

B. R. R. No 1003 of 1938

GOVERNMENT OF THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

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THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES  
AND BERAR

1936-37

A Review of the  
Administration of  
the Province

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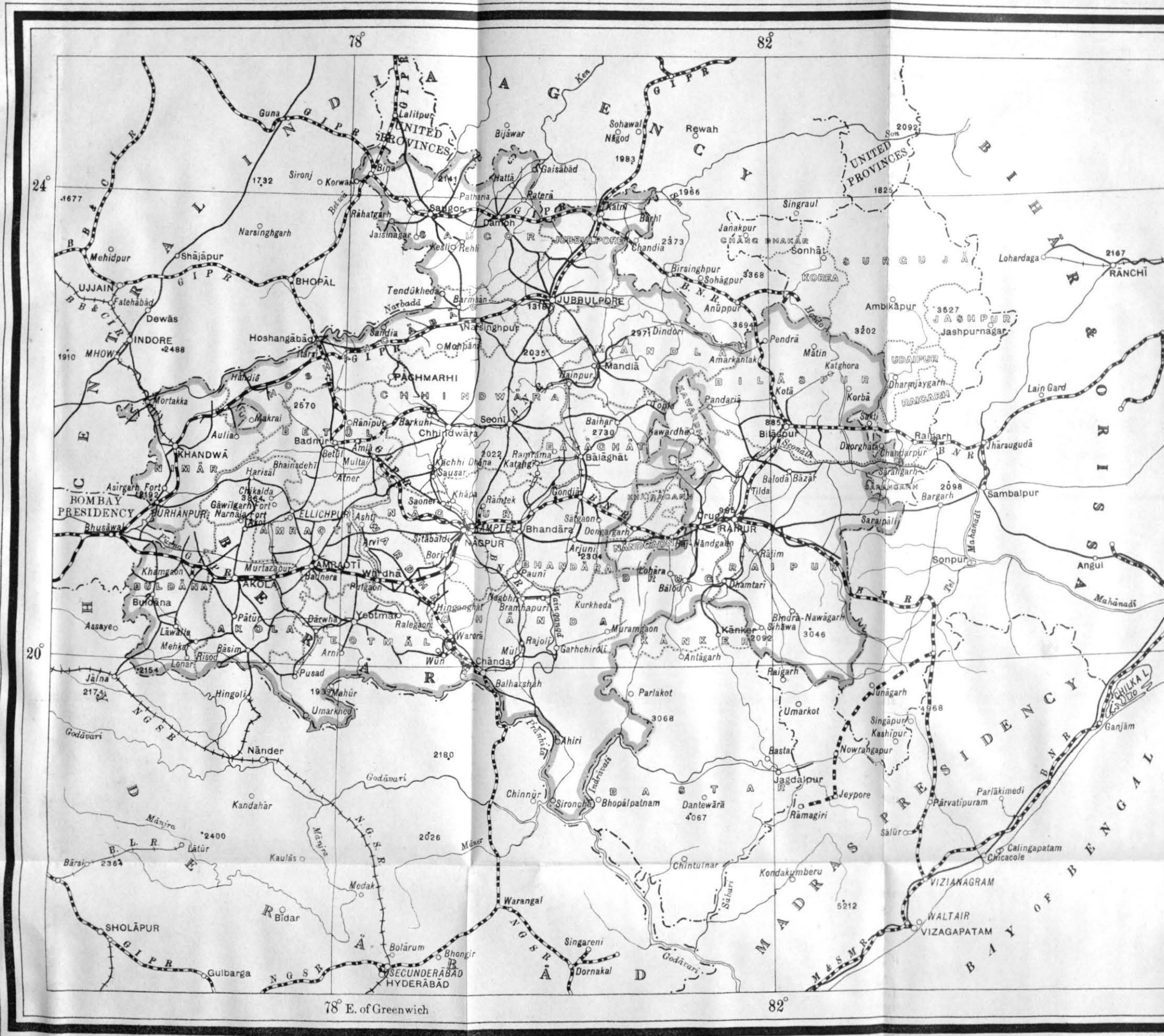
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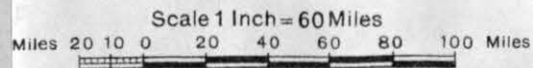
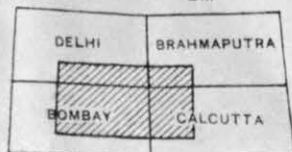




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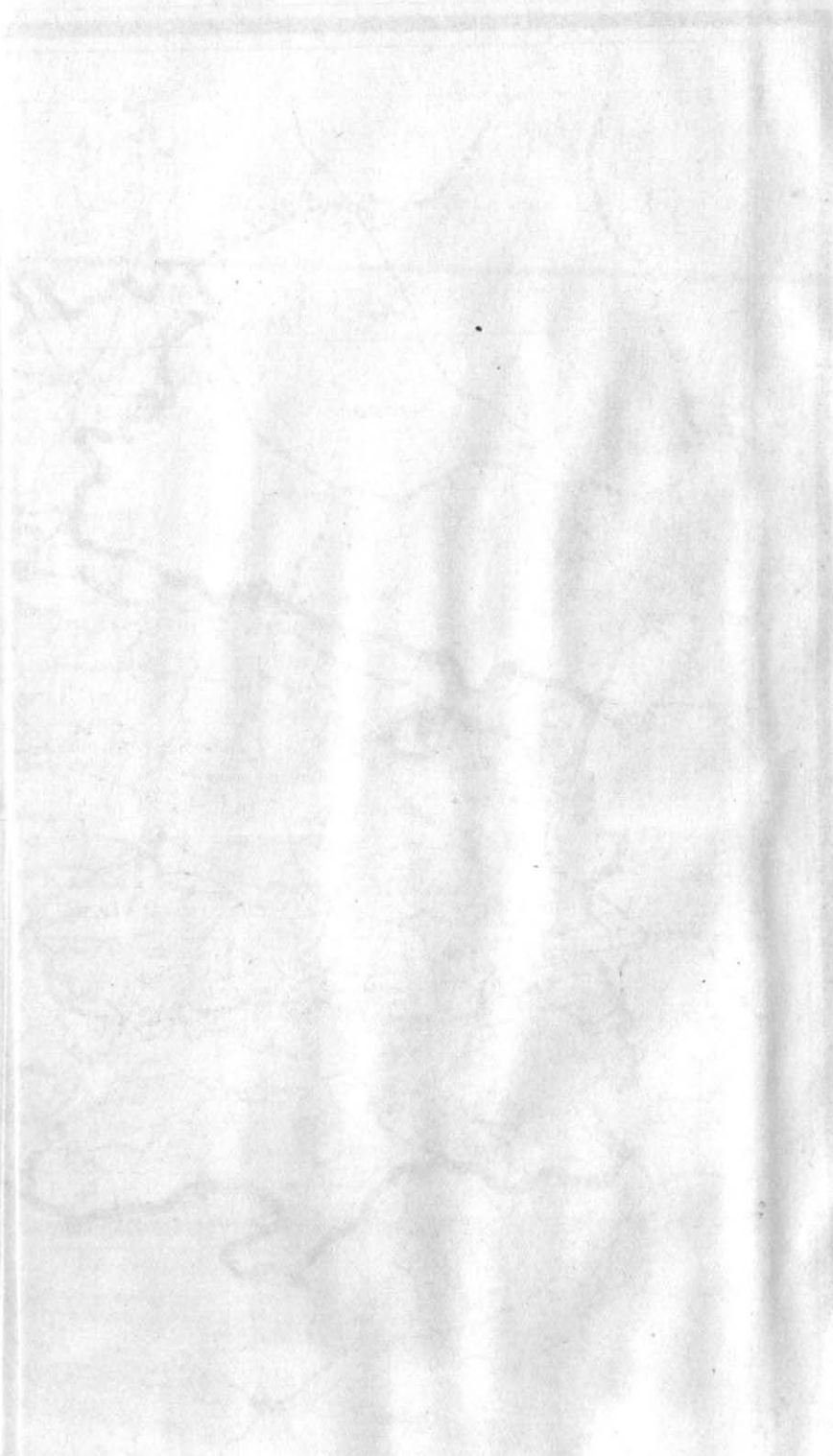
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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR 1936-37

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## 1.—The Political situation and the Provincial Government

The year was one of the greatest political importance in the history of the province. The inauguration of the new constitution overshadowed and shaped the course of all forms of political activity. The year opened with a gradually increasing crescendo of electioneering fervour. The Congress, while it had not as yet determined its attitude towards Provincial Autonomy, decided to use the ballot box to demonstrate the strength of its hold on the masses. Elections began in February and were keenly contested. From the outset it was clear that Congress was going to be returned in a majority greatly in excess of the most optimistic forecasts. Its superior organization and vast army of workers who penetrated into the remotest villages enabled it to capture 70 out of the 112 seats in the Provincial Legislative Assembly. The percentage of votes polled in all classes of constituencies taken together was 61.4 for men and 24.4 for women. The number of women who exercised their franchise was considerably lower than that of men, the lowest being in the General Urban Constituency where only 5.5 per cent of them went to the poll. The following were the percentages of votes polled in the various constituencies: General 55.3, Muhammadan 66.1, Women's 52.1, Backward tribes 55.1, Commerce 85.1, Landholders 73.1, Labour 70, Anglo-Indian 66.3, and University 95.5.

2. Though by the end of February, the Congress as a party had won the elections in overwhelming fashion in this and five other provinces, the All-India Congress Committee had not as yet made up its mind on the important question of office acceptance. The next few weeks saw the question eagerly canvassed from local party headquarters, the public platform and the press. Gradually it emerged that opinion was hardening in favour of a conditional acceptance of office.

Exception was taken to what seemed the unrestricted special powers of the Governors under the Government of India Act; and it was decided to demand an assurance from Governors regarding the use of these powers.

3. The propriety of this demand was again discussed in the press and from the platform throughout India. A statement by the Secretary of State for India, followed by a statement by the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Butler, and a further statement by the Secretary of State paved the way for a better understanding. The position, however, remained critical until the issue of the Viceroy's comprehensive and sympathetic message which obviously relaxed the tension which had been all too apparent in the past months.

4. The Coronation celebrations in May were more widespread than was expected. In some places non-official committees displayed a good deal of enthusiasm, though certain local bodies passed resolutions not to participate in the celebrations, at the same time making it clear that no discourtesy to His Majesty the King was intended.

5. Guided by the statesmanship of Mr. Gandhi, the All-India Congress Committee came to the conclusion that the Viceroy's message embodied an assurance sufficiently near the spirit of their demand to enable them to take on the 7th of July at Wardha the momentous decision to accept office.

6. Consequent on the Wardha decision, interest was again transferred from the Congress centre to the more immediate affairs of the province. The formation on the 14th of July of a popular Ministry was welcomed throughout the province. The Ministry announced its advent to power by the release of three political prisoners, the cancellation of the bonds of others, and the refund of press securities already forfeited or deposited. The first meeting of the Provincial Legislative Assembly in the last two days of July aroused much popular enthusiasm.

7. While the province evinced no little interest in the All-India agitation for the release of Andaman prisoners, political attention was subsequently diverted to the budget proposals of the new Ministry. The first budget session



commenced on the 22nd September. Though in the circumstances the policy of the new Ministry had not had time to leave its impression on the budget proposals, no cut motion was passed against Government and very few motions were pressed to a division.

8. The end of the year was marked by a revival of socialist propaganda and, to an increasingly alarming extent, of communal tension particularly in Jubbulpore. An outbreak of violence in October in Jubbulpore occasioned a hurried visit by the Prime Minister with two of his colleagues to the city, where as many as 75 people had been reported injured in the disturbances.

9. The Educational Conference held in October at Wardha claimed some portion of provincial as well as of All-India attention. The All-India Women's Conference held at Christmas time in Nagpur was likewise an event of considerable educational importance in the province.

10. There was labour unrest, in the cities, and the attention of responsible leaders was directed to the attempts that the Bombay Government were making to improve labour conditions.

11. Foreign affairs though claiming the attention of the press were on the whole submerged by the more urgent political events closely affecting the welfare of the province and of India as a whole. Undoubtedly an increased interest in foreign affairs amongst the politically conscious is apparent, and the Sino-Japanese War as well as the Spanish conflict came in for much pertinent comment from the press in the course of the year.

12. The Hon'ble Mr. (now Dr.) E. Raghavendra Rao, Bar.-at-Law, Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, continued to act as Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar till the forenoon of the 11th September 1936, on which date His Excellency Sir Hyde Clarendon Gowan, B.A. (Oxno.), K.C.S.I., C.I.E., V.D., I.C.S., J.P., Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, resumed charge of his office on return from leave of absence, whereupon the Hon'ble Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao resumed his office in the Executive

Composition of the  
Provincial Govern-  
ment, 1936-37.

Council. The Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir) Geoffrey Burton, C.I.E., I.C.S., Member of the Executive Council, resigned his office on the forenoon of the 22nd March 1937, and was appointed as Financial Commissioner, Central Provinces and Berar, from that date. Mr. H. C. Greenfield, C.I.E., I.C.S., J.P., was appointed in the vacancy as a temporary Member of the Executive Council till the afternoon of the 31st March 1937. The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Khaparde, B.A., LL.B., and the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. S. Nayudu, B.A., LL.B., Ministers, continued in office till the afternoon of the 31st March 1937. Consequent on the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy on the 1st April 1937, under the Government of India Act, 1935, a Council of four Ministers was constituted, consisting of the following members: the Hon'ble Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao, Bar.-at-Law, M.L.A., the Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Khaparde, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Wakil Ahmad Rizvi, B.A., LL.B., C.B.E., M.L.A., and the Hon'ble Mr. Dharma Rao Bhujang Rao, M.L.A., the Hon'ble Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao being the Chief Minister. Following the resolution regarding office acceptance passed at Wardha on the 7th July 1937 by the Working Committee of the Congress, the Hon'ble Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao and his colleagues in the Council of Ministers resigned their office with effect from the morning of the 14th July 1937, and on the same date a Congress ministry, consisting of the following seven members was formed :—

- The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, B.A., M.D., M.L.A.,  
Prime Minister.
- The Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla, B.A., LL.B.,  
M.L.A., Minister for Education.
- The Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, B.A., LL.B.,  
M.L.A., Minister for Local-Self-Government.
- The Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, Bar.-at-Law,  
M.L.A., Minister for Public Works.
- The Hon'ble Mr. M. Y. Shareef, M.A., LL.B.,  
Bar.-at-Law, M.L.A., Minister for Law.
- The Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A.,  
Minister for Finance.
- The Hon'ble Mr. P. B. Gole, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A.,  
Minister for Revenue.



## 2.—The Legislative Assembly and its Proceedings

*(From 1st April 1936 to 31st March 1937)*

13. During the year under report, the Fourth Legislative Council was summoned twice, once in July-August and again in November. Its term was to expire on the 15th of September 1936, but a further extension was granted taking the period over to the 31st March 1937. Thus the life of the Fourth Legislative Council was, due to the impending Constitutional reforms, extended over a period which was twice its allotted span of years. During the interval from April to July a new member, Mr. S. A. Rauf Shah, was elected in the vacancy caused by the death of Khan Sahib S. M. Rahman.

14. In spite of the unsettled political conditions there was considerable legislative activity in both the sessions held during the year under report. In this connection it will not be out of place to recall the words used by His Excellency the Governor in his farewell address in the November session. He said: "It is a severe test for any elected body to be compelled willy-nilly to remain in office beyond the period for which it has been elected, and it is greatly to your credit that through all these years you have never allowed your zeal for your work to flag."

15. Besides a large number of questions asked and resolutions tabled, 39 bills were passed in these two sessions. Nearly half the number of these bills were substantive ones dealing either with the improvement of the lot of the worker or the agriculturist. For instance, the Protection of Debtors, the Unregulated Factories, and the Reduction of Interest Acts, all seek to ameliorate the hardships suffered by the worker. The Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act compels a recalcitrant agriculturist to take remedial measures for the protection of his crops as well as those of his neighbour. The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act and the Cotton Control Act aim at the checking of malpractices of admixture of different varieties of cotton. The enactment of the Highway Act, which aims at controlling all kinds of traffic on Government roads, and the Nagpur Improvement Trust Act, show that the interest of the Legislature was not merely confined to legislation of the former type. Mention must also be made here of the Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act, which was enacted to enable the transactions of

these Banks to be governed by the provisions of Law. The remaining Acts, though amending ones, were also important in their own way.

16. Two adjournment motions were discussed, one in the July-August session and the other in the November session. The one discussed in the former session related to the manner of recovery of land revenue and taccavi dues and was carried, while the one discussed in the latter session regarding the alleged harassment of people by officials in the Buldana district in connection with the election to the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly, was withdrawn after debate. Keen interest was thus evinced in all the fields of work of the legislature till the very end.

17. The Berar Legislative Committee was also twice summoned during the year under report. In the first meeting held in August the Berar Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Draft Law was approved for being reported to the Governor-General in Council, and in the November session the Berar Agriculturists' Debt Relief Draft Law was also similarly approved. This Committee has, as a result of the constitutional changes, now ceased to exist.

### 3.—Finance

18. The budget for 1936-37 provided for a revenue of Rs. 4,81.24 lakhs and expenditure charged to revenue of Rs. 4,89.71 lakhs ; a deficit of Rs. 8.47 lakhs and a *minus* balance of Rs. 19.82 lakhs, excluding Rs. 45 lakhs the balance of the Famine Relief Fund. According to the revised estimate for that year, based upon the information available when the budget for 1937-38 was prepared, the revenue was estimated at Rs. 4,74.09 lakhs and expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 4,88.67 lakhs increasing the revenue deficit to Rs. 14.58 lakhs. The deterioration was mainly due to shrinkage in income from court fee stamps ascribed to fall in litigation, partly due to the activities of debt conciliation boards and partly to the continuance of the economic depression. A fall in forest revenue was also anticipated owing to the dullness of the market. The year actually closed with a revenue deficit of Rs. 10.53 lakhs and an overdraft of the provincial balance by Rs. 14.46 lakhs, which was covered by a loan from the Central Government. In accordance with the terms of the Central Provinces Famine Relief Fund Act, 1937, a sum of Rs. 47.35 lakhs of the deposit



in the Famine Relief Fund was invested in Government of India securities leaving a cash balance of Rs. 2.73 lakhs at credit of the fund at the end of the year.

19. The subjoined statement compares the financial results of 1936-37 with those of the preceding year :—

	Receipts		Expenditure		Net	
	1935-36	1936-37	1935-36	1936-37	1935-36	1936-37
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	lakhs	lakhs	lakhs	lakhs	lakhs	lakhs
Opening balance	..	..	..	..	+45.11	+47.80
Revenue	.. 4,60.99	4,70.72	4,76.86	4,81.25	-15.87	-10.53
Capital	..	..	7.52	12.66	-7.52	-12.66
Debt and Remittance	.. 85.63	5,60.68	59.55	5,57.56	+26.08	+3.12
Total	.. 5,46.62	10,31.40	5,43.93	10,51.47	47.80	27.73

20. The marked increase in the transactions of the year 1936-37 under Debt and Remittance over those of 1935-36 was the result of adjustments relating to cancellation and discharge of debts and decentralization of balances under the scheme of financial settlement immediately preceding the introduction of provincial autonomy. The credit to this Government on the decentralization of balances amounted to Rs. 2,07.62 lakhs, representing liabilities taken over by the Provincial Government on account of deposits of local bodies, State provident funds, etc. These deposits were of the nature of unfunded debt and after setting apart therefrom Rs. 25 lakhs for maintaining minimum cash balance at treasuries and minimum deposit with the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking the banking arrangement of the Provincial Government, the balance, *viz.*, Rs. 182.62 lakhs, was utilized in reduction of debt by discharging a part of the pre-1921 Irrigation debt. Under the scheme of financial settlement ushering in the new constitution, the Provincial Government was relieved of the liability in respect of the pre-autonomy debts aggregating Rs. 256.33 lakhs by cancellation and the balances of the loans left over, *viz.*, Rs. 3,30.25 lakhs, were consolidated in a single loan repayable in 45 years at the average rate of interest of 4½ per cent.

21. The closing balance of Rs. 27.73 lakhs at the end of 1936-37 consisted of Rs. 25 lakhs, the minimum cash balance in treasuries and the minimum deposit in the Reserve Bank, and Rs. 2.73 lakhs representing the cash balance in the Famine Relief Fund.

22. The budget for 1937-38 as passed by the Assembly and authenticated by the Governor provides for a revenue of Rs. 4,74.84 lakhs and expenditure charged to revenue of Rs. 4,74.07 lakhs of which Rs. 18.21 lakhs are allotted for new schemes and works. The total divisible expenditure amounts to Rs. 1,15.63 lakhs of which Rs. 78.98 lakhs fall to the share of the Central Provinces and Rs. 36.65 lakhs to Berar; a percentage of 68.3 for the Central Provinces and 31.7 for Berar against the standard of 60 : 40, prescribed by the Sim formula on the basis of revenue contribution of both parts of the province, and the actual ratio for the year of 63.6 : 36.4. Paucity of funds for new expenditure accounts for the low share of divisible expenditure allotted to Berar.

23. Including capital, debt and remittance transactions of Government, the total revenue receipts of the year are estimated at Rs. 5,93.54 lakhs and expenditure and disbursements at Rs. 5,95.70 lakhs. Of the latter Rs. 4,48.54 lakhs was votable and Rs. 1,47.16 lakhs charged, Rs. 1,43.94 out of the latter being open to discussion in the legislature. Credit has been taken in the budget for 1937-38 for receipts from the flotation of a public loan of Rs. 50 lakhs, which was subscribed in full, and the surplus of unfunded debts, mainly deposits of State provident funds, amounted to Rs. 14.27 lakhs. After providing for repayment of short term loans taken in 1936-37 from the Central Government for the financing of capital programmes and of revenue deficits from the proceeds of the public loan, for fresh advances for provincial purposes during the year and also for the minimum working balance of Rs. 13.15 lakhs at treasuries and Rs. 10 lakhs with the Reserve Bank, the year is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 6.51 lakhs. This shortage of cash resources would be covered by either temporary ways and means advances from the Reserve Bank or sale of treasury bills.

24. The total revenue demand decreased by Rs. 10,273, from Rs. 2,24,77,817 to Rs. 2,24,67,544. The decrease is mainly due to the transfer of takoli of the Khariar zamindari transferred to the province of Orissa. Remissions during the year amounted to Rs. 61,391 and suspensions to

Realisation of revenue for the year ending 30th September 1936 in the Central Provinces and 31st July 1936 in Berar.

Rs. 8,12,977.

25. The total collections amounted to Rs. 2,01,47,701 which included Rs. 15,474 on account of advance collections from the previous year. The balance remaining for collection during the coming year amounted to Rs. 14,45,475. From the total demand of Rs. 35,46,475 in respect of arrears of revenue, Rs. 17,81,718 were collected, Rs. 4,52,544 remitted and Rs. 8,87,764 further suspended. Rs. 4,24,449 remained unrealized. The total demand on account of raiyatwari land revenue including arrears was Rs. 6,85,209. Of this, Rs. 5,99,613 were collected, Rs. 27,457 remitted, Rs. 23,319 suspended and Rs. 34,820 remained in arrears.

26. The number of processes for the collection of land revenue issued during the year was 21,782 [17,348]. The increase is shared both by Central Provinces and Berar.

27. Taccavi loans to the extent of Rs. 77,16,095 were outstanding at the beginning of the year. A further sum of Rs. 11,73,260 [Rs. 9,69,112] was advanced during the year.

28. The total amount due for collection during the year on account of principal amounted to Rs. 47,56,455. Of this Rs. 15,07,791 were collected, Rs. 2,45,640 remitted and Rs. 7,56,423 suspended, while Rs. 22,46,501 remained outstanding.

29. The total interest collected during the year amounted to Rs. 2,06,543 [Rs. 1,95,557]. Over all loan transactions the rate of interest recovered on the mean of outstanding loans was 2.26 per cent in Central Provinces and 6.8 per cent in Berar.

#### **4.—Season, condition of the people and revenue administration**

30. The monsoon of 1936 set in by the 15th June and there was moderate to heavy rainfall till the close of the month. In July, in the Central Provinces proper, the rain fall was generally heavy in the first week followed by an opportune break in the second week and moderate to heavy showers with spells of sunshine in the latter half of the month; while in Berar since the heavy showers in the beginning of July there was a sustained break, with light showers in the third week. The weather in August was generally seasonable with regular breaks in the rains which



facilitated weeding and intercultural operations. The condition of standing crops was generally excellent everywhere at this stage. In the first half of September a depression connected with the Bay monsoon gave heavy downpour of rain everywhere but towards the second half of the month the weather became sunny with occasional light to moderate showers in almost all the districts. The standing kharif crops were growing under favourable conditions and a continuance of the seasonable weather was all that was required for the reaping of a good harvest. During October the weather was mostly clear and dry, though it turned cloudy with heavy showers of rain towards the close of the month. The rain proved beneficial to crops where it was not too heavy and enabled the rabi sowings to be pushed through. Germination was generally successful. The second and third weeks of November were characterized by unusually heavy rains in the cotton country causing damage to cotton and juar to an appreciable extent and to the flowering tur which then promised a full harvest. Scattered showers in December proved beneficial to rabi crops but a cold wave in the latter half of the month adversely affected the rabi pulses in the Jubbulpore division and the plateau districts, while insects caused some damage to linseed and minor rabi crops in the Chhattisgarh division. January was rainless, while in February light to moderate showers of rain accompanied by light hail fell in several districts causing slight damage to rabi crops. In the low-lying lands of the northern and plateau districts, the wheat crop was attacked by rust, while caterpillars did some damage to gram. The standing rabi crops were otherwise in good condition. During March and April there were occasional light to moderate showers accompanied at many places by hailstorms of varying severity. These caused some damage to wheat and garden crops and to the grain collected on threshing floors and caterpillars attacked the standing gram crop. Rust which developed in the late sown wheat and in low-lying and embanked fields further reduced the outturn of the crop to below normal. Speaking generally, the course of the monsoon till about the end of October was entirely favourable to kharif crops but the unwanted heavy rain at the close of October and in the middle of November was most unfortunate and ruined the fair prospects of the earlier months in the case of all kharif crops except rice, while excessive cold in December, cloudy weather, insect

pests, hail and rust proved equally harmful to rabi. As a result the provincial yield of crops worked out to 83 per cent [73 per cent] of the normal. The area occupied for cultivation was 31,897,000 acres [31,875,000 acres]. The net cropped area increased from 24,301,000 to 24,594,000 acres and the double cropped area by 280,779 acres or 11 per cent. Owing to favourable sowing conditions kharif areas rose by 631,315 acres or 3.5 per cent while rabi areas fell by 58,019 acres, the fall being mainly in the cotton country on account of rapid hardening of soil from the unusual heat in October. This coupled with the heavy rain at the end of October and in the middle of November compelled the cultivators to leave a certain portion of the rabi area unsown.

31. The wholesale prices of rice, cotton, wheat, gram, til and linseed at harvest time rose on the average by 10, 21, 33, 26, 1 and 20 per cent, respectively, while those of juar fell by 3 per cent. With the rise in prices the economic condition of the agriculturists was a trifle better than last year.

32. Although light to moderate showers of rain fell in the third week of June the regular monsoon of 1937 did not establish itself till the end of the month. At the outset the current was weak but became active in the second week of July giving fairly heavy and continuous rain till about the end of the first week of August. Sowings of kharif crops though a little late were generally completed in time except those of juar which were held up particularly on heavier soils owing to continuous rain. Germination on the whole was successful though some resowing of cotton and juar was necessary in parts of Chhindwara, Wardha and Nagpur owing to excessive rain and of juar in parts of Nimar, Akola, Amraoti and Buldana owing to defective seed of last year being sown. A long break with bright sunshine was badly needed for field operations and to improve the growth of plants in general. The break that set in in the second week of August was most opportune and facilitated weeding and intercultural operations. The sowing of juar was resumed and completed and the crops on heavy soils which had suffered much were also improving. The timely rainfall towards the close of August and early in September proved beneficial and stimulated the growth of crops. Thereafter up to the end of September there were light to moderate showers followed by sunny intervals, which helped to

improve the condition of all crops. In the first week of October a depression which moved in from the Arabian Sea gave widespread and timely rain. Thereafter the weather became seasonable except on the last two days of the month when light to moderate showers of rain accompanied by light hail fell in several districts. The rainfall proved beneficial to kharif crops and facilitated the preparation of land for rabi sowings. The standing kharif crops continued to be in fairly good condition. Harvesting of early rice and minor kharif crops and sowings of rabi were in full swing. Germination was reported to be satisfactory.

33. Scattered showers of rain were received in the latter half of December. A cold wave which passed over the province towards the end of November and in the beginning of December caused some damage to cotton, juar, tur and garden crops in the plateau districts and the cotton country. In parts of Wardha, Nagpur, Akola and Amraoti, the cotton crop was also attacked by pests. Standing rabi crops are generally in good condition though winter showers are needed to improve their condition particularly on light soils. The outturn of cotton is estimated at 78, of rice 92.3, of kharif juar 85.5 and of til 85.8 per cent of the normal.

34. The Central Provinces Moneylenders Act was brought into force from 1st April 1935. **Revenue and rent paying classes.** Eleven more debt conciliation boards were established in the Central Provinces and four in Berar.

35. Two hundred and sixty-two sub-traverse lines were provided and all missing marks were replaced in 435 villages. **Surveys.** All missing traverse marks were replaced and 32 new marks were provided where necessary, in nine settled towns. The following fresh traversing was also carried out :—

- (1) Ninety-one marks in 9.61 linear miles in Dindori town of Mandla district.
- (2) Thirty marks in 1.19 linear miles in Ballarpur town of Chanda district.

Boundaries of 7, 2, 1 and 2 mining leases of Nagpur, Betul, Balaghat and Raipur districts, respectively, were traversed. Traverse marks on the common boundary of Makrar village of Jubbulpore district and Jaldhora of Rewa State were



verified for defining the portion of the boundary in dispute. The demarcation of the Khariar zamindari and the Padampur tract areas transferred to Orissa was carried out and the correct alignment of the boundary was supplied to the Director, Map Publication, Survey of India. In addition to verifying existing traverse marks and replacing the missing ones, 952 new marks in 116.34 linear miles were fixed on the common boundary of Khariar and Bindra Nawagarh in the forest area so far remained undefined. Untraversed areas of the villages traversed for Makrai State in 1933-34 were calculated and supplied to the Diwan. The work of overhauling of nazul survey records in Burhanpur town continued ; 1,174 more encroachment cases were reported.

36. In Berar all missing traverse marks were replaced in 10 towns and where necessary new marks (a dozen in all) were also provided. The existing traversing of Balapur town along the Public Works Department roads was overhauled and fresh measurements of these lines needed for the restricted settlements of that town were taken. Two missing marks on the Khamgaon-Patur road were replaced and three new ones were also provided.

37. No settlement operations were in progress during  
 Settlements. the year under report.

38. The operations were carried out in Raipur, Dhamtari and Baloda Bazar tahsils of  
 Consolidation of the Raipur district and Drug, Bemetara  
 holdings. and Balod tahsils of the Drug district.  
 In all 249 applications were received on payment of cost at the sanctioned rate of Re. 0-4-0 per acre. Only four applications were rejected. New schemes were prepared for 229 villages—78 of Drug, 16 of Bemetara, 24 of Balod, 62 of Raipur, 38 of Dhamtari and 11 of Baloda Bazar. Of these 210 were passed by the Consolidation Officer. The holdings of 19,774 permanent holders covering an occupied area of 222,285 acres were consolidated. These 210 new schemes together with 10 schemes revised out of last year's pending and 5 old schemes pending since before 1934-35 were duly confirmed. Cultivators voluntarily took possession of their chaks in all these villages except in one village Sankra (Drug) where the scheme was completed after the sowing operations had commenced. As a result of consolidation the khasra numbers affected were reduced from

497,739 to 104,143. Excluding 27,580 numbers on account of baris, kothars, different rights, mahals, pattis, etc., the reduction of khasra numbers effected was nearly  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 while the average size of a khasra number after consolidation came to about three acres as against about half an acre before chakbandi. The cost of consolidation was Re. 0-3-4 per acre against Re. 0-3-10 in the preceding year.

39. The preparation of record of rights of non-izara alienated villages in Berar was nearly completed during the year. Nearly 40 survey numbers with 114 sub-divisions and 146 survey numbers without sub-divisions were measured. A party of eight measurers was employed for about five weeks to complete the remaining work. The average outturn of measurement work worked out to 3.09 sub-divisions per measurer per day. It was found necessary to correct the survey records in 172 villages. Fresh enquiry was necessary in a group of five villages in Akola taluq. The record of rights officer sent back 5,283 cases regarding entries in C. C. register with orders. The record of rights of tenants was promulgated in 156 villages and that of communal rights in 171 villages. Very little progress was, however, made in respect of record of rights for superior holders beyond the hearing of parties and the preparation of a skeleton of the *Draft Inam Law*. Of other items entrusted to the officer on special duty the preparation of the draft Patels and Patwaris Law was completed during the hot weather and submitted to Government. The relations between the jagirdars and tenants continued to remain unaffected by the record of rights enquiries. The provisions relating to ante-alienation tenants and tenants of antiquity will, however, be clarified on receipt of the final report of the officer on special duty.

#### *Land Records.*

40. The staff of revenue inspectors and patwaris has been reduced by 3 and 50, respectively, as a result of the transfer of certain portions of this province to the new province of Orissa.

41. The concession of leave enjoyed by inferior servants has been extended to the chainmen to revenue inspectors and nazul surveyors.

42. Village boundary marks were generally in satisfactory conditions and no dispute over **Boundary and traverse marks.** village boundaries arose. An effective check by supervising staff has further decreased the number of missing marks. Punishments for failure to repair boundary and traverse marks were imposed in comparatively less number of cases.

43. The condition of marks as in the last year in the districts of Berar has been almost maintained. No progress was made with the work of single boundary marks.

44. The checking of village records by revenue inspectors was adequate in all districts. **Testing of village papers.** The inspection by superintendents of land records and their assistants could not be completed in Saugor, Mandla, Betul, Nagpur and Bilaspur districts.

45. Punishments to patwaris decreased in Central Provinces while in Berar they have increased slightly. Discipline on the whole was well maintained. Rewards to patwaris were paid for good work both in the Central Provinces and Berar. **Conduct of the Land Record Staff.**

46. The total occupied raiyatwari area in the Central Provinces fell to 1,212,688 acres **Waste lands.** [1,215,644 acres] the decrease being located in the Mandla and Nimar districts. Of the 1,432,974 acres excised and divided into survey numbers 220,323 acres were made available at the commencement of the year. During the year a total of 1,783 acres was allotted while 31,176 acres of land previously allotted was relinquished. Consequently 219,716 acres carrying an assessment of Rs. 67,947 remained unallotted.

47. There are no Government estates in the Central **Government estates.** Provinces.

48. The number of estates under management was 37. **Wards, estates.** One estate was relinquished as it escheated to Government.

49. The total gross income was Rs. 18.28 [Rs. 18.97] lakhs. The rental collection was 96 [99] per cent of the current demand. Home-farm cultivation was carried on in 20 estates and yielded satisfactory profits except in four estates.



50. The total gross expenditure excluding investments and repayments of debts was Rs. 16.56 [Rs. 17.5] lakhs. Personal and ceremonial expenditure was firmly restricted in almost all the estates.

51. With the persistence of the economic depression the paying capacity of some of the estates was affected. Rs. 4.78 [Rs. 7.80] lakhs only could be spent towards repayment of debts.

52. The relations between the Court of Wards and tenants remained cordial. Rent suits were instituted only against persistent defaulters and the number of tenants ejected was in consequence very few.

53. The health and conduct of the wards were generally satisfactory. Due attention was paid to the education of the younger wards.

### 5.—Public Health

[The figures are for the calendar year 1936.]

54. During the year 1936 there were 651,286 [696,804] births and 534,551 [532,748] deaths, giving a birth rate of 42.50 [44.93] per thousand of population and death rate of 34.89 [34.35]. The mortality among infants under one year of age was 153,036 [155,766] or 234.98 [223.54] per thousand births.

55. Cholera of a virulent type was responsible for 10,691 [20,140] deaths. 413,380 [590,587] anti-cholera inoculations were performed. Ten temporary epidemic dispensaries were established and were detailed for cholera duty in districts where the disease was prevalent.

56. Plague in a mild form caused 8,566 [7,966] attacks and 835 [798] deaths. 27,176 [20,888] anti-plague inoculations were performed during the year.

57. Smallpox contributed 13,730 [15,479] attacks and 2,318 [2,802] deaths. The disease was fairly severe and was prevalent throughout the year. The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations fell by 90,628 from 734,405 last year to 643,777.

58. The total number of deaths recorded on account of malaria was 274,670 [269,249] the considerable increase in its prevalence being apparently due to the rainy weather towards the end of October or beginning of November. Of the 3,500 lbs. of quinine given as a gift by the Government of India, 1,560 lbs. were issued for free distribution in the districts in the form of 4-grain tablets.

59. There were 71 [64] child welfare centres, 55 [50] urban and 16 [14] rural. Health workers paid 64 [76] home visits and conducted 735 confinements.

60. Baby weeks were celebrated at 21 places. During the year 134 [52] samples of water, 10 [27] of ghee, 11 [13] of butter and one of sesame oil were analysed.

61. Leprosy work was continued by the 17 Sub-Assistant Health Officers on leprosy duty. The total number of lepers treated was 79,993.

62. During the year the number of permanent epidemic dispensaries was 37. 5,686 [5,258] villages were visited, 75,411 [105,490] patients treated and 8,806 [9,892] lectures on health subjects delivered by the Sub-Assistant Health Officers.

63. The Kanhan river water-works scheme for Nagpur town, estimated to cost Rs. 24 lakhs was finally sanctioned. A drainage scheme for Nagpur is urgently needed especially in view of the impending improvements in water-supply.

64. The receipts and expenditure of the villages under the Village Sanitation and Public Management Act amounted to Rs. 2,22,476 and Rs. 2,28,477, respectively. Rs. 4,381 were spent on water-supply and Rs. 6,079 on drainage. During the year a grant of Rs. 99,828 was made, from the Government of India's grant of Rs. one lakh for the construction of 211 wells. A sum of Rs. 6,726 was spent during the year for the improvement of water-supply in ryotwari villages.

*Medical Relief.*

65. During the year 1936 seven new dispensaries were opened while four were closed. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries at the end of the year was 340 of which 164 were rural and 176 urban. The total number of patients treated during the year was 3,332,292.

66. The principal diseases for which relief was sought during 1936 and which showed an increase over the past year were malaria, diseases of the ear, diseases of the eye, diseases of the teeth and gums excluding tumours, diseases of the respiratory system other than pneumonia and tuberculosis, diseases of the intestines, including diarrhoea, diseases of nervous system and pyrexia of uncertain origin.

67. Total number of surgical operations rose from 109,126 in 1935 to 111,571 in 1936.

68. The total receipts including the opening balance (Rs. 13,20,377) amounted to Rs. 27,73,566. Government contributions were Rs. 7,35,521 and contributions of local bodies amounted to Rs. 3,03,350. The total expenditure was Rs. 13,56,492.

69. The number of lunatics in the Nagpur Mental Hospital during the year 1936 was 564 [578]. Sixty-three were discharged while 38 or 8.02 per cent died. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,12,827. Receipts from paying patients amounted Rs. 11,357.

**6.—Law and Order***Police.*

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1936.]

70. Though economic conditions remained adverse, there was no marked increase in crime during the year, such increase as occurred being confined to thefts and house-breakings involving property of little value. The results of investigation were on the whole successful.



71. No marked labour disputes or communal friction caused anxiety. The Amraoti City Police had, however, to deal with one difficult situation in August 1936 when communal feeling ran high, and serious rioting was only prevented by the prompt action of the local officers. A communal riot in Nagpur during the *Moharram* celebrations in the course of which a head constable was seriously injured was practically the only other incident of the kind, and this was an isolated instance having no serious repercussions.

72. Better police work was facilitated by the fact that this year was free from political, labour or communal trouble of a grave nature. The rise in the figure for the total crime registered from 42,692 to 46,881 was not excessive in view of the prevailing shortage of employment for labourers and the general scarcity of money.

73. The Criminal Investigation Department dealt with 24 new cases in addition to 14 cases of previous years. The case against the People's Popular Mutual Loan Company which had dragged on since 1933, came at length to a successful end. The trial of the Belgian Bond case, which started in 1934 in the Chhindwara district, continued throughout the year, but ended in conviction early in 1937. The results of these cases ought to afford considerable protection to the public from fraudulent companies. The results of investigation were well up to standard. The total number of motor accidents rose from 866 to 981 and the number of prosecutions for motoring offences from 3,455 to 4,023 including 196 under the Indian Penal Code.

74. Offences against the State, Public Tranquillity, Safety and Justice numbered 704 [616]. Cases of escapes from lawful custody were 143 [173] of which 35 [30] were from police custody. Many of the latter were technical cases and in 30 [26] the absconders were recaptured. The number of cases occurring under the principal heads of crime are as follows:—

Riots	..	426 [353].
Dacoities	..	32 [24].
Robberies	..	239 [230].
Burglaries	..	10,041 [9,047].
Murders	..	341 [314].

Offences against  
the State, person  
and property.

75. Excluding the action taken by the railway police, there were 839 [757] proceedings under section 109, 479 [423] under section 110 and 1,158 [434] under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code.

Police action.

76. The provision made for buildings was liberal and included allotments for three works of major importance, *viz.*, (1) quarters in Nagpur City, (2) a constables' school at Jubbulpore and (3) new headquarter lines at Raipur. Excellent progress was made with these works. Government is fully aware of the need for modern and adequate accommodation if the police force is to function properly and efficiently, and will continue the programme of replacing and improving obsolete buildings as the financial position of the province permits.

Buildings.

77. The title of Rao Sahib was conferred on Mr. M. L. Deshmukh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and of Khan Sahib on Inspector Fariduddin. Indian Police medals were awarded to Mr. R. de la C. Ozanne, District Superintendent of Police, Sub-Inspectors Nuruddin and S. G. Kekre and to one Head Constable and seven constables. A sum of Rs. 11,450 was paid by the Police Department, and of Rs. 7,640 by magistrates and other departments to members of the police force. Rs. 5,440 were paid in rewards by the Police Department to private persons.

Rewards.

78. The following punishments were awarded:—

	Officers	Men
Dismissed	6[3]	97 [79]
Departmentally punished	77 [80]	496 [465]

No police officer was punished by a judicial court under the Police Act but two officers and three men were punished under the Penal Code for offences connected with their official duties.

### *Criminal Justice.*

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar year 1936.]

79. In the year under review the total number of offences reported fell to 49,599 [52,138]. The fall is shared by offences under the Indian Penal Code 23,949 [24,715] and by those under Special and Local Laws 25,650 [27,423].

Crime.

80. The number of magistrates increased to 866 [805]. The percentage of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 0.1 [Nil]. Stipendiary Magistrates disposed of 65.8 [64.2] and honorary magistrates 34.0 [35.7]. The percentage of cases tried summarily fell to 26.8 [27.1]. The number of persons released on probation for good conduct under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, increased to 3,047 [2,465].

81. Cases disposed of by the Sessions Judges and the Additional Sessions Judges were 324 [293] and 181 [166] respectively.

82. The Court of the Judicial Commissioner was replaced on the 9th January 1936 by a Chartered High Court. The number of convicted persons who appealed to this Court fell to 339 [373] and the cases of 989 [1,055] persons were dealt with by this Court in revision. The average duration of appeals in this Court slightly increased to 36.2 [35.8] while that of revisions decreased to 48.4 [51.2]. In the cases of 16 [11] persons the sentences were enhanced and in the cases of 204 [327] they were either reduced, modified or set aside. Seven cases were referred to the High Court under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code.

83. The number of persons whose appeals came before the Sessions and Magistrates' Courts was 3,912 [3,492] and 6,457 [6,776] respectively. In 68.6 [67.1] per cent of the appeals in the Sessions Court and 57.6 [54.2] per cent of the appeals in the Magistrates' Courts sentences remained unaltered.

84. The number of persons sentenced to death whose cases came before the High Court increased to 76 [62]. Fifty [47] sentences of death were confirmed; seven [12] set aside and 13 [12] were reduced to transportation for life or imprisonment. Forty-seven [39] persons were executed during the year. Fifty-five [36] were sent to the reformatory School, Jubbulpore, and 134 [145] were sent to the Borstal Institute at Narsinghpur. The number of juveniles sentenced to whipping rose to 143 [57]. The number of persons ordered to give security under section 118, Criminal Procedure Code, slightly increased to 1,590 [1,580].

85. During the year, the number of village panchayat benches increased to 878 [865]. The total number of cases for disposal before these courts was 6,642 [6,648] involving 10,537 [11,308] persons. 5,955 [6,069] cases were disposed of.

Village panchayats.

### *Civil Justice.*

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar year 1936.]

86. The year under review showed a decrease in original as well as appellate institutions. The number of institutions in all Courts fell to 105,495 [121,171]. The total value of suits instituted decreased to Rs. 2,38,17,022, [Rs. 3,93,87,688]. The average value of suits instituted for the whole Province thus decreased to Rs. 225 [Rs. 325].

Tribunals and character of litigation.

87. Applications for execution before the Courts numbered 162,569 [178,052] of which 129,390 [139,182] were disposed of. Applications were wholly infructuous in 57.6 [56.8] per cent of the cases, partly satisfied in 16.1 [17.1] per cent and fully satisfied in 10.0 [10.9] per cent, 16.3 per cent were disposed of by transfer.

Execution of decrees.

88. The Court of the Judicial Commissioner was replaced from 9th January 1936 by a Chartered High Court. The number of appeals instituted in the High Court decreased to 1,037 [1,243] and the disposals slightly increased to 1,232 [1,219]. There was a decrease in pending cases to 1,747 [1,942]. The number of appeals instituted in the Courts of District Judges slightly increased to 4,365 [4,342] and that of disposals decreased to 4,038 [4,422].

Appellate jurisdiction.

89. The year under review saw a thorough recasting of the structure of the Bar consequent on the creation of the High Court and the long standing division of pleaders into the two grades, first and second, came to an end. The total strength of the Bar increased to 2,203 [2,085]. Twenty-seven Village Panchayat Courts were established during the year while 14 were abolished. Total number of Village Panchayat Courts functioning at the end of the year in Central Provinces and Berar was 922 and institutions in these Courts were 8,709 [8,535].

Miscellaneous.



*Prisons.*

[Report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1936.]

90. The year opened with a population of 5,319 [4,971]: Admissions (including transfers) during the year totalled 17,545 [18,343].

**Population.**

91. Discipline continued to show steady improvement. The total number of jail punishments inflicted during the year fell from 2,171 to 2,089. There were 2 [6] escapes during the year. Both were from the Borstal Institution, Narsinghpur, and the delinquents were recaptured.

**Discipline.**

92. Though the death rate per mille was 17.37 [10.66] this comparatively high figure was not a true index of the general health in the jails, which, as other considerations such as the general increase in weight of prisoners show, was satisfactory. The daily average sick was 46.03 [42.21].

**Health.**

93. Cash earnings and profits from jail industries fell by Rs. 32,900 and Rs. 33,102, respectively.

**Jail industries.**

94. The total expenditure in guarding and maintaining prisoners during the year increased from Rs. 6,69,476 to Rs. 6,90,468. The increase was chiefly due to the rise in the daily average number of prisoners and the increase in establishment charges through the grant of long leave to several senior officials.

**Expenditure.**

95. The fact that a large number of prisoners gained in weight after admission evidences the special care taken by jail authorities over their health. The management of the jail gardens was generally satisfactory and the supply of vegetables was sufficient to meet the requirement of the jail population.

**General.**

*Military.—The Auxiliary and Territorial Forces.*

96. The designation of the provincial unit was changed during the year from "The Nagpur Regiment" to "The Nagpur Rifles". The enrolled strength on 1st March 1937 was 15 officers and 495 non-commissioned officers and men

**The Nagpur Rifles, A. F. (I).**

of whom 220 non-commissioned officers and men on the active list completed their training. The classification "Marksmen" has been discontinued for the A. F. (I), and the men are now classified only as 1st, 2nd or 3rd class shots. There were 111 1st class shots as compared with 76 in the previous year. Reserves totalled 261, being 30 less than in the previous year (291). The financial position of the Corps continues to be satisfactory. The annual camp of exercise was held at Boregaon near Nagpur from the 11th to the 22nd of January 1937.

97. The enrolled strength on 1st March 1937 was four officers, eight under-officers and 306 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom 262 were efficient. Satisfactory results were obtained from the new Weapon Training Course introduced last year, and the total ammunition fired was considerably in excess of the previous year. Only eight members failed to fire their annual course.

98. The financial position of the Corps continues to be sound. The annual camp commenced on 30th October 1936, but owing to exceedingly inclement weather members had to disperse to their homes on the following morning. The number, namely, four officers and 303 other ranks, who reported for this camp, was the greatest strength hitherto attained by the unit at its annual camp. With the co-operation of the University authorities, who made a substantial financial grant, a subsidiary camp was held in December. His Excellency the Governor visited this camp and distributed prizes.

## 7.—Local Self-Government

### *Municipal administration.*

99. The number of municipal committees increased from 75 to 77 owing to the establishment of municipal committees at Badnera and Warud on the 1st October 1936 and the 1st January 1937, respectively. The number of the notified area committees also increased from 15 to 20 owing to the establishment of notified area committees at Waraseoni, Chandur Bazar, Chandur Railway, Dhamangaon-Dattapur and Shendurjana-Malkapur. All

10th (Nagpur)  
Battalion University  
Training Corps,  
I. T. F.

Municipal committees, their constitution and meetings.

the municipal committees except 6 [7] held the prescribed number of meetings, the total of which was 2,050 [2,249]. Of these 355 [315] proved abortive for want of quorum. The average attendance of members was 59 [62].

100. The total income excluding opening balances and debt heads was Rs. 70,06,000 [Rs. 69,05,000], Government contributing Rs. 4,15,000 [Rs. 4,17,000]. The receipts from octroi and terminal tax were Rs. 8,42,000 [Rs. 8,54,000] and Rs. 16,64,000 [Rs. 15,53,000] respectively. Receipts from taxes other than octroi and terminal tax increased from Rs. 23,28,000 to Rs. 23,48,000. Out of these, income from the tax on animals and vehicles and bazar tax decreased by Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 8,000 respectively. Income of the notified areas increased further to Rs. 1,96,000 [Rs. 1,78,000].

101. The total expenditure excluding extraordinary and debt heads increased to Rs. 68,69,000 [Rs. 67,48,000] the increase being shared by all heads except contributions for general purposes. The closing balances of 21 [18] municipal committees were below the prescribed minimum.

102. Relations between Government officials and municipal committees remained generally cordial.

#### *District Councils.*

103. The number of district councils and local boards remained unchanged. One circle of the Zamindari local board, namely, Khariar Zamindari, was transferred to the new province of Orissa, with effect from the 1st April 1937, with a consequential reduction in the number of elected members by one. The area under the jurisdiction of the Amraoti district council was reduced by the formation of four municipalities and four notified area committees. The total number of meetings held was 767 [742], of these 66 [51] proved abortive for want of quorum. The average attendance of members in district councils and local boards, was 65 [66] and 54 [61] respectively. The fall in attendance is due to various causes such as want of good communications, non-payment of travelling allowance to members, lack of interest due to impending general elections and the apathy of members.

104. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 31,37,639 [Rs. 28,55,990] while the total receipts from all sources was Rs. 72,74,622 [Rs. 74,22,814] the expenditure was Rs. 71,43,741 [Rs. 71,30,153] leaving a balance of Rs. 32,35,817 [Rs. 31,48,651]. The Government grant towards education rose from Rs. 10,58,157 to Rs. 10,64,252 while that towards civil works fell from Rs. 93,336 to Rs. 64,009.

105. The total expenditure on education including buildings was Rs. 30,58,501 [Rs. 29,99,600] of which Rs. 10,64,352 [Rs. 10,58,157] was covered by Government grants. The total number of schools increased from 4,102 to 4,196. Enrolment decreased slightly from 305,868 to 305,023 but the average attendance increased from 230,527 to 236,253.

106. The total expenditure on medical relief was Rs. 3,65,907 [Rs. 3,68,871]. The number of transferred dispensaries increased to 84 [82].

107. The total expenditure on Civil Works was Rs. 7,38,400 [Rs. 6,53,547]. The total length of roads transferred to district councils for maintenance was 1,798 [1,832].

108. The number of cattle-pounds was 1,878 [1,889]. The income and expenditure on them decreased to Rs. 5,18,485 [Rs. 5,53,013] and Rs. 2,95,767 [Rs. 3,01,710]. The cases of financial irregularities and embezzlements brought to notice in the annual report of the Local Audit Department for 1936-37 are at present under the consideration of Government. The relations between councils and Government officials continued to be cordial on the whole.

#### *Village Panchayats.*

109. During the year 20 [24] new panchayats were established, one [7] was disestablished and two were transferred to the Province of Orissa when a part of the Bilaspur district was amalgamated with that province. One hundred and sixteen [109] Village Benches, and 99 Village Courts exercised enhanced powers and 13 Village



Courts exercised powers under section 54 (1) of the Village Panchayat Act. 6,987 [6,820] criminal cases and 8,764 [8,156] civil suits were disposed of. Out of the amount of Rs. 3,500 provided for initial grants to panchayats a sum of Rs. 3,125 was utilized and Rs. 375 was surrendered. The total receipts of the panchayats amounted to Rs. 2,01,251 [Rs. 2,06,190] and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,32,093 [Rs. 1,37,075]. Nineteen [18] district councils have now their village panchayat sub-committees and in 11 [9] districts honorary panchayat officers have been appointed. All the district councils have realized their duty of training panchayats in administrative work and the statutory responsibility of exercising general supervision over the panchayat fund and have given proof of this by appointing local agencies for imparting instructions and for carrying out periodical audits.

110. Nearly 28 [21] per cent of the panchayats levy taxes, whilst 63 [61] per cent of panchayats engaged themselves in administrative work. Continuous economic depression mainly accounts for the halting manner in which taxation is imposed, although the majority of panchayats are not unmindful of the fact that without supplementing their income from their judicial work by taxation they cannot render any really useful service.

111. Arrears of taxes continue to be disproportionately high. Nearly all the district councils have fixed dates for the submission of quarterly defaulters' lists under rule 28 (8), but many panchayats, especially those whose members are themselves defaulters, are not complying with the instructions regularly.

112. One encouraging feature that is becoming noticeable is the readiness of the panchayats to provide against disease and the alacrity with which they co-operate with the authorities in combating epidemics.

## 8.—Trade, Industries and Commerce

113. The number of factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, rose to 1,037 [1,024], the increase being mainly in rice and dal mills. Both the seasonal and perennial factories have shown a decided improvement with regard to the fencing and guarding of dangerous machinery and provision of suitable clothing to certain classes of workers.

Owing to continued trade depression no further progress could be made in respect of welfare work. The Inspectors, while investigating accidents, continued to bring the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, to the notice of the injured parties. The total number of accidents was 534 [564] and the compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to the injured workmen or other dependents amounted to Rs. 3,373. The relief is hardly impressive and there is reason to believe that the case of employees often suffers by default owing to their ignorance, or reluctance to press claims on account of the fear of loss of employment. Under the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1931, benefit to the extent of Rs. 8,467 [Rs. 10,847] was paid to 507 [601] women. There was no epidemic of any type in industrial areas. The wage level of skilled labour has gone down owing to widespread unemployment and trade depression. The provisions of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, were complied with by factory owners. Seven labour strikes occurred during the year, two in cotton mills, two in bidi factories and three of municipal sweepers. In addition to these one cotton mill was closed for six days owing to a fracas between two groups of workers. Two new trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. The total number of registered trade unions is 19 [17]. No application for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation or Court of Inquiry under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, was received.

114. The total capacity of the electric generating plant installed increased from 28,538 to 34,074 kilowatts, the number of electric motors from 1,993 to 2,126 and the number of towns supplied with electric energy from 17 to 18. Forty-five silent cinemas and 21 talkies were inspected from time to time. Seven electrical accidents occurred, all of which were of a minor nature. The total number of boilers inspected was 1,041 [1,043] of which 15 were new boilers imported direct into the province and 18 transferred from other provinces. There was only one accident to a boiler, fortunately without loss of life or any injury to the attendant in charge.

115. The peripatetic weaving staff consisting of two weaving teachers, two power loom teachers and 14 cotton weavers visited 181 [204] weaving centres and introduced

363 [624] sleys and 75 [74] dobbies. Seventy-three [138] fly shuttle sleys were also introduced among the kosa silk weavers of the Bilaspur and Chanda districts. Experiments in artistic patterns were continued at the Government experimental weaving shed in Itwari. The number of power loom factories in the province was 70 [38] with 273 [158] looms. The dyeing and printing demonstrator continued to give demonstrations in the modern methods of dyeing and printing and visited 35 [34] centres of which 18 [18] were new. The progressive total of centres visited by him was 167 [149]. The textile branch of the department and the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society participated in the All-India Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held at Lucknow, the All-India Industrial Exhibition held at Delhi and the Lord Reay Industrial Exhibition held at Poona. Five first class, one second class and three third class medals, seven certificates of merit and three cash prizes were won. The share of this province from the Government of India's grant for the development of the handloom industry was Rs. 17,000 for 1935-36, Rs. 20,400 for 1936-37, and Rs. 20,400 for 1937-38. The grant is being utilized in financing the Weavers Co-operative Society at Nagpur with a branch at Kamptee and affiliated societies at Chanda, Chhindwara, Ellichpur and Umrer. The emporium located in the Central Museum, Nagpur, continued to stock, display and sell products of local industries. The number of commercial and industrial enquiries dealt with during the year was 229 [224].

116. The demand for industrial education continued to be keen but new schemes for expansion were held up owing to financial stringency. There are three Government and seven Government-aided industrial schools in the province. The number of students admitted to and passed out of the schools was 219 [162] and 128 [119] respectively. Of the students that passed, 71 were carpenters, 44 smiths and 13 tailors. The mining class at Chandametta continued to attract apprentices from the coal fields. The mochi class at Nagpur also continued to attract pupils of the Chamar caste. Owing to the termination of the lease by the last lessee, the Government Leather Tanning School, Nagpur, was closed from the 1st July 1936 to the 31st March 1937. A fresh lease has been granted to Mr. G. S. N. Gupta for a period of three years, with effect from the 1st April 1937, and the training of apprentices has been resumed. In the Reformatory

School, Jubbulpore, 43 boys were taught carpentry, 18 gardening and 20 tailoring. The health of the boys was good. The system of granting scholarships for industrial training in institutions outside the province was continued.

117. The Board of Industries met once and continued to give valuable advice on industrial matters. The index numbers showing changes in the cost of living of industrial workers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore continued to be published every month in the provincial gazette.

### 9.—Mining

118. The improvement in the condition of the manganese industry noticed last year was maintained, but the trade in coal and limestone declined owing to a fall in demand and lower prices. The total number of working mines rose to 94 [93]. The provincial receipts from mines rose from Rs. 4,00,755 to Rs. 4,37,085 owing mainly to increased demand for manganese ore. The relations between the labourers and their employers continued to be cordial and the general health of the labourers was good.

119. The supply of labour which was mostly local was adequate. The year was free from strikes and any other indications of dissatisfaction on the part of the employees.

120. The special schools provided by the mining interests for labourers' children continued to be maintained in all the mining districts.

121. The number of accidents decreased to 87 [107] of which 21 [26] were fatal. Eight cases were dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in the Chhindwara district involving a total compensation of Rs. 4,680. Amounts of Rs. 490 and Rs. 654 were paid as compensation in the Nagpur and Chanda districts. A sum of Rs. 4,829-8-0 was awarded by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company on account of compensation for railway accidents in the Chhindwara district. Twenty-six prosecutions involving 37 persons were instituted under the Act.

### 10.—Forests

[Report on the Forest Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1937].

122. The total area under the control of the department  
Forest area. was 19,413 [19,398] square miles.



123. The Survey of India were engaged on the 1" survey in Raipur and the Forest Map Office, Dehra Dun, enlarged 12 maps of the Yeotmal division to the 2" scale.
- Demarcation and survey.**
124. New working plans were drawn up for South Chanda (782 square miles) and the Ahiri leased forests (150 square miles) while field work and collection of data for the plan of the Hoshangabad division and the North Raipur sub-division of Bilaspur were taken up. Good progress was also made with the new plan for Yeotmal division and stock-mapping was taken up in the Buldana sub-division.
- Working plans.**
125. 10, 114 miles of forest roads were maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,13,550 [Rs. 99,523].
- Forest communications.** The gross earnings of the Raipur Forest Tramway rose by Rs. 24,503 to Rs. 1,35,507 largely as a result of an increase in the transport of harra and paddy and timber. In consequence of successful efforts to develop a market in the Madras Presidency for the sal timber of this division, the export of scantlings was the highest since the tramway was constructed in 1927 and there are good prospects of a further increase of exports. As a result of these developements and of the sustained effort made to effect economy in the management of the line the surplus of gross receipts over working expenses [Rs. 80, 642 rose to Rs. 54,885 which was sufficient to cover depreciation charges which amounted to Rs. 29,459. Measures for further development of traffic on the tramway and improvement of its financial position are under the consideration of Government.
126. Rs. 10,145 [Rs. 14,552] were spent on the construction of 28 new quarters which included among others 18 forest guards quarters
- Forest buildings.** at a cost of Rs. 5,525. The expenditure on repairs to existing buildings amounted to Rs. 64,689 [Rs. 62,762]. Rs. 14,717 [Rs. 12,713] were spent on the maintenance of wells, tanks and other minor works.
127. Forest offences decreased to 28,816 [29,132].
- Forest offences.** Unauthorized fellings accounted for 44 per cent of the offences recorded. The number of cases dealt with under section 68 of the Indian Forest Act totalled 24,331 [24,825]. The total area under fire protection increased to 16,086 [15,673] square miles.

The number of fires decreased by 1 and the area burnt by 58,240 acres. Only 11 per cent of the total forest area was closed to the grazing of all animals. The number of cattle impounded was 6,766 [6,404]. Considerable damage by frost was caused in Nimar, Melghat, Betul and Hoshangabad divisions and in regeneration areas where injury by the browsing of sambhar and cheetal was reported also. Operations for the eradication of lantana were continued in the Melghat, Betul, Amraoti, and Hoshangabad divisions. Climber cutting operations were carried out at a cost of Rs. 7,365 [Rs. 4,809].

128. The progress of regeneration was satisfactory. Thinning and cutting back operations were carried out over an area of 117,023 [129,544] acres yielding a revenue of Rs. 2,76,706. [Rs. 2,84,237]. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests was 2,974,964 [3,106,858]. The area worked under systematic fellings decreased to 195,696 [200,673] acres. The value of major produce extracted by all agencies was Rs. 27,73,901 and of minor produce Rs. 31,82,734, the total earnings under both these heads decreased by Rs. 74,135 [Rs. 98,995]. The receipts from the saw-mill at Allapilli were Rs. 3,46,542 [Rs. 4,52,628].

129. The number of forest villages is 1,108 [1,104] with a population of 118,422 [115,886]. The condition of these villages is generally satisfactory. Although the activities and consequently the revenues of the Forest Department are largely dependent upon the exertions of the residents of these villages, facilities for education and provision for even the simplest medical facilities are lacking. Several schools were opened during the year largely as a result of the efforts of individual officers. A scheme is being prepared for opening schools in 73 centres and funds will be allotted for establishing a large number of these schools immediately.

130. Although the effects of the New Game Act were not apparent everywhere the two measures adopted for the calling in of crop protection guns during the hot weather and the prohibition of shooting from motor vehicles have had a salutary effect in preserving game. The general condition of the game in absolute sanctuaries was satisfactory.

131. The gross income from the forests in the province amounted to Rs. 47,63,565 against an expenditure of Rs. 36,39,370 leaving a surplus of Rs. 11,24,195.

Financial results.

### 11.—Public Works

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch for the year ending the 31st March 1937.]

132. The expenditure during the year on works executed from the Road Development Fund increased to Rs. 15,13,169 against a maximum of Rs. 12,05,434 in the previous year. The total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 37,29,883 against a programme of Rs. 61,50,900 approved by the Government of India.

133. The details of the figures are as follows :—

	Approved programme	To end of March 1936	Expenditure during 1936-37	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central Provinces share ..	24,68,500	13,82,199	5,41,750	19,23,949
Government of India Reserve	12,62,400	4,44,195	2,19,125	6,63,320
Loan (60.—Civil Works not charged to Revenue).	24,20,000	3,90,320	7,52,294	11,42,614
Total ..	61,50,900	22,16,714	15,13,169	37,29,883

134. The improvement of roads from the ordinary maintenance grant by the use of bituminous or tar surfaces in and near big towns where the traffic is heavy is being continued. The total mileage of class I metalled roads maintained from provincial funds was 5,071. The length of class II and III roads stood at 2,068 miles. These figures do not include roads maintained from district council funds nor the many thousands of miles of village roads and tracks maintained by local agencies.

135. The expenditure incurred during the year on constructing a new High Court Building at Nagpur was Rs. 40,014 against an estimate of Rs. 7,34,400. The work is financed from a loan from the Government of India and is classed under "60.—Civil Works not charged to Revenue."

136. The expenditure on works other than those financed from the Road Fund was as follows :—

	Rs.
Central—Buildings—Original works ..	2,384
Central—Buildings—Repairs ..	25,588
Provincial—Buildings—Original works ..	4,90,134
Provincial—Buildings—Repairs ..	6,16,715
Provincial—Communications—Original Works.	32,882
Provincial—Communications—Repairs ..	25,83,412
Provincial—Miscellaneous—Original Works and Repairs.	790
60—Civil Works not charged to Revenue—Buildings—Original works.	48,558
43.—Famine Relief ..	4,158
Rural Development works ..	9,607
Other heads ..	422
Contributinal works ..	24,350
Grant-in-aid ..	5,028
Total ..	38,44,028

137. Besides a number of minor works costing below Rs. 10,000, there were 85 major works in hand of which 24 were completed and the remaining 61 were in progress during the year.

## 12.—Irrigation

[Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for the year 1936-37.]

138. The total areas irrigated and assessed were 314,955 [322,799] and 317,335 [325,622] acres respectively.

139. The decrease in the rice area irrigated and assessed was due mainly to the non-renewal of agreements, whilst the decrease in wheat and other rabi was due to favourable rainfall and consequent short demand for irrigation.



140. At the beginning of the year, the area under agreement was 343,743 acres and, at the close of the year, it fell to 331,368 acres. During the year, the number of agreements that expired was 68 and the number of agreements made or renewed was 29.

141. The new form of agreement (A-1) which was introduced last year has proved popular in the Nagpur and Chanda districts, where 91 and 75 villages, respectively, have adopted the new agreement in exchange for their old ones. In the Mahanadi Circle, 110 villages accepted the agreements on the new form for their old ones. Out of the nine villages under the Kuserla tank, the agreements of which expired, seven have renewed them for ten years on the new form.

142. The general question of water-rates for rice irrigation was examined but no changes were made. For the three years commencing from 1936-37, "free" irrigation was sanctioned for the first year for all rice agreements which were renewed for a term of ten years in Form A or A-1. No other important changes in water-rates were made during the year.

143. No new projects were commenced during the  
Works. year.

144. The capital expenditure incurred on the construction of irrigation works for which  
Expenditure. capital and revenue accounts are kept, was Rs. 8,286 during the year. The credit was due to the sale of a large number of tipping wagons and rails, scrap iron, etc.

145. The gross assessed revenue of the year was  
Revenue. Rs. 11.20 lakhs [Rs. 10.83 lakhs] and the remission granted amounted to Rs. 36,216 [Rs. 42,076] or 3.2 [3.9] per cent of the gross assessment. The net assessment was Rs. 10.84 lakhs [10.41 lakhs]. The balance outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 1.09 lakhs [Rs. 0.99 lakh]. The cost of maintenance and working expenses of all works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept was Rs. 6.55 lakhs [Rs. 6.72 lakhs]. The profit on revenue over working expenses of major works was 3.19 lakhs which is a maximum for irrigation in these provinces.

146. So far as this affected the Irrigation Department, the activities of the Department of Agriculture were continued on the usual lines, *viz.*, the running of demonstration plots, the introduction and supply of improved seeds and attempts to encourage the introduction of improved methods of cultivation and manuring. In the Bilaspur district more attention was paid to the extension of sugarcane cultivation and planting of orchard and garden crops.

### 13.—Agriculture and crops

147. Expenditure of the Department of Agriculture during the year amounted to Rs. 10,71,338 which included Rs. 66,674 on botanical and other gardens, Rs. 15,115 on the Rice Research Scheme, Rs. 7,072 on the Cost Enquiry Scheme, Rs. 17,943 on the Agricultural Marketing Scheme, Rs. 1,732 on the Gangai Pest Scheme, Rs. 992 on the Sann Hemp Scheme and Rs. 830 on the Oilseeds Scheme. Receipts amounted to Rs. 2,33,992. The net expenditure on all branches of the Departments' activities thus amounted to Rs. 8,37,346. Of this sum Rs. 46,994 were contributed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and Rs. 83,538 by the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the research schemes in progress. The net cost to the province was therefore, Rs. 7,06,814 [Rs. 6,77,503].

148. Applications for admission to the College of Agricultural education numbered 157, and 58 students were admitted. The limited hostel accommodation made it necessary to permit 25 students to reside outside the hostel. Forty-two students appeared for the Intermediate Examination and 18 passed, one securing a first division. Twenty-three students appeared for the B. Ag. degree examination and 15 were successful of whom 10 were placed in the second division.

149. The Robertson Anglo-Vernacular Agricultural Middle School, Powarkheda, had 92 students on the roll half of whom were sons of malguzars and the remainder sons of cultivators. Seventeen boys appeared for the Higher School Entrance Examination and 12 passed. The carpentry class opened last year showed satisfactory progress.

150. The management of the Betul-Bazar Anglo-Vernacular Middle School was transferred from the district council to the Agricultural Department. Agriculture was

introduced into the curriculum of the Betul Government High School as an optional subject and a portion of the Betul Station Garden has been set part for practical training. In this district the link in agricultural education from the middle school right up to the college is now complete.

151. There were 83 applicants for admission to the Peace Memorial Agricultural School at Buldana and 20 were selected. Nine boys appeared for the final examination and eight were successful.

152. The Chemical Section continued analytical work on the general lines of the previous year. Chemical analysis of fruits and vegetables available in Nagpur was undertaken and the investigation will be extended gradually to other food products, the ultimate object being to assemble the data necessary for formulating a rational standard of human diet suited to different conditions of work, age and health. Another new line of investigation is concerned with the determination of the amount of moisture cotton will absorb when exposed to rain and to different degrees of atmospheric humidity. This information is necessary for implementing the provisions of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Act of 1936. Special investigations were undertaken to study the effect of manuring paddy with sann alone and with sann in combination with phosphatic manures and it was found that the combination not only gave a significantly higher yield than sann alone, but also produced grain of a higher nutritive value.

153. Research with the object of making available staple cottons that will spin higher counts than 20's is being pursued. The object is to oust the existing coarse cottons by varieties that can compete in the world market. There were some 20,000 acres under V.434 and once again it has proved the best all round strain so far evolved, with remarkable adaptability to varying climatic conditions. Another characteristic revealed by this cotton was the tenacity of its burst bolls to withstand heavy rain and wind without dropping. This cotton has also maintained its high spinning capacity. Several new strains have been bred and are being tried under different conditions. Two wilt-resisting strains of Bani have been isolated which give spinning performances

of 40's to 48's, but further work is necessary to improve their ginning percentages. Work has been carried out with Buri which has spread extensively in the Burhanpur area and is not subject to wilt. Good progress has also been made in regard to cotton's rotation crops. The area under the improved varieties of groundnut and Ak. 8.11 Ak. 12.24 is rapidly expanding.

154. Breeding was continued particularly with a view to obtaining heavy yielding strains which can be easily distinguished from wild rice. Some early hybrids with the desired combination of characters have been obtained from a cross between E.B. 17 and Nagkesar. Crosses No. 19 (Budhia Bako × Parewa) and No. 116 (Bhondo × Parewa) which can be readily distinguished from the wild type, maintained their reputation as high yielding rices under normal field conditions. They were distributed to cultivators for the first time and have been well reported upon. The Botanical survey of the paddy varieties of the province is now almost complete. Selection work on fine and scented rices has given strains of Kubrimohar and Chhatri of uniform quality and improved yield.

155. Work on wheat, pulses, oilseeds and fodder grasses was continued on the lines of the previous year. Amongst the hybrids obtained by crossing A 115 with foreign wheats, three strains Nos. 76, 148 and 267 are reported to have done well both in regard to yield and rust resistance. Among another group of crosses evolved to suit conditions in the plateau districts two early maturing strains, Nos. 3434 and 3463, will be tried on a field scale. Two prominent linseed hybrid strains were issued for trial on a field scale and a number of other hybrids were tested on the experimental farms. A morphological description of sixty unit types of linseed previously isolated has been written up.

156. The year under review was a very important one with regard to activities concerning cattle improvement. His Excellency the Viceroy's personal interest in the subject and his appeal to the public for donations for the purchase of stud bulls and their proper feed and care met with a satisfactory response. Public donations were supplemented by a grant from the Government of India. The total number of bulls provided from both accounts was 289. The Sahiwal herd of the Telinkheri Dairy farm maintained its high



standard of milk yield. In the 12 years from 1923-24 to 1935-36 the average yield per cow per annum is reported to have been raised from 2,000 lbs. to 2,859 lbs. which means an increase of approximately Rs. 70 per head per annum.

157. The Telinkheri Dairy Co-operative Society worked satisfactorily. There are now 18 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 4,841.

158. The whole of the Government of India grant for equipping the poultry farms at Telinkheri and Borgaon has now been fully utilized and birds of six foreign breeds are being maintained for comparison in regard to their general suitability for this province and their egg laying capacity.

159. A village enquiry regarding cattle and the production and consumption of milk was taken up and completed during the year under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

160. The Economics and Marketing Section completed the second year of its five-year programme. Reports of surveys on wheat, rice, tobacco, bananas, coffee, grapes, linseed, eggs, milk and cattle have been submitted up to date and reports on groundnut, markets and fairs, co-operative marketing, hides and skins were nearing completion. The surveys have brought to light the great scope that exists for agricultural and commercial improvement in those commodities. A small consignment of Nagpur Oranges was sent to Covent Gardens, London, on behalf of a prominent grower to test its commercial value in the London market. A commercial experiment designed to test the possibilities of marketing graded oranges was put into operation, in co-operation with the Central Marketing Department which provided the necessary staff and a grading machine free of cost. During the season 1,619 baskets of graded and 1,607 baskets of ungraded fruit were sent to various markets and the results appear to be encouraging.

161. Verum marketing operations continued on the lines of previous years. The number of bales pooled was 8,780 [6,823]. Unfortunately, verum, in common with other Indian staple cottons, suffered very severely from lack of demand both from Bombay and up-country mills and some 2,000 bales had to be marketed abroad. The average premium obtained was only Re. 1-3-0 on Broach

and Rs. 19 on Oomras. Such low prices will retard the extension of the verum area, but the market conditions responsible for the drop were so exceptional that they are not likely to recur.

162. The staff of this Section prepared designs and estimates of machinery required by the department and by agriculturists. Two more cinema demonstration lorries were purchased during the year and are being equipped for demonstration purposes. The Section has also been entrusted with the purchase, setting up and working of two power driven boring plants purchased from the Government of India grant for rural development.

163. Almost every activity of the Department has achieved substantial progress during the year. The number of seed farms and unions increased to 26,781 [23,428]. The area under improved crops is estimated at 2,194,807 [2,046,584] acres, and the approximate value of the increased outturn resulting from the use of improved seed at Rs. 59.05 lakhs [Rs. 56.52 lakhs]. Implements and spare parts to the value of Rs. 1,79,529 [Rs. 1,68,774] were sold to cultivators. 101 agricultural shows were held, 8,987 demonstrations and 448 illustrated lectures were given by the staff. Efforts are also being made to promote an interest in fruit and vegetable cultivation and results are beginning to emerge in the many excellent orchards and gardens which are springing up all over the province.

164. During the year 1936-37, 5,584 outbreaks of contagious diseases in live-stock were received and the mortality reported was 16,771. It would be seen that the number of outbreaks and the mortality in live-stock was the lowest as compared with the past five years. Goat virus vaccination against Rinderpest was undertaken by the district staff throughout the Province and 492,730 vaccinations were carried out. In addition to this, 141,177 vaccinations were performed by the special staff sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The total number of inoculations done in the Province was 756,517 in dealing with different diseases in live-stock. 238,330 patients were treated at the different veterinary dispensaries and 8,499 cases which were not brought to the dispensaries were

supplied with medicines. 167,519 scrub bulls were castrated during the year. One hundred outlying dispensaries were opened in the different districts of the Province which had very good results. All the cattle fairs and shows in the Province were attended and camp dispensaries were opened.

165. Efforts are being made to improve the indigenous breeds of cattle in the Province and young calves considered likely to make good bulls were left uncastrated to meet the growing demand for bulls in the Province. The work of registration of privately owned bulls considered fit for breeding work has been taken up and live-stock owners are advised to pay more attention towards the feed and keep of their animals with which is very closely connected their own prosperity.

#### 14.—Co-operative Societies

166. The economic condition of the agriculturists remained the same as before and the main task before the department was how to check a further deterioration and to conserve the resources of the movement. The total overdues in working societies decreased by Rs. 16.52 lakhs to Rs. 67.95 lakhs and this can be mainly accounted for by the separation of unrealized interest from the principal which was hitherto capitalized. The process of securing outstanding loans by taking first mortgages of members' lands was continued. In Berar, central banks had no alternative but to acquire more and more land in the course of liquidation proceedings. Fresh deposits exceeded withdrawals by about Rs. 4 lakhs and the demand of depositors was largely met from fresh deposits. The winding up of bad societies was continued. Seventy-four societies were cancelled, 44 societies were reorganized and 197 new societies registered. The number of societies registered is more than two and a half times the number cancelled during the year. This is a hopeful sign for the movement, as every care was taken in selecting villages for the formation of new societies. Total loans against members decreased to Rs. 167.7 lakhs [Rs. 176.8 lakhs] mainly as a result of the separation of unrealized interest from the principal as explained above. Repayments made by members however increased to Rs. 12.6 lakhs [Rs. 11.1 lakhs] and recoveries by banks to Rs. 14.4 lakhs [Rs. 12.9 lakhs]. The percentage of overdues against working societies declined to 75 [78] per cent.

The number of central banks remained the same, *viz.*, 35. Deposits from individuals held by central banks increased to Rs. 122.9 lakhs [Rs. 121.8 lakhs] and those held by the Provincial Bank to Rs. 40.38 lakhs [Rs. 36.32 lakhs].

167. The work of educating members in the practice and principles of co-operation was continued by means of rallies as before. In all 262 [249] rallies were held during the year, being attended by 14,199 members and 18,001 outsiders. Central Boards set up by the five Institutes continued the work of supervision and education of primary societies and the group system worked fairly well, although it cannot be gainsaid that opinion against the present system is hardening and it is felt that group officers are more agents for collection than instruments of education and supervision.

168. Government continued to make grants to the Institutes to enable them to carry on their essential functions. These grants fall considerably short of the deficits incurred by the Institutes and at present accumulated balances come to the rescue of Institutes for balancing their budgets. This process, however, cannot be continued much longer and a time must come when either Institutes must effect drastic economy or Government grants must be considerably increased or there must be a combination of both these remedies if the present system is to be continued. In spite of the unfavourable economic conditions, the field staff has been able to show some improvement in the working of societies. In any case further deterioration has been definitely checked.

169. Two more land mortgage banks were established at Wardha and Bilaspur towards the close of the year under report. The number of land mortgage banks in the Province thus increased from 10 to 12 during the year. Since the close of the year three more land mortgage banks have been established at Chhindwara, Khandwa and Khamgaon. In the absence of a Central Land Mortgage Bank, the Central Provinces and Berar Provincial Co-operative Bank has been financing the land mortgage banks. During the year under review the Provincial Bank advanced Rs. 2,44,582 [Rs. 1,11,385]. The total loan due by land mortgage banks to the Provincial Bank at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3,62,886 [Rs. 1,35,877]. The recoveries on account of



principal amounted to Rs. 17,725 and an amount of Rs. 2,997 remained overdue. A portion of these overdues has already been recovered and steps are being taken to recover the balance as early as possible.

170. The question of making initial grants to land mortgage banks in the first two years to wipe off losses, the establishment of a Central Land Mortgage Bank and the programme of establishing more land mortgage banks so as to cover the whole Province, are under the consideration of the Provincial Government.

171. During the year the Provincial Bank did not float any debentures, but on the 1st October 1937 it floated at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent the second series of debentures of the face value of rupees three lakhs at par. The response was prompt and satisfactory.

172. Recoveries of loans (principal) by central banks from rural credit societies increased to Rs. 10,01,159 [Rs. 8,06,675]. Central banks in Berar were compelled to purchase more land in the course of liquidation proceedings, the total area purchased by them up to the close of the year being 42,517 [39,641] acres. Cash advances made to societies increased to Rs. 8,57,563 [Rs. 7,39,962]. These advances were restricted to solvent members of the existing societies and to the members of new societies registered during the year. Total outstandings decreased to Rs. 1,30,14,480 [Rs. 1,45,50,175]. Renewals, however, increased to Rs. 2,02,595 [Rs. 61,222]. Taking overdues and renewals together, the arrears against members of societies decreased to Rs. 1,54,43,505 [Rs. 1,60,88,173] and their percentage to the total outstandings rose to 92 [91].

173. The number of societies increased to 3,966 [3,820]. The total membership also increased to 114,411 [110,476] but the working capital declined to Rs. 5,38,15,795 [Rs. 5,41,60,589].

174. The number of central banks remained the same as in the previous year (35) but their working capital slightly increased to Rs. 2,45,46,639 [Rs. 2,45,12,375]. The share-capital declined to Rs. 15,97,438 [Rs. 16,26,818]. The total deposits from individuals increased to Rs. 1,22,90,072 [Rs. 1,21,74,441] and reserve and other funds to Rs. 51,46,315 [Rs. 50,71,194]. The net profit during the year under report

increased to Rs. 2,59,475 [Rs. 90,898] a major portion of these profits will at audit be debited to bad debt provision at the final classification of debts. The unrealized and overdue interest amounted to Rs. 25,74,886 [Rs. 26,18,439]. Twenty-three [23] central banks were unable to distribute any dividend. The fluid resource available with the central banks amounted to Rs. 23,80,811 [Rs. 22,68,489].

175. The financial position of the Provincial Bank continued to be sound and strong. It carried surplus funds throughout the year. Overdues from central banks increased to Rs. 16,45,888 [Rs. 14,85,564]. Deposits of all kinds rose to Rs. 1,30,31,779 [Rs. 1,24,63,589], excluding Ten-Year Silver Jubilee Bonds amounting to Rs. 74,387. Recovery of loans amounted to Rs. 13,92,546 [Rs. 15,11,027]. Cash advances were Rs. 13,21,154 [Rs. 4,20,273]. The working capital increased to Rs. 1,52,33,198 [Rs. 1,44,15,386]. The net profits of the bank declined to Rs. 45,790 [Rs. 50,972].

176. There are 72 agricultural societies for purposes other than credit, *viz.*, 45 agricultural associations, 2 landholders' associations, 15 seed unions and 10 adat shops.

177. One hundred and ninety-seven primary societies were registered while 74 societies were cancelled during the year. The total number of rural credit societies thus increased to 3,708 [3,585] and their membership to 48,369 [47,878]. The average number of members per society was the same as in the last year, *i.e.*, 13. The working capital of societies decreased to Rs. 1,08,26,940 [Rs. 1,24,59,872] and the loans due by members to Rs. 83,27,893 [Rs. 1,00,98,019]. This is primarily due to separation of unrealized interest from the principal, capitalized in the past. The total loans advanced to members of societies increased to Rs. 17,20,905 [Rs. 16,73,307]. The cash advances also increased to Rs. 7,53,173 [Rs. 6,72,433].

## 15.—Education

178. The total number of educational institutions in the Province increased from 5,955 to 6,038, the number of recognized institutions rising from 5,577 to 5,662 and that of unrecognized institutions falling slightly from 378 to 376. The total

Numbers.

number of pupils under instruction increased from 499,100 to 499,834, the number in recognized institutions rising from 483,818 to 484,064 and that in unrecognized institutions from 15,282 to 15,770.

179. The total expenditure on education increased from Rs. 1,09,15,608 to Rs. 1,11,74,406, the contribution by Government being increased from Rs. 47,39,189 to Rs. 48,16,628. The average cost of education per pupil rose from Rs. 22-9-2 to Rs. 23-1-4.

180. Important amendments to the Statutes, passed by the Court at its annual meeting, have received the assent of His Excellency the University. Chancellor. Among them were the following :—

- (i) Institution of the First and Final examinations for the Diploma in Engineering and the B. Sc. (Tech.) examination.
- (ii) Addition of B. Sc. (Tech.) and M. Ag. Degrees.
- (iii) The term of office of the Vice-Chancellor was extended from two to three years.

181. The total number of examinees for the various university examinations was 2,597 [2,470] of whom 1,556 [1,542] passed. In view of the large increase in the number of candidates for degrees, two Convocations were held in 1936. The total number of the various endowment funds on March 1937 was 45 and their aggregate value on the 31st March 1937 was Rs. 1,87,300 [Rs. 1,84,000]. The number of students on the roll of the University College of Law on 1st September 1936 was 450 [487], of these 222 were in the previous class and 228 in the final class.

182. An examination for the Diploma in Engineering was instituted and the Government School of Engineering was admitted to the privileges of the University up to the Diploma standard in July 1936. The total number of affiliated colleges has increased by one to 15.

183. The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 1,894, the total number on the 30th June 1937 being 29,219. A sum of Rs. 14,579-7-5 was spent on the purchase of new books.

184. The strength of the University Training Corps for the year ending the 31st March 1937 was 314 [295], of whom 229 belonged to Government colleges.

185. Research grants to the value of Rs. 2,500 and a grant of Rs. 2,500 for the purchase of books on Applied Science and Chemistry were made this year. 52.94 acres of land have been acquired for the Laxminarayan Technological Institute on the Nawab's Hill near the Amraoti road. A detailed contour survey of the site has been made, the information necessary for the preparation of plans and designs has been obtained and a Constructional Engineer appointed.

186. The total income of the University for the year was Rs. 2,04,938-6-11 and the total expenditure Rs. 1,91,452-4-9. The closing balance on the 31st March 1937 was Rs. 2,00,360-9-5.

187. The first year students of all colleges in Arts and Science at Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Amraoti were required to undergo a course of physical exercises extending over at least 40 periods. The medical officers reported an appreciable improvement in height, weight and chest measurement, as compared with the year 1935-36 when the scheme was not in operation.

188. The number of colleges remained the same, *i.e.*, 9, and the number of students increased to 2,785 [2,511]. Of the five colleges under private managements the Hislop College and the Central College for Women, Nagpur, are aided by Government. The total expenditure in Government Arts and Science Colleges increased to Rs. 5,60,781 [Rs. 5,25,957], the contribution from Government funds during the year being Rs. 3,73,075 [Rs. 3,44,916]. The contribution from Government funds for aided colleges increased to Rs. 22,683 [Rs. 18,244]. In unaided colleges, fee receipts went up to Rs. 42,889 [Rs. 27,654] and income from other sources decreased to Rs. 3,527 [Rs. 5,568]. The average cost of educating a student was Rs. 243-7-4, [Rs. 249-12-10]. In The Science College 64 papers on research were published by the staff. Well-edited college magazines are published by the older colleges.

189. The annual meeting of the Board was held in September 1936. The first examination in the new curriculum with its regrouping of subjects was held in the year 1936. German and metal work are the only new subjects in which no candidates have yet appeared for the examination. The



other new subjects, *viz.*, botany, zoology, agriculture, and woodwork for 1936, and physiology-hygiene, civics, painting, music and art-needle work prescribed for 1937 in addition to the subjects for 1936 were offered by several candidates in the years 1936 and 1937. Of the 4,457 candidates in 1937, 2,301 passed, the percentage being 53.6. These figures include 1,296 private candidates of whom 318 passed [26.86 per cent].

190. The total receipts, drawn almost entirely from examination fees, for the year 1936-37 amounted to Rs. 71,275. The expenditure for the year exceeded the income by Rs. 10,546 but the Board has taken steps to curtail its expenditure by reducing certain valuation charges and payments to superintendents of centres and by levying an additional fee for the practical examination in various subjects.

191. The number of high schools increased from 75 to 80 and that of anglo-vernacular middle schools from 201 to 207. The enrolment in high schools decreased from 9,291 to 9,174 and in anglo-vernacular middle schools increased from 30,740 to 31,260. Sixteen out of 28 recognized high schools in the Nagpur Circle are situated in Nagpur. In Berar, every taluq headquarters except one has an anglo-vernacular middle school and more than half of these places have a high school as well. The total expenditure on secondary schools increased from Rs. 22,31,789 to Rs. 23,35,961, of which the percentage of Government contribution declined from 61.4 to 40.6. The average cost of maintaining a high school was Rs. 13,290 and that of an anglo-vernacular middle school was Rs. 6,144. The total cost of educating each student increased from Rs. 55-12-3 to Rs. 57-12-0, and the net cost to Government was Rs. 23-6-7. The percentage of trained teachers in Government high schools was 92.4. The decline in the percentage of trained teachers in unaided high schools is mainly due to the lack of accommodation in the Spence Training College, Jubbulpore. In the case of anglo-vernacular middle schools, the percentage of trained teachers in Government schools is as high as could possibly be expected, but the same cannot be said of non-Government schools. The percentage of passes at the High School Entrance and Scholarship examination shows a slight decrease from 61.8 to 61.5. The number of

Secondary Educa-  
tion—Anglo-Verna-  
cular Schools.

Manual Training Centres attached to Government schools remained stationary at 17. Local non-Government schools at some places avail themselves of the facilities provided at these centres.

192. All the Government high schools except the five at Balaghat, Mandla, Hoshangabad, Khandwa and Jubbulpore are provided with physical training instructors. The new syllabus in physical training is being adopted gradually, but progress in this direction is somewhat slow for lack of suitably trained instructors. The want of spacious and suitable playgrounds is keenly felt in non-Government schools and there can be little improvement in this direction until the finances of these bodies improve.

193. The number of vernacular middle schools remained constant at 383 but the number of pupils decreased from 76,396 to 75,669. Nearly half of the aggregate number of pupils attending vernacular middle schools in the Province come from Berar, but as the average enrolment in that circle is smaller than that in the remaining three circles, it is perhaps, open to doubt whether the existence of all these schools is justified. The number of these schools teaching English as an optional subject dropped from 123 to 120 but the number of pupils learning English slightly increased from 2,964 to 2,988. The standard of instruction in English in these classes is generally poor. Four vernacular middle schools in the Nagpur Circle and two in Berar and two in Chhattisgarh have agricultural training classes attached to them. The school at Betul Bazar has now been recognised as an agricultural anglo-vernacular middle school and has been taken over by the Agricultural Department. There is a demand for the teaching of agriculture particularly in vernacular middle schools in rural areas and a few local bodies like the district council, Buldana, have undertaken the introduction of this subject in some schools. Instruction in agriculture in classes attached to vernacular middle schools and aided by Government is reported to be fairly satisfactory. The prospect of entrance into a normal school, and of securing a teacher's post, in the past provided a great stimulus to vernacular education at the middle school stage, but the tendency of local bodies to employ untrained men as teachers, even when trained men are available, has discouraged many

Secondary Education—Vernacular middle schools.

would-be pupils of vernacular middle schools. Matriculates are now admitted into the second year class without passing the normal school admission test. This has further tended to discourage enrolment in vernacular middle schools in some areas.

194. Compulsion was in operation in 447 village centres in district council areas. Compulsory primary education. Twenty-five municipalities and three notified area committees also had schemes in operation. The Betul district council introduced compulsion in 19 additional centres, without a grant from Government, with effect from 1st April 1936. The Act ceased to operate in four villages attached to the Mungeli centre under the district council, Bilaspur, owing to the establishment of a separate notified area committee at that place. The total recurring expenditure on schemes in force amounted to Rs. 1,24,309. It cannot be said that the results of the working of the Act have been satisfactory. In the Nagpur Circle both enrolment and attendance have failed to fulfil expectations and schemes have partially failed because in many cases they have been introduced in advance of any demand by local public opinion. In the Chhattisgarh Circle, though no new area has been brought under the scheme, the working of the Act seems to be more satisfactory than elsewhere. In Berar only one new area has been brought in. Complaints of the slackness of attendance authorities, owing to fear of unpopularity, are frequent and meetings are often too few and badly attended. Among the teachers discipline is unsatisfactory and the attendance of pupils is not what it ought to be.

195. Though the total number of primary schools for boys increased from 4,270 to 4,328, the number of pupils decreased from 313,451 to 312,653. Of the total number enrolled in class I during 1933-34 [128,596], 57,704, *i.e.*, 45 per cent, arrived in class IV at the end of four years, and only 26.3 per cent of pupils enrolled in class I four years before, passed the Primary Certificate Examination in 1937.

196. Of the 8,373 teachers in district council schools, 5,343, or 63.8 per cent were trained and of the 2,459 teachers in municipal and notified area committee schools, 1,819 or 74.0 per cent. There is plenty of scope for the employment

of trained teachers, but, owing to the reluctance of several local bodies to use them, they have become discouraged and often seek other vocations. In the Berar Circle, matriculates were admitted directly to the second year course in the three normal schools. If this system is continued for some years more the general level of efficiency may be considerably raised, but hitherto the matriculate has found it difficult to fit in with village life. The maximum limit of 25 per cent in respect of transfers of teachers set by the department has been exceeded by four district councils. Of the 492 teachers in private primary schools, 194, or 39 per cent, are trained. In unaided primary schools, the percentage of trained teachers is only 25.4.

197. Conditions of service leave much to be desired. Irregularity of payment, needless transfers and the lack of appreciation of good work have tended to create an atmosphere of gloom, despondency and lethargy and adequate results can hardly be expected until the status of the teachers is raised. It is noteworthy that the district council, Raipur, set aside a certain sum for use as good conduct allowances. In Hoshangabad and Nimar there have been no promotions for nine and six years, respectively. In municipal areas, conditions are slightly better. Transfers cause less hardship and pay is higher but here too promotion depends on considerations other than merit. Many teachers spend much time in giving private tuition to the neglect of their legitimate duties.

198. It will be observed that the average pay of teachers in district council schools is low but in municipal schools, except in Berar, conditions are better.

199. The total number of candidates that appeared for the Primary Certificate Examination increased from 53,545 to 54,117 while the number that passed rose from 33,627 to 34,983, the percentage of passes rising from 62.5 to 65. Opinions on the value of holding a common primary examination vary considerably. Though some Inspectors regard them as administratively useful and convenient and as promoting uniformity of standard and healthy rivalry among teachers, others think that in view of the tender age of the candidates, the unfamiliar surroundings of the place of examination and the distances to be covered to reach it, to hold such examinations is undesirable.



200. Towards the end of the year the preparation of a revised primary school syllabus which aimed at ensuring a type of literacy that would not lapse and at giving the pupil a living interest in his environment was taken in hand.

201. In the general administration of primary education there was no improvement, as it is generally in the hands of regional bodies with an ever-changing personnel, with the inevitable result that continuity of policy is conspicuous by its absence. One particularly distressing feature is that the advice tendered by the Deputy Inspectors is generally ignored.

202. The number of recognized institutions for girls (excluding Anglo-Indian and European Schools) increased from 541 to 555 and that of unrecognized institutions from 43 to 50. The total number of girls enrolled in all kinds of institutions decreased from 80,820 to 79,380. Of these, as many as 34,344 were reading in institutions for boys. The number of women students in colleges, increased from 113 to 164. The enrolment in high schools for girls increased from 438 to 486 and that in anglo-vernacular middle schools from 2,017 to 2,454.

203. The total number of vernacular middle and primary schools increased from 498 to 508 and the total enrolment from 40,964 to 41,477. The average attendance shows a slight drop from 80.02 to 79.6 per cent. The number of girls at the primary stage in recognized institutions for girls and boys increased from 70,232 to 72,908. Numbers rose appreciably in all the classes of primary schools except in class I which shows a decrease from 35,230 to 33,505.

204. In vernacular schools untrained teachers are being replaced by trained. Men teachers are replaced by women teachers as they are available. For Urdu schools very few trained women teachers are available in the Nagpur Circle. Untrained inexperienced women are entertained whenever feasible to replace the untrained men teachers in Urdu schools. Of the 453 teachers employed in girls vernacular schools in the Nagpur Circle, 118 were untrained, including 61 men teachers.

205. There were eight normal schools, two of which were maintained by Government and six by private bodies. The number of pupils dropped during the year from 406 to 396. An Urdu section was opened at Amraoti.

206. In the Nagpur Circle, Ladies' Committees have been formed in most of the Marathi girls' schools but in rural areas it is difficult to get educated ladies who will attend meetings regularly.

207. The total number of Mohammadan pupils under instruction increased from 53,243 to 53,312, of whom 50,643 were in recognized institutions and 2,669 were in unrecognized institutions. The number in various colleges rose from 239 to 269. Arts and Science colleges claimed as many as 219 [178], including two girl students. The number in the Law College, Agricultural College and Spence Training College was 26, 13 and 11, respectively. The number of pupils in high schools decreased from 1,059 to 1,022 and remained stationary at 3,782 in anglo-vernacular middle schools. The number of girls in high schools rose from 11 to 15 and in anglo-vernacular middle schools from 101 to 110. The number of scholars in all the Urdu classes attached to the Akot, Balapur and Malkapur anglo-vernacular schools hardly justify the expenditure incurred on their account. The only reason that head masters can give for this shortage of numbers is the poverty of the Mohammadan community. The local Anjumans that used to defray some part of the expenses of education have ceased to function, partly owing to a decrease of interest and partly to the general economic depression of the people.

208. There were six middle schools with English classes in Amraoti district and four in the Buldana district. The English teachers were almost all untrained matriculates. The knowledge of English possessed by the pupils at the end of the course is much below the average.

209. There has been a striking increase in the number of girls in vernacular schools under instruction, but the wastage is depressingly large. The crying need throughout is for trained teachers and until these are forthcoming no real advance can be made. Compulsory education has not made much headway as far as the Urdu schools in Berar are concerned. In the Amraoti district council schools, the head masters of the Marathi schools are paid to act also as attendance officers but Urdu schools head masters have no such incentive to raise the number of children attending their schools.

210. The term ' Backward Classes ' includes Harijans (formerly called Depressed classes) and aboriginal, hill and criminal tribes. The total number of pupils of the backward classes decreased from 81,767 to 80,076. In recognized institutions it decreased to 77,378 and in unrecognized institutions it increased to 2,698. There were six girls of the Harijan community and two girls of the aboriginal communities in high schools. The total number of Harijan girls in recognized institutions decreased from 3,983 to 3,946. As far as the figures for Harijans are concerned, there has been an advance in all stages of education, but the figures for the rest of the backward classes are depressing. Lack of progress in this direction is largely due to the prevailing economic depression.

211. Schools which are especially intended for the education of the backward classes are aided by Government to the extent of two-thirds of the approved expenditure. Committees for the promotion of education of the backward classes were appointed in the Balaghat, Bilaspur, Nagpur and Mandla districts. The work of the committee in the Bilaspur district made some progress. The district council, Nimar, has opened some schools in forest areas for promoting literacy among the hill tribes. In the Hoshangabad district three feeder schools have been opened in the forest tract. There was an increase in the number of Harijans, aboriginals and wandering tribes under instruction in the Hoshangabad district. The Gond Seva Mandal, run by Mr. Verrier Elwin, rendered good educational service to the Gonds during the year. Everywhere it is noticeable that the former prejudice against Harijan children is rapidly disappearing.

212. The number of Anglo-Indians and Europeans enrolled in Arts and Science Colleges increased from 15 to 25 of whom 19 were males and six females. There was none in the professional colleges.

213. In April 1936 an Inspector of European and Anglo-Indian schools was appointed.

214. The number of high, middle and primary schools remained stationary at 10, 10 and 17, respectively. The total enrolment increased from 3,096 to 3,128, of whom 1,227

were boys and 1,901 girls. The number of non-Europeans enrolled in these schools increased from 1,152 to 1,235, the number of boys decreasing from 465 to 460 and of girls rising from 687 to 775. The results of the Junior Local and School Certificate Examinations were depressing, the percentage of passes falling from 68.43 to 49 and from 54.73 to 39.6, respectively. Thirteen candidates appeared at the Cambridge Higher Certificate Examination and two passed.

215. The number of teachers increased from 160 to 167, of whom 111 [102] were trained.

216. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 5,36,865 to Rs. 5,43,607. Of this amount Rs. 1,18,330 were contributed by Government. The Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education met as usual during the year.

217. The total enrolment in the college was 127, of whom 27 were in the B. T. class and 100 in the Dip. T. classes; of these six were ladies. The B. T. staff is five in number including two professors, and in the Dip. T. department are nine lecturers. In order to secure more efficient supervision of practical teaching another lecturer, preferably a Marathi speaker, proficient in Science and Mathematics, is wanted. The post of Superintendent of Physical Education was abolished. Twenty-five out of 27 candidates for the B. T. examination and all the 46 candidates for the Dip. T. examination were successful. Particular emphasis is laid on the value of practical work which is conducted not only in the Model High School but also in other local schools. Special care is taken to ensure that no student is admitted unless he is guaranteed employment after training. Admission is now confined to *bonâ fide* residents of this Province. Several new subjects have been added to the curriculum and with the small staff available, it is difficult to make arrangements for dealing adequately with them. The system of essay-writing involving some kind of research was introduced in both the Dip. T. and B. T. classes with some success. Instruction was also given in general knowledge, but the response was poor. Tutorial groups continued to do valuable work. Last year a special library period was set aside for the B. T. class but in the light of experience the arrangements made will have to be modified. In the Dip. T. class the

Training of teachers—A Spence Training College, Jubbulpore.



courses of studies remained practically as before affiliation ; those subjects not taken in the University examination continued to be taught in the college. A feature of the period was the close association of the B. T. staff with the teaching and the practical work of these classes. One discouraging feature is that the standard in English is getting steadily worse, that of those who have passed their matriculation examination in external Universities being particularly bad.

218. Work has been carried on in connection with tests for vocational guidance and in the teaching of mathematics in primary schools. Drawing and manual training are now optional, but instruction in them continues to be given.

219. The number of normal schools for men remained unchanged at eight, seven being maintained by Government and one by a mission. The total enrolment in the schools dropped from 865 to 800 owing to the abolition of some of the sections in Nagpur Circle, and in Berar to a slackening of the demand from local bodies for trained men. Most of the students were in receipt of stipends the number of which for the two years' course was 365 and for the three years' course 95. The expenditure on Government normal schools decreased from Rs. 2,22,906 to Rs. 2,17,299 and in the unaided normal school from Rs. 3,120 to Rs. 2,720 and the cost per student increased from Rs. 261 to Rs. 275.

220. In the Nagpur Circle a definite rural bias has been given to the training of teachers and the schools were placed in charge of men who were in close contact with village life. Particular attention was paid to handicrafts. At Seoni and Wardha an adjacent village school was adopted and students taught in it by turns. In the Dhamtari normal school a syllabus specially designed for mission primary school teachers was introduced. In the Bilaspur normal school a vocabulary of words suitable for primary schools was prepared by the staff and an experimental primary school syllabus was worked out for a full course of four years. The special one-year class for matriculates was not a success as the matriculate does not easily adapt himself to village life and never conceals his dissatisfaction with his lot.

221. All the Government normal schools in the province have been provided with trained physical instructors.

222. The total number of scouts during the year under report increased from 36,815 to 39,086.

**Boy Scouts.** The report of the association indicates that progress has been made in several directions. Certain local bodies have evinced a keen interest in the movement and many malguzars are also co-operating to further its objects. In view of the success of the troops at the Chandkhuri Leper Asylum, two more have been started at the asylums at Champa and Dhamtari. The Borstal troop at Narsinghpur is reported to be doing sound work. Much was done to concentrate strongly on village uplift as being a type of service peculiarly suited to the conditions prevailing in this province. Scouts have helped to dig manure pits, to build better roads, to train village school masters, and to remove adult illiteracy and, by starting village libraries and gardens, experimental farms and sports and literary clubs, have done much to help the villagers. In addition, they have organized talks on health, hygiene, sanitation, maternity welfare and cattle improvement. Good public service has been rendered not only at local fairs but also in fire-fighting, epidemics and floods. District rallies were regularly held as were training camps and courses. These courses are now of nine different kinds and include courses for illiterates and for village uplift and handicraft work. The teaching of handicrafts has been steadily pursued, mainly from an educational point of view. The visit of Mr. J. S. Wilson, Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, gave a great stimulus to scout work, especially as far as village uplift and the establishment of "Open Troops" were concerned. Two years ago, with the help of the zamindar of Ahiri, a class for Madia Gonds was held. Twelve of these are now running their own troops. Three hundred and twenty-seven scouts, drawn from all classes of the population, attended the All-India Jamboree at Delhi in February 1937.

223. Much has been done to reorganize the work in these Provinces and the membership of the Association increased to 394. Training in the Mackenzie school course was given in all normal schools as a regular part of the curriculum. At the Trained Teachers Certificate Examination held

**St. John's Ambulance Association.**

in April 1936, 682 students from these schools appeared for the examination of whom 647 passed. During 1936-37, 40 students from Burhanpur, including 25 trained in the preceding year, appeared and passed the practical examination in First-Aid.

224. The Junior Red Cross movement made appreciable progress. One hundred and twenty new groups were enrolled with a membership of 2,361 boys and 914 girls, and at the end of the year the total number of groups was 463 and the total number of boys and girls on the roll 13,361 and 1,904, respectively. In the Yeotmal district, the Junior Red Cross Group of the Government girls' anglo-vernacular school took a prominent part in the baby week celebrations.

225. The affiliation of the school to the Nagpur University up to the Diploma standard in October 1936, will, it is anticipated, result in attracting a better type of student. The total number of students on the roll has decreased from 130 to 119. Sixty-one took civil engineering, forty-three mechanical engineering, 13 automobile engineering and two the oil engine drivers' course. Forty-two candidates appeared at the first examination in Engineering of the Nagpur University in the year 1937 and 26 passed. The situation as regards employment has, on the whole, improved. As certain municipalities have now decided to employ qualified students of this school, the outlook is very hopeful. It is satisfactory to note that several students who launched out into private enterprises have now established themselves as contractors or consulting engineers and are sufficiently prosperous to employ, to a considerable extent, the younger generation of their old school.

226. The number of boarders in all Arts and Science Colleges increased from 585 to 597. In the hostel attached to the Central College for Women, Nagpur, the number of resident students during the year was 19. In the Law College the number of boarders increased from 21 to 26, in the Agricultural College it decreased from 134 to 127 and in the Spence Training College it remained stationary at 95.

227. In hostels attached to high schools the number of boarders increased from 1,195 to 1,214 and in anglo-vernacular middle schools from 1,244 to 1,582. The number of

boarders in hostels attached to vernacular middle schools decreased from 1,710 to 1,699. Economic depression, which is more keenly felt in rural areas, is responsible for this decline.

228. The number of hostels for depressed class pupils remained at six and the Government grant to these hostels decreased from Rs. 6,592 to Rs. 4,570. The three hostels at Amraoti were amalgamated into one and it was noticed that, as boys from the Mahar and Chamar communities could not be induced to have a common mess, the managers had to provide two messes. It is probable that if, instead of having as superintendents men from the Harijan communities who are not educationally well qualified for the work, whole-time and qualified persons irrespective of their caste, were appointed, the boarders living in these hostels would be better disciplined and show better progress in their school work. Some of the superintendents in these hostels, being only part-time workers, could not help the boarders to get the best out of hostel life. Besides these aided hostels, there are five others in the Akola district and 13 in the Buldana district which get aid from the district councils concerned. One unrecognised hostel is maintained in Bhandara by the Depressed Class Society.

229. Hostels attached to Anglo-Indian and European schools remained constant at 11 and the number of boarders increased from 798 to 801.

230. Arrangements for the construction of a new building for the College of Law are in progress.  
**Buildings.** The Nagpur University has been fortunate in obtaining a fine site on the Nawab's Hill on the Amraoti road, for the buildings of the Laxminarayan Technological Institute. The area measures 78.04 acres, of which 52.94 acres, acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, are now in the possession of the University; the remaining area of 25.10 acres is Government land and it is expected that it will also be shortly granted to the University. It is hoped to commence building operations immediately after the rains.

231. In the Government Colleges no important additions have been made. Accommodation in the Morris College is inadequate and the need for more room for hostel students in the Science College, is felt. The buildings of



the City College, Nagpur, and of the City College, Jubbulpore, have been extended ; the Vasudeo College, Wardha, is for the time being, housed in a rented building. Accommodation was inadequate in the Central College for Women.

232. Owing to financial stringency, no new construction of school buildings or extension of existing buildings was undertaken by Government. Plans and estimates for a number of other buildings have been sanctioned but no payment by Government was possible owing to financial stringency. It has, however, been decided that the amounts of building grants already sanctioned in favour of certain schools should be paid as early as possible and steps in this direction are being taken.

233. Almost all the vernacular middle schools have buildings of their own, but they need extension and repair.

234. The state of most of the building used for primary schools is far from satisfactory. Many are ill-ventilated and dilapidated and too many schools are housed in structures not designed for the purpose to which they are put.

235. The number of Scientific and Literary Societies was 204 [190]. Twenty-eight received grants from Government, three from district councils, 31 from municipalities and 142 were maintained from private funds.

#### 16.—Excise and Prohibition

236. There was a further slight improvement in the gross revenue for the financial year 1936-37, which rose to Rs. 63.80 [Rs. 60.12] lakhs or by 6 per cent. The main items which made up the increase were country spirit Rs. 4,88,031 or 17 per cent and hemp drugs Rs. 81,765 or 9 per cent contributed both by licence fees and duty receipts.

237. Owing to continued fall in consumption and losses suffered by licensees, revenue from opium and toddy declined, the former by Rs. 1,98,728 or 11 per cent and the latter by Rs. 30,329 or 10 per cent.

238. Issue price rates of country spirit were further reduced by 21 per cent for 1936 which resulted in an increase of 39 per cent in consumption in the contract supply area, from 237,523 to 331,161 proof gallons.

239. The consumption of opium fell further from 10,980 to 10,115 seers or by 8 per cent; this slightly reduced the incidence per 10,000 of the population from 7 seers to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  seers. The consumption of ganja showed a trifling decrease of 24 seers to 12,874 [12,898] seers.

240. Prosecutions under the Excise, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Acts declined to 5,024 [7,154] of which the principal offence, illicit distillation, accounted for 2,647 [4,888].

241. The several measures adopted for the suppression of illicit distillation, *viz.* :—

- (i) substantial reductions in issue price rates,
- (ii) the supply of stronger spirit throughout the province,
- (iii) employment of special preventive staff wherever necessary,

resulted in a decrease in the reported number of cases from 4,537 to 2,536.

242. The re-introduction of charas into the province in the year 1935 coupled with the combined efforts of the district and special preventive staffs reduced the volume of smuggling still further to 10 [45] cases, with only 28 seers 47 tolas [2 maunds 33 seers] of which two important cases together accounted for 28 seers 22 tolas which indicates the petty nature of the other cases.

243. Cases of illegal possession of charas, however, increased to 110 [66] and the quantity involved to 13 seers 53 tolas [3 seers 51 tolas].

244. Experience has shown that the two shops in Nagpur and Jubbulpore are inadequate to meet the demand of even these towns and hence the number has been increased to 8 in the current year.

245. Government has decided to adopt immediate total prohibition as its policy and to take such steps as will ensure the complete attainment of the goal as early as possible.

246. In view, however, of the social and religious sanctions in favour of drink among aborigines it is proposed to exclude tracts inhabited by aboriginal castes from the

new policy. As the first step in carrying out the scheme, it has been decided to restrict prohibition to country spirit and toddy only and to declare "dry" with effect from the 1st January 1938, the whole of the Saugor district, the Narsinghpur sub-division of the Hoshangabad district and the Akot taluq of the Akola district. In order to see what effect prohibition has in industrial areas, Government has also decided to prohibit entirely the use of country spirit and toddy in a few such selected areas, *viz.*, Hinganghat of the Wardha district and Badnera of the Amraoti district, which are typical textile mill centres, and Katni-Murwara of the Jubbulpore district which is in a cement factory zone.

247. For purposes of administration and control of "dry" areas, a prohibition bill has been introduced and is now before the local Legislative Assembly. It is proposed to carry on temperance propaganda in "dry" and other areas through the agency of a provincial anti-drink board composed of official and non-official members and anti-drink committees consisting of non-officials only.

## 17.—Miscellaneous

### 1.—Registration

248. Total registrations in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1936 rose to 123,443 [114,974] or by 7.37 per cent. Of these 68,496 were from the Central Provinces and 54,947 from Berar. The Central Provinces districts were responsible for nearly the whole of the increase, Berar's quota being only 106 documents. The increase came wholly from the registration of movable property, specially of debt conciliation agreements. Of the total number of registrations 80.86 per cent related to immovable property, 18.33 per cent to movable property and the rest (0.81 per cent) to testamentary instruments.

249. There was a further fall in the aggregate value of property covered by all instruments to Rs. 5,92,93,888 [Rs. 6,12,57,807] or by Rs. 19,63,919 or 3.21 per cent. This decrease closely follows a large decrease of 23.96 per cent in Berar in the aggregate value of documents affecting immovable property, as compared with the increase in the Central Provinces, of 4.14 per cent.

250. The gross income of the Department rose to Rs. 4,94,832 [Rs. 4,86,290] or by 1.76 per cent. Much of this revenue came from fees on debt conciliation agreements. While in the Central Provinces it increased by Rs. 29,504 or 10.95 per cent, in Berar it fell by Rs. 18,952 or 8.06 per cent.

251. The percentage of expenditure to receipts was 39.49, *viz.*, 38.70 in the Central Provinces and 40.66 in Berar. The total expenditure of the Department, including charges of superintendence, slightly rose to Rs. 1,95,408 [Rs. 1,94,128].

## 2.—Literature and the Press.

252. The total number of publications registered in the Province during the year 1936-37 was 146 as against 211 in the previous year. There was thus a decrease in the number by 65. Of the books published, 16 were in English, 75 in Hindi, 25 in Marathi, six in Urdu, one in Sanskrit, seven in Gujrati (including those in Arabic and Nagri character), one in Arabic and the rest, *i.e.*, 15 were bi-linguals or tri-linguals. Of these 39 were educational publications.

253. The number of newspapers and periodicals in circulation at the end of the last year was 69. Twenty-six were newly started during the year, while 17 ceased publication, leaving thus the total of 78 at the end of the year under report. Among the English papers, the tri-weekly *Hitavada* conducted by the Servants of India Society and an exponent of the Liberal Party's views had the largest circulation. It was moderate in tone and reasonable in its criticism of Government measures. Another English paper, the *Daily News*, was a non-party paper, advocating Dominion Status by constitutional means. During the elections to the Provincial Assembly, both these papers lent support to non-congress candidates. The *Maharashtra* (Nagpur) and the *Udaya* (Amraoti) were the two leading Marathi papers of the Province. Both these belonged to the Responsivist School of Thought and supported the policy of the Hindu Maha Sabha. Of the Hindi papers, the *Swarajya* (Khandwa) and the *Karmavir* (Khandwa) has a fairly large circulation holding considerable influence among the Hindi-speaking population. Both supported the Congress policy and sometimes subjected



Government's activities to severe criticism. The *Nava-Rajasthan* (Akola) another Hindi paper, with pro-Congress tendencies also gained considerable influence during the year. Although started with the object of bringing about the uplift of the Marwari community, it several times indulged in strong comments on Government and its policy. It has its circulation mostly in Rajputana. Among the Urdu papers, the *Al-Burhan* (Akola) and the *Al-Farooque* (Kamptee), which were newly started had a fair circulation. The former dealt primarily with communal and social matters and occasionally with current politics, while the latter advocated the policy of the Muslim League.

254. The Government Press is equipped with up to date machinery for printing in three languages, *viz.*, English, Hindi and Marathi. Limited facilities are available for doing small jobs in Sanskrit and Urdu as well.

The Government Press, Nagpur

The year under report was an unusually busy one, the outstanding piece of work done being the printing of electoral rolls and ballot papers for the Provincial Legislative Assembly while High Court, Jail Press, and Reforms work came second in importance and volume. Increased facilities for medical aid were afforded to the workers by the addition of a qualified Compounder to the regular staff of the Press. The scope and usefulness of the Fine Fund was also enlarged to enable the workers to draw advances from the Fund for their urgent needs. The works committee met eight times in the year and sympathetic consideration was given to the representations made by the members. On the whole the relationship between the workers and the management was cordial.

### 3.—Archæology and Museums.

255. The total expenditure (excluding agency charges) incurred under the head "Central—30—Scientific Department—Archæological Department" was Rs. 12,010, of which Rs. 848 was on original works, Rs. 2,263 on special repairs and Rs. 8,899 on annual repairs and maintenance of protected monuments.

Archæology

256. During the year 315,206 [308,408] persons visited the museum, the average daily attendance being 929 [903]. Archæological additions to the museum were a set of plates of Vakataka King Pravarasena II from Pattan,

Museum

in the Betul district, a set of copper plates of Mahasheogupta, in the Bilaspur district, two sets of copper plates of Rashtrakut King Govinda III from Sirso, in the Akola district, and an inscribed slab from Deotek, in the Chanda district. A collection of prehistoric relics from Dorothy Deep, Pachmarhi No. 1 Rock-shelter Excavations, was presented by Dr. G. G. R. Hunter. A large consignment of finds from Mohenjodaro in Sind, comprising seals and sealings, decorated and plain pottery, stone objects, copper and bronze objects and other miscellaneous objects has also been received from the Curator, Mohenjodaro Museum. Altogether 215 coins have been added to the Coin Cabinet.

257. The Geological Section was enriched by eight specimens of plant fossils from Bihar and Orissa presented to the museum by Dr. Birbal Sahni, Professor of Botany, University of Lucknow. A number of plant fossils from the museum collections have been lent to Dr. Sahni for study. A paper on "The Fossil Fauna of the Central Provinces—I.—Mammals" is in the press.

258. In the Natural History Section a few reptiles and a number of birds, including an albino dove, in a variety of poses, have been added to the bird gallery. Three new background scenes of natural surroundings have been inserted in the Bird Section. A set of adaptation of beak and leg in birds is a new feature in this section.

#### 4.—*Rural Uplift.*

259. Village uplift work is carried on under the guidance of a board called the Provincial Village Uplift Board presided over by the Hon'ble Minister for Education and comprising the heads of the various development departments such as the Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical, Public Health, Industries and Co-operation departments and of prominent non-officials selected by the Provincial Government for their keenness and interest in rural uplift. Most districts have local committees composed of leading honorary workers and presided over by the Deputy Commissioner who supplies the initiative and ensures co-operation of the different departments and helps in raising the necessary funds and inspects or arranges for the inspection of the various activities in his district. Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 2,100 during the year under report.

The activities embrace all aspects of village life such as (1) agriculture, (2) village industries, (3) primary and adult education and (4) medical aid and sanitation.

260. Under agriculture, the principal activities were the holding of farmers' days, formation of seed unions, encouragement of the digging of manure pits, conservation of good seed and cultivation of fruits, such as, mangoes, oranges and mosambis and of green vegetables. The seed farm of Damoh is very popular and has introduced new varieties of gram, linseed and sugarcane. The presentation of pedigree bulls continued and was prominent particularly in the Drug district. In Berar a number of crop loan societies have been formed to ease the economic difficulties of the agriculturists. In the Buldana district African bajra and soyabin have been introduced as alternatives to cotton which is fast losing its popularity. In Chhindwara, five general purposes societies have been established which offer great scope for uplift work in future. In Balaghat special efforts were made at rallies to stimulate village gardening.

261. On the industrial side the pride of place goes to the research work carried on at the Institute of the All-India Village Industries Association at Wardha. A number of workers are engaged there on experimenting upon the various village processes so as to reduce the cost of apparatus, to increase efficiency and to save labour. Experiments were carried out on paper-making from all kinds of waste material, oil ghanis, rice pounding mills, dal mill and utilization of all the parts of a dead animal. Classes were held at certain centres in combination with scout classes where instruction was imparted in such handicrafts as niwar-making, rope-making, rug and mat-making, clay modelling, brick laying and stick-making. In Balaghat and Sironcha, attempts have been made to introduce bee-keeping and sericulture as subsidiary occupations. In Raipur, Chanda and Betul districts, the All-India Spinners Association are doing useful work by encouraging handspinning and hand-weaving. Poultry farming and dairying are also receiving attention in some places.

262. A number of villages were selected in Amraoti and Chanda districts for being brought under sanitation rules under the Land Revenue Act and with the income raised from taxation village improvement works such as road repairs, improvement of inter-village communications, starting of

adult schools, provision of pulleys and parapets to wells and of lights were undertaken. Taxation, however, aroused a certain amount of opposition and criticism. Improvement of fairweather roads and provision of causeways on village roads were undertaken from the discretionary grants placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners out of the Government of India's grant for rural uplift.

263. On the medical side a number of nursing centres have been opened in almost all the districts. New dispensaries financed from the Government of India rural uplift fund were established. Mention must be made of the two dispensaries at Bhamragarh and Kurkheda, both in the Chanda district, which will serve the aboriginal area where hitherto allopathic treatment has been practically unknown. Use of trench latrines is being encouraged. A child welfare centre and a maternity home were opened at Shendurjana, the uplift centre organized by Mr. N. A. Dravid, Senior Member of the Servants of India Society.

264. The intensive uplift work in the Piparia circle was continued but there was not adequate response from the local people.



