

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1881.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The following return shows the amount held by the National Debt Commissioners, and whether the Trustee Savings Bank account in their hands will have sufficed, under the present law, to have paid its way without State aid:—On Nov. 20, 1844, the National Debt Commissioners owed to Trustee Savings Banks £29,653,182. Against this Liability the Commissioners held the following Assets:—

3½ per Cents	£14,637,710	3 per Cents, 1726	£29,000
Consols	9,021,322	Exchequer Bills	328,900
Reduced Threes	4,959,312	Cash Balance	757,356

On Nov. 20, 1844, Securities were quoted as follows:—3½ per Cent, at 102½; Consols, at 100½; Reduced Threes, at 99½; Exchequer Bills, at 60 to 65 shillings premium. If, therefore, the Assets had been realised at the prices quoted, they would have produced—

3½ per Cents	14,637,710	at 102 =	14,930,464
Consols	9,021,322	at 100 =	9,021,322
Reduced Threes	4,959,312	at 99 =	4,909,719
3 per Cents, 1726 (taken at the same price as Reduced)	29,000	at 99 =	28,710
Exchequer Bills, £328,900 at 60s. premium			338,767

Cash Balance	757,356		29,228,882
Liabilities as stated above			29,653,182
Surplus of Assets			333,156

The new bill lays down a sounder principle of valuation, by directing that the Funded Securities held by the National Debt Commissioners on account of Savings Banks should be valued at £92.3077 per cent, being a fraction over £92 6s., and representing the price which would give to the purchaser interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. Mr. Gladstone had adopted this principle of valuation in order to measure with correctness the progress year by year of Trustee Savings Bank Finance so far as concerns the National Debt Commissioners.

Table showing the result, on Nov. 20, 1879, if the National Debt Commissioners had started at par on Nov. 20, 1844, their securities being valued on the principle adopted in the Savings Bank Bill (1880), and had received no aid from the Government in the meantime.

YEAB,	Return, Sess. 2, 1880.		Increase of Assets by Book Debt created 1863.	Estimate, assuming Interest at 3½ per Cent.	
	Liabilities.	Assets, valued on Principle laid down in the Savings Bank Bill, 1880.		Increase of Assets by Annuity created 1867.	Increase of Assets by Grants to defray Loss of Interest.
Nov. 20.	£	£	£	£	£
1844	29,653,182	28,019,207	—	—	—
1860	41,493,479	37,601,878	—	—	—
1861	41,790,783	37,779,823	—	—	—
1862	40,809,577	36,708,708	—	—	—
1863	41,237,932	39,103,926	1,846,152	—	—
1864	39,826,421	37,569,393	1,846,152	—	—
1865	39,037,108	36,658,017	1,846,152	—	—
1866	36,667,132	34,102,026	1,846,152	—	—
1867	36,792,911	34,065,648	—	1,854,345	—
1868	37,177,794	34,404,071	—	1,914,611	—
1869	37,859,357	35,056,279	—	1,976,836	—
1870	38,258,698	35,388,660	—	2,041,083	—
1871	39,123,312	36,161,725	—	2,107,419	—
1872	40,000,462	36,956,205	—	2,175,910	—
1873	40,834,855	37,732,000	—	2,246,627	—
1874	41,826,438	38,561,897	—	2,319,642	—
1875	42,766,024	39,418,278	—	2,395,030	—
1876	43,660,793	40,224,100	—	2,472,869	—
1877	44,618,155	41,103,136	—	2,553,237	77,040
1878	44,667,352	41,150,122	—	2,636,217	156,946
1879	44,192,016	40,626,996	—	2,721,894	235,902

BRITISH INDIA.

The first commercial intercourse of the English with the East Indies was a private adventure of three ships fitted out in 1591, only one of which reached its destination. The information obtained led to a mercantile venture, and the Company's first charter dates December, 1600, and their stock consisted of £72,000. The success which attended this Company led to the formation of another in 1698, and both were united under one charter in 1702. The Empire now extends over a territory as large as the Continent of Europe without Russia, having an area of 1,486,319 square miles, and a population of 240 millions. From Peshawur, the northern frontier station, to Cape Comorin the distance is 1900 miles, and a like distance separates Karachi, the port of Sind, from Sudiya, the frontier post on the eastern border of Assam.

Geographically, the country may be broadly divided into Northern and Southern India. Northern India, or Hindustan, lying at the foot of the Himalayas, and stretching from sea to sea, comprehends the rich alluvial plains watered by the Indus, the Ganges, the Lower Brahmaputra, and their tributaries. Southern India, or the Deccan, is a plateau of triangular shape and very old geological formation, bounded on two sides by the Malabar and Coromandel coasts, which converge at Cape Comorin, and on the third by the Vindhya Mountains, north of the Narbaddah river. Three fifths of this great Empire are under the direct rule of the British Government, and are divided for administrative purposes into eight provinces—viz., Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, British Burmah, Assam, Madras, and Bombay. The remaining two fifths are made up of a large number of native States, whose chiefs, one and all, acknowledge the suzerainty of her Imperial Majesty, "Kaisar-i-Hind."

The total area of British possessions in India, including Burmah, is 899,341 square miles, and of tributary States, 557,903 square miles; population of former, 191,095,446; of latter, 49,203,053; total British possessions, 1,457,244 square miles, population 240,298,500. The French possessions in India have an area of 508½ square kilometres, and a population (1877) of 280,381; the Portuguese an area of 3855 square kilometres and a population of 444,987. Ceylon has an area of 24,702 square miles, and a population in 1877 of 2,755,557. The following table shows the areas and populations of the various subdivisions of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, according to the latest attainable data of any value:—

	Area. Square kilos.	Population.
British Burmah	229,351	2,747,148
Manipur	19,675	126,000
Tribes east and south of Assam	65,500	200,000
Independent Burmah	457,000	4,000,000
Siam	728,850	5,750,000
Anam	440,500	21,000,000
French Cochinchina	59,457	1,600,000
Cambodia	83,861	890,000
Independent Malacca	81,500	300,000
Straits Settlements	3,472	350,000
	2,167,440	36,963,000

The East India Islands are subdivided thus:—

Andamans	6,497	14,500
Nicobars	1,772	5,500
Samoa Islands, &c.	1,698,757	27,343,000
Philippines	295,555	7,450,000
		34,813,000

DATES OF IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.

First Adventure from England	1591	Battle of Seringapatam. Death of Tipoo	1789
Incorporation of British India Company	1600	Sepoy Mutiny at Vellore	1809
First English Ambassador (Sir T. Roe)	1615	First Burmese War	1823
Madras founded	1640	Trade with India thrown open	1833
Bombay ceded to Charles II. by Portugal	1662	Sikh War, Battle of Aliwal	1846
Calcutta purchased	1698	The Punjab formally Annexed	1849
Clive lands in India	1698	Second Burmese War. Pegu Annexed	1852-3
Black-hole Atrocity, Calcutta, June 20	1756	Orde Annexed. Lord Canning Viceroy	1856
Battle of Plassey	1757	Mutiny commenced at Meerut, May 10	1857
Bengal, Behar, and Orissa ceded	1765	India transferred to the Crown, Sept 1	1858
Warren Hastings, first Governor-General	1774	Lord Mayo assassinated, February 8	1872
Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis	1793	The Prince of Wales visited India	1875-3

LOANS RAISED IN INDIA.

Return of Loans raised in India, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending March 31, 1880, with the rates of interest and total amount outstanding at the close of the half-year.

Description of Loan.	Rate of Interest.	Amount of Debt outstanding on March 31, 1880.
LOANS BEARING INTEREST.		
Transfer Loan of 1870	4½ per cent	£ 1,835,790
Transfer Loan of 1871	4½ "	221,900
Loan of 1878	4½ "	2,199,080
Transfer Loan of 1879, 4½ per cent portion	4½ "	15,262,547
Transfer Loan of 1879, 7s. sterling per cent portion		Equivalent in rupees of 7s. per Rs. 100. 24,420
Loan of 1824-5	4 per cent	31,626
Loan of 1828-9	4 "	6,400
Loan of 1832-3	4 "	1,057,365
Loan of 1835-6	4 "	2,842,720
Loan of 1842-3	4 "	20,567,263
Loan of 1854-5	4 "	6,121,810
Transfer Loan of May 1, 1865	4 "	15,778,709
Transfer Loan of April 23, 1854	4 "	1,230,666
Loan of 1853-4	3½ "	63,440
Railway Loan from Maharajah Holkar	4½ "	1,000,000
Debenture Loan of 1867-8	5 "	600,300
Promissory Notes for Mysore Family	4 "	124,228
Railway Loan from Maharajah Scindia	4 "	1,500,000
Reduced Loan of Jan. 16, 1879	4 "	12,095,960
		82,564,224
LOANS NOT BEARING INTEREST.		
5 per cent Loan of 1825-6		6,026
5 per cent Loan of 1841-2		1,590
5 per cent Loan of 1854-5 for Public Works		5,900
5 per cent Loan of 1856-7		13,460
5½ per cent Loan of 1859-60		104,630
5 per cent Debenture Loan of 1867-8		2,400
Treasury Bills of 2½ pie per Rs. 100 per diem		9,280
		143,346
The Loans toward the Afghan War are not included in this Return.		
		82,707,570