

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1887.

THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

The British Empire in India extends over a territory as large as the Continent of Europe without Russia, having an area of 1,377,540 square miles, and a population of 254 millions. From Peshawur, the northern frontier station, to Cape Comorin, the distance is 1900 miles, and the same distance separates Karachi, the port of Sind, from Sudiya, the frontier-post on the eastern border of Assam. Northern India, or Hindustan, lies at the foot of the Himalayas, 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 Burma, 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 Majesty the Queen, and whose representative is styled the Viceroy and Governor-General, his relations with the Home Government being regulated by Act 21 and 22 Vict. c. 106, which substituted the authority of a Secretary of State for India, aided by a Council of fifteen members, for that of the East India Company and the Board of Control. This Council forms the Supreme Government in India, which passes in review the entire administration in six separate departments—Finance and Commerce, Foreign, Military, Public Works, Home, and the Department of Revenue and Agriculture. Each department is under the charge of a Secretary, and is also the special care of a member of the Supreme Council, who has authority to deal with affairs of routine and minor importance, and to select what is worthy of the consideration of the Governor-General and his collective Council. The Governor-General specially superintends the political business of the Foreign Office. The Department of Finance and Commerce looks to questions of Finance, to Stamps, Excise, and the Post Office, and anything involving a permanent charge on the State, and also to questions bearing on the commerce of the country. The most important subjects coming under the attention of the Department of Revenue and Agriculture are the Land Revenue, Opium, Salt, Forests, Abkari or Excise, and the agricultural development of the country. The Home Department deals with the Educational, Medical, Ecclesiastical, Judicial, Police, and other matters, and has charge of the penal settlements of Port Blair and Nicobar. The Foreign Department conducts our relations with Afghanistan, Nepal, and other contiguous countries, and corresponds with the Political Agents of the numerous semi-independent Native States of Rajputana and Central India, with the Commissioner of Mysore, and the Resident of Hyderabad. The Marine Service, as well as the Army, is under the Military Department. The Legal Member takes charge of Government Bills in the Legislative Council, which consists of twelve members (besides the seven members of the Executive Council), of whom one half must be unconnected with the public service. As only Bengal, Madras, and Bombay possess Councils of their own, the Supreme Council of India legislates for those provinces which are unprovided with local Councils, or on matters of exceptional importance affecting the Empire.

The Government of India is debited with the cost of the Army for all India, excepting Madras and Bombay, with the interest on debt, and, generally, with all Imperial as distinguished from Provincial expenditure. The excess of expenditure over receipts is balanced by the aggregate surplus of all the provinces.

AREA AND POPULATION OF BRITISH INDIA, ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS OF 1881.

Provinces, &c., under the Administration of	Area in Square Miles.	Number of Towns and Villages.	Population.	Number per Sq. Mile.
Governor-General of India—				
Ajmere and Mhairwara ...	2,711	739	460,722	169.9
Berar ...	17,711	5,585	2,672,673	150.9
Coorg ...	1,583	503	178,302	112.6
Andaman Islands (Port Blair)	880	51	14,625*	16.6
Governors—				
Madras ...	139,900	52,050	30,868,504	220.6
Bombay ...	124,134	24,599	16,489,274	122.8
Lieutenant-Governors—				
Bengal ...	150,588	248,706	66,691,456	442.8
North-West Provinces and Oudh ...	108,111	105,422	44,107,869	415.6
Punjab ...	106,632	34,324	18,850,437	176.7
Chief Commissioners—				
Assam ...	46,341	22,408	4,881,426	105.3
British Burmah ...	87,220	15,857	3,736,771	42.8
Central Provinces ...	84,445	34,612	9,838,791	116.5
Total, British India ...	868,256	544,856	198,790,883	228.9
Native States—				
Baroda ...	8,570	3,012	2,185,005	254.7
Central India Agency ...	75,079	31,506	9,261,907	123.4
Hyderabad ...	81,807	20,398	9,845,594	120.3
Mysore ...	24,723	17,655	4,186,188	169.3
Rajputana Agency ...	129,750	30,001	10,288,392	79.1
Bengal ...	36,634	16,059	2,845,405	77.6
North-West Provinces ...	5,125	3,322	741,750	144.2
Punjab ...	35,817	18,546	3,861,683	107.8
Central Provinces ...	28,834	11,242	1,709,720	59.3
Madras ...	9,192	4,971	3,303,563	359.4
Bombay ...	73,753	13,191	6,941,249	94.1
Total, Native States ...	509,284	169,903	55,150,456	108.4
Grand Total, India (1881) ...	1,377,540	714,759	253,941,309	184.3

* Excluding Aborigines, estimated at 6000.

In India, including the Native States, there are nearly 254 millions of inhabitants, 188 millions being Hindoos, and 50 millions Mohammedans. Of 130 million males, 51 millions are dependent on agricultural pursuits, 13½ millions on various industries, 7½ millions are labourers, and 2 millions are in domestic service. There are 714,759 villages, townships, &c. (544,856 being in British territory, and 169,903 in the Native States), nearly half of these being villages with less than 200 inhabitants. The average number of inhabitants is 211 per square mile (varying between more than 442 in Bengal to less than 43 in British Burmah). There are forty-four towns with a population of more than 50,000—the seven largest being Calcutta, 766,298; Bombay, 773,196; Madras, 405,848; Lucknow, 261,303; Benares, 175,188; Patna, 158,900; Delhi, 154,417. The total number of British-born subjects in 1881 was 89,798 (77,188 males, 12,610 females).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

An Abstract Account showing the Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for 1885-86 compared with the results of 1884-85. £1 is recorded for every 10rupees in respect of transactions in India, including those of Exchange.

HEADS OF REVENUE.

Principal Heads—inclusive of Land Revenue, Opium, Salt, Stamps, Excise, Customs, Taxes, &c. ...	1884-85.	1885-86.
Post Office, Telegraph, and Mint ...	£51,080,422	£51,988,394
Receipts of Civil Departments—Law, Justice, Police, Education, Medical, Scientific, &c. ...	1,797,846	1,993,360
Miscellaneous ...	1,373,144	1,439,416
Railways—State, Guaranteed, and Subsidised ...	723,885	1,075,455
Irrigation, Minor Works, and Navigation ...	11,838,131	13,449,402
Buildings and Roads ...	1,675,975	1,528,600
Receipts by Military Departments ...	615,097	544,468
Receipts by Military Departments ...	815,170	890,919
Revenue: Grand Totals ...	70,680,681	73,600,626

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

Direct Demands on the Revenue—Charges in respect of Collecting the various Duties previously indicated ...	1884-85.	1885-86.
Interest on Debts, &c. ...	£9,559,055	£9,860,661
Post Office, Telegraph, and Mint ...	4,619,443	4,316,699
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments ...	2,145,249	2,315,887
Miscellaneous Civil Charges ...	11,743,167	12,230,225
Famine—Relief and Insurance ...	4,315,929	4,521,920
Railway Revenue Account, &c. ...	1,548,357	1,500,000
Irrigation, Navigation ...	12,949,306	14,224,692
Buildings and Roads, Military and Civil Works ...	2,248,954	2,305,790
Army Services—Effective and Non-Effective ...	5,009,277	4,704,109
Army Services—Effective and Non-Effective ...	16,963,803	19,728,547
Expenditure: Grand Totals ...	71,366,071	76,339,130

After making certain additions to, and allowances from, these totals, the actual estimated excess of Expenditure over Revenue is £2,552,404.

WHEAT CROP OF INDIA, 1885-86.

The normal area under wheat in India is believed to be about 265,000,000 acres, of which the average out-turn is estimated roughly at 7,185,000 tons.

BRITISH INDIA.

NATIVE STATES.

British India.	Acres.	Native States.	Acres.
Bengal (Behar) ...	850,000	Hyderabad ...	750,000
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	5,087,000	Central India Agency ...	2,500,000
Punjab ...	7,000,000	Rajputana Agency ...	2,500,000
Central Provinces ...	4,060,000	Baroda ...	88,000
Bombay ...	1,795,000	Mysore ...	20,000
Berar ...	808,000	Cashmere ...	500,000

The whole area cultivated in the year 1885-86 is estimated to have been, approximately, 27,392,742 acres, with a yield of about 7,739,424 tons. The following table compares the actual area and out-turn:—

Province.	Supposed Normal Area under Wheat.	Area ascertained by Inspection up to April, 1886.	Estimated Out-turn of Area in Column 3.
Punjab ...	7,000,000	6,957,600	2,693,060*
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	5,087,000	5,240,351	1,847,400
Central Provinces ...	4,000,000	3,962,707	859,753
Bombay (including Baroda) ...	1,883,000†	2,969,539‡	801,400‡
Berar ...	808,000	808,515	115,502
Total ...	18,723,000	19,878,742	6,317,115

* Out-turn calculated from the average of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

† Exclusive of the other Native States under the control of Bombay.

‡ Inclusive of area and out-turn for Native States (besides Baroda) under control of Bombay, estimated area of 608,234 acres, and yield of 186,200 tons.

The following table, compiled from the annual trade reports, shows the exports of wheat from India for the past six years:—

	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
1880-81 ...	372,218	1882-83 ...	707,220	1894-85 ...	792,714
1881-82 ...	993,176	1883-84 ...	1,047,824	1885-86 ...	1,053,025

The following table shows the share of each port in the total quantity of wheat exported during the last four years:—

Ports.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Calcutta ...	Tons. 221,970	Tons. 380,576	Tons. 128,160	Tons. 209,483
Bombay ...	347,887	448,530	449,655	530,434
Kurrachee ...	136,616	218,642	214,719	312,051
Madras ...	329	76	65	93
Rangoon ...	418	—	115	964
Total ...	707,220	1,047,824	792,714	1,053,025