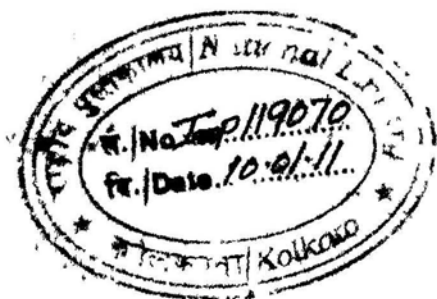


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INDIA FOR THE INDIANS

—AND FOR ENGLAND.

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"There is one simple test which we may apply to all Indian questions : let us never forget that it is our duty to govern India, not for our own profit and advantage, BUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATIVES OF INDIA." - LORD NORTHEROOK, late Viceroy of India."

## ENGLAND'S WORK IN INDIA.

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There are few things which so immediately and so powerfully impress an Englishman on returning from India to his native land as the general paucity of information, among his countrymen, on England's work in the East. The magnitude, and even the interest as an experiment, of the gigantic task which England has accepted appears to be wholly unappreciated. But surely the labour of introducing among an alien population, whose numbers amount to nearly one-sixth of the entire human race and include almost as many varieties of character and language as the continent of Europe, a settled system of government founded on the latest convictions of the statesman and the philanthropist, and simultaneous efforts to develop the industrial resources of the country, and to

supply to a poor and widely scattered populace such appliances of civilization as may ameliorate its condition and increase its prosperity, should, and would if properly apprehended, receive a closer and more intelligent attention. To excite such attention, we do not require histories of the leading wars and similar incidents which have produced the Indian Empire. We have to deal with subjects which concern the daily life of the people, and with the work which for many years past has been silently and conscientiously carried on by our countrymen in a foreign land among alien and distrustful races, it may truly be said, without notice or expression of interest or approval from that British public whose national honour is so deeply concerned in the results of their labours.

It is in the hope that a short account of what has been, and is still being, done for the fulfilment of this great work may not be without effect in rousing my countrymen to greater interest in it, that I have ventured to publish the following chapters. I have endeavoured to condense each subject into as brief a compass as possible; to avoid wearying the general reader by columns of statistics of little interest except to specialists; and to confine the information given to a description of broad principles and average results.



I have not written for the already well-informed and practical statistician, but for those to whom at present our Indian system of government and social administration is an unfamiliar subject, and to such I venture to think the information given will be found useful and not uninteresting

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## RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

THE origin of the East India Company, to which may justly be attributed the formation of our Indian empire, was an association of private merchants, styled "The Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies." This company was instituted A.D. 1600, with a capital of £72,000, and got by charter from the Crown the monopoly of trade with the East Indies. Its agents established depôts—or factories, as they were called—in various parts of India, which, after a short time, were fortified and garrisoned; and thus a footing in the country was acquired, which speedily led to schemes for territorial dominion quite at variance with the objects professed by the united traders.

In 1612 permission was obtained from the Court at Delhi to establish a factory at Surat; and this was quickly followed by settlements in other parts of India. Fort St. George (Madras) was established in 1640, and in 1645 various settlements, of which Hoogly was the chief, were commenced in Bengal. These were at that time subordinate to Madras. The original charter was renewed by Cromwell in 1657, and confirmed by Charles II. in 1661, with various important privileges of exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction, and other rights of a sovereign power, in the Company's possessions. In 1677 another renewal of the charter was obtained, with permission to establish a mint at Bombay. Meanwhile, many private adventurers had entered into the trade, in contravention of the exclusive rights granted by the charter to the Company, and much dispute and difficulty had thereby been occasioned. In 1693 a further renewal of the charter and its trading monopolies was granted by the Crown, but in 1694 the House of Commons passed a resolution, "That all the subjects of England have an equal right to trade to the East Indies, unless prohibited by Act of Parliament;" and in 1698 a second Company obtained a charter from the legislature, conferring upon it also the *exclusive*

right of trade with the East Indies. In 1708 the two companies amalgamated under the style of "The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies," and the union was duly ratified and confirmed by Parliament. Meanwhile, the Bengal agency had been established at Calcutta, and Fort William had been built. From 1715 to 1717, various privileges were, under treaty, conferred by the Mogul Court at Delhi upon the Company, all tending to confirm and establish its position in the country. Treaties with the Nabob of the Carnatic, and victory in the Company's struggle with the French for supremacy in Southern India, placed a large part of the Madras Presidency under its control, and the battle of Plassey, in 1757, wrested the provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa from the Mogul emperor. But these continued wars and intrigues had excited attention in England, and in 1782 the House of Commons passed a resolution, "That to pursue schemes of conquest and extent of dominion in India are measures repugnant to the wish, the honour, and the policy of this nation." In pursuance of the principle thus enunciated, Mr Fox at once introduced a bill to amend the special privileges granted to the Company, and to place the Government of India under Com-

missioners to be appointed by Parliament. The bill was, amid great excitement and opposition, passed by the House of Commons, but rejected by the House of Lords. A change of Ministry followed in consequence, and Mr. Pitt brought forward a bill which was accepted by both Houses, and which fixed the constitution of the East India Company until its abolition in 1858. The chief principle of this bill was the formation of the "Board of Control," composed of six members of the Privy Council, for the special supervision of all matters concerning the civil or military government or revenues of the territories in possession of the East India Company; and the appointment of a special tribunal for the trial in England of all British subjects accused of important offences or misconduct committed in India. The conduct of commercial affairs and matters of minor importance remained, as before, with the directors.

Under the administrations of the Marquis Cornwallis and the Marquis Wellesley, the Company's possessions were largely increased by conquest in various directions, and by the cession of large territories by the Mahratta chiefs. But the accessions of revenue, large as they were, from the new possessions were insufficient to meet the continued increase of expenditure, and the result

was a constant accumulation of debt. It is not surprising, therefore, that, during the early years of this century, attention should have been attracted to the generally unprofitable result of the trading monopoly granted to the Company: and, after long agitation, the privilege of free trade with Hindostan was thrown open, in 1813, to the general public. The result was so marked, the aggregate of trade in the first five years from this concession having augmented some fourfold, that it was impossible any longer to defend the monopoly, and, as it soon became evident that the Company could not compete in commerce with the private traders, the stockholders resolved, in 1834, to close its commercial business. From that date until 1858 the Company confined itself to the administration of its vast territories, which were further increased by the conquest of Scinde in 1845, of the Punjaub in 1849, and of Pegu and Martaban in Burmah in 1852. The constantly increasing magnitude and importance of the dominion thus almost insensibly acquired, and the heavy responsibilities which were being placed in effect upon the British nation, could not fail to attract attention. It was felt to be an anomaly that questions of national interest should be left to the direction of individuals, instead of to that of the nation, and the opinions

and sentiments which were daily gaining ground and expression were brought into action by the sepoy mutiny of 1857. A bill was at once passed for transferring the government of India from the Company to the Crown; and thus, after an existence of two and a half centuries, terminated the East India Company, the most remarkable record which the world affords of great and unexpected results from small beginnings.



#### AREA AND POPULATION.

HINDOSTAN comprises two main divisions—British India, or the territories under the direct management of the Indian Government; and the Native States which are in the actual possession of their several princes, who exercise therein all such rights of a sovereign power as are usually conceded by a suzerain to his feudatory.

British India is estimated to contain a grand total of 869,951 square miles, with a population of 181,898,867, distributed as follows.—

		Square miles.		Population.
Bengal	...	607,176	.....	137,388,916
Madras	...	138,318	.. ...	31,281,177
Bombay	...	124,457	.....	16,228,774

It should, however, be explained that in this summary the term "Bengal" includes the minor provinces of British Burmah, Assam, the Punjab, the North-West Provinces and Oudh, the Central Provinces, as well as Bengal proper. The figures of area and population for these different districts are as follows :—

	Square miles	Population.
Bengal proper ...	189,034 .. ...	62,721,810
The Punjab ...	98,461 .....	17,604,505
North West Provinces	81,402 .....	30,774,056
Oudh ...	21,069 .....	11,197,266
Central Provinces ...	81,018 . ...	8,215,167
Assam ...	41,798 .....	4,132,019
British Burmah ...	88,361 .....	2,741,063

The Native States contain an estimated area of 650,000 square miles, and a population estimated at fifty to fifty-five millions. The information at public disposal regarding many of the minor states is somewhat imperfect. A list of the chief native states with particulars of area, revenue, and population, will be found in the Appendix.



## THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION.

THE administration of government in India is primarily under the sovereign of Great Britain,

through Parliament; but the actual machinery in England is the Secretary of State and Council, located at Westminster, who may be considered the chief administrative power. Next in degree come the Viceroy and his Council, and then the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the North-West Provinces, and the Punjab, with their respective Councils. A short summary of the constitution of each body will be of service.

HOME GOVERNMENT.—The Secretary of State for India is a member of the Ministry for the time being, and therefore each change of Ministry involves a change in the State Secretaryship; an arrangement not without grave disadvantages in the government of a country where so much is still in an unsettled, or partially settled, condition.

He has a Council of fifteen members, who retain office "during good behaviour." Each receives a salary of £1200 per annum. All the home business of India is conducted by this Council and the establishment under their control at Westminster; for example, engagement of officers for various departments of Indian civil administration, payments of pensions, provision of funds for Indian expenditure in England, negotiations with the railway companies, pur-



chase of stores for Indian administrative requirements, and similar matters.

The Secretary of State has the power of "vetoing" any legislative enactment or administrative arrangement of the Viceroy and his Council, and even, in cases of emergency, the power of overriding the decisions of his own Council. It is to be assumed that in this respect his position is intended to be analogous to that of the Crown towards Parliament; and, in fact, that such supreme powers are only to be exercised under the direction of the Crown or its constitutional advisers.

SUPREME GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—The Viceroy is appointed, as vacancies occur, by the sovereign, in concert with the constitutional advisers of the Crown. He is usually a member of the party for the time being in power, but does not necessarily vacate on a change of Ministry. He holds office for five years. The seat of government is nominally Calcutta, but of late years it has been the custom for the Viceroys and the Council to spend the greater part of the year at Simla. The Viceroy, or, as he is more generally styled in business matters, the Governor-General of India, is assisted by a Council of six ordinary members, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The ordi-

nary members are appointed by himself, under confirmation of the Crown, and hold office for five years. This body is known as the Supreme Council. He has also a Council for the purpose of making laws, known as the Supreme Legislative Council, composed of the members of the Supreme Council and nine others, of whom five must be non-official, that is, not holding any office under Government, and presumably independent of Government influence. No salary attaches to these latter appointments.

The Supreme Council possesses a control (largely exercised in matters of finance) over the subordinate or provincial Governments, in all important matters of administration; and has the power of amending or cancelling any orders or proceedings of such subordinate Governments.

The Supreme Legislative Council undertakes the provision of laws applicable to the Empire generally, leaving the passage of local Acts to the provincial legislative bodies.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.—These are five in number, viz. Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-West Provinces, Punjaub. Each, though ultimately subordinate to the Supreme Government, has independent administration of its territory and finances, with distinct establishments of Civil, Revenue, and Judicial officers. The first

two have also separate military establishments; but the last three are associated with the Bengal army system.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.—The Governor, like the Viceroy, is appointed direct by the Crown. He holds office for five years. His head-quarters are at Madras, but the incumbent usually spends much of the year, with his Council, etc., on the Neilgherry Hills. He is assisted by a Council of three, viz. the Commander-in-Chief, and two members of the Civil Service appointed by the Governor himself, under confirmation by the Crown. The Commander-in-Chief is *ex-officio* a member during his tenure of the military command, but he takes little part in the civil administrative work of the Council. The civilian members hold office for five years. There is also a Legislative Council for the manufacture of laws applicable specially to the province, composed of the Executive Council and eight other members, of whom not less than six must be non-officials. No Act can be introduced for consideration until the draft has been approved by the Viceroy; and every Act passed by the Council must receive the consent of the Viceroy before it becomes law and can be placed on the local statute book. The non-official members of the Council hold office for two years, but are eligible for

reappointment. They do not receive any salary or allowances.

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.—The Governor is appointed in the manner and under the conditions described in the case of Madras. His head-quarters are at Bombay, but during the hot-weather months an exodus usually takes place to some one of the hill stations on the "Western Ghauts," or hill ranges. His Executive and Legislative Councils are formed on the same principles and under the same regulations as those of the Madras Presidency

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.—Bengal is administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, with a Legislative Council of twelve members, of whom six must be non-officials. The regulations for tenure of office and despatch of business in this Council are similar to those in force at Madras and Bombay.

The Lieutenant-Governor is appointed by the Viceroy, and holds office for five years. Head-quarters are at Calcutta.

The military establishment is directly under the Government of India, but it is known as the Bengal army, and provides forces not only for that province, but also for the North-West Provinces and the Punjaub.

THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND THE PUN-

JAUB are respectively under the charge of a Lieutenant-Governor appointed by the Viceroy, who holds office for five years. The military forces of these districts are drawn from the Bengal army.

DEPARTMENTAL SYSTEM.—The chief burden of the executive or departmental work of the Empire falls upon the Indian Civil Service, which is divided into two main divisions of covenanted and uncovenanted servants of Government, or, in other words, those to whom are secured, by terms of their appointment, certain exclusive privileges and emoluments, and those whose appointments are of a more temporary and less lucrative nature.

The Covenanted Civil Service, as it now exists, is the final development of the mercantile establishment of clerks, etc., created by the East India Company for the purposes of its trade with India. As the Company gradually acquired territory, certain members of the mercantile establishment were transferred from the trading depôts to the work of collecting rents, and other duties of a land agent on a large property; and as more and more of the country fell into the hands of the Company, necessity arose to provide permanently, not only for the collection of rents or land revenue and the maintenance of

irrigation works, roads, etc., but for the administration of justice in both civil and criminal cases, and the regulation generally of the social affairs of the country. Such duties, it was evident, would require a class of gentlemen of considerable attainments and unquestionable probity; and it would be necessary to offer pecuniary inducements and a social position sufficient to attract young men of ability and family, who would naturally demand guarantees of permanent, profitable, and honourable employment.

Without giving details of the various arrangements of the East India Company for carrying out their object, it will suffice to say the gentlemen specially selected and trained for the Civil Service of India were secured, by written agreement, certain emoluments of pay and pension, and the exclusive right to the chief appointments in the Government machinery. From this form of agreement, or "covenant," the distinctive title of "Covenanted Civil Service" originated; and although the system of direct appointments and special education adopted by the East India Company has been abandoned for one more popular in the present day—that of competitive examinations, the service still retains its distinctive character of a privileged body. The Un-

covenanted Service was in former days chiefly composed of natives and "East Indians" (or the descendants of the early European residents by native mothers), and did little more than supply clerks for the various public offices, subordinate district officers, etc., etc.; but of late years, owing to the great extension of the Government schemes for improving and developing the resources of the country, it has been largely recruited by Europeans of considerable professional attainments, and at this moment includes many men certainly not inferior in education and ability to their more fortunate brethren of the Covenanted Service. A large proportion of the Uncovenanted Civil Service is employed as clerks in the different Government secretariats and public offices; others in the Educational Department, Telegraphs, Forests, Canals, State Railways, and other departments of the public works; but the bulk of the service fills the minor administrative posts of the revenue and judicial services.

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The work of covenanted civilians may be divided into the two main heads of Revenue and Judicial administration. Under the former is comprised the collection of land rent and all

taxes and Government dues, and the control of all matters of irrigation, communication, and social interest; under the latter, the administration of justice throughout the country. As a general rule, a young civilian, on arriving in India, or shortly afterwards, elects to which branch of the service he will specially devote himself, and it is not usual to transfer men experienced in revenue or district work to a judgeship, or *vice versa*. The principle of the internal or subordinate government of the Empire is by division into districts or departments, each complete in its revenue, and judicial staff. Each district is under the charge of a senior civilian, known in some Presidencies as Collector, in others as Commissioner. Under him, located in different parts of the district, are a Sub-Collector and usually two junior or Assistant Collectors, all belonging to the Covenanted Service, and a large staff of "uncovenanted" deputies and petty district and village officers. All the covenanted, and a large proportion of the uncovenanted, staff possess magisterial powers, and hold the courts of first enquiry in criminal matters. The Collector is the chief Government authority in the district, and takes official precedence of the Judge, even though this latter should be his senior in the service—a vestige, no doubt, of



of the days when the East India Company was a trading institution, and considered provision of income the most important duty entrusted to its servants.

The main part of the Collector's duties is in connection with the land revenue, which, speaking roughly, may be said to provide one-half of the settled revenues of the country (see chapter on Land Revenue). He has further the collections of all special taxes, and of cesses imposed for local purposes, such as education, maintenance of highways, etc. The irrigation and communication works of the district are under his control, with a special engineering staff for construction and maintenance; and, in short, to be an efficient district officer a man requires considerable physical and mental powers, for the districts range in extent from 3000 to as much as 11,000 square miles, with populations of from 500,000 to over two millions, and a good district officer is expected to make, and keep, himself acquainted with the conditions and circumstances of the people, prospects of crops, etc., and to report to the Government of his Presidency periodically on all subjects of interest.

Each district has a Chief Court, presided over by a covenanted civilian, known as a "Civil and Sessions Judge." He sits daily for ten

months of the year, and the greater part of his time is occupied in civil cases; but he holds periodical sessions of gaol delivery for trial of criminal offenders committed by the various magistrates of the district. An appeal against his decision, in both civil and criminal cases, can be made to the High Court of the Presidency in which his district is situated; and in important civil cases a further appeal lies from such High Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Many large districts have "Small Cause Courts," also presided over by a covenanted civilian, for the trial of minor civil cases. The district courts have probate jurisdiction under certain limitations.

Jurisdiction in cases of bankruptcy can only be exercised by district courts in cases where the debtor has been arrested by a judgment creditor and has applied to the court to take charge of his property and relieve him from arrest. Failing such arrest, a debtor in the "up-country" districts is powerless to obtain relief by declaring himself bankrupt, or to prevent the first creditors who may succeed in attaching his property from paying themselves in full, to the prejudice of creditors at a distance.

In the chief Presidency towns—say Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, Lahore--High

Courts are established for the despatch not only of local civil or criminal business, but, as stated above, with appellate jurisdiction over the proceedings of the subordinate district courts. The constitution of these courts is as follows :—

## BENGAL (CALCUTTA).

1 Chief Justice on Rs. 6000 per month.  
11 Puisne Judges on Rs. 4166 „

## MADRAS.

1 Chief Justice on Rs. 5000 per month.  
4 Puisne Judges on Rs. 3750 „

## BOMBAY.

1 Chief Justice on Rs. 5000 per month.  
7 Puisne Judges on Rs. 3750 „

## NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH (ALLAHABAD).

5 Judges of the High Court, average pay about Rs. 4000 per month.

## PUNJAB (LAHORE).

3 Judges of the High Court, average pay about Rs. 4000 per month.

## BRITISH BURMAH.

1 Recorder and 1 Judicial Commissioner.

Details of the subordinate establishments of Civil and Sessions District Courts, Small Cause Courts, and Magistrates' Courts throughout the country, would be too voluminous for the limits of this work.

The High Courts are of great influence in the

administration of justice throughout the Empire. They have the sole privilege of trying European British subjects for all serious criminal offences; and the importance attached by the natives to the right of appeal to the High Court from the decisions of the district courts cannot be overestimated. Nor can such a state of native opinion be fairly considered uncalled for. The civilians who preside over the district courts are not, as a rule, possessed of any great legal training or knowledge beyond what they have succeeded in mastering in the course of their Indian service. With comparatively few exceptions, they have not, prior to leaving England, been called to the bar, or even kept terms at any Inns of Court, while many of the cases which come before them for decision involve most complicated questions of common and statute law, as well as of Hindoo and Mahometan usage. In addition to these disadvantages, there are constant transfers from one district to another, caused by the conditions of the service, *e.g.* promotion on retirement of senior officers, absences on sick leave or furlough, etc., etc.; so that it is now unusual for an officer to spend such length of time in one district as would familiarize him with the local usages, the peculiarities of his subordinate magistrates (themselves frequently

changed), and other matters affecting the conduct of business in his district which it is desirable he should master. It may well be doubted whether the present system of supplying the district courts from the ranks of the Covenanted Civil Service is the best which could be devised, and whether such appointments might not now, under the altered conditions of the country, be thrown open to the English bar under a system of selection by the Home Government — each special appointment to be held permanently by the incumbent for a definite period of service.

The High Courts possess probate and insolvency jurisdiction (the latter only for residents of the town where the court has its seat), and their judges are usually called upon to advise the Legislative Councils on drafts of Acts which it may be proposed to pass into law.

Covenanted civilians are usually selected by the local Governments for any appointments of administrative importance not appertaining to the special departments of district work, such as Collector of sea customs, Postmaster-General, Commissioners of salt or opium revenue, etc.

There are also special prizes of the service, such as the head-quarter Secretaryships, and seats on Boards of Revenue and Provincial and Supreme Councils, the offices of Comptrollers of accounts,

provincial Accountant-Generals, Foreign Office appointments, etc., which are held to fall by right of service to the senior members of the covenanted class of civilians.

The total number of covenanted civilians now on the effective lists is rather over 900, of whom about 160 are of the old service of "Haileybury men," and the remainder have gained their appointments under the "competition" system. Of these 900, about 600 are employed in Bengal and the provinces immediately in relation with it, about 160 in Madras, and 140 in Bombay.

The rates of pay in the junior branches range from about £400 to £1200 per annum. Senior district officers, such as Collectors and Judges, get from £2400 to £3000 per annum. Special appointments range from £3000 up to £10,000. Nearly 100, or about ten per cent. of the total number of civilians, draw over £3000 per annum.

A covenanted civilian is entitled, after twenty-one years' actual service in India, to a pension of £1000 per annum. Service for smaller periods entitles to pension on lower scales.

An uncovenanted civilian is not entitled to any pension until after fifteen years' service, but only to a gratuity of one month's pay for each year of service. After service of over fifteen but less than twenty-five years, he can claim a

pension not exceeding one-third of the average pay drawn during his service ; and after twenty-five years a pension not exceeding one-half of such average pay.

In addition to the special revenue and judicial duties discharged by the covenanted and uncovenanted civilians, there is a vast organization of subsidiary departments carried on by special agency, under the control, more or less direct, of the head-quarter and subordinate Governments of each Presidency. Such are, for example, the departments of Salt, Opium, Excise, Stamps, Forests, Irrigation, Public Works, Education, Railways, etc., etc. In fact, to realize the position of the Government of India, the reader must endeavour to imagine what would be the position of the English Government if every landlord were to renounce his duties as an owner of property, and to throw upon the Home Office the task of providing for and supervising every detail on which the public safety and the social comfort of the country depend.

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## LEGISLATION.

THE members of the trading parties originally sent out by the East India Company were, of necessity, subject to the judicial tribunals of the native rulers; but the Company took early opportunity of obtaining a "commission under the Great Seal" from the Crown of England, which empowered the presidents of the factories to try British subjects for criminal offences by "martial law," and to inflict even capital sentences. All civil disputes between Europeans appear to have been decided by the chiefs of the factories. Cases of dispute, either civil or criminal, between Europeans and natives were still subject to the native tribunals.

The charter of 1661 gave the governors and councils of the several factories power to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in their respective charges "according to the laws of England." In 1669 the East India Company obtained a special grant or power to pass "laws and constitutions for the good government of the settlement" of Bombay, and to inflict necessary punishments. Such laws were to be "as near as may be agreeable to" the laws of England; and any person sentenced under them to



the penalty of death was to have a right of appeal to the Crown of England.

Early in the eighteenth century the Company appears to have established, in all chief settlements, "Mayor's Courts," composed of a mayor and nine aldermen, who adjudicated upon all minor civil and criminal disputes, and from whose decision there was an appeal to the governor and council of the factory.

But as the Company acquired territory, and became in fact rulers of a great part of Hindostan, the question of judicial administration became very serious. The laws of England were not suited to the customs and usages of Hindoos and Mahometans; and as the Company's servants began to realize their new position in the country, and to get greater insight into the social life of the people, they recognized the necessity of accepting the native law codes, such as they were, whenever these were compatible with recognized principles of equity and morality.

About 1770, therefore, as a first step towards what was needed, the Company appointed, in each district under its control a Civil and a Criminal Court, with Courts of Appeal at the chief seats of government; and drew up a code of "Regulations," as they were styled, but which were in fact intended to be, so far as they ex-

tended, statute law, for the guidance of the presidents of such courts. In continuation of the work thus commenced, the Company obtained, in 1773, a special Act of Parliament (13 Geo. III.), by which, among other matters, special power was given to the Governor-General of India and his Council "to make and issue such rules, ordinances, and regulations for the good order and civil government of the settlement of Fort William and other factories subordinate, or to be subordinate, thereto, as shall be deemed just and reasonable; such rules, ordinances, and regulations not being repugnant to the laws of the Realm." This Act practically inaugurated the formation of a distinct Statute Book for India, and under its authority the work of legislation was carried on by the Council until 1833. In that year another Act (3 Will. IV.) was passed, which provided for a special "legal" member of Council, not a member of the Company's service, or one of the Executive Council, to sit and vote at all meetings for making laws and regulations. This, in fact, provided for a distinct Legislative Council, apart and separate from the ordinary meetings of the Executive Council. The first additional, or special, member thus appointed, and sent out to India in 1834, was the celebrated historian

Macaulay, and the work to which he gave his powerful aid has been ever since unceasingly carried on. It was, however, too much to expect that one Council sitting in Calcutta could adequately deal with a task so great as the preparation of a code of laws suitable to the customs and circumstances of the varied population of India. Progress was impeded by the necessity of constant references to the subordinate Governments, and the consideration of their demands and suggestions. When, therefore, the government of India passed from the East India Company to the British nation, the opportunity was taken for a fresh departure in the work of legislation, and it was decided to empower the subordinate, or Provincial, Governments to frame and pass all minor Acts required for the administration of their local affairs, leaving the Supreme Council to supervise their work and to frame and pass all measures of Imperial importance, applicable to the Empire generally. This was the origin of the several Supreme and Provincial Legislative Councils, the constitution of which has been already described (see p. 9, *et seq.*).

A special feature in this new arrangement was the admission of a comparatively large number of non-official or independent members.

whose local, or special, knowledge might be of service in advising the Government on matters of custom, or on special requirements of the people whose interests they were supposed to represent. No doubt this was a step in a right direction, and it is to be hoped that in time the principle so introduced will be extended, and the constitution of these Councils made more distinctly representative. At present the nominations of non-official members rest with the Governors of the Presidencies; and the necessity of securing a Government majority, which must be observed until the masses of the populace attain a higher standard of political education, forbids any immediate recourse to the system of election by the popular vote.

Great progress has been made during the last twenty years in the work of legislation, and the Indian Statute Book is now in a very satisfactory state of efficiency. Very many of the Acts which have been framed and passed would have little interest for European readers. They provide for the ordinary routine work of Imperial and Provincial administration, such as the levy of customs, excise, opium, salt, and stamp duties, the regulation of police and municipal matters, and numerous similar subjects, down to the control of hackney carriages—all,

if not interesting to foreigners, at least very useful in promoting among the people a general sense of government on fixed principles, which each citizen can study for himself and thus place himself beyond reach of extortions formerly practised by unscrupulous office subordinates.

Among measures of Imperial and universal interest, the following Acts may be specially noticed :—

The “Indian Penal Code,” which is the statute applicable in all ordinary criminal cases. It contains some provisions not to be found in the corresponding English statutes; for example, adultery is ranked as a criminal offence, and made punishable with imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years.

The code of “Civil Procedure,” which provides for the settlement of all civil disputes and similar matters.

The “Indian Succession Act,” which codifies the customs of inheritance among Hindoo and Mahometan families, and among Europeans who may have, or who have not, acquired an Indian domicile.

The “Negotiable Instruments Act,” a statute of much importance to the trading communities.

The Act for “Registration of Assurances,” which provides for the record of all deeds

creating any interest or title in landed property—a most valuable statute, the merits of which, and of the Government organization for carrying out its provisions, are thoroughly appreciated by the native community.

The “Joint Stock Companies Act,” which much resembles the English statute of similar title and purpose, and is a very valuable piece of legislation for a country like India, where the majority of industrial undertakings can only be worked by associated capital.

Acts providing for the appointments of “Administrators-General” and “Official Assignees,” and for the proper discharge of their duties.



#### INDIAN ARMY.

UNDER the East India Company a large force of both native and European troops was maintained; the latter being raised specially for service in India, and not forming any part of the regular army of Great Britain. The service was popular, and no difficulty was ever experienced in obtaining a superior class of recruit for the Company's European military service. The term of enlistment prior to 1847

was seventeen years, at the end of which time a man could claim his discharge, or could re-enlist, if physically fit, for a further period of five years, receiving a bounty of fifty rupees. After 1847, the Infantry were enlisted for ten years, and the Cavalry and Artillery for twelve years, with option of re-enlisting, if fit, for twelve years more. This arrangement gave the Company a fine body of seasoned European soldiers, whose excellence as fighting material was proved in many a hard-fought battle, and especially during the sepoy mutiny. When the East India Company was abolished and India taken over by the Crown, the Europeans of the Company's local forces were held to be released from their contracts of service; but many re-enlisted under the Queen's colours, and were formed into the new line regiments, the 101st to 109th.

There is no longer any European force raised for service specially in India, but a large proportion of the regular army of Great Britain is permanently on service in India. There is a too general opinion in England that troops are maintained for Indian service at the cost of the British taxpayer, but this is entirely a false impression. India pays for every man whose services she obtains, and probably for a good

many from whom she gets very little service. Every item of expense connected with the recruiting for regiments on the Indian establishment, transport between India and England, etc., is charged to her; and under the present short-service system there can be no doubt that she has to pay for the transport of many whose service with the colours in India is of most limited duration. Practically, India relieves the British taxpayer of the expenses of one-third of the regular army of Great Britain, and at a price which most probably far exceeds the cost at which a similar number of men could be maintained for local service exclusively, on a system of enlistment for a long term of years, such as was in force under the East India Company.

The average strength of the Indian army may be taken to be 180,000 (exclusive of officers), of which 60,000 are European troops belonging to the army of Great Britain, but placed at the disposal of the Indian Government in the absence of demand for their services elsewhere, and 120,000 are native troops.

The distribution of this force, including officers serving with the colours, is much as follows :—



## EUROPEAN TROOPS.

				Commissioned officers.		Non-commis- sioned officers and privates.
Bengal	...	...	..	2592	.....	37,745
Madras	...	...	...	974	.....	11,413
Bombay	...	...	...	848	.....	10,937
				<hr/> 4414		<hr/> 60,095

## NATIVE TROOPS.

				Officers		Non-commis- sioned officers and privates.
				European.	Native.	
Bengal	...	...		749	1453	..... 62,929
Madras	...	...		372	709	..... 33,130
Bombay	...	...		315	590	..... 25,636
				<hr/> 1436	<hr/> 2752	<hr/> 121,695
				<hr/> 4188		

It will doubtless be remarked that the number of officers belonging to the native army is considerably smaller than that allotted to the European troops (although the native is nearly twice the size of the European force), the discrepancy being specially noticeable in the number of European officers. Many are of opinion that, with the general use of arms of precision, the proportion of European officers with native troops is too small, and might cause serious embarrassment on active service.

The annual cost of this force is close upon sixteen millions sterling, of which about twelve millions is spent in India, and nearly four millions

in England. The Indian Government accounts do not distinguish between the total cost of the European and that of the native troops, except in a very few items, and without full particulars it is impossible to draw a comparison between the cost of the two forces. But there can be no doubt that the cost of the European troops, exclusive of mere pay and allowances, is very heavy, and where any separate particulars of the expenditure in India are given by the Government accounts, it would appear, in spite of the great difference in numbers, to equal, and sometimes to exceed, that of the native troops. The home charges, amounting to nearly four millions annually, would seem to be almost exclusively due to the European force, and the cost of transport, some £500,000 annually, is also clearly chargeable to that head.

The Indian army is primarily under the "Horse Guards," the chief or central control being exercised in England, and all the main administrative appointments made by the Crown. There is a Commander-in-Chief of India, who holds office for five years, and, under orders from England, supervises the military affairs of the Empire. The Madras and Bombay armies have each separate Commanders-in-Chief, with respective head-quarters staff; and the usual

divisional commands are entrusted to generals appointed by the Horse Guards. There seems to be little good object in the maintenance of these separate establishments for the minor Presidencies. While the railway and telegraph system was still incomplete, independent armies, each complete in all details, were essential to safety. But recent years have brought great changes, not only in the rapidity of intercommunication, but also in the strength and composition of the provincial native forces; and it seems probable that the entire Indian army might now be safely placed under the control of one Commander-in-Chief for the whole of India.

Heavy ordnance, shot and shell, and small-arms are still supplied to the Indian army from England; but gunpowder, cartridges, bullets, clothing, and many similar necessities, are locally manufactured at various Government factories. The tendency is towards "centralization" of such factories in Bengal and Northern India; but discussion on the merits or dangers of this principle hardly comes within the scope of this treatise.

India is largely dependent upon Australia for horses for European Cavalry and Artillery. The Government has "stud" or breeding establishments in Northern India, but the number of

horses obtainable there can only meet a small part of the requirements, and without the Australian supply there would be serious difficulty in keeping the mounted forces in state for efficient service.



### POLICE.

WHEN the East India Company began to undertake the administration of its provinces, the police system of the country was practically confined to an establishment of watchmen, provided and paid for by such communities or individuals as required or could afford the protection of their property. This state of matters was gradually improved, but it was not until some twenty years ago that any systematic organization of police became general throughout the country. The system now in force is based upon that of Great Britain. Each Presidency town has its separate establishment, while the country towns and districts are under charge of a district police, similar to our system of a county constabulary. The force is placed under the control of Inspectors-General in all the main divisions of the Empire. These are usually military officers of

high position. The more strictly departmental work is entrusted to District Superintendents and their assistants, each of whom supervises a very considerable district. They are largely drawn from the Army Staff Corps at present, but as promotion takes place these appointments will probably be more filled by men who have been specially trained in the lower grades of the police service—Europeans, East Indians, and natives. The subdivisions of the force are under inspectors and sub-inspectors, many of them Europeans of good position and education; while the rank and file is, of course, chiefly composed of native head constables and constables.

The total force of the Empire may be taken to average as follows :—

260 district superintendents and their assistants;  
1050 inspectors;  
2250 sub-inspectors;  
14,000 head constables;  
90,000 constables—

under the charge of six Inspectors-General and twelve Assistant Inspectors-General. In addition to the above regular force, there is a considerable establishment of village watchmen, known as chowkedars and talliaris. The annual cost of the police establishment of the Empire averages some £2,300,000.

The Government of India has for some time asserted the principle that police protection of property and person should not be a charge on Imperial funds; but that each community, or province, or district should support the burden of its own police establishment, the State contributing in each instance a fair proportion of the annual charge in return for the services of the police in watching Government property, furnishing guards for treasuries, escorts for treasure-parties while transporting treasure from the interior to central or Presidency treasuries, and similar duties. This principle has already been introduced in the cities of Bombay and Calcutta, where the maintenance of the town police has been accepted by those municipalities; but in Madras the town has not, as yet, been able to afford the required contribution. Efforts will no doubt, be made to extend the application of the principle, but great opposition must be expected in the rural districts. It must be remembered that the bulk of the population of India is agricultural, and that the land is held from the State, as explained in the chapter on Land Revenue, on a system of an annual payment, or land tax, or assessment, the origin of which was the cession by the cultivator to the landlord of a certain proportion of ~~the~~ produce of the

soil. It is contended by the cultivators that, according to immemorial usage, the landlord is bound, in return for such payment, to secure the cultivator in the quiet and secure enjoyment of his property ; and it is urged that the imposition of a separate cess to cover police charges would be a violation of this contract ; that police protection is already paid for in the assessment on land, and therefore should be defrayed from those Imperial resources to which the revenue from land so largely contributes.

The district police are to some extent instructed in military drill, and are armed with rifles and trained in their use, thus forming a valuable auxiliary to regular troops in case of need, and capable of being employed efficiently in putting down any minor disturbance or insubordination to Government orders. It seems probable that, in course of time, a judicious increase in the police establishment may enable considerable reductions to be made in the present military expenditure of the Empire.

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## MEDICAL.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance to the Empire of the medical establishment maintained by the Government of India. For, with the exception of one or two isolated instances in the large Presidency towns, and a few doctors specially retained and supported by the planters in the large tea, coffee, and indigo districts, there are no private European practitioners in the country; while the native so-called doctors, not in the Government service, are practically devoid of any special training or knowledge. The entire medical charge of the European and Native civil population, including such details as sanitation, vaccination, the charge of hospitals and dispensaries, lunatic asylums, and the education in medical colleges and schools, necessarily devolves upon the Government Civil Medical Establishment. The army is separately provided for. British troops are under the special care of the British Army Medical Staff, the members of which take their regular turn of foreign service in India, and are not employed in civil duties; but the native troops are, as a general rule, under the charge of the Indian medical establishment. The expenditure on medical services rendered to



the army is included in the general return of military charges, and forms no part of the annual return of the cost of the Indian civil medical establishment.

The annual charge for medical services in the civil department averages £650,000, and may be analyzed as follows:—

On hospitals and dispensaries	...	...	£216,000
Vaccination	...	...	67,000
Lunatic asylums	...	...	50,000
Medical colleges and schools	...	...	45,000
General	...	...	272,000
			<hr/> £650,000

With the exception of a few institutions specially endowed by wealthy and patriotic natives, all the hospitals, dispensaries, and asylums in British India have been provided and are maintained by the Government. The public hospitals, so common in Europe, supported by charitable contributions and subscriptions, and the similar institutions for the blind, deaf, and dumb, etc., etc., are practically unknown in India. The State has had, as a general rule, to provide for everything connected with the medical treatment of the population.

The medical establishment, as it now exists, is a singular instance of the vitality of old institutions. It originated with the staff attached

by the old East India Company to its military establishment; and though at present the great proportion of its members are employed in duties of a purely civil character, all of them are still ranked as Military surgeons, wear uniform, and are under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of their respective Presidencies. It is difficult to see what good object can be gained by the perpetuation of a system belonging to conditions of Indian government which have long since passed away; or why the present Indian Medical Department should not be treated as, what it is in fact, a purely civil administration.

Every principal station, or seat of Government offices in the different districts, is provided with a medical officer of the military rank of surgeon or assistant-surgeon, with a dispensary and a sufficient staff of dispensers and assistants, and wherever the population is of any importance with a hospital also. The services of this establishment are available gratis to all, natives or Europeans, who may attend at the dispensary or hospital for advice or treatment. The medical officer has further to attend to all servants on the Government establishment; to the inmates of all jails, etc., in his district; and to all matters concerning sanitation and vaccination. He is free to attend non-official Europeans or natives at

their residences, on the usual fees charged by physicians in England, and in the large towns this privilege of private practice adds considerably to the income of doctors of experience and established reputation. It should also be added that, but for this concession by Government, the large class of non-officials, traders, and professional men now resident in India, together with their families, would find great difficulty (if not an absolute impossibility) in getting skilled medical assistance when required.

It will be seen that members of this service have plenty to do; and it may be imagined that in seasons of calamity, such as a severe outbreak of cholera, or periods of dearth or famine, their position is by no means an enviable one. Every man who has lived in India can testify to the zeal and self-devotion displayed at all times, and especially on occasions of emergency, by the Indian medical officers.

The Government of India has established medical colleges in its principal towns, where diplomas are granted to students of proved proficiency in surgery and medicine. Considerable numbers of natives and East Indians are trained in these establishments, and pass into Government employment in the district dispensaries and hospitals; and in time many of the higher

appointments will, no doubt, be occupied by natives of the country, so trained. Of late years also, several classes for the instruction of women have been instituted; and in the Presidency towns there are several ladies who have received their diplomas and are now practising, mainly among the native female community. It is very desirable that this movement should be supported and encouraged, for native customs are opposed to the treatment of respectable females by male doctors, and an immense amount of bad health and mortality among the better class of native women is entirely due to the want of good medical advice and treatment. In fact, it cannot be doubted that there is a great field in India for the lucrative practice of medicine by skilled European lady doctors among the respectable native female community.



## EDUCATION.

THE Government of India has for a long time given much attention to the education of the people, and it may be affirmed that in no country of the world are such facilities for the attainment of knowledge provided for the masses

of the population, at such small expense to those immediately benefited. In proof of this, it may be stated that the annual gross expenditure of the State under this head averages over one million sterling, while the receipts from school fees, sale of books, etc., only reach about £100,000, or only one-tenth of the expenses, leaving a net annual charge on the revenue of the Empire of some £900,000, as the cost of the education provided for the youth of the country.

There is no attempt at compulsory education, nor is this needed, for the people are only too ready to avail themselves of the means for knowledge brought so largely within their reach, even in the remotest villages. The paternal care of the Government has covered the country with a network of village, primary, normal, low, middle, and high schools, besides colleges in the Presidency and other large towns, and many special training schools for those who wish to study engineering, medicine, law, industries, etc.; and these are available for students on a scale of fees so low as to be almost nominal. It would be too lengthy, and almost impossible, to give accurately detailed statistics of the number, position, etc., of all these establishments. It will be sufficient to say that this great scheme of work is supervised by 10 Inspectors-General or

Directors of Public Instruction; by over 450 inspectors, sub-inspectors, and deputies; and by nearly 5500 principals, professors, head-masters, masters, and teachers of all grades. The higher appointments are usually filled by Europeans, many of them of distinguished ability and attainments; and the service offers considerable inducements in emoluments and position, which should always secure for it a high class of office-holders.

The Government high schools and colleges have turned out many men of whose proved abilities and career India may well be proud; while undoubtedly a very large number, of possibly not inferior capacity and attainments, have not yet had the opportunity of turning their knowledge to practical account for the benefit of their country.

It is often said that the Government should confine its assistance to the provision of a plain elementary education to the masses, and that it is not the duty of a State to provide, at great cost to the public, an expensive University education to all comers, the majority of whom cannot possibly find opportunity for turning such a high standard of acquirements to practical account, while they are, in fact, morally unfitted by it for the ordinary avocations of the class in

life to which they belong. There can be no doubt that these higher schools and colleges are annually turning out a large body of young men who cannot find employment in the various offices or departments of the Government, or in private offices (the supply of candidates for such work being enormously in excess of the demand), and who are practically unsuited for, as they are unwilling to undertake, work of any other character. And it is feared the presence of a large body of intelligent, well-educated, unemployed, and needy men, widely scattered throughout the country, must carry with it some elements of possible mischief. In connection with this, the necessity for stringent measures to repress the growing audacity and licence of writers in the vernacular newspapers, as shown by the introduction by the Government of the "Vernacular Press Act," is of considerable significance.

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## ECCLESIASTICAL.

THE Indian Empire maintains a considerable establishment for the spiritual wants of those of its servants who profess the Christian faith,

and the services of this establishment are extended to non-official Europeans and other Christians resident within the Empire. The average strength of this establishment may be stated as follows:—4 bishops (of whom one is the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bombay); 3 archdeacons; 180 chaplains, besides various registrars, clerks, and other minor functionaries.

The Bishop of Calcutta is the metropolitan or head; Madras and Bombay have each a bishop. Of the 180 chaplains, the majority are Church of England, but a few of the Church of Scotland are included.

The annual charge on revenues for the maintenance of this establishment is about £164 000, and is a subject of much complaint among the educated natives of the country. These allege, and no doubt with truth, that of all the religious bodies in the Empire, the Christian alone, or, more strictly, the Church of England, is permitted to be a burden upon the public exchequer. All other sections of the community provide, at their own expense, buildings and men for their religious services. It must be admitted that there is some ground for the complaint; for, although it may be argued that those servants of the State whom it is necessary for the common advantage to import are entitled to provision for their



spiritual wants, and such provision is a part of the price the Empire must pay for their services, no such plea can be urged in respect of the large number of non-official Europeans who have selected India as a seat of labour for a livelihood, and these latter should provide, at their own expense, for their own spiritual wants, as for their temporal. Moreover, the support of the Government is chiefly confined to the Church of England. There are large numbers of clergy in India, mainly employed in missionary work, belonging to the Roman Catholic Church and to various "dissenting" bodies, who are supported entirely by subscriptions from Europe and America, and who minister very largely to the spiritual needs of native and East Indian Christians, and to many of the class of European non-officials. This question of State support to one special Church establishment deserves more attention than it has yet received.

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## RAILWAYS.

THE construction of railways in India commenced in 1849. No one acquainted with the country could fail to see the urgent necessity for

a system of railways, not only in the interests of trade and the development of the internal resources of the country, but also from a strategical or political standpoint. But it seemed unlikely that funds for this purpose could be got from a population totally unacquainted with the nature and advantages of a railway system; while foreign capitalists not unnaturally felt uncertain as to the cost of construction and working, and the probable traffic returns, in a country still so unsettled, and where the extent of the internal trade was yet, to a great degree, unknown. The Government, recognizing the great addition to the practical strength of its military establishments which would be gained by the power of rapid communication and transport, resolved to guarantee a minimum revenue or interest on all capital subscribed, and with this guarantee the funds required were readily obtained in England. Since 1849, eight main lines have been completed, viz.—

The East Indian Railway;  
Great Indian Peninsula Railway;  
Madras Railway;  
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India;  
Sind, Punjaub, and Delhi;  
Oudh and Rohilkund;  
Eastern Bengal;  
South Indian.

These have a total aggregate length of 6044

miles, of which 805 miles are laid with a double line of metals, and the balance is worked on a single line. Of recent years the Indian Government has adopted the plan of constructing all minor lines of railways as "State railways," or as part of the "Productive Public Works" of the Empire; the cost of construction being provided out of the current annual revenues. There are twenty-seven such lines completed and in construction, and four other projects are under survey. The completed portion contains 2171 miles of line, and there are still about 1000 miles of sanctioned projects to finish.

The extent, therefore, of completed railway lines, "guaranteed" and "State," is 8215 miles. This work has been done for a total expenditure of £118,016,755, say.

Guaranteed	...	...	...	£96,725,679
State	...	...	...	21,291,076

It may be added that, out of a total of 64,321 registered holders of Indian railway shares or stock, only 317 are natives of India. From this it may be seen how impossible it would be to raise money by local subscription for an Indian railway system; and the expediency of the plan now adopted, under which the funds required are practically raised by the yearly taxation of the population, becomes obvious.

Of the guaranteed lines, the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula, and Eastern Bengal are the only ones which appear to give a net revenue in excess of the guaranteed interest. The other five do not earn sufficient to cover the amount guaranteed. On the aggregate, however, the net earnings of the eight lines appear to leave a surplus of about £290,000 over the guaranteed interest; the figures being—

Net revenue ... ..	£5,002,028
Minimum guaranteed interest ...	4,708,131

The State railways appear to give a net return of only £195,787, or something under one per cent. on capital expended, but many of these lines are still incomplete, and only partially opened for traffic, and there can be no doubt that in time the returns will greatly increase.

Recent official returns give the following statistics of annual receipts from passengers and goods on all the lines:—

Passengers ... ..	£2,844,508
Goods ... ..	6,365,599
Gross receipts ... ..	9,200,107
Total working expenses ... ..	4,178,582
	<hr/>
	£5,021,525

The passenger traffic, again, is analyzed as follows:—

## GUARANTEED LINES.

First class passengers ... ..	192,257
Second ditto, ditto ... ..	791,901
Third and fourth ditto, ditto ... ..	31,216,255
	<hr/>
	82,200,413

## STATE.

First class passengers ... ..	25,285
Second ditto, ditto ... ..	159,729
Third and fourth ditto, ditto ... ..	6,104,159
	<hr/>
	6,289,173

Total on guaranteed and State rail-ways ... ..	38,489,586
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The enormous difference between the number of first and second class and the aggregate of third and fourth class passengers will at once arrest attention. It shows conclusively that India requires a cheap system of railway communication, more than the luxurious conveniences of Western countries.

Another striking peculiarity of Indian railways, as compared with those of Europe, is the small amount of "mineral" traffic as compared with goods, as shown by the following figures:—

## GUARANTEED LINES.

					Tons.
Minerals ... ..	...	...	...	...	788,539
Goods ... ..	...	...	...	...	6,341,056

## STATE RAILWAYS.

Minerals ... ..	...	...	...	...	50,133
Goods ... ..	...	...	...	...	955,279

## TOTAL GUARANTEED AND STATE.

					Tons.
Minerals	...	...	...	...	838,672
Goods	...	...	...	...	7,296,335

But of this "mineral" traffic, nearly the whole is coal and coke for the use of the locomotive department, and not on account of the public customers, or traffic producing a revenue.

It will be observed that, under this system of State railway construction, the Empire is gradually acquiring a property which should in time become a valuable source of revenue. These State railway lines are, in fact, actual investments of capital, and may be taken in the annual balance sheet as assets of the State, exactly in the same way as a manufacturer may put down his mill or foundry as property unrealized, but realizable in case of need to pay liabilities. Looking at foregoing figures, it will be seen that the Indian Government have expended out of current revenues over twenty-one millions on the construction of State lines; and it may be assumed, therefore, that the Empire possesses in this particular an unrealized asset of twenty-one millions sterling to set in part against a funded debt of one hundred and fifty-six millions; or, in other words, that India possesses property in "State railways" sufficient

to pay fourteen per cent. of its national debt. In the case of guaranteed railways, the Empire has the option of taking over the lines at any time, on payment of the capital at the average price of the stock during the three preceding years, or on such other terms as may be mutually agreed upon. It has already exercised this privilege in the case of the East Indian Railway, having acquired that property by purchase from the proprietors on the basis of an annuity to the late shareholders of £5 12s. 6d. per cent. of capital, to continue until 1953, when the line will become the unencumbered property of the Empire. It is estimated that during the currency of this contract for purchase, calculating the net traffic earnings at only the present annual average of £2,495,000, the State will realize a surplus equal to £337,892 per annum, against £165,287, which is its present share of surplus net profits after payment of guaranteed interest, or a clear gain of £172,605 per annum over the old arrangement. After 1953 the whole of the net traffic earnings will pass to the State, and the railway will become a valuable source of revenue, providing, at present figures of traffic, nearly one-half of the annual charge for interest on the present national debt of India; while, taken as a realizable asset, the value of the line,

some thirty-two millions, will cover twenty per cent. of the capital debt. Taking this thirty-two millions with the present value of State railways, twenty-one millions, we have fifty-three millions of railway property to set against one hundred and fifty-six millions of debt, or fully thirty-four per cent. of the debt secured by this class of property alone. With such figures before us, it seems strange that we should hear, as we have recently heard, statements that India is rapidly becoming bankrupt.

The railways employ on the working lines 142,200 persons, of whom 135,300, or over ninety-five per cent., are natives, 3416, or 2.40 per cent., are East Indians, and 3485, or 2.45 per cent., Europeans. Measures are under consideration for providing special schools at hill sanatoria for the large number of children (over 5000) of the Europeans employed.

In the Appendix will be found a statement of the length of each railway which has been completed or sanctioned or is in course of construction.



#### POST OFFICE.

THIS department is in India, as in all other countries, under the direct control of the Govern-



ment; and the work is well organized, ample facilities being supplied even in the remotest districts of the country. On all the railways the mails are carried free of charge, this being one of the conditions on which the Government of India guaranteed the interest on the railway capital. Where there are no railways, the work is done by mail-carts and post-runners, paid by the State. The money order system is in operation throughout the country, and is largely availed of by all classes for the transmission of small sums.

The annual expenditure of the Postal Department averages some £950,000, and the receipts about £870,000, leaving a deficiency, or charge on public revenues, of some £80,000 a year; but the tendency is towards an increase of revenue; and with the rapid progress of education, and improvement in means of communication between the districts, it is probable that before long the department will cease to be a charge upon State funds, and may even become a source of revenue. Hitherto the chief control of the department has generally been entrusted to Postmasters-General selected from the favoured class of covenanted civilians. Whether a more special training and technical knowledge than such gentlemen can have had the opportunity of

acquiring would not operate to advantage in the increase of revenue, is a question which deserves and would probably repay further examination.



### TELEGRAPHS.

THE Government of India has covered the country with a network of telegraph lines, connecting all the important towns, and stations or seats of Government establishments, and providing for the requirements of commerce or the convenience of individuals. The lines are very largely used in the despatch of the Government work, and certain of the higher State officials have the power to "clear the line," or, in other words, to give precedence to important State messages over all other business. The only private telegraph lines in India are those of the railways, which are mainly used for the working of the roads but are also open to any of the public who may have occasion to telegraph to towns or stations on the railway line. The annual expenditure on the Indian telegraph establishment is about £500,000, and the average receipts, about £350,000, leaving a deficiency of some £150,000 as an annual charge on the Im-

perial revenues. This, of course, should not be the case; and it is probable that careful inspection and enquiry into the working of the department by men who have been accustomed to supervise telegraph establishments in Europe or America would result in advantage to the country. The rates charged for messages are very high—two shillings for every six words (address not counted), and, of course, must check the free use of the wires, and confine it to absolutely indispensable messages. The revenue derivable from the public could probably be very greatly increased by a judicious reduction of charges, and check on unnecessary use of the wires in Government business.

It is worth notice that all this fine property, for such it must be considered, has been gradually created out of the ordinary annual revenues of the Empire. It is another item of State property of very considerable value—in fact, an asset of the Empire, available for the discharge in part of the State liability on the funded debt; and, if properly managed, should pay at least as high a rate of interest on its capital cost as is paid on the Indian debt.

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## MUNICIPALITIES.

THE Government of India has for some years past promoted the organization of local government among the Urban and large Village Communities, with special reference to the construction and maintenance of roads, general sanitation, and similar matters, which in former years were either undertaken by the Government or altogether neglected.

These municipalities are usually placed under the direction of the chief covenanted civilian of the district, who is *ex-officio* President. In the country districts the members of the Board are appointed by Government, but in the larger Presidency towns one-half of the members are elected by the ratepayers, and the remainder nominated by Government. Such arrangements should always give a Government majority on these Boards; but in addition to this primary influence, the Government exercises a very considerable control over the acts of the municipalities; insists upon needful works of communication, water supply, drainage, etc., being undertaken; and claims an ultimate right to "veto" any orders of the Board providing for taxation, or levy of local cesses or rates, of which

it may disapprove. The Government further proposes to place all such matters as police, hospitals, and education, within the limits of a municipality under the special charge of the town, and at the special cost of the inhabitants, instead of, as at present, under the control of Government and at the charge of Imperial funds. This measure will, no doubt, excite much opposition, and it may be doubted whether the populations of Indian towns and villages can at present afford such heavy burdens.

The number of municipalities at present in India is about 800, divided as follows :—

Bengal	...	...	...	...	194
Punjaub	...	...	...	...	199
North-West Provinces			...	...	80
Oudh	...	...	...	...	24
British Burmah	...	...	...	...	7
Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	57
Bombay	...	...	...	...	194
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But this number will, no doubt, be rapidly increased. The main difficulty is in getting the natives to take an intelligent interest in the improvements of their towns or villages, and to overcome their dislike to any changes of old custom, and to any outlay of money on sanitary objects of which they do not appreciate the advantages.

## PAUPERISM.

THERE is no State arrangement for the relief of the native poor in India, but there are numerous almshouses, supported by endowments from charitable natives and others, where relief is given to those in want. Many of the large temples also apply a portion of their income to similar purposes. Natives, as a general rule, support the aged and infirm members of their family; and almsgiving is a religious duty with Hindoos and Mahometans alike. All these causes combine to prevent any necessity for State interference, except on occasions of general scarcity or famine.

In the case of destitute Europeans, an Act of the legislature, known as "The Vagrant Act," empowers the police to arrest any European wandering about the country in destitution, or without visible means of subsistence. Or any such European may go to the nearest police station and declare himself to be a "vagrant." In such cases the sufferer is forwarded, under police supervision, to the nearest Presidency town, where he is lodged and fed in an establishment provided by the Government for this purpose, for a reasonable interval, while attempts

are made to find suitable employment for him. Should this not be procurable, he is "deported," or sent out of the country, at Government expense, to England, or Australia, or elsewhere he may reasonably desire. In this manner the scandal, and possible danger to public security, of Europeans without employment wandering about the country in a state of destitution, and sometimes intimidating and ill-using the natives, is avoided.

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## LAND REVENUE.

THE "sheet anchor" of Indian finance is the tax on cultivated land, known as "land revenue." To trace the actual origin of this tax and the various systems under which it has been levied in different parts of the country by different rulers in past ages, its actual incidence on different forms of cultivation, its economical effects, etc, etc, would require a volume, and it is impossible to give in these pages more than a brief outline of the institution. So far as can be ascertained, the principle of tenure, or proprietary right in land, recognized by all Hindoo communities from the

most remote ages was this—that the man who first cleared and cultivated waste land (and all land must have been originally waste) acquired a perpetual right of occupancy of such land, subject only to the payment to his sovereign, or feudal superior, of a share of the produce of the soil. There is much controversy as to the actual nature of this right of occupancy; whether, for example, it amounts to an actual ownership of the land, with all manorial privileges, or whether it is only of the nature of a perpetual lease. It is, however indisputable that whatever the exact legal tenure may have been, it has always been treated as an alienable possession—a right which the occupying cultivator could mortgage or sell, and which descended to his heirs in perpetuity so long as the “Crown dues” were regularly paid; but which, in default of such payment, could be attached and sold by “the Crown,” whose claim moreover took precedence of all other creditors, or holders of “encumbrances.” This was the system which the East India Company found in force upon the territories ceded to, or conquered by, it. The officers of the Company, whose experience was limited to the counting-houses of the trading factories, were, as a rule, very imperfectly acquainted with the conditions of village life and agriculture in



the interior, and quite incompetent to enter into yearly settlements with each individual cultivator (many with holdings of only two or three acres) over a vast extent of country. But the chief advantage derivable from the acquired territories lay in the rents, or dues, payable by the cultivators, and it was necessary to provide some system of revenue collection. In Northern India the territory first acquired—Bengal, Behar, and Orissa—was handed over to middle men, or Zemindars, who took up large tracts, or estates, from the Company on permanent leases, at a fixed rental—themselves collecting from the cultivator the dues payable to the Crown. It is pretty certain that a considerable margin of profit remains with the zemindar under such an arrangement. In Southern India the Company's servants, under the able management of Sir T. Munro, were able to continue the native system of direct dealings with each cultivator on yearly agreements; and this is still the form of settlement over the greater portion of the Madras Presidency. There have been various changes or "settlements" introduced during the present century, and several different systems of fixed rentals for certain terms of years are in existence; but the main principle which underlies the whole is—that

the occupying cultivator cannot be ousted from his holding so long as he pays the fixed assessment. No matter whether the settlement is direct between cultivator and Government, or made through a zemindar or middle man to the Government, or through a village community to the Government, the principle is the same, viz. that the State receives a share of the produce of all cultivated land in recognition of its sovereign rights, and in consideration of protection to the cultivator from invasion or internal disturbance. This share of the produce of the land was originally, under the native sovereigns, collected "in kind," but has long since been commuted into a money payment. What was the proportion of produce taken by the native rulers is doubtful; it probably depended a good deal on circumstances. Native tradition fixes it at one-half, but considers the cultivator seldom managed to retain more than one quarter. The present money assessment is believed to represent about one-fourth of the produce; but authorities disagree greatly on this subject, and the most difficult questions which the Government settlement officers have had to solve have been—the yield per acre of different kinds of produce on different soils, and the average market values of such produce. Bearing in mind how greatly such value