

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

EXPENDITURE, &c.

The amount expended on poor relief during the past year was £8,015,010, an increase on the previous year of £184,191, or 2.4 per cent. In twenty-six of the union counties there was an increase, in eighteen a decrease. In Warwick the increase was 12.4 per cent in excess of the average; in Durham, 9.7 per cent; in Lancashire, 8.9 per cent; in the East Riding of York, 6.8 per cent; and in Kent (metropolitan), 8.3 per cent. The decrease was by no means so considerable. It was greatest in Huntingdon, with 4.7 per cent. Kent (extra-metropolitan), with 3.4 per cent, coming next. On the estimated population the cost of relief was 6s. 4d. per head, or 3d. over that of the year before. On a comparison, however, with 1871, the first year of the decennial period, when the rate per head was 6s. 11d., there was a decrease of 7d. per head; and, taking the value of the property on which the charge falls, the result was a favourable one, for, while the rate was 1s. 5-6-10d. in the pound in 1871, it was, in 1880, 1s. 2-4-10d., or a decrease of 3-2-10d. The year in which the rate per head was lowest was 1877, when it stood at 6s. 0d. The total sum received in the year 1880 from Poor-rate, Treasury subventions, and other sources was £14,001,512, while the expenditure was somewhat larger—viz., £14,092,102, made up of the following items:—Poor relief, £8,015,010; law charges, £27,787; outlay for purposes partly connected with relief, £633,332; and for purposes wholly unconnected with relief, £5,415,973. The expenditure for relief has for several years been divided into six sub-heads. The sums disbursed under each during 1879-80 are (1) in-maintenance, £1,757,749; (2) out-relief, £2,710,778; (3) maintenance of lunatics in asylums and licensed houses, £594,204; (4) workhouse and other loans repaid and interest, £319,426; (5) salaries and rations of officers and superannuations, £1,053,218; (6) other expenses of or immediately connected with relief, £1,181,511. The sum of these figures amounts to £8,016,886, while the total amount expended on relief was, as has been stated, £8,015,010. The difference arises from the adjustment of the charges for relief in the metropolis through the Common Poor Fund. The in-maintenance in 1880, compared with that of 1871, shows an increase of £233,054, or 15.3 per cent; but the out-relief exhibits a still larger decrease of £93,192, or 26 per cent. During the 10 years the cost of pauper lunatics in asylums has, with the exception of 1872, when there was a small decrease, grown steadily from year to year, from £746,113 in 1871, to £994,204 in 1880, an increase of 33.3 per cent. Each pauper lunatic cost 9s. 7d. weekly during 1879-80. Of that sum the Parliamentary grant provides 4s. a head, leaving 5s. 7d. as the charge on the ratepayers.* The total expenditure for in-maintenance and out-relief last year was £4,468,527, of which the latter absorbed no less than £2,710,778, or 60.7 per cent. The proportion of out-relief in Wales rose to 84.9 per cent; in the south-western district, containing Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset, it was 78 per cent; in the northern, formed of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland, it was 70.7; and so on, seven out of 11 divisions being in a marked degree above the average. In the metropolis, on the other hand, the ratio was only 27.9 per cent.

The gross estimated rental and the rateable value in all England were, in 1870, £123,365,847, and £104,405,304 respectively. In 1879 the gross estimated rental was £157,968,723, and the rateable value £133,769,576, or an increase for the 10 years of £34,000,000 in gross estimated rental, and £29,000,000 in rateable value. The ratio of the rateable value to the gross estimated value was remarkably uniform throughout the decade. The increase in the one was 28.0; in the other, 28.1 per cent. In the Metropolis, the valuation to the poor rate was in 1870, gross estimated rental, £22,142,706, rateable value £18,187,693; in 1879 the gross estimated rental was £29,682,269, and the rateable value £24,447,444. Thus in the metropolis the gross estimated rental had increased in the decade by £7,540,000, or 34.1 per cent., and the rateable value by £6,260,000, or 34.0 per cent. If the comparison were made with the quinquennial revision of metropolitan valuation effected in 1880, the increase of rateable value over 1870 would be £9,215,000, or 50.7 per cent.

During the decade, pauperism has, on the whole, decreased. From 1871, when the mean number of paupers was, indoor, 156,430; outdoor, 880,930—total, 1,037,360, to 1877, when the indoor paupers were 149,611, outdoor, 870,388—total, 719,949, the decline was continuous. Between 1878 and 1880 there was some increase, the numbers in the latter year being, indoor, 180,817, outdoor, 627,213—total, 808,030; nevertheless, the ratio of paupers to population, which in 1871 was 46 per 1000, had fallen in 1880 to 32 per 1000, or a diminution of 14 per 1000. This decrease was owing to the great decline in the mean number of outdoor paupers from 880,930 in 1871 to 627,213 in 1880—a difference of 253,717, or considerably more than one fourth.

DEATH-RATE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

A comparison of the annual death-rate of England and Wales for the last four decennial periods gives the following results:—The annual death-rate per 1000 from all causes was 22.4 between 1841 and 1850; 22.2 between 1851 and 1860; 22.5 between 1861 and 1870; and 21.5 between 1871 and 1880. The annual death-rate from the seven zymotic diseases was in the last three decennial periods respectively 4.11, 4.14, and 3.36 per 1000, while from fever it was 0.91, 0.88, and 0.49. It may be estimated that about a quarter of a million were saved from death in the ten years 1871-80 who would have died if the death-rate had been the same as in the previous thirty years. If twelve cases of serious but non-fatal illness be reckoned for every death, it follows that about three million persons, or over one ninth of the whole population, have been saved from a sick bed by some influence at work in the past decade which had not been at work previously. It is worthy of notice that of the entire reduction in the death-rate above mentioned more than three-quarters comes under the head of the seven zymotic diseases, or, in other words, the diseases most influenced by sanitary improvements. Of this three-quarters, three-eighths of the reduction comes under the head of "fever," the disease which more than any other shows itself in connection with bad drainage, bad water, and filth accumulation. It would appear, then, that the millions which have been spent of late years on our sanitary requirements have not all been spent in vain.

The subject of the water supply of the metropolis is disposed of in a few words. While improving in quantity, the companies all, without exception, "to a certain extent" giving a constant supply, the quality is pronounced less satisfactory, and therefore Dr. Frankland has come to the conclusion that "the water both of the Thames and the Lea is becoming year by year less suitable for domestic use."

COMPARISON OF THE FAILURE OF CROPS.

In the wheat crop alone the yield for the United Kingdom has on the average of the past five years been no less than a million quarters a years less than the average of the whole past ten years, of which they form a part, while, if the average of fifteen years be taken, the average for the five years is no less than two million quarters a year short.

The following summary of the past fourteen years shows pretty clearly the effect of a deficiency of sunshine in England:—

Harvest Year. Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.	Assumed Yield per Acre in Bushels.	Official Average Price per Quarter for 12 Months, July 1 to June 30.
1866-7	27	58 0
1867-8	25	69 3
1868-9	34	51 8
1869-70	27	45 11
1870-1	32	53 5
1871-2	27	55 3
1872-3	23	57 1
1873-4	25	61 3
1874-5	31	46 1
1875-6	23	46 3
1876-7	27	55 3
1877-8	22	54 0
1878-9	30	41 10
1879-80	18	46 7
1880-1	26	46 7
Average of fourteen years 26½		53 0
Average of first five years 29		55 7
Average of last nine years 25 15		51 6½
Average of last five years 24½		48 9½

On the question of the alterations in cropping which have taken place, and which are the outcome of agricultural depression. The averages of cereals, wheat, barley, and oats for 1867, 1870, 1875, and 1880:—

Year.	Wheat Acres.	Barley Acres.	Oats Acres.
1867	3,367,576	2,259,164	2,750,457
1870	3,500,543	3,371,739	2,763,300
1875	3,342,481	2,509,701	2,664,000
1880	2,909,438	2,467,442	2,736,905

From this abstract it will be seen that in the thirteen years of which we have had agricultural statistics there has been a very considerable decrease in wheat, while barley and oats have been about stationary. It has been pointed out that the more accurate comparisons of 1880 should be made rather with 1870 than 1867, because it is admitted that the returns for the latter year, the first time they were collected, were inaccurate. To the decrease of 600,000 acres of wheat, as shown by the comparison of 1880 with 1870, must be added a further decrease for the year 1881 of certainly not less than 120,000 acres, so that there has been a diminution of an acreage under wheat of three quarters of a million acres.

INDIAN COMMERCE AND REVENUE.

The latest return shows that railways are yearly becoming more and more a source of wealth to India, and that as they grow in extent, they continue to advance the commerce and general prosperity of the country. The following table shows the value of Imports and Exports, and also the number of miles of railway at the end of each year:—

Year.	Value of Merchandise Imports.	Value of Merchandise Exports.	Total value.	Miles of Railway Open.
1860-1	£33,432,716	£32,970,605	£66,403,321	840
1865-6	29,599,228	65,491,123	95,090,351	3,373
1870-1	34,469,119	55,336,186	89,805,305	4,775
1875-6	38,891,656	53,091,495	91,983,151	6,519
1880-1	50,278,875	74,517,987	124,796,832	9,325

Statement showing certain sources of revenue of India, during quinquennial periods since 1860:—

Year.	Land Revenue.	Customs.	Salt Revenue.	Stamps.
1860-1	£18,508,991	£4,163,151	£3,805,124	£1,182,781
1865-6	20,473,897	2,279,857	5,342,149	1,994,632
1870-1	20,622,823	2,610,789	6,106,280	2,510,316
1875-6	21,503,742	2,721,389	6,244,415	2,885,368
1879-80	21,861,150	2,280,793	7,266,413	3,193,739

* This item is derived from irrigated lands, which is now kept separate. All the conversions are made at 2s. the rupee; and it should be remarked that within the last mentioned period, between 1875 and 1879, the Salt Duty was reduced to in Bengal from 34 rupees to 24 rupees, whilst it has been raised in Madras and Bombay from 1.6 rupees and 18 rupees respectively to 2.8 rupees. The duty on salt rose from £5,805,124 in 1860, to £7,266,413 in 1879 and 80.

THE INDIAN CENSUS.

The Indian Census shows that the population of India has reached the enormous total of 252,641,210. These figures exhibit an increase of 12,788,565 over those of 1871. The growth has been general, although marked with local variations. The total population of

Bengal	68,829,920	Berar	2,670,982
Assam	4,815,157	Burmah	3,707,616
Madras	30,839,181	Mysore	4,185,399
Bombay	20,929,119	Coorg	178,283
Scinde	2,404,034	Ajmere	453,075
North-West Provinces	33,445,111	Baroda	2,154,469
Onde	11,407,625	Travancore	2,401,158
Punjab	22,647,542	Cochin	600,278
Central Provinces	11,505,140		

The provinces showing the greatest increase are Burmah, 35 per cent; Central Provinces, 25; Berar, 20; and Assam, 19 per cent. The only decrease shown is in Mysore, 17 per cent, and Madras, 2 per cent.