



R E P O R T
on the
ADMINISTRATION
of the state of
TIPPERAH



Tribal Research and Cultural Institute
Govt. of Tripura, Agartala

REPORT

ON THE

Administration of the State of Tipperah



FOR THE YEAR 1300 T.E.

(13th April 1890—12th April 1891.)

AGARTALA

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Forward

Tribal Research Institute, Govt. of Tripura has taken an inovative effort for re-printing some of the old historical documents, research papers and other such valuable documents rare in its nature. The present report on the Administration of the State of Tripura from 1300 T.E. (13th April 1890 – 12th April 1891) & on ward which contained of valuable information about the history, Culture, administrative set up and other details which will be very useful in understanding the cultural demography of this beautiful land.

We are grateful to Sri Rama Prasad Dutta, an eminent Scholar of contemporary history of Tripura who contributed this rare reports from his collection for reprinting the same from TRI and also to Sri R. K. Acharyya, Research Officer, TRI who edited the report to publish in book form.

I am sure, the present publication would be of great use and help to the researchers, scholars, students of to-day for taking up indepth study on the history of Tripura.

Agartala

October, 2004



(J. D. TRIPURA),

Director,

Tribal Research Institute,

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REPORT

ON THE

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FOR THE YEAR 1300 T.E.

(13th April 1890—12th April 1891.)

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. This is the first report of the General Administration of the State and the attached Zemindaries for any one year and as such may have many short-comings. It is however hoped that it will give a substantially full and correct idea of the present state of affairs.

2. Before endeavouring to give an account of the administration for the past year *i.e.* for 1300 T.E. (1890-91 A. D.) I think it will not be out of place to any a few words about the early history of the State and the Zemindaries.

3. Tradition traces back the origin of the Raj to a remote antiquity prior even to the age of the *Mahabharat*. A prince of Tripura, so says the epic, attended on invitation the Rajshuya Yajna of the Pandavas.

4. At one time the jurisdiction of the State extended over a large area. On this point Dr. Hunter says as follows :—

“The present Raja claims descent from Duhya, son of Jajati, one of the lunar race of Kings ; from him the succession is traced down in a direct line, including thirty-eight reigns, to his descendant Daitya, the third and youngest son of Chitrarath, Raja of Chedi * “ * * * Daitya is said to have left his father’s dominions after the battle of Kurukshetra, in which his two elder brothers were killed, and to have fled with his widowed mother to the country now called Tipperah, which then included the hill-country to the east, as far as the borders of Burmah.”

5. Sir C. U. Aitchison in Vol. I. of his “Treaties, Engagements, and Sunnuds says:—there is no reliable account as to the limits of the ancient State of Tipperah ; but at various times it gained conquests and possession, which carried its armies from the Sunderbunds in the west to Burmah in the east, and from Kamroop in the north to Burmah in the south.”

6. Sir Alexander Mackenzie in his History of the Relations of the British Government with the North-east Frontier Tribes writes thus :—“Jajar pha, the “seventy-fourth Raja, invaded Rangamati (Udaipur), and in spite of the valour of Nikka, its king, made “conquest of the country and fixed there his capital. “From this he attacked Bengal, and extended his dominion as far as Amarpura, in Burmah.”

7. Mr. H. J. S. Cotton begins his Memorandum on the Revenue History of Chittagong with a complimentary statement regarding the extent of Tipperah. He says “the province of Chittagong has frequently changed masters. In the earliest times of which we have knowledge it constituted a part of the once extensive independent Hindoo Kingdom of Tipperah.”

8. Gradually from various causes the State has diminished in extent and it now contains an area of about 4086 square miles and a population, according to the last census, of only 137,442 souls.

9. The Zemindaries were at one time part and parcel of the main State. The major portion of them is called *Chakla Roshnabad*. During the reign of Shah Jehan, the Mogul Emperor of Delhi, they were conquered by the Mahomedans and assessed to revenue. They are situated in the Districts of Noakhali, Tipperah and Sylhet along the border of the State and contain on the whole an area of almost 600 square miles.

10. Tipperah has a written history of its own. The *Rajratnakar* and the other ancient records preserved in the archives of the Ruling House bear ample testimony to the by-gone power and extent of this old principality. It is needless for the purpose of this report to refer to these records in any detail.

11. The State also has a chronological era of its own. It was adopted by Raja Bir Raj in commemoration of the success of his arms in the country watered by the Ganges. On this subject Dr. Hunter has the following in his *Statistical Account of Bengal Vol. VI* :—

“Raja Bir Raj is said to have extended his conquest across the Ganges ; and in commemoration of that event, to have established a new era dating from his victory”. The present Tipperah year is 1301, and the present Maharaja is ninety-second in descent from Bir Raj.

12. The above will, it is hoped, be sufficient to give an idea of the ancient power and glory of the State.

INTRODUCTORY

13. I took charge of the administration on the 16th April 1890, when the late council of management ceased to exist. The year under review was a peaceful and, on the whole, a prosperous one as the following account will shew.

14. I was out on duty four times during the year and for 94 days in all. In September I
 Tours
 went to Comilla, and met the Commissioner Mr. D. R. Lyall C. S. I. There, among other

matters, the subject of the settlement of His Highness's zemindaries was discussed. While at Comilla I inspected the Sadar chakla office and on my way back inspected the chief Tehsil office at Mogra. In October I went to Darjeeling to bid farewell, on behalf of His Highness, to Sir Stuart Bayley on the eve of his departure from India. In December I proceeded again to Comilla to specially look after the zemindaries and stayed there for the purpose about a month. In February I went to Calcutta to deliver personally a letter of welcome from His Highness to Sir Charles Elliott the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and travelling with His Honor came back to Comilla via Chittagong and Chandpur. I again made a stay of about a week at Comilla to enquire about the affairs of the zemindaries and returned to Agartala on 1st March. In April last I left head quarters once more for a prolonged tour of inspection in the zemindaries in the districts of Tipperah and Noakhali and in the sub-divisions of Bilania and Sonamura of the State. I visited all the Tehsil offices of the former and the head quarter stations of the latter. I also visited the police stations of Amlighata and Rhishyamukh in the Bilania sub-division and returned to Agartala on the 22nd May 1891.

15. Every where the subjects evinced a gratifying spirit of loyalty and obedience to His Highness. Wherever the question of settlement was mooted, the people seemed willing to come to terms amicably.

16. The tours of the sub-divisional officers were not sufficiently long. Notice has been taken of the fact, and communicated to them with instruction for future guidance. Babu Banga Chandra Bhattacharji B.A. Sub-divisional officer of Sonamura was in camp for 28 days, Babu Hari Mohan Das, Sub-divisional officer of Bilania for 44 days and Babu Doorga Mohan Roy, Sub-divisional officer of Kailashahar for 73 days.

17. The rainfall was sufficient both for the preservation of public health and for the produce of the ordinary crops. In the case of cotton, however, it was more than sufficient spoiling partially the capsules ; the out-turn of the crop was in consequence about 20 percent less than the average. Paddy was produced most abundantly both in the plains and in the hills of the State. Oilseeds, sugar-cane and tobacco also were good.

18. Best rice was usually sold at Rs. 2-8 a maund and ordinary rice at Rs. 2-4. The price of gram varied from Rs.4-0 to Rs 4-8 and that of pulses of other kinds from Rs. 3-12 to Rs. 6-8.

19. Labour both skilled and unskilled is imported ; day labourers usually earned about 0-4-0 on the average per diem. The monthly wages of carpenters and smiths were usually Rs. 16 and Rs. 15 respectively.

20. Public health was much better than that in the previous year. In some portions of the Kailasahar division, however, cholera broke out about the close of the year under report in an epidemic form and caused some loss of life.

21. The general condition of the people, nearly all of whom are by profession agriculturists, improved materially owing to the abundant out-turn of paddy. When they had no work in the fields they were employed in the hills in gathering forest produce from which they obtained a pretty good income.

22. The trade of the country is carried on especially by the Bengalis of the adjacent British districts, by whom, salt, piece goods, dried fish, hardware, pottery and other necessary articles are imported. The principal articles of export are forest

produce of various kinds, such as timber, bamboos, thatching grass, canes &c., and also cotton, oilseeds, dug-outs, paddy and rice. In respect of the last two articles restriction—a step which was scrupulously avoided during the year under report; and the result is that owing to the free exportation of paddy from the country, the pecuniary condition of the people has palpably improved. The extent of general trade is gradually increasing as is evinced by the fact that new markets and bazars are springing up in the midst of hills as well as along the borders. The export trade of the country is comparatively far more important than the import trade. The value of the former estimated from the statistics contained in the Assam Gazette is about 12,00,000 while that of the import trade is not more than 65,000. Estimated from the amount of the total export duty realized viz, Rs. 179,194, the entire value of the export trade of the year under report would be about Rs. 810,000.

23. No emigration from the country worth being noticed took place during the year. About 160
Emigration, immigration and other internal movements of the people. houses of Chakmas, Mugs and Riangs came in from the Chittagong Hill Tracts to reside in this territory. From the time of the Lushai disturbances of recent years, the people of that district living in the Feni valley have been crossing the boundary in considerable numbers to make their abodes here. Good lands for Joom cultivation are more available in this State than in the Chittagong Hill Tracts—a circumstance which serves to induce immigration from that district. Some people came in from Sylhet and other adjacent districts and settled in this territory to cultivate waste lands. Indeed for some time past there has been a small influx of population of the agricultural classes almost every year. There was no internal movement among the people that deserves any mention.

PART II

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES.

24. The executive council by which the administration of the State was formerly used to be carried on was abolished in the beginning of the year under report. The said council consisted of one non-official and three official members. Of the latter Babu Radha Raman Ghosh B.A., Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur, withdrew his connection from the Administration preferring to remain as His Highness's Secretary only. The remaining two were retained on the administrative staff, one being placed in charge of the Revenue Department and the other in charge of the Treasury and Accounts Department. With them and with selected subordinate officers the Minister's office has been organized as an office of guidance, supervision and control, in respect both of the administration of the State and the management of the connected zemindaries. The Revenue officer having since retired, his place was been conferred on Babu Sarat Chandra Bose B.L., who has been entrusted with the duties of the Revenue and General Departments of the Minister's office. He was already in His Highness's service, as Dewan of *Chakla Roshnabad*.

25. Three Sub-Divisional offices were in existence in the State formerly. One more has been opened at the Sudder station of the State. The whole territory is now thus, divided for purposes of general administration into four Divisions, viz Sudder, Sonamura, Bilania and Kailashahar. Heretofore all the revenue and Executive work of the Sudder Division was used to be performed in the office of the Minister. That office, therefore, had necessarily little time left to it for the performance of its proper duties of supervision and guidance. In the Sudder Division

Revenue work, Police work and Executive work in general are now done in the newly created office, while judicial work is performed by a separate class of officers as before.

26. The court of the Assitant Magistrate at Old Agrtala was abolished at the commencement of the year as the Magistrate's court was sufficient to meet all requirements.

27. To ensure regularity and efficiency in the management of the zemindaries, they have been divided into four circles each being in charge of a responsible officer designated Sub-Manager, who has been vested with sufficient powers for the discharge of his duties. Formerly most of the zemindaries situated in Tipperah and Noakhali were used to be looked after by a Manager or a Dewan with head quarters at Comillah. Some of the zemindaries in Sylhet were under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional officer of Kailashahar, while the remaining portions of the zemindaries in Tipperah and Syllhet were managed directly by the Minister's office. This also gave the Minister's office a lot of Tehsil and management work to do, which properly should have been done by local agencies. As a necessary result that office could hardly find sufficient time for exercising general control over the whole Administration with efficiency.

28. Under the new arrangement, *Chakla Rushnabad* (such is the common name of His Highness's principal zemindaries) has been divided into three circles, one consisting exclusively of the zemindaries in Noakhali and the other two of the zemindaries in Tipperah and also of a portion of the zemindaries in Sylhet. (Vide Resolution on the subject given in the appendix.) The fourth circle is composed exclusively the remaining portion of the zemindaries in Sylhet.

29. The estimated area and assets of these circles are given below :-

NAME OF CIRCLES.	NAME OF HEAD QUARTERS.	AREA IN	ASSETS.
		ACRES.	RS AS. P.
(according to thack)			
Southern Division. }	Feni (Nonakhali)	79502	200364-6-8
Central Division. }	Comillah (Tipperah)	146186	297125-6-5
Northern Division. }	Mogra (Tipperah)	140943	121657-4-3
Sylhet zemindaries. }	Laharpur (Sylhet)	29000	25655-8-7
	Total	395631	644802-9-11

30. The above circles have been found convenient for purposes of general administration. Heretofore there was at times a Manager for the zemindaries in Noakhali and Tipperah. According to the terms of the Minister's appointment the Manager's office has merged into that of the Minister. In fact the post of a separate Manager at Comillah was never found to be one of absolute necessity. In 1882, Mr. G. Toynbee, then Magistrate and Political Agent, Tipperah, now Commissioner of the Orissa Division, advised His Highness of the subject as follows :-

“You have very wisely dispensed with the services of your European Manager here and of your Minister Associate, thus effecting a saving of at least Rs. 10,000 a year. I hope you will not revive any of these appointments which I hold to be quite unnecessary.”

31. The appointment of a separate responsible officer for the zemindaries in the Nonakhali District was for

a long time a great necessity, known alike to the officers of the State and the authorities of the district. Mr. D. R. Lyall C.S.I., Commissioner, Chittagong Division, also spoke to me about it in September last. The want has been supplied by the arrangement mentioned above, under which these zemindaries have been exclusively placed under a separate Sub-Manager.

32. It had struck me long before I took charge of my office, that strict regularity and efficiency could not be established in the general administration of the State as long as the management of matters connected with His Highness's household was not duly constituted as a separate department and placed under a competent and trustworthy officer. While I was Assistant Political Agent here, I suggested it to the then heads of the Administration, and attempt was made from time to time towards the accomplishment of the object. The plan that was adopted for the purpose in 1296 T.E., under which a *Sangsar* Department was formed, received the most careful attention from the Administration during the year under report. In order that the household affairs of His Highness and the charges thereof may be managed with due propriety and economy, the functions of that department have been sufficiently developed and defined.

33. Another useful office, *viz.*, an office for the examination and checking of all old accounts, has been organized and placed under a trained officer. The result of the working of this office has already been found to be satisfactory as the sequel will shew.

34. One more important measure adopted during the year is the appointment of a Circuit and Sessions Judge. In carrying out this measure no additional cost has been entailed, the Revenue Dewan, who is a graduate in law and who was a practitioner in a district court in Bengal, being vested with the powers of a Circuit and Sessions

Judge, which he has good opportunities to exercise when he is out on inspection duty. Considering the location of the mofussil courts and other circumstances, such an appointment was felt as a great necessity. While Assistant Political Agent I pointed it out to the then authorities of the State.

35. Among the other posts and institutions brought into existence during the year and since its close may be mentioned the following :-

(a) The appointment of a graduate in law and practitioner in a district court in Bengal as a Stateleader at Agartala.

(b) An Engineer's office for planning and carrying out schemes of public works. This office which is cost Rs. 150 a month is headed by a practical Engineer educated in the Engineering College, Shibpur.

(c) A High school at Agartala at a cost of Rs. 300 a month, the instructive staff of which is headed by a Master of Arts of the Calcutta University.

36. In introducing the above reforms attention has been paid more to the redistribution of old officers than to the appointment of new men. Indeed, fresh hands have been employed only when absolutely necessary. In the organization of new officers and in remodelling the old, as indeed in all matters involving any expenditure, the object has always been to secure the greatest amount of good with the least amount of cost.

38. During the year, great economy was observed in the matter of expenditure in general and great attention was paid in the matter of collection in order that as large an amount as possible might be made available for the liquidation of debts which, as shewn in the return, were cleared to the extent of Rs. 271628-5-6, a sum which was more than half of the total net receipts.

39. A comparative statement shewing the amount of revenue of the State derived from all sources exclusive of the zemindaries is given below :-

Serial No.	Source of Revenue	Average receipts for the 3 years 1886-87, 1887-88 and 1888-89.	Receipts in whole Rs. in 1889-90	Receipts in whole Rs. in 1890-91	As compared with 1889-90	
					Increase.	Decrease
1.	Land Revenue from plain lands	43646	53973	57788	3815	-
2.	Family Tax in the hills	24331	28436	32223	3787	-
3.	Tax on Forest produce	81417	71449	102686	31237	-
4.	Do. Do. on the Feni	7707	7507	7254	—	253
5.	Do. on cotton and oilseeds	97939	100180	69254	—	30926
6.	Reserved Sal Forest	—	—	9993	9993	—
7.	Royalty on elephants caught	10237	5552	9936	4348	—
8.	Buffalo grazing mehal	3237	4094	3782	—	312
9.	Khotgari mehal	2935	2426	4101	1675	—
10.	Kazai mehal	407	367	929	562	—
11.	Rent on markets	1638	1441	1996	555	—
12.	Law and Justice—Fines	3286	3601	4242	641	—
13.	Do Stamps and court fees	8994	10126	9954	—	172
14.	Do Process fees	2841	3014	3561	547	—
15.	Do. Cattle pound	1715	1760	2209	449	—
16.	Do Abkari	2001	2611	3945	1334	—
17.	Thatching grass mehal	6540	7138	8406	1268	—
18.	Nazzars	735	1296	3153	1857	—
19.	Adda mehal	4636	4665	5320	655	—
20.	Registration	1930	1627	2143	516	—
21.	Jails	—	—	2283	2283	—
22.	Miscellaneous	2964	1202	2125	923	—
	TOATAL	309136	312465	347283	66481	31663
					Net increase.... 34818	

40. It will be seen from the above statement that the amount of receipts during the year under report was 347283 against Rs. 312465 of the previous year and Rs. 309136, the average of the preceding three years. It will be seen also that a total increase of Rs. 66481 was obtained under 18 heads against a total decrease of 31663 under four. Thus a net increase of Rs. 34818 was the result on the whole.

41. The increases under all the 18 heads mentioned above were material. The most noticeable of them was the increase under the head of "Tax on Forest produce" which amounted to Rs 31257, the total receipts being Rs. 102686 against Rs. 71449 of the previous year and Rs. 81417, the average of the preceding three years. The increase is chiefly due to collection of arrears.

42. The increase of Rs. 3815 under the head of Land Revenue was due to 11 *Ijara* mehals being brought under khas management. The increase of Rs. 3787 under "Family Tax"—a tax on the hill people, was due revised assessment and careful collection. To more regular and careful collection were also due the increases under the heads of "Khotgari mehals," "Rents on Markets," "Fines," "Abkari" and "Adda."

43. There was an increase of Rs. 516 under the head of Registration, the receipts being Rs. 2143 against Rs. 1627 of the previous year and Rs. 1930 the average of preceding three years. This is due to a greater number of ryotwari settlements in the khas mehals being made this year and the deeds thereof registered. The increase of Rs. 562 under the head of "Kazai mehal" is an index of the improved condition of the people which allowed a large number of marriages being celebrated. The increase of Rs. 449 under the head of "Cattle pound" is attributable to extension of cultivation. Many cases of land settlement were made during the year which accounts for the increase of Rs. 1857 under the head of "Nuzzars."

44. There are extensive sal forests in the Sonamura Division both on the north and the south of the Gumti river. These forests have been reserved since 1288 T.E. But theretofore their management was not very satisfactory as they were suffered to be injured by the neighbouring people of the District of Tipperah against whose encroachments no sufficient protection was provided. These people would frequently enter the forests in large numbers, fell down the trees and carry them away without the knowledge and permission of the officers of the State. Since 1299 an establishment of 1 Inspector, 2 Head constables and 13 guards has been maintained to keep watch. Two successive Political Agents, Messers J. Price and A. H. Collin, lent a helping hand in bringing offenders to justice. These actions have had their salutary effect. During the year under report a substantial return has been obtained from these forests, 8697 *Sal* tress being sold for Rs. 10,041-8 of which the sum of Rs. 9993-12-0 was realized before the close of the year.

45. There was no noticeable decrease any head except cotton and oilseeds in which unfortunately there was a great falling off. The receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 69,254 against Rs. 100180 of the previous year, and Rs. 97939 the average of the preceding three years shewing thus a decrease of Rs. 30926 compared with the former, and of Rs. 28685 compared with the latter. The decrease was due entirely to short produce of the crops, the result of the heavy rains of autumn last by which, as once mentioned, the cotton capsules were considerably spoilt.

46. Cotton and oilseeds form a most important source of revenue of the State and as such require to be most carefully dealt with. They are also the only articles grown in the jooms from which the hill people obtain any return in cash. For in no other joom product any trade is carried on worth being mentioned. Such being the case, it is desirable that the cultivation of these articles and their exportation should be encouraged as much as possible.

47. The rates of export duty charged on these articles should be moderate bearing a suitable proportion to their market value. These rates were known to be too high being about 40 per cent *ad valorem*. To evade payments therefore the growers and the traders frequently used to be combined to carry on smuggling, a result, which though from the physical condition of the country and from its situation it is impossible to prevent wholly, might be reduced to a large extent, if due consideration were paid to the people concerned in the cultivation and trade of the articles.

48. With a view therefore to encourage both the cultivators and the traders but especially to allow the former to enjoy a fair quota of the produce of their labour the rates of duty have since the close of the year been reduced 12½ per cent ; and the reduction has been duly notified in all important parts of the State.

49. By this reduction some loss of revenue may be apprehended in the begining. But it is believed that in the long run the step will be productive of goods to the Government and to the people alike. Arrangements have been made for the cultivation and trade of the articles being carefully watched and promoted and for informants of smuggling, where such takes place, being duly rewarded. The following table shews side by side the past and the present rates of duty.

Name of articles.	Rates hither to Prevalent	Present reduced rates.	REMARKS
Oilseed per manual	1 8 0	1 5 0	The cotton rates mentioned here are for raw cotton, the article being chiefly sold in that state.
Cotton. do.	2 0 0	1 12 0	

50. The following is a detailed Statement of the income of His Highness's zemindaries during the year under report.

SOURCES OF INCOME.	AMOUNTS.
1. Rents including Road and Public Work cesses & zemindari Dak tax	580216 14 4
2. Nuzzarana for grants of settlements and for permission for excavation of tanks	8446 9 3
3. Cost of suits decreed (realized through courts)	6325 10 0
4. House rent	2105 0 0
5. Recovery of loans &c.	6521 8 3
Total	603615 9 10

51. The total amount of bonded debts owed to the State by different parties was at the commencement of the year 156252. It was due chiefly on account of arrears of jamma, payable by talukdars, farmers and other, for which bonds had been duly executed. More than 75 per cent of this amount is irrecoverable, the debtors being either dead or having no property. Of the recoverable balance, a portion was collected during the year. Careful enquiries have been instituted to ascertain the amount actually recoverable and the Sub-Managers have been instructed to use their best exertions to realize the same, and also to realize as speedily as possible all unsatisfied decrees of courts, the latter aggregating over a lac of Rupees. Besides these dues, large arrears, amounting to some 3 lacs, are owed to the State by ryots of khas mehals for the collection of which special arrangements have been made.

52. Compared with the total amount of receipts from the zemindaries the charge for management, as shewn in para 37, gives a percentage of Rs. 11.15 only.

53. A budget estimate of receipts and expenditure for the current year has been made and communicate to the Account department for its guidance and that department

has been strictly enjoined to see that the expenditure is not exceeded on any ground without special sanction.

54. The total amount of the palace expenses including to Thakurs and charges for *Devarchana* i.e. performance of religious ceremonies was Rs. 234164 during the year under report. The charge under this head for the current year has been put at Rs. 230000 which is only a little over half of the estimated net income of the State and the zemindaries. The remaining portion of the net income which is almost one half of the whole has been set apart for liquidation of debts and for works of reform.

55. Fifteen per cent of the gross receipts from ryotwari mehals and five per cent of the same from taluks and farms have been fixed for meeting the expenses of the collection and management of the zemindaries, while for the cost of the administration of the State 40 per cent of its revenue has been assigned. In 1882-83 while Assistant Political Agent here, I suggested to the executive of the State the advisability of a financial statement being prepared on this basis and followed. In noticing the subject the Government of Bengal observed :—"The Lieutenant Governor approves of the suggestion of the Assistant Political Agent that the cost of collection and management should not exceed 15 per cent of the gross collections, that the administration charges should not be more than 40 per cent of the income and that the balance less the revenue due to this Government for the zemindaries should be applied three-fourths to defraying the household and private expenditure of the Maharaja and the remaining fourth to the liquidation of debts and to works of reform. Mr. Rivers Thompson is glad to learn that the suggestions have been accepted by the Maharajah."

56. The 40 per cent of the revenue assigned for the charges of the administration of the State has been distributed as follows :—

1. Revenue and General Department	18½	per cent.
2. Police and Cotton	8	„ „
3. Military	6½	„ „
4. Medical, Education and Municipal Departments	5	„ „
5. Justice and Registration	2	„ „

(For subordinate establishments only; the superior establishments of these departments are included partly in class I and partly in the household budget)

Total	40	„ „
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57. In respect of the zemindaries the 5 per cent of the receipts from taluks and ijarah mehals and the 15 per cent of the income of the ryotwari mehals upon which the collection and management charges have been calculated are divided as under :—

I. TALUKS AND IJARAH MEHALS

(a) Charges for the Minister's office	....	1	per cent
(b) Charges for the Sudder offices, of the zemindarie <i>i.e.</i> , the Sub- manager's offices	....	4	„
Total	....	5	per cent

II. RYOTWARI MEHALS

(a) Charges for the Minister's office	....	1	per cent
(b) Charges for the Sudder office, <i>i.e.</i> , the Sub-manager's offices	....	4	„
(c) Charges for the central Tehsil offices .....	....	6	„
(d) Charges for the village Tehsil agencies <i>i.e.</i> , Putwaries, Gomastas & c. ....	....	4	„
Total .....	.....	15	per cent.

58. Pending the preparation of a detailed budget of expenditure of the household department including *Devarchana* and other religious performances and pensions to Thakurs & c., a rule was issued in July last reducing by 20 per cent some of the expenses of that department. Under the operation of this rule a saving of Rs. 7761-11-0 was effected during the year.

59. Important as this department is, much has had to be done to put it in a state of order and efficiency. Change of hand, change of forms of registers, and change in the method of work had to be introduced; and these have been done. A general *Jaydad* register has been opened in order that all the landed properties of His Highness may be recorded in it in full detail. It will take sometime to complete the reforms undertaken.

Towji Department.

60. The Towji of all the revenue mehals has been divided according to the division of the State and the zemindaries, and the Sudder officer of each division has been provided with a complete roll of all the mehals situated within his jurisdiction. The Sub-divisional officers of the State and the Sub-managers of the zemindaries have been instructed to make full and regular collection in the mehals so placed under their charge. Formerly the Towjis of most of the important mehals situated in the Sub-divisions were kept in the Minister's office and the Sub-divisional officers were not responsible for the realization of their dues. This irregularity was observable in some cases in respect of the zemindaries also. It has now been fully removed.

61. During the year under report collection of revenue was everywhere made vigorously and regularly. In some cases of heavy demands which were objected to by the malguzardars, the objections were carefully gone into and when they were found reasonable and fair, remissions were granted, the remainder of the dues was thus made recoverable and it was duly realized.

62. Another course adopted during the year for ensuring good collection was the settlement of Settlement of old accounts. old accounts. Formerly payments were often used to be received from the malguzardars pending adjustment of their accounts and shewn in the records as deposits. As these accounts remained unadjusted for years, the malguzardars naturally grew diffident and desisted from making further payments. Many of these old accounts of deposits being settled during the year, payments in respect thereof were made with regularity.

63. Another important work in which the Account Examination of Nikashes. department is engaged is the examination of old *nikashes* or accounts submitted by Tehsilders and Muktaris. Advances were formerly used to be taken by officers and others for meeting both ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the State; but their accounts generally remained unadjusted. These accounts and the *nikashes* just mentioned are now being examined and checked. The task is a heavy one as the following table will show :—

Old accounts of expenditure pending adjustment at the beginning of the year.	{	Number 517
		Amount 2369417-14-6

Disposed of during the year	{	Number 216
		Amount 705643-7-0

The amount of savings effected Rs. 5081-14-0

64. It is believed that on the completion of the enquiries which have been set on foot in connection with the work mentioned above considerable amount of refunds will be due to the Government.

65. It will be seen from para 38 ante that the State Debts. is palpably emerging from its former difficulties. Clearance of debts has been regarded as a chief object of the present administration

from the begining. All ascertained debts have been registered. In order that the registration might be correct and complete notices were issued and put up in conspicuous places calling upon people having just claims upon the State to make representations to proper authorities. Many of the claims preferred in accordance with the notice were groundless while some were only partially true. All of them have been duly registered and each is being disposed of on its merits after due enquiry.

66. The registered debts and the amount paid during the year and since its close will be known from the following statements :—

Nature of debt.	Amount at the close of 1299 T. E.	Paid during 1300 T.E.	Paid up to date since the close of the year	Balance.
Bounded Debts	542280 12 4	99478 7 10	1500 0 0	441302 4 6
Accumulated interest	165499 2 9	65409 14 3	5258 2 3	94831 2 3
Unbonded debts bearing no Interest	38385 2 0	10267 12 0	—	28117 6 0
Miscellaneous debts and claims	304404 6 8	96472 3 5	4122 3 0	203810 0 3
TOTAL	1050569 7 9	271628 5 6	10880 5 3	768060 13 0

67. Of the liabilities shewn in the above statement as miscellaneous debts in claims some are due on floating and current accounts while others mostly refer to transactions which took place long ago. Some of these claims are unsettled and may not fully stand on enquiry. They cannot be determined without the most careful investigation. Such investigation has been made in several cases and the sum of Rs. 100594-6-5 which was found due in respect of them has been paid.

68. The accounts of the creditors who charged interest at rates higher than 6 per cent per annum have all been squared during the year according to the terms of their bond or amicably.

69. The bonded debts of His Highness are chiefly due to the professional money lenders of Comilla some of whom are also farmers in the Maharajah's zemindaries. Arrangement has been made for the liquidation of a portion of these debts by a system of transfer of payments. The rate of interest of these debts was generally 12 p.c. per annum. In 1885-86 some suggestions were made by me as Assistant Political Agent regarding the manner in which His Highness's affairs should be managed. These were generally approved of by the Political Agent and the Commissioner. One of the suggestions was that the executive of the State should try to reduce the high rates of interest of the bonded debts of Comilla. Attempt was made for the purpose but in the beginning it did not appear to be hopeful. At last however His Highness's officers of the time succeeded in reducing the rates of interest of a number of the creditors to a uniform rate of 6 per cent per annum and in effecting thereby a yearly saving of Rs. 22,542-0. In giving their consent to this arrangement the creditors naturally wanted to be sure of getting payments of their dues regularly. To those of them, therefore, who were farmers under the Maharajah, a portion of the annual jamma of their farms was allotted in payment of the debts. Where necessary, the number and period of the farms were so increased as to be sufficient for the entire liquidation of the debts in a definite time. The jamma of no farm was reduced, while that of some was increased as circumstances permitted. Others, who were not money-lenders by profession and who agreed to have their rates of interest similarly reduced, did so on the understanding that their money would be paid up in a short time.

70. Under the above arrangement the interest on a debt of Rs. 289,800 due to 8 creditors was reduced from Rs. 34,776 to Rs. 17,388 and that on a debt of Rs. 85,900 due to 15 creditors was reduced from Rs. 10,308

to Rs. 5,154. For the entire liquidation of the former and also of a debt of Rs. 4,000 which from the beginning bore interest at 6 per cent, a sum of Rs. 46,193-7-0 out of the total jamma of Rs. 81,693-6-7 of 26 farms has been set apart and allowed to be transferred to the account of the farmers as creditors. If this arrangement continues, as it is hoped it will, this debt will be paid off in and before 1309 T.E. It is proposed that every farm, as it will fall in, will be brought under *khas* management. Credit is due to the officers who effected the arrangement, as by it they not only made an annual saving of Rs. 22,542 as mentioned above, but also made the payment of over half of the bonded debts within a definite period certain.

71. In the State, payments of salaries and allowances of the members of all departments Regular payment of salaries, pensions &c. used formerly to be made with great irregularity. And as a necessary consequence discipline could not be strictly maintained. This state of things was the root of many evils and as such required to be removed without delay. Accordingly endeavour was made from the commencement of the year under report to establish regularity in the payment of salaries, pensions and other allowances, and the object was fully attained within a short time. Now the members of all departments are being duly paid month after month, on bills drawn by heads of offices and establishments both on the side of the General Administration and on that of the household or *Sangsar* department. This happy result, obtained so unexpectedly, is mainly due to strict and systematic disallowance of unnecessary expenditure, careful examination of accounts and to reduction of liabilities.

72. Estates yielding permanent income should not as a rule be let out in farms. In the Land settlement. State as well as in the *zemindaries*, farming system has been discouraged from the commence-

ment of the year and farms as a rule have been brought under khas management on the expiry of their terms. The following is a comparative statement shewing the number and jamma of the farms in existence in the last two years and also of those which are existing now :—

Where situated	1299 T. E.			1300 T. E.			1301 T. E.		
	Number of farms.	Annual Jamma.		Number of farms.	Annual Jamma.		Number of farms.	Annual Jamma.	
In the State ...	29	25555	3 9	20	17004	0 0	18	15586	0 0
In the Zemindaries.....	223	261469	1 9	178	217192	15 0	121	194342	1 6
Total	252	287024	5 6	198	234196	15 0	139	209928	1 6

73. Unless special circumstances have warranted otherwise, the grant of permanent settlement of any kind has also been strictly discouraged. In respect of the waste lands situated in the interior of the hills of the Kailashahar Division of the State, 22 jungle-abadi Taluks comprising on the whole 360 *drones* were in accordance with the rules promulgated by His Highness in 1288 T.E. granted to persons mostly of the cultivating classes. The jamma assessed was Rs. 1,530 or nearly Rupee 1 an acre and the premium or nuzzarana obtained was Rs. 1,120. In pergunah Nurnagar in Tipperah two small permanent leases covering about 9 *drones* were, on a total annual jamma of Rs. 85 and on a total nuzzarana of Rs. 1500 granted to certain Mahomedan residents who had fair claims to such settlement.

74. In the State as well as in the zemindaries the number of khas mehals has considerably increased owing chiefly to the practice which now obtains of farms being brought under khas management on the expiry of their terms. Ryotwari settlement therefore has had to be made

in comparatively large numbers almost everywhere. In Sonamura, Bilania, and Kailashahar the work was done by the Sub-divisional officers. In Agartala it was at first used to be done by the khas tehsil office. But since the establishment of the Sudder Sub-divisional office the settlement work of the Division has been entrusted to it. All the khas mehals of the Agartala pergunah are now under settlement. These mehals were surveyed in 1289 T. E., that is, about 12 years ago. In the pergunah there were 18 Taksisi Taluks, the terms of which have all expired. They are mostly in the possession of the Thakurs of Agartala. Three of them were settled during the year with the result of an increase of revenue from Rs. 58-4-9 to Rs. 192-0-3.

75. In Agartala and New Haveli 84 *drones* of arable lands were found lying unassessed. Arrangement has been made to bring them under assessment. Lands in the possession of pleaders, officers & c. being charged at the pergunah rate of Rs. 1-2-0 a *Kani* and those under the occupation of the Thakurs at half the rate.

76. The question of the settlement of the zemindaries is however the most important of all and as such has been most carefully considered. For the purpose of a proper solution of the question I made detailed enquiries in the course of my tours of inspection on a series of points. From all that I have heard and seen I am inclined to believe that in about 10 annas of His Highness's zemindaries in Tipperah and Noakhali there is no difficulty in the collection of rent, there being kabulyots, civil court decrees and rent receipts in existence; that satisfactory settlements with the ryots exist in many places and that in several cases amicable settlement may be made with advantage if measures for such settlement be pursued with firmness and a continuity of policy. In all other cases, recourse should be had to the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act to as great an extent as funds may permit.

77. Steps have already been taken to make amicable settlements with the ryots in the district of Noakhali, where 260 cases of ryotwari settlements covering a total area of 81 *drones* were completed and the jamma thereof was increased from Rs. 1489 to Rs. 2703. Plans for the settlement work in the district being taken in hand on a larger scale are in progress.

78. In the district of Tipperah also two special establishments have been provided at a cost of Rs. 178 and Rs. 215 per month respectively for the settlement of two large tracts, one situated in pergunah Meherkul, and the other in pergunah Nurnagar. These tracts when fully settled will yield about Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000 per year respectively.

79. His Highness's zemindaries are extensive and settlement work is required to be done more or less in every pergunah. Besides the arrangements made for amicable settlements mentioned above, pergunah Chowddagram and some villages in pergunah Bagasair have been selected for being surveyed and settled under the Tenancy Act Bengal and a list of them has been made. Such other pergunahs and tracts as it may be necessary to settle under the Act will be duly added to the list.

PART IV

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

80. During the year 19 Police stations and 3 outposts were maintained at a cost of Rs. 1258-10 a month. The establishments were paid with regularity. Arrangement has been made for paying them more liberally than before. The total charge last year was Rs. 15104 while under the Budget for this year it will be Rs. 28000. The strength of the force has also been increased as the following statement will shew :—

Name of posts	Number	
	1300 T.E.	1301 T.E.
Superintendents	4	4
Inspectors	3	4
Darogas and Naib Darogas	22	26
Head Constables	19	45
Constables	101	185
Total ...	149	264

81. With increase of their pay and strength, increase of responsibility has been attached to the Police. They had already to act as collectors of revenue under several heads. Their responsibility in this respect has been increased, the collection of cotton duty being entrusted to them. Formerly this work was used to be done by a low paid irresponsible agency which in many instances was employed temporarily for the cotton season and from which, therefore, satisfactory return could hardly be expected. The employment of such an agency has been put a stop to.

82. As usual crime was small. The total number of cases reported to the Police was 257
 Crime i.e. there was one complaint before the Police among every 534.79 of the population. Of these cases 243 were enquired into and 14 remained under investigation. The enquiry was successful in 145 and unsuccessful in 98 cases. In the former 261-148 or 56.70 per cent were convicted and 5 were committed to the Sessions, while 86 were acquitted or discharged, 1 escaped and 21 remained under trial at the close of the year.

83. Both in investigation of cases and in detection of offenders the Police acquitted themselves tolerably well. Their conduct was particularly creditable in one case in which certain refugees from the Chitagong Hill Tracts, who had escaped after committing an offence of dacoity with murder, were traced out and arrested, and in respect of which the services of the State were acknowledge with thanks by the Commissioner of the Chittagong division.

84. There were 5 original courts in the State during the year, viz., 3 in the Subdivisions
 Courts of Justice having both Criminal and Civil jurisdiction and 2 at head quarters, one criminal and one civil. At Agartala there were one Session and Appellate Court and one Khas Appellate Court. In addition to them there was a Court of a Circuit Judge, a new institution of the year that worked in the Sub-divisional head quarters. The presiding officer of all the courts at Agartala are respectable Thakurs The Chief Judge of the Khas Appellate Court is the Jubaraj Bahadur who as usual took an intelligent interest in the general administration of justice.

85. The work done in the several courts will be known in detail from the judicial returns shewn in the appendix. A summary of them is given in the following paragraphs with such particulars as are necessary for a clear understanding of the nature and amount of the work on the whole.

86. With the number pending from the previous year there were 660 criminal cases for disposal of which 268 were rejected, compromised or dismissed without enquiry, 367 were tried and 25 remained pending at the close of the year. With a few exceptions the cases were not very important in character. They were of the following descriptions :—

1. Offences against the State.	{	Serious	...	0
		Minor	...	98
2. Offences against the person	{	Serious	...	22
		Minor	...	144
3. Offences against the person and property	{	Serious	...	23
		Minor	...	0
4. Offences against property	{	Serious	...	0
		Minor	...	265
5. Other offences ...	{	Serious	...	0
		Minor	...	108

87. In connection with the above, 684 persons appeared or were brought before the court for trial of whom 397 or 58.04 per cent were convicted, 254 or 37.13 per cent were acquitted or discharged, 6 escaped or died while 27 remained under trial at the close of the year.

88. There were 26 cases about offences against public justice in which Government was complainant. These cases terminated satisfactorily and served as a check upon the institution of false complaints.

89. The State being surrounded on three sides by British territory offenders have opportunity of escaping there to evade trial. During the year several offenders thus escaped. Under the provisions of the Extradition Act application was made to the Political Agent for the arrest and surrender of 14 men of whom 3 only were arrested and made over to the tribunal of the State. On trial

2 of them were convicted and punished with imprisonment, one for 2 years on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and one for 2 months on a charge of escaping from lawful custody, while the third was acquitted.

90. In the Sessions Court there were altogether 14 cases in which 24 persons were tried, 8 being convicted and 13 acquitted; 2 of the accused died while under trial and the case of 1 remained pending at the close of the year. For the trial of these cases 84 witnesses were called of whom 45 only were examined, the rest being rejected by the parties. These circumstances do not reflect credit upon the committing officers.

91. Out of the total number of 397 persons convicted 77 preferred appeals before the Appellate Court or there was 1 appeal for every 5.15 convictions. The results of the appeal were as follow :—

1. Rejected	...	...	4
2. Sentences confirmed	...	...	32
3. „ modified	...	...	14
4. „ reversed	...	...	22
5. Fresh trial ordered	...	...	5

92. Of the unsuccessful appellants 21 carried their appeals before the Khas Appellate Court where the sentences appealed against were upheld in 11 cases, modified in 5 and reversed in 2, while in 2 cases fresh trial was ordered and in 1 case the appeal was rejected.

93. As shown in the return given in the appendix there were altogether 475 original civil suits for disposal before the several courts of the State. Of these suits 91 were rejected or dismissed on default, 20 withdrawn with leave or compromised and 109 decreed on admission or *ex-parte*, while 114 were contested in which judgment

was passed for the plaintiff in 77 and for the defendant in 37 suits. Thus altogether 334 suits were disposed of and 141 remained pending. Most of these latter were instituted towards the close of the year.

94. As usual the value of the civil suits was generally small ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 1,260-6-6. Their aggregate value amounted to Rs. 22,410.

95. There were besides 38 claim cases, 218 *Chits* or suits for small debts not amounting to more than Rs. 2 in each case and 208 suits for execution of decree.

96. The following table shews the result of appeals in the civil suits :—

	In the first Appellate Court.	In the Khas Appellate Court.
1. Number pending form the previous year	—	1
2. Number of appeals filed ...	80	29
3. Number of appeals disposed of :		
(a) Rejected	13	4
(b) Decrees of the Lower court upheld	32	15
(c) Decrees of the Lower court modified	13	1
(d) Decrees of the Lower court upset	14	4
(e) Cases remanded	7	6
4. Pending at the close of the year	1	—

97. The above will speak for itself. It shews that both in the Appellate and the Khas Appellate courts work was done with care and promptitude. Indeed in both of these courts cases are diligently and patiently heard for which they deserve credit.

103. The convicts sentenced to hard labour were usually employed in earth-work and jungle clearing. Their total earning during the year amounted to Rs. 2,283 while the total expenditure incurred for their diet and clothing was Rs. 1,953 and the total charge of the jail establishment amounted to Rs. 1,477-14-3. Thus the expenditure exceeded the receipts by Rs. 1,147-14-3, a necessary result of the smallness of the number of the jail population.

104. Every care is taken for providing the prisoners with proper and sufficient food and for affording them medical relief. During the year 295 prisoners were admitted into the hospital of whom 291 were cured, 3 died, and 1 remained under treatment at the close of the year. The jailor at Agartala was formerly in the medical service of His Highness. He is therefore a great help to the medical officer in charge of the jail hospital.

105. The jail building at Agartala being reported by the State physician to be somewhat defective in point of ventilation, arrangement has been made for building a new house on an improved plan in an open place outside the town, but not far from it.

PART V

Schools, Dispensaries, Roads & c.

106. Against 16 schools and 465 students of 1299 Schools there were at the close of the year under report (i.e., 1300) 19 schools and 624 students. The schools were distributed thus :—

Sudder Division	...	...	6
Sonamura Division	...	...	4
Bilan Division	...	...	1
Kailashahar Division	...	...	8

107. Classified according to race the students were as follow :—

1. Thakurs	...	...	51
2. Manipuris	...	...	117
3. Tipperahs	...	...	44
4. Kukis	...	...	4
5. Bengali Hindus	...	...	217
6. „ Mussulmans	...	...	171
7. Christians	...	...	6
8. Others	...	...	14

108. The charge for Public instruction was last year increased from Rs. 4771 to Rs. 5778 which this year has been further raised to Rs. 6648. The increase has been principally devoted to the Agartala English school which has been raised from a minor class institution to an Entrance class school and whose staff has accordingly been improved and strengthened at a cost of Rs. 3600 per year. The school has already become attractive. It contains now 101 students against 33 on the 1st of Pous (15th December) last, when the institution was

inaugurated as an Entrance school. It has been recognized by the University of Calcutta as being qualified to send up students to its Entrance Examination.

109. A High English school was a great desideratum at Agartala. Thakur children of school going age used heretofore to go to Comilla and other places for purposes of education—a necessity which is now no longer felt. In connection with the institution, a boarding for the Thakur boys is in contemplation. All the schools in His Highness's independent territory are free schools.

110. There were 4 charitable dispensaries in the State during the year in which 5079 patients were treated. The prevailing diseases were fevers, diarrhoea, dysentery, worms and skin diseases. Of the patients treated 5014 or 98.7 were cured, 37 died and 28 remained under treatment at the close of the year. The number of surgical operations performed was 141 and that of vaccine operations 1118. Of the last 969 only were successful.

Medical

111. Heretofore there was a great drawback in connection with the charitable dispensary at Agartala viz., that there was no arrangement for any indoor patients being kept for purposes of treatment. This want was removed during the year under report two sheds being made for the accommodation of such patients and other necessities provided. The dispensary had no house of its own for some time. This want also was duly removed, a small but neat Bungalow being built for the purpose. It has been erected on the site on which the dispensary originally stood.

112. The medical department is headed by an experienced graduate an M. B. of the Calcutta University. He is stationed at Agartala. With one exception the dispensaries are in charge of diplomaed Native Doctors.

113. In addition to *Lahars* or hill paths that are annually cut through the hills for the use of the hill peons and officers of the State as well as of the hill men, a road 9 feet wide is being made between Sonamura and Udaipur. The road will be about eighteen miles long, seven miles of which have been completed at a cost of about Rs. 2000. This road when completed will improve the condition of the country lying between Sonamura and Udaipur, and it will include influx of population. At the suggestion of the Sylhet authorities a patrol path was constructed along the portion of the line between Adampur and Kailashahar which lies in this territory. At head quarters attempt was made for filling up the marshy places in front of the Rajbari and thereby improving the sanitation of the place and making the sites available for use. A new small road was constructed to connect the proposed site of the new jail with the main road of the town.

114. The construction of a building for His Highness's use at Old Agartala has been taken in hand . It has also been proposed either to put a bridge on the Haura where the road to Old Agartala crosses the river or so to change the course of the river as to cause the Palces at Old and New Agartala fall on one side of the stream. To carry out these and other works at head quarters, an Engineering department has been opened under the guidance of a trained and practical engineer as mentioned before.

PART VI

Military & other matters, Political & Miscellaneous.

115. The military establishment was reduced during the year and a saving of Rs. 9831 was effected. The nationality of the officers and men will be known from the military return given in the appendix. The entire regular force now consists of 294 men, rank and file.

116. The reduction alluded to above has materially improved the efficiency of the force. Strict regularity is now observed in paying the establishment its salaries and in removing its other wants. As a natural consequence a change for the better is taking place in its tone and character. The men are drilled regularly and discipline is maintained among them with care.

117. The country was perfectly peaceful throughout the year. The frontier also was undisturbed. By his office No. 128/XVI-20 dated the 2nd April 1891, the Political Agent informed that the guard posts maintained in the State for protection against Lushai inroads were no longer necessary. The posts however have been kept up in reduced strength as they are required for the preservation of the internal peace of the country.

118. In accordance with the wishes of the Government of Bengal as contained in its letter
Census No. 471 P.D. dated 10th November 1890, a census of the population of the State was taken in February last under the supervision of a responsible member of the Minister's office who was appointed Census Superintendent. By him and by the several Sub-divisional officers the work was satisfactorily accomplished. No incident of any kind occurred, the task being performed quietly and carefully. Nor was the State put to much expense on account of the matter, as by their judicious management

the officers entrusted with the work were able to carry it out chiefly with the help ordinary establishments.

119. A special form of schedule was adopted for the use of the enumerators both in the hills and in the plains of the State. The enumeration was made once and it extended over 15 days ending on the 15th of Falgun 1301 T. E. (26th of February 1891.) The number of houses and people in the several disvisions of the State as ascertained on the occasion will be known from the following :-

Divisions	No. of houses	Males.	Females.	Total.
Sudder division	9585	28754	28124	56878
Sonamura ,,	5700	19721	17445	37166
Bilania ,, ...	2570	8601	7011	15612
Kailashahar ,,	5454	14520	13266	27786
Total	23,309	71596	65846	137442

120. The above statement gives, an average of 5.9 souls per house. Compared with the total figure of the census of 1881 viz., 5637 the population shews an increase of 41805 i.e., 43.71 per cent. This is chiefly due to the increased prosperity of the people which allowed marriages to be performed with greater facility, and to immigration from the adjacent districts of Bengal.

121. The State is surrounded on three sides, north, west and south by British territory, the boundary being defined and marked. To the east and north-east the jurisdiction of His Highness extends as far as the country occupied by Lushais and other hill tribes under different chiefs. These chiefs at one time owed full allegiance to the State.

122. Towards the close of the year Mr. R. T. Greer, Political Agent's visit Offg. Magistrate of Tipperah and *Ex-officio* Political Agent of the State, came to Agartala and paid the usual ceremonial visit to his Highness on the 10th chaitra (23rd March). The visit was returned by His Highness on the 12th *idem* (25th March).

123. During his stay the Political Agent visited the school, the dispensary, the jail and the other public institutions of the place and made on the whole favourable remarks.

124. In order that the sanitation of the town of Comilla may be improved, the largest tank in the thickest part of the town *viz.*, The *Nanua's Dighi* was, at the request of the municipal commissioners of the place, made over to the municipal committee to be reserved under certain conditions, the proprietary right of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur not being surrendered.

125. The people of the country in general take little interest in any measure of Government. Public feeling on any general or special subject. The great bulk of them are loyal, submissive and law-abiding, and do not usually feel concerned in any matter of public interest, however great the interest may be.

126. At the close of the year there was unfortunately some tension of feelings chiefly of the official community of Agartala. It was apparently due to religious differences. The commotion however is subsiding and it is hoped that a proper state of feelings will be soon restored. A spirit of toleration and forbearance is greatly to be desired in such matters.

SUMMARY

127. It would not be perhaps undesirable to conclude report with a brief summary of its main points.

128. Regular and vigorous collection of demands, retrenchment of unnecessary expenditure and clearance of debts were matters of particular attention during the year under review. In consequence, the collection in the State was considerably in excess of that in the preceding year, savings were effected under various heads of expenditure and debts to the extent of 271600 Rupees and odds were liquidated, and regularity at the same time was fully established in the payment of the monthly claims of officers and others.

129. The reconstitution of the administrative body on an improved basis, the decentralization of authority to deal with local matters and the drafting of a good number of educated persons into the service of the State were some of the most important reforms effected last year.

130. The appointment of a Circuit and Sessions Judge, the establishment of a High English school at the Sudder station, the diminution of the rates of export duties, the partial opening out of the interior, and the arrangement made for the construction of a well ventilated and commodious jail on a suitable site, and the reclamation of some marshy spots in the Sudder station for the purpose of improving the sanitation of the town, also indicate the directions in which principally endeavours for reforms were made.

131. A budget estimate of receipts and expenditure under all heads has been carefully made and is being strictly followed so that no further debts may be incurred.

A revised system of periodical returns on various subjects has been introduced which keep the Minister's office informed of the state of collection and expenditure, as well as of the progress of work done in all subordinate offices.

132. The remodelling of the *Sangsar* department on a suitable basis will, it is hoped, ensure a better management of His Highness's household and private affairs than heretofore. In dealing with this subject as well as those mentioned above, I strove to act according to accepted principles, opinions formed and matured long ago, and the expressed views of the well wishers of the State.

133. If the above shews that something has been accomplished, it is needless to say that a great deal more yet remains to be done in almost every direction. My time last year was entirely taken up by matters of immediate necessity.

134. As this is the first account of the general administration of the State, it should be mentioned here that the condition of affairs, such as it is, shews a palpable improvement on what it was prior to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur's ascension to the *gadi* in 1279 T. E. (1870 A.D.) Almost all the institutions now in existence, such as, courts of justice, schools, dispensaries &c. have been established during His Highness's time.

CONCLUSION

135. The reclamation of waste lands in the different parts of the State, the opening out of the interior, the formation of a council for the enactment of necessary laws and regulations, the development of the minerals resources and improvement of manufactures, the revision of the system of hous-tax prevalent in the hills and, above all, the settlement of the attached zemindaries on an adequate scale are, among others, subjects of vital importance which require the most careful consideration and are accordingly engaging the earnest attention of the Administration.

136. It will be seen from the above that a beginning has been made in establishing a proper system of Government. It is hoped that if the work thus commenced can be duly proceeded with, the State will in a short time be free from its principal administrative wants and defects as well all its liabilities.

MINISTER'S OFFICE.
AGARTALA.

28th September, 1891.

UMA KANTA DAS
MINISTER.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX I

RESOLUTION

Whereas a portion of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur's zemindaries of *Chakla Roshnabad* is managed directly by the Minister's office at Agartala and the whole of the remaining portion is similarly managed by the Sudder katchary at Comilla and whereas better results are expected if, instead of the power of direct management being so centralized, properly empowered administrative offices be established for properly limited areas, it is hereby ordered that for facility and convenience of work *Chakla Roshnabad* be divided into three circles (Northern, Central and Southern) as follow :-

1. Northern Circle—Perganahs Nurnagar, Uttar Ganganagar, Mantala and other, *i.e.*, the whole of *Chakla Roshnabad* lying on the north of the Nayanpur river. Head quarters—Mogra.
2. Central Circle—Perganahs Meherkul, Bagasair, Chowddagram, Tishna, and the Rent Free Estate Lalmai Hills and others in the Tipperah district lying on the south of the Nayanpur river. Head quarters—*Comilla*.
3. Southern Circle—Perganahs Dakhinsik, Jagatpur, Sabek Ratannagar, Khandal with other Minor Perganahs included therein and also Perganahs Allahabad and Darrora (4 annas share) and other in the Nonakhali District. Head quarters—*Feni*.

The small Taluks of Babupur, Chandpur, Asharkota &c., in the district of Nonakhali, shall also be under the management of the Sudder Katchary at Feni.

A Sub-manager shall be in charge of each of the aforesaid divisions. The Sub-managers shall act independently of each other and shall be directly under the control and guidance of the Minister's office. Until further orders it shall be their duty in the discharge of their official functions to follow the rules and instructions now in force in the *Chakla* office.

The above order will take effect from 1st Magh 1300 T. E..

Dated the 26th Poush
1300 T. E.

(Sd.) U. K. DAS.
Minister.

Appendix II.—Statement of

Description of offences. 1	Cases pending from previous year 2	Cases instituted during the year 3	Total number of cases 4	Cases disposed of	
				Rejected Compromised or dismissed without enquiry 5	Tried 6
Class I. Offences against the State &c. } Cognisable ...	1	12	13	4	7
	Non-cognisable	8	77	85	83
Class II. Serious offences against the person } cognisable	3	19	22	4	17
	Non-cognisable	—	—	—	—
Class III. Serious offences against person and property } Cognisable	2	12	14	7	6
	Non-cognisable ..	1	8	9	2
Class IV. Minor offences against the person } Cognisable	4	20	24	12	10
	Non-cognisable	1	119	120	71
Class V. Minor offences against property } Cognisable	10	166	176	49	119
	Non-cognisable	3	86	89	52
Class VI. Other offences } Cognisable ...	2	55	57	10	43
	Non-cognisable	—	51	51	24
Total cognisable	22	284	306	86	202
Total non cognisable	13	341	354	182	165
GRAND TOTAL	35	625	660	268	367

Criminal Cases for 1890-91

Cases pending at the close of the year	Number of persons brought to trial and result of trial.							Remarks
	Under trial at the close of the previous year.	Brought to trial during the year.	Total Number under trial.	Convicted.	Acquitted or discharged.	Died, escaped or transferred.	Under trial at the close of the year.	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2	-	9	9	6	3	-	-	
1	8	92	100	71	29	-	-	
1	4	41	45	32	13	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	2	16	18	5	11	1	1	
-	3	20	23	9	13	1	-	
2	7	19	26	8	13	1	1	
3	2	74	76	54	22	-	-	
8	7	191	198	107	75	-	16	
-	3	72	75	35	40	-	-	
4	1	82	83	16	29	-	8	
3	-	31	31	21	6	-	1	
18	21	358	379	204	144	5	26	
7	16	289	305	193	110	1	1	
25	37	647	684	397	254	6	27	

*Appendix III – Statement of Civil Suits (original)
for the year 1890-91*

Courts.	Stats pending from the previous year.	Institutional during the year	Total for disposal	Rejected or dismissed on default	Withdrawn with leave or compromised.	Decreed on confession or ex-parte	Contested		Total disposed of	Pending	Remarks
							Judgement for plaintiff.	Judgement for defendant.			
Agartala Dewani Adalat	35	270	305	47	9	75	37	21	189	*116	*Most of these cases were instituted at the end of the year.
Sonamura do ...	10	50	60	14	2	13	11	7	47	13	
Bilania do....	4	36	40	21	6	4	5	-	36	4	
Kailashahar do...	12	58	70	9	3	17	24	9	62	8	
Total	64	414	475	91	20	109	77	37	33	141	

Appendix IV. – Jail Statement for the year 1890-91.

Name of Jail.	RCank of officer in charge	Number of persons at the close of the year	Average daily number	Sick in hospital.	Cured.	Died	Remaining under treatment
Sonamura Jail	Deputy Magistrate	5	1.15	93	92	1	-
Bilania Jail	Deputy Mgristrate	19	.05	7	7	-	-
Kailashar Jail	Native Doctor of the Charitable dispensary	2	3	58	57	-	1
		62	35.2	295	291	3	1

Appendix V. Military Return for 1890-91

Name of Beradaries	Rank.													Race.							
	Colonel	Major	Captain	Adjutant	Subadar	Kumedan	Jamadar	Havildar major	Havildar	Amaldar	Bugler major	Bangler	Sepoy	Bengali	Mussalman	Gurkha	Assami	Hindustani	Tipperan & Manipuri	Christian	Total
Sib Ram Sing Colouel	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	6	9	1	1	113	2	27	37	7	42	8	14	137
Dirgha Lal Sing Subadar	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	45	0	1	15	0	4	33	0	53
Ambar Ali and Chamu Sing Subadar	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	44	3	21	6	0	21	3	0	54
Golap Sing Jamadar	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	27	0	22	0	0	4	5	0	31
Gour Sing Jamadar	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	16	0	7	—	0	7	4	0	19
Total	1	0	0	1	5	0	7	1	11	18	1	4	245	5	78	59	7	78	53	14	294

