

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1864-65.

BY
R. TEMPLE, ESQUIRE, B. C. S.

NAGPORE:
PRINTED AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS

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REPORT
ON THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,
1864-65.

INTRODUCTION.

I now submit the fourth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1864-65. My three previous Reports have presented a description of the country and of its salient circumstances. To that description I have little to add. But as the Administration is now more than three years old, the present occasion is suitable for recapitulating briefly what has been done, and for considering the effect produced thereby on the progress of the country. This introductory chapter, therefore, will present a general view of the subjects which are to be treated of in the succeeding chapters.

In an Indian province, the most important topics are those relating to the land. I am able to report that agriculture was flourishing in the Central Provinces during 1864-65. The seasons were not indeed without vicissitudes. In the plains of Chütteesgurh, the rice crop missed its accustomed flooding from autumnal rains, and the cattle were turned in to graze on the withered and grainless stalks. In the valley of the Nerbudda, the spring weather was darkened by storms of hail and rain, threatening with destruction the waving harvest of wheat and oilseeds. Still, the general out-turn of the year's produce of all kinds was up to the average. There was enough, not only to support the population of the country, but also to succour neighbouring provinces. Some thirty-five thousand tons of grain are ascertained to have been exported across our frontiers during the year. And the high repute of the grains of Central India was maintained, by the several prizes awarded to samples of them at the Lucknow Exhibition.

The culture of cotton reached to probably a culminating point during the year. There was never so much grown before. There is not so much being grown at this time of writing. When the crop was gathered by the growers, and sold by them to the traders, the prices of cotton were at their height. When the crop was sent down to Bombay for exportation to England, the newly established line of the Indo-European Telegraph flashed the news of the sudden fall of prices in England. The troubles which thence arose to those engaged in the cotton trade need no description here. I allude to them now, only to mention that the people of these provinces almost entirely escaped from the disaster. The growers and the local traders had sold the crop on the ground to foreign merchants at highly remunerative rates, and had for the most part received payment before the depression fell on the market. Only one of the many firms in these provinces drifted into difficulties. Thus the cotton crisis of the last few years has up to a certain point proved of unmixt benefit to the people both rich and poor. It has put many hundreds of thousands, I might almost say millions of pounds sterling into their pockets. It has specially benefitted the small proprietor, the cultivator, and the farm laborer. It has caused cultivation to spread, and has doubled the rate of agricultural wages. It has largely checked the coarser manufactures of country cloth, and has released a mass of workmen to be employed on more profitable work. It has, on the other hand, stimulated the importation of English piece-goods.

But the people have not yet turned this accession of wealth to the best account. For, in the first place, they have not spent all their enhanced earnings in improving their lands, or in ministering to fresh wants and luxuries. Though they have increased their importation of foreign articles, they have not brought it up to a corresponding amount with exportation of home produce. And thus they still cause the public Mail to be loaded with consignments of bullion, which ultimately is either to be buried in the ground, or to be moulded into ornaments. In the second place, they have done but little to improve that culture which to them has proved so rapidly fortunate. Still is the rising crop choked with weeds; still is the produce piled up into heaps, which look from afar like vast tents, or like pyramids of snow, and which are exposed to the flying dust, and the driving rain; still are the bales so badly packed, that

the roadways and the hedgerows are strewn with fragments of the cotton.

The new demands for cotton have been so sudden and emergent, that the people have been absorbed in the thought of sending cotton down to the Coast, no matter of what quality, or in what manner. They have been disinclined to attempting the introduction of superior varieties of the staple.—an operation which takes time. They will sow New Orleans seed or Egyptian seed fast enough; and if mere sowing had been sufficient, they would, ere this, have introduced these varieties. But they are averse to bestowing that degree of thought and care which such measures require. Thus it has happened, that the sowings of foreign seeds have resulted only in failure. Whatever was possible on the part of the State, has been done; and experiments, under professional supervision, are being carried on, until at length, after repeated disappointments, some gleams of success are apparent. Here and there some fields of American cotton are to be seen; and in some places, weighing machinery, saw-gins, and presses have been put up. The conclusion at present seems to be, that our best cotton-fields *can* produce the American variety, but that its acclimatization will demand a long perseverance.

The condition of the agricultural classes is flourishing. The prices of agricultural produce have settled down to rates at least double those of ten years ago, and treble those of twenty years ago. They are still, however, below those now prevailing in the Deccan and in Western India. Thus a further rise of prices may perhaps be looked for here. On the other hand, the land tax, though raised somewhat, has not been much enhanced. The tenants and cultivators have not had their rents raised in proportion to the value of their produce. No restrictions indeed are placed by authority on the enhancement of rents; such arrangements being left to equitable agreement as much as possible. But, as a matter of private convenience, the landlords have not practically chosen to raise their rents much. The Ryots then must be very well to do. The landlords again, though they have not gained much by their rent-roll, have yet profited by the increased proceeds of their own homestead farms, which are usually among the choicest portions of their lands.

Thus, while the income of the people has grown, their burdens have not become perceptibly heavier. But, as counterbalancing

the profit thus accruing to the agricultural interest from what they have to sell, there is the increased price of what they have to buy. In my last Report, I mentioned that these classes must pay much more now than formerly for their clothes, their wood, their cattle, and their farm labor. That remark has still as much force as ever. Though over fifty thousand head of cattle are ascertained to have been imported into these provinces during the year, still the price of these animals ranges at four times the rate of former days. Last spring, in the cotton-picking season, the growers would give a shilling (eight annas) a day to a laborer, and still they had great difficulty in getting their work done.

The rights of the people in the soil have now been defined and affirmed. A few years ago, there was no such thing as property in land recognized. Now, by the proceedings of the Settlement, this recognition has been rendered complete for nearly the whole of the country. The proprietary tenures in more than twenty-five thousand villages or estates have thus been formally declared, and more than eleven thousand conflicting claims to such tenures have been adjudicated. So also tenant-right has been considered, with regard, on the one hand, to the actual position of the tenantry, and on the other hand, to the just interests of the landlord. More than twelve thousand cases of inferior proprietorship have been recognized; more than fifty thousand have been declared to possess full rights of occupancy; seventy thousand more have been ranked as holding the position contemplated by Act X. of 1859; while more than two hundred and ten thousand have been recorded as tenants-at-will. In furtherance of these enquiries, the lands of some twenty-two thousand villages or estates have been mapped out field by field, and some twenty-one thousand square miles have been professionally surveyed.

The fruits of these measures will be indeed already apparent, in the improved temper and disposition of all these classes, from the highest to the lowest. It is not easy at first to bring home to their minds the advantages (unprecedented in Central India) which are thus secured to them. To this end, however, I have on my several tours assembled the landholders in every district in these provinces, and explained to them that the land is theirs always,—not only for the term for which the assessment of the land tax is to run, but permanently,—and theirs absolutely, to inherit, to sell, to mortgage, or otherwise dispose of; the only condition being the payment of a moderate

land tax assessed for periods from twenty to thirty years. As a proof that this position is becoming understood, there have been sales and mortgages already; not so numerous as to indicate distress anywhere, but in such moderate numbers as might be expected from the creation of facilities for conveyance of perfect titles. As a proof, however, of how backward, despite improvements, the country still is, the sums fetched by the land in these transactions have been very low.

If the agricultural classes are flourishing, there is at least an equal degree of prosperity with the non-agricultural and mercantile classes. The trade of these provinces always was great in proportion to wealth and numbers, and now it is greater than ever.

For more than two years there has been a full registration of all traffic passing to and fro on the highways. At last, the returns are approaching to something like accuracy. From them it will be seen that the total of exports and imports amounted in 1863-64 to one hundred and two thousand tons, valued at three hundred and ninety-one lakhs of rupees, or nearly four millions sterling; while that for 1864-65 amounted to one hundred and forty-six thousand tons, valued at five hundred and fifty-six lakhs of rupees, or five and a half millions sterling. In both cases, the returns are exclusive of bullion. The sum total is considerable for a population of nine millions of souls, dwelling far inland, in the very midst of the Peninsula, and having no sea-board on any side, and no sea-port. While on the one hand, the cotton, the cereals, and the oilseeds are exported, the importation of English piece-goods is increasing fast; the last year showed an increase of thirty-seven per cent. over the imports of the preceding year. The manner in which these goods are finding their way, not only to the centres of trade, but also to the wilder and less inhabited parts of the country, is perhaps extraordinary. In rural markets held in sequestered tracts surrounded by hills and forests, I have seen, amongst stalls of rude iron-ware and rustic pottery, whole packages of Manchester goods, evidently marked in England, with labels "expressly for India."

Our manufactures, too, though not great, are in their way prosperous. The coarsest cloths, indeed, are no longer made, owing to the dearness of raw material, and will probably be superseded by machinery-made cloths in the factories to be established at the principal stations as the Railway advances.

But the manufacture of best country-made cloths is in a forward position. A manufacture of cloths, which, though not equal to that at the most advanced parts of India, is yet fairly good and interesting, has for a long period existed in the Nagpore country. It was much sustained by the existence of the Mahratta court and camp. After the lapse of Mahratta rule it languished. But now fresh influences have arisen: the cloths are not only required for local demand, but are also sent to the markets of Western India. There are now about twenty-eight thousand hand-loom plying in all the towns and villages of the Nagpore country. From these, there are turned out silk fabrics, and cotton cloths of excellent texture, with richly coloured borders and fringes. The manufactures in brass and pottery and leather, the carving in wood and stone, and the smelting and forging of country iron, are all growing branches of industry.

In connexion with all this prosperity, it must still be noted that prices both of necessaries and luxuries continue as high as ever; though they are not so high as in Western India and in the Coast Districts. Even in our Eastern Districts (Chutteesgurh) the prices, though still comparatively low, are getting higher and higher; and thus cheapness is, as it were, being driven out of its last stronghold. The high prices, however, range chiefly in the centres of industry and in the frequented districts. There are still many remote tracts where labor is but scantily remunerated. Thus the dearness of wages, though common, is by no means universal. But where high prices prevail, there is employment abundant, and well paid; and no distress occurs. At such places as Nagpore, despite the dearness of food, the labouring poor were never better off than they are now; owing to the immense demand for their services on our Public Works. It is indeed a common saying among the people, that without these works the poor must have starved; but that with these works going on, none, save Brahmins and mendicants, need be in want.

Of our taxation, the main item, Land Tax, is certainly light. Though it has been raised in parts, it has also been reduced in parts; and the net increase has amounted to only six per cent. In some parts of the country, the assessment was made when the land was comparatively uncultivated. Production and cultivation having vastly expanded, the tax has now to be raised. But a too great and sudden enhancement of demand is never safe;

and thus the increased assessment is not always fully proportionate to the increased production. Still, in fair and due regard to the State, there have been some large increases of assessment. For instance, in one district (Seonee) there has been an increase of fifty-five per cent; in another (Hoshungabad) of forty-three per cent; in another (Baitool) of thirty-two per cent. In these districts the new assessments fall at the rate of only six annas and two pies, or nine pence, per cultivated acre. In the newly settled districts, generally, the incidence of the land tax ranges from twelve annas and three pies, or one shilling and two pence, to four annas and seven pies, or seven pence, per cultivated acre. These rates are avowedly moderate. They do not represent more than from one-eighth to one-twelfth of the value of the gross produce of the land. But experience proves that there is no one thing that so much smooths all difficulties in administration, and renders so happy the relations between the authorities and the people, as moderation in the land tax. Moreover, in these provinces, there are many marked instances in favour of the commonly received opinion, that the land tax is all important, and that those districts where it is lightly assessed advance with great strides, while those districts where it is heavily assessed do actually retrograde. The Nerbudda Valley was lightly assessed when it consisted of comparatively poor districts. It has now become literally one of the granaries of India. The country north of the Nerbudda was heavily assessed years ago; and it was, up to the last two or three years, in a state of retrogression. In the Sautpoora Hill country, the districts of Seonee and Baitool were lightly assessed under British rule years ago: since then, the one has become famous for wheat and rice, and the other for opium and sugar. But the district of Chindwara, which lies right between the two just named, and in most respects resembles them, was heavily assessed under Mahratta rule, and is only now obtaining full relief. It has never improved, and continues to be rather poor than otherwise. From such instances, I derive happy auguries for the future of those districts now so moderately assessed at the new Settlement.

But although the lands now cultivated have been lightly assessed, and although increase to this part of the land revenue cannot be expected for twenty or thirty years, (when no doubt there will be a really fine increase,) still the yield of land revenue will rise greatly in other ways even within the above-

named period. For while a fair margin of waste, according to proved right or to possession, and in proportion to cultivation, has been assigned to the landholders, and included in the twenty or thirty years' assessment, yet all other waste lands have been carefully excluded. All claims to unoccupied lands have been scrutinized, and, wherever necessary, the right of the State has been insisted on. Thus many thousands of blocks of land, containing about two and a half million of acres, have been specifically demarcated, after enquiry, as belonging to the State, and as being available either to be sold under the rules to capitalists, or to be let on cultivating leases. Herein may be perceived a source of a fiscal increase, which may commence immediately and grow year by year. As yet, the purchases of waste lands have not been great, only eighteen-thousand acres having been sold within the last two years: and too much must not be hoped herefrom. But many profitable leases for grazing or cultivating will, no doubt, be effected.

Besides that portion of the Government waste lands above described, which is culturable, there is that portion which is covered either with forest or with brushwood. Now the royalties on the valuable kinds of timber, the duties levied on the common sorts of wood, on the fruits, the grasses, and on various articles of forest produce, are becoming considerable. This branch of revenue is quite of recent origin. A few years ago it was almost nothing. Two years ago it amounted to £5,000; it is now estimated at two lakhs of rupees, or £20,000 per annum. And considering that surveys and settlements by adding to our information multiply our means of supervising this revenue; that the prosperity of the inhabited districts, and the opening up of communications, will raise immensely the demand for the produce of the wilder tracts; that the spontaneous produce of these tracts is varied and valuable,—it is difficult to foresee the extent to which this branch of our income may increase hereafter.

But if the land revenue, being light, has not, as yet, materially increased, still it will be seen that all other branches of revenue have rapidly risen, and that the total result is a large financial profit.

A few years ago—that is in 1861—the total Salt Tax in these provinces amounted to about seven lakhs of rupees, or £70,000. Then some parts of the country previously untaxed came

under local duties—then a local customs line was established. That step proving profitable, a step onwards was taken, and a regular customs cordon was stretched out, till at last it has encompassed five hundred and fifty miles of our border. This last measure, executed in a difficult and often unhealthy country, has taxed the energies of our establishment; but the result has been a large increase to the revenue, which now stands at sixteen lakhs of rupees, or £160,000, and will shortly stand at twenty lakhs of rupees, or £200,000 per annum. Nor can it be supposed that the duties, which are the same as those in the rest of the Bengal Presidency, are too high, for the trade statistics show an increase of thirty-seven per cent. in the importation of Salt into these provinces during 1864-65. Even if a part of this be due to improved registration, still much of it must be real, and owing to increased consumption.

In the Excise on spirits some loss has been incurred, in order to do away with certain parts of the fiscal system which were found to encourage intemperance. The moral effect of the change has been happy. The gradual elevation of the habits of the Gonds and other hill men is attested by all who know them. Men who once might be seen sitting in the dawn of day outside the liquor shops with bloodshot eyes after night-long drinking, are now to be seen as industrious wood-cutters, and well behaved farm-servants. Still, by careful management, this item of Excise is again rising. The Stamp revenue, too, has risen thirty-six per cent. within the last three years. Certain taxes of a local character, called "Pandree," are increasing with revised assessment.

When my first Report was submitted in 1862, the whole income of the year for these provinces was shown at eighty-two lakhs of rupees, or £820,000. This Report in 1865 will show the income of the year to be ninety-four lakhs, or £940,000. This represents an increase of fifteen per cent. in three years. A small part is owing to the addition of territory (Nimar). But, on the other hand, the repeal of a great part of the Income tax has occurred within this very period. It may be added, too, that there is no reason to expect that the income will remain stationary; on the contrary, there is a prospect of the increase going on.

The above statement relates to Government revenues properly so called, but there are other receipts (shown under Public Debt) called Local Funds. These funds are really a

part of the public income, and from them are defrayed the cost of a large portion of Public Instruction; of a part of the Police Establishment; of the repairs of District Roads; of Municipal Improvements of all Towns and Cities. In 1860-61, these funds did not amount altogether to more than three lakhs of rupees, or £30,000. The present Report in 1865 will show that they now amount to fourteen lakhs of rupees, or £140,000 per annum. And here again there is prospect of further increase.

Thus if Imperial revenue and Local Funds be taken together, the Public income of these provinces has risen in three or four years from about eighty-five lakhs of rupees, or £850,000, to one hundred and eight lakhs of rupees, or £1,080,000. This shows an increase of twenty-three lakhs of rupees, or £230,000, or thirty per cent.

Under this view of the case, a fair share of financial prosperity may be claimed for these provinces.

In respect to expenditure, it is to be borne in mind that in 1862, on the formation of this Administration, the Nagpore Irregular Force, previously diminished, was entirely broken up, and that several Police levies were disbanded, whereby a total saving of seven lakhs of rupees, or £70,000, was effected; and that the amalgamation of all the Civil establishments produced a further saving of one lakh of rupees, or £10,000. Since then, the Civil expenditure has increased by full fifteen per cent. This increase partly arises from administrative improvements, but chiefly from new departments, such as Education; and from the new establishments for the collection of additional revenue. Again, however, all the establishments have undergone scrutiny; and recently (in 1865) when sanctioning the finally revised schedules, the Supreme Government expressed itself as "glad to acknowledge the careful regard to economy with which the revision of the Ministerial Establishments in the Central Provinces has been effected."

On the whole, I believe that the people in these provinces are contented with British rule. Such indeed is the impression I gathered from the reception I met with from them during my many tours. They are often timid as hares, and averse to changes which they do not at first comprehend. But when a thing is explained to them, they have an instinctive disposition to obey authority. If, however, they had resolved not to obey, they would probably be found to have much

aptitude for passive opposition. The contentment of the landholders is indeed notorious. During my many tours, I have hardly ever received a complaint from them regarding the land tax. They have not only individually admitted to me that the new assessments are fair and moderate, but have said so in open Durbar assemblies. Moreover people, when complaining of some other grievance, or asking some other concession, have more than once urged that, inasmuch as the land settlement has been so favorable, the good work may as well be continued, by such and such a flaw being removed, or such and such a point being conceded. Of course, such an argument may be invalid. But the fact of its being used in that way, shows what the common opinion is regarding the equitableness of the land settlement.

Many complicated questions, relating to the position and privileges of the numerous feudatories and semi-independent Chiefs scattered over our Eastern frontiers, have been brought to a solution, which will probably lead to increased fidelity and attachment on their part. The last embers in Sumbulpore of the troubles which originated in 1857 have been stamped out, by the capture and banishment of Soorunder Sah and his friends. These men are now secure in the distant fortress of Asseergurh. Every endeavour has been made to remove the doubts which had been engendered in the minds of the people of Sumbulpore ever since the disturbance of 1857. Perfect quiet exists there at present. Many revenue-free grants have been revised in favor of the incumbents. And the concession of proprietary right to all the landholders in that district is reported to have given great satisfaction.

-While endeavour has been made to further the public interest, both in respect of income and expenditure, I trust it will be found that thought has been given to measures for the good of the people, such as education, the administration of justice, the organising of the Police, the protection of the public health; and to measures for the physical improvement of the country, such as roads, municipal works, and public buildings.

As regards education, my previous Reports have shown how more than ordinarily backward these provinces have been in this respect. It is not to be supposed that any real change can be worked in three or four years. Whatever result may have been by this time achieved, must be infinitesimally

small relatively to the wants of the people. I trust, however, it will be seen that a commencement, on a considerable scale, has been made. When my first Report was written in 1862, there were in these provinces about three hundred and fifty Government schools and some fourteen thousand scholars. This Report, 1865, will show that there are now some seven hundred Government schools and twenty-seven thousand scholars. But more important than the numerical return of scholars, is the quality of the education given. This perhaps may be to some extent assumed from the expenditure devoted to it. In 1861-62, there was a State expenditure on education of half a lakh of rupees annually, or £5,000, and no local expenditure at all. There is now a State expenditure of one and a half lakhs of rupees, or £15,000, and a Local expenditure of one lakh of rupees, or £10,000; in all two and a half lakhs of rupees, or £25,000. The Grant-in-aid system has been introduced, and more than ten thousand rupees, or £1,000, are being disbursed during the present year in aid of private institutions. As a proof of the spread of educational influence among the people, it may be noted that the returns of attendance at the rural schools show nearly half the scholars to be sons of landholders or cultivators. From my own inspections, I have no doubt that such is the case. Again, within the past two years, about one lakh of rupees, or £10,000, have been voluntarily subscribed, chiefly in small sums by Natives, for maintenance of the schools. This is indeed a satisfactory circumstance. Even female education has made a start. The returns show some hundreds of girls among the scholars.

Within the country of Nagpore Proper, the culture of the Mahratta language, which is there the real vernacular, may be mentioned. Some years ago the adoption of the foreign Oordoo language in the public departments of those districts benumbed the minds and chilled the aspirations of the people. After some delay and trouble, the restoration of the true vernacular has been rendered complete. Mahratta is now the language used in the Courts, in the fiscal departments, in the Schools; and the public business is transacted by Mahratta officials. Thus, it is hoped, will the intellect of the rising generation at Nagpore, now so backward, be turned in a natural direction, and will start onwards with rapid strides.

For the administration of justice, the Civil and Criminal Procedure Acts and the Penal Code have been fully intro-

duced and acted on, and a variety of laws extending over all matters of importance have been one by one applied to these provinces, till at last the whole system has become thoroughly regulationized. For the administration of the law there were, when my first Report was submitted in 1861-62, some fifty-four Civil Judges of various degrees and some seventy-five Magisterial Officers. There are now in 1865, some ninety-six Civil Judges, including two Small Cause Court Judges under the Act, and one hundred and thirty Magisterial Officers, including Honorary Magistrates. That the Honorary Magistrates, chiefly Natives, did, during the last year, dispose of more than four thousand criminal trials, and gave satisfaction both to the public and to the judicial authorities, proves that the object of Government in conferring these powers for the general good of the people, is duly appreciated. The judicial returns show that in the despatch of business our Officers have been really most diligent, and that justice is at all events prompt and cheap. The increase of litigation year by year would show that the Courts are gaining in popular confidence. It must be admitted, however, that many of our Officers are still wanting in judicial knowledge; though they are all learning fast, and are subjected to constant instruction. The Criminal Returns show a marked diminution of all the more violent crimes, and an increase of detection and conviction. There is, however, more of such crimes, as Robbery, than there ought to be.

The relation between the new Police and the Magistracy are, I believe, satisfactorily settled, with due regard both to the intention of the law and to practical efficiency. It is now the unanimous opinion of all the Civil and Judicial Officers of these provinces, that the new Force is altogether more efficient, and more popular with the people, than the old.

In respect to the public health, the annual recurrence of cholera is causing more and more anxiety. In some tracts of country the visitation has been severe. In such places, the panic-stricken villagers have fled from their homes, and hidden themselves among the rocks and ravines; or some again have sought refuge in other villages, but have been driven back with sticks by their neighbours from fear of infection. In some villages, where the epidemic was causing death, I have myself seen the people sitting outside their doors, with their heads on their knees, in dumb despair. Moreover, the fear

gains ground that the gatherings at Fairs, and such like occasions, in the spring season, when cholera usually appears, are becoming dangerous. An awful instance of this occurred last spring. There was a great gathering of pilgrims at the sacred Cave on the summit of the Puchmurri Hills, nearly four thousand feet above the level of the sea. I have seen the spot myself on other occasions. The air is cool, the water-springs are clear, and the scenery is grand. In this beautiful locality these thousands of people bought and sold, and sacrificed to their gods, little thinking of any destructive influence being at hand. One day virulent cholera appeared, and they all fled down the hills. The pestilence relentlessly pursued them. The flying parties left some of their dead at every halting place. As the fugitives approached the plains the horrors grew worse. At some points by the way side the corpses accumulated, and the country people refused to assist in burial, from fear of contagion. Then the infection appeared in the villages on the line of march. The fugitives were consequently denied shelter by the villagers, and were forbidden by the municipalities to enter the towns. Thus they gradually dispersed. But wherever they went cholera appeared in their trail. It will be seen hereafter that, upon sanitary grounds, the gathering at that season in future years has now been formally prohibited. Great efforts are being made to prevent or mitigate these visitations in the country generally, by improved conservancy, not only in towns, but in villages.

The establishment of Dispensaries and the growth of these Institutions will attest the care which is given to the public health. Some four years ago, there were in these provinces sixteen Dispensaries, and twenty-five thousand patients annually. There are now thirty-six Dispensaries, and eighty-two thousand patients, and the increase is going on year by year.

I shall now touch very briefly upon what has been done for the physical improvement of the country.

The most important matter is that of roads. The peculiar need of good communications in provinces like these, where almost the whole area is broken up into hills, valleys, and ravines, has been fully set forth on previous occasions. At the period of my first Report, 1862, road-making had but recently commenced; and, save one road partially made many years

ago, (*i. e.*, the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore Road,) I was not able to point to any finished sections of road existing. I am now able to return (including the work of both the Public Works Department and of the Local Committees) about three hundred and seventy (exclusive of the Mirzapore Road) miles as finished; some one hundred and twenty miles as open for traffic, though not quite completed; some fifty miles as under construction; and some one hundred and seventy miles surveyed. There are about three hundred and forty miles of road in various stages of progress, which are now more or less being worked upon by our establishments. And this is quite irrespective of the repairs made on District Roads by the Local Committees. Some three years ago, the road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore was nothing more than a cart track over a rugged and mountainous country; but in October of the present year (1865) a Mail cart was driven experimentally from one place to the other, making use almost the whole way of a regular road, made and bridged. From Nagpore to the end of the cotton districts, about a hundred miles, there was only a cart track. There is now a made road. From Nagpore to the eastward, there was the commencement of a road under Native rule. That line will now soon be finished for the first ninety miles. The road from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore, though made, was not bridged. By this time fully half of the required bridges have been built. Under this Administration, from 1862 to 1865, about forty-seven lakhs of rupees, or £470,000 (including establishments), have been expended on roads. These efforts will in time produce a visible effect on the traffic; and already roomy carts, with high wheels and powerful bullocks, are beginning to supersede the diminutive country carts, which are fit only for rough passage straight across country. But, as yet, it were vain to suppose that road-making, even to the extent above specified, can make any large change in the character of the traffic. Further efforts must be made before any such change can be accomplished.

Perhaps the general result, if reckoned in the aggregate, may amount to something. Certainly the trouble, to attain even that much in a country like this, has been infinite. But in reality, the result is almost as nothing compared with the actual needs of the country and with what yet remains to be done. Still the roads all round the large military station of Saugor

are impassable for guns after heavy rain; still the line down the Nerbudda Valley is closed entirely during one half the year, and worn into ruts two or three feet deep during the other half; still thousands of tons of valuable produce on the Eastern borders are carried laboriously on the backs of bullocks, merely because it has not been possible to render the hill passes fit for wheeled carriage.

The municipal improvement of our cities and towns has for some time engaged attention. In the cities, such as Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Raepore, and the like, miles and miles of new streets have been opened out, cleared, metalled, and drained. At all such places tanks for water supply, gardens for public recreation, squares for the holding of markets, have been fully provided. But it would not be right while beautifying the central places to overlook the interior. Therefore the same system, in an appropriate degree, has been carried into all the towns scattered over the country, without, I believe, a single exception. The natural and normal wretchedness of these places can be imagined. But now not one of them has escaped the improving hand of British Administration. Municipal Committees of the leading townspeople have been appointed in all the towns, and have begun to show some traces of public spirit and capacity for management. Some ninety-five infant municipalities in the various districts have thus been called into existence. Places, called towns indeed, but being truly agglomerations of huts huddled together in utter disorder, are now beginning to show—here a street, there a square; here a neat school-house, there a dispensary, and so on. And it is remarkable, that wherever these works are executed, the inhabitants begin to enlarge, even to embellish, their dwellings. Thus it is hoped that, by degrees, domestic architecture may be advanced and the tastes of the people become more civilized.

The importance of artificial irrigation to the future productiveness of these provinces has not been lost sight of. Already such irrigation exists in many parts; but the extension of the system on a greater scale to other parts is needed. Gond Sovereigns, whom we call “aboriginal,” and whose descendants really are in some respects semi-barbarous, bequeathed to us, in this respect, an example which we may equal, but shall probably not surpass. The old tanks, and such like works, are maintained in effective order; and several new projects, re-

quiring much engineering skill, have been designed, though not actually commenced.

The Navigation works of the Upper Godavery drag, I am sorry to say, their slow length along. Still important progress, in proportion to the limited funds at our disposal, has been made with the works at the first Barrier. The broad bed of the Godavery has been crossed from side to side by a vast stone dam five thousand three hundred and sixty feet in length, and fifteen feet in height; large masonry sluices, and locks, with chambers for good sized steamers, are being constructed. Some fifteen miles of the canal, to carry the boats round the barrier, have been excavated. A complete project of works for the same purpose at the second Barrier has been made. But ground has not yet been broken at that Barrier.

Civil buildings form a large item in our Public Works. Literally, scores of Court-houses and hundreds of Police posts have been required. Most of the Court-houses have been built; but many, indeed most, of the Police buildings remain to be erected. Of the several new Jails required, some are being built on a first-class scale, after the most approved designs. Many Rest-houses for the accommodation of travellers, European and Native, have been provided; but many more are still needed. Several new Churches have been, or are being, built.

In respect to Military buildings, it has not been possible to do all that might be desired for the erection of permanent barracks for European troops. At the stations of Saugor and Jubbulpore, there have been difficult questions pending in regard to the selection of sites, and lengthened enquiry has been needed. Thus but few permanent structures, at either place, have been erected. These questions are now approaching solution, and the new buildings will soon be commenced. Meanwhile, all the minor improvements suitable to the existing temporary buildings have been carried out. At Kamptee and Nagpore, the accommodation for the troops has now, after considerable expense, been rendered complete. At all the large stations, effect is being given to the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission.

For the outlying military stations in these provinces the dispositions and arrangements may be considered complete. Some of the old stations in the interior, which circumstances had rendered unnecessary, having been abolished, those positions, which would be really needed on our frontiers in the

event of trouble, are efficiently occupied by regular troops, and have been made permanent Military Stations. These are Hoshungabad on the North-west border, Chanda and Seroncha on the Godavery and Deccan border, and Raepore and Sumbulpore on the Eastern border.

Lastly, there is Railway communication,—a work which, in importance, overshadows all other physical improvements. The Rails from Bombay have actually touched our Western frontier at two places—one in the valley of the Wurdah, one in the valley of the Taptee. The steam-engine has come to within seventy miles of Nagpore, and will reach that place itself some six months hence. In one year more, the Railway from Allahabad will reach Jubbulpore; and within two years that section of the through Railway communication between Calcutta and Bombay, which passes within these provinces, will be opened. The prospect of the changes which will thus come over these provinces is too vast to be entered on here.

CHAPTER I.

JUDICIAL

SECTION I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

THE previous Reports have shown what has been done for the establishment of Law and System. My constant aim has been, that the whole Administration should be placed on a sound legal basis, and should in all respects be conducted strictly in accordance with Law. Practically, this aim has now been so far attained, that wherever laws are required, we have adopted some of existing Regulations. Theoretically, however, there is still doubt as to whether many of the laws now actually followed have been lawfully *applied* to these Provinces. This defect will be remedied in time.

2. Doubts having arisen as to the legality of the powers exercised by some classes of the Civil Courts in some parts of these Provinces, the matter was brought to the notice of the Imperial Legislature. And a law has been passed (Act VI. of 1865) defining the competency of the Courts in all their several grades.

3. My last Report also gave an abstract of the important Circulars which had been issued for the enforcement of the Judicial system. That abstract embraced no less than thirty-four subjects. Since then Circulars have been issued on four additional subjects, as follows :—

1.—The conduct of Suits to which Government is a Party.

2.—The levy of fees for the serving of Processes issued by Civil Courts.

3.—The payment of subsistence money to witnesses in Civil Causes.

4.—The extension to all classes of Suits of the system (previously ordered for certain classes only), whereby the whole record of the evidence is made in the handwriting of the presiding Officer.

It may now be said that the Judicial system is theoretically complete in all, or nearly all, particulars.

4. But it remains to carry the system thoroughly into practice. None probably, save those engaged in the work, would believe how difficult it is to induce a large and mixed body of Judicial Officers to follow per-

Enforcement of observance of Laws and Rules.

fectly the plain laws, rules, and orders laid down for their guidance. Our Courts, though already much improved, and still improving year by year, are yet far from perfect in their obedience to order; and deviations are still too frequent. As stated in my previous Reports, Mr. J. Strachey, as Judicial Commissioner, began the task of drilling the Courts into obedience. His successor, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has proceeded vigorously with the same task. And this supervision is carried on, not only by examining Judicial Returns, and by criticising cases that come upon Appeal, but also by specially sending for cases from each Court in turn, and scrutinizing them with a view to the discovery of error. It is, therefore, satisfactory that Mr. Campbell is able to report a decided and progressive improvement in the work of the Courts.

5. The Judicial machinery is the same as that described in my previous Reports. The plan of instituting a Station
 Judicial machinery. Court at the Head-quarters of each district continues to be worked with good effect. By having at every station one Officer exclusively devoted *pro tempore* to Civil Justice, we hope to avoid to some extent that distraction which must be incidental to a Judicial Officer who has other and executive duties to perform.

6. In my last Report, it was stated that the Native Judges in the interior of the districts (Tehseeldars) were defective in
 Tehseeldars trained as Civil Judges. training, and were, indeed, the weakest part of the Judicial machinery. Those Officers have, during the past year, been brought specially under instruction, and, though still far from what they ought to be, they are much improved.

7. Litigation continues slightly to increase, seeing that there were
 Continued increase of Litigation. 26,305 Suits instituted in the year 1863, and 28,300 in the year 1864. In my last Report, I regarded such increase as a good sign. I still think that, if the people grow in wealth and in knowledge, and if the Courts become more and more sure to do justice, the increase of litigation should cause neither regret nor surprise.

8. The above comparison of Suits instituted in the two years excludes Nimar, a district added to these Provinces in the year 1864. If the sum total of Cases for disposal in all the districts, including Nimar, and including the Cases pending for the previous year, as well as the fresh Cases instituted during the year, be reckoned, then the Return of Cases before the Courts in the year 1864 stands at 33,295, which is the highest figure yet reached under this Administration, and is much above the Return for the year 1863; namely, 23,655.

9. The total value of the Suits in the year 1864 amounted to
 Value of Suits. Rs. 20,06,769 (£200,677), against Rs. 20,44,623 (£204,462) in the year 1863. The average value of a Suit in the year 1863 amounted to Rs. 73 (£7 6s. 0d.), and in the year 1864 to Rs. 60 (£6). Hence it is apparent that the litigation continues to be, for the most part, of a petty character, and that most Suits are for small amounts.

Classification of Suits.

10. It may be interesting to trace the increase of litigation through the several classes of Suits :—

Suits for or connected with —	No. of Cases.	
	1863.	1864.
Inheritance, adoption, and partition of family property	112	170
Dower, Marriage, Betrothal, &c., &c. ..	213	202
Religious Shrines and customary Fees ..	118	111
Personal Service	399	493
Mortgages	103	71
Tenancy and right of pre-emption in houses	323	359
Specific performance, or damages for non-per- formance of Contracts	255	429
Torts	423	348
Partnership	163	177
Debt on Registered Bonds	721	225
Debt other than on Registered Bonds	21,692	22,555
Other suits not } included in } Real property ..	1,057	1,304
the above. } Personal property ..	819	1,720

It will be observed that the heading of Debt on Registered Bonds forms an exception to the general increase. It will be explained hereafter that the people cannot as yet be induced to resort to registration.

11. Of the suits for Debt, 5,599 in the year 1863 and 7,511 in the year 1864 were between Bankers and Agriculturists. This proportion, though increasing, is perhaps not so large as might be expected, as compared with the sum total of litigation. Perhaps the double relation which landlords bear to their tenants may, in part at least, account for this. It may be remembered that, in these Provinces, the prevailing tenure is that of small landlords. These landlords usually lend both money and seed to their tenants. Thus it is that tenants resort to money-lenders much less than might otherwise be expected. Now a tenant cannot readily break with his landlord, to whom he is bound by stronger ties than he would be to a mere money-lender. And thus it is that landlords seldom have to sue their tenants for money lent. In some respects, this may be considered to be a happy state of things.

12. In my previous Report, it was shown that, with all their shortcomings, our Officers are diligent in business, and that promptitude and cheapness are secured. These advantages continue to exist. Out of 33,295 Cases for disposal during the year, there were only 514 pending at the close of it. The average costs of these Suits was 8 per cent. on their value,

Average Costs.

against 9 per cent. in the preceding year. The average duration of Suits during the year 1864 was eleven days, as compared with nineteen days in the year 1863. Without doubt, the average duration was quite as short as could fairly be expected. There might indeed be room for question whether full time was always left by the Courts for complying with all the requirements of the Procedure Code. The attention of the Judicial Commissioner has been given to the matter, and if there be any defect therein, it will be rectified.

Classification of Decisions.

13. The mode in which Cases were disposed of in the year 1864 may be thus shown :—

	1864			
Struck off on default	3,800
Judgment confessed	10,666
Decided exparte	2,936
Decided after trial..	11,200
Settled out of Court by compromise	4,180

Out of the Cases which were decided after trial, 75 per cent. went in favor of Plaintiffs in whole or in part, and 25 per cent. in favor of Defendants.

14. The number of Appeals preferred to the Superior Courts, which was decreasing in previous years, has continued to decrease during the year under review. Only 1,378 Appeals were preferred in the year 1864, against 1,468 in the year 1863. In the Appeals preferred to Deputy Commissioners, 69 per cent. of the orders were wholly upheld, 21 per cent. reversed, and 10 per cent. modified. In the Appeals preferred to the Courts of Commissioners, 77 per cent. of the orders were upheld, 14 per cent. reversed, and 9 per cent. modified. The general result, so far as it can be accepted as a criterion, is favorable to the lower Courts, and would tend to show that the original work was well done.

15. Some explanation of the paucity of Appeals may be found in the complicated and, perhaps, somewhat tedious requirements of the Appellate Procedure Law (a defect noticed in my last Report); and also in the want of duly qualified Pleaders who could prosecute Appeals, and thus save the time and money of Appellants.

16. The average duration of Appeals was 187 days in the year 1864, to 368 days in the year 1863; but a much smaller average duration will be achieved in the year 1865.

17. The two Small Cause Courts of Nagpore and Jubbulpore have been at work during the year 1864 as in the year 1863. The number of Cases instituted in the year 1864 was about the same in each Court. The number of Cases in all was 13 per cent. more than the number instituted in the year 1863. Both these Courts are held in high estimation by the people, and the presiding Judges perform the duties well and expeditiously.

18. Among the Miscellaneous business which came before the Civil Courts during the year 1864, were 18,908 claims for Execution of Decree; of these, 98 per cent. were disposed of during the year, and 5 per cent. remained pending at its close.

19. There is one point in respect to which shortcoming must still be admitted. The Judicial Commissioner finds that the Courts have not really done as much as was expected of them in regard to the elimination of Issues,—a matter provided for by the Code of Procedure, as being essential to the due trial of Causes. His attention is being specially given to the better enforcement of this rule.

20. The want of a Native Bar, with proper position, character, and attainments was noticed in my previous Report. The new rules for the admission of Pleaders were in force during the year 1864, but none of the candidates succeeded in passing the examinations which were held. It may be mentioned, however, that the candidates at subsequent examinations, during the current year, have been more successful, and that there are now about twenty authorized Pleaders in our Courts. It is to be hoped that this number will increase.

21. In my last Report, it was stated that in some of the principal Courts, Clerks of the Court with defined functions and responsibilities have been substituted for the old class of Native ministerial officials. The Clerks of the Court who have been appointed do certainly seem to be men of a superior stamp. If the measure shall answer the expectations formed, then its extension will be advocated.

22. Contracting parties avail themselves but little of the facilities offered for registering Assurances. The Legislature has under its consideration the introduction of a Bill to provide for the Central Provinces a modified Law of Registration.

23. The necessity for using the Mahratta language for all Departments affecting the Natives of the country of Nagpore Proper, was explained in my previous Report. Though this language had within the two past years been adopted for all the Fiscal and Executive Departments, its adoption in the Civil Courts had not been rendered quite complete. It has now been finally decided and notified, that this is the language to be used in all the Courts of Justice within certain specified districts around Nagpore; while Hindoostanee continues to be the language for the Courts of the Northern and Eastern Districts of these Provinces.

24. I shall conclude this Section by quoting the Judicial Commissioner, who says that “a continued pressure of supervision on the Courts has been kept up during the year, and that, to the best of his judgment, good progress has been made.”

SECTION II.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

25. Following the same order as in my previous Reports, I shall examine this subject under two heads; *first*, the state of Crime; *second*, the action of the Courts.

26. *Firstly*, in respect to the state of Crime generally, the subjoined Table will enable the reader to follow up the comparison made in my previous Reports, between the return of Crime in these Provinces and in other neighbouring Provinces:—

Comparison of Crime in the Central Provinces and in other Places.

	CENTRAL PROVINCES.	PUNJAB.	OUDE.	MADRAS.	BRITISH BURMAH.	NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.
	Assumed Population, inclusive of Zemindaries, 9,000,000	Population 15,000,000	Population 9,000,000	Population 24,000,000	Population 2,000,000	Population 30,000,000
	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.
Murder.....	86	187	79	226	58	232
Cripable Homicide..	27	90	49	unknown	10	unknown
Rape.....	19	150	50	34	51	Do.
Dowry.....	*54	37	33	809	152	342
Robbery.....	62	150	130	544	121	
House breakin g & }	5,512	4,889	23,986	7,003	320	12,002
House Trespass }						
Theft.....	9,600	12,484		13,673	5,138	25,994
Total ..	15,360	17,987	29,327	22,949	5,835	38,570

* Includes 16 cases in Sumbulpore.

27. The following Extract from the Judicial Review of the year under report will show that there is an increase of reported Cases:—

	<i>Non-bailable.</i>	<i>Bailable.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1863	15,635	10,480	26,115
1864	16,005	13,851	30,656
Increase	<u>1,110</u>	<u>3,371</u>	<u>4,481</u>

28. This Return then exhibits an increase. But the increase is not general, for it is chiefly confined to minor and less heinous cases. There is no increase of the worst crimes; on the contrary, there is a decrease. And it will be seen that much of the increase in the Non-bailable Cases is owing to increasing willingness of the people to bring their small grievances before the Courts.

29. Of the eight worst kinds of Crime, there was a general decrease, as will be seen thus :—

YEAR.	Murder.	Attempt to Murder.	Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Attempt at Robbery.	Administering stupefying Drugs with intent to cause hurt.	Rape.	Total.
1862	98	14	29	61	84	..	2	52	340
1863	116	16	37	73	67	..	5	42	356
1864	92	13	20	32	76	8	3	33	277

30. The total of these most Heinous Crimes in the year 1864 shows a diminution of 22 per cent. as compared with the year 1863, and of 18 per cent. as compared with the year 1862. This result is so far satisfactory.

31. All kinds of Murder and Homicide show a sensible decrease : and of the murders that did occur, several were committed by madmen. Perhaps this may indicate (though it is premature to speculate with certainty) that the habits of the people are becoming less violent. It is still, however, shocking to find that murders are committed on the persons of supposed witches. These witchcraft cases are confined to the Eastern, or Chutteesgurh country. Efforts are made for suppressing this crime, which will, it is hoped, cease in time. The Returns for two consecutive years, since special attention has been directed to the point, seem to show that Poisoning and administering Poisonous Drugs are rare.

32. The marked diminution of Dacoity is partly due to the extinction of political trouble in Sumbulpore. But irrespectively of this, there has been a real diminution of the crime in the country generally. Not only have there been fewer cases, but of those cases which did happen, many are of a comparatively mild type. Again, the old gangs have been broken up, and the professional Dacoits have been hunted down. Of these men, there were 91 captured within the year. In some captures, there has been evinced much of detective patience ; in others, much of dash and spirit. At length, people begin to believe that there are few of the practised and regular Dacoits left. Much of this

result is due to the special Agency which has been organized and employed for the purpose. Therefore, without taking too sanguine a view of what has been done, or of what may be expected, I may say that the Police do seem to be making head against this evil, and that Dacoity is likely to be much reduced. But looking to the wild character of many parts of the country, the equally wild disposition of the tribes inhabiting such tracts, to the circumstance of the Native States surrounding us almost on all sides, I cannot tell whether this crime will be altogether eradicated.

33. Robbery has not sensibly diminished. Despite the multiplication of Police posts on the Trunk Lines, and the patrolling day and night, the Mail is sometimes robbed. But in a country such as this, where

Petty Robbery.

thoroughfares pass now through a cultivated and inhabited country, and now through miles of desolation or of forest, the facilities for the commission of the crime are really extraordinary. Its suppression is, indeed, almost beyond hope. Here again, however, many of the cases are of a mild character, the violence being slight, and the amounts plundered being petty. The Returns of three consecutive

Other Crimes.

years show that Rape and Adultery are comparatively rare. The character of the population is fair in these respects. It is noteworthy, that the Return of Offences against the Coin shows an increase. No clear conclusion can perhaps be drawn from this, but attention is being given to the point. As explained on previous occasions, Infanticide is practically unknown; and Thuggee, having been suppressed by the Thuggee Department, does not seem again to have reared its head since the abolition of that Department.

34. On the whole, then, in respect of the worst kinds of Crime, the state of things is satisfactory. And the Report of this year bears out what was said in my last Report; namely, that British rule decidedly tends to the suppression of these crimes. The increase shown in the Returns relate chiefly to Offences against Property.

General result.

35. Under the head of Burglary with Lurking House Trespass (5,233 cases) there is an increase. Again, under the head of Ordinary Theft there is an increase from 8,387* to 9,019 cases. Of this increase in the Return, a part is, no doubt, due to improved reporting. The landholders have learnt the lesson which has been inculcated for the last two years, and have become particular in reporting crime. The sufferers, too, finding that the Police system is less troublesome than they had perhaps supposed, and that they are not forced to prosecute in

its probable explanation, petty cases unless they choose to do so, have little or no hesitation in declaring their wrongs. Still the improved reporting is not always fairly assignable as the sole cause of the increased Return, for an examination in detail of the Returns of the various districts, shows that, in all probability, there is a real decrease in some places and a real increase in others.

36. On the other hand, the proportion recovered out of the aggregate of Property stolen has risen to 34 per cent., or Rs. 1,00,515 (£10,051) recovered out of Rs. 3,03,403 (£30,341) stolen. And the successful prosecutions of Receivers of Stolen Property are increasing yearly.

37. Under the head of Cattle stealing, the returns continue each year to show a decrease. The Return for the year 1864 shows 1,208 Cases against 1,304 in the year 1863. Repressive measures have, no doubt, been adopted with more or less success in the districts which offered peculiar facilities for, and temptations to, the commission of this crime. Still the Authorities have been warned not to accept the Returns too readily as a proof of there being a real decrease.

38. Under the heading of Offences not cognizable by the Police, the increased Return (11,756 in the year 1864 to 10,368 in the year 1863) is, on the whole, a favorable symptom, as it merely shows that the people are becoming more and more ready to bring their grievances before the Courts. In the present condition of the people this is good.

39. I now come, secondly, to the action of the Courts:—

The despatch of business appears to be brought to nearly the highest pitch practicable, and indicates much diligence on the part of the Magisterial Officers. Out of 21,887 Cases for disposal before the Courts during the year, there were only 34 pending at the close of it; and out of 39,581 persons for trial during the year, there were only 154 under trial at the end. Out of 56,462 witnesses summoned during the year, 51,582 were detained for one day only. The average duration of Cases prepared by the Police was only four days, and of those which were preferred by complaint, and not prepared by the Police, was seven days.

40. So far as the merits of the proceedings can be tested by statistics at all, it is to be observed that out of 39,581 persons tried before the Magistrates within the year 22,718, or 58 per cent., were convicted or committed to the Sessions. Care has been taken that the total should fairly include, not only all persons regularly acquitted, but all those discharged through failure of complainants to prosecute, or released at the instance of the Police. Thus it appears that the general proportion of 58, above-mentioned, is as good as could be expected. This is a point in which anything like straining for an apparently good result would do mischief.

41. But if the detail of the more serious crimes be examined, the proportion of successful prosecutions will be found to be greater. Thus, out of 13,412 persons brought up by the Police before the Magistrate, 10,179, or 76 per cent., were convicted. This is creditable to the Police.

42. To prosecute this subject a little further, I shall cite some useful

observations made by the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell. Regarding Cognizable Offences, Mr. Campbell writes:—

“ Against the 92 Cases committed, we find that 137 cases of Murder, or supposed Murder, were enquired into; some, no doubt, belonged to preceding years. In the course of mere enquires, 347 people were arrested; of these, 64 were afterwards released at the instance of Police, and 283 were brought before the Magistrate. Of this latter number, 157 were committed to the Sessions. This shows that Murder has been successfully dealt with by the District Authorities.

43. “ Against 13 Offences committed, we find 11 persons, out of 25 arrested, committed to the Court of Sessions, which is fairly satisfactory.

44. “ Against 20 Cases supposed to have been committed, we have 13 persons committed to the Sessions, and 12 convicted before the Deputy Commissioners with powers under Act XV. of 1862. As usual in this offence, most of the offenders have been brought to justice.

45. “ Against 32 Dacoitees shown to have been committed in the year, we find 342 persons were arrested or otherwise for disposal; of whom 115 were committed to the Sessions, and 50 convicted before the Deputy Commissioners. Thus more than five persons were convicted or committed for every Dacoity that took place. Considering the difficulty of proving this crime, it will, I think, be acknowledged that much success has been attained.

46. “ Against 84 Robberies and Attempts to commit Robbery, we have 21 persons committed to the Sessions and 54 convicted by Magistrates. This, too, is satisfactory. On the whole, the above shows that much success has been attained in the prosecution of the more aggravated class of Offences.”

47. The manner in which punishments were inflicted, may be illustrated by a few facts as follows:—

“ By Magistrates exercising powers under Act XV. of 1862, 25 persons were sentenced to transportation for seven years, and 183 for terms of imprisonment exceeding two years. By all the Magistrates, 6,263 persons have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of two years and under. Of these, 4,898 persons were for terms of six months and under. This shows that judicious moderation was exercised in the award of imprisonment. In 1,809 Cases fine has been superadded to imprisonment. There were 13,182 persons sentenced to fine alone. This shows that fine is becoming more and more resorted to, which is satisfactory. Of the total of fines inflicted, Rs. 1,70,531 (£17,053), there were realized Rs. 126,864 (£12,686); out of which again, Rs. 26,605 (£2,660) were paid to sufferers. The new Whipping Act was in force

only during the latter half of the year. There were 1,142 persons whipped; of these, 130 were juvenile offenders. So far, there seems to have been fair effect given to the new law.

48. In respect to the working of the superior Criminal Courts, it will suffice to state that 16 persons were capitally executed, 87 sentenced to transportation for life, 114 to various terms of transportation. There were 458 Appeals disposed of, with an average duration of ten days each; a fact indicating promptitude. The delays in the disposal of Sessions trials, which used to occur, have now ceased for the past two years; and the average duration is now brought within two months. This duration (though susceptible of further diminution) will not appear excessive, if it be remembered that these cases (which are few in number) have to be tried in the district where they occurred, and that the Judges (or Commissioners) have to come from a distance to hold Sessions.

General conduct of the Criminal Courts.

49. In respect to the general conduct of the Criminal Courts, I shall again cite the testimony of the Judicial Commissioner. Mr. Campbell writes :—

“In procedure the Courts have made very good progress. There is hardly a Magistrate or Subordinate Magistrate in the Central Provinces some of whose cases I have not examined. Although, of course, mistakes are still common, I believe that we have attained a very fair proficiency.”

50. The general result, taken as a whole, appears fair. Still, in many districts taken separately, faults more or less serious will be found. Again, the Officers, as a body, have done right-well. Still, individuals have done more or less ill; and within the year it has been necessary to remove two Magisterial Officers from their appointments for repeatedly failing to obey the Law.

51. There have been 41 Honorary Magistrates at work in the various districts of these Provinces within the year. Of these, three are Europeans, and the rest natives of India. Regarding their work, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, writes as follows :—

“The Honorary Magistrates have done a large share of the work in the Provinces. They have decided 4,005 cases, and have, I believe, done substantial justice, though their attention to procedure is not of the strictest. The Honorary Magistrates of the Nagpore City have been especially zealous.”

SECTION III.—POLICE.

52. The past history and present constitution of the Police in these Provinces has been fully described in my previous Reports. The Establishment during the year stood as below :—

	Men	Rs.	£.
Regular Police paid from Government Revenue	6,883	11,42,327	114,238
Municipal Police paid from Local Funds	1,455	1,04,215	10,421
Total, ..	8,338	12,46,542	124,654

This is much the same as in the previous year.

53. The result of the Police Administration, in respect to the detection and repression of Crime, has been largely alluded to in the preceding Section on Criminal Justice. But, in further elucidation of the matter, as specially concerning the conduct of the Police, I subjoin the following Extract from the Returns, which will illustrate the action of the Police, in respect to the most notable crimes, in the years 1863 and 1864 :—

	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent to Magistrate for trial, there were convicted.	
	Cases per cent.		Cases per cent.	
	1863	1864	1863	1864
Murder	82	94.5	80	73
Dacoity	57	73.5	48	73
Robbery with hurt	50	74	62	80
Robbery	47	57.9	50	69.4

These statistics indicate much improvement, and tell in favor of the Police.

54. As shown in my previous Reports, the miscellaneous and administrative duties of our Police have been always heavy. During this year they have been heavier than ever. In the year 1864 the Police have daily patrolled 5,105 miles of road; have guarded daily 4,000 prisoners in Jail; have safely escorted Rs. 91,51,311 (£918,131) of treasure, and have guarded Rs. 86,00,000 (£860,000) in the various Treasuries. Moreover, they have planted 23,275 trees and shrubs around their posts.

55. Though the Police have improved in detective ability, yet it is admitted on all hands that this is the weakest point in the Force, as it now exists. It is true that, during the year, there have been conspicuous instances of this sort of ability on the part of individual Policemen. Still we want more men of superior cleverness and intelligence; or, in common language, our Police ought to have more "head" than it has. Improvement, however, can be best effected, not by creating a special Detective branch, which might engender abuses, but by raising the general qualification of the Force as a body.

56. The relations between the Police and the Magistracy is a matter which has received much attention. In the year 1862, it was complained that the Police were too independent of the Magistracy, and that the responsibility and the moral force of the latter were unduly diminished. In the year 1863, this complaint diminished somewhat, though it still existed. In the year 1864, it has happily almost ceased. Such is the testimony of the Judicial Commissioner, the Divisional Commissioners, and the Magistrates. To make quite sure, I caused a Circular to be issued to the Magistrates, specially enquiring on this point. The replies seem to show that, without doubt, the Police in every district is under the general control of the Magistrate according to the intent and wording of the Law, and that the Magistrates realize and act up to their responsibility for the repression and detection of crime.

57. The Civil Officers generally testify to the general fair repute of the Police in their dealings with, and demeanour towards, the people at large. I have every reason to believe that the character thus given of the Police is correct, and that they are rather popular than otherwise with the people. It is to be observed, however, that the instances of Policemen punished for corruption or oppression might appear considerable. This does not, however, detract seriously from the estimation of the Force generally, but rather seems to show that there is a strict supervision, and no lack of prosecutors whenever a policeman does misbehave.

58. Again, both the Magistrates and the Divisional Commissioners give decisive testimony to the marked improvement effected in the Police Department during the year. This, too, is fully borne out by the Judicial Commissioner. Considering that these various authorities have the best means of judging, and have every reason to form an impartial and unbiased judgment, that testimony may be accepted. Indeed, it seems now an acknowledged fact that the new Police is a great reform over the old; a fact which is probably not doubted by any person in these Provinces, European or Native.

59. It is to be regretted that more has not been done as yet to provide buildings for the accommodation of the Police. But financial means have been wanting. More-

Detective ability still wanting in Police

Relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

Bearing of the Police towards the people.

Police Buildings.

over, it was necessary to have a set of standard plans prepared for the various kinds of buildings. This has now been prepared; and formally sanctioned by the Supreme Government; and it is hoped that a yearly sum will be devoted to the gradual construction of the permanent buildings.

SECTION IV.—JAILS.

60. During the year under report there has been occasion to compare the existing Jail management in these Provinces with the system recommended by the Indiau Jail Committee of the year 1864. In a special Report, I have shown in detail that many of the Committee's suggestions are already in full force here, but that some of their suggestions cannot yet be carried out, until our Jail buildings (now under construction) shall be further advanced.

61. One of the main causes to which the Committee fairly attribute sickness and mortality, is *overcrowding*. That disadvantage cannot, as yet, be wholly provided against till the new buildings are ready. Meanwhile, it has been mitigated as much as possible, by transferring prisoners from crowded jails to jails where spare accommodation might be found, and by the erection of temporary extra accommodation within Prison walls, where necessary. Another cause, that of *sleeping on the ground*, has been obviated by the erection, in the sleeping wards, of raised earthen berths, so constructed as to prevent damp and cold.

62. The other causes of mischief, as enumerated by the Committee, have already been provided against. Thus lateral and roof *ventilation*, suitable to the climate of the place, has everywhere been provided for. Dry earth *conservancy* was brought into practice in all Jails early in the year 1863, with the best results. The saucer drain has been adopted, and no deep, open drains exist. The *clothing* is ample, and good of its kind. The *water* for drinking and cooking purposes is either filtered or boiled before use. *Weakly prisoners* are not permitted to labour, or their labour is moderated to their condition. And lastly, *medical inspection*, especially during the prevalence of epidemics, is duly provided for each Jail.

63. Again, most of the Committee's suggestions are acted on, as will be seen from the following particulars:—

The separation of juvenile from adult delinquents (of whom there were 249 during the year) is carried out everywhere as effectually as the old Jail buildings will allow. This separation will be more complete when the new Central Jails shall have been built.

Indiau Jail Committee's Report.

Overcrowding not as yet quite remedied.

Suggestions of the Committee how acted upon.

Segregation of juvenile Prisoners

- Female Convicts.**
- Classification of male Prisoners.**
- Jail Diet.**
- Jail Gardens.**
- Internal discipline.**
64. For females complete and separate accommodation is provided in all Jails. Male convicted prisoners are classified according to the nature of their crimes and the punishment awarded, by distinctively colored dresses. The Jail dietary is good. The scale is varied occasionally in times of sickness, on the recommendation of the medical Officer. Diminution of food as a punitive measure is prohibited. The Jail Gardens are in good condition, and yield a sufficient supply of fruit and vegetables. Jail discipline is maintained. The medical Officers in charge of Jails perform the duty of superintendence, and are invested with magisterial powers (in subordination to the District Magistrates) to punish breaches of Prison discipline. A scale showing the full measure of a day's work for the different kinds of labor has been prescribed; and labor is exacted by task-work.
65. The object of making labor remunerative has not been lost sight of. The net cash profits of Prison manufactures amounted to Rs. 24,376 (£2,488) in the year 1864, against Rs. 9,562 (£2,566) in the previous year. The indirect profits from prison labor employed on manufactures for prison use, in the repair of Jails, and in other extra-mural public works, amounted to Rs. 40,872 (£4,087) in the year 1864, against Rs. 13,000 (£1,300) in the year 1863. In these ways, the laboring prisoner has been made to work out all but Rs. 11 (£1 2s. 0d.) of the cost of his maintenance during the year.
66. Again, as an incentive to good conduct in Jail, labor has been classified into "Hard," "Medium," and "Light," and a prisoner not convicted of the more heinous crimes may, by uniform or special good conduct and industry, earn the reward of a gradual mitigation of labor by transfer from one to the other class. Or he may earn the subordinate office of Work Overseer, Ward-master, or Guard. The rules framed for these ends have been formally sanctioned.
67. There has been, as might have been expected from the gradual rise in the cost of all the necessaries of life, a slight, but unavoidable, increase in the average total cost of a prisoner in the year 1864, as compared with the previous year. In the year 1863 it was Rs. 45-6-6 (£4 10s. 9½d.), in the year 1864 Rs. 50-13-7 (£5 1s. 8½d.). But it is to be remembered that, at most of the Head-quarter stations where this expenditure is incurred, a free laborer could not comfortably subsist according to his station on less than Rs. 50-13-7 per annum. Hence it will be apparent, that to *maintain and guard* a prisoner for rather less than that amount, must demand the exercise of every practicable economy. Indeed, out of the Rs. 50-13-7 expended on a prisoner, the proportion due to Guards and Establishments amounted to Rs. 22-7-9 (£2 5s. 0d.). If this amount

of 22 rupees be deducted, it will be found that the prisoner has been furnished with board and lodging, with clothing and bedding, with medicines and extra nourishment when sick, and with all the miscellaneous necessaries coming under the general head of "Contingencies," at a cost of only Rs. 28-5-10 per annum, or 1 anna and 2½ pies, or about 2d., per diem.

68. There has been a decrease in the Prison mortality as compared with the year previous, notwithstanding the outbreak of epidemic disease in eight out of the

Health of Prisoners.

eighteen Jails. In the year 1863, the Death-rate was 10·14 per cent; in the year 1864,

The Death-rate.

7·67 per cent. Wherever epidemic disease manifested itself, the prisoners were at once moved into tents, and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic with the best results. Still 7½ per cent. of deaths is a high rate; that rate, however, is, according to existing practice everywhere, calculated on the average daily strength of prisoners in Jail. If the deaths, 322, be calculated on the actual number of prisoners (*i. e.*, prisoners in Jail on 1st January 4,258, plus the number admitted during the year 11,252—total 15,510), the mortality-rate would be only 2·01 per cent.

The Sick-rate.

The Sick-rate also fell from 6·01 per cent. in the year 1863 to 5·75 per cent. in the year 1864. There were 6,853 sick admitted for treatment, of whom 322 died, being at the rate of 4·70 per cent. of deaths to prisoners treated.

69. The most important measure of reform, is the provision of Jail accommodation; that is, the construction of new

New Jails under construction.

buildings. Four Central Jails are now being built at Nagpore, Raepore, Jubbulpore, and

Hoshungabad. The buildings at Nagpore and Raepore are well advanced. New District Jails or Lock-ups have been, or are being built at Sironcha, Wurdah, Sumbulpore, Khundwa, and Mundla on approved designs. And at the remaining Jails, alterations and additions have been made so as to give to each prisoner the prescribed cubic capacity of space.

70. The total number of prisoners was 4,131 in the year 1863 and 4,074 in the year 1864. The operation of the

Total number of Prisoners.

Whipping Act will, it is hoped, continue to

diminish this number.

71. There has been some advance in instructing prisoners in reading and writing. The number under instruction

Instruction of Prisoners.

has risen from 2,664 in the year 1863 to 2,754

in the year 1864; the number who could both read and write, increased from 264 in the year 1863 to 237 in the year 1864; and the number who could read only, from 1,300 in the year 1863 to 1,677 in the year 1864.

72. Escapes, excluding those who had been recaptured, fell from 42 in the year 1863 to 7 in the year

Escapes.

1864. This indicates increased vigilance.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

73. In the year 1863-64 the demand on account of the Land Tax stood at Rs. 55,64,681 (£556,468), while the actual Collections of the past and present year. collections amounted to Rs. 52,76,513 (£527,651). In the year 1864-65 the demand on account of the year, added to outstanding demands on account of previous years, amounted to Rs. 59,99,674 (£599,967), while the actual collections amounted to Rs. 54,90,427 (£549,042). In every year there are items of Land Tax on the rent-roll, which, from some circumstance or another, never actually fall due. If, after deducting these unrealizable items from the Land Tax of the years 1863-64 and of 1864-65, and after deducting also the outstanding balances of former years, the Land Tax demand of each year be compared with the collections, it will be found that in the year 1863-64, 98·53 per cent. of the realizable demand was collected, while in the year 1864-65, 99·92 per cent. was collected. In previous Reports it has been acknowledged that there was much room for improvement in the punctual collection of the Land Tax, though some improvement had year by year been effected. But for the demand of 1864-65 a fair and sufficient punctuality of collection has now been achieved. The entire demand is collected to within an inappreciable fraction, and there is scarcely any room left for further improvement.

74. Although the crops of the year 1864-65 were below the average in several districts, yet the collections were made with very little resort to coercive processes. A few unthrifty landholders are to be found in every district; and towards such persons occasional coercion may be necessary; but, as a rule, the Government Land Tax is everywhere paid in punctually.

75. The work of the regular Settlement has been vigorously prosecuted in fifteen districts, comprising four-fifths of these Provinces. Progress of the regular Settlement.

76. The Land Tax of 6,340 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year; the assessments amounted to Rs. 15,94,326 (£159,432), or more than a quarter of the land revenue of the Central Provinces. Less than one-fifth of the land revenue remains for assessment. Assessment of the Land Tax.

77. In ten districts assessments were effected. In five of those districts the result was an enhancement, and in five a reduction of the Land Tax. The net result of all the assessments made during the year was an increase of Rs. 1,02,835 (£10,283), or 7 per cent. on the amount of Land Tax which came under revision. As stated in former Reports, the new assessments are moderate, and they have everywhere been accepted by the landholders. For the districts where assessments have been completed, the annual incidence of the Land Tax may be shown thus:—

<p>Result and quality of Assessments, and their incidence.</p>	<p>In Nagpore it falls at 12 annas 5 pies, or 18$\frac{1}{8}$d. „ Nursingpore „ „ 12 annas 4 pies, or 18$\frac{1}{2}$d. „ Jubbulpore „ „ 11 annas 10 pies, or 17$\frac{3}{4}$d. „ Saugor „ „ 11 annas 5 pies, or 17$\frac{1}{8}$d. „ Dumoh „ „ 11 annas 5 pies, or 17$\frac{1}{8}$d. „ Wurdah „ „ 10 annas 8 pies, or 16d. „ Hoshungabad „ „ 9 annas 6 pies, or 14$\frac{1}{2}$d. „ Seonee „ „ 6 annas 2 pies, or 9$\frac{1}{2}$d. „ Baitool „ „ 4 annas 7 pies, or 6$\frac{7}{8}$d.</p>	}	<p>per acre of cultivated land per annum.</p>
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The Land Tax of the Central Provinces, as it now stands, falls at 8 annas 8 pies, or 13d., per acre of cultivated land per annum. These land-tax rates may be low, compared with the rates which obtain in North-Western India; but there is much in the scarcity of labor, the comparative sparseness of the population, and in the past fiscal history of some districts, to account for the lightness of the Land Tax.

78. The adjustment and registration of landed tenures and of tenant right—a very important branch of a regular Settlement—has been brought almost to completion in the districts of Saugor, Dumoh, Nursingpore, Seonee, Wurdah, Nagpore, and Bhundara; it has been quite finished in the districts of Baitool and Hoshungabad. The ascertainment and record of superior proprietary rights has now been completed over almost the whole of the Central Provinces; the rights of 10,928 proprietors of holdings were investigated and recorded during the year; the status of, and the rent payable by 1,22,536 tenants, with right of occupancy under Act X. of 1859, were ascertained and recorded; and the rents agreed upon by 210,755 tenants-at-will, with their landlords, were registered.

79. The other stages of a regular Settlement have also been advanced. Measurements of villages or estates, field by field, have been nearly completed; so have the investigations with revenue-free tenures. Only a few boundary disputes remain for decision.

80. Two and a half million acres have been adjudged during the year to be excess waste, available for sale under the rules; and the demarcation of these wastes has been effected in eight districts. Registers, with full descriptive details of all waste lands available for sale, are

being prepared, and will shortly be ready for publication.

81. The total number of cases decided in the Revenue Courts under the "Law of Landlord and Tenant," was 5,220, besides 1,219 petitions for execution of Decree. 50 cases and 41 petitions for execution were undecided at the close of the year. This small amount of litigation must not be understood to show that there is in the Central Provinces any remarkable accord between landlords and their tenants; it merely shows that the majority of disputes regarding landlords' rights or tenant-right are adjusted before the Officers of the Settlement Department.

82. The three Professional Revenue Survey Parties previously employed in the Central Provinces have been at work in the districts of Dumoh, Hoshungabad, and Raepore; they surveyed during the year 3,467 square miles. A fourth party entered the Central Provinces, and broke ground in the Chanda District during the year; they arrived too late to do more than make a beginning last open season.

83. The condition of the agricultural classes generally continues to be very prosperous. Last year's harvests were not actually abundant in any district, nor were they in most districts even good average harvests. Still the outturn, taking all crops together, was nowhere absolutely bad; in most tracts it was fair. While the yield of produce was thus fair, there were high prices. In parts of the Wurdah Valley District, the price of wheat throughout the year 1864-65 ranged at about the prices which ruled at Delhi and Agra in the famine years of 1860-61. For months together, the price of wheat in the Wurdah country stood at 8 seers the rupee, or 64 shillings a quarter. The price of cotton fluctuated, and fell much during the year; but the losers by the fall were mainly the cotton dealers; for most growers sold the crops at the high prices of the year 1864 before the cotton was ready for picking. During the year there have been large imports of cattle into the Central Provinces, so that the price of plough-oxen has fallen about 20 per cent. This again is favorable to the farmer. Farm wages, however, have either continued to rise, or have maintained the high rates of last year. As the Settlement operations are drawing to a close proprietors are beginning to feel secure of their position, and to realize the value of the rights they hold in their lands. When these rights become more fully appreciated, the prosperity and wealth of the landholding community will rapidly advance.

SECTION II.—OTHER TAXES (SALT TAX, EXCISE ON SPIRITS AND LIQUORS, STAMPS, &c.).

84. The various sources from which the supply of salt for these Provinces is drawn, and the peculiar position of our Salt Tax, have been fully explained in my previous Reports. The receipts for the year 1863-64 were Rs. 13,80,231 (£138,023), while the receipts for the year 1864-65 amounted to Rs. 15,93,617 (£159,361). This increase has accrued without any alteration in the rate of duty, and without any perceptible rise in the selling price of salt in the Central Provinces' markets. In my last Report, I mentioned the substitution of the Imperial or regular Customs Line for the temporary Local Imperial Customs Lines. Line along our Western Frontier. That measure was carried out within the year,—from Saugor, on the borders of Bundelkhand, to Chanda near the Godavery, a distance of 261 miles. So much success ensued, it was decided to carry on the Line from the banks of the Godavery northwards, so as to round our Eastern, or Chutteesgurh, and Mahanuddy Frontier, a distance of 340 miles. This, added to the distance already stated, makes a total length of 601 miles. The work has been performed with remarkable zeal and promptitude by the Customs Department, and there is every prospect of further fiscal advantage being the result.

85. A local or temporary Salt Customs Line was thrown round the Nimar District early in the year under Report. This measure has produced some revenue, but the success has not been considerable.

86. The peculiar nature of our Sugar Duties has been described in my previous Reports. The revenue from the duty on the export westwards of Saccharine produce has fallen from Rs. 1,41,024 (£14,102) in the year 1863-64 to Rs. 94,097 (£9,409) in the year 1864-65. When the alteration and extension of the Imperial Line, which has resulted in so large an enhancement of the Salt revenue, was undertaken, it was foreseen that some decrease in the receipts on account of Sugar duty would result from the change. Now that the Customs cordon has been pushed westwards, the lower Nerbudda Valley and the Nagpore country, which formerly consumed duty-paid sugar, consume sugar which has not crossed the Line and has not paid duty.

87. The local duty on Opium yielded Rs. 8,041 (£804) in the year 1863-64 and Rs. 7,595 (£759) in the year 1864-65. There is a small special duty levied on the cultivation of the poppy. The amount is inconsiderable.

88. The revenue from Excise on Spirits and intoxicating Drugs has risen from Rs. 6,66,724 (£66,672) in the year 1863-64 to Rs. 8,77,855 (£87,785) in the year 1864-65. Of the above increase, a part, namely Rs. 1,57,708 (£15,771), accrued in the districts where the Excise revenue

is raised by the old system; that is, farming the monopoly of manufacture and vend of Spirits and Drugs. The remainder of the increase,

Increase under Farming and
Sudder Distillery systems.

namely Rs. 53,423 (£5,342), accrued in the districts where the Excise revenue is raised by the new system, commonly called the Sudder

Distillery method; that is by still-head duty on the distillation of spirits, and by license fees leviable from retail vendors. The increase during the year has, under the old system, been at the rate of 30 per cent., and under the new system at the rate of 33 per cent. The result is due, in some districts (especially those managed under the old system), to larger consumption of spirits, consequent on the growing prosperity of the population; in other districts (especially those managed under the new system), to improved administration, and to the more complete adaptation of the system to the requirements of the people. The number of shops for the retail sale of spirits by this system,

The Sudder Distillery
system.

though increased from 540 to 1,038, is still only half the number which used to exist under the farming system. The retail price of diluted spirit, such as is consumed by the common people, averages from 4 annas (6d.) to 5 annas (7½d.) a quart in the Sudder Distillery districts. This price, though not so low as the prices which rule under the farming system, and which tend to encourage drinking, is still not so high as to place beyond the reach of the poorer classes such small quantities of liquor as they may, from time to time, require.

89. In paragraph 165 of my last year's Report, the superiority, on moral considerations, of the Sudder Distillery system, was adverted to. Another year's experience of the system certainly shows that this method does check the inordinate and vicious consumption of spirits, and does avoid the semblance, as well as the reality, of the temptation to drinking held out by the old system. There is a remarkable concurrence of testimony, on the part both of Europeans and Natives, that this change in our system of Excise has begun to produce a good effect on the half-civilized tribes dwelling among the hills and forests. It is further certain, that the new system has not, as yet, given *any* impetus to illicit distillation or to smuggling. It was admitted last year, that the introduction of the new system had caused a decrease in the revenue. That loss is, however, gradually disappearing. The Excise revenue, thus administered, for the year 1864-65, exceeded that of the preceding year by 54 per cent. At this rate, the sum raised under the improved system may ultimately approach that which used to be raised under the old and objectionable method.

90. In the year 1864-65 the reduction in the Income Tax was, for the first time, in operation for the whole year. The total assessments to Income Tax, therefore, were 15 per cent. less than in the year 1863-64; but, owing to

increased care in collection, this Tax realized Rs. 2,26,145* (£22,614) in the year 1864-65, or only 8 per cent. less than Rs. 2,45,724* (£24,572) the collections of the year 1863-64. 98 per cent. of the demand for the year 1864-65 was collected during the year. The number of persons assessed remained at about 5,000, or nearly the same as last year. As was stated last year, one-third of the Income Tax of the Central Provinces is realized on salaries, pensions, &c., under Schedule IV.

91. The net receipts under the head of Stamp Revenue were Rs. 3,85,637 (£38,563) in the year 1863-64, while in the year 1864-65 they amounted to Rs. 4,72,609 (£47,260). This increase of 20 per cent. is due, partly to the increased prosperity of the people, partly to a more widely diffused knowledge of the requirements of the Stamp Law, and partly to improved administration of this branch of revenue. The number of non-official Stamp Vendors rose during the year from 667 to 992, and through their agency 81 per cent. of the year's Stamp revenue was realized. The number of prosecutions for breaches of the Stamp Law was 257 in the year 1864-65, against 129 in the year 1863-64—a fact which indicates increasing vigilance on the part of the authorities.

92. In the department of "Miscellaneous Revenue," the chief item is the *Pandree* Tax, an old Mahratta impost, payable by all householders of certain trades and professions, and peculiar to the Nagpore Province. The circumstances of prescription and custom under which this Tax is levied have been explained in my previous Reports. This item amounted to Rs. 1,35,945 (£13,594) in the year 1864-65, against Rs. 92,091 (£9,209) in the year 1863-64. And further increase is expected during the year under Report. The result will be better seen in the next Report.

SECTION III.—TOTAL REVENUES.

93. The actual Imperial Revenues for the year 1864-65 may be compared with those for the year 1863-64 thus:—

	1864-65.†	1863-64.†
Land Revenue	54,90,427	54,61,515
Customs,—Salt, &c... ..	16,95,300	15,29,296
Excise on Spirits, &c. . . .	8,77,355	6,66,724
Income Tax	2,26,145	2,45,724
Stamps	4,72,609	3,85,637
Forest Revenue	92,469	89,763
Miscellaneous.. .. .	1,75,584	1,77,229
Total, .. Rs.	90,30,399	Rs. 85,55,838

* These figures do not include a considerable amount of Income Tax assessed on the salaries of Military and Public Works Department Officers.

† In both computations the revenues of the newly added district of Nimar are reckoned.

There has thus been an increase under every head of revenue, with the sole exception of Income Tax—where, of course, there was a decrease, simply owing to a remission of a part of the Tax itself. The total increase amounts to Rs. 4,74,511 (£47,451), or nearly 6 per cent. on the revenues of last year. There is every reason to expect that the revenues for the year 1865-66 will again exceed those of the year 1864-65 under every head but Income Tax. It may, therefore, be considered that the revenues of the Central Provinces are increasing at a satisfactory rate.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

94. In describing the progress of Education during the year, I shall follow the same order as that observed in my last Report, and shall briefly advert to the several classes of Schools, namely :—

- 1.—Zillah (or District) Schools.
- 2.—Normal Schools.
- 3.—Grant-in-Aid, or Aided Schools.
- 4.—Town Schools.
- 5.—Village Schools.
- 6.—Female Schools.
- 7.—Indigenous Schools.
- 8.—Zemindaree Schools.

95. I shall advert separately to the progress of Education in the newly added district of Nimar where Educational Institutions were towards the end of the year placed on a new footing. The following remarks, therefore, apply to the districts of these Provinces, exclusive of Nimar.

Nimar Schools will be noticed separately.

96. The number of Zillah Schools has remained the same as last year. The total number of pupils on the rolls of the nine Schools of this description has risen only 3 per cent. during the year, but the average daily attendance has risen 18 per cent., being 1,398 in the year 1864-65 to 1,093 in the year 1863-64. The Saugor Zillah School continues to be the best Educational Institution in these Provinces. Two of its pupils passed into the Calcutta University during the year. A new and improved course of study has been introduced into all the Zillah Schools. Two or three Scholarships have been founded at each School. After deduction of extraordinary charges on account of buildings, &c., the average cost of each boy at the Zillah Schools was Rs. 19½ (£1-19s. 0d.) during the year 1864-65, as compared with Rs. 23 (£2 6s. 0d.) during the previous year. This reduction of cost is satisfactory.

Zillah Schools.

97. The number of Normal Schools for training Schoolmasters now maintained, is four. There is one of these Institutions at the following places:—Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Hoshungabad, Raepore, which are centrally situated in respect to the several parts of these Provinces. There were 113 certificated Masters passed through these Institutions during the year. The internal economy of these Institutions has been much improved during the year. The period of instruction has been extended. The

Head-mastership of the Nagpore Normal School has been placed on a new and superior status. The average cost incurred on each certificated Student who passed out of the Normal Schools during the year, was Rs. 56 (£5 12s. 0d.)

98. Of these Schools there are two classes; the first consist of Aided Schools, Schools established and supported, directly or indirectly, by European Agency. These Schools receive Grants-in-aid from the State, proportionate to their funds derived from other sources. The other class comprises indigenous Schools, established and supported by Natives of the country. These Schools receive capitation grants proportionate to the number and proficiency of their pupils, whose acquirements are ascertained at examinations held by Officers of the Educational Department. Of the first-class there are nine Schools, in eight of which the great majority of the pupils are Natives of India. Of these eight, two belong to the Church Missionary Society at

Aided Mission Schools, Jubbulpore. These two Schools have been very successful: one of their pupils passed into the Calcutta University, and the upper classes evinced a good knowledge of English at the annual examination. The large School attached to the Free Church Mission at Nagpore has made some progress during the year, though it is yet below the standard which had been expected. Still the Jubbulpore and Nagpore Mission Schools rank next to the Saugor School in the number and attainments of their pupils. The total number of pupils on the rolls of these aided Schools, under European management, was 1,100 at the end of the year 1864-65. Thirty-two Masters of indigenous Schools obtained capitation grants;

Aided Indigenous Schools, the highest grant obtained by any one such School was Rs. 38.

99. The number of Town Schools has been reduced from 102 to 93 during the year, the ten reduced Schools having been converted into Village Schools.

Town Schools. The total number of pupils at Town Schools is 7,356 for the year 1864-65, against 7,078 for the year 1863-64. The average cost of each boy, exclusive of extraordinary charges, was Rs. 4-12-0 per annum (£0 9s. 6d.). The improvement in regularity of attendance has been considerable, and has resulted in a largely increased daily average number of boys attending School. The standard of attainments of the upper classes at Town Schools is rising; and at some of these Institutions the upper classes are beginning to learn English. As stated in previous Reports, these Schools are attended by the children of shopkeepers, petty traders, and the better class of artizans, who dwell in the many country towns scattered over the Central Provinces. At some of these Schools, Night classes for adults are held, and are fairly attended.

100. The number of Village Schools in the year 1863-64 was 407, while for the year 1864-65 it is 436. The number of boys on the rolls is 13,558, against 12,089; and the average cost (excluding extraordinary charges) of each boy was Rs. 2-8-0 (£0 5s. 0d.) per annum. This increase of 20 per cent.

Village Schools.

in the number of Village Schools, and of 25 per cent. in the number of Village schoolboys, shows that education is becoming more diffused. It is satisfactory to note that the increase of schools and pupils has been greatest in the Eastern Districts, where, as stated in last year's Report, the light of education has only just begun to glimmer. In the Village Schools of these Provinces generally, the attainments, even of the upper classes, are as yet, of course, humble. Still the Inspecting Officers are agreed that some improvement in this respect is discernible. It is, however, remarkable, as well as satisfactory, that the majority of Village schoolboys belong to the agricultural classes. Many are the sons of landholders, and of tenants of various degrees. Of all classes of the community, there are none whom the State is so much interested in educating. And if this fair prospect shall continue to brighten, we may soon hope to see, at least, common learning diffused among those sons of the soil who were not previously accustomed to education. As might be supposed, these boys have often to leave school to tend cattle, or to help in the fields. Still, if only there can be imparted a fair knowledge of writing, reading, and arithmetic, the result will be most beneficial to the sturdiest and hardest working part of the population.

101. In my last Report it was noted that the Female education movement began in the year 1863-64. It has made considerable progress during the year 1864-65. There were, in the year 1863-64, 47 Girls' Schools with 804 pupils; while the Girls' Schools at the end of the year 1864-65 amounted to 65, and the total number of pupils to 1,294. In two of these Schools the attainments of the girls are very respectable, the upper classes being able to read, write from dictation, and cipher correctly. In some of the large towns of the Central Provinces, educated Native Ladies and Gentlemen have either founded Girls' Schools, or have exerted themselves to promote the success of Girls' Schools already founded. The girls at these Schools come from all professions and castes, but the larger proportion belong to the higher castes, which is, at this initiatory stage, a hopeful sign.

102. There were during the year 1864-65, 460 Schools established and supported by Natives of the country. These are either attached to temples and mosques, or else are kept by Masters who earn a living by the work. The total number of pupils at these Schools was 6,227 in the year 1864-65, against 4,875 in the previous year. All of these Schools are, more or less, inspected. But, out of the 460 Schools, 82 submitted to the formal inspection of Government Educational Officers; and of these latter again 32, as before stated, receive capitation grants. Some of the other inspected Schools received aid in the shape of School books, maps, &c.

103. Seven Schools, attended by 263 pupils, were maintained on their estates by some of the Chutteesgurh Chiefs during the year.

Zamin-daree Schools.

104. The total number of Schools and scholars during the years 1864-65 and 1863-64 may be thus compared:—

	<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>
1863-64.	993	27,953
1864-65.	1,133	32,926

The advance thus exhibited may perhaps be deemed satisfactory. We have thus one School to every 90 square miles of area, and one pupil to every 250 souls of the whole population. De-pite the progress attained, the amount of Education afforded is still immeasurably below the requirements of the country.

105. For the erection of School-houses Rs. 20,000 (£2,000) from the Government revenue, about 30,000 (£3,000) from Local or Municipal funds, and Rs. 39,421 (£3,942) from private subscriptions; or in all Rs. 89,421 (£8,942) have been expended during the year 1864-65. In several districts the work of building School-houses is now almost complete; and commodious School-houses have been built in most of the towns and larger villages. The large sums which the people have subscribed towards School-houses evince the interest they take in education.

106. The total expenditure of the Educational Department during the year, inclusive of building charges, was—

Total Expenditure.	<i>Imperial Funds.</i>	<i>Local Funds and Subscriptions.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
On Direction, and its subsidiary charges... ..	16,052	..
On Inspection, and do. ..	38,100	..
On Instruction, and do. ..	80,955	1,46,446
Total Rs. 1,35,107	<u> </u>	<u>1,46,446</u>

The grand total of expenditure during the year was thus Rs. 2,81,553 (£28,155).

107. During the year 1864-65 advantage has, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, been taken of the revision of the Land Tax to raise the Educational Cess paid by land-owners from one to two per cent. on the Government demand. The funds disposable for augmenting and improving Village Schools will thus be doubled. In a draft Bill for the establishment of Municipal Committees, submitted during the year, power has been taken for the Chief Commissioner to devote a portion of Municipal funds to Educational purposes. Should this Bill become Law, the shop-keeping and artizan classes who profit by our Schools, equally with the agricultural classes, will pay their share of the cost of popular Education.

108. In para 174 of last year's Report it was mentioned that a Committee of the principal citizens was appointed to every Town School. These Committees have been at work during the year; therefore frequently taken much interest in the Schools under their charge, and have, on the whole, evinced a fair appreciation of their responsibilities. They have strengthened the hands of the Masters, and contributed considerably towards the success of the Town Schools.

109. The School fees realized in the year 1864-65 were Rs. 10,113 (£1,011), against Rs. 8,404 (£840) in the year 1863-64. These fees are devoted to increasing the salaries of the Master, or improving the premises of the School where they are received. In Schools where the fees are large, they are sometimes devoted to paying an Extra Assistant Master.

110. The Educational Department Book Depôts have continued to supply books. The number and value of the books sold was 54,999 and Rs. 13,861 (£1,386) in the year 1864-65, against 57,408 and Rs. 11,899 (£1,189) in the year 1863-64. The Educational Press continues to issue a monthly Vernacular *diglott* Newspaper.

111. The cabinets of the Central Museum at Nagpore are becoming rapidly filled; and a catalogue of all the specimens and articles is being prepared. The number of Natives who daily visit the Museum is considerable.

112. The number of pupils in all our Schools who were studying English at the end of the year 1864-65, was 1,235. Out of these, 439 were at the two Zillah Schools of Saugor and Kamptee.

113. The regular Educational machinery of the Central Provinces has been introduced into Nimar during the year 1864-65. Attention had, however, been given to the cause of popular education by the Officers who governed Nimar before its transfer to the Central Provinces. Nimar now contains a Zillah School, six Town Schools, and thirteen Village Schools, with an aggregate attendance of 973 pupils.

114. Though the Educational Officers are entitled to much credit for the progress which has been secured, yet a large portion of the result is due to the hearty co-operation which Civil Officers of all ranks, European and Native, have lent to the furtherance of Education. In my previous Reports it has been explained how the Civil Authorities have been taught to regard the promotion of Education as a part of their duties. This plan has had the happiest effect, not only in stimulating exertion throughout the country, but also in smoothing the apprehensions and dissipating the prejudices of an ignorant population.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

115. In this, as in my previous Reports, the various classes of Public Works will be treated of in the following order :—

- I.—Military Buildings.
- II.—Civil Buildings.
- III.—Communications, Roads and Bridges.
- IV.—Railways.
- V.—Canals and Irrigation.
- VI.—Navigation Works.
- VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

116. The temporary buildings at the Mohtoor Sanatorium, mentioned in my last Report, have had to undergo extensive repairs and alterations during the year. The proceedings, in respect to this place and the prospects of the Sanatorium, have been discussed in my previous Reports. The success of the project is doubtful. There is still hope that the place will offer great advantages in the hot season. But there is more fear than ever that it will not prove suitable during the rainy season and the autumn.

117. At Kamptee (Nagpore) the new quarters for married soldiers have been proceeded with, and are nearly complete. Many other buildings of a miscellaneous character have been constructed. On the whole, the condition of the military buildings at Kamptee, and the external improvement of the Cantonment generally, are highly satisfactory.

118. At Saugor and at Jubbulpore little has been done, except to erect a few emergent structures and to improve the existing temporary buildings. The difficult questions connected with the permanent accommodation for European Troops at these two Stations had not been settled within the year. These are now, however, approaching settlement. When they shall be decided, it is probable that the construction of these buildings, according to the best designs, will be a prominent object in the administration during future years.

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

119. The erection of two new Civil Stations has been undertaken during the year, the sites and localities having been carefully selected. Of these, one is at Wurdah, in the midst of the cotton district in the Wurdah Valley; the other is at Khundwa, the new Head-quarters fixed for the district of Nimar. At both these new Stations, the buildings under construction include Court-houses, Jails, Police Lines, Circuit-houses, Churches. And progress is fast being made at both.

120. The progress made with Educational buildings and with Jail buildings has been described in the chapters relating to Education and to Prison discipline, respectively. The progress made in Church buildings will be mentioned in the chapter on Ecclesiastical affairs.

SECTION III.—COMMUNICATIONS, ROADS AND BRIDGES.

121. The scheme of Roads for these Provinces has been fully described in my previous Reports. It will be borne in mind, that our efforts are mainly concentrated on those great lines designated respectively as—

I.—The Northern Road.

II.—The Southern Road.

III.—The Eastern Road.

I shall advert to each of these in order.

122. The Northern Road may now, as heretofore, be considered in two main parts; *first*, that from a point near Mirzapore to Jubbulpore; *second*, that from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

123. In the first part, namely that between Mirzapore and Jubbulpore, the main work (as explained in previous Reports) consists in constructing bridges over the numerous unbridged streams. This work progresses slowly, but regularly, according to our means,—so many streams being spanned over every year.

124. In the second part, from Jubbulpore to Nagpore, are comprised the most important road operations ever undertaken in this part of India. In the topographical descriptions given in my previous Reports, it will have been perceived that this road runs right athwart the Saut-poor Range of Mountains, which geographically form the backbone of the Peninsula of India. These hills here expand into a breadth of about 90 miles. Their top thus forms a great table-land, which again rises up into many intermediate ridges. The average height of the range where the road passes, is about 2,000 feet above the sea. Its ascent from the plains, either on the north or the south, comprises from 1,000 to 1,200 feet. Jubbulpore lies down in the Nerbudda basin, just above, or north of the Range. Nagpore lies in the champagne country below, or south of the Range. It has been of primary import-

ance to make this road, which connects the northern and southern Capitals of these Provinces; each of these places also being the Terminus of a Railway. It can be imagined then that a road line through such a country must be full of engineering difficulties. For now three years, the best part of the resources and energies of the Department of Public Works in these Provinces has been devoted to this work. And at last the great Road approaches completion. Leaving Jubbulpore, it is to cross the Nerbuddi by a temporary trestle bridge. From there it is finished up to the foot of the Satpura Hills. Thence it is conducted up the northern face of the Range to the Sitla Pass, chiefly by zigzags, at easy gradient, to a height of 400 feet from the bottom to the top of the incline. Then it traverses the elevated and rugged table-lands, meeting with ravines, rocks, and all sort of undulations. In this part of its course, it crosses, by large masonry bridges, the river Saree and Bijna; streams which, rising in mountains close at hand, and carrying off the fast accumulating drainage of many valleys, become swollen, by a hour's rain, into torrents of extraordinary impetuosity. After crossing the river Bijna, it encounters a part of the heights which may be termed the dorsal ridge of the entire Range. Over these it is skilfully carried, by various inclines, through places bound with desolation. Then it descends slightly to the banks of the Wya Gunga River, 270 yards in width. It spans the Wya Gunga by a beautiful bridge of 12 arches of 50 feet each. Leaving the Wya Gunga, it again slightly ascends into table-lands, undulating and broken, but comparatively open, which it traverses till it nears the crests which form the southern face of the Range. Then begins the descent known as the Korai Pass; just here the inclines, which extend over some 500 feet from top to bottom, are still uncompleted. Meanwhile, there is a fair temporary road for the traffic abouts, not only the hillsides above, but the plains below, are clothed with dense foliage; and from the top of the Pass there is one of the most extensive prospects of Forest scenery in all Central India. From the foot of the Pass, the road runs through a vast belt, 30 miles broad, of trees and brushwood, intersected by treacherous swamps and tortuous ravines of every sort. The works here have been very troublesome, but they are virtually completed. Then the road, emerging from the jungles by a deep cutting, blasted through the rocks, enters on the rich plains of Nagpore, and arrives at the Kunnar River at Kamptee. Here a bridge of twelve large arches has been commenced on deep sand foundations. But the work has been delayed by reason of the insecurity of several piers and the necessity of preparing a new design. The revised design is now, however, ready. Meanwhile, there is a temporary trestle bridge for the traffic. From Kamptee to Nagpore the road crosses a level country.

125. I have thus dwelt for a moment on this Nagpore and Jubbulpore Road, because it is quite the most interesting of all the works in these Provinces. For the last three working seasons, it has employed

Difficulties and importance of the work.

many of our best Engineers, and absorbed a large part of our Budget grants. About Rs. 30,00,000 (£300,000) have been spent upon it. Gangs of laborers, many thousands strong, have been collected from great distances, and been held together with constant care, in tracts always wild, and sometimes very insalubrious. The result has been, that about 160 miles of road have been finished, or nearly finished; that is bridged and metalled. There have been six bridges of magnitude undertaken, and no less than 52 bridges and culverts of various dimensions constructed. The metalling has not been invariably successful. In some places the trap-stone has proved liable to disintegration from exposure to the weather. Repairs and renewals will, however, make this right ultimately. Even now the road is not quite finished. Here there may be the flooring still to be carried over the arches of a bridge; there some metalling to be consolidated; and so on. But, on the whole, the line is so far finished that a mail cart could be run over it; and this was actually done in October last (1865).

126. The next line to be noticed is the Southern Road. As explained in my previous Reports, this is the road which runs southward from Nagpore through the cotton-growing tracts of the Wardah Valley. In my last Report it was stated that 166 miles of this road were under operations. In this Report the statement of results is as follows:—

	<i>Miles.</i>
Road completed	108
Do. bridged and passable	28½
Do. surveyed and marked out	44
Do. surveyed, but not commenced	18½

Total Miles, .. 199

In general terms, it may be said that the road from Nagpore southwards to Chanda, which is the head of the Godavery country, is tolerably finished; that is, for the most part, bridged and metalled. Progress has been made, too, with the branch roads round the cotton mart at Hinghūnghât. The only source of disappointment in this quarter, is the softening and deterioration of the trap-stone metalling in many places.

127. The third line to be noticed is the Eastern Road. As explained in my previous Reports this is the road which runs from Nagpore eastwards towards Chutteesgurh. In my last Report it was stated that the first 75 miles were under operations. Of these, 52½ miles are now reported as finished, and the rest as being far advanced.

128. When the state of progress in the roads above noticed shall afford leisure, and release a portion of our financial grants, now so much pre-occupied, the first line to claim attention will be that from Saugor to the nearest point of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway,

some 65 miles. In my last Report it was mentioned that this line had been surveyed. During the session under report plans and estimates have been furnished. It is hoped that an actual commencement will be made as soon as funds shall be available.

129. The road works under the various Local Committees are of a detailed and miscellaneous character; and though the aggregate is large, yet it is difficult to select for mention any particular work of magnitude. On the whole, their operations have extended over a broad area; and it will be seen that their expenditure has been considerable, exceeding, indeed, that of any previous years.

130. The expenditure on roads, exclusive of all establishments, during the year, amounts to Rs. 14,50,000 (£1,50,000) in the Public Works Department, and by the Local Committees to Rs. 2,50,000 (£25,000); in all Rs. 17,00,000 (£1,70,000).

SECTION IV.—RAILWAYS.

131. It will be remembered that, as stated in my previous Reports, there are three lines of Railway in these Provinces; 1st, the line from Bombay to Jubbulpore; 2nd, the branch to Nagpore; 3rd, the line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad. The two first belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, the third to the East Indian Railway Company.

132. The halting progress of the two first lines, belonging to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, has been a source of constant anxiety throughout the year under Report. The Home Directors of the Company have, during the year, appointed Captain Sherard Osborn, R. N., to be chief Agent, and under him there has been a marked change for the better, in all respects.

133. The main line from Bombay to Jubbulpore runs for 303 miles within the bounds of these Provinces. It is now opened from Bombay to Boorhanpore, our frontier town. Thence to Jubbulpore, it is far from complete. Much work has indeed been done over most sections of the line; and the peculiar difficulties which occur where the Line passes through the wild and unhealthy valleys of the Sautpoora Hills below Aseergurh, have been met and well nigh overcome with a noble resolution and perseverance. But the great viaducts over the rivers Nerbudda, Shabe, Sekkar, Towa, and Chota Towa, are hardly so forward as might have been hoped. In some cases, there have been difficulties hardly to have been foreseen; in others, there have been delays (on the part of the Contractors) hardly to be excused. Great efforts are now being made; but the date when any one of these important works may be finished, cannot safely be predicted. At present I can only say that the line *ought* to be finished by the

beginning of 1867; that it *may* be finished by the middle of 1867; and that it *will* be finished by the beginning of 1868, at the latest, if not before.

134. In my last Report it was stated that the questions relating to the selection of a suitable site for the station, which is to be the joint terminus for the two Railways meeting at Jabbulpore, were still pending. These have, after a five years' discussion, been settled; and a site has been occupied which, while it suitably meets the requirements of the two Railway Companies and of the general traffic, will yet be close to the Military Station, and be convenient for effectual protection, in case of need arising, at any period of danger or emergency.

135. The branch Railway to Nagpore is now finished to the Wurdah River, the frontier of these Provinces in that quarter. The distance thence to Nagpore is only 65 miles, and this remaining section will be finished by the middle of 1856. It is expected that the first Train may run through from Bombay to Nagpore some time in September 1866. During the year under Report, while the Line itself was completed in all its essentials, yet the slow progress in cutting down the Rails (Platelaying) was altogether excessive. For some months past there has been great improvement, and the work is now going on fairly well.

136. The Line from Allahabad to Jabbulpore is going on so far as to be nearly finished; and well, that I need not say, that it will probably be finished by the present time, viz. the beginning of 1867. It is much to be wished that the Railway from Bombay could be finished by the same time, so that the communication from Calcutta, through to Bombay, might be complete. But it is to be feared, for the reasons just stated, that the portion belonging to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, can not be finished for some months afterwards.

SECTION V.—CANALS AND IRRIGATION.

137. In my previous Reports I have fully alluded to the larger projects, for the storage of water in extensive reservoirs for the supply of the channel of the Godavery; and the lesser projects, for the extension of artificial irrigation in the Nagpore country.

138. In regard to the greater projects, it was explained in my previous Reports that the valleys of the rivers Kunhan and Pench had been examined. This examination has since been carried on in the valley of the Wyn Gunga. Of the lesser projects three have been advanced towards maturity within this year: one for irrigating the country round Seonee in the Saupcoora Plateau; one in the country at the southern base of the Saupcoora Hills; and one in the tracts

immediately to the north-west of Nagpore. But the schemes have not yet advanced beyond the stage of projection.

SECTION VI.—NAVIGATION WORKS.

139. The *final* plans and estimates* of the Godavery Navigation Works at the 2nd Barrier were submitted to the Government of India on the 4th of July 1864, and those† for the 1st Barrier on the 20th of May 1865. Both have been accepted and sanctioned by the Supreme Government, in their Resolution No. 930-5C, dated the 13th of September last.

140. During the year under review, only the works at the first Barrier have been proceeded with. The works which were executed during the year at the first Barrier were (1) the Anicut, (2) the Sluice-wall, (3) the Head-lock, (4) the two sections of Canal and Flood embankment, and (5) the uppermost of the Tail-locks. The percentage proportion of work executed on each of the above items up to May 1865, is given below:—

1. Anicut or principal Dam	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	per cent.
2. Sluice-wall	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
3. Head-lock	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
4. Canal and Flood embankment	27	"
5. Upper Tail-lock	23	"

141. The state of the works at this Barrier at the present time (November 1865) may be thus described.

Anicut, or principal Dam.—Four-fifths of the entire length of the Anicut, commencing from the left bank, are finished, inclusive of the scouring sluices in the centre of the dam.

The east wing-wall is also completed, and the flood embankment from it to the sluice-wall has been made up.

Sluice-wall.—The sluice-wall of 14 vents across the channel, about a mile lower down than the Anicut, is nearly completed.

Head-lock.—The masonry foundations are built to an average height of 3 feet.

Canal.—Of the canal, only 10 or 12 per cent. of the work has been done in the upper section. On the lower section, however, out of the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of its length, not more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile remains to be done.

Flood embankment.—The flood embankments near Doomagoodium are made up, and the station is now well protected. The culverts here are also completed, and the drains are cut.

The flood embankment along the 2nd section of canal is also very nearly finished. None of the culverts in the latter portion have been constructed as yet.

High level Tail-lock. The uppermost of the Tail-locks is far advanced.

* Rs. 11,34,130.

† Rs. 16,34,194.

142. In April of 1863, cholera broke out at Buddrachellum amongst the people who resorted to the annual Fair in great numbers. It soon attacked the work-people, and destroyed fully 800 of them. Many hundreds then made a picnic-expedition, leaving dead and dying along the distant road as they fled in their flight. For more than a month the roads were untraveled, and the work-people were dispersed into camps. When the scattered forces were again collected, only 2,500 out of 6,000 could be numbered. Several gangs of work-people who were on the way up were met by the deserters, and fled back with them, thus effectually putting a stop to further recruiting that season. In other respects, the healthiness of the past season was very fair. The admissions into hospital of fever cases during the second-half of the year, when fever is most rife, amounted to 10 per cent. of the strength of the working force. The deaths from fever were less than one per cent. of the admissions.

143. The road from the foot of the 3rd Barrier to Chanda, being an integral part of the present scheme of works, has been surveyed and laid out during the year.

144. The small Flotilla fleet of steamers and boats has been exceedingly useful in the past year also, in the transport of food for the work-people, and Engineer's stores and materials. In the transport operations there was a marked improvement over the results of the preceding year, both in the quantity carried and in the cost of transport. Upwards of 13,000 tons were carried during the year (inclusive of land carriage by the tramway), which is more than double the quantity transported in the year 1863-64, and at an *average* cost of 2½ annas per ton, being a reduction of 30 per cent., compared with the cost in the preceding year.

SECTION VII.—MISCELLANEOUS AND MUNICIPAL WORKS.

145. The works under this category consist of public improvements carried out by the various Local Committees. Some of the principal may be briefly noticed. The various Municipal improvements on and about Nagpore have been specified in my previous Reports. It will suffice now to say that all their municipal works have been prosecuted vigorously during the year. The roads, the streets, the square, the cotton market, the Dispensary, and the School-house at the new town of Hingunghât have been completed. The improvements to the market place and the new public garden at Kumpass are nearly completed. The garden contains a sheet of water, which not only embellishes the city, but also supplies water to its most populous bazaars. The new streets of Jubbulpore, constructed on a uniform and handsome design, have been com-

pleted. The drainage works at Raepore are much advanced, the effect being to convert swamps into salubrious and ornamental tanks. Progress has been made with the new streets and squares of that city. The public gardens close to the city of Saugor, have been completed. A dam thrown across the river near Hurdah has ensured a supply of good water to that town. Bhundara has been raised from the status of a village to that of a town by the opening out of broad streets. It would be tedious to enumerate the works of the same character executed in the various towns in the interior of the country. The works indeed are so numerous and scattered, that it would be impossible to describe them without entering unduly into detail. But there is scarcely a town in the Provinces which cannot show some useful work or building which has been executed during the years 1864 and 1865. Between ninety and a hundred towns of various sizes have been brought under operations. At all these places Municipal Committees of the principal townspeople have been formed. The Municipal Act framed originally for Oudh has been extended to these Provinces, and has been especially applied to the towns of Nagpore, Kamptee, and Jubbulpore.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

146. This chapter may conclude with the following abstract of Expenditure of all kinds on Public Works during the past two years:—

	Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Naviga- tion Works.	Tools and Plant.	Estab- lishment.	Profit and Loss.	Ad- vances for Stock.	Total Ex- pendi- ture.	Local Works.	Grand Total Ex- pendi- ture.
From the year's } Budget Grant. } £.	2,73,701	1,27,578	8,20,588	5,58,000	..	4,73,229	..	70,000	23,50,841	5,10,114	28,39,987
	27,370	12,553	82,073	55,810	..	47,223	..	7,000	299,681	51,015	283,199
From the one. } Per cent. Income } Tax Grant. } £.	..	7,500	1,67,500	..	..	..	..	..	1,75,000	..	1,75,000
	..	750	10,750	..	..	..	..	..	17,500	..	17,500
Total ... } Us. } £.	2,73,701	1,35,078	9,06,588	5,58,000	..	4,73,229	..	70,000	25,04,841	5,10,130	30,14,987
	27,370	13,308	89,683	55,800	..	47,223	..	7,000	250,481	51,015	301,490
From the year's } Budget Grant. } £.	2,70,421	2,82,659	10,33,501	4,08,207	90,608	5,08,000	753	68,687	26,68,631	6,46,525	33,15,150
	27,642	28,266	103,330	40,821	9,061	50,800	73	6,870	266,808	61,653	331,510

1893-94

1894-95

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE

147. There has been no change in the arrangement mentioned in my last Report for the conveyance of the Mails by the Imperial Post Office Establishments. The Trunk Road between Jubulpore and Nagpore was nearly ready for the Mail cart by the end of the year 1864-65.

Imperial Postal Lines unchanged.

148. The Imperial Post Office Department in these Provinces continues under the separate administration of Postmasters General of the different Presidencies and the North-Western Provinces. The supervision and control so exercised must be weak.

Scheme for a Postmaster-General for the Central Provinces.

I have, accordingly, submitted a proposal to the Supreme Government for placing postal arrangements in these Provinces under a separate Postmaster General; and showed that the saving that would be feasible, after a thorough revision of the establishments, would more than meet the expense.

149. I stated in my last Report that measures had been taken for the establishment of a District Post Office at each Police station, and at the Civil Headquarters of each district, for the delivery of letters in the interior of districts. During the year under review, these arrangements have been revised and perfected at a cost of Rs. 40,674 (£4,067) per annum. The expenditure will be covered, partly by the District Post Cess, which at 8 annas per cent. on the Land Revenue assessment will amount to from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 28,000 (£2,800), and partly by the income derived from bearing and stamped letters amounting to from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 (£1,200) per annum. The *internal* Postal system is managed at present by the Civil Authorities. By these means there have been during the very first quarter some 30,000 private, and 33,000 service letters delivered. The total length of these interior Postal lines is about 3,200 miles. The above result is quite irrespectively of the Imperial Postal Returns, which are rendered separately.

Postal Lines in the interior of Districts.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

150. The Government Electric Telegraph Lines in these Provinces have been described in my former Reports. No new Line has been erected during the year 1864-65. The renewal of the posts of the Telegraph Line between Mirzapore and Nagpore has been prosecuted during the year; new iron standards have been fixed over a distance of 135 miles. About 70 miles still remain for renewal. Similar operations are in progress from the Line between Nagpore and Sironcha on the Godavery.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

151. The prescribed form of Financial Statement will be found appended to this Report; the Statement is prepared by the Deputy Accountant General. As explained last year, his Returns differ slightly from the Revenue Returns given in former pages of this Report. In the Financial Returns, all monies, whether paid on account of the year's demand, or in anticipation of the following year's demand, are credited as income of the year. Whereas, in the Revenue Returns, only collections falling due, or overdue within the year, are entered. I will advert briefly to those headings which call for remark.

152. The total receipts for the year are set down at Rs. 93,80,710 (£938,071). In the year 1863-64 the amount stood at Rs. 85,29,478 (£852,947). The receipts of the year 1864-65 thus exceed those of the year 1863-64 by Rs. 8,50,000 (£85,000). But of this increase, about Rs. 2,75,000 (£27,500) are the revenues of Nimar, which was incorporated with the Central Provinces at the beginning of the year 1864-65.

153. Headings I to XVI. of Receipts, having been noticed fully in the chapters on Revenue, require no further remark here.

154. The receipts under heading XIX.—“Post Office and Electric Telegraph”—have increased from Rs. 1,03,362 (£10,336) to Rs. 1,15,361 (£11,536).

155. Under heading XVII.—“Public Debt”—the only item requiring remark is No 5, “Local Funds.” The receipts for the year 1864-65 under this head amount to Rs. 13,78,512 (£137,851); for the preceding year they amounted to Rs. 10,09,860 (£100,986). The receipts under this head include, as mentioned in my last Report, collections on account of the two per cent. Road Cess, of the two per cent. School Cess, of the special Government property (Nuzzool), and of City Octroi duty. The increase in the receipts of the year 1864-65, over the receipts for the year 1863-64, are due to the enhancement of both the Road and School Cesses, from one per cent. to two per cent. on the Land revenue; and also to the gradual extension of the system of raising, in selected cities and towns, either by House Tax or by Octroi duty, funds for purposes of Municipal improvement.

156. The total disbursements in the Statement amount to Rs. 55,93,421 (£559,342), but this does not include charges on account of "(C) Army," "GVIII. Public Works." The operations of the year coming under this last heading have been noticed in Chapter V. of this Report.

157. Deducting the charge under the heading "Pension and Political Allowances," Rs. 11,31,253 (£113,125), the regular charges of the Civil Administration amount to Rs. 44,62,168 (£446,217). This is an increase over last year's charges; part of which increase is due to the incorporation of the Nimar District; part to increased Police charges, which again are caused by the rise in the price of provisions, and consequent extra pay granted to Constables in districts where the price of wheat rises above a certain fixed rate; part to the extended Customs Establishments, which have yielded so large an increase of revenue; part to things of a temporary character, such as the charge for the prosecution of the land revenue settlement and for demarcating waste lands.

158. During the year, the "Pre-audit" has been abolished, and the whole duties of Audit and Account are performed in one Office. For the last ten months, the new, or Post-audit system, has worked satisfactorily. It has caused a considerable saving in Audit Establishments, and has obviated many delays.

159. The Branch Agency of the Bank of Bengal established at Nagpore, has continued satisfactorily to perform the Government Treasury duties which have been entrusted to it. Its operations in the Bill market are becoming larger and larger; and the influence which the Agency has on the local money-market is good, so far as it goes.

160. In my last Report I stated that a Circle of Paper Currency had been formed for these Provinces. During the year 1864-65, Currency Notes have been very largely brought into circulation by the commercial classes of the Central Provinces. At the end of the year 1864-65, the issues aggregated Rs. 24,50,000 (£245,000). At the time I am now writing, the Notes issued (without reckoning re-issues) amount to Rs. 54,00,000 (£540,000). A considerable number of these Notes have been used as first-class Bills, have been remitted to Calcutta, and cashed at the Head Currency Office there. 31,00,000 (£310,000) worth of Notes of the Nagpore Circle, which had been cashed at the Calcutta Office, have since been cancelled, and the Currency Department has placed an equivalent amount of silver at the disposal of the Deputy Auditor General at Nagpore. During the year Rs. 5,50,000 (£55,000) out of the Nagpore Currency balances have been invested in Government Securities. These investments yield at four per cent, the lowest rate paid on Government loans, Rs. 22,000 (£2,200) a year. This sum may be

Expenditure of the year
1864-65.

Civil Charges.

Abolition of Pre-audit.

Bank of Bengal Branch.

Circulation of Currency
Notes of Nagpore Circle.

Profit of Currency De-
partment

taken as the actual profits of the year. The gain which accrued to the Public Treasury from the utilization at Nagpore of 31 lakhs of Currency balances, may be reckoned at about Rs. 23,250 (£2,325); for the average discount at which, on Calcutta, Bills are sold by the Deputy Auditor General, is 12 annas, or $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. But this item of profit should more properly be reckoned as Currency Department earnings of the year 1865-66. It may be said, however, that the Currency Department at Nagpore has already earned, on the whole, about half a lakh of rupees (£5,000). The total cost of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 11,500 (£1,150).

161. It cannot exactly be stated in figures how far the mercantile classes have really brought these Currency Notes into general circulation. But it is very generally stated, by all Merchants, that the Paper Currency of Nagpore has been a really great convenience to traders in all parts of the Central Provinces. The whole of the Currency Department issues was not made to Merchants across the counter at Nagpore. Notes to the value of Rs. 6,59,570 (£65,957) were sent to District Treasuries and Sub-treasuries, according to local requirements; and in this way, Rs. 3,42,240 (£34,224) of Notes had floated into circulation, and became useful at most of the chief marts of the Central Provinces before the end of the year. It has always been expected that a considerable number of Nagpore Notes would return to Nagpore and be presented for cashment when the Nagpore cotton crop of the year 1865-66 should ripen. The crop is now beginning to ripen, and the remains of last year's crop is now being disposed of. Accordingly, the Nagpore Currency Counter is a most accurate index of the rise and fall in the price of cotton. When a telegram comes in that cotton has gone up, thousands of Notes are presented for cashment; when cotton goes down, Notes are held back, and none are sent to Nagpore from Calcutta or Bombay. On the whole, I think that the Currency Department has (though the result is not really so successful as might at first sight appear) rapidly and completely found a field for itself in the Central Provinces.

162. The attention of the Deputy Auditor General is still directed, as mentioned in my last Report, to quickening the circulation of copper coin. Copper coin amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 (£15,000) has floated into circulation during the year; and in the course of time, the circulation of Cowrees (small sea-shells) will hold but an insignificant place in tracts where, three years ago, it was almost the only medium known to the people.

163. The Garrison of the Central Provinces is of about the same strength as it was last year. Its cost is shown, in the Returns received from the Military Pay Department, to be Rs. 54,12,906 (£541,290).

This amount is considerably above the cost of the Central Provinces' Military establishment, as shown in my last Report. The increase is in part only apparent; and is due to the Military Pay Department

having this year debited to each Regiment or Battery a share of the cost of all Army Head-quarter establishments, whether staff, medical, or financial. Much of the increase may, perhaps, be due to the increased compensation paid to Native Soldiers on account of the dearness of provisions. The question, as to whether the finance of these Provinces is fairly debitable with the whole of this military expenditure, has been fully discussed in my previous Reports.

164. The Department of Public Works expenditure, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery Navigation Works, amounts to Rs. 2600,000 (£2,60,000). This does not include expenditure from Local and Municipal Funds.

165. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1864-65, may be stated in round numbers as

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

follows :—

	Lakhs of Rupees.	£.
As per Deputy Auditor		
General's Statement	56	560,000
On account of the Army . . .	54	540,000
On account of the Public		
Works Department	26	260,000
	—	—
Total	136	1,360,000

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL

166. The requirements of these Provinces, in respect to Church buildings, have been explained in my previous Reports. The new Church at Nagpore (previously opened for Divine Service) has been added to during the year. The Church at Raepore has been opened for Divine Service. The Churches at Bhundara and Nimar are well advanced; those at Chindwara and Hoshungabad are under construction. An old building has been fitted up for a Church at Baitool. Out of twenty Stations, Churches have now been provided for nine.

167. I have only to repeat what was stated in my last Report, as to the great want of spiritual aid in most parts of these Provinces, and the paucity of Clergymen. These disadvantages still exist.

168. Special attention has been given to the repair and maintenance of the Cemeteries in decent order.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

169. In my last Report I stated that an enquiry had been made regarding the past history and present status of the semi-independent Chiefs and petty Chieftains who occupy some of the outlying parts of those Provinces. It has now been decided that, out of the 115 Chieftains, 14 only are entitled to rank as Feudatories, and that the remainder are ordinary British subjects. These Feudatories will govern their own territories; neither they nor their subjects will be amenable to the laws which apply to British India; but they will be under the political control of the Chief Commissioner. They will also enjoy the right of adopting heirs, in conformity with the customs of their race.

170. In my last Report I stated that Soorunder Sah, a pretender to the sovereignty of Sumbulpore, had, with some of his chief adherents, been arrested and tried for treason. They were acquitted of specific treason, on appeal. Still, the circumstances of Sumbulpore during the last eight years rendered it necessary that they should, for the security of the British Dominions in that quarter, be kept in confinement. They are, accordingly, kept as political prisoners, under Regulation 3 of 1818, in the Fortress of Asseergurh, at a distance of 600 miles from the scene of their misdoings. During the year 1864-65, the district of Sumbulpore has continued to be undisturbed by crimes of violence. During the year 1863, thirty-one robberies, with murder or violence, committed mainly from political animosity, occurred in the district of Sumbulpore, while not one such crime occurred in the year 1864. All the Chiefs of robber-bands, some of them outlaws of the year 1857, have now been hunted down, apprehended, tried, convicted, and transported.

171. The only other matter which merits notice in this chapter, is the rectification of the boundary of Nimar. Certain negotiations with the Maharajah Holkar are now pending, which will result in transferring to His Highness two of the northern Sub-divisions of Nimar.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

172. The strength of the Military Forces in these Provinces remains nearly the same as at the period of my last Report, or about 9,500 men of all ranks.

173. With the transfer of the district of Nimar to this administration, the Fortress of Asseergurh, with its Garrison, consisting of a European and a Native Detachment, was added to the number of our Military stations. The great importance of this stronghold, which commands the Great Indian Peninsular Railway and dominates the road between the Deccan and Malwa, was described in my last Report.

174. During the year 1864-65, the Legislature passed a Law, known as the Cantonment Act, which provides for the better administration of Cantonments. This Act empowers the Local Government to make bye-laws on the subject of Municipal improvements and of Sanitary reform. This Act has, at my recommendation, been extended to the three chief Cantonments of the Central Provinces; *viz.*, Kamptee, Saugor, and Jubbulpore. Bye-laws have been framed under its provisions. The Act provides also for establishment of Lock Hospitals in Cantonments, and for the subsidiary arrangements necessary to the success of such Institutions. A Lock Hospital had existed for some time in Kamptee, and advantage has been taken of the Cantonment Act to place the Institution on a sound and legal footing. Arrangements have also been made for opening Lock Hospitals at Saugor and Jubbulpore, the other stations where European Troops are cantoned.

175. The Nagpore Volunteers have increased in strength during the year; they are now about eighty strong. Their attention to drill during the year has been praiseworthy, and they are, on the whole, fairly efficient.

CHAPTER XI

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

176. The position of the Agri-Horticultural Society, with its Headquarters at Nagpore, has been fully set forth in my previous Reports. At the beginning of the year the Society numbered 58 members, since then it has increased to 133 members, of whom 26 are Natives. Including the Grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 per annum, its total income from all sources amounted to Rs. 9,190 during the year under review.

177. The Society continues to receive and distribute seeds of every description, as well as plants of all kinds, among the different districts of these Provinces. It is worthy of special remark, that the vegetable seeds distributed among the market gardeners in the neighbourhood of Nagpore itself, have vastly increased the quantity and quality of the vegetables now offered for sale in the bazars.

178. The stock of trees and shrubs in the Society's Gardens is stated at—

Fruit trees	6,675
Forest trees.. .. .	25,085
Flowering shrubs	31,760

Attention is given to the culture of arfow-root, potatoes, Otaheite sugar-cane, Russian flax, and many other valuable products.

COTTON.

179. The season 1864-65, in respect of this staple product, was probably one of the most auspicious ever known in the Central Provinces. Everywhere, the breadth sown with cotton was greater than in previous years; as compared with the year 1861-62, the increase was almost 100 per cent. Prices continued high, with a tendency to increase, and everything contributed to stimulate the cultivation. The following abstract will show how this cultivation has been progressing during

the four years for which statistics have been obtained :—

	<i>Area sown with Cotton, in Acres.</i>			
	1861-62.	1862-63.	1863-64.	1864-65.
In the Nerbudda Valley north of Sautpoora Range	116,964	163,991	195,253	285,111
In the Nagpore Country south of the Range	227,370	221,932	238,752	330,155
In the Chutteesgurh Country, the Mahanuddy and Godavery Valleys	36,289	41,188	54,431	74,332
Total Acres, ..	380,623	427,111	488,436	689,598

180. During the year Dr. Forbes, the Cotton Commissioner for Bombay, visited these parts, and travelled over with me the best cotton-growing tracts in the Wurdah Valley. His opinion of the superiority of the Hinghunghât cotton is entitled to much weight, and his advice, as to the best manner of picking and packing the staple for export, has been freely and widely communicated to the people.

181. Accepting, however, Dr. Forbes' estimate of from 50 to 60lbs. of ginned cotton, as above stated,—*i. e.*, at 60lbs. per acre for the Wurdah Valley, 45lbs for the Nerbudda Valley, and 40lbs. for the Chutteesgurh Country,—the total yield for the year would amount to 35,612,575lbs., or (at 300lbs. the average weight per Indian bale accepted in England) 118,709 bales. Now the registered export trade in cotton for the year, after deducting the through traffic in that article, amounted to 27,213,504lbs., or about four-fifths of the total produce calculated as above stated.

182. Experiments are being conducted in the Wurdah Valley, under the supervision of Dr. Cullen, specially selected for the work, in the introduction of American cotton. Similar experiments were conducted here before, as will be seen by reference to my previous Reports, but they ended, more or less, in disappointment; owing, as Dr. Forbes pointed out, to defective instructions. Dr. Forbes' experience of 16 years in cotton cultivation, enabled him to give more certain advice in all matters of detail connected with these experiments. Accordingly, eight fields have been selected in different parts of the Wurdah Valley, and sown with acclimatized New Orleans seed, supplied from the Dharwar cotton farms; and, judging by the latest reports received from Dr. Cullen, several of these are progressing well, and promise a good outturn. Then machinery has been imported for ginning, after the methods adopted in the Dharwar factories. Lever Presses are on their way from Dharwar for pressing cotton into bales for transport by Railway. A Lever Press and one Screw Press have been actually set up, and are in working order. These will be set up at Hinghunghât and other

important cotton marts. The attention of the people is being continually attracted to all these experiments, and there is hope of some ultimate success.

SECTION II.—ARBORICULTURE.

183. In my last Report I described the system proposed for arboriculture in these Provinces, and the Rules framed in furtherance thereof. For the giving effect to this plan, especially as concerning the main roads, the Supreme Government sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 10,000 (£1,000) per annum, for the planting of trees on the roadside. To this a similar sum has been added from Local Funds, so that the total expenditure during the year now under Report has amounted to Rs. 20,420 (£2,042).

184. Care has been given first to the establishment of nurseries, and then to the planting out of young trees in avenues and in groves on the roadsides. The number of miles of avenue now under care might be approximately stated as follows :—

	<i>Miles.</i>
By Department of Public Works	250
By Civil Authorities	130
	<hr/>
Total ..	380

The number of nurseries and plantations may be similarly stated thus :—

By Department Public Works	25
By Civil Authorities.	18
	<hr/>
Total ..	43

The approximate number of young trees planted out was stated, in my last Report, at 200,000. It is difficult to give the statistics of such a matter; but the above number must, by this time, have been greatly exceeded.

185. In order to induce the proprietors of the land along the highways to contract for the maintenance of the avenues and groves within their holdings, a remuneration, at the rate of Rs. 50 (£5) per mile per annum, has been offered to all those who would undertake this. In some districts the terms have been accepted.

SECTION III—WASTE LANDS

186. In my previous Reports I have described the general character and the great extent of the waste lands of these Provinces. And I stated that the waste lands, which belong to Government, and are available for sale under the Waste Land Sale Rules, were being formally separated from private properties and permanently marked off. The process of marking off Government wastes has been prosecuted vigorously during the year. Two and a half million of acres, or about 4,000 square miles of Government waste, have already been marked off. In some districts, however, the Government wastes have still to be marked off.

187. The whole area of Government wastes in these Provinces will not fall short of 15,000 square miles: out of this area, about 3,500 square miles have, or will soon be reserved from sale, either because they yield natural products,—such as timber, limestone, coal, &c., which it is desirable to retain for the present as Government property,—or because their situation close to large marts, or on high roads, makes them too valuable to be sold at the price intended for average waste lands. The 12,000 square miles available for sale, contain lands of many kinds. They comprise,—sometimes upland plateaus of the Sautpoora and Vindhya Ranges, fit for the cultivation of tea, coffee, the potato, the cinchona; sometimes alluvial plains in the valleys of the river Nerbudda, the Godavery, the Mahanuddy, the Wyn Gunga, and Taptee; sometimes fertile slopes and well-watered glades, wherein these great rivers take their rise amid those main ranges which stretch athwart the Indian Peninsula.

188. The great capabilities of these lands have been previously described in general terms. They are now being carefully surveyed, and mapped, and registered. The registers will show details, descriptive of the altitude of each plot, its climate, its average rainfall, its water supply, its soil, its geological and other natural features, its proximity to marts and high roads, and the natural products it now yields. As the register for each district is ready, it will be published for general information. One such register, describing the waste lands of the Wurdah District, was recently published as a Supplement to the Local Gazette.

189. In my last Report I adverted to the beginning made by three European Settlers in different parts of the Central Provinces. These three settlements continue to make progress. During the year 1864-65 the Roman Catholic Mission at Nagpore, purchased a plot of waste land near Nagpore. Several members of the Mission, both European and Native, now reside on this plot, and they have already brought some of the land under cultivation.

SECTION IV.—MINERAL RESOURCES.

190. During the year the negotiations for working the Coal mines at Burkoe in the Chindwara District, and at Shahpoor in the Baitool District, have been advanced a stage. Should these two mines eventually prove workable, they will be connected by Tramways with the Nagpore branch of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

Existing Coal fields.

191. The Mohpanee Coal mines in the Nursingpore District are being worked with success by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company. It is proposed to connect these mines with the Railway by a short Tramway, to be constructed by the Company.

192. Discoveries have recently been made of extensive coal fields, distant some 12 miles from the Burkoe field, in the district of Chindwara. Specimens from two different parts of these coal fields have been analysed; and the analysis would seem to show the newly discovered coal to possess many of the properties of the English coals. Another coal field has also been recently discovered in the Chanda District, in the bed of the river Wurdah. The quality of this coal has not yet been ascertained.

193. The Supreme Government, after considering a Report which I submitted on the Iron Works at Burwai, on the Nerbudda, in Nimar, decided that the works, plant, buildings, stock of charcoal, &c., should be advertized for sale, at an upset price of Rs. 45,000 (£4,500).

Fresh Discoveries.

Iron Works.

SECTION V.—SURVEY.

194. In Chapter II, on Land Revenue, the progress of the Professional Revenue Survey was mentioned. Three survey parties have been at work during the year, and they surveyed over 3,500 square miles. A fourth party entered the Central Provinces late in the open season, and broke ground in the lower valley of the Wurdah.

195. A party of the Topographical Survey has been at work in the Central Provinces for some time, and a map of a part of the Sumbulpore District, the first map founded on its survey, was completed during the year. A second Topographical Survey party entered the Central Provinces, and broke ground in the Upper Godavery District during the year. These two parties will, in the course of a few years, survey and delineate the whole country between the Godavery and the valley of the Soane near Mirzapore, comprising some of the least known and the wildest tracts in India.

196. The Geological Survey of the Nerbudda Valley has been mentioned in my previous Report. A party of the Geological Survey of India is now about to enter

Professional Revenue Survey.

Topographical Survey.

Geological Survey.

these Provinces, and commence on the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills.

197. Inasmuch as surveys and topographical information have been among the desiderata of these Provinces, it may be well to note the results which, in this respect, have been accomplished of late years. The statement may be given as follows :—

	<i>Square Miles Surveyed.</i>		
By Professional Revenue Survey	26,000
By Topographical Survey	11,000
Total ..			<u>37,000</u>

198. It may, therefore, be said that all the cultivated parts of these Provinces, excepting only some of the open country of Chutteesgurh, have been surveyed and delineated in the most complete manner. Results hitherto attained by these surveys. There remain only the Sautpoora Hills and the wild valleys at their feet, the wild tracts of Northern and Eastern Chutteesgurh, and the valleys of the Mahanuddy and the Godavery. The survey of these tracts, and of the few portions of open country which have yet to be surveyed, is being rapidly pressed on; and through the six Survey parties, who are surveying and mapping from eight to nine thousand square miles a year, the survey of the Central Provinces will, before long, be an accomplished fact. In this matter, the administration of these Provinces is much indebted to the cordial co-operation of Colonel H. L. Thuillier, the Surveyor General of India.

SECTION VI.—FAIRS.

199. The importance of the Fairs in this tract of India has been explained in my previous Reports.

200. There were 67 Fairs of more or less consequence held during the year in different parts of these Provinces. From statistics taken on the spot, it is estimated that the aggregate value of property of all kinds brought to these fairs was Rs. 75,63,765 (about three-quarters of a million sterling), of which Rs. 52,12,310 worth (above half a million sterling) were sold. These sales comprised European piece-goods and other European articles, to the value of Rs. 12,96,325 (£129,632); country manufactured articles worth Rs. 15,29,420 (£152,942); horses, mostly small ponies, Rs. 31,933 (£3,193); other cattle and Sheep Rs. 9,61,734 (£96,173); other miscellaneous articles Rs. 13,92,898 (£139,290).

201. The number of persons attending these fairs, coming from all parts of India, is estimated at 1,443,290. At some fairs, there are very large gatherings.

202. In my last Report I mentioned that some of these fairs held in spring and summer months were annually visited by cholera, and that it was a question whether fairs at that particular season should not be discouraged. This question still engages attention.

SECTION VII.—TRADE STATISTICS.

203. In my previous Reports I described the elaborate plan adopted for registering Trade Statistics in these Provinces and the routes taken by the traffic. The system of registration has been much improved during the year under review, and these very important Returns are becoming more and more accurate.

204. The external trade of the Central Provinces is given thus in the Return :—

Imports 68,751 tons, valued at Rs. 3,18,55,535 (£3,185,553); Exports 77,771 tons, valued at Rs. 2,37,99,264 (£2,379,926); or the total exterior trade, including imports and exports, 146,522 tons, valued at Rs. 5,56,54,799 (£5,565,480);—the principal articles of traffic being as follows :—

	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Cotton	42,983	9,16,948	374,855	94,91,170
Sugar	166,181	19,92,930	52,120	5,85,047
Salt	764,398	41,24,262	67,839	3,64,863
Grain	157,492	4,76,859	939,538	21,51,327
Oil-seeds	31,691	1,05,581	15,729	48,003
Metals and Hardware	282,770	1,15,61,359	53,598	22,67,283
English Piece-goods	58,496	56,86,495	8,382	12,41,511
Miscellaneous European goods	19,316	14,00,748	3,752	1,10,474
Country cloth	11,499	6,32,642	54,277	44,19,699
Silk and Silk Cocoons	1,205	8,57,034	620	1,68,389
Horses, Cattle, and Sheep .. .. .	...	6,49,104	...	3,84,655
Cocoanuts	45,590	4,31,834	11,498	1,19,288

These imports and exports may again be divisible into,—(1) trade with Northern India generally, 66,579 tons, valued at Rs. 1,88,53,485 (£1,885,349); (2) trade with Bombay, Berar, and Western India generally, 54,127 tons, valued at Rs. 3,41,83,754 (£3,418,375); (3) trade with the Southern Madras country, and Hyderabad (Deccan) 1,843 tons, valued at Rs. 3,19,359 (£31,936); and (4) trade with Eastern Coast

Districts, Cuttack, and South-Western Frontier States of Bengal 23,973 tons, valued at Rs. 22,98,201 (£229,820). Altogether there has been some increase in the trade, in both imports and exports, compared with last year, due partly to the inclusion in the Returns of the trade of the Nimar District for the first time this year, and partly to real increase.

205. No attempt has been made to register bullion imports into these territories. As the Returns stand, the imports exceed the exports by about a million sterling; thus seeming *prima facie* to show that a large unliquidated demand was pressing against these Provinces at the close of the year, or that bullion to that extent had been exported; whereas, it is well known that this country imports bullion to a large extent in return for its exports in kind. To reconcile the Returns then with the real facts of the year, it will be necessary to exclude the imports of Railway material which has been registered at Nimar to the extent of 11,877 tons, valued at £1,179,228; this would make the exports in excess of the imports by £373,601; leaving so much of bullion to be imported to balance the trade.

SECTION VIII.—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

206. In my last Report I said there then were 18 Dispensaries and 12 Branch Dispensaries at work in all these Provinces. During the year under review, five Branch Dispensaries have been added to the number,—making 17 Branch Dispensaries. The total then stands thus:—

Dispensaries..	..	..	18
Branch Dispensaries ..	..	..	17
			—
		TOTAL ..	35
			—

207. The inhabitants of the large towns generally have shown a desire to subscribe liberally towards the establishment of these branch Institutions; and wherever the prescribed quota of private support has been subscribed, whether towards the erection of the necessary building, or the maintenance of the medical establishments, a corresponding amount of aid from the State has been assured to the people. On this understanding there were, before the year closed, other Branch Dispensaries beside those above-mentioned, either being built, or about being commenced; so that we may hope, during the current and next few years, to see these useful Institutions largely multiplied.

208. During the year 81,934 patients were treated, or, excluding Nimar, which district did not appear in last year's Returns, 78,080 patients; being an increase of 33 per cent. over the number treated in 1863, and 85 per cent over the number treated in 1862. In other words, the

number of persons applying for treatment at our Dispensaries had almost doubled in two years. There were also 92 Capital and 2,301 Minor operations performed during the year.

209. The total cost of these Institutions during 1864 amounted to Rs. 41,958 (£4,196). When the year closed, the various Committees had Rs. 22,901 in hand, of which Rs. 9,354 were invested at interest.

Total cost of Dispensaries during the year.

Of the total receipts during the year—Rs 63,919—Rs. 22,503, or 46 per cent., were granted by Government; Rs. 2,728 were voted by the Municipal Committees from Local Funds; Rs. 789 accrued from interest on invested capital; and Rs. 10,963 were raised by private subscriptions,—58 per cent. being contributed by Natives. The income from private subscriptions showed an increase of 35 per cent. on last year.

210. In my last Report I stated that a scheme of vaccination, or what is known as the Kumaon system, was about being introduced. Accordingly, in December 1864, systematic operations commenced at Nagpore under the Superintendent, Dr. Brake. A good beginning was made. The number vaccinated up to 30th April last being 5,085, of which 3,351 cases were successful, 1,161 failed, and 573 result unknown.

211. During the year, the Lunatic Asylum mentioned in my last Report was opened at Nagpore; and 32 Lunatics, who had heretofore been confined in the several Jails, were called in and admitted for treatment at this Institution. Additional accommodation has been added to the Asylum for the reception of female patients. A similar Institution is being opened at Jubbulpore.

Lunatic Asylum.

212. A Leper Asylum has also been opened at Nagpore during the year: it affords accommodation for 20 Lepers.

Leper Asylum at Nagpore.

SECTION IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENT.

213. During the year 1864-65, a registration of deaths, and the causes of deaths, was begun in some of the chief towns and in a few limited agricultural tracts of the Central Provinces. Since the end of the year, the registering Agency has improved; and there seems hope that fairly reliable vital statistics of our urban population will be procured.

214. During the year 1864-65, epidemic cholera visited every district of the Central Provinces, in a more or less severe form. Some districts were visited twice during the 12 months. The course of the epidemic was closely watched in several districts; in Saugor and Chanda, the diagrams showing the direction in which the disease travelled were particularly clear, but no practical inferences were usually deducible from the observations recorded.

Cholera.

215. The course of the malady in the districts which lie below the northern and southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills was traceable to a particular source. Its appearance among Pilgrims, Cholera in these districts broke out in February. It appeared first on certain lines of road, whereby pilgrims returned to their homes in the Deccan, or in Malwa, after visiting the shrine of Mahadeo on the Puchmurree Hills. The epidemic had broken out among pilgrims at this Fair; and in every town or village on the Puchmurree Hills where cholera appeared, it was ascertained that the first victims had been returning pilgrims. In the interest, therefore, of the public safety, the holding of this Fair in future years at the spring season, when cholera usually appears, has been prohibited.

216. Attention was also directed during the year to the mortality among travellers on the Eastern Road, running from Nagpore to Sumbulpore and Orissa. It was also observed that, in certain parts of Chutteesgurh, low fever of a dangerous type was very prevalent. It appeared that neither on the Eastern Road, nor at inland villages, was there a supply of good drinking water during the hot season. Along 120 miles of road, from Raepore to Sumbulpore, there were only two wells; and the only drinking water at the great majority of villages was that drawn from tanks which collected surface drainage in the rainy season. This tank water was supposed to be unwholesome. It was thought that, if inducements could be held to residents to sink wells for drinking purposes, some of the sickness peculiar to Chutteesgurh might gradually disappear. Accordingly, wells have been, or are being, dug at all halting places along the roads. Grants of land have been offered free of revenue for thirty years, to persons who sink wells for drinking purposes.

217. In order to give professional support to the efforts which have for some time been made for the conservancy of towns all over these Provinces, the Medical Officer of each district has been appointed the *ex-officio* Sanitary Officer of the Local and Municipal Committees. He makes the conservancy and sanitation of the chief town of the district his special care, and he advises the Civil Authorities on all sanitary points which may arise in outlying towns. Sanitary Sub-Committees are also appointed by all the principal Local Committees. A set of brief practical sanitary suggestions has also been furnished to the principal landholders, which will by degrees be brought into practice.

218. It is worthy of remark that, although cholera was so general, yet the number of deaths was not so great as might have been apprehended, and the proportion of persons attacked, to the total population in towns which the epidemic visited, was not large. It may be that the cholera of 1865 was not of a virulent type; but the comparative lightness of the visitation may, perhaps, be partly attributable to improved sanitary arrangements and precautions at the chief centres of population.

SECTION X.—IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREED OF HORNED CATTLE, HORSES, AND SHEEP.

219. In my last Report I stated what measures were in progress for the improvement of the breed of horned cattle in these Provinces.

220. Some 19 bulls have been obtained from the Hissar Government Farm. In 1863, some 12 bulls from Nellore in the Madras Presidency were imported into the Saugor District. During the year under report another batch of 24 young bulls from the same place has arrived. These latter were selected by Mr. Dyke, the Collector, who describes them as "a fine lot, and one of the very best breed we have got." They cost Rs. 5,070 (£107), besides the expense of bringing up here.

221. Cattle breeding is carried on all over the Provinces. The Indigenious breed of Cattle breed in the hills on the southern face of the Sautpoora Range, near Chindwara, is perhaps the most beautiful of any of our indigenious breeds, and is in high esteem for light and speedy draught. But the breed along the valley of the Wurdah, corresponding with that in Berar, is much prized for bone and endurance. These two breeds, for the most part, supply the Nagpore bullocks, so well known for their speed.

222. Sheep breeding is also carried on in most districts. Prizes have been offered, and competed for, at several of the annual Fairs for the best flock of sheep exhibited, and encouragement of this nature will be continued to be given to breeders. A model sheep farm, moreover, has been established at Dumoh by the municipality, where crossing with foreign breeds has attained to some success. A similar farm is about to be established in the Nagpore District.

223. A good commencement has been made during the year, in the purchase of stallions for improving the breed of horses. Of the 10 stallions sanctioned for these Provinces, 9 have been purchased at a cost of Rs. 8,480 (£848), and distributed among the various districts.

224. The Khedda, or Elephant catching operations in the hills bordering our extreme North-Eastern Frontier in Chutteesgurrh commenced only in March 1865. Some success has been attained, and a few Elephants have already been taken.

SECTION XI.—FORESTS.

225. The general character of the Forests in these Provinces—their vast extent and importance—the chief sorts of timber which they contain—have been described in my previous Reports. This Report will treat only of their management and conservation.

226. In my last Report it was mentioned that a set of Forest Rules had been drawn up. This Forest Code, having received the sanction of the Supreme Government, has been published in the *Gazette of India*. The rules now possess the force of Law under the Indian Forest Act.

Code of Forest Laws.

227. I will now briefly describe the changed organization of the Forest Department; and will advert to the chief measures of Forest conservancy which had been undertaken during the year.

Change in organization of Forest Department.

228. The Forests are either,—1, private property declared, on enquiry, to belong to individuals; or 2, Government property declared, on enquiry, to belong to the State.

Two kinds of Forest Lands.

229. All Government Forests have been divided into two classes, *viz.* "Reserved" and "Unreserved." Reserved Forests are selected tracts which, either from their productive powers, or from the superior quality of their timber, or from their proximity to centres of trade, or from other natural advantages, will best repay careful and thorough conservation.

Two classes of Government Forests.

230. There are in all 29 "Reserves" in various parts of the country, and their aggregate area amounts to 2,880 square miles. All other Government Forests, and all Government wastes bearing firewood, or yielding any Forest products, are classed as "Unreserved" Forests.

"Reserved" Government Forests.

231. The area of the "Unreserved" Forests cannot be stated. It may be approximately set down at about 11,000 square miles.

"Unreserved" Government Forests.

232. Similarly, the precise area of the timber-bearing tracts belonging to private individuals cannot yet be stated. But it can hardly be less than 10,000 square miles. Also, on the lands of the Feudatories described in Chapter IX. of this Report, there are extensive timber-bearing tracts.

Private Forests.

233. As described in paragraphs 344 and 345 of my last Report, the "Reserves" are under the exclusive control of the Officers of the Forest Department, and are being gradually brought under all the processes of the professional forestry. The enforcement of Conservancy Laws in Unreserved Forests is entrusted to the Civil Authorities, the main object being to prevent the wasteful felling of any timber, and the felling at all of a few superior kinds of timber, except under special authority; and to realize a sufficient Forest revenue without pressing unduly upon the consumers of Forest produce. These objects are now being gradually attained. To aid the Civil Authorities in this work, *trained* Subordinates (generally Natives) are supplied by the Forest Department. Among other results,

Conservancy in "Reserved" and "Unreserved" Forests.

that portion of the Forest dues which is collected by the Civil Authorities, rose 150 per cent. during the first season of the new system.

234. All the Government Forest tracts in these Provinces are under the supervision of an Officer, styled the **Administrative Divisions.** Conservator of Forests. These tracts have further been parcelled into six main Divisions; and to the charge of each Division an Assistant Conservator has been appointed. Each Assistant Conservator has full Executive charge of all "Reserved" Forests in his Division. There also devolves on him the duty of inspecting all Unreserved Forests in his Division; of advising the Civil Authorities on matters of Forest detail; of granting and watching the operation of all licenses to fell timber on a large scale; and of conducting or directing all thinning operations.

235. The most noticeable feature in the system, is the placing of the Unreserved Government Forests under the ordinary Civil Authorities, and not directly under the Forest Department. By these means, **Advantages of the new system.** three particular objects are attained. *First*, the power and influence of the Civil Authorities, who are on the spot, is brought to bear on these scattered Forests, which, from their extent, would be practically beyond the control of any single Department. *Second*, as the Civil Authorities best understand the wants of the people, these Forest tracts, from which the mass of the population chiefly draw their supplies, will be administered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the public; and thus all chance of misunderstanding between the State and its subjects, and of complaint or discontent arising, is obviated. *Third*, the Departmental and Professional assistance of the Forest Officers is not lost. For though the Forest Officers in *these* particular Forests are not the Executives, still they are the Inspectors and advisers;—their inspection serves as a check on the Civil Authorities, and their advice ensures the work being done in a skilful and intelligent manner.

236. The operations of the Forest Department during the year may be thus summarized. All the "Reserves," **Summary of operations.** except two, have been examined and reported on, and their boundaries have been decided; 13 "Reserves" have been marked off from the surrounding wastes by permanent land-marks; timber trees for next year's felling have been marked. Arrangements for registering the growth of all our chief kinds of timber have been completed. Rs. 1,15,521 worth of dead Teak and Sál wood, either lying cut or standing where it died, has been brought out of the Forests; 6,645 logs and 76,024 sleepers have been supplied to the several Railways; Rs. 10,200 worth of timber have been supplied to the Public Works Department. The thinning of young Teak Forests has begun, and many thousands of Teak saplings have been sold to meet local requirements. A regular system of leasing the usufruct of miscellaneous produce in "Unreserved" Forests has been introduced.

237. The financial result of Forest operations during the year 1864-65 may be thus shown:—
Financial Result.

CREDITOR.		DEBTOR.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Income of the year ..	89,306	Stock in hand at beginning of year	56,581
Stock in hand at end of year	80,433	Outstanding debts due to Forest Department at the beginning of the year	15,536
Outstanding realizable debts due to Forest Department at the end of the year	1,08,016	Expenditure of Forest Department during the year	97,556
		Balance in favor of Forest Department ..	1,08,082
TOTAL, ..	2,77,755	TOTAL, ..	2,77,755
	£27,775		£27,775

Thus, reckoning stock in hand and realizable outstandings, the operations of the year show a surplus of Rs. 1,08,082 (£10,808) after the repayment of its current charges, amounting to Rs. 97,556 (£9,755). Several large deliveries of timber to Railway Companies and Contractors took place towards the end of the year, and thus it occurred that more than Rs. 1,00,000 (£10,000) of one year's revenue were outstanding at the end of the year.

238. The expansion of the State Income from Forests may be estimated from the following Return :—

Forest Revenues.		*Rs.	£
	1860-61	45,812	4,581
	1861-62	64,302	6,430
Forest Income of.. .. .	1862-63	53,169	5,317
	1863-64	77,539	7,754
	1864-65	89,306	8,930
Forest Income of (regular Estimate* by Accountant General) ..	1865-66	1,91,000	19,100
Forest Income of (Estimate by Conservator)	1866-67	1,99,327	19,933

* These Estimates are fully reliable; that for 1865-66 is based upon the Actuals of five months, and there is very good reason for accepting the Conservator's Estimate for 1866-67.

239. Considering, indeed, how large a portion of these Provinces is covered with trees and brushwood, and how light is the land revenue in the inhabited tracts, I anticipate such an increase in future years to our Forest income, as shall render it a considerable item in the general revenues.

CHAPTER XII.

CONCLUSION.

240. It remains for me to acknowledge the assistance ~~especially~~ rendered by individual Officers to this Administration during the year.

241. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has made persistent and, as I hope, successful efforts to enforce a strict and intelligent observance of the Laws and Rules on the part of all the Courts to secure the work being thoroughly done, as well as efficiently despatched; and to maintain a good professional standard among the Civil Officers generally. He has also officiated as Chief Commissioner during my six months' absence.

242. My best acknowledgments are due to Mr. C. Bernard, the Secretary, for the aid he has rendered in all Civil Departments, and for the zeal and ability which he has brought to bear on his work. I have also to record my strong sense of the services rendered by ~~Mr. H. Rivett-Carnes~~ and Mr. F. Wyllie, who served as Assistant Secretaries during the year.

243. Mr. J. H. Morris, as Settlement Commissioner, by his effective and judicious superintendence of his very important Department, has rendered valuable service both to Government and to the people. Among the Divisional Commissioners, Mr. R. E. Egerton and Captain H. Mackenzie have done much to render the Administration in all branches effective and popular within the extensive circles of country entrusted to their superintendence.

244. Among the Deputy Commissioners, the merits of Captain W. Numbhard and Mr. A. O. Lyall are attested by their having been selected to act in the capacity of Commissioners. Of the other Deputy Commissioners, Mr. W. M. Low has done quite the best, and has held successfully a difficult charge. After him, I consider the following Deputy Commissioners to have done particularly well :—

Lieut.-Colonel J. N. H. Maclean.	|	Captain H. F. Newmarch.
Captain F. A. Fenton.		Mr. J. W. Chisholm.

The following Deputy Commissioners have also done well :—

Major J. B. Dennys.	|	Captain C. L. R. Glasford.
Captain C. B. L. Smith.		Captain C. Baldwin.
Captain A. B. Cumberlege.		

245. Among the Assistant Commissioners, I have specially to mention :—

Captain J. Loch.	|	Lieutenant J. W. Macdougall.
Lieutenant M. M. Bowie.	|	Lieutenant J. A. Temple.
Lieutenant H. J. Lugard.	|	Lieutenant A. Bloomfield.

246. Major F. L. Magniac and Mr. F. Macnaghten have continued to efficiently perform the duties of their respective Courts of Small Causes. Captain E. M. Playfair has despatched satisfactorily the work pertaining to the Cantonment Magistracy of the very large station of Kamptee.

247. Of the Settlement Officers, Mr. C. A. Elliott and Mr. C. Grant have done remarkably well. The manner in which they took up the threads of long pending settlements, and brought the operations to a close satisfactorily to all concerned, merits the highest commendations.

The following Settlement Officers have also proved highly efficient :—

Mr. W. Ramsay.	|	Mr. J. Hewitt.
Captain W. B. Thomson.	|	Mr. A. M. Russell.
Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carn&c.	|	Mr. H. Read.
Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	|	

248. Among the Extra-Assistants, the following have been very useful:

Mr W. Munton.	|	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Mr. W. A. Nedham.	|	Sheo Pershad.

249. Of the Tehseeldars, or Sub-Collectors, the following have done the best:—

Enayet Hoossein (Hinghunnhat), Bhaskur Rao (Nagpore), Dinkur Rao (Bhundara), Kesho Sheoram (Kampta), Nehal Chund (Gururwarra).

250. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Office of the Secretary to Chief Commissioner, have been most useful. Commendation is also due to Mr. J. S. Hannagan and Mr. W. A. Russell, the Head Clerks of the Offices of the Commissioners in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Mr. T. Drysdale, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office has been specially commended. This Officer has also acted efficiently as Judge of the Small Cause Court at Nagpore.

251. In the Police Department, the Inspector General, Colonel H. D. Taylor, has rendered great service to these Provinces, by bringing all his Subordinates into proper relation with the Magistrates, and by striving to render the Force efficient for all public purposes and acceptable to the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to him, the following are selected for special commendation :—

Captain F. G. Steuart.	|	Captain T. A. Scott.
Captain C. S. B. Walton.		Lieutenant W. Vertue.
Captain S. S. Sutherland.		Lieutenant H. A. Hammond.
Mr. J. M. Berrill.		Devee Pershad.
Mr. M. P. Hauken.		

Inspectors.

Mr. A. Collis.	|	Sheik Mahomed Booden.
Mr. A. Wrixon.		

To this list, I would add the name of Captain W. F. Ireland, who died of epidemic disease, contracted while in the zealous execution of his duty.

252. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Doctor R. T. Abbott, has supervised these Departments in a highly satisfactory manner.

253. In the Educational Department, Mr. C. A. R. Browning acted as Director with marked zeal and aptitude; Lieutenant G. H. Trevor has been highly successful as Inspector of the Northern Circle. Among the Masters of Schools, Mr. J. J. Fraser and Mr. J. Elliott are deserving of praise.

254. In the Account Department, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, has conducted the business very efficiently, and promoted many useful reforms.

255. In the Public Works Department, the Office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner was held by Colonel C. H. Dickens, with high professional efficiency, and with the best practical effect on the progress of the works in hand. Colonel W. Maxwell has succeeded Colonel Dickens; and though joining his post late in the year, has already been the means of doing much good.

Major J. Stoddard, as Superintending Engineer of the Godavery Works, has rendered excellent service. Acknowledgments are due to Mr. A. G. Crommelin, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and Superintendent of Works.

256. Among the Executive Engineers, I would select the following for special mention for the good progress of their works :—

Mr. J. H. Heyman.	|	Lieutenant Roberts.
Mr. Isaac.		Lieutenant Montgomerie.
Mr. J. O. Donnell.		Mr. deGronsilliers.
Lieutenant Marryatt.		

Among the Assistant Engineers, there are four Officers who really have done more than ordinarily well, and evinced high promise of future usefulness :—

Mr. J. H. Wilson.	|	Mr. H. Bell.
Mr. F. L. O'Callaghan.		Mr. F. Johnson.

Among the Assistants, I must also mention Mr J. Whiting, who, as practical Executive, is not surpassed by any Officer in the Department

257. I cannot conclude this mention of the Officers of the Public Works Department without noting that Captain Haig has been compelled by ill health temporarily to relinquish the charge of the Godavery Works. While in charge he showed high professional qualifications, and a remarkable devotion to the interests of the project entrusted to his care.

258 In the Railway Department, Lieut-Colonel Drummond Bengal Engineers, and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Bombay Engineers have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with that Department.

259 In the Forest Department, Lieutenant J. Forsyth has very efficiently performed the duties of Conservator during the year. Under him Lieutenant J. C. Doveton and Mr W. Jacob have earned special distinction for their operations in the Forests.

260 The Administration in these Provinces is under great obligations to the Commissioners of Customs, Mr W. E. Money, and to Mr F. W. Vere, Deputy Commissioner for their excellent supervision.

261. Among the Officers engaged in laying down the new Lines under urgent and trying circumstances, Mr. T. A. Martin and Mr H. Ives have shown praise worthy zeal

262 In the Professional Survey, Colonel Saxton, Captain A. D. Vanrenan, Lieutenant J. Sconce, Lieutenant J. W. Taylor, Mr J. Mulheran, have ably executed a large amount of useful work.

263 Among the Medical Officers, the following Officers have distinguished themselves by professional zeal and usefulness:—

Doctor W. W. Haude.	Doctor J. Blake
Doctor S. C. Townsend.	Doctor W. R. Grylls.
Doctor W. R. Rice.	Mr G. Low
Doctor J. Law.	Mr. W. Thomas.
Doctor P. Cullen.	

264 At the conclusion of my last Report it was said that our Officers had, as a body, worked hard, though they had still much to learn, and that the foundation of improvement had been laid. Another year has passed, and our Officers have worked quite as hard as, perhaps even harder than ever. I trust that they are learning more and more of their multifarious duties; and that gradually some sort of superstructure of progress and reform is being raised up.

NAGPORE :
The 30th November 1865. }

R. TEMPLE.

Abstract Statement of Receipts and Disbursement of th

RECEIPTS.		Received during the year 1864-65.	TOTAL.	
		Rupees.	Rupees	
	CASH BALANCE .. ..	..	36,56,25	A.—
I.	Land Revenue. {	58,83,275		B.—
	1.—Land Revenue .. ..	..	
	2.—Forests	63,619		
	3.—Abkarree	9,30,938		
II.	Assessed Taxes 1.—Income Tax	2,85,433		
III.	Customs	89,305		
IV.	Salt	14,30,586		
V.	Opium .. ..	..	
VI.	Stamps .. ..	..	
VII.	Mint	4,96,815		
VIII.	Post Office .. ..	..	
IX.	Electric Telegraph { <i>Vide XIX</i> } .. ..	..	
X.	Law and Justice	1,48,530		
XI.	Police	26,837		
XII.	Mutine .. ..	..	
XIII.	Public Works .. ..	..	
XIV.	Tributes and Contributions on account of Contingent from Native States	792		
XV.	Miscellaneous	24,791	93,80,91	
XVI.	INTEREST :—			
	1.—On Imperial Loans .. ..	..		C.—
	2.—On Local Loans (over-payments recovered) .. ..	..		D.—
	3.—On Advances to Service Funds .. ..	..		E.—
	4.—On other Accounts .. ..	..		F.—
XVII.	PUBLIC DEBT :—			
	1.—Public Loans, Imperial .. ..	..	
	2.—Local Loans .. ..	..	
	3.—Local Taxes .. ..	..	
	4.—Service Funds (Police Superannuation Fund)	36,941		
	5.—Local Funds	13,78,512		
	6.—Deposits	15,84,545		
	7.—Sale of Waste Lands	15,092		
	8.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)	3,55,029		
	9.—Railway Traffic Account .. ..	..	
	10.—Local Remittances—			
	Cash received	43,51,754		
	bills drawn	11,18,261		
	Public Works Department	1,39,459	94,79,59	
XVIII.	ADJUSTED RECEIPTS :—			G.—
	1.—On account of other Governments .. ..	..	
	2.—On account of other Provinces .. ..	..	
XIX.	Remittances from other Governments .. ..	..	57,97,40	H.—
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA			
	Postal Department	1,04,516		
	Electric Telegraph Department	10,845	1,15,36	
	GRAND TOTAL Rs. ..		2,83,59,3	I.—
				J.—

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS GENERAL'S OFFICE,
CENTRAL PROVINCES :
Nagpur, the 10th August 1865.

in Central Provinces for the year 1864-65.

DISBURSEMENTS.	Payments during the year 1864-65.	TOTAL.
	Rupees.	Rupees.
Allowances, Refunds and Drawback ..	15,190	
CHARGES AGAINST INCOME :—		
I.—REVENUE DEPARTMENTS—		
1.—Land Revenue, Forest and Abkaree ..	14,61,390	
2.—Assessed Taxes	394	
3.—Customs	2,44,139	
4.—Salt .. .. .	.. .. .
5.—Opium	105	
6.—Stamps	20,320	
7.—Mint .. .. .	.. .. .
8.—Post Office .. .. .	.. .. .
9.—Electric Telegraph .. .. .	.. .. .
TOTAL	17,26,048	
II.—Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements	10,06,300	
III.—Allowances to District and Village Officers	91,667	
IV.—Miscellaneous	33,286	
V.—Contingencies, special and temporary .. .. .	.. .. .
TOTAL	11,31,253	
TOTAL	28,57,301	
Army .. .. .	.. .. .
Navy .. .. .	.. .. .
Works of Internal improvement and Public convenience .. .. .	.. .. .
CIVIL SERVICES :—		
I.—Civil Buildings .. .. .	.. .. .
II.—Salaries and Expenses of Public Departments	2,89,304	
III.—Law and Justice	7,90,072	
IV.—Police	11,42,327	
V.—Education, Science, and Art	1,47,890	
VI.—Political Agencies and other Foreign Services	538	
VII.—Superannuation and Retired Allowances and Gratuities for charitable purposes	2,75,697	
VIII.—Marine .. .. .	.. .. .
IX.—Miscellaneous	75,102	
X.—Civil Contingencies, special and temporary .. .. .	.. .. .
TOTAL	27,20,930	
TOTAL A. to F. .. .. .	.. .. .	55,93,421
INTEREST :—		
I.—On Imperial Loans .. .. .	.. .. .
II.—On Local Loans .. .. .	.. .. .
III.—On Service Funds .. .. .	.. .. .
IV.—On other Accounts .. .. .	.. .. .
PUBLIC DEBT :—		
I.—Imperial Loans under liquidation and transfer .. .. .	.. .. .
II.—Local Loans under liquidation .. .. .	.. .. .
III.—Service Funds	978	
IV.—Local Funds	13,79,396	
V.—Deposits	17,91,843	
VI.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)	3,50,270	
VII.—Railway Traffic Account .. .. .	.. .. .
VIII.—Local Remittances—		
Cash remitted	48,09,390	
Bills paid	11,42,396	
Public Works Department	31,52,158	
		1,16,26,226
ADJUSTED CHARGES :—		
I.—On account of other Governments .. .. .	.. .. .	32,604
II.—On account of Provinces .. .. .	.. .. .	73,20,415
Remittances to other Governments .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.		
Postal Department	1,63,612	
Electric Telegraph Department	40,520	
		3,04,132
Total Rs. .. .. .	.. .. .	247,76,798
Cash Balance .. .. .	.. .. .	35,82,725
GRAND TOTAL Rs. .. .. .	.. .. .	2,83,59,523

WEBSTER BISS,
Deputy Accountant General,
Central Provinces.

