purpose of suppressing the Chinese lottery, or *ti*, which the general consensus of official and non-official opinion had condemned as the most hurtful among the various forms of gaming practised in this province. Minor changes in the law were also effected with a view to enabling the authorities to deal more successfully with other forms of public gaming.

The Burma Municipal Act deals comprehensively with the constitution, powers, and responsibilities of Municipal Committees in this province. It was passed for the purpose of defining more precisely than heretofore the position of these bodies, and for enabling them to carry out more effectively the policy of local self-government adopted by the Government of India.

The Rangoon Waterworks Act applies exclusively to the town of Rangoon. It vests in the Municipal Committee the Royal Lake and all land, buildings, &c., connected with the waterworks; and provides for the supply of water, under suitable conditions, to all parts of the town, except such as may be excluded by the Chief Commissioner from the provisions of the Act.

A short Act was passed early in the current calendar year to provide for the licensing of engine-drivers under the Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act. Experience had shown the necessity for this amendment of the existing law.

Police.

23. The total numbers of the regular police in Burma were 7,287 of all ranks in 1884 as against 7,492 in the previous year. The apparent reduction is due to the transfer of 239 jail guards from the Police to the Jail Department. The total cost of the police to provincial funds was £179,998 as compared with £188,168 in the preceding year. Of this difference about £4,085 were merely transferred to

the Jail Department, the balance, or £4,200, being saved by means of economies in different directions. The total number of resignations, ~~discharges~~; and desertions was 185 less than last year; and the proportion of the force that left the service within the year fell from 25.7 per cent. in 1883 and 24.4 per cent. in 1883 to 22.8 per cent. in the year 1884. The number of constables wearing good-conduct stripes rose from 881 to 974. The conduct of the police towards, and their relations with, the people are reported to be good.

24. There was a large increase in the number of crimes cognisable by the police, thus—

Violent crime.

	1883.	1884.	Increase.
Class I.—Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety, and justice ...	363	315	58
Class II.—Serious offences against the person ...	1,700	2,008	308
Class III.—Serious offences against the person... and property, or against property only ...	1,817	1,867	50
Class IV.—Minor offences against the person ...	105	171	66
Class V.—Minor offences against property ...	12,590	14,887	1,787
Class VI.—Other offences not specified above ...	7,266	9,184	1,918
Total ...	28,740	37,897	4,718

The percentage of cases struck off as "false" was 5.08 as compared with 6.85 in the previous year. Dacoities decreased in number from 98 in 1883 to 86 in the year of report. But there was an increase of 11 in the number of robberies and other grave crimes against property. There was an increase of 16 cases under "ordinary murders" and a decrease of three under "attempts at murder;" an increase of 84 under "grievous hurt" and an increase of 44 under "hurt by dangerous weapons."

25. The number of reported cases of cattle-theft and ordinary theft for the two past years was—

Petty crime.

	1883	1884	Cattle-theft.	Ordinary theft.
...	1,195	11,555
...	1,425	12,178

The number of cases struck off as "false" was larger in the previous year. The value of stolen property was £103,516, of which 43 per cent. was recovered, as against £72,598, of which 80 per cent. was recovered in the year 1883. Of the stolen cattle 59 per cent. were recovered as compared with 50 per cent. in the preceding year. The new law against public gambling came into operation at the end of the year. Its effect is reported to have been "beyond all expectation." There was again a large increase in the number of prosecutions for offences against the excise laws: 71 per cent. of the accused under the liquor laws and 65 per cent. of the accused under the opium laws were convicted.

26. The preventive provisions of the law were brought fully into operation. In 1884 the number of persons brought before the Magistrates for bad livelihood was 2,049 as compared with 1,610 in the previous year; and 64 per cent. of the persons accused were either placed on security or sent to prison.

Prevention of crime.

Detection of crime.

27. The result of police action in the more serious classes of crimes is shown in the following table:—

	Cases investigated, excluding false cases.			Number of convictions.			Percentage of convictions to cases.		
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Murder ...	148	147	165	41	40	74	28	28	45
Dacoity ...	91	107	89	21	29	27	23	26	30
Robbery ...	311	319	317	77	95	96	25	29	30
Housebreaking ...	987	1,234	1,279	331	397	424	34	32	33
Cattle-theft ...	986	1,146	1,266	214	313	294	22	27	23
Ordinary theft ...	10,121	10,558	11,447	3,331	3,866	4,200	33	37	37

The detection and punishment of violent crime was least effective in the districts of Pegu, Hanthawaddy, Thongwa, Shwegyin, and Toungoo. The results in this respect were good in Bassein, Rangoon town, and Prome.

Criminal Justice.

28. The work of the Criminal Courts of the province increased in the year 1884. In 1884 there were—

43,406 offences reported as against	...	39,954
39,199 cases returned as true as against	...	33,584 in 1883.
32,688 cases brought to trial as against	...	29,890

The numbers of reported offences and of offences returned as true for the last five years have been—

				Offences reported.	Offences returned as true.
1880	...	...	...	26,068	...
1881	...	...	...	30,353	34,761
1882	...	...	...	26,879	30,145
1883	...	...	...	39,954	33,584
1884	...	...	...	43,406	39,199

A great part of the increase is due to activity in prosecutions under municipal, nuisance, and special laws. Some part may be attributable to better reporting, some to improved judicial arrangements, and some to greater vigilance on the part of the police in the prosecution of bad characters and of minor breaches of the law; but a part must be set down to the increase of crime among the people of the country. The number of cases rejected as false fell from 5,970 in 1883 to 4,207 in the past year.

The figures relating to the number of persons brought before the Courts in 1883 and 1884 compare as follows:—

			1883.		1884.
Number of persons under trial	...	...	46,739	...	52,599
Number acquitted or discharged	...	...	17,870	...	20,378
Percentage of acquittals and discharges	...	...	38.2	...	38.7
Number convicted	...	...	27,869	...	32,221
Percentage of convictions	...	...	59.6	...	57.

The number of cases in which persons were brought before the Courts for bad livelihood increased from 1,413 to 2,176, and the percentage of convictions rose from 64 in 1883 to 67 in 1884. The chief increase of activity in working the preventive provisions of the law took place in the districts of Akyab, Kyauk-pyu, Henzada, Bassein, Thongwa, Toungoo, Tavoy, and Moulmein.

The 52,599 persons under trial before the Courts in 1884 were distributed among the various tribunals in the following manner:—

Before	Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates.	Benches of Honorary Magistrates.	District Magistrates.
and in 1883—	40,908	7,841	3,850
	37,640	5,079	4,090

The large increase in the number of persons tried by Benches of Honorary Magistrates is chiefly due to Rangoon, where the work done has more than doubled.

29. The number of persons convicted on summary trial was 7,193, while in 1883 it was 7,540. Of these numbers 4,099 and 4,763 were tried in the respective years in Rangoon; and in 1884 more than half were disposed of by the Bench of Honorary Magistrates.

30. Of the persons under trial the cases of 1,114 went before the Court of Session, and of 52 before the High Court, 3 to the Recorder, and 49 to the Judicial Commissioner. In the preceding year the corresponding figures were 959, 41, 6, and 35. The number of persons committed for trial to the Court of Session was 776, while in 1883 it was 661. The heaviest work was in the Sessions Court of Irrawaddy, to which 296 persons were committed, an increase of 107 on the previous year. The Sessions Court of Pegu tried 163 persons, and that of Rangoon 108. The Moul-

me in Court of Session had the smallest number of persons for trial, 66, but these were in 49 cases against 46 only in the Tenasserim Court.

31. The results of trials before the different descriptions of Magistrates' Courts compare thus—

	Percentage of persons acquitted or discharged.	Percentage of persons convicted or committed.
Honorary Magistrates ...	40	60
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	38.99	61.01
District Magistrates ...	36.4	63.6

32. The total number of persons punished in 1884 was 29,978. Of these 761, or 1 in 40, were punished by the Court of Session. Seventy-five sentences of death and 163

Punishments.

sentences of transportation were passed as against 68 and 208 in the preceding year. On the other hand sentences of imprisonment over seven years rose from 32 to 45. The number of sentences of imprisonment between two years and seven was nearly the same in the two years,—806 in 1884 and 797 in 1883. Whipping was more freely employed than in 1883, having been inflicted on 1,352 persons compared with 860.

The fines imposed and realized in 1883 and 1884 compare thus :—

	Amount imposed.	Amount realized.	Amount awarded in compensation.
	£	£	£
1884 ...	33,078	23,189	3,452
1883 ...	29,288	19,836	2,947
Increase ...	6,835	3,358	1,105

33. The number of witnesses examined by all the Courts rose from 100,067 in 1883 to 115,120. The average duration of cases in 1884 was—

Disposal of work.

In the Courts of—	In Rangoon.		Elsewhere.
	Stipendiary Magistrates ...	Benches of Honorary Magistrates ...	District Magistrates ...
	64	14	7
	84	34	9

The results do not differ much from those of 1883.

In Courts of Session outside Rangoon the average duration of cases is given as before at 30 days. In Rangoon it was 32 days, elsewhere it ranged from 16 days in Moulmein to 69 in Arakan and 84 in Tenasserim.

34. The number of persons who appealed was, in 1884, 3,442 against 2,639 in 1883, an increase of 803. The results of appeals in the two years stand as below :—

Appeals.

	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN WHOSE APPEALS	
	The sentence was reversed or proceedings quashed.	The sentence was reduced or altered.
1883 ...	496	214
1884 ...	536	478

Thus over 26 per cent. of appellants were wholly or partially successful in 1883 and over 29 per cent. in 1884.

Jails.

35. At the beginning of the year of report 6,247 prisoners were in confinement in the several jails of the province; during the year 18,149 were admitted, and 17,598 were discharged; 6,798 remained at its close. These figures include under-trial and civil

prisoners. Of convicts only 5,984 were in jail at the beginning of the year; 10,942 were newly admitted; 10,259 were finally discharged, died, escaped, or were transported; and 6,628 remained at the end of the year.

36. The daily average jail population of the year was 6,721 as compared with 5,324 in 1883. Towards the end of the year the total jail population began to go down. On the

31st March 1885 the total was 6,662, or 398 below the total on the 31st July last

year. A temporary jail has been established at the stone quarries on the Ataran river near Moulmem. At present the convicts are housed in a hulk moored in the river. If the place proves healthy and if the stone turns out well, a permanent jail will be established there.

37. The number of convicts recognized as having been previously convicted was 1,760 as compared with 1,359 in 1883 and 1,098 in 1882. Of these 902 were habitual criminals, *i.e.*, persons liable to enhanced punishment on conviction; and 87 per cent. of these received enhanced sentences.

Habitual criminals.

38. Of 186 juvenile prisoners, 75 were sent to jail to be whipped. The rest (111) were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. In 1883 the number of juvenile offenders sentenced to imprisonment was 83. Fifty-eight boys were under detention at the Paungdè Reformatory for the whole or a part of the year.

Juvenile prisoners.

39. The number of convicts who escaped during the year was nine as compared with 32 during 1883. The total number of punishments recorded amounted to 8,487 as compared with 8,983 in 1883. This large increase is partly due to the issue of orders requiring *all* punishments, whether specifically mentioned in the Prisons Act or not to be registered, and to the facilities for punishing minor offences afforded by the mark system. The number of miscellaneous punishments rose from 379 to 3,244. Punishments of other kinds were also more numerous than in the previous year. The number of cases in which whipping was inflicted increased from 581 to 609. But the proportion of whippings to the total number of punishments decreased from 14·8 to 7·2 per cent. The infliction of corporal punishment was carefully controlled.

Discipline.

40. The total cost of maintenance of the jails of the province in the past year was £44,997 as against £37,112 in 1883. In consequence of the increased number of prisoners there was an increase under every head of expenditure, except establishment and police guard combined, under which head the re-organization scheme, whereby the duties of the police guard were transferred to the regular jail establishment effected a considerable saving. The total average gross cost of each prisoner was £6-13-10½ as compared with £6-19-5 in the previous year. The increase in the expenditure on rations was common to almost all the jails and was due to the great increase in the cost of paddy. Out of a total average of 5,186 convicts fit for labour 2,969 were employed on manufactures, and only 205 were employed on unremunerative labour. The cash earnings of convicts decreased from £17,279 in 1883 to £15,856 in the year under review. This is due partly to the fact that much jail labour was devoted to intramural public works with the value of which the Jail Department was not credited. The net cost to Government of each convict was £4-6-9 as compared with £3-14-6 in 1883.

Financial administration.

41. The health of the jail population was scarcely so good as in the previous year. The number of deaths increased from 155 to 202; and though the average mortality among convicts was slightly less than in 1883, there was an increase in the proportion of deaths among under-trial and civil prisoners. The proportion of deaths was 30·06 per mille. The ratio of admissions to hospital per 1,000 of average strength decreased from 1,138·81 in 1883 to 935·58 in the year of report; but the ratio of daily average sick increased from 36·44 to 36·90 per mille. The highest death-rates per mille were at Akyab (129·5), Tavoy (107·84), Mergui (62·5), Sandoway (41·67), Kyaukpyu (41·24), and Myanaung (32·26); and the lowest at Shwegyin (0), Thayetmyo (6), and Ma-ubin (9·17). The central jails at Rangoon and Moulmein, with death-rates of 23·54 and 23·81, were comparatively healthy. Deaths from cholera occurred only at Akyab (22), Rangoon (4), Thayetmyo (1), Tavoy (4), Toungoo (1). The only serious epidemic of cholera occurred at Akyab, where the removal of half the prisoners to temporary quarters outside stopped the epidemic.

Health statistics.

Civil Justice.

42. There was an increase of litigation in the province during the year 1884 as compared with previous years. The number of regular suits instituted rose from 32,957 in 1883 to 35,476 in the year of report. In Rangoon the number of regular suits filed in the Recorder's Court was 212 as compared with 141 in 1883; and the number of institutions of suits in the Small Cause Court rose from 3,911 to 5,116. There was also an increase of 1,193 in the number of suits filed in the Courts subordinate to the Judicial Commissioner. The increase in the number of suits in the Recorder's Court was to some extent due to the appointment for part of the year of an Additional Recorder, whereby the disposal of business was much facilitated. The increase in the work of the Courts outside Rangoon occurred mainly in the districts of Arakan and Tenasserim; civil litigation remains at about the old standard in the districts of the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions. Besides regular suits, 8,118 miscellaneous cases were instituted as compared with 6,945 in the previous year. The large increase in the mofussil Courts in the number of suits on contracts in writing and for goods sold, and the decrease in the number of suits on unwritten obligation, for damages, and for dissolution of marriage, are noticeable. The value of the subject-matter of suits instituted increased from £352,271 in 1883 to £376,611 in 1884. The increase occurred in the Rangoon Courts. In the Courts outside Rangoon there was a decrease in the total values.

43. The appointment of an Additional Recorder enabled the Recorder's Court to dispose of 501 (including insolvency and miscellaneous) cases, or nearly double the number (260) disposed of in 1883. The number of regular suits disposed of by the Judges of the Small Cause Court in Rangoon increased from 3,921 in 1883 to 5,066 in the year of report; and the Courts under the control of the Judicial Commissioner disposed of 29,839 cases as compared with 28,737 in the previous year. The total number of regular suits disposed of in the province increased from 32,806 in 1883 to 35,229 in 1884. There were 1,469 cases pending at the close of the year as compared with 1,146 at the close of 1883.

In the Rangoon Courts the average duration of contested cases was 51·93 days, of uncontested cases 26·82 days. In 1883 the corresponding figures were 26·47 and 18·22. In Courts of the interior the work was rapidly done, the general average duration being 19 days for contested and 12 days for uncontested cases. Of the total number of cases disposed of 12,716, or 36 per cent., were contested. In 8,725, or 69 per cent. of these, the plaintiff was wholly or partly successful. The proportion of cases decreed *ex-parte* to the total number of cases disposed of was 18 per cent., and 24 per cent. of the total number were decided without trial.

44. In the course of the year 9,760 applications for the execution of decrees came before the Courts as compared with 9,569 in the previous year. In 5,021 cases, or 51 per cent., satisfaction in whole or in part was obtained. In 4,051 cases, or 41 per cent. of the total number, the application was entirely infructuous.

The number of persons actually imprisoned rose from 597 to 657, while 3,167 processes for the arrest of judgment-debtors were issued as compared with 2,419 in 1883. In 1,243 cases immovable property was attached and in 492 property of this kind was sold. The number of sales of immovable property was greater than in 1883, but less than in 1882.

45. The work of the Appellate Courts was lighter in 1884 than in the previous year, the number of appeals for disposal in the two years being 1,666 and 1,797 respectively. The Special Court decided six out of 13 appeals on its file. In the Courts under the control of the Judicial Commissioner the proportion of appeals preferred during the year to the number of appealable cases decided after contest was about 15 per cent., a slightly lower proportion than in the previous year. Of 1,334 appeals disposed of by Deputy Commissioners, 37 per cent. were more or less successful. Out of 1,527 appeals decided by all Courts the original decree was upheld in 966, or 63 per cent.

46. The total amount of costs in original suits was £40,430, or 15·7 per cent. of the total value of suits. This is slightly more than the corresponding percentage (15·38) of last year. The average cost of appeals (20·31 per cent.) increased, while the average cost of execution (2·53) decreased. The average cost of original suits varied from 38·74 per cent. (Sandoway) to 5·47 per cent. (Pegu).

Financial.

47. So far as can be ascertained, the total cost of the Courts of Justice and the income from court fees compare as follows :—

	Total amount of court fees, including process fees filed in Civil Courts, as shown in the present reports.	Cost of Civil and Criminal Courts and their establishments as returned in the present reports.	Gross expenditure on Civil and Criminal Courts in 1884-85 as per treasury figures.	Total revenue yielded by court-fee stamps, with judicial fines and forfeitures in 1884-85, as per treasury figures.
	£	£	£	£
Recorder's and subordinate Courts... ..	9,546	9,272		
Judicial Commissioner's and subordinate Courts ...	41,487	44,855	79,923	89,867*
Total	<u>50,983</u>	<u>58,607</u>		

Registration.

48. During the year the number of Sub-Registrars' offices was raised to 70 by the opening of eight new offices. There was at the close of the year one sub-registry office to 1,246 square miles and to 53,400 persons of the province.

Offices.

49. The total number of documents registered amounted to 9,498 as compared with 8,176 in the previous year, the increase being 1,322, or 16·17 per cent. Documents of which registration is compulsory increased by 17·88 per cent. and optional registrations by 9·10 per cent.

Number of documents registered.

50. The total value of property affected by registered documents was £1,608,822 as compared with £1,254,169, an increase of 28·28 per cent., the increase being distributed in nearly equal proportions over both movable and immovable property. In the case of immovable property the increase was large under *deeds-of-mortgage*, optional registrations of this class of deeds having increased in number in a much higher proportion (48·5 per cent.) than the compulsory registrations (19·5 per cent.). In the case of movable property the increase in the number of documents was greatest (10 per cent.) under the head of *deeds-of-sale*.

Details of registered documents.

51. Registration receipts rose from £1,975 to £2,448, or 26·92 per cent. Expenditure increased from £1,035 to £1,286, or by 24·32 per cent.

Financial.

The rate of fees is low in Burma, the total fee income bearing to the total value of the property concerned the proportion of—

·48 per cent. in Bengal ;	·27 per cent. in the N.-W. P. and Oudh ;
·82 per cent. in Bombay ;	·46 per cent. in the Central Provinces ;
·44 per cent. in Madras ;	·18 per cent. in British Burma ;
	·40 per cent. in Assam.

52. The work of registration was conducted by the District Officers and their subordinates, Assistant Commissioners, Extra Assistant Commissioners, and Myoôks. Extra Assistant Commissioners and Myoôks, when acting as Sub-Registrars and not being at the same time in charge of a treasury, are entitled to all fees received for registration within each month up to a limit of £5, and they make their own arrangements for getting the copying done. Assistant Commissioners and Extra Assist-

Work of officers.

* Note.—This sum consists of £65,861, "Court fees," and £23,506, "Judicial fines and forfeitures." The revenue from non-judicial stamps is outside these figures.

ant Commissioners or Myòoks in charge of a treasury receive no remuneration, but their clerk is entitled to the fees received monthly up to a limit £2-10-0, and in some cases clerks are specially appointed as registration clerks on a salary of £2-10-0 a month.

Municipal Administration.

53. During the first nine months of the year of report the conduct of municipal affairs was in the hands of Committees elected or appointed under the Act of 1874. In the Municipalities where the elective system prevails the second general elections were held towards the close of the past calendar year. For the most part the townspeople, especially the Burmese, took a hearty interest in the elections.

The Burma Municipal Act, 1884, came into force on the 1st December of that year. On the 2nd January following the undermentioned towns, which were Municipalities under the Act of 1874, were constituted Municipalities under the new Act:—

Rangoon. ✓ Moulmein. ✓ Henzada. ✓ Toungoo. ✓ Pegu. ✓	|	Akyab. ✓ Bassein. ✓ Prome. ✓ Paungdè. ✓ Yandoon. ✓
--	--	--

Except in the case of Prome, Paungdè, Yandoon, and Pegu, the members of the Committees of these towns, who had been returned at the elections held in November 1884, were re-appointed for a term of two years. In Prome the elective system was not introduced till shortly after the close of the year of report. In Paungdè, Yandoon, and Pegu proposals for introducing the elective system are now under consideration. The closing months of the year were devoted to the discussion of measures rendered necessary by the passing of the new Act. The framing of rules for regulating elections, for the conduct of business, for the assessment and collection of taxes, and generally for carrying out the purposes of the Act, occupied the attention of the Committees and of the local Government.

54. The following table shows the financial position of each municipal fund at the beginning and end of the year:—

Town.	Opening balance.		Income.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rangoon ..	1,656	31,783	160,802	129,438	140,713	127,843	21,782	23,377
Moulmein ..	1,394	894	13,952	12,628	14,452	13,166	894	356
Akyab ..	2,655	2,927	11,634	10,866	11,353	13,528	2,927	265
Prome ..	5,434	6,119	28,220	14,410	27,541	19,186	6,119	1,850
Bassein ..	8,331	1,775	13,146	13,562	14,702	12,935	1,775	3,402
Toungoo ..	154	705	8,475	8,594	7,924	8,795	705	504
Henzada ..	2,092	1,444	6,725	6,552	7,373	6,578	1,444	1,418
Pegu ..	4,058	1,296	5,366	7,869	5,029	7,983	4,296	4,183
Paungdè ..	3,104	1,190	2,209	2,889	4,123	2,618	1,190	911
Yandoon ..	1,973	621	2,664	1,951	4,016	2,629	621	—57
Total ..	26,889	41,753	253,099	206,215	237,224	216,960	41,753	34,708

These figures include debt accounts, the receipts and outlay of which do not represent ordinary income and expenditure.

Receipts.

55. The following table shows the total municipal receipts under the several major heads during the past two years :—

Head of receipt.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	£	£
Taxes on houses and lands	82,155	83,235
Taxes on vehicles	4,789	4,119
Tolls on ferries	2,260	2,699
Conservancy-tax	8,090	8,481
Lighting-rate	6,885	7,283
Water-rate	8,951	7,903
Total income from taxation	68,189	68,020
Fines	2,855	2,708
Miscellaneous	46,843	48,019
Grants from provincial and local funds	71,316	69,885
Debt accounts	69,587	24,585
Total income	258,089	206,215

The figures for 1893-94 in this statement differ from those shown in last year's report owing to the inclusion in the figures given above of the accounts of Paungdè and Yandoon. The incidence of municipal taxation per head of population was 3s. 8½d. as compared with 3s. 9½d. in the previous year.

Expenditure.

56. The following table shows the expenditure under each major head and the proportion of each item to the total outlay :—

Head of expenditure.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.
	£		£	
General establishment	11,821	4·8	11,825	5·5
Public safety (including street-lighting, fire-engines, &c.)	8,476	3·6	12,123	5·6
Public health (including conservancy, water-supply, hospitals, vaccination, &c.).	99,183	41·8	72,967	33·9
Public instruction	17,855	7·5	17,565	8·2
Public convenience (including road-making)	48,545	20·5	58,414	24·8
Debt account	48,866	20·4	12,850	19·9
Contributions to local or provincial funds	971	·4	1,009	·5
Miscellaneous	2,507	1·	3,507	1·6
Total	287,224	...	215,260	...

57. At the close of the year of report the Rangoon Committee consisted of 25 members, of whom 11 were Europeans and 14 non-Europeans; 19 were elected and six appointed by the Chief Commissioner. Only three officials held seats on the Committee. The Committee held 15 ordinary and special meetings, and the several sub-committees met 47 times. The average attendance at Committee meetings was 14. The elections, which were held in November 1894, excited much interest among the European and Burmese communities. For the Burmese community 10 candidates were nominated for five seats, and out of 3,884 voters 2,042 came to the poll. For the five seats allotted to the European community eight candidates were nominated.

The ordinary revenue of the municipal fund, exclusive of debt accounts, was £109,068 as compared with £107,870 in the previous year. The increase occurred

for the most part in the receipts from municipal taxes and contributions from provincial funds. In 265 cases processes were issued for the recovery of arrears of taxation. The incidence of ordinary revenue and receipts per head of population was 16s., of taxation 6s. 8½d. The ordinary expenditure increased from £75,667 to £81,446. The increase was chiefly due to larger outlay on public works. The liabilities of the municipal fund, which were reduced during the year by £13,218, amounted on the 31st March 1885 to £127,641. The expenditure on account of education amounted to £7,280 as compared with £7,404 in 1883-84. A Deputy Inspector of Schools was maintained by the Committee. The primary school and the girls' school, which were opened in the previous year, were successfully maintained. Eighteen assistant masters were attached to indigenous schools in the town at the expense of the Municipality. The General Hospital was maintained at a cost of £6,085. In addition to this sum £1,042 were spent on various works connected with the institution, among which may be mentioned the building of a mortuary, a contagious diseases ward, and a ward for incurables. There was an increase in the number of patients treated during the year. Early in the year the Vaccination Act was extended to the town, and rules under the Act framed by the Committee have since been sanctioned. The expenditure on vaccination increased from £332 to £539. In addition to a sum of £6,447 spent on the water-works, £35,374 were expended on public works. Of this sum £24,330 were spent on the construction and repair of roads. The Water-works Act, and rules framed thereunder, came into force early in the current calendar year. The municipal fire-brigade was brought into a state of efficiency. The tramway lines were extended and now run through the principal business streets. Under the enlarged powers conferred by the new Act, rules were framed for the control of lodging-houses and of burning and burial grounds. Dalhousie park was formally made over to the Municipal Committee, subject to the reservation that it is to be preserved as a public park for the use of the people.

58. The Municipal Committee of Moulmein consisted of 11 elected and four *ex-officio* members. The Committee held 15 ordinary and 12 special meetings during the year, and 67 sub-committee meetings were also held. The gross income of the municipal fund amounted to £12,628 as compared with £13,952 in the previous year. The incidence of taxation was 2s. 8½d. per head of population. The expenditure of the year amounted to £13,166 as compared with £14,452 in 1883-84. The balance at the credit of the Municipality at the close of the year of report was £356; but the outstanding liabilities amounted to £3,209. The medical charges were duly met. No new works were undertaken, but £3,306 were spent on the repair of roads and culverts, and £794 on the purchase of tools and plant. The conservancy charges amounted to £1,884, the charges for street-watering to £216, and the expenditure in lighting the streets to £751.

59. At the close of the year of report the Akyab Committee consisted of 12 members elected in November 1884 and three members appointed by the Chief Commissioner. Five ordinary and nine special meetings of the Committee, and 27 sub-committee meetings, were held during the year. The chief decrease in the income of the town occurred under the head of taxes on houses and lands, owing partly to the destruction of property by a cyclone which occurred in May 1884 and partly to the introduction of a new system of measurement for assessment. The incidence of taxation was 1s. 4½d. and of gross income 6s. 4½d. per head of population. Rules under the Vaccination Act were sanctioned during the year. The Committee took much interest in education. A boarding department was opened in connection with the high school and a girls' school was established. The expenditure on education amounted to £2,389 as compared with £1,712 in 1883-84. Drainage works—principally the construction of masonry drains—were carried on at a cost of £698.

60. The Municipal Committee of Prome consisted of seven official and seven non-official members, all appointed by the Chief Commissioner. Of these, at the close of the year,

four were Europeans and the rest non-Europeans. Since the close of the year the elective system has been introduced. The Committee held one ordinary and seven special meetings, and sub-committees sat 18 times. The ordinary receipts amounted to £11,901 as compared with £12,092 in the previous year. The ordinary expenditure amounted to £9,874 as compared with £8,849, and the closing balance was £1,350. The incidence of taxation was 1s. 2½d. and of ordinary revenue 8s. 3½d. per head of population. The gross expenditure of the year amounted to £19,185, nearly £10,000 being devoted to the drainage and water-works schemes, which have been successfully completed since the close of the year of report. The expenditure on education increased from £1,254 to £1,275. The water-supply promises to be a thorough success.

61. At the close of the year the Bassein Committee consisted of 12 members elected in December last and four official members nominated by the Chief Commissioner. At the

Bassein.

general election there were 39 candidates for 12 seats, and out of 2,441 qualified voters 1,956 came to the poll. During the year the Committee held 16 ordinary and three special meetings. The expenditure on public works amounted to £5,490 as compared with £6,281 in 1883-84. The educational expenditure decreased from £2,872 to £2,356. The municipal school was raised to the status of a high school and the staff was considerably strengthened. Liberal support was accorded to indigenous schools, and the education of girls was encouraged by the appointment, at the expense of the municipal fund, of two schoolmistresses.

62. The Municipal Committee of Toungoo consisted of 10 elected members and four members appointed by the Chief Commissioner. Four of the members were Europeans, the

Toungoo.

rest non-Europeans. The Committee held 12 ordinary and five special meetings, and sub-committees met 27 times. The Committee seem to have taken an interest in the encouragement of education, under which head the expenditure increased from £1,474 to £1,786. Medical expenditure amounted to £1,185 as compared with £844. Expenditure on public works amounted to £3,041 as compared with £3,559 in the previous year. Among the original works may be noticed the construction of brick drains and of four new wells, and the continuance of the river protective works.

63. The Municipal Committee of Henzada consisted of 10 elected and three *ex-officio* members. At the second general election, held in November, 14 members were nominated for 10

Henzada.

seats, and in three out of the five wards the elections were contested. One ordinary and 15 special meetings were held during the year, and sub-committees sat 37 times. There was a slight decrease in the income of the Municipality as compared with the income in the previous year, which was due to the falling off in excise receipts and to the embezzlement of over £200 by the late Municipal Secretary. The expenditure of the year was less by £795 than that of 1883-84. The decrease occurred almost exclusively under the head of public works. Efforts were made by the Committee to provide improved means of education for the town, which has hitherto been backward in this respect. The municipal school was raised to the middle grade and the educational outlay increased from £1,041 in 1883-84 to £1,232 in the year of report.

64. The Pegu Committee consisted of five *ex-officio* and eight nominated members, of whom seven were Europeans and six non-Europeans. The Committee held eight ordi-

Pegu.

nary and 11 special meetings. One sub-committee meeting was held. The limits of the Municipality were extended towards the close of the year. The increase in the income of the municipal fund was due to the receipt of £3,937 on account of the sale of leases of town lands, and to an increase in the receipts from bazaar rents and fees. The expenditure on public works amounted to £5,253, the principal items being the cost of building a new school-house, the construction and repair of roads, and the deepening of the moat. The chief wants of the town are a system of drainage and a good water-supply. Steps have been taken to raise the status of the municipal school and to provide a new school-house, towards which building a large grant was made from provin-

cial funds. Besides the amount contributed towards the cost of building the school, the educational expenditure of the year amounted to £190.

65. Paungdè was constituted a Municipality under the Act of 1874 towards the close of the past calendar year. At the beginning of 1885 it became a Municipality under the new Act. At the close of the year the Committee consisted of two official and six non-official members. Ten ordinary and three special meetings were held during the year. The decrease in expenditure was entirely due to a reduction of £1,784 in the outlay on original public works. In the course of the year of report the municipal school was raised to the middle grade and the establishment has since been strengthened. Proposals for improving the water-supply and drainage of the town are under consideration.

66. Yandoon was constituted a Municipality in October 1884. The Committee consisted of three official and nine non-official members, all of whom were appointed by the Chief Commissioner. The expenditure on public works amounted to £1,090 and on education to £738. The conservancy of the town was well cared for, a sum of £339 being spent on this account.

67. During the year of report the towns of Yandoon and Paungdè were raised to the status of Municipalities, and a committee was appointed for the town of Ramree in the Kyaukpyu district. The affairs of the undermentioned 22 towns were managed by Town Committees during the whole or a part of the year:—

	Population.		Population.
Kyaukpyu ...	2,620	Thayetmyo ...	16,097
Ramree ...	.....	Allanmyo ...	5,825
Sandoway ...	1,617	Dambyu ...	5,800
Shwedung ...	12,373	Ma-ubin ...	1,178
Gyolungank ...	887	Partauaw ...	6,174
Thonzò ...	1,936	Kawkareik ...	2,385
Lemyethina ...	5,355	Thatón ...	6,388
Ngathuangyaung ...	2,289	Megui ...	8,688
Kyangú ...	7,565	Kyaukto ...	1,932
Myaung ...	5,416	Shwegyia ...	7,519
Zahú ...	4,637	Tavoy ...	13,372

As was explained in last year's report, the members of these Committees are appointed by the Chief Commissioner and exercise powers similar to those possessed by Committees constituted under the Municipal Act. Town Committees, however, cannot frame byelaws or impose taxes. For the most part these Committees, which in some cases consist exclusively of Native gentlemen, have taken an active interest in the affairs of their towns. The encouragement of education, the provision of medical relief, and the execution of public works have received much attention. The opening balance at the credit of the town funds amounted to £18,529; the income of the funds to £32,511; the expenditure to £33,218; and the closing balance to £17,821. The expenditure on education, exclusive of outlay on buildings, amounted to £8,254 as compared with £9,513, the prescribed expenditure under the arrangements of 1882. The total expenditure on education more nearly approached the estimate than has hitherto been the case. The expenditure on vaccination amounted to £436 as compared with £685, the estimated expenditure. Other medical charges amounted to £3,249 as compared with £2,374, the estimated amount. The expenditure on public works aggregated £12,624. These figures cannot be compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year as some towns have in the meantime become Municipalities and one town fund is this year included in the accounts for the first time.

Military.

68. The total number of troops stationed in the province at the beginning of the year was 4,925, of whom 1,679 were Europeans and 3,246 Natives. Rangoon was garrisoned throughout the year by the 2nd Battalion of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, the 5th Madras Native Infantry, and a company of Madras Sappers

and Miners. The 4th Battery, 1st Brigade, Royal Artillery, was also stationed in Rangoon until December 1884. From that date until the arrival, in March 1885, of the 6th Battery, 1st Brigade, a detachment of the 7th Battery, 1st Brigade, was located in Rangoon. At Thayetmyo the garrison consisted of the 6th and 7th Batteries, 1st Brigade, Royal Artillery, the headquarters and a wing of the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment, and the 28th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry. Towards the close of the year the infantry were relieved by the headquarters and a wing of the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, and the 26th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry. Toungoo was garrisoned by a wing of the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment, the 5th Battery, 1st London Brigade, Royal Artillery, and the 3rd Regiment, Punjab Light Infantry. In January 1885 the wing of the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment was relieved by a wing of the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers. The headquarters and a wing of the 9th Regiment, Madras Native Infantry, were stationed at Moulmein throughout the year. The total number of troops of all arms in the province on the 31st March 1885 was 5,234, 1,950 being Europeans and 3,284 Natives. The actual net charges incurred on account of troops quartered in Burma during 1884-85 are returned at £285,851.

69. The volunteer corps in the province during 1884-85 consisted of the
 Volunteers. Rangoon Rifle Volunteer Corps, with a company at Akyab and a company at Bassein, the Rangoon Volunteer Artillery Corps, the Burma State Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps, with headquarters at Rangoon and outlying companies at Prome, Toungoo, and Pegu, and the Moulmein Volunteer Rifle Corps. Two companies of cadets at Rangoon and one company at Akyab are affiliated to the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles and two companies to the Moulmein Volunteer Rifles. Since the close of the year the formation of a volunteer artillery corps at Moulmein has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The nominal strength of the entire volunteer force on the 31st March 1885 was 1,091 men (of whom 891 were efficient) and 317 cadets. The capitation-grants earned amounted to £2,060. The reports of the inspecting officers on the efficiency of these corps for the year were favourable. The South Andaman Volunteer Rifle Corps is for administrative purposes attached to the Rangoon Corps.

Marine.

70. Her Majesty's Indian Marine steamers *Enterprise* and *Irrawaddy* were stationed at Rangoon throughout the year on general administrative duty. To enable the *Irrawaddy* to carry heavier armament considerable alterations and repairs have been made to the vessel at a cost of £2,477. The complement of the *Irrawaddy* has been reduced and she has been made a tender to the *Enterprise*. From the 1st April 1885 the *Irrawaddy* was transferred to the Imperial list and charges on her account are no longer met from provincial funds.

Her Majesty's man-of-war *Dragon* visited Rangoon in February 1885.

IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

71. In this chapter the subjects which the Government of India require to be treated in agricultural reports will be briefly mentioned in the prescribed order, with the exception of communications and embankments, which are discussed in the Public Works section.

72. The registers of the thugyis in settled circles were altered during the past year in order to simplify the work or to supply statistical information which was considered important. Thus the old Registers I and VII have been amalgamated into one register, and the register of tenants now shows the occupation of the landholder and the amount of yield of the rented holding. This information is easily collected and will be useful to indicate whether lands are gradually passing into the hands of the money-lending classes and whether the percentage of produce demanded as rent compared to the total yield is gradually increasing. In districts which have not come under settlement it is, as a rule, considered unadvisable to alter the forms to which the thugyis have become accustomed, and only one register (of grants) has been altered during the present year. The alteration was made as there were in some districts no less than three different forms of this register, and none of these forms prescribed that the lands granted should be shown under the kwin or village in which they were situated. The grants were simply entered according to the year in which they were made. The form now in use is that laid down for settled circles.

73. Famines are unknown in Burma and there are no entire districts in which the revenue can be called precarious. The outturn of the crop is more or less precarious on very high lands, or on lands annually flooded; but these lands form no definite tracts and are but a very small proportion of the total area cultivated. Moreover, the cultivators who own lands of this kind do not rely solely for their subsistence on the outturn of their holdings and have other means of livelihood. It may be said, therefore, that there is no precarious revenue in British Burma.

74. The reservation of land for grazing purposes has progressed steadily in the districts where settlement operations have been undertaken, but in the other districts the reservation of grazing-grounds is attended with considerable difficulties, owing to the absence of maps showing the proportion of cultivated to uncultivated land; the progress in these districts has consequently been slower, and the allotment of grazing-lands in these parts of the province cannot be placed on a satisfactory footing until survey operations have extended to them. The following statement shows the number of grazing-grounds demarcated up to date and the number of those which it is proposed to reserve:—

Divisions.	GRAZING-GROUNDS.			
	Number demar- cated.	Area demar- cated.	Number to be reserved.	Area to be re- served.
		Acres.		Acres.
Arakan ... ..	...	6,714	2	816
Pegu	333	70,894	84	10,810
Irrawaddy	659	116,785	18	29,448
Tenasserim ... ..	...	168,422	...	...
Total ... ..	...	357,805	...	40,574

75. The only farm on which agricultural operations were conducted under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Agriculture is the Kyanktan farm. Experiments regarding the value of different kinds of manure were made at Alon (in Rangoon Town) by Dr. Romanis; and the cultivation of new products was tried under the super-

vision of the Forest Officer and the Deputy Commissioner in Mergui and the Arakan Hill Tracts.

The Ma-ubin tobacco farm was closed during the year, owing to the death of the Superintendent. Mr. Mylne, an experienced Behea planter, visited Ma-ubin in February and, after examining the soil, he was of opinion that the stiff clay of the island was hardly suitable to dry-weather cultivation although it yielded good paddy crops. No further attempts will, therefore, be made with tobacco on this island.

In the Arakan Hill Tracts the cultivation of tea, pepper-vine, cinnamon, Liberian coffee, and Manilla hemp has been successful, but potatoes and English fruit trees have not done well. An attempt will be made during the coming season to introduce sugarcane-cultivation in this part of the province.

In Mergui the cultivation of Liberian coffee was successful, but it has not yet been proved that cocoa, nutmeg, and vanilla can be propagated in this climate.

The experiments at Kyauktan have shown that the soil of the farm is poor and that dry-weather crops can only be raised there at a cost which would be prohibitive to ordinary cultivators. It has, therefore, been determined to close this farm, and if it is hereafter found advisable to establish a new farm, its site will probably be fixed on the Toungoo railway line in the Shwegyin district, where the soil is believed to be favourable to the growth of dry-weather crops, and where the presence of Shan settlers makes it probable that the cultivation of such products will have more chance of rapidly extending.

76. During the coming season Mr. Cabaniss will supervise tobacco experiments on the Irrawaddy islands near Myanaung. This cultivation will be undertaken in presence of Burman cultivators and, if possible, with their co-operation. The bulk of the tobacco-cultivation of the province is on these islands; a large number of Burmans will, therefore, be able to profit by Mr. Cabaniss's teaching, and it is hoped that the system of shade-drying, which is now practised only on the Ngawun, will also be adopted on the Irrawaddy. In order to give a greater impetus to tobacco-cultivation, the rate on all lands growing tobacco has lately been reduced to 2s. per acre where it exceeded that rate and notices have been widely circulated amongst the cultivators informing them of this change.

77. The cultivation of jute made no progress during the past year. The prices prevailing have been so low that the Karens who were taught in Bengal the processes of cultivation and manufacture have not ventured to grow a crop which would probably prove unremunerative. A small quantity of jute was grown in the Ma-ubin district and samples were sent to Calcutta. One firm valued the sample at 7s. 3d. per bazaar maund; another firm valued it at 8s. per bazaar maund with the roots and at 8s. 9d. without the roots.

Jute will not be cultivated over large areas until there is some market for it in Burma; hitherto it has only been grown as an experiment because the Agricultural Department undertook to buy any fibre produced. In view of the fact that good jute can be grown in Burma, and only requires a steady demand to encourage its cultivation, a bonus has been offered for all jute bought in Burma during the next three years.

78. Indigo manufactured in British Burma has been sent to India for valuation during the present year. It was known that indigo grew wild in the country and that the Chins and other hill tribes extracted a dye from the plant. No manufactured indigo had, however, been sent to India; and the first attempt has been made by a Native of India named Kasir-ud-din on the Wimpadaw island of the Shwegyin district. The cultivation was tried on a small scale, but it was sufficient to prove that indigo could, in certain localities, be cultivated in the plains of Burma. The indigo manufactured was valued at only £6 to £6-10-0 per maund. The defects pointed out in the report can be corrected by more careful manufacture.

79. Efforts were continued to develop the cane-cultivation and manufacture of jaggery in British Burma. Mr. Mylne, of Messrs. Thompson and Mylne, visited the Bilin plan-

Sugarcane-cultivation.

tations at the end of January with the object of introducing amongst the cultivators a double-squeeze Behea mill. This mill was tried in presence of the Shan and Burman cultivators; and after hearing their observations Mr. Mylne came to the conclusion that a larger mill was required for Burma owing to the large size of the cane cultivated, to the great draught-power of the cattle, and to the fact that the Burmese mill is much superior to any of the native mills of India which the Behea mill has superseded. A double-squeeze mill with a large breaker-roller has, therefore, been manufactured in England during the present year and will be sent to Bilin for trial at the commencement of next season.

Advances were again made by Government to the cultivators of the Bilin and Thebyu valleys, who were found in a state of chronic indebtedness. In 1883 about £700 were advanced and fully recovered in the following year. In 1884 £2,000 were again advanced, but a sum of about £700 has not been recovered, owing to a fall in price of *kyantaga* (gur) of about 80 per cent. and to a low yield of sugar, due to heavy floods. Sanction has been given to the advance of a further sum of £3,000, and it is hoped that the whole amount, with the arrears of 1884, will be recovered during the next season. It is believed that the result of these advances has already been a slight reduction in the rates of interest and the improvement of the condition of the cultivators. Such an experiment will have, however, to be continued for years if it is expected to have any lasting results, and it is as yet too early to judge of its success.

Several attempts have been made at Bilin by Burmans and Chinese to manufacture refined sugar, but hitherto without much success. A Burman and Shan will proceed to India next year at the expense of the local Government to study improved methods of sugar-manufacture under Mr. Mylne's supervision.

80. Experiments will be made during the coming dry season to test the suitability of the land in Burma to grow the Indian dry-weather crops. A small plot of land has been selected at Dabein on the Toungoo Railway line, and three Shahabad cultivators from Messrs. Thompson and Mylne's Jugdispur estate have arrived in Burma to carry out the experiments. The crops they intend to try are—

Indigo.	Barley.	Gram.	Peas.
Wheat.	Indian-corn.	Sugarcane.	Dâl.

These different crops will be raised in the middle of a large paddy plain cultivated by Burmans, who will thus have an opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the Indian methods of cultivation. It is hoped, if the experiments prove successful, that Burmans may take to dry weather crops in addition to the usual paddy crop, and Natives of India may be induced to settle down to cultivation in Burma when they find that they can raise the same crops as in India by the ordinary methods employed there.

81. About 600lbs. of American maize were planted out during the past year; the majority of the experiments yielded well, and the cultivators are anxious to obtain more seed.

82. In addition to the experiments above mentioned the Agricultural Department during the past year distributed the following quantities of seeds:—

	lbs.	Number of lbs. to acre.	Number of acres which this quantity of seed is sufficient to plant.
<i>American maize—</i>			
White	300	3½	85
Yellow	335		97
<i>Tobacco—</i>			
Virginia	48	1½	576
Havanna	15		180
Sunatra	5		60
Jute	300	10½	28
Wheat	340	50	6
Borghum	15	3	5
Oats	75	75	1
Total	1,438		1,068

In addition to this 5lbs. of divi-divi and about 50,000 tobacco seedlings were distributed from the Kyauktan farm.

This seed has chiefly been distributed through the agency of Subdivisional Officers and missionaries, who were asked to help the Agricultural Department in the matter. The cultivators have shown great eagerness to try the new seeds, and the supplies of seed received from America have been almost exhausted.

83. None of the ploughs hitherto introduced have met with much success.

Agricultural implements.

The Watt plough is somewhat more popular than any other implement tried, but it is only after some years' experience that it will be possible to say whether the people will adopt it. After the close of the year Mr. Cabaniss devised an improved native plough; it has two rows of teeth and is reversible, so that it does not get clogged with mud like the ordinary plough. It was only tried late in the season, and although the Burmans who saw it appeared to approve of it, it is yet too early to pronounce it a success. Further trials will be made with this plough next rains.

84. The Allanmyo sheep-farm is the only cattle-breeding establishment in the province. The object for which this farm was established has been attained, as it has been proved

Cattle-breeding and veterinary establishments.

that sheep can be reared and bred in the Thayetmyo district. This sheep-farm has not been a financial success, and as it could be more cheaply managed by private individuals, it has been determined to reduce the number of animals to 8 rams and 50 ewes, and to sell the remainder of the sheep on condition that a certain proportion of them should be kept for breeding purposes.

The number of veterinary assistants employed in the province during the year was 29. In addition to these men a thugyi and two cattle-pound keepers hold veterinary certificates. There were during the year several outbreaks of rinderpest of a more or less virulent type, and it is doubtful whether the cow-doctors posted in the interior of the district have as yet been able to do much to check the progress of the disease. New rules have been issued under which the veterinary assistants are attached and made directly subordinate to Township and Subdivisional Officers; and it is hoped that the effect of these rules will be to produce increased efficiency of the staff and more accurate returns.

Since the close of the year reports submitted by the Veterinary Instructor have shown that the carelessness of the people in disposing of the skins and carcasses of dead animals, and the want of proper precautions in segregating healthy from diseased animals, are the chief causes of spread of rinderpest. Executive orders have not induced cultivators to exercise more forethought and prudence, and the Chief Commissioner has, therefore, recommended that a Cattle-disease Act, drawn up on the lines of the Madras Act, should be introduced.

85. Four stallions were employed in the province,—one at Prome, one at

Horse-breeding.

Shwedaung, one at Allanmyo, and one at Ngathainggyaung. The stallion at Ngathainggyaung was not appreciated and was transferred to Paungdè during the year. The Prome stallion was carefully kept, but the one at Allanmyo appears to have been considerably neglected. Instructions were issued during the year by the Veterinary Instructor, which will, it is hoped, have the effect of making the stallions more easily available to the brood-mares of the province.

86. The total cultivated area of British Burma is estimated at 4,300,356 acres, as follows:—

				Acres.
Total area assessed and cultivated	...	...	...	3,871,893
Total area assessed and left fallow	...	...	...	961,110
Cultivated area not assessed or not fully assessed at present	...	...	...	167,353
			Total	4,300,356

Of this total 3,630,840 acres are under rice.

Rice trade statistics.

87. The total exports of rice by sea and by rivers have been for the past eight years—

EXPORTS OF CARGO RICE FROM BRITISH BURMA IN
TONS TO

Year.	Europe and America.	India, China, and Straits.	Upper Burma.	Total.
1878 ...	562,898	236,566	53,823	853,287
1879 ...	609,233	193,056	41,837	844,126
1880 ...	684,070	105,771	5,877	855,518
1881 ...	754,467	164,714	5,248	924,429
1882 ...	801,639	233,227	39,764	1,079,630
1883 ...	754,414	156,390	37,840	948,644
1884 ...	645,218	108,575	64,824	818,617
1885 { (Estimate for two months and actuals for 10 months.)	727,165	218,887	97,763	1,043,815

Crop estimates were framed for the first time during the past year. They related only to rice, which is the only crop exported from British Burma. The total area under cultivation, whether assessed or not assessed, was estimated at 3,180,101 acres; the crop was estimated to be an average crop, and the total exportable surplus calculated at 975,000 tons. It will be noticed that the estimate of exports will be exceeded by nearly 69,000 tons, or 7.10 per cent. The original estimates of rice area were 450,239 acres, or 12 per cent. less than the actuals; and it must be remembered that in districts which have not been surveyed the actuals themselves represent thugyis' measurements, which are known to be incorrect. It will be difficult to frame estimates which more nearly approximate to the truth until all the surplus rice districts have been accurately surveyed and the estimates are based on more accurate data.

Other sources of rice-supply.

Bengal.

The exports of rice to Europe up to the 5th October were 24,500 tons as compared with about 110,000 tons in the year 1884,

Saigon.

out of a total exportable surplus which in past years has reached 520,000 tons, but which this year was about 450,000 tons in consequence of short crops.

Bangkok.

Only 1,380 tons out of an exportable surplus of about 250,000 tons have gone this year to Europe.

It would appear from these figures that the Burma export trade has little to fear from foreign competition. It seems, however, that Saigon and Bangkok rice is gaining ground in the home market, and that buyers would willingly take this rice at 4½*d.* to 6*d.* less per cwt. than Burma rice. The information is scanty regarding the cost of producing these crops, and it is not certain whether they could compete at this price with the produce of Burma. The export duty on rice from Saigon is about the same as on rice from Burma ports; but it is somewhat lighter on grain in French than on grain in English bottoms.

Weather and Crops.

89. The rainfall was generally well distributed over the whole province during the beginning and middle of the monsoon. In October, however, a long break occurred followed by severe showers. The heavy downpour injured the paddy in bloom, and showers which occurred in the following February caused some of the harvested grain to germinate and affected the colour of the paddy. The total yield of the harvest of January 1885 was fully up to the average. The gross rice exports of the year 1885 will, probably, amount to about 1,040,000 tons as against 1,079,630 tons in 1882. The quality of the grain exported from Rangoon was, however, very inferior to that of previous years; and the Rangoon *ngasein*, which is usually quoted 3*d.* more per cwt. in the home market than Bassein or Moulmein rice and 6*d.* more than Akyab, had great difficulty in maintaining its position and was in several instances quoted lower than rice from the rival ports. The Bassein and Akyab crops were of specially good quality.

Horticulture.

90. The Agri-Horticultural Society and Phayre Museum at Rangoon had their funds in a satisfactory condition at the end of the year. The number of subscribers is, however, comparatively small, and these institutions find some difficulty in carrying out necessary improvements in their buildings and garden. The different municipalities of the province have since the close of the year been asked to subscribe more largely to these institutions; several municipalities responded immediately to this appeal, and others have promised to contribute as soon as their financial position allows them to do so. The Agri-Horticultural Society has during the year introduced a large variety of plants and ferns from England and India, and has distributed plants and seeds to members and market gardeners. It has added a new room to the Museum for an economic collection. The local Administration has contributed to the cost of this building and supplied duplicate specimens exhibited in the Economic Court of the Calcutta Exhibition. The number of paying visitors to the Phayre Museum and zoological collection fell off during the year from 212,803 to 197,967.

Forests.

91. A net addition of 183 square miles was made to the area of reserved forest as compared with an addition of 317 square miles in 1883-84. The area successfully protected from fire was 176,269 acres against 167,004 acres in the previous year. The plantation of teak in Karen clearings (taungyas) was continued in both circles, and 1,264 acres were added to the area planted in this way, which now amounts to 7,474 acres. The numbers of trees girdled were 18,146 teak and 6,009 of other kinds against 16,305 teak and 4,808 of other kinds in the previous year. The quantity of teak extracted from the forests was 48,008 tons, or 7,560 tons more than in 1883-84. The gross revenue of the department for the year was £167,098 and the expenditure £121,223 compared with £250,927 and £121,782 in 1883-84. The net revenue of the year was thus £45,875 as against £129,145; this large decrease in revenue is due to the great fall in the price of teak.

92. During the year 184 square miles in the Pegu circle were added to the reserved area, which amounted on the 31st March 1885 to 3,527½ square miles, exclusive of 414 miles set apart for the use of Karen taungya-cutters. The forest area in the Tenasserim circle was reduced by the exclusion from the Mèkanè reserve of three square miles to meet the grazing requirements of villages in the vicinity. In the Pegu circle, as a result of correct survey, five square miles were added to the area of the Kôn-Bilin reserve and 24 square miles were deducted from that of Mókka and Kadin-Bilin reserves. No additional areas were proposed for reservation in the Tenasserim circle. In the Pegu circle an area of 125 square miles was proposed for reservation and preliminarily notified.

93. The Forest Survey party completed 315 square miles on the 4-inch scale and nearly 37 square miles on the 2-inch scale. The total expenditure was about £10,500, or an average cost of survey per completed mile of £29-16-0. This is a slight improvement on last year, when the corresponding figure was £31-19-0.

94. By the Working Plans division data for working plans were collected in the following reserves, namely,—

Kôn Bilin reserve, with an area of 25 square miles;
Kadin-Bilin reserve, with an area of 80 square miles;
Mókka reserve, with an area of 88 square miles;
a portion of Minhla reserve, containing an area of 11 square miles.

95. There was an increase in the number of cases of breaches of rules relating to timber in transit on the Salween, owing to the adoption of additional protective measures. The number of prosecutions in the Pegu circle was about the same as in the previous year. Out of 855 persons brought to trial 311 were convicted.

Prosecutions for forest offences.

96. In the Tenasserim circle 73,630 acres out of 81,428 were successfully protected against fire at an expenditure of £491. Although the dry season was unusually protracted, the number of fires (18) was less than in 1883-84, when 24 fires occurred. The chief failure was over 5,820 acres in the Bilakatyki reserve, protected by the villagers. Fire-protective measures were successful throughout the Pegu circle, with the exception of the Tharrawaddy division. Of 105,458 acres attempted, success was obtained over 102,638 acres. The total expenditure was £1,046.

97. An area of 28½ acres was added to the Magayi plantation at a cost of £31; the work was carried out by Shans and the plants are reported to have developed satisfactorily. About 30 acres were added to the Kyetpyugan plantation.

98. The taungya area planted with teak in the Tenasserim circle was 263 acres, of which 232 were fully and the remainder only partially stocked with plants at an average cost of £1-3-11 per acre. The indifferently-stocked area contained nearly 250 plants per acre and the fully-stocked area over 500 plants per acre. The taungya teak plantations in the Tenasserim circle now cover 1,810 acres, of which 1,140 are fully and 670 indifferently stocked with young teak. In the Pegu circle 1,001 acres were added to the area of taungya teak plantations at an average cost of £14-10-3 per acre. The total area in the circle is now returned as 5,664 acres.

99. In addition to the purely teak taungya plantations, 342 acres in the Tharrawaddy division were planted with teak and catch, and in the Prome division 84 acres were so planted.

100. In Tenasserim circle 2,700 teak trees, of which 2,054 were in reserved forests, and 3,124 trees of other kinds were girdled during the year. In the Pegu circle the girdling of 15,700 teak trees was sanctioned. The numbers actually girdled were 15,446 teak trees, of which 1,731 were inside reserves, and 2,885 trees of other kinds.

101. The gross receipts of the year amounted to £167,098, or £83,829 less than those of the preceding year. The receipts were derived as follows:—

	1883-84. £	1884-85. £	Increase or decrease. £
From timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency	196,758	125,677	-71,076
From timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers.			
Timber	20,800	18,580	-2,220
Firewood and charcoal	122	140	+18
Bamboos... ..	452	485	+17
Grazing and fodder grass	16	22	+6
Other minor produce... ..	8,911	8,704	-207
Confiscated drift and waif wood	16,657	7,948	-8,709
Duty on foreign timber and other foreign produce	4,023	3,097	-925
Miscellaneous	8,194	2,495	-5,699
Total	250,927	167,098	-83,829

The decrease was due to the fall of nearly 45 per cent. in the price of teak. In the Pegu circle auction sales had to be withheld as no purchasers were forthcoming, and at the close of the year there were 26,859 tons of teak in stock at the depôt compared with 14,482 tons in hand last year. The value of the 12,377 additional tons may be roughly estimated at £36,000. The large importation of undersized logs and stem-pieces from the Siamese Thaungyiu forests continued and seriously affected the prices realized at the Kado depôt.

The expenditure of the last two years was as follows:—

	1883-84. £	1884-85. £
(A) Conservancy and works	98,971	98,978
(B) Establishment	27,811	27,250
Total	121,782	121,228

The net revenue of the year was £45,875 compared with £129,145 in 1883-84.

102. The following statement shows the quantity of timber, both teak and other kinds, brought out from British forests during the year :—

				Teak.	Other kinds.	Total
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
By Government agency	...	...	...	44,149	9,998	54,142
By purchasers and under trade permits	...	...	...	466	78,866	74,882
Under free permits	...	...	...	712	843	1,555
By leaseholders	...	...	...	2,681	80	2,761
			Total	48,008	84,787	132,790
Outturn of 1888-84	...	...	...	40,448	78,409	118,857
Increase in 1884-85	...	...	...	7,560	11,878	18,938

103. The total imports of foreign timber amounted to 158,103 tons in the Tenasserim circle and 85,502 logs in the Pegu circle as compared with 169,400 tons in Tenasserim and 47,835 logs in Pegu in 1883-84. The total quantity of teak exported to all parts of the world was less than in the preceding year. The exports of teak, as returned by the Customs Department, were as follows :—

		FROM MOULMEIN.		FROM RANGOON.		TOTAL.		
		Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Average value per ton.
			£		£		£	£ s. d.
1888-84	...	90,359	899,004	68,049	690,029	158,408	1,589,027	10 0 7½
1884-85	...	95,849	857,912	52,128	483,906	147,977	1,341,878	9 1 5½

Of this quantity 46,428 tons were shipped to Bombay, 35,453 to Calcutta, and 33,260 to the United Kingdom.

Mines and Quarries.

104. The oil-mining industry met with little success during the year.

Earth-oil.

The Boronga Company, who had Canadian miners to work their wells and had introduced the best implements from America, were compelled to suspend payment. The wells are now worked by a mortgagee of the company; no large profits can apparently be expected from these wells, and it is probable that operations on a large scale will not be resumed for some time. The Arakanese continue to work their shallow pits and they obtain small profits under this system of oil-mining.

105. The exploration of the Okpo coal-fields has been abandoned. The country is exceedingly unhealthy and nearly all the labourers employed were attacked with fever of a violent type. During the year a company was formed to work coal-fields in the Thayetmyo district: it is not yet known whether any extensive deposits are likely to be found. The workers themselves believe in the existence of these deposits.

Coal-mining.

106. A company has been formed to work the lead deposits at Titawlé (Salween district) in the Tenasserim division. It is believed that large quantities of metal exist in the hills where the company proposes to work; it is not possible to speak with any certainty on the subject until mining operations have commenced.

Lead-mining.

107. Limestone and marble have been quarried in the Amberat district for road metal and on a small scale for building purposes.

Limestone.

And lime of very good quality is exported from Moulmein prepared from the marble.

Limestone is quarried at Thayetmyo for burning, but the lime is not so good as the Moulmein lime.

Manufactures.

108. There is nothing new to report on the subject of manufactures other than art manufactures. The general subject of domestic and other handicrafts has been comprehensively treated in a previous report.

Art industries.

The scheme for encouraging the art industries of Burma, begun some three years back, was further developed during the past year and is now worked on the following lines.

An officer stationed in Rangoon is put in charge of the work in addition to his other duties. The Art Officer visits the workmen in their shops as often as possible and lectures to them there on the work actually in hand or being designed. An effort is made to have every work fully drawn before it is begun, and the drawings corrected and re-corrected until the design is up to the workman's powers of execution. The best old and modern work that can be found, and also a few specimens of the late hybrid style, are photographed to a large scale, and the beauties and defects of design in each are carefully and repeatedly explained to, and discussed with, the workmen. Photographs of the best old work are given to the workmen, and they are ordered to repeat any particularly good border or method of surface subdivision. Like true artists, however, they never use the same design twice, and go on with fresh modifications on each new work. The power of enforcing these precepts lies in the Art Officer, who has almost the entire foreign art-work trade of the province in his own hands, and also in the eagerness of the workmen to succeed at the local competitions which are held every six months. The graded list of artists is altered according to the results of each competition, so that a workman can never rest on laurels once won. He is not taken out of his class, but his position in the class is altered. The rules of the competition, the prize-subjects, and the graded lists are printed in English and Burmese and sent to all known artists and to District Officers. The number of competitors is increasing; but the men who have not received instruction have not yet been able to beat the others. This necessitates a constant subdivision of the classes and offering prizes in each.

It is now found that *connoisseurs* are willing to give higher rates for better workmanship, and although the Burmese workman still maintains his notoriety for unpunctuality, his work has very greatly improved and has a higher market value than formerly. For the last three years more orders have been given to the Art Officer than he has been able to have executed by the best workman, and many orders have had to be refused.

Owing to the luxurious habits of the Burmese and their love of show and of feasts, they give large orders for silver work of a common kind. This affects the best master silversmiths for evil, because directly a pupil has learnt the rudiments of the trade, often a mere smattering, he sets up as a little master and undersells the better men. To stop this in some way, and at the same time to guard the pupil against being dismissed when work is slack, it is proposed to place apprentices with the best men and eventually to extend the system to other trades besides that of silversmiths. Government will give £1-4-0 a month to the pupil for four years; he will be called a Government pupil,—a point of importance in Burmese eyes,—and the master will add to his pay 16s., £1-12-0, and £2-8-0 a month in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years respectively. This plan is approved by both masters and pupils. The lads will be especially looked after by the Art Officer, and the masters will be obliged to allow them time every week for drawing and practising design.

The wood-carvers have made a great stride forward during the year by working from the living model when making sculptures in wood, and their success

has been marked. They have also begun to use rosewood and are able to do much finer work in small ornaments. Artists in silver-*niello* are coming forward and are doing better work than the Shwegyin man can now turn out and at half the price. Two of the gold-medallist silversmiths are improving very quickly and a very excellent worker at Tbayetmyo is pushing his way up the graded list. The demand for filigree jewellery has been slack, but orders may be expected after the Kensington Exhibition.

109. There are a few art-industries little appreciated as yet by Europeans, but which would certainly take if known to the wealthy at home in search of novelty and beauty. The upcountry silks, for example, would make beautiful and well-wearing curtains; some of the brocaded sorts would admirably serve for covering furniture; and although the Burmans themselves are partial to strong contrasts of colour, yet there are many patterns subdued enough to suit the most fastidious taste. Many of the cotton stuffs are well suited for purdahs, and there are excellent patterns in quiet colours. There must also be an opening for lacquer and gilt-lacquer work. The latter is especially suited to the genius of the Burmese artist, for its effect is dependent upon his skill as a draftsman. Our artists all draw with freedom and grace; their legends are rich in grotesque and fabulous monsters; they have standards of masculine and feminine beauty, different it is true from ours, but still quite possible; and they have nothing in their art so debased as the representation of Indian gods. Without the insight and delicate refinement of the Japanese, they are free from the extravagance of the Chinese, and as their art is yet in its rising stage, it has the future to look forward to.

110. A small collection of exhibits is being prepared for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. All the arts will be represented, and the individual specimens will be better than at Calcutta. The most striking object will be a carved wooden arcade with *kalaga* panels.

Commercial Marine.

111. The seaborne traffic of the province is divided into two branches, the foreign and the coasting. In the former the average number of vessels, both steam and sailing, engaged during each of the past three years has been 1,431, with carrying capacity of 1,293,615 tons. In the year of report however, owing to depression of the rice trade, merchants were obliged to restrict their business. Consequently only 1,149 vessels, tonnage 1,293,615, were engaged in the foreign trade of the year. This represents a decline of 14.57 per cent. in the number of vessels, and of 12.71 per cent. in tonnage, as compared with the figures of the previous year. About one-half of these vessels entered and cleared at the port of Rangoon, the other three rice ports, Akyab, Bassein, and Moulmein, accounting amongst them for about 40 per cent. of the remainder. The greater part of the trade is carried on with the United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements, which between them represented in the year of report 68 per cent. of the entire foreign traffic. About two-thirds of the entire foreign traffic of the province was carried by British vessels, the greater part of the remaining third being taken by Italian, German, and Norwegian ships.

112. The depressed state of the rice trade of 1884-85 affected the traffic with Burma *via* the Suez canal to a very sensible extent. Only 146 vessels, tonnage 201,046, entered and cleared at the Burma ports in 1884-85 as against 214 vessels, tonnage 283,281, in 1883-84. This decline was in some measure due also to depression in trade generally; fewer vessels with cargoes of European goods left England for Burma than in 1883-84, as the import trade of the province had for some time previously been greatly overdone and the markets were glutted with almost every description of goods.

113. The coasting trade is a very important division of the seagoing trade of the province. The average number of vessels of all sorts engaged in it during each of the past three years has been 3,966, representing an aggregate of 1,391,766 tons. The number was somewhat below this average in the year of report (8,950 vessels, 1,304,023 tons) owing to the chief Indian provinces—Bengal, Bombay, and Madras—sending less of their produce, and taking less Burman produce than usual. In the traffic between the various ports within the province the number of vessels which entered and cleared during the year was 2,889, tonnage 782,974, as against 2,850 vessels, tonnage 839,166, in 1883-84. A larger proportion of small Native craft was engaged in the coasting trade than in the last-named year, but their aggregate tonnage was much less. Nearly four-fifths of the coasting trade is carried on by British steamers.

114. The ship-building industry is of no significance or extent. Only three small vessels, representing 214 tons, were built in the province during the year.

115. In the Rangoon harbour the large French steamer *Cholon* dragged her anchors and stranded on the Alon sands, where she became a complete wreck. At Akyab, during a cyclone on the 17th May 1884, four ships in the harbour were driven on shore. Three of them were subsequently got off without sustaining damage, but the Russian ship *Alexander* became a wreck. During the same cyclone the British barque *Boston Vale* was wrecked off the Arakan coast. The Italian barque *Tripudio* was wrecked on the Oyster reef through the carelessness of the master. There were several casualties to vessels in pilotage charge at Rangoon and Moulmein, and one case of grounding at Bassein; but in no cases did serious damage result. Five accidents happened to vessels while in the charge of harbour-masters at Rangoon, and in two of the cases the harbour-master was to blame.

116. Port funds are maintained at the ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Bassein, Akyab, Kyaukpju, Tavoy, and Mergui. The Rangoon port fund is administered by a body of Commissioners. The fund had an income of £68,080 during the year compared with £69,810 in 1883-84, and on the maintenance and improvement of the port £70,947 were spent as compared with £75,525 in that year. The rate at which port dues are levied was reduced from 6d. to 4½d. a ton from the 1st January 1885, and a reduced scale of charges for landing was introduced on the 1st May 1884. The principal works and improvements carried out during the year consisted of the extension of one of the wharves, the purchase and re-erection of the port office, the purchase of a godown, the reclamation of the river bank, the making of roads, the purchase of laterite, and the purchase of a steam-dredger and fittings. On these objects £15,560 were spent. The Commissioners have made an application for permission to borrow £75,000 at an interest of 5 per cent. per annum, to be repaid in 20 years, to enable them to execute important reclamation and other works. Under the orders of the Government of India a Committee of Engineer Officers has been appointed to scrutinize the estimates for the various works. The aggregate income of the other six ports was £13,269, or £1,511 less than in 1883-84. The receipts from port dues at Bassein fell off by £633 and at Akyab by £532 during the year. This was due to the paddy season having been a very late one at both ports. Much of the business which in ordinary years would be done before the 31st March fell into the next official year. The expenditure from these six port funds in 1884-85 amounted to £22,388 against £17,553 in 1883-84. At Akyab £7,691 were spent on the stone pier and main bazaar pier, and £1,798 on account of the steam-lighter *Dolphin*. £720 were contributed to the Akyab Municipality and £144 towards the maintenance of the General Hospital.

117. Surveys were made by the Marine Survey of India of the Tavoy river, the Mergui harbour, the Cheduba straits (narrows), and the approaches to Sandoway and Taungup. Surveys of various portions of the Rangoon river were made by the Assistant Port Officer. A considerable change was found to have taken

place in the channel of the river below Elephant point. The tidal observatories at Rangoon, Elephant point, Moulmein, and Amherst worked well during the year. A scaphore has been erected at King's point to mark the depth of water on the Hastings shoal.

118. At Rangoon 15 European and one Native pilots were in the service at the beginning of the year. One European died and one resigned during the year. At Bassein there were six European and two Native pilots; one European pilot was dismissed during the year. At Moulmein there were eight European and eight Native pilots. One of the latter resigned. At Akyab there were five European pilots at the beginning of the year. One was drowned and his place was not filled up. The behaviour of the pilots generally was satisfactory, and there were no serious accidents to vessels in pilotage charge. Rules under the new Pilots Act for the ports of Rangoon and Akyab came into force during the year.

Trade.

1.—SEABORNE TRADE.

119. The foreign seaborne trade of the province is carried on exclusively, it may be said, through the ports of Rangoon, Akyab, Bassein, and Moulmein. Almost the entire import portion of it is attracted to Rangoon, whence it finds its way by coasting steamers, and by flat-bottomed steamers and boats, through the creeks and rivers into every corner of the province. Of the export trade about 68 per cent. leaves the country by way of Rangoon, the remainder being divided in about equal parts amongst the other three ports above named. The export trade of Akyab and Bassein depends entirely on rice, that of Moulmein on rice and teak timber, while from Rangoon there are shipped, in addition to rice, large quantities of timber, raw cotton, cutch, and other country produce. The trade of the province, both foreign and coasting (exclusive of treasure), which was returned in 1864-65 as being of the value of six and three-quarter millions sterling, rose in 1883-84 to 16 millions, the highest point yet attained, and this too in spite of the year having been one of much depression in the rice trade, on which the prosperity of the province so largely depends. It would appear, however, from the experience now gained that larger quantities of goods have been imported for several years past than the demand really justified, and the effects of this mistake made themselves plainly felt in the year of report, when the value of the trade of the province fell to about 14 millions sterling, or nearly two millions less than its value in the preceding year. But, notwithstanding this decrease, the average annual value of the trade for the past five years has been over 15 millions sterling.

120. The value of the import trade of the province, both foreign and coasting, for 1884-85 and the four previous years was as follows:—

Import trade of 1884-85.

			Foreign. £	Coasting. £	Total. £
1880-81	...	...	8,795,700	8,244,900	7,040,600
1881-82	...	...	8,293,300	8,091,600	6,884,900
1882-83	...	...	8,723,000	8,068,600	6,789,600
1883-84	...	...	8,807,500	8,505,900	7,313,400
1884-85	...	...	8,695,400	3,127,000	6,822,400

or an average of £6,870,000 a year.

The decline in 1884-85 is attributable to glutted markets and unusual dulness in the Rangoon bazaars, added to continued depression in the rice trade both here and in Europe. Several European firms suffered severely, in consequence chiefly of losses sustained by them through the failure of a number of Chinese dealers, some of whom absconded. Of the goods usually imported the principal are cotton, silk and woollen piece-goods, raw silk, machinery and building materials, oils, candles, coal, salt, provisions, metals, liquors, hardware and cutlery, earthen and glass ware, and cotton twist and yarn. These come chiefly from Europe and the Straits Settlements. The trade in yarns, cotton and woollen goods, earthenware, metals, and machinery fell off to a large extent. Cheap silks were imported in great quantities at rates which admitted of their taking in

many cases the place of cotton goods. The value of the silk goods imported from abroad during the year was £598,000, or £153,000 more than in the previous year, two-thirds of the importations being from the United Kingdom. The trade in coal and coke, provisions, matches, and salt was considerably greater than in 1883-84. The Rangoon Steam Tramway and the Burma State Railway took large quantities of fuel, and the shipments of salt from England alone were about one-third in excess of the quantity received in 1883-84. Germany sends about 8,000 tons a year also. Upper Burma takes about 17,000 tons a year of this imported salt. The *coasting* import trade is carried on with Bengal, Bombay, Madras, and between the various ports within the province. In addition to large quantities of European goods, this trade is made up of oils and oil-seeds, tobacco, gunny-bags, betelnuts, and silk and cotton piece-goods of Native make. It was of less value by about £380,000 than in the year before. The gunny-bag trade alone fell off to the extent of £94,000 owing to the dull state of the Burma rice market. Under various other heads the decrease was due to excessive importations in the year before.

121. The export branch of the provincial trade was of the following value in 1884-85 and the four previous years:—

Export trade of 1884-85.			Foreign.	Coasting.	Total.
			£	£	£
1880-81	...	...	6,561,000	1,825,000	8,386,000
1881-82	...	...	6,575,000	1,482,000	8,057,000
1882-83	...	...	7,088,000	1,805,000	8,893,000
1883-84	...	...	6,578,000	2,147,000	8,725,000
1884-85	...	...	5,287,000	2,077,000	7,364,000

or an average annual value of £8,273,000. The very great decline (£1,300,000) in the *foreign* export trade of 1884-85 is due to the depressed state of the rice trade, which lasted through nearly the whole year. Only 679,515 tons were shipped to foreign ports between the 1st April 1884 and the 31st March 1885 compared with 851,115 tons in 1883-84, 1,066,529 tons in 1882-83, 938,128 tons in 1881-82, and 841,014 tons in 1880-81. The crop of January 1884 fell short of the expected outturn, and prices in the Europe markets were such as to leave little but loss to shippers. It happened, too, that unusually large and unexpected shipments of rice were made to Europe from Saigon and Bangkok, the ordinary eastern outlets for which did not need so much rice as usual. This rice the exporters were able to lay down in Europe at lower rates than exporters of Burma rice could afford. It was, moreover, of a quality that suited millers. Consequently the market for Burma grain fell very much. The large exports from Bangkok and Saigon in 1884 were quite exceptional and there is no chance of their being repeated in 1885, but these markets may at any time prove troublesome rivals to Burma in the rice trade. Exports of rice from Burma to foreign countries in 1884-85 and the four preceding years were—

From.	1880 81.	1881 82.	1882 83.	1883 84.	1884 85.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Rangoon	452,809	558,511	677,122	504,625	485,996
Akyab	172,805	167,728	154,628	140,199	102,251
Bassein	154,336	167,298	164,040	148,657	107,080
Moulmein	60,648	56,508	66,898	54,845	32,724

122. The above quantities do not include the exports of rice to Upper Burma, nor the exports coastwise to Indian ports beyond the province. Besides rice the chief exports to foreign countries are raw cotton, catch, hides and horns, provisions, gram and pulse, spices, jadestone, and teak timber. Small quantities of caoutchouc and ivory are also exported. The *cotton* goes exclusively to the Straits Settlements and China, the value of the year's exports having been £191,000. Nearly all the buffalo horns, provisions (fish and fruit), spices, and jadestone were shipped to the Straits. The trade in catch and hides was, for the most part, divided between England, Egypt, and the Straits, while the greater part of the teak timber was sent

to England, France, Malta, Egypt, and Ceylon. The catch market was in a bad state throughout the year owing to previous excessive shipments, which left heavy losses to exporters.

123. The *coasting* portion of the export trade of the province was of almost the same value as that of 1883-84. It consists for the most part of raw cotton, rice, earth-oil, and teak timber. Bengal took raw cotton to the value of £34,000, and a small quantity went to Bombay. Bengal took catch to the value of £102,000 and Bombay to the value of £29,000. One variety, the red hard sort, is eaten with betel-leaf by the Natives of India. The soft kind is re-shipped at the presidency ports to Europe and America. Of earth-oil from Upper Burma 432,520 gallons were exported to Bengal from Rangoon against 325,600 gallons in 1883-84, and of Arakan petroleum 79,500 gallons were shipped to Calcutta against 74,728 gallons in that year. Large quantities of teak timber leave Burma for the chief ports of India in the form of railway sleepers, and posts and scantlings for house-building. The value of the shipments so made in 1884-85 has been returned at £807,000. The trade was however dull, having been overdone the year before, and prices fell seriously.

II.—INLAND TRADE.

124. The recorded value of the land and river trade during each of the past three years was—

Years.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1882-83	2,544,488	1,894,257	4,438,740
1883-84	2,616,564	2,308,118	4,924,671
1884-85	2,787,322	2,374,176	5,111,498

125. The main channel of the inland trade is the river Irrawaddy, which forms the highway to Upper Burma and Mandalay. The value of the import trade by this route during the year was £1,708,716. It is made up of ponies and goats, raw cotton, cotton piece-goods, catch, wheat, gram and pulse, hides, earth-oil and sessamum-oil, jadestone, silk cloths, jaggery (unrefined sugar), pickled tea, and teak timber. In goats, wheat, gram and pulse, hides, earth-oil, and sugar a larger trade was done than in the preceding year, while in cotton goods of country make, catch, and silk piece-goods (woven in Mandalay) it fell off to a marked extent from no special cause other than fluctuations in trade and change in fashion. The cotton and silk cloth industry in Upper Burma is, no doubt, decaying through the competition of cheap European goods.

The import trade by the Sittang, which was valued at £170,737 in 1884-85, is of much the same character as that by the Irrawaddy, although on a much smaller scale, except in the case of teak timber. The trade in catch and sessamum-oil declined considerably, that in hides doubled itself, while the fall in the value of teak is shown in the following figures:—

Year.	Teak imports by the Irrawaddy.		Teak imports by the Sittang.	
	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £
1883-84	13,048	71,132	26,819	160,914
1884-85	87,113	152,632	88,745	157,472

126. The recorded value of the traffic passing up the Irrawaddy in 1884-85 was £1,993,669. The trade consists of European yarn and cotton, silk and woollen piece-goods, earthenware, rice, metals of sorts, such as sheet-brass and copper, bar-iron and steel, kerosine-oil, salted fish, ngapi (in which an enormous trade is done), salt, and raw silk. A considerable quantity of coke and coal was sent to Upper Burma for the use of the King's steamers. The chief increases in the year's trade appear under the heads of rice (£219,000) and paddy (£88,000) provisions, ngapi, and salt-fish (£26,000), salt (£4,700), silk and silk goods (£76,000), betel-

nuts (£12,500). It will be seen from these figures that while the people in Upper Burma needed food and food-stuffs in increasing quantities they were nevertheless able to indulge largely in dress. On the other hand less was taken in the way of cotton goods, earthenware, metals, burning-oil, sugar, and miscellaneous goods. The export trade by the Sittang is very small. The navigation is difficult, and only boats of light draft can ply on the river above the frontier station of Toungoo. They carry chiefly English twist and yarn, cotton and woollen piece-goods, ngapi, salt, betelnuts, and sundry goods, such as cutlery, looking-glasses, biscuits, tinned provisions, and the like. Of all these things considerably larger quantities were taken than in the previous year.

Land routes.

127. There are in all 18 land routes, the traffic over which is registered.

In *Arakan* there is only one, and the trade by it is not large. Cattle, cutch, and jaggery are brought down, and betelnuts, ngapi, specie, and a few sundries are taken in return. The route is not very safe.

In *Irrawaddy* there are six routes, over only two of which—the Kanaung and Allamyo tracks—does much traffic come and go. What there is, is mainly in cattle and cutch, in exchange for which provisions, rice, fish, &c., are taken. While the value of the imports by these routes in 1884-85 was £80,606, or double that of the year before, the exports came to £6,880, or nearly the same as in 1883-84. A great deal of the return (export) traffic must accordingly go back by river, the traders preferring that route for greater safety.

In *Tenasserim* there are 11 land routes. The import traffic by these is mainly in cattle and silk goods from Siam, for which cotton, woollen, and silk piece-goods are taken in exchange. The nominal value of the traffic is much increased by the large quantities of silver specie that pass between our territory and Siam for the use of foresters working there.

Public Works.

128. The total expenditure on public works from all sources (except municipal funds) as shown in the subjoined statement amounted to £340,732, a sum about £105,000 below the expenditure of the previous year, which amounted to £444,516:—

Head of charge.	Imperial.	Provincial.	LOCAL FUNDS.		Total provincial and local.	Total heads of charges.	
			Incorporated.	Excluded.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1. Military	{ Original works	27,609	1,985	...	...	1,985	11,890
	{ Repairs ...	12,246	...	...	...	...
2. Civil buildings	{ Original works	...	19,387	681	...	20,018	30,863
	{ Repairs ...	...	10,298	51	...	10,344	
3. Communications —Land.	{ Original works	...	78,120	19,718	...	97,738	181,906
	{ Repairs ...	...	81,465	2,608	...	84,068	
4. Communications —Water.	{ Original works	...	1,428	...	...	1,428	3,465
	{ Repairs ...	...	1,978	65	...	2,038	
5. Embankments	{ Original works	...	29,899	366	...	30,265	36,273
	{ Repairs ...	...	5,989	18	...	6,007	
6. Miscellaneous public imprvts.	{ Original works	...	2,887	11,115	6,968	20,940	21,756
	{ Repairs ...	...	494	216	106	816	
7. Tools and plant	...	528	4,876	282	102	5,280	5,788
8. Establishment	...	6,856	58,181	3,367	1,225	62,792	69,149
9. Profit and loss	...	...	153	...	...	153	153
Total	...	46,779	247,060	38,452	8,421	293,955	340,732

Military works.

129. The total expenditure on imperial military works in the province for the year was £46,779 against a final grant of £45,340.

130. The new station hospital for European troops at Rangoon, at a cost of about £22,000, is now almost complete. The work

Rangoon.
Accommodation for troops.

comprises four main buildings to accommodate 70 men and eight women and children, as well as quarters for four apothecaries and assistants, with the necessary out-houses.

131. Work in connection with the submarine mining buildings, Monkey point, was begun at the end of March 1885. The buildings comprise quarters for eight non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers and quarters for a conductor, also barracks for 40 natives, a general store, smith's shop, primer-room, gun-cotton magazine, loading-room, cable-shed, and boat-house. The buildings are mainly wooden with corrugated-iron roofs, except the primer-room, which is of brick. A tramway connects the general store to the magazine *via* the primer and loading rooms. All these buildings are now finished and occupied.

Fortifications.

132. Careful experiments, with a view to test what weight the soil and pile foundations could carry, were made and, from the results obtained by the different experiments, it was decided to drive sheet-piling all round the bases of the foundations for the emplacements. One of the emplacements on being weighted with over 70 tons of rails showed a small but regular sinkage. Three of these emplacements are practically complete and the other two are in progress.

133. No works of any great importance were carried out at Thayetmyo during the year. The expenditure on original works was £605, and on repairs to roads and buildings £4,884.

Remodelling Monkey Point
battery.

134. Sundry minor improvements were made in the barracks and subsidiary buildings at the experimental sanitarium of Thandaung which, however, has now been condemned as a health resort for troops. Little else was done at Toungoo besides petty repairs and improvements to the fort and other cantonment buildings.

Toungoo.
Accommodation for troops.

135. £1,965 was spent on the construction of headquarters for the Volunteer Artillery, Rangoon. The works consist of—

Military—Provincial.

- (i) a house for the Sergeant-Instructor, with offices, armchairs, and magazines on the ground-floor;
- (ii) a corrugated-iron drill-shed, 80 by 60 feet, on wrought-iron posts;
- (iii) an emplacement completed for one 80-pounder gun;
- (iv) roads, drains, and culverts.

136. During the year £781 and £280 were expended on original works and repairs respectively. In the Rangoon division £146

Civil buildings,
Post and Telegraph.

were spent on the completion of the telegraph office at Tante, which has cost in all £257. A sum of £240 was expended on additions and improvements to the new Post Office, Rangoon, and a further sum of £225 on repairs throughout the division.

In the Arakan division £200 and £43 were expended on original works and repairs respectively. Of the former sum £118 were spent on the completion of the post office at Akyab and £82 on that at Paletwa. In the other divisions £156 were spent on petty works and repairs.

137. Under the head of Administration about £5,200 were spent on original works during the year, Pegu heading with an expenditure of £4,968, of which sum £4,779 were for the new district court-house and offices at Pegu.

Administration.

138. On civil buildings for "Law and Justice" about £3,400 were spent during the year under review as compared with £12,500 in the previous year. No large works were carried out. Accommodation was provided for the office of the Commissioner

Law and Justice.

of Irrawaddy, whose headquarters were transferred from Henzada to Bassein, at a total cost of £1,256.

139. The erection of police barracks is generally undertaken by the Police Officers and the funds provided in their own budgets, so that the expenditure by the Public Works Department under this head is not large; in the year under review it amounted to about £2,300 as compared with £1,800 of the previous year.

140. A little over £4,280 were spent on jails, reformatories, &c., in the province during the year as compared with £15,000 in the previous year. Of this sum over four-sevenths was expended on the Rangoon Central Jail buildings. The re-construction of these jail buildings entailed the construction of six association wards with latrines, bathing-trough, &c. Of these the association wards have all been completed, as also one cellular ward. One association ward, AA4 ward, latrine, bathing-trough, and radiating walls were completed. Altogether £1,364 were spent during the year, making the total expenditure on the re-construction of Central Jail buildings up to end of 1884-85 £40,056. A timber building, costing £614, was constructed on the top of the main entrance to the Rangoon Central Jail for the accommodation of the jailor and for the main guard. Additions and improvements were made to the Paungde Reformatory at a cost of £127. At Tondaungwaing a temporary barrack for 800 men, with jailor's quarters and a guard-house, was erected at a cost of £402; and the *Buston Vale* was fitted up and converted into a convict hulk at a cost of £477 for use in connection with the proposed Ataran Jail.

The Moulmein Jail water-supply scheme was completed during the year at a cost of £231, of which only £17 were expended during the year. The scheme, which consists of a tunnel 120 feet long run into the hillside behind the jail and closed up by a brick partition from which a 3-inch pipe is led to within the jail enclosure, has proved a great success. Additional accommodation was provided in the the Pegu lock-up for use as a hospital at a cost of £185.

141. The Pegu school-house, estimated to cost £2,043 (which will be given half from provincial and half from local funds), was begun. £1,022 were spent during the year on the brickwork in foundations and superstructure, also on the concrete floor and materials.

142. The expenditure on "Land communications" amounted to £131,906 as compared with £191,270 in 1883-84. About one-third of the total budget grant was devoted to this class of works. Repairs cost nearly £35,000 as against a trifle under £37,500 in the preceding year.

143. The main line of road up the Irrawaddy valley traverses the Rangoon, Hanthawaddy, Tharrawaddy, and Prome districts, having, right and left, many feeder and 'loop' lines, connecting it and the railway with outlying villages. From Prome, the northern terminus of the Irrawaddy Valley Railway, it is continued towards the frontier as the Prome and Myede road through the Thayetmyo district. This trunk road though embanked throughout is not yet complete, both bridges and metalling having yet to be supplied in parts. The southern-most section in the Hanthawaddy district, 70 miles in length, from Rangoon to the Menin stream, five miles north of the Ökkar railway station, is bridged and metalled. On this section there are seven short 'feeder' roads, aggregating in length 19 miles, each from 1½ to 5 miles long, to the stations and villages of Insein, Hlègu, Wanetchaung, Taikkyi, and Palon. During 1884-85 nothing was spent on original works on this section and its feeders, while £5,137 were expended on their maintenance.

In the Tharrawaddy section, which has hitherto been in a backward state owing chiefly to the want of several large bridges, fair progress was made. Of six large iron-girder bridges begun partly in the previous and partly in the year under review, one, the Bilin, 90-feet span, was completed, while the Minhla and the Mimbu, each of 100-feet span, together with the Gamôn, 90-feet span, were almost completed; and the abutments and piers of the Bobin (one span of 80 feet and two of 40 feet) and Kantha (one span of 120 feet and two of

40 feet) were finished. In all £9,300 were spent during the year on these iron bridges. In addition to this £5,020 were spent in this section, chiefly on metalling the 'feeder' and 'loop' roads, and about £2,300 on maintenance. £812 of incorporated local funds were spent during the year on the construction of roads in the railway towns of Minhla, Letpadan, Sitkwin, and Ôkpo, and from the same funds £440 were spent on the maintenance of railway town roads.

The main road after leaving Tharrawaddy enters the Prome district and is 40 miles in length from the Kautha stream to Prome; it is bridged and metalled throughout. £700 were spent on original works, the extension of the road and concrete culverts, and about £3,000 on maintenance.

The continuation of this road towards the frontier is 47½ miles in length from Prome to Mycè, of which 15 miles are in the Prome district and the remainder in Thayetmyo. The first 6½ miles are metalled; from mile 6½ to 15 the ground is hard and forms a good fair-weather road. Only £600 were spent on the maintenance during the year of the 15 miles in the Prome district and £1,280 in metal and repairs on the 32½ miles in the Thayetmyo district. The road is in fair order and in unbroken length, with the exception of one unbridged stream, the Butlè.

144. There are eight railway feeder roads leading into the trunk road in this district: from the villages of Paukkaung (20 miles), Hmattaing (7½), Wetpòk (5½), Changangyi (5), Shwennattaung (4), Thègôn (1), Mora (2), Thapangôn to Paungdè (5½); £370 were spent on original works and about £2,200 on maintenance and repairs, £1,000 being expended on maintenance, £1,060 on metal collection and consolidation, the remainder in renewal of old, decayed timber culverts, concrete barrel drains being substituted. Although these feeder roads are now all embanked and bridged and some metal has been laid, yet much metalling remains to be done before they can be considered finished.

145. In the Thayetmyo district the only feeder to the main line is a road eastward from Ywataung opposite Thayetmyo past Mychla to Shwebandaw, 26½ miles. This road is completed, with the exception of a bridge over the Butlè stream in the 16th mile, which is too wide to be bridged, except at great expense, and two small drainage lines. This feeder has in turn a feeder northward, 10 miles from Myohla, to Thabala. On these 36½ miles £1,220 were spent, and of this sum only £32 were expended on original works, namely, a small diversion of the road near Thabala.

146. The Thayetmyo-Mindôn road starts from the Thayetmyo cantonment and goes westward for 45 miles to the foot of the Arakan Yoma. Up to the close of 1883-84 about 15 miles of a first class bridged and metalled road were completed. During the year nothing beyond the ordinary maintenance and metal collecting was done, on which £773 were expended.

147. The second main line of road is that which runs more or less parallel to the railway up the Sittang valley from Rangoon to Toungoo and thence to the frontier; from Rangoon northward as far as Tawkyan (22 miles) the Irrawaddy road is followed; thence the so-called Rangoon-Toungoo road branches off and runs for 34 miles in a N. E. direction to Pegu, where it crosses from the right to the left bank of the Pegu river and continues closely for another 26 miles parallel to the railway, past the stations of Pyagyi, Pyinbôngyi, to Kadòk in the Shwegyin division. As far as Pegu the road has been finished with bridges and metal for some time, 34 miles with 84 bridges. On this portion of the road £2,933 were spent on the renewal of metal on five miles and ordinary maintenance. In the next 25 miles, which are embanked and bridged throughout (to Kadòk), 25 miles, the whole distance is now metalled, of which 11 were done in the year under review and metal was collected for the remaining portion, five miles. £2,200 were expended on metalling 11 miles, collecting metal for the remainder, and the ordinary maintenance.

In the first (Pegu district) section of the road there are eight feeder roads, four only at present in contact with the road and four being feeders to the

railway. On the construction of these roads £5,140 were spent during the year and good progress made. North of Kadök the line formerly selected for the trunk road towards Toungoo has been abandoned and a new series of roads have been designed to meet the requirements of the railway. A line was traced through the most populous villages near the railway, 21½ miles long, from Kadök to Pyuntaza; and during 1883-84 about 19 miles of the earthen bank was completed and materials collected for bridges. During the year under review £4,187 were spent on raising and dressing the work of the previous year, and the completion of the earthwork on the 2½ remaining miles and on bridges. The survey of the next length of 22 miles, Pyuntaza to Kadök, was well in hand at the end of the year. From the Kadök-Pyuntaza road there is one short feeder, a mile in length, to the Deikka railway station.

The Pazumnyauung road is another railway feeder in the Shwegyin district; it is 4½ miles long and leads from the Nyaunglehin station to the Sittang river and embankment at Pazumnyauung. It was begun in 1882-83 and expenditure up to end of this year is £6,485, of which £1,350 were spent during the year of report in completing the pyingado timber bridges and in collecting metal.

About 17 miles of the marginal embankments constructed in this district partly in the previous year and partly during the year under review for the protection of the country between the Aingdön stream, the railway, and the river Sittang, will serve as feeder roads to the railway. On the north of the Shwegyin district 10 miles of the old road to Toungoo are maintained, but unmetalled. These lead into Toungoo district across the Kun stream, whence 45 miles of the same old road lead into Toungoo. On the last eight miles from Öktwin to Toungoo £1,154 were spent on bridges and metal. This portion of the road is in reality a railway feeder road.

There are four feeder roads in the Toungoo district. On two of these about £200 were spent during the year. The other two are in an unfinished state, as work on them was postponed during the previous year in favour of the feeder roads further south.

The road to Pathichaung, at the foot of the Thandaung hill, is 12½ miles long, and £1,200 were spent during the year on completing the semi-permanent bridges, earthwork, and collection of metal. The road was opened during the year for carts and was much used from the months of February to May by the troops sent to Thandaung. A steep bridle-path of 10 miles in length leads up the hill-side from Pathichaung to the sanitarium at Thandaung. On the maintenance of this path £170 were spent during the year.

North of Toungoo the trunk road is continued to the frontier under the name of the Toungoo frontier road, 42 miles long. The first 3½ miles out of Toungoo are metalled; for the next 18½ miles past Yedashe to the Swa stream the earthwork is complete and some semi-permanent bridges have been constructed; the earthwork of the second section is also complete, and money was spent on second and third sections on semi-permanent bridges. In all £757 were spent on these bridges, and £490 on maintenance of this portion of the road.

148. Next in importance to the series of trunk and feeder roads in the Irrawaddy and Sittang valleys are the groups of roads in the Henzada plain. From Henzada one road leads for 35 miles westward and then northward through Ingabo, Myogwin, and Ökpo to Mataungda. £1,461 were spent on this road during the year, effecting the completion of earthwork and bridges as far as Myogwin, together with the maintenance of this portion. On the remainder the only expenditure was for maintenance. From Henzada another road leads 45½ miles south and south-west, partly in Henzada and partly in Bassein districts, through Natmaw, Neikban, Myogön, Kyönpyaw, Pandaw to Ngathainggyauung on the Ngawun river. £1,637 were spent during the year, chiefly for metal and on maintenance; on the Myogön section £300 on metal consolidation. On a short 'junction' road, six miles between the two preceding, which was made last year from incorporated local funds, £90 were spent on maintenance.

From Neikban another branch road runs westward through Aingdu to Aingthabyu on the Ngawun, and £1,686 were spent this year on the completion

of the earthwork and bridges. £93 were also spent on the completion of the Daga bridge, 110 feet wide, which has cost £2,626 altogether.

From Henzada a third road leads southward, eight miles, past Duya and the Duyaing, to Daungyi on the Irrawaddy embankment. £200 (of incorporated local funds) were spent during the year principally on the largest bridge and in raising the low banks in places. Want of funds delays the completion of this road.

On the road leading from Pandaw, on the Henzada-Ngathainggyaung road, due south to Athòk, which was commenced last year, £1,179 were spent principally on earthwork, the bridges having been completed during the previous year. £82 were spent on the survey for a new road from Athòk to Enge, and £1,035 were spent on maintenance of the roads in this district during the year under review.

From the incorporated local funds of the Bassein and Thóngwa districts £6,185 were spent on original works and £679 on maintenance, principally in connection with village roads.

149. In the alluvial tracts in the south of the Hanthawaddy and Pegu districts a road was begun in 1882 to serve the great rice plains south-west of Rangoon. From Kaubè on the Tunte canal this road runs for 23 miles south to Angyi-Thóngwa on the Bassein creek. During the year £471 were spent on 220 running feet of bridges with brick abutments and piers, and iron girders with wooden flooring, also £1,260 on 150 running feet of bridges formed of iron screw-pile piers with timber superstructure.

150. To the east of the Pegu river a road has been laid out from Bogyòk ferry, three miles to the Syriam bridge; then, adopting the country cart-track, for two miles along the ridge to the Syriam pagoda; then from the eastern part of the ridge across the level paddy plains, 28 miles, to Kadònbaw. Work was begun in 1882 and during the year under review £876 (incorporated local funds) were spent on completing the earthwork and bridges of the first seven miles from Bogyòk to Thatekwin. Also from incorporated local funds £150 were spent in laying metal on the extension of the above road from Bogyòk towards Pegu, three miles long.

151. From the Irrawaddy valley, at a point opposite Prome, a road has been made 110 miles long over the Arakan Yoma to Taung-up on the Sandoway coast. For 86 miles it is a bridle road in the hills, laid out at carriage gradients, but not wide enough for cart traffic, though carts have traversed it. It is needed by the Telegraph Department to maintain their line. A little over £300 were spent on maintenance, £240 on raising parts, from the 13th to the 22nd miles, above flood-level; £140 were expended on five new concrete culverts, and £244 on the completion of the Didòk iron bridge (of one span of 60 feet and two end spans of 30 feet), which has cost altogether £1,467.

152. In Arakan the Naaf-Myo road was continued and £1,584 were spent on it. The road is 15 miles long from Maungdaw on the Naaf to Buthidaung on the Mayu, and is intended to facilitate cooly immigration and trade from Chittagong into Arakan. Upon the construction of this road £26,600 have been spent up to end of 1884-85 out of £29,542, the original estimate.

153. In Ramree island the principal road is the Pietè-Minbyin road, 5½ miles long; six miles of good water-communication connects Kyaukpyu with Pietè; thence this road leads to the oil-mills about Minbyin. During the year £579 were spent on metalling part of it and £209 on its maintenance; £341 were spent in metalling the Ramree steamer ghat road; £554 on metal and metal consolidation on the Myo road, while £369 were expended on the Myohaung and Maungbwe road maintenance. On the Cheduba town bridge, with piers of iron screw piles and pyingado superstructure, over 240 feet of waterway, which was begun in 1882-83 and almost completed by the end of 1883-84, a considerable sum (£977) was spent during the current year. In the Sandoway district two new timber bridges were built at a cost of £124, and the balance of the expenditure was principally incurred in maintenance of bridges.

154. In the Amherst district a little over £6,400 were spent during the year on communications, of which sum about £4,200 were expended on original works; £365 were spent on the construction of a dwarf wall and drain in the Thatôn-Duyinzeik road as a protection to the tramway from the heavy cart-traffic on the road: £111 were expended on compensation for land taken up for goods and passenger station for this same tramway.

The Martaban-Thatôn road runs from Martaban opposite Moulmein 38½ miles northward to Thatôn; it has 43 timber and 16 iron bridges and 30 brick culverts, and from Thatôn it is continued for nine more miles in a northerly direction. On this latter portion only was any expenditure incurred. About £800 were spent on improving the road and constructing 330 running feet of timber bridges.

Some expenditure was incurred on two roads by which traders enter the Salween valley from the Shan States to the east; £600 on the Shwegôn-Hlaingbwè and £1,870 on the Kyôndaw-Kawkareik which, as continued by the bridle road made by the Forest Officer of Myawadi, leads to Siam. The earthwork on this road was almost completed and some metal was collected, also 310 running feet of timber bridging. In the Salween Hill Tracts about £300 were spent on the Yonzalin valley main road on jungle-clearing, drains, and log bridges: £108 were spent on rough timber bridges along the telegraph line. About £2,290 were spent on the maintenance of 118 miles of roads throughout the Amherst district.

155. The Tenasserim valley road was undertaken for the benefit of the imperial telegraph line between Tavoy and Bangkok. For the first 11 miles from Tavoy through Thabya at the end of the 6th mile and thence to Pagayè this is a cart road, 12 feet wide, bridged throughout; for the next 25 miles, Pagayè to Myitta, it is continued as a bridle-path six feet wide, and from Myitta *via* Sinbyudaing to the Bôntè pass on the Siamese frontier it will be similar to the part from Pagayè to Myitta, a 6-foot bridle path and about 70 miles in length. It was on the sections from Myitta to the Siamese frontier that the greatest outlay was incurred, no less than £23,656 being expended during the year. It was originally intended to take the road across the Siamese frontier *via* the Anya pass, but after work had been started a shorter and easier route *via* the Bôntè pass was found; the former route was abandoned, although a considerable amount of work had been done on it beyond Sinbyudaing, whence the Bôntè route branches off. By the former route the road would have been about 102 miles long, whereas by the latter (the Bôntè route) it is only 71 miles from Myitta to the frontier. About 60 miles are common to both routes; and of the whole length 51 miles have been completed as a 6-foot path, 27½ as a 3-foot path, and about 20 more miles have been traced. The banks of torrents were ramped and streams crossed by stone causeways at water-level.

156. About £1,700 were spent during the year on the Tavoy-Mergui road, 19 miles from Tavoy by Nyanksin and Thayetchaung to Padaw, with a branch road two miles long to the Ananda wharf, metalled and bridged throughout. On this branch road only a small expenditure was incurred in completing the few remaining culverts. £1,000 were spent in completing the earthwork and 155 running feet of the bridging on the portion as far as Thayetchaung and in overhauling and putting in thorough repair the Shwegôn bridge, which was completed during 1883-84, but gave way during the following rains, and in strengthening with stay-piles the Pauktaing bridge of 280 feet waterway. On the maintenance of this portion of the road £330 were expended during the year, £334 were spent on improvements and repairs and a wire bridge for foot-passengers over the Pawut stream; £300 were expended on the pontoon road taken over from the Tavoy Town Committee in providing it with a 6-inch layer of stone metalling; and £160 were spent on maintenance of the Tavoy-Sinzeik road. On most of the roads in this division work was practically stopped as soon as the Tavoy-Siam road was started.

157. Besides the sum of £3,466 shown under this head, a sum of £6,170 was expended in the Amherst division on the Kyaikto canal, which has been shown under the head "Em-

Communications—Water.

bankment" (Agricultural). The Kyaikto canal is estimated to cost £19,070.

In the Pegu division £1,284 were expended on the maintenance of the Pegu-Sittang canal and £348 on special repairs to the lock flood. The Abya creek was closed for a sum of £300. Owing to there being no flood escape sluices, it is necessary to open this creek before the rains to admit of flood water being discharged, and when the rains are over, it must be re-closed in order to render the Pegu canal navigable during the dry weather. In addition to these sums about £200 were spent on minor works in connection with this canal.

£276 were expended on improving the Zwabat creek, the clearing of which forms part of a scheme for draining the Pegu plain so as to bring part or all under cultivation.

In the Rangoon division £340 were spent on the maintenance and dredging the shallow portions of the Tunte canal, while in the Tharrawaddy district £170 were expended on the extension of the Kyauksègyi weir, which consists of the prolongation of the masonry weir, the re-building of one wing wall, and the cutting of a broader channel for the escape of water for irrigation purposes.

In the Shwegyin district the improvement of the Pyuntaza creek was completed last year at a cost of £4,000; the two cuts $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long which were made scoured considerably during the rains, and in upper one a bar of kunkur was exposed, which was removed this year at a cost of £64.

In the Arakan division the blasting of a passage in the channel of the Picbaung was completed during the year at a total cost of £600, of which £185 were spent during the year under review. The clearing of obstruction in this stream will enable timber to be brought down from the upper Pi valley to Akyab.

158. About one-eleventh of the total budget allotment is devoted to embankment class of works. Of this sum three-fifths were

Shwegyin embankments.

spent in the Shwegyin division on marginal embankments and surveys in connection with the Sittang embankments, which were designed with the view of reclaiming the land between the Sittang, the Aingdôn, and the Sittang Valley Railway by shutting out the spill of the Sittang and excluding the northern hill waters. During 1883-84 the Sittang embankment was commenced and the first section from the mouth of the Aingdôn to Pazunmyaung, a distance of 24 miles, was completed. During the rains of 1884 several serious breaches were made and it was found necessary to raise the embankment, and this has been done. Work is in progress over the next 12 miles from Pazunmyaung to Shwegyin, of which about two-thirds is done. The other embankment on the right bank of the Aingdôn, extending from the railway crossing of that stream to the head of the first section of the Sittang marginal embankment, was finished at a cost of £3,500 and will serve as a feeder road to the railway.

159. A little over £6,600 were spent on the Ngawun embankments, the principal work being the extension of the Ngawun

Bassein embankments.

embankments from Zibingwin to Tahu, which was completed during the year at a cost £4,305. This bank will protect the broadest part of the Henzada plain and cannot fail to reclaim an immense area of rich land. About £1,770 were spent on repairs to the Ma-ubin island embankments, Irrawaddy and Ngawun branches; £200 on repairs to the Henzada embankments; £180 on the Ma-ubin embankments, for which also £226 were spent on compensation for land. There was no serious breach of any embankment during the year.

160. About £5,600 were spent in this division on embankments, &c., £3,200

Henzada embankments.

on repairs, and £2,380 on original works, of which the only one was "the retiring of the Myanaung embankment at the 36th mile," owing to the encroachments of the Irrawaddy.

161. Of £2,330 spent in this division, £1,910 were expended on the Bilin stream training embankment, constructed on both sides of the stream, and extending from the trunk

Tharrawaddy embankments.

road to the railway bridge (Rangoon and Prome line) and a little lower for a distance of 3½ miles on the downstream side. £250 were spent on the maintenance of the Kantha stream training works.

162. In the Pegu division £380 were spent on a marginal bund and towing path, about six miles long, from Kyaikpadaving waste weir to Thanatpin. Two miles of new bund were

thrown up and the old work repaired and strengthened. £680 were expended on the maintenance of the Pagaing bund, 18 miles in length, extending from Myitkyo at the Sitang end of the canal to the Toungoo road and originally constructed for the protection of the Pegu plain.

Miscellaneous public improvements.

163. Few miscellaneous original works were executed from provincial funds, the principal being—

- (i) forming an earthen bund behind the laterite wall at Monkey point. This work was completed at a cost of £924, of which £190 were spent during the year under review ;
- (ii) erecting a temporary light-house on Oyster reef, on which £1,504 were spent during the year. This structure is octagonally shaped, being 25 feet in diameter at the base and tapering with a batter of 1 in 10 to 5 feet diameter at the top. The structure is of teak and its light is 70 feet above high-water-level : it was completed, with the exception of the light, which had not arrived from England ;
- (iii) £470 were spent on an iron screw-pile pier with wooden superstructure at Kyaukpyu. In Tharrawaddy £124 were spent on miscellaneous public improvements, of which £83 were spent on the masonry weir at Kyauksègyi and £40 on the ghât road, Prome.

164. From incorporated local funds the expenditure was distributed over a number of works, landing-stages and bazaars taking most of the money. In the Arakan, Pegu, and

Tharrawaddy divisions the greater portion was spent. In the Arakan division the principal works were—

Iron screw-pile piers. | Landing-stages.

An iron girder bridge 300 feet long (of three spans), over the Satyogya creek. The whole of the ironwork for this bridge is under manufacture and 66 per cent., amounting to £3,339, was paid for during the year. Iron-screw pile bridges were constructed over the—

Tharè chaung, costing	...	...	...	...	£
Parabin creek, costing	...	...	...	...	810
Samandaung creek, costing	...	...	...	...	710
Nyaungbinzeik creek, costing	...	...	...	...	700
					450

On landing-stages the following sums were spent:—

Ruaree landing-stage	...	...	...	...	477
Kyauktan ditto	...	...	...	...	769
Letmazeik ditto	...	...	...	...	430
Bathadaung ditto	...	...	...	...	494
Paletwa ditto	...	...	...	...	484

The first two were completed and the ironwork for the others was under manufacture. £195 were spent on a bazaar at Buthidaung.

In the Pegu division £2,450 were spent from incorporated local funds. Of this sum over £2,100 were spent in landing-stages at—

Tawa,	|	Thayetpin-Diza chaung,
Tóngyi,	|	Thabyagan,
Dabein,	|	Syriam,
	Thóngwa,	

and £350 were spent on the hospital assistant's quarters at Kyauktan.

In Tharrawaddy about £4,600 were spent in original works, the principal of which were the construction of bazaars and slaughter-sheds at Okpo and Minhla, on which £3,540 were expended.

On the restoration of Yegin hospital a sum of £214 was expended.

In the other divisions the only works which may be mentioned are the landing-stages on the Dôndami, Salween, and Gyaing rivers, costing about £1,000.

In these divisions about £1,200 were expended on bazaars and zayats, three of the latter being built at Toungoo, Pyuntaza, and Pazunmyaung for £100, £133, and £73 respectively.

165. Excluded local funds provided only a sum of £7,100 as compared with £11,287 of the previous year. No large works of importance were carried out under this head. The

principal works, however, may be enumerated—

	£
(1) Protection wall for the foreshore, Bassein, costing ...	547
(2) An iron wharf, Bassein, costing ...	281
(3) Constructing a dispensary at Thónzè, costing ...	285
(4) Additions to the bazaars at Shwegaung, costing ...	169
(5) Additions to the bazaars at Thatón, costing ...	221

166. £21,113 were spent by the provincial Executive Engineer on municipal works, embanking, drainage, and water-supply.

The principal work was the water-supply, on which £17,370 were expended. During the year under review the laying of all the street pipes was completed as also the superstructure of the engine-house and chimney. The filter-gallery, a structure of brickwork in the bed of the river, 200 feet long, was nearly completed, and a start was made on the water-tank on the top of the building. £1,332 were spent on the main drain, which was practically completed last year. With this money a wooden bridge was constructed and portions of the drains were dug to proper section. A little over £1,100 were spent on filling in four objectionable tanks. £360 were spent on embankments and £450 on culverts across the main drain, while about £400 were spent on miscellaneous public improvements.

167. On municipal works at Henzada £1,880 were spent during the year, of which sum £1,355 were expended in completing the Henzada town drain, which has cost altogether about £4,200.

168. The establishment charges during the year amounted to £69,149 in a total expenditure of £340,732, of which £334,791 were spent on works proper. The percentage of establishment to the gross expenditure was 20·08 per cent., but to the works expenditure it was 20·4 per cent.

169. The second section of the Rangoon and Sittang State Railway, from Pegu to Pyuntaza (42 miles) was opened for passengers on the 3rd July 1884; the section from Pyuntaza to Nyaunglebin (five miles) was opened on 1st August 1884. Since the close of the year, the remainder of the line from Nyaunglebin to Toungoo (73 miles) has been opened. This line was begun early in 1881 and has now been completed at the cost of £1,225,000, or about £7,400 per mile for the whole length (166 miles). It is expected that the through traffic from the Shan States and from the Ningyan valley beyond Toungoo will be large. Apart from the returns from traffic, large sums will be saved in the cost of communicating with Toungoo. Formerly the journey to Toungoo was performed by boat. It lasted from 10 to 14 days, and cost from £8 to £15. The journey can now be done in 12 hours at the cost of about £1 or 30 shillings. Before the opening of the railway, mails were sent to Toungoo twice a week, arriving six or eight days after their departure from Rangoon and costing £1,200 a year. There is now a daily mail service, taking 12 hours each way and costing about £50 a year. In 1881, when steamers ran occasionally to Toungoo, freight on paddy sent to Rangoon was £2-10-0 a hundred baskets. The freight by rail is from 16s. to £1 per hundred baskets. The cost of sending the periodical relief to the garrison at Toungoo amounted for the last occasion to £4,843 and the relieving journeys occupied 25 days. The next relief will be sent to and fro at the cost of £986 and the journeys will last two days. It is hoped that the line will soon be extended to Ningyan, Mandalay, and Bhamo.

The capital outlay on State railways during the past calendar year is shown in the following table:—

				Irrawaddy Railway.	Sittang Railway.	Total.
				£	£	£
Preliminary expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...
Land	...	...	...	8,098	- 915	2,178
Construction of line	...	...	...	35,450	167,731	203,187
Ballast and permanent-way	...	...	...	2,284	98,048	100,292
Stations and buildings	...	...	...	997	29,828	30,825
Plant	...	...	...	86	4,925	4,960
Rolling-stock	...	...	...	20,888	41,431	62,119
Establishment	...	...	...	497	23,084	23,581
Total final heads				63,000	304,181	427,181
Suspense	...	...	...	...	60,817	60,817
Total				63,000	303,814	366,814
Less receipts on Capital account				...	- 374	- 374
Total outlay				63,000	302,940	365,940

The capital outlay on State railways from the commencement of operations to the end of the past calendar year has been as follows:—

				Irrawaddy Railway.	Sittang Railway.	Total.
				£	£	£
Preliminary expenses	...	...	...	5,659	23,079	28,738
Land	...	...	...	22,705	4,463	27,168
Construction of line	...	...	...	372,931	449,784	822,715
Ballast and permanent-way	...	...	...	480,704	293,425	724,129
Stations and buildings	...	...	...	190,624	86,130	276,754
Plant	...	...	...	40,599	28,958	69,552
Rolling-stock	...	...	...	211,231	89,182	300,413
Establishment	...	...	...	107,961	84,813	192,774
Total Final Heads				1,892,414	1,059,859	2,442,273
Suspense	...	...	...	...	122,919	122,919
Total				1,892,414	1,182,778	2,565,192
Less receipts on Capital account				- 624	- 859	- 1,483
Total outlay				1,261,790	1,181,919	2,663,709

The bulk of the balance of £122,900 under suspense is made up of £105,400, value of stores in stock, £30,400 of which represent stores at the Locomotive stores depot and £75,000 those at the General stores magazine.

The revenue transactions relate to the Irrawaddy line of 161 miles (excluding suburban sidings) and to 93 miles of the Sittang line.

The following table shows the outlay on revenue account in 1884 as compared with the outlay in the previous year:—

Heads of account.	Outlay in 1883.	Outlay in 1884.	DIFFERENCE.	
			More in 1884.	Less in 1884.
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance of way	25,064	37,860	11,696	...
Locomotive expenses	29,462	37,718	8,256	...
Carriage and wagon expenses	7,278	8,967	1,694	...
Traffic expenses	25,594	29,481	3,887	...
General charges	11,761	13,433	1,672	...
St anti-boat service	...	...	...	...
Special and miscellaneous expenses	1,298	1,390	92	...
Total	101,062	123,849	27,297	...

The increase under all heads is due almost entirely to the opening of part of the Sittang line.

The following table shows the earnings for the years 1883 and 1884 :—

	1883.	1884.	DIFFERENCE.	
			More in 1884.	Less in 1884.
			£	£
Coaching	86,455	125,228	38,773	...
Goods	67,530	82,448	14,918	...
Electric telegraph	630	1,021	391	...
Sundries	1,674	1,850	176	...
Total	156,289	210,542	54,253	...

The increase under the head of Coaching amounts to 44 per cent. and is attributable mainly, as also the increases under the other earning heads, to the opening of the Sittang line. The number of passengers carried was 2,734,100 which, compared with 1,868,900, shows an increase of 865,200, or 46 per cent. The increase under the head of Goods amounts to 22 per cent. The commodities which chiefly contributed to this increase are rice, about £5,200, and railway materials, £5,000. The Thatôn and Duyinzeik line (eight miles) connects the town of Thatôn with the Dôndami river and furnishes an outlet for the large grain produce of the Thatôn plain. It was opened for public traffic on the 18th February 1885.

Telegraphs.

170. The telegraph system of the province is administered in two divisions, the Arakan division and the British Burma division. In Arakan 71 miles of wire were laid down during the past year. The number of messages despatched in that division was 16,052 as compared with 15,319 in the preceding year.

In the British Burma division new offices were opened at Mopun, Ôkpo, Kyaikto and Shwedaung; and the offices at Allanmyo, Thatôn, Ngathaingyaung, and Kemmendine were converted into combined post and telegraph offices. The number of messages despatched increased from 139,509 in 1883-84 to 162,924 in the year of report. The line from Tavoy to Pônsekô, on the Bangkok route, was closed during the rainy season on account of the unhealthy nature of the country and the difficulty of maintaining communication. It was re-opened in April last. The line to Diamond island broke in July 1884; communication was restored in March last.

Post Office.

171. Postal facilities were increased during the year by the opening of 11 new

Imperial Post.

post offices and 29 new letter-boxes; two additional village postmen were also entertained. On the 31st March 1885 there were 63 post offices, 105 letter-boxes, and 16 village postmen and letter-box postmen. The number of covers of all kinds sent out for delivery rose from 8,861,150 in 1883-84 to 4,024,622 in 1884-85, or an increase of 19.7 per cent. The increase in 1883-84 over 1882-83 was 11.2 per cent. The correspondence sent out for delivery from sub-offices rose from 604,812 in 1883-84 to 801,762 in 1884-85, or an increase of 82.6 per cent.

Lines of postal communication increased from 5,006 miles in 1883-84 to 5,152 miles in 1884-85, or an increase of 146 miles. During the year postal communication was established between Moulmein and Zimmé. The sea and the river services worked satisfactorily.

The value of money orders issued and paid by the department was £452,176, or £31,917 more than in 1883-84. In 1883-84 the increase was £19,765.

The value of value-payable articles posted decreased from £6,298 in 1883-84 to £1,329 in 1884-85. This falling off is attributed by the Postal Department to an increased use by the public of the railway and steamer services for the transmission of parcels.

Savings bank business progressed during 1884-85 and two previous years as below :—

	On	Balance of account open.	Balance of deposits.
		£	£
1st April 1883	649	7,446
1st April 1884	1,297	15,391
1st April 1885	1,728	23,134

This gives an increase of deposits in 1884-85 of £7,743.

The value of insured articles posted rose from £224,303 in 1883-84 to £313,464, or an increase of £89,161.

172. The district post is now fairly organized throughout the province.

District Post.

During the year 15 new post offices and 16 letter-boxes were opened and seven village postmen were appointed. Six post offices and two village postmen became self-supporting and were taken over by the Imperial post. One post office and six letter-boxes were closed and one village postman was abolished. There are now 104 post offices, 195 letter-boxes, and 54 village postmen. The number of articles posted increased from 83,447 to 93,428, exclusive of service privileged covers, of which 177,646 were posted in 1884-85. The cost of the district post was £5,998, or £355 more than in the previous year. The income derived from the various post offices and village postmen is about 60 per cent. of the cost of the establishments. Postal facilities have now been given to all subdivisional and township headquarters with the exception of seven, which are situated in districts in which the cess funds available for postal purposes are at present insufficient for the extension of postal communication.

V.--REVENUE AND FINANCE.

I.—Revenue.

173. The gross revenue demand of the province during the year 1884-85 amounted to £2,191,269, or a decrease of £164,274, equivalent to 7 per cent. compared with the preceding year. The following table shows the figures of demand for the year under report compared with those of the preceding year:—

Item of revenue.	1883-84.			1884-85.			Increase or decrease.
	Demand.	Remission.	Net demand.	Demand.	Remission.	Net demand.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Land revenue ..	692,946	7,867	685,079	707,145	1,809	705,336	+ 90,247
2. Customs ..	594,068	..	594,068	445,224	..	445,224	- 88,834
3. Capitation-tax ..	808,891	2,809	806,082	815,790	2,934	812,856	+ 6,774
4. Excise ..	219,440	..	219,440	221,671	..	221,671	+ 2,231
5. Forests ..	250,927	..	250,927	167,098	..	167,098	- 83,829
6. Stamps ..	159,155	..	159,155	157,554	..	157,554	- 1,601
7. Fisheries ..	121,761	532	121,229	118,356	1,052	117,304	- 3,925
8. Miscellaneous ..	31,448	204	31,244	28,982	..	28,982	- 2,266
9. Marine ..	23,885	..	23,885	16,453	..	16,453	- 7,432
10. Land-rate in lieu of capitation-tax.	9,682	14	9,668	9,693	19	9,674	+ 6
11. Salt excise ..	3,350	..	3,350	3,303	..	3,303	- 47
Total ..	2,355,543	11,416	2,344,127	2,191,269	5,814	2,175,455	- 158,672

There was a net increase in the land revenue and capitation-tax and excise, but a decrease under every other head of revenue except land-rate in lieu of capitation-tax, which showed a merely nominal increase. The net customs revenue decreased by £88,834 owing to shortness of the ricecrop, and the forest revenue also showed a decrease of £83,829, which was due to the fall of nearly 45 per cent. in the price of teak.

174. The population of British Burma was estimated last year at about 4,334,000 and, as the rate of increase is "somewhat over 1 per cent. per annum," it would now amount to about 4,507,360 as compared with 3,736,771 returned as the total population in February 1881. The incidence of all revenue, excluding railway receipts (£240,300) per head of the population, is—

Imperial and provincial funds	...	...	...	s.	d.
Municipal and local funds ...	...	...	...	11	0
				2	0
				<hr/>	
All funds	...	...	...	18	0

175. The subjoined statement shows for each division the total area under assessment and the revenue demand thereon during the past five years. There was in 1884-85 an increase of 103,340 acres under cultivation, an increase of 63,342 acres in the assessed area left fallow, and an increase of £14,199 in the gross revenue demand of the year. There was a considerable increase of cultivation in Pegu and Tenasserim, a moderate increase in Arakan, and a slight decrease in the Irrawaddy division.

Division.	Description of land.	1880-81.		1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.	
		Acres.	£	Acres.	£	Acres.	£	Acres.	£	Acres.	£
Arakan ...	Cultivated land ...	524,900	91,725	522,446	98,303	529,389	98,609	554,455	102,096	573,808	102,192
	Fallow land ...	2,767	35	4,416	55	8,757	110	8,651	46	7,184	89
Pegu ...	Cultivated land ...	1,805,177	275,431	1,847,752	267,556	1,385,500	270,396	1,471,537	283,986	1,526,086	290,891
	Fallow land ...	23,089	289	56,565	767	95,925	1,199	98,527	1,232	130,594	1,639
Irrawaddy ...	Cultivated land ...	953,878	185,897	2,055,911	196,121	1,081,496	197,807	1,140,400	204,994	1,187,270	206,559
	Fallow land ...	16,150	202	26,467	331	44,882	561	29,206	365	64,798	810
Tonasserim ...	Cultivated land ...	613,386	102,250	626,218	104,596	595,371	98,626	602,161	99,298	684,729	104,780
	Fallow land ...	26,930	337	86,835	460	66,654	888	66,354	829	58,684	782
Total ...	Cultivated land ...	3,397,341	654,808	1,552,327	666,576	3,591,756	664,838	3,768,558	690,474	4,871,893	708,881
	Fallow land ...	68,986	862	124,283	1,553	216,218	2,708	197,768	2,472	261,110	3,244
GRAND TOTAL CULTIVATED AND FALLOW LAND.		3,466,277	655,665	3,676,610	668,129	3,807,974	667,541	3,966,321	692,946	4,133,003	707,145

176. The area under fallow has increased from 197,768 acres in 1883-84 to 261,110 acres in the year of report, or an increase of 32.03 per cent. In the Bassein district the area under fallow has more than trebled; it is known that the soil of certain parts of this district is poor, and constant endeavours have been made since settlement to induce cultivators to keep their lands fallow and pay the 3*d.* rate on them instead of throwing them up entirely and resuming them after a few years as was formerly their custom. The increase in the fallow area is, therefore, a matter of congratulation, as it would show that cultivators are beginning to appreciate the advantages of the fallow rate, and that cultivation is, therefore, becoming less shifting in character. In the Pegu division the fallow area was 88,049 acres in Hanthawaddy and 83,500 acres in Pegu, or an increase over the previous year of 8,922 acres in the former district and of 22,695 acres in the latter. This large increase in the fallow area is probably due to the fact that the fertility of the soil in some circles has considerably deteriorated, and the cultivators now avail themselves of the fallow rate to give their lands the necessary rest.

In Arakan the increase of fallow land has been very slight; this is perhaps partly due to the fact that cultivators in that division were not allowed to leave their lands fallow without making a report to the thugyi.

In Tenasserim the total area left fallow has decreased, but the fallow area of Amherst is still very large (56,281 acres).

177. The cultivated revenue-paying land has been returned under the three main heads for the past five years, thus—

Division.		1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Paddy-land	{ Arakan ...	444,516	446,446	453,359	464,296	463,903
	{ Pegu ...	1,229,827	1,301,201	1,371,330	1,459,773	1,589,555
	{ Irrawaddy ...	861,739	956,031	993,841	1,036,230	1,064,671
	{ Tenasserim ...	514,231	531,661	681,701	533,785*	555,671
	{ Total ...	3,060,283	3,235,508	3,350,231	3,494,084	3,623,800
Taungya-land (hill gardens).	{ Arakan ...	26,880	25,596	25,144	26,402	24,972
	{ Pegu ...	10,531	12,530	15,010	13,790	14,432
	{ Irrawaddy ...	20,356	23,276	32,804	31,468	34,406
	{ Tenasserim ...	56,816	56,972	54,528	57,148	57,188
	{ Total ...	115,183	123,374	127,486	128,808	131,998
All other lands.	{ Arakan ...	56,271	54,821	59,643	67,408	68,067
	{ Pegu ...	37,908	90,586	55,985	96,501	102,693
	{ Irrawaddy ...	87,333	93,071	99,733	101,933	102,991
	{ Tenasserim ...	69,299	74,250	75,796	77,582*	80,454
	{ Total ...	300,811	317,728	330,257	343,429	374,203
Total	{ Arakan ...	527,667	526,862	538,146	588,106	580,942
	{ Pegu ...	1,328,266	1,404,317	1,481,425	1,570,084	1,656,680
	{ Irrawaddy ...	970,028	1,082,378	1,126,378	1,169,636	1,202,068
	{ Tenasserim ...	640,316	663,058	662,025	668,515	693,313
Total of Province	...	3,466,277	3,676,610	3,807,974	3,966,321	4,133,008

*Revised figures on account of double deduction of grant lands.

The proportion of the area under paddy to that under other crops has slightly decreased and is now 87 as against 88 per cent. found last year. The area under tobacco is returned as 18,187 acres as against 18,207 of the previous year. The area under sugarcane has decreased by 2,562 acres and is now returned at 7,332 acres as against 9,894 last year.

178. The following table shows the demand, remissions, and collections of land revenue in each division up to the end of the financial year, or 31st March, and up to the end of the agricultural year, or 30th June, thus:—

Division.	DEMAND ON ACCOUNT OF YEAR UNDER REPORT.			OUTSTANDINGS OF PREVIOUS YEAR.			COLLECTIONS UP TO THE 31st MARCH 1885 FROM			UNCOLLECTED ON THE 31st MARCH 1885 FROM			Further remissions up to 30th June 1885.	Further collections up to 30th June 1885.	Balance uncollected on 30th June 1885.
	Gross demand.	Remissions.	Net demand.	Total previous outstandings.	Outstandings remitted during the year under report.	Net previous outstandings.	Net demand.	Net previous outstandings.	Total collections.	Net demand.	Net previous outstandings.	Total uncollected.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Arakan ...	102,281	134	102,147	81,052	106	81,546	81,877	31,501	118,378	20,270	45	20,315	99	18,400	1,816
Pegu ...	292,034	794	291,220	88,595	1,969	86,620	248,720	36,390	285,110	42,509	286	42,745	866	39,624	2,298
Irrawaddy ...	207,868	682	206,687	28,794	409	28,885	180,257	23,271	208,529	26,429	118	26,548	845	25,028	1,172
Tenasserim ...	105,472	198	105,278	18,118	159	17,958	88,942	17,956	106,897	16,832	8	16,885	79	16,042	209
Total ...	707,145	1,808	705,336	112,159	2,643	109,515	599,796	109,118	706,914	105,540	897	105,988	1,891	99,092	5,495

The increase in the demand is 2·2 per cent. The increase was common to all districts except Salween and Moulmein, where there was a very slight decrease. The large increase in Bassein is attributed to better administration and that in Thongwa to the influx of population attracted by the amount of waste land now rendered culturable by the Ma-ubin embankment. All the capitation-tax, except small sums outstanding in Akyab, Kyaukpyu, and Prome, was collected before the 30th June in the current year.

179. The number of coercive processes issued in Arakan has again increased during the present year. The number of processes issued in the different divisions is given thus :—

Division.	Total number of all coercive processes.	Number of defaulters actually sent to jail.	Number of cases in which movable property of defaulters was actually sold.
Arakan	3,839	127	77
Pegu	1,021	...	17
Irrawaddy	3,282	12	44
Tenasserim	902	8	7
Total	8,994	142	145

Fishery revenue.

180. The fishery revenue decreased in the present year as shown in the following table :—

Division.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	Increase or decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Arakan	1,424	1,308	1,348	1,509	+ 161
Pegu	19,742	20,076	22,848	22,343	+ 405
Irrawaddy	97,919	89,267	84,233	79,827	- 4,406
Tenasserim	12,847	14,525	13,332	13,077	+ 345
Total	131,932	125,776	121,761	118,356	- 3,405

The decrease occurred chiefly in the Thongwa and Bassein districts. In the Bassein district the decrease is due to the revision of the terms on which the fisheries were leased and to the abolition of certain fisheries which interfered with the navigation of the larger streams. The system of fair rents established in Thongwa has been adopted in Bassein, and it is hoped that the revision of the terms of the leases will be alike beneficial to the fishing and the agricultural community.

181. Special orders were again issued during the present year for the early collection of the land revenue, and on the 31st March £599,796 had been collected out of a total net demand of £705,336, or more than 85 per cent., as against 93 per cent. collected during the previous year. The comparative figures for the past three years are as follows :—

Land Revenue.

	1883-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£	£	£
Gross arrear and current demand	959,788	1,008,518	819,304
Remissions	9,882	11,569	4,452
Collections by end of year, or 31st March	639,237	879,790	706,914
Balance uncollected by end of year, or 31st March	321,164	119,159	105,988
Further remissions up to 30th June	1,928	1,120	1,891
Further collections up to 30th June	284,237	101,789	99,092
Final balance due and uncollected on 30th June	85,004	9,250	5,425

182. The return of coercive processes for arrears of land revenue is as follows:—

Division.	Total number of all coercive processes.	Number of arrests made.	Number of defaulters actually sent to jail.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH	
				Moveable property was sold.	Land was sold or resumed.
Arakan	1,670	472	5	15	156
Pegu	1,535	235	12	9	210
Irrawaddy	2,404	617	...	121	7
Tenasserim	1,531	177	1	82	14
Total	7,140	1,501	18	177	387

The number of coercive processes, number of arrests made, and the number of defaulters imprisoned have considerably decreased, whilst the number of cases in which moveable or immovable property was sold has increased.

183. The total remissions were £5,843 as compared with £12,689 in the previous year. The decrease in the amount of revenue remitted was common to all the divisions of the province, and this decrease was probably due to a moderate and well-distributed rainfall, as well as to the fact that cultivators may have preferred to pay the fallow-tax on lands which were not cultivated owing to floods instead of applying for remission of revenue.

184. The number of persons assessed to capitation-tax and the amount of tax under this head are returned as follows:—

Division.	NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSESSED.		Increase or decrease.	TOTAL DEMAND OF THE YEAR.		Increase or decrease.
	1883-84.	1884-85.		1883-84.	1884-85.	
				£	£	£
Arakan	194,137	136,232	+ 2,095	53,881	64,711	+ 830
Pegu	221,218	229,846	+ 8,628	98,685	96,966	+ 8,231
Irrawaddy	245,159	248,647	+ 8,488	104,635	106,323	+ 1,088
Tenasserim	1,76,607	160,001	+ 2,894	50,790	57,890	+ 1,100
Total	758,121	774,726	+ 16,605	308,891	315,790	+ 6,899

Fewer coercive measures were necessary for the collection of fishery revenue than in former years. The number of processes amounted to 458 as against 670 in the previous year; 10 persons were sent to jail for default; and in three cases property was sold to realize arrears.

185. The net receipts of customs for the past five years have been—

			1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
			£	£	£	£	£
Import duties ...	...	...	141,066	152,179	82,613	82,827	76,354
Export duties ...	...	...	429,034	478,783	544,374	484,423	346,840
Total	...	...	570,100	630,964	626,987	516,750	423,194

The figures in the statement do not include duty on salt.

The import duties show a falling off of more than £5,000. These duties are derived from malt liquors, spirits, wines, liqueurs, and arms and ammunition. The decrease was due to smaller clearances of liquor from bond than in the preceding year and to large refunds to licensed vendors of duty on arms sold to persons entitled to possess them. The rice duties continue to show a falling off and yielded £80,000 less than in the previous year. The harvest of January 1885 was above the average, but only the export duty levied on that crop up to the 31st March is shown in the present return. The crop of January 1884 was a short one, and the falling off in export duty is due to the shortness of that crop.

186. The following statement shows the revenue from and estimated produce of local salt during the last five years:—

Year.	ARAKAN.		PEGU.		IRRAWADDY.		TENASSERIM.		TOTAL.	
	Estimated produce.	Revenue.	Estimated produce.	Revenue.	Estimated produce.	Revenue.	Estimated produce.	Revenue.	Estimated produce.	Revenue.
	Mds.	£	Mds.	£	Mds.	£	Mds.	£	Mds.	£
1880-81 ...	1,11,213	1,212	1,56,580	520	1,56,533	1,143	3,77,098	1,491	8,01,424	4,366
1881-82 ...	1,79,465	1,932	88,920	468	1,10,288	796	3,11,332	1,204	6,90,000	4,400
1882-83 ...	1,11,879	1,268	3,422	162	86,400	525	1,96,680	1,094	3,98,381	3,049
1883-84 ...	1,23,254	1,414	23,000	146	1,05,187	641	2,18,234	1,149	4,74,675	3,350
1884-85 ...	1,80,680	1,470	23,340	120	68,437	670	2,16,710	1,143	4,89,067	3,803

The outturn of salt is probably considerably overestimated, as it is based on the supposition that the working of the cauldrons or pots is continuous. The revenue levied on the implements used in the manufacture of salt has again decreased by £48, or 1.42 per cent. The excise revenue on salt consists of the revenue levied on the manufacturing implements and the revenue levied by the customs, which is of the nature of excise, not of customs. This customs duty on salt amounted during the present year to £22,029 as against £17,308 in the previous year, or an increase of 27.28 per cent., which was due to larger clearances of salt both for local consumption and for Upper Burma.

187. The advances made to sea fishermen were continued in the past year; they amounted to £9,000 in Thongwa and to £465 in Bassein, and nearly the whole amount advanced has been recovered. These advances have not, however, had the expected effect; the number of fishing boats has not increased, and the fishermen whom the advances had enabled to work without borrowing money have forsaken their toilsome and precarious profession to become traders or money-lenders. The plan of giving advances had a fair trial for four years: the plan has not in any way tended to develop the fishery industry and it has, therefore, been determined to make no further advances.

188. The balance outstanding on the 30th June was £1,274 as compared with £668 in the preceding year. The increase is due to arrears in the Bassein district, where an uncollected balance of £888 remained on the 30th June. The amount of remissions was £1,441, a larger sum than in the preceding year. This is due to the fact that £1,000 are shown as remissions against the Tharrawaddy district, where any decrease in the price of a fishery at a subsequent auction as compared with the price at the original sale was shown as a remission. The increase in remission is, therefore, only apparent.

189. The gross revenue from all classes of stamps amounted to £97,982 as compared with £88,839 in the previous year, showing a satisfactory increase of 10·29 per cent. The charges at the same time rose from £1,791 to £2,737, or by 52·86 per cent. Thus the net revenue for the year was £95,245, or 9·41 per cent. above the corresponding returns for 1883-84. The increase of the stamp revenue is due to an increase of 16·36 per cent. under the head of court-fee stamps, which yielded £65,861 against £56,604 in the previous year. Foreign bill stamps and receipt stamps also produced more by 2·62 and 3·42 per cent. respectively than in 1883-84. Owing, no doubt, to slackness of trade in the large towns there were decreases under the heads of hundis and bills-of-exchange (8·60 per cent.), other general stamps (0·26 per cent.), and miscellaneous receipts (6·50 per cent.). The percentage of charges to gross collections has risen from 2·02 to 2·79 per cent.

The increase during the past 10 years has been very large under all heads, except miscellaneous receipts. In the year of report foreign bill stamps have yielded 247·3 per cent., receipt stamps 76·9 per cent., hundis 52·1 per cent., other general stamps 57 per cent., and court-fee stamps 53·4 per cent., more than in 1875-76, and at the same time the gross and net receipts have increased by 54·4 and 54·5 per cent. respectively. Although charges have increased so largely in the year under report, they bear a smaller proportion to the total revenue than they did 10 years ago, when the sum placed under this head was exactly the same as in the year 1883-84. The increase is due chiefly to a very large addition to the amount disbursed as refunds of the values of spoiled or damaged stamps.

190. The total excise revenue of Burma has been nearly stationary for the past four years, at the beginning of which period the spread of the consumption of opium was checked by a large reduction in the number of shops. Up to 1881 the increase of the excise revenue had been rapid; thus the total excise revenues have been—

	£
1884-85	261,600
1883-84	261,000
1882-83	266,900
1881-82	259,700
1880-81	247,000
1879-80	221,800
1878-79	208,600
1877-78	189,900
1876-77	185,100
1875-76	163,700

Under the main heads of excise the receipts of the past year compare with the figures of the two previous years thus—

	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.
	£	£	£
<i>Opium—</i>			
License fees ...	44,466	48,018	52,029
Net proceeds of sale of drug ...	161,185	108,001	98,982
Total ...	145,601	151,019	150,991
<i>Spirits from central distilleries—</i>			
License fees ...	16,644	16,167	16,712
Stillhead duty ...	9,265	9,847	12,206
Total ...	25,909	24,514	28,918
<i>Other license fees on—</i>			
Outstills ...	6,966	6,785	6,461
Tari ...	27,544	26,497	29,127
Other fermented drinks ...	10,277	9,767	9,813
Imported liquors ...	45,836	42,475	42,099
Total ...	90,723	85,524	87,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	261,633	261,057	266,909

Besides the excise revenues shown above, there were realized during the year £75,689 as against £81,135 in the previous year, in import duties on spirits and liquors, and £31,124, the actual cost of the opium received from Bengal. The gross revenues on account of liquors and drugs were thus £368,446, or nearly two shillings a head on a population of 3,736,771 as shown at the last census.

191. The receipts from opium have decreased greatly in Arakan, where only two shops are now open, and the issues of opium from the stores in that province are now little more than one-third of what they were in the year 1880-81. The habit of indulging in opium is said to be disappearing in Sandoway and to be abating in Kyaukpyu. Much opium is smuggled into Arakan from the adjacent districts of Bengal. The local authorities are contending against this smuggling and have made several successful seizures. The sentiment of the people is against this illicit traffic, but as yet we have not succeeded in getting the people to work actively with us against contraband dealings in opium. The sales of provision opium in Arakan were 9,906lbs. as compared with 13,976lbs. in the preceding year.

In the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions there were nine shops open, as in the two previous years, while the issues of opium increased in two districts and decreased in five districts. The increase was large in the Thongwa district. The total revenues from opium in the two divisions were £99,773 as compared with £100,458 in the previous year. A certain quantity of China opium was smuggled from Upper Burma, and some large seizures of the Yunnan drug were made. Special preventive establishments were organized last year to put down smuggling. With the help of the ordinary and rural police something is being done.

Opium is all over the province dearer and harder to get than it used to be. The net revenue (exclusive of the cost price of 14s. 6d. per seer) raised from opium is now £3-10-0 per seer issued from the stores as compared with £3-8-0 in the previous year and £2-12-0 in the year 1880-81. The total issues last year were 41,992 seers as compared with 44,173 in the previous year and 54,265 seers in 1880-81. The decrease in consumption has been 22 per cent. in the four years, during which period the population of the province has increased 16 per cent., according to the ratio of increase disclosed at the last census.

192. There are only four central distilleries in the province, namely, at Rangoon, Moulmein, Toungoo, and Bassein. The total revenue from stillhead duty (8s. per gallon) and license fees on this liquor was £25,909, or £1,395 in excess of the previous year's receipts under the same head. The amount of London proof spirit passed from the distilleries to 133 licensed shops was 23,088 gallons, so that the total revenue falls at the rate of more than £1-2-0 for every gallon of excised spirit. At some shops the incidence of the revenue per gallon of excised liquor was very much higher; for instance at the Henzada shop the license fees alone came to £3-4-0 for every gallon of excised liquor issued to the shop.

193. At present there are 43 licensed outstills in the whole province, which yielded in 1884-85 a revenue of £6,965. The license fee for each outstill ranged from £1,150 for the still in Akyab town to £3 a year in Rathedaung. The only place where outstills are too numerous is Mergui town, wherein are licensed six outstills for a total population of 8,633 souls.

194. The licenses for the sale of imported liquors yielded a revenue of £45,386 as compared with £42,475 in the previous year. This was over and above the £75,000 yielded by the import duties on these liquors. The total quantity of spirits imported into Burma was 158,000 gallons as compared with 168,000 gallons in the preceding year, so that the license fees come to about 5s. 9d. per gallon over and above the 8s. per gallon of import duty.

195. There has been a small rise in the revenue from fermented liquors. The supply of tari is limited to those districts where the palmyra and dani palm abound. The revenue from tari has decreased greatly in Prome, where toddy-palms are numerous; also in Rangoon town, where the Pagoda trustees have, in the interests of sobriety, declined to allow palm trees on pagoda lands to be tapped. In Thongwa and other delta districts different fermented drinks made from rice-beer are becoming more and more popular, and are driving out distilled liquors. The number of these shops in Thongwa is seemingly increased beyond the possibility of supervision. In the Hanthawaddy and Tharrawaddy districts a number of licenses for fermented liquors were properly withdrawn because the shops were away from supervision. In Pegu all shops for rice-beer have been closed, on the ground that the stuff sold thereat was made noxious by adulteration. Analyses of rice-beer (blawsa, seinye) sold in other districts show that these drinks are not generally adulterated.

196. There has been some increase in the activity against breakers of the excise law and 1,489 persons were convicted of such offences as compared with an average of 1,076 during the three preceding years.

197. Enquiry has recently been made in Rangoon and Moulmein for the purpose of ascertaining the extent to which people of various nationalities consume liquor sold at the various licensed shops. The subjoined statements show the numbers of various classes of people who consumed different kinds of liquor at certain shops in one day.

Kind of liquor.	RANGOON.				
	Natives of India.	Burmans.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Total.
European liquors	662	15	6	5	588
Country distilled liquor	322	187	11	7	577
Asiatic liquors	123	8	2	...	133
Seinye	488	68	...	7	513
Tari	120	12	...	6	138
Public house liquors (various kinds)	477	123	...	80	680
Total	1,742	363	19	105	2,229

Kind of liquor.	MOULMEIN.			
	Natives of India.	Burmans.	Others.	Total.
Public house European liquors	100	1	8	109
European liquors	12	1	...	13
Country distilled liquors	189	52	4	195
Total	201	54	12	267

2.—Finance.

198. The year 1884-85 was not marked by any special advance in the matter of finance. No re-adjustment of the provincial financial arrangements with the imperial Government took place. The province continues to receive that proportion of the divided revenues which was originally fixed for 1882-83 supplemented by grants from the imperial revenues equal in amount to the defect in the provincial balance of the year: thus, to restore the provincial equilibrium at the close of the year, a contribution of £59,200 was made by the imperial Government to the provincial, a contribution which the necessities of the case have since caused to be raised to £66,200.

The net circulation of the provincial paper currency amounted to £182,930 at the close of 1884-85 which, compared with 1883-84, shows a decrease of £75,680, due to withdrawals for remittance purposes. The issues of notes during the year amounted to £2,084,048 and the encashment of notes to £2,159,728.

199. The gross revenue receipts during 1884-85 amounted to £2,688,119,*

Gross receipts. distributed as under:—

					£
(a) Imperial	...	...	...	...	1,250,538
(b) Provincial	...	...	...	...	1,239,088
(c) Excluded local	...	...	...	...	74,690
(d) Municipal	...	...	...	...	79,818

and compared with those of 1883-84 show—

(a) A decrease of	...	...	...	...	219,764
(b) A decrease of	...	...	...	...	87,291
(c) A decrease of	...	...	...	...	1,648
(d) An increase of	...	...	...	...	4,540

There was thus on the whole a net decrease of £284,053, or 9.55 per cent.

The decrease in the imperial and provincial revenues is due principally to reduced realizations of land revenue, owing chiefly to the larger collections of arrears effected in 1883-84, smaller sales of opium to licensed vendors, large fall in customs receipts in consequence of smaller supplies of rice for exportation, and less demand for forest produce evidenced by the lower prices offered for teak. The reduction in excluded local fund receipts represents the elevation of the Pegu town fund to the status of a municipality and the continued increase in municipal receipts may be ascribed partly to legitimate expansion and partly to the transfer of the Pegu town fund balance to the municipal account.

200. The cost of the Civil Administration, imperial and provincial, during 1884-85 amounted to £1,129,362 and compared with

Expenditure on Civil Administration.

1883-84 shows a decrease of £14,692, due chiefly to less payments for commission on land revenue, reduced customs and forest expenditure, less charges under Police (local), Marine, Scientific and Minor Departments (immigration), and smaller miscellaneous refunds. The surplus available for military charges, share of the cost of the imperial administration and debt, share of pensions and gratuities payable in England, share of the loss in the Post Office and Telegraph Departments, &c., amounted to £900,611, showing a decrease in 1884-85 of £262,526 compared with the preceding year, due to causes already assigned. Excluded local funds and municipal disbursements aggregated £173,069 against £187,035 in 1883-84, showing a decrease of £13,966. The following tabular statement shows the gross receipts and disbursements on account of the imperial and provincial services of the province for each of the past eight years:—

*Note.—These figures do not include the receipts of the Rangoon Municipality (£129,488) or of the Rangoon Port Commissioners (£68,060) which, are outside the Government books. If these two sums be added, the total receipts of the year come to £2,885,637.

Detail of Items.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross revenue—								
Civil Department (imperial and provincial)	1,744,530	1,900,915	2,109,973	2,166,430	2,478,516	2,505,738	2,639,637	2,929,029
Public Works Department	30,819	100,968	181,105	168,900	179,069	178,864	180,999	333,918
Total	1,784,349	2,001,883	2,291,078	2,335,330	2,657,585	2,684,602	2,820,636	3,262,947
Gross charges—								
Civil Department (imperial and provincial)	668,644	755,318	836,522	923,404	967,108	1,070,995	1,144,654	1,189,982
Public Works Department	150,567	573,769	261,929	309,853	286,980	574,907	613,465	803,630
Total	819,211	1,329,087	1,098,451	1,233,257	1,454,088	1,645,902	1,758,119	1,993,612
Results—								
Surplus in Civil Department	1,075,886	1,154,697	1,273,451	1,243,026	1,511,407	1,434,743	1,495,000	1,739,047
Deduct net Public Works expenditure	110,788	163,107	140,043	217,383	333,991	401,441	333,465	265,736
Net surplus available for military expenditure and for a share of the cost of the Central Government.	965,100	991,590	1,133,408	1,025,643	1,177,416	1,033,302	1,161,535	1,473,311

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that the net aggregate surplus of eight years, commencing from 1877-78, has been £8,429,565. The surplus of 1877-78 was £965,155 and in 1884-85 £900,611, being a decrease in the latter year of 6.68 per cent., due chiefly to reduced land revenue and customs collections.

201. The traffic receipts and expenditure of the Burma State Railway amounted respectively in 1884-85 to £216,640 and £184,468 as against £167,717 and £102,117 in the previous year, the surplus being £82,172 as against £65,600 in 1883-84. The interest on the capital expenditure for 1884-85 was £99,171, leaving a net loss on the year's transactions of £16,999, equivalent to 0.64 per cent. on the total capital expenditure to the end of 1884-85. If, as in the accounts of the Examiner, Burma State Railway, the capital expenditure for the year of the Sittang line be excluded, the return of revenue (of both lines) on the capital outlay of the Irrawaddy line for 1884-85 would be equivalent to a profit of 5.88 per cent. There was also an expenditure by the Public Works Department of £2,334 on the Bassein-Henzada Railway Survey during 1884-85.

202. The net cost of the troops stationed in Burma in 1884-85 is £285,851 against £274,474 in 1883-84, the increase £11,377 being due to increased stores and contingencies during the year. This would leave £614,760 available for remittance to India, but the net remittances actually made amounted to £1,095,908, the difference having been taken from the accumulated surplus of previous years plus the receipts of other Governments and departments paid into the provincial treasury.

203. The incorporated local fund consists of the district cess fund. The transactions are incorporated into the provincial books. The receipts amounted in 1884-85 to £106,208 against £119,725 in 1883-84 as under :—

	£
Land revenue (rent of land, &c.)	859
Excise (wholesale and retail liquor licences)	2,315
Provincial rates (cess on land revenue, fisheries, and town tax)	84,046
Post office (district dak recoveries)	1
Police (pound fees and fines, licences, &c.)	3,162
Marine (steam-launch receipts, &c.)	106
Education (cess, school fees, &c.)	306
Medical (contributions, &c.)	69
Scientific and other minor departments (miscellaneous)	6
Miscellaneous (rents, fees, &c.)	9,056
Civil buildings and roads (lease of tolls at ferries, &c.)	6,306
Contributions (from provincial revenues)	490
Total	106,208

204. The expenditure as subjoined amounted to £118,846 against £124,726 in 1883-84 :—

Refunds and drawbacks (cess collections)	£	1,301
Provincial rates (collections, &c.)	4,605	
Post office (district dak establishment)	5,998	
General administration (district office establishment and audit charges).	1,300	
Police (town, village, and pound establishment)	83,708	
Marine (steam-launch establishment, &c.)	1,802	
Education (cess and indulgence schools)	7,658	
Medical (vaccination and dispensaries)	2,376	
Scientific and other minor departments (veterinary assistants and registering births and deaths).	746	
Superannuation (village police)	216	
Miscellaneous (petty establishments, &c.)	3,155	
Irrigation and navigation	520	
Civil buildings, roads, &c.	48,871	
Contributions (to provincial revenue)	1,700	
Total	118,846	

Excluded local funds.

205. The following table summarizes the transactions of the excluded local funds during 1884-85 :—

Funds.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Disbursements.	Closing balance.
Town	£ 20,340	86,800	57,140	88,466	18,674
Port	7,105	18,269	20,374	23,889	-3,015
Cantonment	779	4,456	5,235	4,406	829
Total	28,224	54,525	82,749	65,261	17,488

The nature of these receipts and charges was detailed in the report for 1879-80. The expenditure on public works amounted to £14,216 from town, £10,741 from port, and £807 from cantonment funds.

The Akyab Port Fund has been permitted, with the sanction of the Government of India, to overdraw its account with Government to the extent of £8,000 (the fund paying interest on the overdraft at 4½ per cent. per annum) for the completion of the new wooden wharf and repairs to the bazaar wharf at Akyab. The amount of overdraft at the end of March 1885 was £7,888.

206. There are seven municipalities shown in the civil books, the receipts of which aggregated £74,488 in 1884-85 against the £82,149 of the six municipalities that were in existence in 1883-84, and the expenditure £82,170 against £88,342 in 1883-84.

The following statement shows the receipts and charges, with the opening and closing balances, of each Municipality for 1884-85 :—

Municipalities.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Disbursements.	Closing balance.
Akyab	£ 2,927	10,867	12,794	13,529	265
Bassein	1,775	18,663	15,288	12,935	2,408
Hensada	1,444	6,552	7,996	6,578	1,418
Moulmein	894	12,628	13,522	13,166	356
Pegu	4,295	7,869	12,165	7,969	4,182
Prome	6,118	14,416	20,434	19,185	1,249
Toungoo	705	8,593	9,298	6,794	504
Total	18,159	74,488	92,647	92,170	10,477

The following balances of loans were due by the undermentioned Municipalities at the close of 1884-85 :—

Rangoon—Water-works	£	127,192
Prome—Water-works	18,638	
Akyab—Construction of bazaar	3,010	
Moulmein—To pay a Court attachment	500	
Total	148,385	

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

Vital Statistics of the General Population.

207. The number of births registered was 82,789 and the number of deaths 69,284. The ratio of births per 1,000 of the population was 22·66 and that of deaths 18·95. The corresponding mean ratios for the previous five years were 21·74 and 15·8. Both in towns and districts the death-rate was unusually high, and 1884 was an exceptionally unhealthy year in Burma. As usual registration was more accurate in towns than in rural districts. The urban birth-rate was 28·28 and the urban death-rate 36·65.

208. *Cholera* was more fatal than usual in 1884, causing 5,515 deaths.

General history of the chief diseases.

Fifteen out of every 1,000 villages returned deaths from this cause. The highest mortality occurred, in the month of July, in the districts of Thôngwa, Prome, Henzada, Bassein, and Kyankpyu, and in the towns of Akyab, Prome, and Henzada. The ratio of mortality to population was highest at Pantanaw. The mortality from *smallpox* was exceptionally high, 6,102 deaths having been returned from this cause as against 675 in 1883 and 770 in 1882. Eighty-four per cent. of the victims were children under 12 years of age; March, April, May, and June were the most fatal months. Deaths were returned from every district in the province except Kyankpyu. To *fevers* 29,514 deaths were attributed. The three months of highest rainfall—July, August, and September—were those in which most deaths from fever occurred, while the hot weather and early rains (April—June) constituted the least fatal period. *Bowel-complaints* caused 3,719 deaths, not much more than the average number. These complaints proved most fatal in July and August.

Immigration and Emigration.

209. The number of the cultivating population in Burma is small in comparison to the area under the plough, and a large number of agricultural labourers are required to help in reaping the paddy, which ripens over the whole country about the same time, and requires to be cut in about 20 days. These labourers in the Irrawaddy delta are chiefly Upper Burmans, who come down in large numbers about the month of November of each year; they spread themselves over the whole country and hire themselves out singly to reap, thresh, store, and cart the paddy; they then return, about April, to Upper Burma with the money they have saved. Many of them, however, marry in British Burma and settle down permanently in the country. The number of Upper Burma labourers who thus annually immigrate into British Burma cannot be precisely stated.

210. In addition to the Upper Burma immigrants a large number of natives of India take part in the reaping operations. These immigrant labourers come mostly from Madras. They come over in large numbers at the beginning of every dry weather from the different ports of India to work as coolies in the rice-mills, on the ships, and on the wharves; but, before the shipping season begins in January, they hire themselves out in large gangs to reap the paddy. They are found chiefly in the neighbourhood of seaports. The number of immigrants from across the sea amounted last year to over 56,000. The number who left the province seawards amounted to nearly 45,000; thus leaving more than 10,000 Indian immigrants settled more or less permanently in the country. Many of these settlers eventually return to India, but not until after the lapse of several years.

211. In Arakan many Chittagonians march down at the beginning of every dry weather into the Akyab district. Their number has been estimated at 200,000; but this figure is probably much above the truth. They hire themselves out to reap the paddy and afterwards work as coolies in the rice-mills and in the port of Akyab. The majority of them return to Chittagong at the end of the season, but many of them remain behind and settle permanently in Akyab town, working as traders, gharry-drivers, shoemakers, &c. Others have settled down as cultivators, especially in the Naaf township, and a few are scattered in the large villages in the district, where they have the monopoly of the money-lending operations.

212. There is thus a considerable influx of population into British Burma at the beginning of every season, Chulias and Coringis from the ports of the Madras coast, Bengalis from Chittagong and from Calcutta, and Upper Burmans from the Kingdom of Ava. In addition to these, large caravans of Shans arrive yearly from the Shan States, bringing large numbers of ponies, or driving before them their pack-bullocks laden with various goods. They sell their ponies and bullocks and carry back to their country silks and other English goods. It has been remarked that the majority of these different races return to their own country at the end of each season, but large numbers of them remain behind, especially of the Upper Burmans. It is difficult to obtain figures showing the numbers of the different nationalities which have settled down in British Burma, but the following table shows the numbers of the different races at the time of the census of 1881 and of the census taken 10 years before:—

Races.	1872.	1881.	Difference.
Shans	36,029	69,728	+23,694
Chinese	12,109	12,962	+853
Bengalis	187,014	99,696	+104,485
Hindustanis		72,990	
Tamils		85,068	
Telugus		88,715	
Total	185,152	814,184	128,962

The census of 1881 showed that 861,018 persons then living in British Burma, or about 8 per cent. of the total population, had been born in Upper Burma.

213. A large number of natives of India are permanently settled in the seaports and large villages, and they have driven the more apathetic Burmans out of the more profitable fields of employment. The money-lending business of the country is in the hands of the Madrassi banking caste of Chetties; the retail piece-goods trade is chiefly in the hands of Suratis, natives of India, and Chinamen; the retail liquor trade is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinamen. The natives of India have also driven the Burmans out of the field where hard manual labour is required; the coolies employed by the Public Works Department are almost exclusively Indian; the gharry-drivers everywhere are chiefly Madrass s; the coolies on the wharves and at the railway stations are also natives of India; and, as has already been remarked, natives of India are here and there settling down to permanent rice-cultivation and they will gradually increase in numbers as they find that the tenure of land is secure and the profits derived from cultivation are not inconsiderable.

Medical Relief.

214. Three new dispensaries were opened in the course of the year at the instance of Town Committees. The total number of these institutions was thus raised to 81. The total number of patients treated was 169,741, or an increase of 18,668 over the number treated in 1883. This increase occurred almost entirely among the

Civil dispensaries.

out-patients. There was a falling off among the midwifery cases, for which no satisfactory explanation is given. Nearly half the patients treated are Burmese; of the remainder, about four-fifths are Natives of India, and the rest Europeans, Eurasians, &c. Since the dispensaries have come under the management of Town Committees, the expenditure has shown a tendency to increase, while voluntary subscriptions have declined; but the institutions are on the whole popular and receive constant supervision from the Committees.

215. The Rangoon Lunatic Asylum has now accommodation for 264 patients.

Rangoon Lunatic Asylum.

The largest number of patients under treatment at any time during the year was 190. The total number of patients treated during the year was 250, of whom 231 were males and 19 females. The number remaining at the close of 1883 was 190. Out of the 60 patients admitted during the year, 35 were Burmans, inclusive of Karens and Shans, 21 were Hindus, and two were Mahomedans. The proportion of lunatic asylum inmates to the total population according to the census totals of 1881 is—

one lunatic to 4,199 Hindus;
 one lunatic to 84,441 Mahomedans;
 one lunatic to 97,006 Burmans, Karens, &c.

Madness seems thus to be more frequent among Hindus than among other sections of the population. The number of patients discharged was 44, one escaped, and 23 died, leaving 182 in the asylum at the close of the year under review. The daily average number of inmates was 181 as compared with 189 in the previous year. Of the number discharged, 25 were cured, the proportion of cures (13.8 per cent. of the average strength) being higher than usual; and 15 were discharged with improved mental health.

The total cost of the maintenance of the asylum was £2,027, of which £892 were on account of superintendence and establishment, and £978 on account of diet. The profits on manufactures are returned at £548 as compared with £482 in 1883, and the receipts from paying patients were £55, or more than double the amount realized in the preceding year. The expenditure averaged £11-3-10½ per head and the receipts £3-0-1, the net cost to Government of each patient being £8-3-9½.

216. The lock-hospital at Moulmein was closed on the 1st June 1884. Lock-

Lock-hospital.

hospitals were maintained, and rules connected with them were enforced, at Rangoon, Thayetnyo, and Toungoo for the protection of the troops. At Akyab and Bassein the hospitals were maintained by the desire and at the expense of the Municipal Committees of those towns, chiefly for the benefit of the floating seafaring population. The number of cases of venereal disease among European soldiers was the same as in the previous year. The average ratio of admissions to military hospitals was higher than in any of the three preceding years. Admissions to civil dispensaries on account of venereal diseases increased from 3,114 in 1883 to 3,880 in the year under review. The average number of women registered as prostitutes did not materially differ from the number in previous years. Except at Akyab and Thayetmyo, where there was a slight falling off, the attendance at the hospital inspections was more regular than in previous years. Three hundred and twenty-four registered women were arrested for breaches of rules, of whom 151 were punished. These figures are much lower than in 1883, the reason apparently being that the women behaved better than in that year. The number of cases of disease among registered women decreased from 1,228 in 1883 to 956 in the past year; and in every hospital the percentage of cases of disease to the average number of women on the register was less in 1884 than in the preceding year.

Sanitation.

217. No large sanitary works were undertaken in 1884. At Rangoon,

Sanitary works.

where the water-supply is now practically complete, an elaborate scheme for the drainage of the town on Shone's hydro-pneumatic system has been prepared by the Engineer

and is under the consideration of the Committee. The estimated prime cost is £170,846, or, if a supplementary high-pressure water-supply is adopted at the same time, £180,085. A sum of £1,288 was expended during the year on the construction of brick surface drains. At Prome the new water-supply works are practically complete, a sum of £12,428 having been spent on this object in the course of the year. The cesspit system is being gradually abolished and 24 public latrines have been provided. At Pegu a commencement is being made of a general scheme of surface drainage; the estimated cost of the works now in progress is £2,500. At Akyab, Bassein, and Toungoo progress was made in the construction of open brick drains; and at Rangoon, Moulmein, Henzada, and Thayetmyo new public latrines were erected. Minor works of a similar kind were carried on at other towns. At Akyab no sanitary works of any importance have been undertaken. There is no system of removing night-soil and but little has been done to improve the water-supply. The local Committees have generally shown an interest in the conservancy of their towns, and though the funds at their disposal have not enabled them to undertake any large or important works, they have in most cases done something in the way of keeping roads and drains clean, repairing walls, and providing public latrines. Outside the larger towns little or no progress has been made in sanitary matters.

Vaccination.

218. The total number of persons vaccinated during the year was 89,928 against 78,289 in 1883-84 and 55,095 in 1882-83. The percentage of successful cases was somewhat less than in 1883-84, but the average number of operations performed by each vaccinator was greater, and the average cost of each successful case was in consequence less. It is satisfactory to find that vaccination was carried on throughout the year and that the percentage of successful cases at no time fell below 76·6. The Compulsory Vaccination Act has, at the request of the Municipal Committees, been extended to Rangoon and Akyab, and rules under the Act have been sanctioned for both towns. Animal vaccine was successfully cultivated by Dr. Pedley at Rangoon and by Dr. Baker at Akyab, and from Rangoon it was supplied to, and used by, the Medical Officers of out-stations; there was a great demand for lymph, which could not have been adequately met otherwise than by Dr. Pedley's supplies of animal lymph. A large number of vaccinations, which do not appear in the returns, were performed by missionaries in various parts of the country. The number of dispensary vaccinations was somewhat greater than in 1883-84, but is still curiously small. In only seven districts were any dispensary vaccinations performed. It seems hardly possible that, where the Civil Surgeon and Hospital Assistants take an interest in vaccination, operations should not occasionally be performed at the dispensary.

VII.—INSTRUCTION.

Education.

219. The number of schools under inspection increased from 4,682 to 5,010 and the number of pupils from 127,583 to 137,504.

General results.

Of these schools 49 were maintained by Government or Municipal or Town Committees, 58 were under missionary or other European management, and 4,905 (nearly 98 per cent.) were indigenous schools. The number of pupils under secondary instruction increased from 6,063 to 6,532 and the number under primary instruction from 121,198 to 130,511. There was a marked increase in the number of students who succeeded in passing completely by one of the departmental standards, the numbers being 1,722 in 1883-84 and 3,234 in 1884-85. The proportion of pupils who passed was thus 24 in a thousand as compared with 14 in a thousand last year.

220. The total expenditure of the year on education was £80,848 as compared with £71,303 in the previous year. In 1881-82 the expenditure was under £50,000. Municipal funds nominally contributed £25,316, or 31·3 per cent. of the total sum spent. But the greater part of this sum was assigned for educational purposes to municipal by provincial funds. In the past year the Municipal expenditure (including £2,910 paid from school fees) amounted to £28,481. Local rates contributed £7,614 as compared with £8,606 in the previous year; and the sum of £8,614, as compared with £7,151 in 1883-84, was derived from fees.

Financial.

Of the total expenditure £54,720 was spent on instruction, £8,367 on direction and inspection, £3,839 on scholarships, and £7,608 on buildings. The expenditure on grants under the grant-in-aid rules was £6,099 as compared with £7,740 in 1883-84. There was an increase in the amount of ordinary results and attendance grants, the sums spent in the two past years being £3,698 and £4,388 respectively. The decrease in the total amount of the grants was due to the fact that special building-grants were made to the extent of only £460 as compared with £2,746 in the previous year.

221. Plans for the establishment of a college at Rangoon, under the management of the Educational Syndicate, were considered during the year. The proposal cannot be carried

University education.

into effect until by incorporation the Syndicate acquires a legal status. Meanwhile the Rangoon high school has been affiliated to the Calcutta University as a first grade college and it is now called the Rangoon College. In the college classes at Rangoon there were 18 students as compared with 23 in the previous year. One student passed the examination for the degree of B.A. and six passed the F.A. examination.

222. The Bassein school became a high school; the Pegu, Paungdè, and Shwedaung Committees raised their schools to the middle grade; and boarding departments were opened

Secondary education.

at the schools at Akyab and Sandoway.

223. The number of primary schools under inspection increased from 4,630 to 4,946 and the number of pupils from 121,198 to 130,511. Of these pupils 746 passed the Upper

Primary education.

Primary examination and 2,195 the Lower Primary examination as compared with 477 and 971 respectively in the previous year. The bulk of the primary schools consists of indigenous schools, monastic and lay. Of the total number of these institutions inspected during the year 1,274, and of the pupils therein 8,036, earned results-grants. The amount of results-grants earned increased from £4,718 to £6,658. There was an increase of 689 in the number of indi-

genous schools inspected; of 98 in the number of schools of which the pupils earned grants; of 1,089 in the number of pupils who passed by one or other of the primary standards; and of 1,101 in the number of pupils who earned grants. Of monastic schools inspected 825, or 21·5 per cent., with 8,414, or 8·5 per cent. of the total number of pupils earned results-grants, and 587 pupils (or 17·2 per cent. of the number who earned grants) passed fully by one of the primary standards; while of lay schools inspected 449, or 51 per cent., with 4,622 pupils, or 14·6 per cent. of the total number, earned results-grants, and 1,201 pupils (or 26 per cent. of the number who earned grants) passed the Primary School examinations. The number of Karen primary schools inspected during the year was 845 as compared with 299 in 1883-84; the number that earned grants rose from 127 to 142, the number of pupils earning grants from 928 to 1,106, and the number of pupils who passed the primary standards from 115 to 827.

224. The number of certificated teachers employed increased from 127 in 1883-84 to 184 in the year under review. These numbers are exclusive of the 158 Karen teachers who

are certificated under different rules and do not pass through normal schools.

225. There are now three schools, at Rangoon, Akyab, and Moulmein, for the training of masters, and there are also classes for the training of mistresses at missionary schools in Rangoon and Moulmein. Among the steps taken

Schools for special and technical training.

during the past year for the improvement of normal teaching may be mentioned the revision and strengthening of the establishments of the three normal schools, the raising of the standard of admission to the Rangoon school, and the opening of the normal school for mistresses at Moulmein. The number of men under normal training rose from 157 to 202 and of women from 21 to 29. The number of masters' certificates gained by the normal schools was 100 as compared with 46 in 1883-84, and of mistresses' certificates 19 as compared with five. The Rangoon school gained 71 passes, a creditable result of the year's work. The Akyab and Moulmein schools were less successful. Encouraged by the offer of liberal ca itation-grants, private schools have taken up the work of training and passed 20 candidates as masters and eight as mistresses during the year.

Survey schools were maintained at Akyab, Rangoon, Bassein, Henzada, and Pegu.

Instruction in various mechanical arts continued to be given at several of the mission schools in the province and, under encouragement afforded by the Municipal Committee, an industrial school was established at Akyab. A law lectureship was maintained by the Educational Syndicate. The management of European and Karen apprentices at the railway workshops of Insein continues to be very satisfactory. Lads from the shops get good employment outside directly they complete their five-years' apprenticeship.

226. The number of girls under instruction in inspected schools increased from 11,089 to 13,082, the increase being almost entirely due to increase in the number of pupils attending

Education of girls.

indigenous schools. The number of girls who passed the Middle School examination increased from 22 to 34 and the number who passed the primary standards from 178 to 386. Special encouragement to the education of women is given by the offer of results-grants at enhanced rates in the case of successful female students; by the maintenance of the normal classes for mistresses already mentioned; by the offer of special grants for students who gain mistresses' certificates; and by the payment by Government of half of the salary of Burmese women teachers.

227. The special arrangements for assisting children of European descent to obtain instruction were unchanged during the year. Up to the close of 1884-85 156 stipends had

Education of special classes.

been allotted and 15 apprenticeships had been taken up. The special grants-in-aid paid last year on account of European children amounted to £1,251 as compared with £1,101 in 1883-84; these sums are in addition to the ordinary grants-in-aid and to the cost of European scholarships, stipends, and apprenticeships. The number of European children attending school rose from 1,482 to

1,438. No measures of importance for the education of other special classes were taken during the period under review.

Literature and the Press.

228. The total number of publications registered was 176 as compared with 284 in the previous year. Classified according to languages, these publications consisted of 11 European, 157 Vernacular, and eight biglot or polyglot works, the corresponding figures for 1893 being 14, 197 and 21 respectively. Subdivided according to their subject-matter, they include no publications under the heads "Arts," "Fiction," "Politics," or "Philosophy." Three biographical and 57 dramatic works were published during the year. None of them were of any importance. Two of the 14 historical works published are deserving of mention, namely, the *Shwe Dagon Thamaing*, which purports to be a historical record of the great pagoda at Rangoon, and the *Mahawin*, which is a Burmese reproduction from the Pali of the ancient history of Ceylon, with accounts of the introduction of the Buddhist religion into that island. Under the head "Language" there appeared 15 works, consisting mostly of spelling-books and readers. The only noticeable work among these is a spelling-book in the Chin language, which has now been reduced to writing by the employment of Burmese characters with modifications. The sole work registered under the head "Law" is an index to the Indian Statutes. Under "Medicine" appeared two treatises, one on the subject of small-pox and other vesicular diseases and their cure by the aid of Burmese nostrums, and the other a scheme of dietetics for the cure of diseases. Fifteen works of the usual description on palmistry, fortune-telling, and astrology were published. They are included under the head "Miscellaneous." Of the eight books of poetry, which are as usual chiefly religious or amatory in their character, and the 50 publications treating of religious subjects, which are composed mainly of Buddhist and Christian texts, homilies, hymns, and prayers, there is none deserving of any special mention. The 10 works shown under "Science" consist principally of elementary school manuals, and the single work shown under "Voyages and Travels" is merely a reprint. Of the total number of publications 106, or about 60 per cent., were original works. As compared with last year there was a decrease of about 10 per cent. in the publication of original matter. Again 86, or about 20 per cent. of the books published were educational in character. This shows, as compared with the previous year, an increase of about seven per cent.

Seventeen newspapers were published in the province, the circulation of which varied from 520 to 75 copies. In addition to this five monthly journals were issued.

Arts and Sciences.

229. There is nothing to record under this head. The only arts of any interest have been treated in the section devoted to manufactures.

VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

280. The following is a brief outline written by Dr. Forehammer, the Government Archæologist, of the work done during the year by him and his assistant.

During the rainy season of the year 1884 the archæological survey of the Prome district was continued whenever the weather permitted out-door work. In addition to the operations alluded to in last year's report, the archæological remains to the north and north-east of the city of Prome were investigated. Several new specimens of stone sculptures were found to the north of the old town of Srikahatra. One represents Buddha in the usual sitting attitude, but is provided with four arms. Inscribed stones are generally found near these sculptures, but they have been used for generations as whet-stones and the letters have become obliterated. Of particular interest is the Parana pagoda at the north-west corner of the town. It is one of the four still standing shrines whose erection is ascribed to King Dvatabaung. We collected there a number of bricks with letters of a very ancient form impressed on them. There are many natural and artificial caves in the hills south-east of Prome. In one the walls, which form the inner coating of the cave, are covered with painting illustrating Jātaka stories. One of the oldest antiquities in the Prome district is the foot-print of Gotama in the jungle near Shinbinpelet close to the boundary of the Thayet district. The pagodas of Thaukkyama and Myaywa were also visited.

281. During rainy days we copied and translated native historical records bearing on the history of Prome and Thayetmyo; we also prepared descriptive catalogues of the principal libraries found in these quarters. Upwards of 1,200 different Pāli and Burmese works have been catalogued. The richest collection of books is in Shwedaung, in the monastery of the venerable priest U Kin. After the close of the rainy season we visited, travelling along the left-hand bank of the Irrawaddy, all places of archæological interest from Prome to the frontier. Of some historical importance are the remains of the city walls of old Myawadi, the shrines of Nyaungbinzeik, Kamagala, Palo (also the site of an ancient town), Buile, and the fort and pagodas of Myede.

282. The shrines in the town of Thayetmyo and vicinity occupied us for two days; the decorative designs on the Shwethethlut and Shwemuttaw pagodas are worthy of notice. We then visited the Swedaw and Andapara in the wild and picturesque solitude of the upper course of the Pun stream. On the way from Thayetmyo to Mindon no remains were found except the small shrines at Bankun and Mindat. Mindon is covered with pagodas, chiefly peculiar for the variety of architectural styles they represent. Mindon is an ancient place and occurs in the older native records as Bhumavati, the Matun river as the Samantanadi. Kama is also the site of an old town said to have been founded 2,000 years ago; it has a number of interesting pagodas; unique are the rock-cut shrines and hermit caves on the hills west of the town; in one of the latter (they are all artificial) he date of its completion is given as Sakkaraj 583 A.D. 1172.

283. The work in the Prome and Thayetmyo districts was finished in December. During January and February we visited most places in the Rangoon, Thongwa, Bassein, and Pegu districts possessing noteworthy temples or other objects of archæological interest. We endeavoured in particular to trace the sites of former Portuguese settlements, and the remains of the 82 cities of Kusimamandala (Bassein) erected during the reign of the Queen Ummadandi. Old Talaing and Burmese inscriptions were found about Bassein, and numerous specimens of ancient Mon pottery and tiles collected. The pagodas of Tunte, the remains of the city of Dalanagara, the ornamental plaster casts on shrines in Yandoon, the peculiar Tavatimsa pagoda in Pantanaw, the secluded shrine at Mintazu, the ruins of Muttawaddi, Thidamyo, Kusimanagara (to the south of Bassein) with its ancient image-houses, and the Agyawseyapara deserve particular mention.

234. In the middle of March we ascended the valley of the Kyaukhaunggalè stream, visited Thidamyo, Zingadigòn, and reached the Gwa river, passing over the Punzogyi pass; then we proceeded by land to Sandoway. Between the latter place and Gwa we may mention Myogwin and Myochaung as the sites of old towns. It was disappointing not to find a trace of the ancient city of Dvāravati (now Sandoway) mentioned by Ptolemy and Hiuen Tsang. The remains of the fort and royal palace upon which a portion of the town is built dates from the time of the Talaing occupation of Arakan. In Sandoway begins the influence of the Mahomedan architectural style on Buddhist shrines; the hemispherical cupola of the mosque often replaces the tapering spire of the Burmese pagoda.

235. The Akyab district contains the most important remains in British Burma by virtue of their age, structural skill exhibited, and elaborateness of decorative designs; stone architecture supersedes here the brick structures of the Irrawaddy valley. We visited Urittaung, Miubya, Kado, Launggyet, Mahati, Padaw, Myohaung, Paragyi, Kyaukdaw, Mahamuni, Rathedaung, and Busidaung, making Akyab the starting point for excursions up the Lemro, Kaladan, and Myu rivers.

236. The inscriptions of Arakan will, I think, adjust the dispute regarding the origin of the Burmese alphabet. Some scholars consider it a development of the Northern Asoka letters, others an offshoot of the old Dravidian alphabet. The lithic monuments of Arakan were likely to furnish the intermediate phases of development. The Sanskrit inscriptions found are either very old, dating back to the beginning of our era, or very modern (middle of 17th century), and the letters coincide with those found on the Buddhist railings in Buddhagaya and the more modern inscriptions of the same place. These Nagari inscriptions in Arakan were engraved by Hindu workmen. The oldest stone-inscriptions in Akyab written in the Burmese alphabet are only from four to five centuries old. The shape of the letters and the peculiar mode of spelling clearly shows that they were borrowed from the Talaings. The Arakanese have not adopted or developed a peculiar alphabet, but borrowed directly, either from their eastern or western neighbours, their letters and even their idioms; not a single lithic record has been found written in the Arakanese dialect. On the hill range west of Palo are ideographic rock sculptures of very ancient date; they are probably prehistoric and must be attributed to wild hill tribes who lived south of Myochaung before the rise of the Buddhist dynasty of Dhañnavati.

237. From the inscriptions and old palm-leaf manuscripts I was enabled to gather valuable information bearing on the ancient history and geography of British Burma.

238. Plans, photographs, and drawings have been prepared of all important sites, typical structures, ornamental designs, and inscriptions found in the districts visited. A number of valuable historical manuscripts procured during my travels were either purchased or copied in my office in Rangoon under the able superintendence of my assistant, Taw Sain Ko; he also gave me valuable help by furnishing me with some translations of not only modern inscriptions and palm-leaves, but also of older lithic records, which he himself had succeeded in deciphering.

IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical.

239. Proposals for the building of a cathedral in Rangoon were under consideration during the year. A chaplaincy was established for the east end of Rangoon. With the exception of changes in the *personnel* of the ecclesiastical establishment there are no other matters of interest to record under this head.

Stationery.

240. Stationery is supplied to all Government offices in the province by the Superintendent of Stationery, Calcutta. The cost of the stationery supplied in 1884-85 was £7,898 compared with £8,898 in the previous year.
