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**GUIDE TO THE RECORDS
IN THE
STATE ARCHIVES OF WEST BENGAL
PART II : 1859-1947**



STATE ARCHIVES OF WEST BENGAL

Government of West Bengal

Calcutta

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PREFACE

A descriptive catalogue of the post-Mutiny records, entitled "The Abstract Catalogue of the Records Preserved in the Civil Secretariat Record Room from 1859", was printed in 1936. A few copies of this publication are now available. Being the only catalogue of its kind still extant, it has hitherto been used for administrative and historical research purposes. The hand-book contains a description of the records upto 1935 but it does not precisely indicate the changes that were introduced from time to time in the organisation and functions of the secretariat departments. For this reason it has not been of much help in the matter of forming a clear idea of the records and their contents. To remedy this drawback, it was decided to bring out a revised and enlarged edition of the previous hand-book, and preliminary work in that direction was started in 1972.

The present volume covers the period from 1859 to 1947. In preparing it, the pattern similar to that of the previous hand-book has been followed without disturbing the existing arrangement of the records, but additional information regarding the records and their contents has been incorporated in it. In some cases, however, holdings beyond 1947 have been shown in the body of this hand-book because such holdings owe their origin to the sequence of events which occurred in 1946-47. In the introduction an attempt has been made to describe briefly the growth of the Secretariat of the Government of Bengal from 1859 to 1947 and to indicate the various changes that took place in the system of record keeping. An Appendix showing the distribution of work among the various departments at different times has been added.

It is my pleasant duty to put on record my gratitude to the members of the staff of this Archives who assisted me in bringing out this hand-book. My thanks are particularly due to Shri Bimal Prasad Roy, Assistant Archivist and to Shri Sobhan

Basu, Assistant Archivist, for assisting me in preparing the manuscript and in seeing it through the Press.

It is hoped this Guide will be found useful by those for whom it is meant.

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Director of Archives

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1 March, 1976

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GROWTH OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Charter Act of 1833 introduced changes of far reaching consequences in the administration of India. Under the Act the monopoly of trade enjoyed by the East India Company so far was abolished. The Company ceased to be a commercial body and remained only, as a governing body. The Governor-General of Fort William became the Governor-General of India. The overgrown Presidency of Bengal was divided into two distinct Presidencies viz., the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and the Presidency of Agra. The Governor-General of India, however, continued to act as the Governor of Fort William and the business of both the Central and Local Governments continued to be transacted in the same Secretariat. This system of joint Secretariat continued till 1843. From 1st May 1843 the Secretariat of the Supreme Government was completely separated from that of the Government of Bengal. Mr. F. S. Halliday was appointed the first Secretary to the Government of Bengal. From April 1842 to 30th April 1854 Bengal was administered by a Deputy Governor. In consequence of the India Act of 1853 Bengal was placed from 1st May 1854 under a Lieutenant-Governor.

In 1859 the Bengal Secretariat consisted of the following departments and their branches:—Revenue, Judicial, General, Political, Finance (Proceedings of the Finance Department were amalgamated with those of the Revenue Department). Ecclesiastical and Education Departments were subordinate to the General Department. There was but one Secretary for conducting the business of all those departments. In 1862 a new department known as the Legislative Department under a separate Secretary was created for the administration of legislative affairs of government. This state of things continued till 1869 when a second Secretary was appointed and a redistribution of departments took place. One of the Secretaries was placed in charge of the Judicial and Political Departments and the other in charge of the Revenue, General and Finance Departments.

By the system of decentralisation much financial work was thrown upon the Provincial Government and consequently it was deemed necessary to appoint a third Secretary who should

watch and control the Provincial revenue and expenditure and take charge of all questions connected with finance, accounts, taxation, collection of trade statistics and the preparation of trade returns. The post of a separate Secretary for the Finance Department was sanctioned on 17th May 1877. The Finance Department which had so long continued under the Revenue Secretary was constituted into an independent department from May 1878.

A department known as Appointment Department functioning as a separate branch under the Revenue Department was created in 1866. From May 1869 to April 1873 Appointment Proceedings were separately recorded in the Revenue, Judicial and General Departments. In May 1873 they were amalgamated and the Appointment Branch was revived. From May 1873 to April 1878 the Appointment Proceedings were included separately in the General Department Proceedings Volumes. After 8th April 1878 they were included in the Proceedings Volumes of the Judicial Department.

The Senior Secretary was in charge of the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments. In 1885 he was designated the "Chief Secretary" to distinguish him from other Secretaries. In 1905 the Appointment Branch became an independent department under the Chief Secretary.

The Judicial Department along with the Appointment and Political Departments formed one office and was under the control of the Chief Secretary. In 1905 the Revenue Department was placed under the Chief Secretary and the Judicial and General Departments were placed under one Secretary who was an officer of the Judicial service. This was done to have a judge as Judicial Secretary and so as to get over the cleavage of interest and feeling between the Judicial and Executive branches.

In 1909 Sir William Duke, the then Chief Secretary complained of overwork and suggested the transfer of the Revenue Department to the General Secretary and of the Judicial Department to the Legal Remembrancer. After some discussions the suggestions were given effect to. Some items of work which were not purely of a judicial nature were transferred from the Judicial Department to other departments of the Secretariat.

In 1912 Bengal was placed under a Governor in Council. Baron Carmichael of Skirling was appointed Governor and Sir

William Duke, P. C. Lyon, and Maulvi Saiyid Shams-ul-Huda were appointed members of the Council. In that year certain territorial changes also took place—Bihar and Orissa were separated from Bengal. On the revocation of the Partition of Bengal the districts of Eastern Bengal were annexed to Bengal proper. The addition of these districts threw a heavier burden upon the Secretariat. Political work was lessened by the transfer of the Orissa States to Bihar but the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Hill Tippera State came under the Political Department and this meant additional work. Work relating to commerce, largely increased with the addition of the great industrial area of Eastern Bengal with its large river traffic and jute industries. The transfer of the seat of the Supreme Government to Delhi threw a certain amount of work on the Provincial Government.

Meanwhile there had been a great expansion of the work dealing with sedition, political crime and the administration of the Press Laws. Several important subjects formerly dealt with by the Board of Revenue had been taken over by the Revenue Department. All these necessitated a redistribution of the branches of work among the various departments and the transfer of certain subjects from one department to another.

The special section of the Political Department was expanded to deal with sedition, political crime and criminals, the Press and generally all confidential questions of a political nature. The Finance Department which formerly dealt with Municipal and Sanitation was now relieved of this work and it took over all matters relating to Commerce and Industry and Emigration. A new department under the Finance Department was started to deal with such subjects. The Finance Department also took over the separate revenue work formerly dealt with by the Board of Revenue.

In 1913 a fourth Secretary was appointed who took over charge of the General Department. The Revenue Department was separated and was constituted into an independent department. The General Department now consisted of Education, Municipal, Sanitation and Miscellaneous Branches. The Judicial Department was re-transferred to the Chief Secretary. "Mines" which had so long been dealt with in the Judicial Department was transferred to the Commerce Department.

In 1916 on the recommendation of the Legal Business Committee appointed by the Government of India, Legal Remembrancer was made the Judicial Secretary and the Judicial

Department was placed under him. This was done to give some relief to the Chief Secretary who had hitherto been over-worked.

By the Reform Act of 1919 dyarchical principle of reserved and transferred subjects was introduced into Provincial administration. Certain subjects were reserved by Government and the members of the Executive Council (Sir Henry Wheeler, Mr. John Henry Kerr, Sir Bijoy Chand Mahtab and Sir Abd-ur-Rahim) were put in charge of the reserved departments. Such subjects as Agriculture and Industries, Local Self-Government and Public Health, Education (excepting European Education) and Public Works over which the control of the Government of India was relaxed, were declared transferred subjects.

The Department of Agriculture and Industries was constituted with effect from 3-1-1921. It was to deal with all matters relating to Agriculture, Civil Veterinary, Co-operative Societies, Fisheries, Botanical and Zoological Gardens, Development of Industries including Industrial Research and Technical Education, Excise and Opium.

The Education Department was created in January 1921. The General Department which since its creation in 1834 had dealt with Education and miscellaneous matters was abolished in December 1920. Its functions were taken over by the newly created Education Department. At that time there was no Secretary to look after education affairs. Hence the Director of Public Instruction as a temporary measure was appointed Deputy Secretary (Ex-officio) pending his possible assumption of the position of Education Secretary at some later date. It was assumed that with the D.P.I. as Deputy Secretary it would be possible for the Secretary working under two Ministers to remain in charge of Education and Local Self-Government and Public Health. In course of time, however, the L.S.G. and Public Health Secretary became so busy with his duties that he did not find much time to devote to educational matters. Consequently the D.P.I. became the de-facto Secretary. Burdened with heavy duties of his own office, the D.P.I. could not discharge properly the duties of a Secretary. Moreover, he was not in a position to furnish independent criticism in relation to schemes originated by him. After fifteen month's trial it dawned upon the authorities that it had not been wise to make the head of a specialised department such as Education, the Ministers' chief and sole adviser. The authorities decided to have a separate Secretary

to look after educational matters. Accordingly Mr. J. N. Roy, O.B.E. was appointed Special Officer by an order dated 12-4-1922. He was made the Education Secretary on 23-12-1922.

Local Self-Government and Sanitation which had hitherto formed branches of different Secretariat Departments, were now amalgamated and constituted into the Department of Local Self-Government and Public Health. It was placed under a separate Secretary.

Three Ministers were appointed and put in charge of the Transferred Departments in the following manner:—

1. Sir Surendranath Banerji—Local Self-Government and Public Health.
2. Sir Provas Chandra Mitra, C.I.E.—Education.
3. Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri—Agriculture, Industries and Public Works.

The Legislative Department since its creation in 1862 looked after the legislative affairs of the Government. In 1932 a new department known as the Council Department, separate from the Legislative Department with a Secretary of its own, was created for conducting the business of the Legislative Council of Bengal. No records of this Department have been received in the State Archives.

Until 1927 the Chief Engineers of the Irrigation and the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department acted as the Secretaries to the Local Government. In 1927-28 the Secretariat functions were separated from the functions of the Chief Engineer. In the Irrigation Department this separation was introduced by assigning the Secretariat functions to the Secretary, Revenue Department and in order to enable the Revenue Secretary to take over, the subject—"Jails" was transferred from the Revenue Department to the Political Department.

The Secretary of the Agriculture and Industries Department assumed the Secretariat functions in the Public Works Department. In 1933 the Irrigation Department was placed under the Secretary, Agriculture and Industries Department by some slight adjustment of subjects between the Agriculture and Industries Department and Revenue Department. The three departments viz., Agriculture and Industries, Public Works and Irrigation continued to be under one Secretary till the reforms were introduced in 1937. No records of the Public Works and Irrigation Department have been received in the State Archives. ©

The Bengal Secretariat which had been arranged in 1920 according to the dyarchical principle of reserved and transferred departments continued till 1937. The Government of India Act 1935 replaced Dyarchy by Provincial Autonomy. The new constitution necessitated a change in the organisational set up. A provisional scheme was formulated for the reorganisation of the Secretariat according to the structure of the future ministry. The scheme rested on a logical and systematic distribution of subjects among departments on the principle that as far as possible the burden of work, at least in the sense of volume, if not in the heaviness of responsibility, should be as evenly distributed as possible. The scheme provided for seven main departments and two under departments.

On the inauguration of the new Constitution on 1st April 1937 the Governor distributed the business of the Provincial Government among eleven departments. This arrangement involved the creation of four new departments. Only in the case of the Department of Communication and Works it was decided to create a new post of Secretary, the other new departments being placed either under the Joint Secretary or under the Secretary of another department.

The departments viz., Political, Police, Jails and Appointment including Reforms, which had hitherto been under the Chief Secretary, were designated the Home Department. The control of the general administration now passed to the Home Department. During subsequent years its jurisdiction was further extended and in 1947 the Home Department included the following branches: Political, Police, Passport, Publicity, Press, General Administration, Constitution and Elections, Organisation and Methods, Transport and Defence. We have no records of the O. & M., Passport and the Special Branches of the Home Department in our Archives.

It was anticipated that the enormous increase in the size and the change in the structure of the legislature under the Reformed Constitution would require a permanent election machinery. Matters relating to Constitution and Elections had hitherto been dealt with by the Reforms Office which formed a part of the Appointment Department. In the new set up its functions were taken over by the newly constituted Constitution and Elections Branch of the Home Department.

In view of the large increase in its functions and responsibilities under the new Constitution, Finance Department was

made a self-contained unit. The Commerce and Marine were separated from the Finance Department.

The Judicial and Legislative Departments were amalgamated to form the Judicial and Legislative Department and were attached to the Home Department. The name of the Local Self-Government was changed into Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government. The Public Works and Irrigation Departments were amalgamated into the Department of Communication and Works. The Department, formerly known as Commerce and Marine Department, was designated the Department of Commerce and Labour.

The two newly created departments were the Department of Forest and Excise and of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

The Second World War, which commenced in 1939, led to a tremendous increase in work, resulting in several changes in the Secretariat of the Provincial Government. A Defence Section was established in 1939 which became a branch of the Home Department in 1942. It dealt with A.R.P. measures, enemy aliens, administration of the Defence of India Act and Rules, Air Force, aerodromes, removal of records, evacuation and such other things connected with Civil Defence. In 1940 a Provincial Transport Authority was established to deal with transport for Civil Defence, the co-ordination of transport and its use for the carriage of goods to relieve railway congestion, the rationing of motor spirit, gas etc.

As a result of the War, there was an acute shortage of food in this province and it became the imperative duty of the Government to ensure that the overall shortage of food grains was shared equally by all those who resided in this province. Accordingly a Directorate of Civil Supply as a separate branch of the Commerce and Labour Department was created in 1942. This Directorate was merged into the Department of Civil Supply which was created in 1943. This Department dealt with the supply and distribution of essential consumption commodities.

The Industries Branch had hitherto been allied with the Department of Agriculture because its only concern was the development of cottage industries. The war opened fresh prospects for the Industries Department and gave it an additional scope. It was no longer concerned with merely cottage industries. Besides, the work done in the Industries Department and the

Department of Commerce and Labour required the closest collaboration. Hence the Government decided in February 1943 to amalgamate the Industries Branch with the Department of Commerce and Labour. The Department of Rural Indebtedness and the Co-operative Credit Department were amalgamated with the Agriculture Department to form the Department of Agriculture, Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness. "Fisheries" which was under the Agriculture Department was transferred to the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries. It appears that this arrangement proved to be unworkable for in June 1943 the Department of Agriculture, Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness was split up into the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Rural Indebtedness and Co-operative Credit.

In 1944 the Government of Bengal constituted a Bengal Administrative Enquiry Committee (also known as the Rowlands Committee after its Chairman Sir Archibald Rowlands) to assess the work to be done by the Government of Bengal both at that time and in the foreseeable future in order to ensure the efficient government of the province on modern and progressive lines. On a consideration of the Committee's recommendation the Government made a redistribution of the Secretariat Departments. The Department of Forest and Excise was abolished. Forest was transferred to the Agriculture Department and Excise was taken over by the Finance Department. Fisheries was amalgamated with Agriculture to form the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries. The Department of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness was designated Department of Co-operative Credit and Relief. The preparation of "Brief Summary of political events in the province of Bengal" was discontinued as a measure of war economy from 21st April 1944. A new department known as the Chief Minister's Department was created raising the number of Secretariat Departments to thirteen. This set up continued till 1948.

THE SYSTEM OF RECORD-KEEPING

The system of recording by weekly consultations which prevailed in the Secretariat under the East India Company's administration continued till March 1860. Under the system there was no classification of A and B Proceedings. From April 1860 the system was abolished and that of dividing all papers

into important and routine, and having a monthly record was introduced. The system of monthly recording was abolished in December 1923 and that of quarterly recording was introduced from January 1924.

Under the new system of recording which still prevails, all important cases are recorded separately and are placed in category A. All A Proceedings and important B Proceedings are printed. 'A' Proceedings are kept in bound volumes. Each volume contains an alphabetical index, an abstract of A Proceedings, all the papers of A Proceedings and an abstract of B Proceedings.

Proceedings other than A are classified for the purpose of periodical destruction of obsolete and useless papers. This classification consists in sorting out which of the B Proceedings should be preserved permanently or for a period of 12 years or 20 years. 'B' Proceedings marked permanent are printed. 'B' Proceedings marked 12 and 20 years are retained for 12 and 20 years after which they are reviewed for the purpose of determining which among the files of these categories are to be retained. Proceedings which after review are considered to be worthy of permanent retention are preserved. The rest are destroyed.

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

There are certain records, kept in the Current Section, which do not belong to any regular series of records. They may be described as Miscellaneous Records. Of these, mention may be made of the records of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Reports on the Native Newspapers, Character Books containing copies of character rolls of covenanted officers and officers of the subordinate Executive Service, and papers relating to Freedom Movement compiled by the State Committee appointed by the State Government in connection with the writing of the history of Freedom Movement in India.

By the Government of India Home Department (Public) Notification No. 2823 dated 1-9-1905 and the Proclamation referred to therein, the territories under the Chief Commissioner of Assam were formed into a new province under the name of Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam with effect from 16th October 1905. The districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakerganj, Tippera, Noakhali, Chittagong Hill Tracts,

Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Malda were separated from the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William and were included within the limits of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. On the revocation of the Partition the Eastern Bengal districts were reannexed to Bengal proper, and the records were transferred to this Government.

The expediency of instituting a general enquiry into the extent and tendency of the Native Literature was first suggested in a despatch from the Court of Directors in 1857. The Director of Public Instruction was ordered to submit an annual report on the native publications of the year with special reference to the character of the periodical literature and the estimated extent of its circulation. The D.P.I. submitted a plan for executing the work which was turned down by the Government of India on grounds of financial stringency.

The question was revived in July 1860 but the expense was still considered an insuperable objection and the D.P.I. was directed to do the work with the help of his existing staff. The Government did not approve of the elaborate and comprehensive plan submitted by the D.P.I. and thought that the main object of bringing to notice anything of political importance or significance and of quietly collecting the materials for an annual report on the Indian Press could be accomplished in a more simple and far less costly manner. Accordingly in 1863 the Government entrusted the Bengali Translator with the duty of examining the periodicals and other productions of the Native Press and of making a weekly report thereon to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal for the information of the Lt. Governor. There are several volumes of such reports (1873-1937) in this Archives.

The Government of India set up a Board of Editors in connection with the compilation of the History of Freedom Movement in India. Pursuant to a resolution of this Board, the Government of West Bengal on 18th May 1953 appointed a State Committee of 10 members with Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji as the Chairman of the Committee to assist the Board in collection of materials from West Bengal. The Committee was dissolved in March 1956 and the papers collected by the Committee were handed over to this Archives for maintenance and preservation. The materials collected by the Committee include among others extracts from Report on Native Newspapers,

Fortnightly Secret Report of the Government of West Bengal, records of the Intelligence Branch, High Court records and statements made by several political sufferers.

T. K. Mukherjee

HOME DEPARTMENT

The Home Department of the Government of Bengal was created on 1st April, 1937. The departments *viz.*, Police, Judicial, Political, Jails, Press, Special, Appointment including Reforms, which were formerly known as Chief Secretary's Departments were combined to form the newly created Home Department and the subject General Administration was transferred to the Home Department from the Revenue Department (Vide Appendix I and II of the Constitution and Elections Department, Memo No. 8493-8513 A.R. dated 1st April, 1937). In 1947 the Home Department was composed of the (1) Political, (2) Police, (3) Passport, (4) Publicity, (5) Press, (6) General Administration, (7) Constitution and Elections, (8) Organisation and Methods, (9) Transport, and (10) Defence Branches. We do not have any records of the Organisation and Methods, and of the Passport and Special Branches. At present we have approximately 594 A Proceedings and 2839 B Proceedings of the present Home Department (excepting Information and Public Relations Department).

The Branches of the Home Department of which we have records are as follows:—

(i) *Political Branch*

The Political Branch dates from 1834. Upto March 1844 its proceedings were separately recorded. From April 1844 to April 1869 this Branch functioned under the General Secretary and from 1870 to 1904 under the Judicial Secretary who became Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal in 1885. From January 1905 to March 1937 it formed a part of the Chief Secretary's Department. From April 1937 it functioned as a Branch of the newly created Home Department and was for the first time placed under a Minister.

The main functions of this Branch are (a) controlling the political situation, (b) ceremonial work and determination of precedence, (c) relation with foreign powers and their representatives, (d) determination of nationality, (e) pension to the dispossessed rulers and (f) residuary functions. Some of its functions related to normal business conducted by it. But there were some other functions which were performed by it as an agent

of the Central Government. These covered such subjects as passport, arms control, extradition, emigration and immigration.

From 1st April, 1937 its functions relating to Honours were taken over by the Governor's Secretariat. In pursuance to the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee, matters relating to cyphers, fortnightly report on political situation, annual summary of political events, Bengali Translator, Record Room and conference of Commissioners were transferred to the newly created Chief Minister's Department. On the abolition of that Department they were re-transferred to this Branch. With the outbreak of World War II and the starting of the National Movement the work of this Branch increased considerably. To cope with it, Branches like Defence, Press and Passport with definite spheres of activities were created.

The proceedings of the Political Branch from April 1844 to April 1869 are included in those of the General Department except for the year 1852 for which separate proceedings exist; and the proceedings for June 1870 to July 1899, September-November 1899, January 1900, March-July 1900, September 1900 to September 1904 and November 1904 to January 1905 are incorporated in the Judicial Proceedings. Besides this, there are also separate monthly proceedings of this Branch. This Branch from time to time also exercised control over such Branches as Medical, Sanitation, Jails, Judicial, Judicial Appointment, Emigration, Registration and Police. The proceedings of these Branches are, therefore, included in the monthly proceedings of the Political Branch. There are also some proceedings of this Branch from November 1864 to April 1866 which relate to Bhutan.

The separate printed proceedings of this Branch are available from 1911. From April 1844 to June 1869 its indexes are incorporated with those of the General Department Miscellaneous Branch, and Political Indexes from July to December 1870 are incorporated with those of the Judicial Department. The indexes for the year 1866, 1877, and from July to December 1869 are missing. The indexes from January to June 1870 are separate but are incorporated with those of the Medical and Emigration Branch. The separate Index Volumes of this Branch start from 1871.

The correspondence and papers relating to the Record Room upto 1916 are included in its proceedings.

The records are—

1. (a) A Proceedings from 1859 onwards. (A Proceedings for 1945, 1946 and 1949 are wanting.)
- (b) B Proceedings from 1860 onwards.
- (c) Bhutan Proceedings from November 1864 to April 1866.
- (d) Printed proceedings volumes for—
May 1869 to May 1870 ; November 1871 ; June 1872 ; September 1872 ; November 1873 ; January to December 1874 ; January, February and April to September 1899 ; November to May 1901 ; July to September 1901 ; November 1901 to June 1902 ; August 1902 to September 1904 ; December 1904 and onwards.
- (e) Annual Index Volumes from January to June 1870 and from 1871 onwards.
The Indexes for 1940 and 1950 were not received in this Archives.
- (f) Consolidated Index Volumes from 1859-1908. 1906-16, 1917-28.
- (g) File Registers from 1873 onwards.
- (h) Issue Registers from 1869 onwards.
- (i) Diary Registers from 1869 onwards.

(ii) *Police Branch*

The Police Commission appointed by the Government of India in their Home Department (Judicial) resolution dated 17th August 1860 recommended a reorganisation of the Police to form a separate Department in each Local Government and from July 1862 a separate Police Branch was created.

Upto 22nd March 1906 the Police Branch was a part of the Judicial Department and, therefore, its proceedings are combined with those of the Judicial Department. From 23rd March 1906 to December 1910 this Branch came under the Political Department and formed part of the Chief Secretary's Office. The proceedings of the Police Branch are incorporated in the proceedings volumes of the Political Department. In 1911 it became one of the Departments of the Chief Secretary of Bengal and from that time onwards its proceedings start separately. They are printed and bound. From 1st April 1937 the Police Branch was placed under the Home Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from July 1859 onwards.
(Proceedings for 1945 and 1947 wanting.)
2. B Proceedings from April 1860 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes along with Index, A Proceedings and abstract of B Proceedings—from 1911 to 1923.
4. Quarterly printed proceedings volumes along with Index, A Proceedings and abstract of B Proceedings from 1924 onwards.
5. (a) Indexes from 1861 to 1873 combined with Judicial Indexes.
(b) Separate Indexes from 1875 onwards (The volumes for 1874, 1905 and from 1941 to 1946 are wanting).
6. Consolidated Index Volumes from 1859 to 1928.
7. Diary Registers from 1900.
(Diary for 1908 not received.)
8. File Registers from 1873.
(File Book for 1884 missing.)
9. Issue Registers from 1918.

(iii) *Constitution and Elections Branch*

The Constitution and Elections Branch is the successor to the Reform Office. The Reform Office under Appointment Branch was created on 11th June 1932 on the recommendation of the Lothian Committee to advise the Government on franchise methods. The Reform Unit functioned till March 1937. This office was entrusted with the work of preparing the electoral rolls and arranging the election, according to the Reform Act of 1935. It also dealt with matters relating to appointment of provincial Governor, Ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, their salaries and such other subjects, as preparation of Election Manual, determination of Secretariat organisation etc. From 1st April, 1937 the functions of the Reform Unit were separated from the Appointment Branch and were taken over by the Constitution and Elections Branch. From October 1945 to August 1948 this Branch formed a part of the Chief Minister's Department. Thereafter it was placed under the Home Department.

The records are—

1. Appointment (Reforms) Department.
(a) A Proceedings from January to March 1937.

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- (b) B Proceedings from January to March 1937.
- (c) Quarterly printed proceedings volumes from January to March 1937.
- 2. Constitution and Elections Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from April 1937 onwards.
 - (b) B Proceedings from April 1937 onwards.
 - (c) Quarterly printed proceedings volumes from April 1937.
 - (d) Annual Indexes from 1938 onwards.
(The Indexes from 1944 are wanting.)
 - (e) Issue Registers from 1936.
 - (f) Diary Registers from 1937.

(iv) *General Administration Branch*

The Appointment Branch, which was later on designated General Administration Branch, came into existence as a separate Branch under the Revenue Department in March 1866. Previous to this, the questions relating to appointment, transfer, leave, promotion etc. of the officers and the members of the Ecclesiastical services were dealt with in the Revenue, Judicial and General Departments which were under one Secretary. The proceedings of this Department for the years from 1866 to 1867 are included under separate head in the Revenue Department Proceedings Volumes. From January 1868 to April 1870 there are separate proceedings of this Department. From May 1869 this Branch was split up into Revenue Appointment and Judicial Appointment Branches under two respective Departments. In June 1870 a General Appointment Branch under the General Department was created. From May 1873 the Appointment Branches of those Departments were combined to form a single Appointment Branch under the General Department and this arrangement continued till April 1878. From May 1878 to 1904 it functioned under the Judicial Department. But from January 1905 to March 1937 it functioned as an independent Department under the Chief Secretary. From 1st April 1937 to 21st October 1945 it formed a part of the newly created Home Department. After this, general service conditions, Government servant conduct rules, and Service Association were taken over by the Finance Department, while the power of recruitment to Government service was transferred to the Provincial Public Service Commission. From 22nd October 1945 to

14th August 1947 it functioned as a Branch of the Chief Minister's Department, but from 15th August 1947 it was placed under the Home Department.

The records are—

1. Appointment Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from March 1866 to April 1869.
 - (b) B Proceedings from May 1866 to April 1869.
2. Judicial Appointment Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from May 1869 to April 1873.
 - (b) B Proceedings from May 1869 to April 1873.
3. Revenue Appointment Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from May 1869 to April 1873.
 - (b) B Proceedings from May 1869 to April 1873.
 - (c) Printed proceedings volumes from May 1869 to April 1873.
4. General Appointment Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from July 1870 to April 1873.
 - (b) B Proceedings from July 1870 to April 1873.
 - (c) Printed proceedings volumes from 1868 to April 1870 and stray proceedings volumes for February, March 1874, August 1878 and April 1885.
5. General (Appointment) Department.
 - (a) A Proceedings from May 1873 to April 1878.
 - (b) B Proceedings from May 1873 to April 1878.
 - (c) Printed proceedings volumes from 1870 to 1873.
6. Judicial (Appointment) Department.
 - (a) A Proceedings from May 1878 to December 1904.
 - (b) B Proceedings from May 1878 to December 1904.
 - (c) Printed proceedings volumes from 1869 to 1873.
7. Chief Secretary's Appointment Department.
 - (a) A Proceedings from January 1905 to March 1937.
 - (b) B Proceedings from January 1905 to March 1937.
8. Home (Appointment) Department.
 - (a) A Proceedings from April 1937 to October 1945.
 - (b) B Proceedings from April 1937 to October 1945.
9. Chief Minister's General Administration Branch.
 - (a) A Proceedings from October 1945 to August 1947.
 - (b) B Proceedings from October 1945 to August 1947.
10. Home (General Administration) Department.
 - (a) A Proceedings from August 1947 onwards.
 - (b) B Proceedings from August 1947 onwards.
11. Printed proceedings volumes from 1905 onwards.

12. Index Volumes from 1866 onwards.
(The Index for 1902 and Index from 1941-48 are wanting.)
13. File Registers and Issue Registers are available from 1873 and 1896 respectively.
14. Diary Registers from 1900.
15. Consolidated Index for 1859-1908, 1909-1916.

(v) Jails Branch

The control over Jails was exercised by the Nizamut Adawlat till 1844 and by the Act XVIII of 1844 it was transferred to the then Government of Bengal. From 1859 to July 1910 it formed a part of the Judicial Department and from August 1910 to December 1920 it was a Branch under the Political Department. From January 1921 to June 1927 it functioned as a Branch of the Revenue Department and from July 1927 to March 1937 as a Branch of the Political Department. Subsequently it was placed under the Home Department.

The records are—

1. (a) A Proceedings from July 1859 onwards.
- (b) B Proceedings from April 1860 onwards.
- (c) Printed proceedings volumes from 1911 onwards.
- (d) Annual Indexes from 1874 onwards.
- (e) Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-1916.
- (f) File Registers and Issue Registers from 1873 and 1927 respectively.
- (g) Diary Registers from 1900.
(Diary for 1921 is wanting.)

(vi) Information and Public Relations Branch

In May 1938 the Publicity Department was constituted and it took over the publicity and propaganda functions of the Government from the Press Branch. The Publicity Branch was under the immediate control of the Director of Public Relations which post was created from 15th July 1938. In May 1944 the Government decided to set up a Planning and Co-ordinating Committee of the Publicity Branch in place of the Committee on Information, and from June that year the work of the Publicity Department was distributed among the Administrative Branch, Publicity Branch and the Distribution Branch. In April 1945 the Public Relations Committee was dissolved and from May

that year all the functions of the Public Relations Committee including its cinema and loud speaker units and the National War Front, which was instituted in 1942 to combat defeatism and to stimulate war morale, were taken over by the Publicity Branch of the Government of Bengal. On the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee it was constituted as a Branch of the Chief Minister's Department from 22nd October 1945. On the abolition of the Chief Minister's Department it again formed a part of the Home Department from August 1947.

The records are—

- A. 1. Home (Publicity) Department.
 - (a) B Proceedings from January 1939 to June 1944.
 - (i) Administrative Branch
B Proceedings from 1st July 1944 to 21st October 1945.
 - (ii) Publicity Branch
B Proceedings from 1st July 1944 to 21st October 1945.
2. Chief Minister's (Publicity) Department.
 - (i) Administrative Branch
B Proceedings from 22nd October 1945 to 14th August 1947.
 - (ii) Publicity Branch
B Proceedings from 22nd October 1945 to 14th August 1947.
3. Home (Publicity) Department
(from 15th August 1947 onwards.)
 - (i) Administrative Branch
B Proceedings from 15th August 1947 onwards.
 - (ii) Publicity Branch
B Proceedings from 15th August 1947 onwards.
- B. Issue Registers
Administrative Branch from 1935.
Publicity Branch from 1944.
- C. Diary Registers
Administrative Branch from 1935.
Publicity Branch from 1944.
- D. File Registers
Administrative Branch from 1935.
Publicity Branch from 1944.

(vii) Press Branch

In November 1931, after the enactment of the Press (Emergency Power) Act, the Government of India suggested to the Government of Bengal that a Press Officer might be appointed, from whom editors would seek advice and who would convey admonition or warning in cases where necessary. In accordance with this suggestion, the Deputy Secretary in the Political Branch was entrusted with the duties of the Press Officer. In 1932, when the second civil disobedience movement was launched on an extensive scale, the Government of Bengal decided to set up a Publicity Board with the Commissioner of Presidency Division as President and the Press Officer as Secretary to counteract the anti-British propaganda. It was found that the Political Branch alone was not able to deal with the administration of press, publicity and other cognate matters. So the Press Branch, as a separate unit under the Political Branch, was organised in 1932, with the functions of controlling the press, books, administering the Sea Customs Act, Defence of India Rules, and certain other legislations passed during the emergency of World War II. The functions of this Branch also included publicity work. After the termination of the World War II the Press Branch was abolished and from 1st November 1945, it merged in the Political Branch. As a result of the actions taken against the different Presses in 1946, the work of the Political Branch greatly increased and the Press Branch was reorganised to cope with the work. The records of this Branch, prior to 1942, are incorporated in the Political Branch with distinct headings, and records from 1942 are arranged separately.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings—Nil.
2. B Proceedings from 1942.
3. Annual Indexes—upto 1941 and for 1944, 1952.
(Annual Indexes from 1942 to 1943, 1945 to 1951 wanting.)
4. Issue Registers from 1942.
5. Diary Registers for 1938, and from 1942 onwards.
(Diary from 1939 to 1941 wanting.)
6. File Registers from 1942.

(viii) Ecclesiastical Branch

Ecclesiastical matters were dealt with in the Ecclesiastical Branch of the General Department from 1859 to 1920. From 1920 the Branch ceased to have a separate existence and ecclesiastical proceedings were amalgamated with those of the Appointment Department. From October 1945 till August 1947 they were dealt with in the Political Department.

The records of this Branch deal with the origin and development of missionary activities, churches, burial grounds, appointment, service, transfer, and pay of the Bishops and clergies and the registration of the marriages of the Indian Christians and Brahmas.

The Indexes upto 1884, excepting for the years of 1866-67, are combined with the Indexes of the Miscellaneous Branch of the General Department, while those for 1866-67 are with the Indexes of the Education Branch of the General Department. There are separate Diaries upto 1928. Upto 1910 the printed proceedings volumes are combined with the proceedings of the General Department with separate headings.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1859.
2. B Proceedings from 1860.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1859 to 1910, separate monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1885 to 1902.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859 to 1908, 1909 to 1928.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 to 1928.
7. File Registers from 1891 to 1920.

(ix) Defence Branch

In 1939 sanction was accorded to the establishment of a defence section in the Home Department for a period of three months in the first instance. During the Second World War the volume of work of this section gradually increased and the section became the Defence Branch of the Home Department in 1942. The subjects dealt with were the air raid precautionary measures, priority of disposal of unexplored bombs, the enemy aliens, the administration

of Defence of India Act and Rules, air force, aerodromes, removal of records, evacuation, war measures, control of maps, and the training in civil defence. After the termination of the War, its term was extended from time to time and at present it deals with National Volunteer Force, Territorial Army, State Military College and Military Education, and State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board.

The records are—

1. B Proceedings from 1945.
2. Printed proceedings volumes from 1948.
3. Indexes from 1948.
4. Issue Registers from 1947.
5. Diary Registers from 1945.
6. File Registers from 1945.

(x) Passport Branch

The subject Passport was formerly dealt with by the Home (Political) Department as an agent of the Government of India. But with the increase in the pressure of work, a passport section under the Home (Political) Department was sanctioned by the Government in 1936. In 1937 the section was further reorganised, and from 1947 it began to work as a separate unit under the Home Department. The functions of the Passport Branch mainly comprised the issue of passports, renewals and endorsements of passports and visas and grant of visas. Major portion of its work has been taken over by the Ministry of External Affairs and this Branch at present mainly deals with the control of foreigners, issue, renewal and endorsement of the Indo-Pak passports and visas. We have no proceedings of this Branch but some of them can be found in the proceedings of the Home (Political) Department with distinct headings.

The records are—

1. Endorsements on visa from 1918 to 1948.
2. Passport applications, 1918 to 1948.
(International and Pak)
3. Visas from 1923 to 1948.
4. Applications for emergency certificate from 1910 to 1946.

(xi) Transport Branch

The subject Inland Transport was formerly dealt with by

the Communication and Works Department. By a notification No. 2015PL of 12th October 1940, the Government of Bengal, in accordance with the provision of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 formed a Provincial Transport Authority first under the ex-officio Chairmanship of the Secretary to the Department of Communication and Works and then under the Secretary of the Home Department, and that body was reconstituted from time to time to function as an organ of the parent department. On the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee the regulation and control of the means of transportation by land, inland waterways and by air was centralised in the Home (Transport) Department. From October 1945 the aircrafts and civil aviation were transferred to this Department from the Political Branch, while the subjects namely, tramways, ropeways and the administration of Motor Vehicles (Tax) Act, 1932, excepting taxation, were added to this Department from the Communication and Works Department, over and above its normal functions formerly exercised through the Provincial Transport Authority.

In 1949 a full-fledged Transport Directorate under the Home (Transport) Department was established to take in hand the organisation which was initially run directly by the Home (Transport) Department.

We have no records of the Communication and Works Department and our records of this Branch date from 1945 when the subject (Transport) came to be dealt with by the Provincial Transport Authority.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings—nil.
2. B Proceedings from 1945.
3. Quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1948.
4. Annual Indexes from 1948.
5. Issue Registers from 1947.
6. Diary Registers from 1945.
7. File Registers from 1948.

(xii) *Transfer Branch*

The Home (Transfer) Department was set up in 1947 to deal with the personnel who opted to serve under the Government of West Bengal after the partition of India and the personnel who was found surplus to the revised requirements of the Departments and Directorates. Gradually it came to con-

trol the employment policy of the Government of West Bengal. This Branch functioned till 1953 and after that the residuary functions were taken over by the Finance Department.

The records are—

1. B Proceedings from 1951 to 1953.
2. Annual Indexes from 1951.

(xiii) Commonwealth Relations Branch

The inter-dominion matters between West Bengal and East Pakistan were formerly divided amongst the Political, Police and General Administration Branches of the Home Department and for better administration the Government of West Bengal decided in 1948 that the matter should be dealt with by the Political Branch. But the Political Branch, however, was already overburdened with work and hence the Commonwealth Relations Branch was created out of the Political Branch to deal with the inter-dominion questions relating to boundary, travel, safety of the passengers, complaints against the Pak Officers and inter-dominion conferences of the Ministers and high officers of the two States. The records mostly dealing with these subjects are available from 1948 onwards.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings—Nil.
2. B Proceedings from January 1948.
3. Issue Registers from 1950.
4. Diary Registers from 1949.
5. File Registers from 1948.

(xiv) Recruitment Branch

This Branch dealt with the recruitment of combatants and non-combatants during the First World War. Only one bundle of B Proceedings is available for the period from 1917 to 1918.

The records are—

1. B Proceedings from 1917 to 1918.

(xv) Records Branch

The Records Branch came into being in January 1909 with the appointment of a Special Officer for the reorganisation of records who was afterwards appointed Keeper of Records in

1910. The pre-Mutiny records in the custody of the Government of Bengal including those of the Public Works Department and the Board of Revenue, Bengal, relating to the East India Company's administration, were centralised to form the Historical Record Room while the Crown records of the Civil Secretariat from 1859 constituted the Current Record Room to which were added the records of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government which were transferred to this Government. Important matters dealt with in this Branch were recorded in the Political Department proper and are included in the proceedings volumes of that Department upto 1916. Other papers from 1909 to 1916 relating to the internal work were recorded separately in this Branch. From January 1917 all proceedings came to be recorded in the Records Branch. The Establishment was originally included in the cadre of the Chief Secretary's Offices from which it was separated since the reorganisation in May 1919.

The records are—

1. A and B Proceedings from January 1909 onwards.
2. File Registers from 1910 onwards.
3. Diary Registers from 1919 onwards.
4. Issue Registers from 1920 onwards.
5. (a) Indexes, 1909-18.
(b) Consolidated Index, 1905 and 1909-30.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

(i) *Judicial Branch*

The Judicial Department of the Bengal Secretariat along with the Appointment and the Political Departments formed one office under the Senior Secretary who was designated Chief Secretary in 1885. This arrangement continued till 1905, when the Judicial along with the General Departments were placed under another Secretary who was a member of the Judicial Service. In 1900 the Judicial Department was placed under the Legal Remembrancer who became the ex-officio Judicial Secretary. Owing to pressure of work at the High Court, the Legal Remembrancer found little time to devote to Secretarial work. So in 1912 a redistribution of work had to be made and the purely legal subjects were allotted to the Legal Remembrancer, and the non-legal subjects were placed under the control of the Chief Secretary. In 1913 with the appointment of a Secretary in charge of the General Department the Judicial Department was transferred back to the Chief Secretary's Department. In 1916 the Legal Remembrancer was made the ex-officio Judicial Secretary and was placed in charge of the Judicial Department. In 1937 the Judicial and the Legislative, being the two technical organs of the Government, were united and this arrangement continued till the end of 1949, after which the Judicial Department was separated from the Legislative Department. The Judicial Department in addition to judicial matters, previously dealt with cantonments, boundaries, pilgrims, ancient historical remains, Bengali almanacs, infanticides, extradition, mail robberies, reward for the destruction of the wild animals, vagrants, criminal lunatics, Presidency Magistrate, municipal administration of Calcutta, Indian mines and other miscellaneous subjects. These subjects were gradually taken over by the Political, Jails, General and Municipal Departments till the Judicial Department was left with the main functions of the administration of justice, legal advice to Government, law books, law professions, law reports, inquest and the registration work. Besides these, several new functions were added to it under the Act III of 1909, II and III of 1913, VII of 1938, and X of 1940 which were discharged through the Directorates of

Administration and Trust, Official Assignee, Official Receiver, and Registrar of Money Lenders.

The printed proceedings volumes of the Judicial Department consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and the Indexes thereof, are combined upto 1910 under distinct headings, with the proceedings of (1) Jails Branch from July 1859 to July 1899, from October 1899 to January 1900, from June 1900 to July 1900, from September 1900 to November 1900, and of almost every alternate month from January 1901 to February 1905 and of every month without any break from March 1905 to July 1910; (2) Police Battalion and Police Branch from July 1859 to March 1906; (3) Political Branch from June 1870 to September 1873, from November 1873 to July 1899, from October 1899 to January 1900, and of almost every alternate month from March 1900 to September 1904 and in a regular series from November 1904 to January 1905; (4) Judicial Appointment Branch from May 1870 to March 1873; (5) Appointment Branch from May 1878 to July 1899, from October 1899 to January 1900, and of almost every alternate month from March 1900 to January 1905; (6) Municipal Branch from January 1873 to March 1873, from June 1874 to November 1877; (7) Registration Branch from June 1874 to July 1899, and of almost every alternate month from October 1889 to January 1905; (8) Medical Branch from May 1878 to December 1879, and Medical and Sanitation Branch from September 1887 to December 1888, and Medical Branch from January 1889 to March 1891; and (9) Jurisdiction and Boundary Branch from June 1885 to September 1894 and from November 1894 to February 1906.

The Indexes to the records of the Judicial Department from 1859 to 1860 are incorporated in the Consolidated Index of the Judicial Department Vol. I, and from 1861 we have Annual Indexes of this Department and they are combined under distinct headings, either with the Indexes to the records of the Police Branch, Jails Branch, or with Judicial Appointment, Political Branch, or with the Municipal Branch upto June 1874, and separate Index of this Department starts from July 1874.

The records are—

1. (a) A Proceedings from 1859 to 1942.
- (b) B Proceedings from 1860 onwards.
- (c) Printed monthly proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and the Indexes thereof from 1859 to 1923, and the quarterly

printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and the Indexes thereof from 1924 onwards.

2. (a) Index Volumes from 1861.
(Volumes from July to December 1866 and 1872 wanting.)
- (b) Consolidated Index Volumes from 1859 to 1908, 1909 to 1916.
- (c) Index Volumes relating to Honorary Magistrates from 1900 to 1909.
3. (a) Diary Registers for 1859-60 and from 1900 onwards.
(Diary Registers from 1861 to 1899 wanting.)
- (b) Issue Registers from 1870 onwards.
- (c) File Registers for 1859 and from 1873 onwards.
(File Registers from 1860 to 1872 wanting.)
- (d) Abstract of Establishment from May 1859 to March 1860.

(ii) Administrator General Branch

The office of the Administrator General was established in 1849. Its main function was the administration of the estates of the deceased persons. Formerly this function was exercised by the Ecclesiastical Registrar of the Supreme Court. The control of the offices of the Administrator General and Official Trustee was vested in the Government of India, Home (Judicial) Department. In 1917 this control was transferred to the Provincial Governments and the records relating to these offices were transferred to the Judicial Department.

The records are—

1. (a) A Proceedings from September 1901 to December 1917.
- (b) B Proceedings from December 1901 to December 1917.
2. Consolidated Index Volumes from 1901 to 1917.

(iii) Registration Branch

Registration of deeds, joint stock establishments, the establishment of the Sub-Registry offices and the office of the Registrar of Assurance were dealt with by the General Department upto year 1872, and from January 1873 a separate Branch styled

as the Registration Branch was created under the General Department. But from the days of its creation till 1947 it functioned as a Branch of the departments noted below—

(1) From January to March 1873 under General Department and its proceedings for that period are combined with the proceedings of that Department; (2) From April 1873 to November 1888 under the Judicial Department with which its proceedings for the above period are incorporated; (3) From December 1888 to September 1907 under the Political Department. But the proceedings for the period from December 1888 to July 1889, September to November 1889, January, March to July 1900, and from September 1900 to January 1905 are combined with the proceedings of the Judicial Department. The proceedings from August-September 1899, February, August 1900, and from February 1905 to September 1907 are included in the Political Department's proceedings; (4) From October 1907 to August 1913 it again formed a part of the General Department and its proceedings upto 1910 are included in the proceedings of the General Department, and separate proceedings volumes of this Branch started from 1911; (5) From September 1913 to December 1920 it was under the Revenue Department and it had its separate proceedings; (6) From 1921 to October 1945 it was under the Education Department; and (7) From 22nd October 1945 it was transferred to the Judicial Department and this arrangement continues till now.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from January 1873 onwards.
2. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
3. Index Volumes from 1874. But the Indexes for 1873 are mixed up with the Indexes of the General and the Judicial Departments. The Indexes for 1906, 1908 to 1910 are combined with the General (Miscellaneous) Department's Indexes.
4. Consolidated Index from 1861-1908, 1909-16.
5. Diary Registers from 1900.
6. File Registers from 1873.
7. Issue Registers from 1928.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Under the authority of the Acts 24 and 25, Victoria, Chapter 67, followed by the Governor-General-in-Council's Proclamation of 17th January 1862, the Legislative Council of Bengal for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations for the Peace and Good Government of the Presidency of Bengal was established by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which held its first meeting on 1st February, 1862. The establishment of the Legislative Council necessitated a Legislative Department for Bengal which was created in January 1862, and was placed under a Secretary. The appointment of the Secretary was whole-time from 1862 to 1865, and part-time from 1865 to 1898 and then again whole-time. The reasons for the part-time appointment were that the Secretary had no full-time work and he was allowed to join the Bar at the High Court from 1864. He was also reduced in rank and pay from 1864. From 1900 he became the Secretary to the Legislative Council Department, in addition to his own duty as the Assistant Secretary to the Legislative Department. From April 1914 his position was raised to the status of a full Secretary and he was placed in charge of both the Legislative and the Legislative Council Departments.

In 1932 the Council Department was separated from the Legislative Department, and formed a separate unit and continued to function in that capacity upto the year 1938 under a separate Secretary. In 1938 the Government proposed to unite the Legislative and the Judicial Departments under one Secretary on the grounds of the technical nature of work done in both the Departments. Accordingly, the Judicial and the Legislative Departments, consisting of the Legislative and the Council Departments, which already merged with the Legislative Department were grouped together and this arrangement continued upto the end of 1949, when the Legislative Department was split up from the Judicial Department and was placed under a separate Secretary. The nomenclature of the Department was changed to West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat with effect from 26th January 1950.

The functions of the Legislative Department consisted of (a) legislation, (b) legal advice on the aspect of the proposed legislation, (c) publication and translation of Acts, (d) super-

vision over the Book Depot which being transferred from the Financial Department in 1901 was under this Department upto March 1925 and then was re-transferred to the Financial Department. Its functions indicated in (a) are the main and the primary functions derived from the very date of its origin, while the functions included in (b) were given to it from 1877. But the publication function performed by it upto 1908 comprised the publication of chronological Tables of Indian Statutes with Indexes and the Bengal Code. To this was added, since 1908, the publication of Bengal Statutory Rules and Orders. This function was later on transferred to the Bengali Translator.

Its records upto 1899 were in bound volumes and the records from January 1900 to February 1901 were treated as C Papers and hence there is no printed proceedings volumes for that period. From March 1901 this Department introduced the Secretariat system of recording and the records were classified as A and B Proceedings for the first time. The A Proceedings mostly contain the Acts of the Bengal Government, while B Proceedings contain the official business of routine nature and general correspondence. But the records are not in continuous series and there are many gaps. The printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes of both are in a continuous series from March 1901 and they are combined with the proceedings of the Book Depot upto the year 1910, and monthly upto 1923 and then quarterly.

The records are—

1. (a) A Proceedings from January 1862 onwards.
(b) B Proceedings from 1862 onwards.
(c) Printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes of both for the period of 1862-1899, and in a continuous monthly series from March 1901 to 1923, and quarterly from 1924 to 1948 onwards.
2. (a) Annual Indexes from 1862.
(b) Consolidated Index from 1901 to 1918.
3. (a) Diary Registers from 1906.
(b) Issue Registers from 1904.
(c) File Registers from 1910.

There is also a stray bundle of B Proceedings for the period of 1903-5, dealing with Acts and the distribution of the printed Acts.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1921 matters relating to Education were dealt with in the Education Branch of the General Department. From 1st January 1921 the functions of the General Department were taken over by the Education Department. From April 1922 the Department was placed under a Special Officer. In October 1922 the post of the Secretary for Education Department was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India and by a Government notification of 23rd December, 1922 the Special Officer became the full-time Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Education Department. The Department is mainly concerned with the general education at school, college and university level, over which it exercises administrative, academic and financial control through legislative enactments, and the Departmental Officers including the Director of Public Instruction.

The records upto 1920 belong to the General (Education) Department and from 1921 to the Education (Education) Department. The printed proceedings volumes upto 1910 are combined with the proceedings of Miscellaneous, Registration, Emigration and Mines Branches and from 1911 they are separate.

The records are—

(i) *General (Education) Department*

1. A Proceedings from 1859 to 1920.
2. B Proceedings from 1860 to 1920.
3. Printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1859 to 1910, and separate monthly volumes from 1911 to 1920.
4. Annual Indexes from 1859 to 1920. But Indexes for 1859 to 1863, 1865, 1868 to 1880, 1882 and from 1901 to 1910 are bound up with General (Miscellaneous) Department's Indexes.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859 to 1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 to 1920.
7. File Registers from 1891 to 1920.
8. Issue Registers from 1916 to 1920.

(ii) Education (Education) Department

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1921 onwards.
5. Diary Registers from 1921 onwards.
6. File Registers from 1921 onwards.
7. Issue Registers from 1921 onwards.

(iii) Education (Miscellaneous) Department

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1921 to 1923 and quarterly proceedings from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes from 1921.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.
7. Issue Registers from 1921.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

(i) *Miscellaneous Branch*

The General Department, since its creation in 1834, continued upto 1920 when it ceased to exist. Its functions were taken over by the Education Department which was created in 1921. The value and importance of the records of the General Department can be judged from the range and variety of subjects it dealt with. The Miscellaneous Branch was its main branch and in this branch it dealt with naturalisation certificate, raising of volunteer corps, Light Horse Brigade, emigration, reformatory school, registration upto 1872, Mutiny pension, literary pension, archaeological survey, administration reports, educational and cultural institutions and various other interesting subjects.

Upto December 1920, the Miscellaneous Branch was under the General Department. From January 1921 it formed a Branch of the newly created Education Department. The Secretariat Library and the Victoria Memorial Hall were excluded from the list of subjects dealt with by this Branch from October 1945.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1859 to 1920.
2. B Proceedings from 1860 to 1920.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1859 to 1920.
4. Annual Indexes from 1859 to 1920.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 to 1920.
7. File Registers from 1874 to 1920.
8. Issue Registers from 1900 to 1920.

(ii) *Mines Branch*

Matters relating to Mines were dealt with in the Judicial Department. After the passing of the Indian Mines Act of 1901 it was placed under the control of the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department. In May 1906 it was transferred to the Judicial Department. In August 1910 a separate branch known as the Mines Branch was created under the General

Department to deal with the administration of Indian Mines Act of 1901 and the Branch continued till December 1913. The proceedings primarily deal with the coal mines, mine-labour and the connected matters.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1910 to December 1913
2. B Proceedings from August 1910 to December 1913.

(iii) Court Buildings Branch

The Court Buildings Branch was a part of the General Department and it dealt with the ministerial establishments of the High Court and the Presidency Magistrate's Court, and the Court buildings. Only A Proceedings are available from August 1910 to December 1913.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1910 to December 1913.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

(i) Agriculture Branch

In January 1921 a new department known as the Department of Agriculture and Industries was created and matters relating to Agriculture were dealt with in the Agriculture Branch of this Department. Till February 1873 matters relating to Agriculture were dealt with in the Revenue Department. In February 1873 a separate Agriculture Department was created which functioned under the control of the Revenue Department. From May 1874 to January 1884 it functioned as a Branch of the Finance Department. From February 1884 to May 1885 its proceedings are found under separate headings, both in the Revenue and Finance Departments. From June 1885 to December 1920 it formed a separate Branch under the Revenue Department. From January 1921 it formed a Branch of the newly created Department of Agriculture and Industries. This Department functioned from January 1921 to March 1937. From April 1937 it became known as the Department of Agriculture, Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness. The Department was further reorganised and from October 1944 it became known as the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries. Cinchona and Tank Improvement were transferred to this Department. This Department also dealt with Jute Regulations and Rural Reconstruction upto April 1945, after which they were transferred to the Development Department. In the present set-up the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forest combine to form the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forest.

The printed proceedings of this Department are combined with the printed proceedings of the—(a) General Department from February 1873 to April 1878, (b) Finance Department from May 1878 to January 1884, (c) irregularly in the Finance and Revenue Departments from February 1884 to May 1885, and (d) Revenue Department from June 1885 to December 1910.

From 1911 the separate proceedings volumes of this Department are available. The records mostly deal with agricultural policy, agricultural problems, agricultural statistics and routine office matters. The Indexes for 1886-91 are intermixed with the Indexes of the Revenue Department. The Indexes for 1919

are wanting and the Indexes for 1920 are combined with the Indexes of the Fisheries and Botanical Garden Branches. The Indexes from 1921 to March 1937 are combined with the Indexes of the Industries Branch.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from February 1873 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from February 1873 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes containing the A Proceedings, abstracts of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly proceedings volumes from 1924 to the quarter ending in September 1948, after which none is received.
4. Annual Indexes from 1879 to 1937.
5. Consolidated Index from 1861-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. File Registers from 1874.
8. Combined Issue Registers from 1921.

(ii) Zoological Garden Branch

The Zoological Garden Branch was concerned with the affairs of the Zoological Garden at Alipur. This subject was dealt with in the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department upto October 1924, after which it was dealt with in the Zoological Branch of the Agriculture and Industries Department upto March 1937 and then under Agriculture Department. In the present set-up it is a Branch of the Animal Husbandry part of the Agriculture Secretariat. The proceedings consist of the Annual Report and routine office correspondence, and they are separately available from 1924.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1924 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1924 onwards.
3. Quarterly printed proceedings volumes containing A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes are combined with the Indexes of the Agriculture and Industries Department from 1924 to 1936, after which no index is received.
5. Diary Registers from 1924.
6. File Registers from 1924.

(iii) Botanical Garden Branch

The Botanical Garden Branch dealt with the affairs of the Botanical Garden of Calcutta, Lloyd Botanic Garden of Darjeeling, the Eden Gardens, Curzon Park and the Dalhousie Park of Calcutta. The Royal Botanical Garden of Calcutta with its library and the herbarium, which functioned as an important centre of all floristic, taxonomic, phytogeographical, ecological and horticultural investigations, owes its origin to the efforts of Col. Robert Kyd who founded it in 1787. The Calcutta Botanical Garden can boast of the introduction of quinine, rubber, ipecacuanna, and other plants and timbers of economic value. This Branch functioned under the (a) General (Miscellaneous) Department from 1861 to 1872, (b) Agriculture Branch from 1873 to May 1885, (c) Medical Branch from June 1885 to August 1887, (d) Finance Department from September 1887 to December 1904, (e) Medical Branch from January 1905 to February 1919, and (f) under Agriculture Department from March 1919 onwards.

The proceedings for the periods noted above are intermixed with the proceedings of the Branch of which it functioned as a part. The separate proceedings available from March 1919 are as follows—

1. A Proceedings from June 1919.
2. B Proceedings from March 1919.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1919 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1943.
(Proceedings for 1939 not received.)
4. Annual Indexes are combined with the indexes of the Agriculture and Industries Department upto 1936, after which none is received in this Archives.
5. Diary Registers from 1929 onwards.
6. File Registers from 1929 onwards.

(iv) Civil Veterinary Branch

The Civil Veterinary Branch of the Government of Bengal was separated from the Imperial Veterinary Department in 1907 and in August that year the Civil Veterinary Services with graded posts and pension were sanctioned. From 1892 to November 1921, questions relating to Veterinary were dealt with

in the Agriculture Branch, and from December 1921 it functioned as a separate Branch under that Department till the implementation of the Reform Act of 1935. Thereafter it became a part of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department with the jurisdiction over protection of animal resources, promotion of veterinary education, research and provision for veterinary aid. The records of this Branch are available separately from 1921 and they are—

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes containing A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes are combined with the Indexes of the Agriculture and Industries Department from 1921 to 1936, after which no index is received by this Archives.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.

(v) *Co-operative Branch*

The Co-operation Branch dates from the year 1904 when the Co-operative Act (Act X) of 1904 was passed in pursuance of the recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Government of India. The Act provided for the formation of the rural and urban credit societies. The subject was dealt with in the Revenue Department upto 1910, and from 1911 to 1921 in the Agriculture Branch of the Revenue Department. It was created a Branch of the Agriculture Department from March 1921. This Branch was regenerated with the formation of the new Ministry under the Reforms Act of 1935 and thereafter it came to be known as the Department of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness. From 1945 it also looked after the administration of the Vagrancy Act. This Branch is concerned with the co-operative societies, their trade, commerce and finance.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes containing A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes

thereof from 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.

4. Annual Indexes combined with the Indexes of the Agriculture and Industries Department from 1921 to 1936 and separate Indexes from 1937 to 1941, after which no index is received.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.

(vi) Fisheries Branch

The subject Fishery was dealt with in the Land Revenue Branch of the Revenue Department upto 1908. Thereafter it functioned as a separate section of the Agriculture Branch. In 1923 it was abolished as a measure of retrenchment. It was revived in 1942 and was placed under the Agriculture Department. A fishery expert was also appointed to explore the possibilities of the fishery industry in Bengal.

In between the period of abolition and revival of the Fishery Branch, Fishery as a subject was dealt with in the Agriculture Department upto March 1937. From April 1937 it was transferred to the Industries Department. This Branch is primarily concerned with the development and utilisation of fisheries, rehabilitation of the distressed fishermen, marketing of fish and the research works in connection with the subject.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1919 to 1923, and from 1943 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1919 to 1923, and from 1943 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1919 to 1923, and from 1943 combined with the printed proceedings volumes of the Industries Department.
4. Annual Indexes combined with the Indexes of the Agriculture Department from 1920 to 1923, and from 1943 combined with Industries Department's Indexes.
5. Diary Registers from 1919 to 1923, and from 1943 onwards.
6. Issue Registers from 1919 to 1923, and from 1943 combined with Agriculture Department's Issue Registers.
7. File Registers from 1919 to 1923, and from 1945 onwards.

(vii) Miscellaneous Branch

The Miscellaneous Branch of the Agriculture Department dates from 1921 and it deals with the establishment works of the Agriculture Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes combined with the Indexes of the Agriculture Department from 1921 onwards.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.

(viii) Tank Improvement Branch

The subject Tank Improvement which was formerly dealt with in the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department was later on transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries and a branch known as the Tank Improvement Branch was created to deal with the subject. Its original proceedings are available from 1947.

The records are—

1. B Proceedings from 1947 onwards.

(ix) Marketing Branch

The Marketing Branch of the Agriculture Department was concerned with the marketing and grading of agricultural products. The records are available from 1945 and the A and B Proceedings are combined.

The records are—

1. Combined A and B Proceedings from 1945 to 1947.

(x) Development Branch

The Development Branch of the Agriculture Department dealt with crop survey and development of agriculture. The combined A and B Proceedings are available from 1945.

The records are—

1. Combined A and B Proceedings from 1945 to 1947.

(xi) Supply Branch

The Supply Branch of the Agriculture Department dealt with regulations regarding the supply of agricultural products, cattle and seeds. The records are available from 1945 and they are combined as A and B Proceedings.

The records are—

1. Combined A and B Proceedings for 1945.

COMMERCE, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

(i) *Marine Branch*

The Marine Department dealt with inland river transport, pilot service and other connected matters. The Marine Branch was a part of the Marine Department, which from time to time was under the (a) General Department from 1859 to May 1885, (b) Municipal Department from June 1885 to February 1888, (c) Public Works Department from March 1888 to December 1920, and (d) Finance Department from 1921 to March 1937. From 1st April, 1937 it was placed under the Commerce and Labour Department, and the Marine Branch functioned till 1945 when on the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee its functions were transferred to the Transport Branch of Home Department. The proceedings prior to March 1888 are included in the proceedings of the departments of which it was a part as mentioned above, and from March 1888 the separate proceedings are available.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1859 to 1943.
2. B Proceedings from March 1862 to 1943.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from March 1888 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1940. There are also some stray volumes from 1859 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1884 to 1942.
5. Diary Registers from 1903 to 1943.
6. File Registers from 1885 to 1943.
7. Issue Registers from 1859-60, for 1880 and from 1888 to 1943.

(ii) *Commerce Branch*

Prior to the creation of the Commerce Branch under the Finance Department, Commerce was dealt with first in the Judicial Department and then in the Miscellaneous Branch of the General Department. In January 1914 the Commerce Branch under the Finance Department was created and from Septem-

ber 1917 to March 1937 it functioned as an independent department under the control of the Secretary, Finance Department. From 1st April, 1937 a new department known as the Department of Commerce and Labour was formed, which was renamed as the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries with the addition of the Industries Branch. This arrangement continued till 1947 when the Labour Branch was separated to form an independent department. This Branch is mainly concerned with the promotion and regulations of trade, commerce, industry other than cottage and small-scale industries, and also deals with gas, electricity, weights and measures, trading societies and associations. The separate proceedings of this Branch start from 1914 and before that period its proceedings are intermixed with the proceedings of the departments of which it was a part as indicated above.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1914 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1914 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1914 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1946, after which no printed volumes are received.
4. Annual Indexes from 1914 to 1946.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1914 onwards.
7. Issue Registers from 1914 onwards.
8. File Registers from 1915 onwards.

(iii) *Industries Branch*

Prior to the creation of a separate Industries Department in 1921, the subject Industry was dealt with in the Industry and Science Branch which formed a part of the General Department from May 1872 to March 1873, a part of the Statistical Department from April 1873 to April 1874, and a Branch of the Finance Department from May 1874 to April 1877. The Branch was finally abolished in May 1877. Thereafter the subject was dealt with in the Miscellaneous Branch of the Finance Department till 1920. From January 1921 the subject was transferred to the newly created Industries Branch which formed a part of the Agriculture Secretariat till March 1937, after which it was a part of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department from

which Labour was separated and the Branch formed a part of the Commerce and Industries Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1942 with a gap in quarter ending June and December, 1942.
4. Annual Indexes combined with Agriculture Department's Indexes from 1921 to 1936.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.
7. Stray proceedings volumes of the Industry and Science Branch for 1876 containing the subject Industry.

(iv) Civil Works Branch

The records of the Civil Works Branch of the Marine Department deal with the construction of buildings, jetties and other civil works connected with the ports in Bengal.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from April 1905 to May 1906.

(v) Port Trust Branch

The establishment of the Port Trust was the outcome of the report of a Committee. It was appointed in 1864 to report regarding the junction of the East India Railway with Eastern Bengal Railway by a bridge over the Hooghly and on the formation of wet docks. The Port Trust Act was passed in 1870, and a branch under the name of the Calcutta Port Trust Branch was created in August 1870. It was re-named Port Trust Branch from April 1888. The proceedings of this Branch are separate till January 1892, after which they were amalgamated with the Marine Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1870 to April 1891.
2. B Proceedings from November 1870 to January 1892.
3. File Books from 1885 to 1891.
4. Issue Registers from 1879 to 1881.
5. Diary Registers for 1872, 1874 and from 1877 to 1890.

(vi) Labour Branch

The Labour, Commerce and Industries were combined to form the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries on 1st April, 1937 and continued till May 1948. Under circular No. 591(3) A.R. dated 15th May 1948 a separate Labour Department was created with jurisdiction over labour, trade union, Employees' State Insurance Scheme, inspection of shops and establishments, and the regulations of employment, other than the employments in agriculture, forest and fisheries. The proceedings dealing with those subjects are intermixed with the proceedings of the Commerce Branch upto 1946. From 1947 they were separately recorded. In 1951 the Department was split up into General Branch and Labour Dispute Branch.

The records are—

(a) Labour (General) Department

1. A Proceedings from 1947 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from 1947 onwards.

(b) Labour (Labour Dispute) Department

1. A Proceedings for 1952.
2. B Proceedings from 1951 onwards.

FOREST AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

(i) *Forest Branch*

Forest as a subject was dealt with in the Revenue Branch from 1859 to July 1864. In August 1864 the Forest Branch was created under the Revenue Department of which it was a part till March 1873. From April 1873 to April 1874 it functioned under the Agriculture Department from which it was transferred to the Finance Department in May 1874 and remained under that Department upto April 1878. In May 1878 it again came under the Revenue Department and functioned under it till December 1933. From January 1934 to March 1937 it became a part of the Agriculture and Industries Department, and from 1st April, 1937 it became a part of the department which came to be known as the Department of Forest and Excise. The Branch is concerned with the preservation of forest, wild animals and birds. Its proceedings from August 1864 to December 1910 are combined with the proceedings volumes of the Revenue Department and separate proceedings start from 1911.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1864 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from August 1864 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from August 1864 to 1910. But the Indexes from 1878 to 1891 and from 1905 to 1910 are combined with Indexes of the Revenue Department. Separate Indexes start from 1911 and they are available upto 1938, after which no index is received.
5. Consolidated Index from 1861-1908, 1909-28.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. File Registers from 1873.

(ii) *Excise Branch*

Matters relating to Excise and Excise Revenue were administered under a series of old statutory Rules, Regulations and Acts till the passing of the Abkari Act of 1856, and the

matter was administered by the Board of Revenue under the control of the Revenue Department. The printed proceedings of the Branch are available from August 1872 and they are recorded as under—

(a) from August 1872 to March 1873 under the Revenue Department in the name of "Abkaree";

(b) from April 1873 to April 1878 under Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department in the name of "Excise";

(c) from May 1878 to May 1891 under the Finance Department; and

(d) from June 1891 to January 1911 under Separate Revenue Branch of the Finance Department.

From February 1911 its printed proceedings are separate. From February 1911 to December 1920 it formed a part of the Finance Secretariat, after which it was attached to the Agriculture and Industries Department. In 1934 it was re-transferred to the Revenue Department of which it was a part till March 1937. From 1st April 1937 the Excise and the Forest were combined to form the Department of Excise and Forest which had also jurisdiction over salt. This arrangement continued till the implementation of the Rowlands Committee's Report in 1947, when Excise Branch became a part of the Finance Department. Its proceedings deal with the regulations regarding intoxicating liquors, and the duties on alcohol, opium, hemp, produced and consumed in Bengal as well as the medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1872 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from August 1872 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from February 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1873 to 1877 combined with Revenue Department's Indexes, from 1879 to May 1891 separate, from June 1891 to 1910 combined with Separate Revenue Indexes, from 1913 to 1918 combined with Finance Department's Indexes, from 1921 to 1933 combined with Agriculture Department's Indexes, and from 1934 to 1938 separate. (Indexes for 1878, 1911-12, 1919-20 are wanting.)
5. Consolidated Index Volumes, 1859-1908, 1909-28.
6. Diary Registers from 1921.

7. File Registers from 1873. (File Registers for 1892 and 1893 are wanting.)

(iii) Cinchona Branch

This Branch was created under the Revenue Department in April 1921 and prior to its creation the Cinchona as a subject was dealt with in the Medical Department. The Branch was a part of the Revenue Department till 1935. Thereafter it formed a part of the Department of Excise and Forest. The proceedings mainly deal with the cinchona plantation, sale, distribution and other routine official matters. The proceedings are available upto 1943 with gaps, and the Indexes are combined with the Revenue Department's Indexes upto 1938.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from April 1921 to 1941.
2. B Proceedings from April 1921 to 1943.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from April 1921 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to the quarter ending in September 1942 excepting the proceedings of the 1st and the 4th quarters of 1941 which are not received.
4. Annual Indexes combined with the Revenue Department's Indexes from April 1921 to 1938.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

(i) *Municipal Branch*

The municipal affairs were dealt with in the Judicial Department upto 1872. In 1873 a separate branch known as the Municipal Branch was created under the Department. From the Judicial Department it was transferred to the control of the Public Works Department in 1905 and to the Finance Department in 1907, of which it formed a part till August 1913. From September 1913 it functioned as a Branch of the General Department upto 1920. In 1921 the General Department was abolished and the name of the Municipal Department was changed to Local Self-Government Department. This arrangement continued till 1948.

The separate printed proceedings of this Branch start from 1880 when it was created a Department, and prior to that year its proceedings are incorporated with the proceedings of the (a) Judicial Department from January to April 1873, (b) Revenue Department from May 1873 to May 1874, (c) Judicial Department from June 1874 to November 1877, (d) General Department from December 1877 to April 1878 and (e) Finance Department from May 1878 to December 1879.

In 1886 a new branch known as the Local Self-Government Branch was added to this Department to supervise the working of the Local Self-Government Act of 1885, and the functions of this Department were split up. The Municipal Branch was responsible for the administration of Local Self-Government Act in the urban areas, while the Local Self-Government Branch was entrusted with the execution of that Act in the rural areas, and the proceedings of the two Branches are arranged separately upto 1945, after which they are amalgamated with the proceedings of the Local Board Branch. Apart from the municipal matters, this Branch was also concerned with fire brigade and hackney carriage. The control over hackney carriage was transferred to the Transport Branch with effect from 22nd October, 1945. The proceedings mostly deal with Acts, Laws, Bye Laws and Annual Reports relating to Municipalities. In the present set-up the Department is known as the Department of Local Self-Government and Panchayats.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1873 to 1945.
2. B Proceedings from 1873 to 1945.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1880 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1945.
4. Annual Indexes from 1873 to 1941.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. Issue Registers from 1900.
8. File Registers from 1873.

(ii) *Local Board Branch*

The Local Self-Government Branch was added to the Municipal Department from August 1886 according to the provision of the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 to extend the Local Self-Government in rural areas for the progressive realisation of the Local Self-Government in India through District Boards, created in place of the Road Cess Committees, the Local Boards and the Union Committees. This Branch formed a part of the Municipal Department upto 1920, after which it became a branch of the Local Self-Government Department. From June 1921 the Local Self-Government Branch was renamed Local Board Branch which was primarily entrusted with the promotion of Local Self-Government, financing, regulation and inspection of the Local Self-Governing institutions in the rural areas. The printed proceedings of this Branch are included in the printed proceedings of the Municipal Department from 1886 onwards.

c. The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1886 onwards. (There is one A Proceedings for May 1886 which is neither printed in the proceedings volumes nor included in the Annual Indexes.)
2. B Proceedings from 1886 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1886 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1886 to 1948.
5. Consolidated Index from 1862-1908, 1909-16.

6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. File Registers from 1883.

(iii) Municipal Miscellaneous Branch

This Branch was created in January 1883 and continued till February 1889.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings for March 1885, November and December 1886 and February 1887.
2. B Proceedings from January 1883 to December 1887.
3. File Registers for 1884, 1885 and 1888.

(iv) Ferry Branch

From 1859 to 1860 the questions relating to Ferries were dealt with in the Revenue Department and from 1861 to 1878 it was a subject of the Judicial Department, and from January to December, 1879 this Branch functioned as a Branch of the Finance Department. In January 1880 it was transferred to the Municipal Department and was a part of it till May 1891, after which it ceased to have a separate existence and was managed by the District Boards according to Government Notification No. 217-LSG., dated 12th January 1905.

There are no separate proceedings volumes and indexes of this Branch.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1879 to May 1891.
2. B Proceedings from 1879 to May 1891.
3. Consolidated Index, 1861-1908.
4. File Registers from 1880 to 1891.

LAND AND LAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

(i) *Land Revenue Branch*

The Revenue Branch, re-named from July 1898 as Land Revenue Branch, is a part of the Revenue Department which is the oldest Department of this Secretariat and was under the control of the Chief Secretary upto May 1911. From 1911 to 1913 it was under the Secretary in charge of the Revenue and the General Departments. In 1913 the Revenue Department was placed under a separate Secretary, known as the Revenue Secretary. In pursuance of the Rowlands Committee's recommendations, 1945, the Department was re-named the Department of Land and Land Revenue, of which Land Revenue is the main Branch which is primarily concerned with land revenue administration, wards, attached estates, Bengal Tenancy Act, survey and settlement, revenue establishment, courts, agricultural loans, advances, rent-control and the Thika Tenancy in Calcutta and Howrah.

The original proceedings of this Branch date from 6th January, 1859 and the printed proceedings volumes are combined with the quarterly and the monthly printed proceedings volumes of the Revenue Department upto 1910. From 1911 separate printed proceedings are available. The Indexes are available from 1861, and prior to that year they are combined with the Revenue Department's Indexes.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1859 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from April 1860 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1943, after which no printed volumes are received.
4. Annual Indexes from 1861 to 1939.
(No Indexes received from 1940.)
5. Consolidated Index for 1854-1860, 1861 to 1908 and from 1909 to 1916.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 onwards.
7. Issue Registers from 1900 onwards.

8. File Registers from 1873 onwards.

(ii) Emigration Branch

The Emigration Branch dealt with, as an agent of the Government of India, the emigration of indentured labour from Bengal to the British, French and the Dutch colonies and settlements, and also to the different parts of the country, for the plantation of sugar-cane, rubber, tea, coffee etc. This Branch was created in 1860 and since then it functioned as a branch of the (a) General Department upto August 1913, (b) Finance Department from September 1913 to August 1917, (c) Commerce Department from September 1917 to 1933, (d) Revenue Department from 1934 to 1941, and then it was a subject for the Land Acquisition, Jurisdiction and the Stamp Branch of the Revenue Department upto 1947, when the "emigration" was split up into (a) industrial labour, (b) agricultural labour and (c) external labour. The first became a subject for the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department, later Labour Department; the second became the subject for the Agriculture Department, and the third was taken over by the Home (Political) Department.

Its records are available from 1859 to 1941. But from 1879 to March 1892 the records are split up and arranged as Colonial and Inland series, and from April 1892 the records are again arranged together under the head 'Emigration'. The printed proceedings volumes of the Branch from 1859 to April 1869, and from June 1870 to December 1910 are incorporated in the General Department's printed proceedings volumes, and those from May 1869 to May 1870, and for June 1872 are included in the Political Department's proceedings volumes. The separate printed proceedings volumes of the Branch are available from 1911.

The records are—

(a) Emigration Branch

1. A Proceedings from 1859 to 1878 and from April 1892 to 1940.
2. B Proceedings from 1860 to 1878 and from April 1892 to 1941.
3. Separate monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1934.
4. Annual Indexes from 1870 to 1939. (The Indexes for

1901 and 1903-11 are combined with the Miscellaneous Branch, General Department's Indexes, and the Indexes from 1920 are with the Revenue Department's Indexes.)

5. Consolidated Index, 1859-1908, 1909-1928.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. File Registers from 1873 to 1878.

(b) Emigration—Colonial

1. A Proceedings from 1879 to March 1892.
2. B Proceedings from 1879 to March 1892.
3. Printed proceedings volumes combined with the corresponding departments indicated above.
4. Annual Indexes are available from 1879 to 1891 as detailed in (a).

(c) Emigration—Inland

1. A Proceedings from 1879 to March 1892.
2. B Proceedings from 1879 to March 1892.
3. Printed proceedings volumes are available with the printed proceedings volumes of the corresponding departments of which it was a part as indicated above.
4. Annual Indexes from 1879 to 1891 are available as detailed in (a). (The Indexes for 1881, 1886 and 1890 are wanting.)

(iii) Jurisdiction Branch

The Jurisdiction Branch functioned under the (a) General Department from May 1873 to June 1874, (b) Revenue Department from July 1874 to June 1885, (c) Judicial Department from July 1885 to February 1905, and (d) Revenue Department from March 1905 onwards.

This Branch was concerned with the changes in the boundaries of province, division, district, sub-division, thana and the change of the administrative headquarters, the opening of new ones, and also the census operation and immigration from 1922. In the post-Independence set-up these functions are largely taken over by the Indian Parliament while the minor adjustments of boundaries are done by the Political Branch with the approval of the State Legislature. The records prior to its constitution are intermixed with the departments, of which it was a part.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from May 1873 to 1941.

2. B Proceedings from May 1873 to 1941.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1943.
4. Annual Indexes from May 1873 to 1939, combined with the Indexes of the Departments of which it was a Branch as indicated above. (The Indexes for 1890 and 1904 are wanting.)
5. Consolidated Index, 1861-1908, 1909-28.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 onwards.
7. File Registers from 1874 onwards.
8. Rolled and Folded Maps.

(iv) Land Acquisition Branch

The function of this Branch—the acquisition of lands for public purposes was a subject of the Revenue Department upto 1911, when this Branch was created under the Revenue Department to deal with the subject, and after 1935 the Land Acquisition, Jurisdiction and Stamps Branches were united to form a Branch of the Revenue Department. Its separate records are available from 1906 and the records prior to that year are inter-mixed with the records of the Revenue Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from February 1906 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from February 1906 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1906 to 1939 are combined with Revenue Department's Index volumes.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859 to 1908 and from 1909 to 1916.
6. Diary Registers from 1906.
7. File Registers are combined with Revenue Department's File Registers upto 1904, and separate from 1905 onwards.

(v) Statistics Branch

The compilation and annual publication of Commercial and Financial statistics, as are published in England by the Board

of Trade and the Treasury, was contemplated in the proceedings of the Government of India in the Finance Department under date 6th June 1862 (Vide Finance Department, Revenue Financial Branch, A June 1862, No. 38). By resolution, dated 14 May 1868, in the General Department of this Government, an additional establishment known as the Statistics Branch was created for the collection of statistics of internal and inter-provincial trade, etc., for Railway and other purposes. Its proceedings are available from May 1868 to December 1891. The printed proceedings volumes of this Branch are incorporated with the (a) General Department from May 1868 to December 1877, (b) Finance Department from January 1878 to December 1885 and (c) Revenue Department from January 1886 to October 1891.

It formed part of the Revenue Secretariat till April 1901, when it was transferred to the Director-General of Statistics. This office was amalgamated with the office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence with effect from 1st December 1922. The census work, however, remained under the Jurisdiction Branch of the Revenue Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from May 1868 to October 1891.
2. B Proceedings from May 1868 to October 1891.
3. Annual and the Consolidated Indexes are available, and they are combined with the Indexes of the Departments as indicated above.

(vi) Miscellaneous Branch

The Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department began to function as a separate unit from August 1873 and upto 1905 it dealt with mines, geology, zoological gardens, museum, art, industry, manufacture etc. The functions of this Branch were from time to time re-distributed. In the set-up of 1911 the Decentralisation Commission's report on the Collectorates, Commissioners' offices and the offices of the Sub-Divisional officers, motor-car loan to Revenue Department's officers, reports and returns of the Revenue Department and stores came under its control and most of its earlier functions were taken over by the Miscellaneous Branch of the General Department. In 1915 the Board of Revenue became reduced in size and some of its functions—i.e. the establishment of the Kanungo, the offices of

the Commissioner, Collectors, Sub-Divisional officers, Board of Revenue Record Room, suits and processes were taken over by this Branch. In 1935 the functions of this Branch were again revised, and (1) land improvement loan, (2) agriculture loan, (3) destruction of records of the Board of Revenue, (4) Famine Insurance Fund, (5) rural poor relief and (6) tank improvement became the subjects of this Branch. This arrangement continued till 1947, when item Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 shown above were transferred to the Co-operative and Relief Department, item No. 6 was taken over by the Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries Department, and item No. 3 became a subject for the Land Revenue Branch. As a result of this, the Branch ceased to exist after 1947.

Its records are available from 1873 to 1945. The printed proceedings volumes from 1873 to 1910 are combined with the printed proceedings volumes of the Revenue Department, and the printed proceedings volumes from 1911 are separately available.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1873 to 1941.
2. B Proceedings from August 1873 to 1945.
3. Separate monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings, and the Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1943, excepting the proceedings volumes from 1942.
4. Annual Indexes from August 1873 to 1891 combined with Revenue Indexes, from 1892 to 1904 separate, from 1905 to 1906 combined with Revenue Indexes, from 1907 to 1908 separate, from 1909 to 1911 combined with Revenue Indexes, for 1912 separate, from 1913 to 1939 combined with Revenue Indexes, and no Index available after 1939.
5. Consolidated Index, 1861-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 onwards.
7. Issue Registers from 1873 onwards.

(vii) (a) *Scarcity and Relief Branch*

(b) *Famine Branch*

The Scarcity and Relief Branch originated in the need of famine relief which was a casual function exercised by the Land

Revenue Branch till the creation of this Branch in November 1873. This Branch functioned till August 1877, after which the subject was taken over by a newly created branch known as the Famine Branch, which came into existence as a Branch of the Finance Department from November 1877 and remained a part of that Department till April 1878. From May 1878 it became a Branch of the Revenue Department under which it functioned till October 1891, after which the Branch was abolished and the famine relief became a subject of the Agriculture Department and later of the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department. It is a subject of the Relief Department in the present set-up. The records of these two Branches are arranged separately. But the Annual Indexes of the Scarcity and Relief Branches are not available, while the Annual Indexes of the Famine Branch are intermixed with the Indexes of the Revenue and the Finance Departments of the corresponding periods. The Consolidated Indexes are available with the Consolidated Indexes of the Agriculture Department, 1861-1908.

The records are—

(a) Scarcity and Relief Branch

1. A Proceedings from November 1873 to August 1877.
2. B Proceedings from November 1873 to August 1877.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from December 1873 to August 1877. But the proceedings for November 1873, January, March, and April 1877 are combined with General Department's printed proceedings volumes.
4. Consolidated Index, combined with the Consolidated Index of the Agriculture Department for 1861-1908.

(b) Famine Branch

1. A Proceedings from 1878 to October 1891.
2. B Proceedings from November 1877 to October 1891.
3. The proceedings are included in the Revenue Department's printed proceedings volumes of the corresponding period.
4. Annual Indexes are intermixed with those of the Finance and Revenue Departments.
5. Consolidated Indexes are combined with the Consolidated Index Volume of the Agriculture Department from 1861-1908.
6. File Registers from 1878 to October 1891.

(viii) Road and Public Works Cess Branch

The Road Cess Branch originated in the need for funds for the repair and maintenance of Imperial and Local Roads which, before 1871, were maintained and repaired by the Amalgamated District Road Fund consisting of the contributions made from the Imperial and the Provincial revenues. But this arrangement failed due to the lack of Imperial assistance and the Local Government passed the District Road Cess Act in 1871, by which the road cess was introduced for the first time from 1st October, 1872 for the betterment of roads, in place of the Amalgamated Road Fund which was transferred to the District Boards. The cess on the Public Works, on the other hand, was introduced under Act II of 1877 and a separate Branch known as the Public Works Cess Branch came into existence from that year. In 1878 both the Branches were amalgamated and functioned under the Finance Department till July 1910, after which it was transferred to the control of the Revenue Department with which it was finally merged. The proceedings from 1879 to 1885 were recorded under two separate heads—(a) Public Cess and (b) Road Cess. After 1885 they were amalgamated.

The records are—

(a) Public Cess Branch

1. A Proceedings from 1879 to 1885.
2. B Proceedings from 1879 to 1885.
3. File Registers from 1879 to 1885.

(b) Road Cess Branch

1. A Proceedings from April 1873 to 1885.
2. B Proceedings from May 1873 to 1885.
3. Index Volumes from 1873 to 1878 are included in the Revenue Department's Indexes, and from 1879 to 1885 are separate.
4. Consolidated Index from 1861 to 1885.
5. File Books from 1873 to 1885.

(c) Road and Public Works Cess Branch

1. A Proceedings from 1886 to July 1910.
2. B Proceedings from 1886 to June 1910.
3. Index Volumes from 1886 to 1904 are separate, from 1905 to 1908 are incorporated with the Index Volumes of the Finance Department. (The Indexes for 1909-10 are wanting.)
4. Consolidated Index from 1886 to 1908.

5. Diary Registers from 1900 to 1906.
6. File Books from 1886 to 1910.

(ix) *Excluded Area Branch*

The administration over the Excluded Area was carried on by the Land Revenue Branch till 1925 and from January 1926 the Excluded Area Branch was created under the Revenue Department to deal with the administration of the excluded areas and the partially excluded areas in Bengal, such as Chittagong Hill Tracts, Darjeeling District and the hill tracts of Mymensingh District. The proceedings available from 1926 to 1940 are concerned with the administration of those areas, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, police administration, municipal administration and other miscellaneous matters. By the Government of India Act, 1935, the Governor of Bengal was empowered to administer those areas as an agent of the Government of India.

The records are—

1. A proceedings from 1926 to 1936.
2. B Proceedings from 1926 to 1936.
3. Quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1926.
4. Annual Indexes from 1926 are combined with Revenue Department's Indexes.
5. Diary Registers from 1926 onwards.
6. File Registers from 1926 onwards.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

(i) *Finance Branch*

Till the creation of the post of Financial Secretary, the Finance Department functioned as a Branch of the Revenue Department. From May 1878 it was separated from the Revenue Department. The printed proceedings volumes of this Branch for the period from 1859 to 1877 are combined with the printed proceedings volumes of the Revenue Department. But there are also some stray proceedings volumes for the period. Its separate proceedings started from 1878. The Index Volumes from 1859 to 1864 are included in the Index Volumes of the Revenue Department. The Index Volumes from 1865 to June 1866 and for 1867 are wanting. The original proceedings of the Audit and the Budget Branches are amalgamated upto 1950, after which they are arranged branchwise.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1859 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from April 1860 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1878 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1869 onwards.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859 to 1908, 1909 to 1916.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. File Registers—
 - (a) regarding expenditure from 1891 to 1908.
 - (b) regarding budget from 1923.
 - (c) regarding pension and gratuity from 1873.
 - (d) regarding audit from 1867.
8. Issue Registers from 1900.

(ii) *Book Depot Branch*

The Book Depot Branch was organised in 1894 with the functions of free distribution and sale of Acts, Laws, Gazettes, Annual Reports etc. of the Government of Bengal and prior to its formation M/s. Thacker Spink & Co. looked after the sales

of these publications, while the Legislative Department attended to the free distribution of the same. The Book Depot at first formed a part of the Press Department. From 1st April, 1895 it was transferred to the Finance Department, and from 1st September, 1901 it became a Branch of the Legislative Department and functioned under that Department as a separate Branch from January 1911 to March 1925. Thereafter it was re-transferred to the Finance Department. In 1934 it was placed under the control of the Superintendent, Bengal Government Printing Press. It was finally merged with the Publication Branch.

Its proceedings prior to 1911 are combined with the proceedings of the Departments of which it formed a part for the periods indicated above. Its separate proceedings are available from 1911 to 1929, after which this Archives do not possess any records of this Branch, and they are amalgamated with the records of the Publication Branch.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1911 to 1929.
2. B Proceedings from 1911 to 1929.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1929.
4. Annual Indexes from 1911 to 1931.
5. Consolidated Index from 1909-1928.
6. Diary Registers from 1911 to 1930.
7. Issue Registers from 1913 to 1930.

(iii) Opium Branch

The questions regarding Opium were at first dealt with in the Miscellaneous Revenue Department. From August 1872 onwards the proceedings were separated and from August 1872 to March 1873 were shown under a separate head under the Revenue Department. From April 1873 to October 1891 the subject was dealt with in the Miscellaneous Revenue Branch under a separate head "Opium" and from November 1891 to February 1905 in a separate Branch under the Revenue Department. From March 1905 to January 1911 proceedings relating to Opium were recorded in the Separate Revenue Branch of the Finance Department. Its separate printed proceedings, starting from that date, continued till the closure of the Presi-

gency Godown of Opium with effect from 31st October, 1927. The records mainly deal with the sale of opium to different countries, inland and overseas. In the present set-up the subject is dealt with in the Excise Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1872 to 1927.
2. B Proceedings from August 1872 to 1927.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 to 1927.
4. Annual Index Volumes up to 1891 are combined with the Indexes of the Revenue Department. Indexes from 1892 to 1898, and from 1904 to 1905 are wanting. Indexes from 1899 to 1903 and from 1911 to 1912 are included in the Indexes of the Finance (Separate Revenue) Department, and Indexes from 1913 onwards are irregularly incorporated either in the Finance (Miscellaneous) or Revenue (Separate Revenue) Department's Indexes.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908 and 1909-28.
6. Diary Registers from 1904 to 1907.
7. File Registers from 1911 to 1927.

(iv) Separate Revenue Branch

Matters relating to Taxation, formerly dealt with in the Board of Revenue from 1851 and then in the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department were transferred to the Separate Revenue Branch of the Finance Department with its creation in June 1891. It existed till December 1910 and dealt with the subjects of salt, opium, customs, income tax and stamp. This Branch has no proceedings of its own. The proceedings were kept under each separate subject it dealt with. From February 1911 salt, opium, stamp, income tax and customs formed separate branches of the Finance Department, and this system was further revised under Meston Award, by which the separation of central revenue from the provincial was made and the offices administering the central revenues were transferred to the control of the Central Government, and the provincial taxes came to be administered by the Separate Revenue Branch of the Revenue Department. After 1945 most of the provincial

taxes were transferred to the Board of Revenue from the Finance Department.

The records are—

1. Annual Indexes from June 1891.
2. Diary Registers from 1900.
3. Issue Registers from 1905.
4. File Books from 1873 to 1924.

(v) *Salt Branch*

The proceedings of the Salt Branch are included in the proceedings of the Revenue (Miscellaneous) Department from August 1872 to June 1885. Those from July 1885 to May 1891 are included in the proceedings of the Finance Department. Salt proceedings from June 1891 to January 1911 are found under the head Separate Revenue in the Finance Department proceedings. In February 1911 the Salt Branch was formed and from that date this Branch has got separate proceedings volumes of its own. This Branch functioned under the Finance Department as a separate branch up to 1938, when the Branch was abolished and the subject came to be dealt with in the Excise Branch.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1872.
2. B Proceedings from August 1872.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes from 1886 to June 1888, from 1889 to May 1891 and from 1911 to 1912 are separately available. Indexes upto 1885 are with the Indexes of the Revenue (Miscellaneous) Department's Indexes. Indexes from July to December 1888 are with the Finance Department's Indexes and the Indexes from 1913 onwards are irregularly included in the Indexes either of the Miscellaneous or Separate Revenue Branches of the Revenue Department.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-28.
6. Diary Registers from 1900. (Combined with Separate Revenue Branch's Registers.)

7. Issue Registers from 1905. (Combined with Separate Revenue Branch's Registers.)
8. File Registers from 1890.

(vi) Customs Branch

From 1859 to 1885 questions relating to Customs were dealt with in the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department. The Customs formed a separate branch under the Finance Department in July 1885 and this Branch continued to function till May 1891. In 1891 a Separate Revenue Branch under the Finance Department was created. From June 1891 till January 1911 the Customs proceedings were incorporated with proceedings of this Branch. In February 1911 it became a separate branch under the Finance Department and continued to function till September 1926. Its separate original proceedings are available from August 1872 to August 1924, and prior to August 1872 its proceedings are intermixed with the proceedings of the Revenue (Miscellaneous) Department. The Indexes from 1861 to 1885 are included in the Miscellaneous Branch Indexes and from June 1891 to December 1910 in the Indexes of the Separate Revenue Branch. The Indexes from 1913 to 1924 are to be found sometimes among the Miscellaneous Branch Indexes and sometimes in the Separate Revenue Branch Indexes.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from August 1872 to August 1924.
2. B Proceedings from August 1872 to August 1924.
3. Annual Indexes from 1861 to 1924. (The Indexes from 1886 to May 1891 and from 1911 to 1912 are separate and all other Indexes are combined with the Indexes as enumerated above.)
4. Consolidated Index from 1861-1908, 1909-24
5. Diary Registers from 1899 to 1924.
6. Issue Registers from 1905 to 1924. (Combined with Separate Revenue Branch Registers.)
7. File Registers from 1873 to 1924. (Combined with Separate Revenue Branch Registers.)

(vii) Income Tax Branch

The Indian Mutiny of 1857 caused a heavy strain on the public exchequer for which the Government wanted to impose in

1860 direct taxes on profit arising from property, profession and trade to augment the public finance and this duty was later on known as Income Tax, which found a permanent place on the statute book in 1886. The proceedings of this Branch dealing with the subject are available from November 1863 and they are included in the proceedings of the Miscellaneous Branch of the Revenue Department from November 1863 to January 1866, in the proceedings of the Finance Department from February 1866 to May 1891 and in the proceedings of the Separate Revenue Branch from June 1891 to January 1911. From February 1911 this Branch functioned as a branch of the Finance Department. The original proceedings of this Branch are available from 1863 to 1937, and the separate printed proceedings consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof date from 1911.

Its Indexes prior to 1886 are intermixed with the Revenue and Revenue (Miscellaneous) Department's Indexes, they are combined with the Separate Revenue Branch's Indexes from June 1891 to 1910, and with the Separate Revenue and Miscellaneous Branch's Indexes from 1913 onwards.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from November 1863 to 1928.
2. B Proceedings from November 1863 to 1937.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes from 1886 to 1891 and from 1911 to 1912 are available separately and the Indexes for the intervening years are combined with the Indexes of the Departments noted above.
5. Consolidated Index from 1861 to 1908, 1909 to 1928.
6. File Books from 1879.

(viii) Stamp Branch

The office of the Superintendent of Stamp with the functions of supplying stamps including the general stamps, court fee stamps and postage stamps to the whole of India, excluding the presidencies of Bombay and Madras, was established as early as 1850. But its proceedings are available from August 1872 and they are amalgamated with the proceedings of the (a) Revenue Department from August 1872 to May 1878, (b) Finance Department from June 1878 to May 1891, (c) Sepa-

rate Revenue Branch of the Finance Department from June 1891 to June 1904 and (d) Finance and Commerce Department from July 1904 to January 1911. From February 1911 its separate printed proceedings started. From 1st April 1937 the non-judicial stamps and the amusement taxes were brought under the control of the Board of Revenue from the Finance Department and the tobacco tax remained a subject of the Forest and Excise Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from October 1872 to 1941.
2. B Proceedings from August 1872 to 1941.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes are available separately for the period of 1879-91 and 1911-12. The Indexes prior to 1879 are combined with Revenue Department's Indexes and the Indexes for the intervening period are included with the Indexes of the Departments noted above. Indexes from 1913 are combined with Separate Revenue Branch Indexes.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-28.
6. File Registers from 1873.

(ix) Miscellaneous Branch

This Branch dealt with the questions regarding examinations of clerical service, Gazette, Gazetteers, holidays, statistical accounts, printing etc. Separate proceedings of this Branch are available from 1880 to 1945.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1880 to 1945.
2. B Proceedings from 1880 to 1945.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924.
4. Annual Indexes from 1882.
5. Consolidated Index from 1861 to 1908, 1909 to 1916.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. Issue Registers from 1921.
8. File Registers from 1878.

(x) Stationery Branch

This Branch under the direct charge of the Superintendent of the Stamps and Stationery dealt with the supply of stationery and stores to the Government offices. It was a part of the Revenue Secretariat upto May 1891 and merged with the Miscellaneous Branch of the Finance Department in June 1891. Its proceedings for the period from August 1872 to October 1872 are included in the proceedings of the Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch and the separate proceedings started from November 1872. Its proceedings prior to 1872 are available in the Board of Revenue Record Room.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from November 1872 to May 1891.
2. B Proceedings from November 1872 to May 1891.
3. Annual Indexes from 1872 to 1878 are combined with Revenue Department's Indexes, from 1879 to May 1891 are available separately.
4. File Registers from 1879 to May 1891.

(xi) Industry and Science Branch

There is a stray bundle containing the A and the B Proceedings of Industry and Science Branch of the Finance Department from 1872 to 1877. The proceedings deal with zoological gardens, industry, Asiatic Society, historical remains, the establishment of meteorological observatory, and the zoo gardens at Alipore, natural calamities, and the agricultural produce. Only one bundle is available and there is no index. Most of its functions were subsequently taken over by the Miscellaneous Branch of the General Department.

The records are—

1. Combined A and B Proceedings, 1872-1877.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(i) Public Health Branch

By the Government of India Act, 1919 Public Health became a provincial subject and was placed under the control of the Provincial Government. In 1921 the Public Health Department was created. It formed a part of the Local Self-Government Department. After 1937 its functions were enlarged and it dealt with public health, sanitation, adulteration of food, smoke nuisance, gas supply, medical profession, medical education, pilgrimages in India, lunacy, pounds and cattle trespass.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from February 1921 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from February 1921 onwards.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof upto 1923, and thereafter quarterly.
4. Annual Indexes from 1921.
5. Diary Registers from 1921.
6. File Registers from 1921.
7. Issue Registers from 1921.

(ii) Sanitation Branch

Prior to 1921 the proceedings relating to Sanitation are combined with the proceedings of the (1) General Department from April 1868 to April 1869 and from June 1870 to April 1878, (2) Political Department from May 1869 to May 1870 and for June 1872, (3) Finance Department from May 1878 to December 1879, (4) Municipal Department from January 1880 to August 1887, (5) Judicial Department from September 1887 to December 1888, and (6) Municipal Department from January 1889 to December 1910, and again from January 1911 to December 1920.

The Indexes of the Sanitation Branch for the years 1868-69 are combined with the Indexes of the General Department, and the Index for 1897 is with the Municipal Department's Index. Indexes for 1877 are included in the Indexes of the General and Finance Departments. Index for 1903 is missing.

There are separate proceedings of this Branch under the Municipal Department upto 20th February 1921. From 21st February 1921 onwards they belong to Local Self-Government (Public Health) Department.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from 1868 to February 1921.
2. B Proceedings from 1868 to February 1921.
3. Monthly printed proceedings volumes consisting of A Proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to February 1921.
4. Annual Indexes from 1870 to 1921.
5. Consolidated Index from 1868-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900 to 1917.
7. File Registers from 1869 to February 1921.
8. Issue Registers from 1914 to February 1921.

(iii) *Medical Branch*

The proceedings of the Medical Branch are included in the proceedings volumes of the (a) General Department from December 1859 to April 1869, (b) Political Department from May 1869 to May 1870, (c) General Department from June 1870 to May 1872, (d) Political Department for June 1872, (e) General Department from July 1872 to April 1878, (f) Judicial Department from May 1878 to December 1879, (g) Municipal Department from January 1880 to August 1887, (h) Judicial Department from September 1887 to March 1891, and (i) Municipal Department from April 1891 to December 1910.

The proceedings for the period from December 1859 to December 1910 are with the proceedings of the Departments of which it formed a part as indicated above. The separate proceedings start from 1911 and upto August 1913 this Branch functioned under the Municipal Department. From September 1913 to December 1920 it was a Branch of the Finance Department and from January 1921 to April 1948 it was controlled by the Secretary in charge of the Local Self-Government Department. From May 1948 the Medical, Public Health and Local Self-Government Branches were combined to form a Department of the Secretariat. Its proceedings deal with direct administration of Government hospitals throughout the State, supervision of the Local Fund dispensaries, grant-in-aid to non-Government hospitals, regulation of medical profession, medical education.

lunacy, mental deficiency etc. The proceedings also contain interesting accounts and data relating to the growth and development of hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal.

The records are—

1. A Proceedings from December 1859 onwards.
2. B Proceedings from April 1860 onwards.
3. Printed monthly proceedings volumes containing A proceedings, abstract of B Proceedings and Indexes thereof from 1911 to 1923, and quarterly printed proceedings volumes from 1924 onwards.
4. Annual Indexes from 1870 to 1943. Indexes from 1859 to 1869 are included in the Indexes of the General Department.
5. Consolidated Index from 1859-1908, 1909-16.
6. Diary Registers from 1900.
7. Issue Registers from 1910.
8. File Registers from 1871.

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

(1) Records of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

(a) Appointment Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to March 1912.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(b) Appointment (Miscellaneous) Department

1. A Proceedings from 1905 to 1912.
2. B Proceedings from 1905 to 1912.

(c) Education Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to February 1912.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12, combined with Education and Education (Miscellaneous) Department's Indexes.

(d) Education (Miscellaneous) Department

1. A Proceedings for 1908.
2. B Proceedings from 1908 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1908-12.

(e) Finance Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes, 1906-12.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(f) Finance (Separate Revenue) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Consolidated Index from 1905 to March 1912.

(g) Deposit Cases

A Proceedings from 1906 to February 1912.

(h) General Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to February 1912.

4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(i) General (Miscellaneous) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(j) General (Municipal) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to 1911.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to 1912.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(k) General (Local Board) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to 1911.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(l) General (Military) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to January 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.
4. File Register for 1911.

(m) General (Archaeology) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(n) Immigration Branch

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to November 1910.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to January 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(o) Jails Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(p) Judicial Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to February 1911.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(q) Medical Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(r) Municipal (Miscellaneous) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to 1910.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to 1910.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(s) Police Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.
4. File Register for 1911.

(t) Political Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1905 to February 1912.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(u) Revenue Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Printed proceedings volumes from October 1906 to March 1912.
4. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.
5. File Register for 1912.

(v) Revenue (Agriculture) Department

1. A Proceedings from May 1908 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from May 1908 to March 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(w) Revenue (Forest) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(x) Public Works Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to December 1910.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to December 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(y) Public Works (Marine) Department

1. A Proceedings from December 1905 to December 1912.
2. B Proceedings from December 1905 to March 1912.

(z) Sanitation Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.
3. Consolidated Index, 1905-12.

(aa) Education (Registration) Department

1. A Proceedings from October 1905 to February 1912.
2. B Proceedings from October 1905 to March 1912.

(ab) Confidential Reports on Eastern Bengal and Assam Newspapers

Confidential Reports on Eastern Bengal and Assam Newspapers from 1907 to 1911.

(ii) Election Papers

The election papers consist of the electoral rolls, election petition cases and Election Tribunal Cases. As a rule the electoral rolls are destroyed periodically. However, the following electoral rolls together with other papers are preserved in this Archives:—

- (a) Electoral Rolls for the Central and the Bengal Legislatures for 1921, 1926, 1929, 1936 and 1945.
- (b) Electoral Rolls for the Parliamentary and the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Constituencies from 1952 onwards.
- (c) Election Petition Cases for 1936-37.
- (d) Election Tribunal Cases for 1939.

(iii) Character Books

There are two series of Character Books preserved in this Archives. The first series contains the service records of the covenanted officers, and the second series contains the service records of the officers of the subordinate executive service, employed in Bengal. In these books can be found the service records of W. S. Seton Karr,¹ R. C. Dutt,² S. N. Banerjee³ and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee,⁴ amongst others and they are arranged as under—

1. Character Books of the covenanted servants—11 Volumes.
2. Character Books of the officers of the subordinate executive service—11 Volumes.

¹Character Book of the Covenanted Civil Service, Book I, p. 1.

²*Ibid*, p. 331.

³*Ibid*, p. 333.

⁴Character Book of the officers of the subordinate executive service, Part II, Vol. 2, p. 115.

(iv) Covenants of the Civilians

The Covenants^o of the Civilians are the contracts of the service terms between the Secretary of State for India and the members of the Indian Civil Service employed in Bengal on the eve of their accepting appointment. These range from 1860 to 1920.

(v) Agreements of the I.P.S. Officers

These are the agreements between the members of the Indian Police Service and the Government regarding the terms for the appointment of those officers and they are available from 1924 onwards.

(vi) Establishment Registers

Abstract of Establishment of General, Judicial and Revenue including Salt, Opium and Marine Departments for 1859.

(vii) Convention for the Maintenance of the Grand Trunk Road

Convention for the permanent maintenance of that part of the Grand Trunk Road which lies within the French Territory of Chandernagore.

(viii) Papers Collected by the State Committee on the History of Freedom Movement

Papers collected by the State Committee on the history of Freedom Movement.

The collection contains 126 files and 17 booklets and magazines.

(ix) Confidential Reports on Native Newspapers

Confidential reports on Native Newspapers from 1873 onwards.

(Report for 1887 missing)

(x) Calcutta Gazette

The Calcutta Gazette for 1872, January-March 1882, July-December 1887 and from 1898 onwards. Index to the above from 1874 onwards.

(Gazettes for 1876 and 1877 wanting.)

- ^o 1. The Covenant bundle for 1871 contains the covenants of Surendra Nath Banerjee and Romesh Chandra Dutt.
- ^o 2. The Covenant bundle for 1905 contains the covenant of Gurusaday Dutta.
- ^o 3. The Covenant bundle for 1919 contains the covenant of S. K. Sinha.

APPENDIX

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
1. Appointment	Appointment, transfer, promotion, leave, powers and other service matters of gazetted officers, appointment of Justices of Peace, history of services, Departmental Examination, Commission of volunteer officers, marriage license, character report, kanungo's nomination rolls, etc.	No change	Merged with the Home Department.	No change
2. Political	Nizam family, Oudh family. Mysore family, agent with the King of Oudh, boundary, Orissa tributary states, Chotanagpur tributary mahals, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cooch Behar, Hill Tipperah, agent to Hill Tipperah, Sikkim, Bhootan, political pension,	Conference, Durbar, death returns of European officers, extradition, passport, political intelligence, visit of native chiefs, political movement, political crime, political suspect, press and publication, mercy petition, vigi-	Do	Do

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with		
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944
2. Political (Contd.)	political prisoner, political refugee, precedence, titles, medal, presents, salute, pilgrimage to Mecca, coinage in native states, quarantine, frontier, fair, etc.	lance over public meetings, dramatic performances, jail-convicts, crime, riot, criminal tribes, dacoities, disorderly house, policing, vehicle, gambling, guard, surveillance over kabulies, European vagrants etc. were added.	
3. Home ^o			Addresses, aviation, air raid, armistice, associations, Bengali Translator, conference, copy right, coroner, cypher code, death returns, dramatic performance, durbar, external affair, flag, fortnightly report on political situation, political conduct of government servants, press, publication, salutes, repatriation, Transport, borstal institutes, reformatories etc. were added.

^o Home Department was created on 1st April, 1937.

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
3. Home (Contd.)			political movement, territorial change, garrison, precedence, wireless, Afghan refugee, consular officer Haj, foreigner control, naturalisation, passport, pension to the Mutiny veterans, constitution, elections, appointment of ministers and governors, public order, prison, motor vehicle, poisonous drugs, cruelty to animals, communal question, service matters of the government servants, policing, jail, and other residuary subjects.	
4. Chief Minister's Department ^o	—	—	—	Press, propaganda, publicity, public service commission, organisation and

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^o Chief Minister's Department was created in 1946 and functioned for a short time.

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
4. Chief Minister's Department (Contd.)	---			methods, machinery of government, personnel management, constitution, elections, legislature etc. were transferred from the Home Department.
5. General*	Education including general, technical and medical; educational report, educational fund, boarding houses and hostels, teachers' training, tols, titles, madrasas, educational grants, scholarship, text books, educational gazette, midwifery training of European women, emigration, ecclesiastical matters, factories, zemindary dak, cess, naturalisation certificates, patronage of books, newspapers, book indents from U.K., report on native newspapers, re-	Burial board, burial grounds, graves, cemeteries, cremation, tombs, exhumation of remains, christian religious observance, archaeology, ethnology, ethnography, museum, Sanskrit manuscripts, literary pension, linguistic survey, cultural institutions, court language, treasure trove, organisation and methods, Local Self-Government, municipal administration, sanitation, etc. were added.	General Department was abolished in 1920 and its functions were transferred to the Education Department.	—

* General Department was renamed Education Department since 1920.

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
5. General (Contd.)	turns of stores, death report of European officers, administration report, orphans, circuit house, troops provision, encamping ground, volunteer corps, inventions; Bengali, Hindi and Uriya Translators, etc.			
Education			In 1920 the Education Department was first created and the subjects dealt with by the General Department were taken over by the new Department. In addition to these, charitable institutions, charities, religious endowments, registration of deeds, marriage registration, etc. were added.	No change

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
6. Revenue	Land revenue, rent, miscellaneous revenue, relation between landlord and tenant, forest, famine, agriculture, industry, archaeology, photology, language, fair, geology, mine, internal trade, etc.	Religious and charitable endowments, Court of Wards, escheat's estates, land record, revenue remission, markets, kanungo, partition, price list, settlement, survey, trusts, cess, non-political boundary, map, census, registration, farm, fishery, ferry, irrigation, meteorology, pests, sericulture, horticulture, land acquisition, resumption of land, circuit house, motor car, process, Decentralisation Committee etc.	Mineral development, famine relief, natural calamities, stamp duty, location and removal of head quarters, etc. were added.	No change

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
7. Judicial	<p>Upto 1885 Courts, legal business of Government, judicial administration, extradition, criminal tribes, criminal lunatics, riot, disturbance, vagrant, registration of Muhamedan marriage and divorce, reward for the destruction of wild animal, jurisdiction and boundary, intestate property, law book, law report, chronological table, Bengali almanac, inquest, infanticide, car festival, mail robbery, counterfeit coin, inspection of steam boiler and prime mover, conduct of judicial officer, return of criminal business, police force, arms, ammunition, guard, escort, cattle pound, jurisdiction of police station, police officer, ghatwali and other service, railway and</p>	<p>Upto 1914 Letter of administration, appointment and services of Sub-Judge, Munsif, Marriage Registrar, Kazi, Government pleader; arrest of fugitive offender, etc. were added.</p>	<p>Upto 1944 Arbitration, marriage, divorce, will, transfer of non-agricultural land, trust, trustee, contract, bankruptcy, insolvency, money lending, etc. were added.</p>	<p>Upto 1947 Registration of deeds, marriage registration, etc. were added.</p>

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
7. Judicial (Contd.)	coalieri accident, chowkidar, police gazette, jail, reformatory, jail products, transportation of convict, insane convict, registration, appointment of Sub-Registrar, etc.			
8. Marine	Formerly Marine was dealt with by the Finance Department.	Separate Marine Department was created with the following subjects—Land marks, buoys, carbide of calcium, disease on board, seamen, artillery practice, light houses, carriage of explosives, vessels, pilot service, shipping, smoke nuisance, steam boilers, storm signals, petroleum etc.	Merged with the Commerce and Labour Department.	No change

APPENDIX—Contd.

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
9. Legislative			Legislative Department was created after 1937. Drafting of bills, amendment of bills, scrutiny of bills, statutory notification, publication of enactments, legislative chambers, etc.	No change
10. Public Health and Local Self-Government	Matters relating to Public Health and Local Self-Government were dealt with by the Finance Department.	Matters relating to Public Health and Local Self-Government were dealt with by the General Department.	Local Self-Government, weights and measures, markets, fairs, public health, sanitation, food adulteration, smoke nuisance, gas, epidemics, health insurance, medical profession, medical education, Indian pilgrimage, pounds, cattle trespass, etc.	Water supply, birth and death registration, drug control, etc. were added.
11. Commerce and Labour	Matters relating to Commerce and Labour were dealt with by the Finance, Revenue and Political Departments.	Matters relating to Commerce and Labour were dealt with by the Political, Marine, Finance and Education Departments.	Minor ports, inland shipping and navigation, dockyard, mine, oil-field, inland trade and commerce, production and distribution of	Gas supply, weights and measures etc. were added.

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
11. Commerce and Labour (Contd.)			goods, corporation, cultural and scientific associations, partnership, boiler, electricity, factories, labour welfare, industrial unemployment, trade union, etc.	
12. Forest and Excise	Matters relating to Forest and Excise were dealt with by the Revenue and Finance Departments.	Matters relating to Forest and Excise were dealt with by the Revenue and Finance Departments.	Drug control, excise duties, liquor, opium, hemp, alcoholic medicinal and toilet preparations, forest, cinchona, protection of wild animals and birds, etc.	Functions merged with the Finance and Agriculture Departments.
13. Finance	Public finance—imperial and provincial, allocation of fund—imperial and provincial, local accounts, excluded area accounts, trust fund accounts, treasury, losses of public money, coinage, currency, security, contract contingency, irrecoverable account ad-	Indian companies, insurance, factory, industry, manufacture, mine, invention, geology, economic products, opening of combined telegraph office etc. were added.	Financial control over supply services, taxation, control over establishments, Public Service Commission, recruitment and discipline of government servants, government press, etc. were added.	Stamp duties, excise duties, taxation etc. were added.

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
13. Finance (Contd.)	justment, allowance, pension, gratuities excepting those payable from Police Fund, salt, stamp, excise, customs, public work cess, license tax, stationery, printing, road cess, gazetteer, staging bungalow, medical administration, medical service, non-criminal lunatics, lunatic asylum, hospital, dispensary, epidemic, medicine, botanical gardens, blind and incurable paupers, grant to medical institutions, glanders and farcy sanitation, vaccination, prevention of innoculation, vital statistics, municipal administration, municipal taxation, municipal assessment, municipal grant, municipal election, dandywallas, lodging house, jute ware house, hackney			

APPENDIX—*Contd.*

Name of the Department	Subjects dealt with			
	Upto 1885	Upto 1914	Upto 1944	Upto 1947
13. Finance (Contd.)	carriage, petroleum, tramways, Local Self-Government, marine, Calcutta Port Trust, ferry, trade, commerce, census, etc.			
14. Agriculture and Industries	Matters relating to Agriculture were dealt with by the Revenue and Finance Departments.	Matters relating to Agriculture and Industries were dealt with by the Revenue and Finance Departments.	Agriculture, industry, fisheries, middle class unemployment, rural development, zoological garden, botanical garden, purchase of stores, etc.	Re-named Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries Department. Cinchona, protection of wild birds, etc. were added.
15. Co-operative, Credit and Rural Indebtedness	Matters relating to Co-operative and Credit were dealt with by the Revenue Department.	Matters relating to Co-operative and Credit were dealt with by the Revenue Department.	Debt conciliation, co-operative societies, etc.	Re-named Co-operative, Credit and Relief Department. Land development, agricultural loan, famine relief, natural calamities, etc. were added.
16. Communication and Works; Works and Buildings; Irrigation and Waterways; Civil Supplies	We have no records of these Departments.			