The British gained supremacy in the Assam Region after the conclusion of the First Burmese War - 1824-25. In the early days of its rule, the East India Company had no desire to take over the administration of the entire area and instructed its First Agent to the Governor-General of India in Calcutta, Mr. David Scott, to hand over the portion of Assam known as 'Muttook', that is the Upper Assam area from Golaghat to Deibrugarh, to the last Ahom ruler, Purandar Singh, who had accepted the East India Company's suzerainty. The area further east, however, consisting of the Sadiya and Bangapara tracts, was to remain directly under the British, and the Ahom ruler, Purandar Singh, was guaranteed protection against further invasion by the Burmese by the stationing of troops (The Assam Light Infantry) in that area. The Ahom ruler was to enjoy uncontrolled civil Power within his jurisdiction. This arrangement was to continue till 1839 when the entire Sadiya garrison lost their lives in the Hmar-Kuruti-Singpo rising in which the Ahom ruler, Purandar Singh, was suspected to have a hand. This incident together with Purandar Singh alleged mismanagement of his dominion resulted in the taking over of the whole of the Assam Valley under the direct control of the British administration. Dibrugarh was made the headquarter of Upper Assam in 1840 and Guwahati remained the headquarter of the Agent to the Governor-General till 1860. The Provincial
Provincial Capital was first shifted to Cherrapunji in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and then finally to Shillong.

**THE CACHAR AND JORHAT LEVIES.**

With the gradual reduction in troops in the subsequent period there was simultaneous increase in Police. There was also the simultaneous evolution of the semi-military forces like the 'Cachar Levy' and the 'Jorhat Levy', all of which were to merge finally into the Military Police and later the Assam Rifles. Assam was finally constituted into a Chief Commissioner's Province in 1874, with Colonel R. N. Keatings, C.S.I., as the first Chief Commissioner.

**CREATION OF THE GENERAL POLICE DISTRICT 1874.**

The first General Police District for Assam was constituted under Government of India's Notification No. 313 dated 12th September, 1974, under the Police Act V of 1861. It was to consist of eleven districts, namely Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Garo Hills, K & J. Hills, Naga Hills, Cachar, Goalpara and Sylhet. This General Police District later came to be coterminous with the territories within the Province of Assam by Government of India's Notification No. 291 dated 22nd March, 1912 (After Independence it has now been extended to include the bordering 'Char' or river areas of Assam under State Government's Notification No. HFL.200/55 dated 25th May, 1962.

The strength of the Civil Police in 1874, when the Chief
Chief Commissionership of Assam was constituted, stood as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspectors of Police</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Inspectors of Police</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Constables</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constable</td>
<td>2,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,352</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Assistant Superintendents of Police in the hill districts were employed in all the departments of administration and were not only confined to the Police Department. Out of the total force, 54 Officers and 399 Constables were employed on guard and escort duties and the remaining Police force was utilised on general Police duties, and to garrison frontier posts, since no separate frontier Military Police existed for the purpose. While forwarding the 'Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Assam, 1874', Mr. H. Luttman Johnson, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam noted that: "When the Chief Commissioner took charge of the administration, the question of organising a Frontier Police apart from the Civil Police was pending. Many most important questions of Police Administration have been postponed until the question of organising a Frontier Police should be decided."
The following table regarding the proportion of policemen employed on general duties to area and population in the several plains districts is of historical interest:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of Police</th>
<th>Area in Square Miles</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Proportion of Police to Area (Sq. Miles)</th>
<th>Proportion of Police to Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>4433</td>
<td>4,44,000</td>
<td>1 to 18.70</td>
<td>1 to 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>3631</td>
<td>5,61,631</td>
<td>1 to 14.64</td>
<td>1 to 2264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrang</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>3413</td>
<td>2,36,009</td>
<td>1 to 16.89</td>
<td>1 to 1168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nowgong</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>3648</td>
<td>2,56,390</td>
<td>1 to 28</td>
<td>1 to 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibsagar</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>2413</td>
<td>2,96,589</td>
<td>1 to 10.40</td>
<td>1 to 1278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakhimpur</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>3145</td>
<td>1,21,267</td>
<td>1 to 10.55</td>
<td>1 to 407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cachar</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>2,05,027</td>
<td>1 to 22.94</td>
<td>1 to 3661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>5883</td>
<td>17,19,539</td>
<td>1 to 19.36</td>
<td>1 to 6185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 1681 27,351 38,40,452 1 to 16.27 1 to 2344

The proportion of Police to the area of the whole Province at 1 Policeman to 16.27 Sq. Miles was as follows when compared with other provinces at the time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Proportion of Police to Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>1 to 10.1 Square Miles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oudh</td>
<td>1 to 4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>1 to 5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>1 to 7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengal</td>
<td>1 to 9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The proportion of the Police to Population at 1 to 2344 persons compared as follows with other Provinces at the time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>1 to 988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oudh</td>
<td>1 to 1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjan</td>
<td>1 to 1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western Provinces</td>
<td>1 to 965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>1 to 2474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengal (Behar Division)</td>
<td>1 to 5316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would thus be seen that so far as the plains districts of Assam (including Sylhet) were concerned the Police 'Ara' ratio was considerably higher than in certain other Provinces at the time. This may be due to the fact that the hill districts (including Naga Hills) were not taken into account in the table. Regarding the Police population ratio the prevailing situation in Assam was almost the same as in Orissa although it was much less (by more than half) of the available ratio for the Behar Division of Bengal.

REORGANIZATION INTO CIVIL AND ARMED POLICE : 1878.

There was scarcely much change in the sanctioned strength of the Police of all ranks during 1875, 1876 and 1877. However, in 1878 considerable changes were introduced in Assam Police by way of augmenting the cadre of Gazetted Officers, increasing the number of subordinates officers.
Officers and Constables, while the rates of pay of the force were materially improved. These changes were introduced at the initiative of the Government of India who had desired a proper re-organization of Assam Police and its division into two bodies of Civil and Armed Police. The Scheme for re-organization of the Assam Police on these lines which had been submitted in July, 1877 received the final sanction of the Government of India on 5th March, 1878. While accepting most of the recommendations submitted by the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the Government of India did not agree to a much greater enhancement in the cadre of European Officers and as a result only two more posts for European Officers were added to the force, which now became 13 for the Province. There was increase of 29 subordinate officers and 295 Constables. This increase in the force and the revision of rates of pay increased the Police Budget by over fifty thousand rupees per annum. Much of this increase in force was absorbed in the districts of Sylhet and Naga Hills. The entire force was now also divided into bodies - Civil and Armed Police. The relative strength of these bodies in the proportion 3 to 4 were now as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil Police</th>
<th>Armed Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspector</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Inspector</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Constables</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constables</td>
<td>1272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buglers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1535</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The initial sanction accorded for entertaining Civil and Armed Police in each district was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Civil Police</th>
<th>Armed Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrang</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nowgong</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibsagar</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakhimpur</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaohar</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khasi Hills</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garo Hills</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naga Hills</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>263</strong></td>
<td><strong>1272</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of encounters with Angami Nagas at Khonoma and the raid on Baladhan Tea Estate in Oaohar in which the Manager, Mr. Blyth, and many of his coolies were killed, both of which incidents occurred in 1879, the strength of the Naga Hills Police and Oaohar Frontier Police was raised by an immediate sanction by the Chief Commissioner. This was approved by the Government of India in their letter No. 1129 dated 16th June, 1880. As a result, there was a permanent increase in the Naga Hills Police by 19 Officers, 200 men and 6 buglers, while the strength of the Oaohar Frontier Police was raised by 8 Officers, 100 men and 2 buglers. Totally,
Totally, the strength of the Regular Police in the Province was permanently augmented by 2 Inspectors, 4 Sub-Inspectors, 21 Head Constables and 300 Constables and 8 buglers on account of the disturbances in Naga Hills. At the end of 1880, the rank-wise break up was as follows: 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspectors</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Inspectors</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Constables</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constables</td>
<td>3,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buglers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CLASSIFICATION INTO CIVIL AND FRONTIER POLICE : 1881.**

By 1880, two distinct types of Police in the districts had finally emerged. There was first the Civil Police employed in the Districts for prevention and detection of crime and other miscellaneous duties enjoined upon the Police. Then there was the Frontier Police, a Semi-military body, menning Frontier Outposts and performing general Police duties as well in Naga Hills and Caro Hills, where there was no Civil Police.

Till 1880, the two types of Police, namely the Civil Police and the Frontier Police, were not clearly differentiated but known together as the Bagular Police. However, in 'Resolution' on the Report of Police Administration in Assam for the year 1880, the Chief Commissioner insisted that henceforth a clear distinction shall be maintained in
in the administration reports on the two types of police.

In 1881, the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police stood at 1529 and that of the Frontier Police at 2,483 (excluding Superior Officers in both cases). Against this, the actual strength entertained during the year was 1516 and 2,338 respectively. The Civil Police was short of sanctioned strength by 13 Constables only, whereas a large number of vacancies existed in the Frontier Police and the Naga Hills Police alone was short of 3 Head Constables, 101 Constables and 6 Buglers. The posting of the 13 Superior Police Officers of the rank of District and Assistant Superintendent of Police was as follows :- 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>District Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrang</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nowgong</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibsagar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>District Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakhimpur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sadiya)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>District Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cachar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>- do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunjong</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HQ. of N.C. Hills)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garo Hills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>- do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naga Hills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>- do-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 13
Thus Officers of the rank of District Superintendent of Police were in-charge of the Police in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Sylhet, and Cachar only. Nowgong, Garo Hills and Naga Hills were in-charge of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

**AMALGAMATION OF MUNICIPAL POLICE WITH DISTRICT POLICE: 1882**

In 1882, the strength of the Civil Police increased by 8 Head Constables and 72 Constables as a result of the amalgamation of Municipal Police with the Civil Police in consequence of the desire of the Government of India that the Municipalities should be relieved of this charge. At their own request the Municipalities of Sylhet and Shillong were allowed to retain charge of their Police. The 1509 total strength of the Civil Police, including Officer and men, was now distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duty</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. On Court duty at District and Sub-Divisional headquarters</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. At Thanas and Out Posts</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Miscellaneous duties, including Orderly duty, Guards etc.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reserve</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Recruits</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sick, leave and other vacancies</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,344</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus 1267 officers and men of the Civil Police were employed on purely Police duties, that is, including reserve
reserve but excluding guard duty, sick, leave, vacancies and recruits. The proportions of the Civil Police thus employed on purely Police duty to area and population area 1 to 26.7 Square miles and 1 to 3,672 persons.

Creation of District Armed Reserves: 1883:

The re-organization of the Police in 1883 resulted in the creation of the Armed Civil Police which was to substitute the Frontier Police detachments in each district for watch and ward of treasuries, courts and jails and providing escorts. In line with the policy of the Government to give a more distinctly military character to the Frontier Police in order to enable it to undertake the task of guarding the frontiers of the Province entirely, it was decided to withdraw all Frontier Police from duties in the districts and to concentrate the force in the four districts, namely Cachar, Naga Hills, Lakhimpur and Garo Hills to be in readiness to undertake expeditions in defence or across the frontiers whenever necessary. The Chief Commissioner of Assam had at first submitted a proposal to the Government of India asking for a grant of Rs. 80,000/- to increase the Frontier Police by 4 Subedar, 7 Jamadar, 30 Havildar and 238 Sepoys, and also to organize a force of Armed Civil Police consisting of 55 Head Constables and 342 Constables to perform guard and escort duties in the districts. The Government of India replied that it was not possible to spare more than Rs. 40,000/- half of the amount actually asked for by the Chief Commissi-
Commissioner. To the revised proposals submitted by the Chief Commissioner sanction was finally accorded to a sum of Rs. 50,000/- to enable the Chief Commissioner "to carry out the reforms now recommended in a satisfactory manner, leaving any further additional change to be met from Provincial Revenues". Under the revised scheme, the strength of subordinate executive police was finally increased by 56 subordinate officers and 383 men, out of which 46 subordinate officers and 301 men formed the new 'Armed Civil Police, and the remainder went as an addition to the Frontier Police. The distribution of the newly formed Armed Civil Police was as follows in 1883:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>S.I.</th>
<th>U.C.</th>
<th>Const.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kamrup</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Darrang</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Nowgong</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sibsagar</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sylhet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1 45 301 347

It was not possible to substitute Frontier Police in all the districts by the Armed Civil Police during the year.

As desired by the Chief Commissioner in the 'Resolution' on the Police Administration Report for 1883, the distinction between Armed and Ordinary Civil Police was abolished henceforth and the amalgamated sanctioned strength of the force in 1884 stood at 1975. This included 9 District and Assis
and Assistant Superintendents of Police. Besides the Armed Civil Police which was mainly employed on guard and escort duties in the districts, the Civil Police proper manned 94 Police Stations and Outposts in 1884.

**PROPORTION OF POLICE STATION TO AREA : 1884.**

The district-wise break-up of the Police Stations and Outposts, showing the area of jurisdiction, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of Police Stations and Outpost</th>
<th>Area of each District in Sq. miles</th>
<th>Proportion of Police Stations &amp; Outposts to area in Sq. miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Goalpara</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3,953</td>
<td>1 to 209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kamrup</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td>1 to 280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Darrang</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3,418</td>
<td>1 to 488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Nowgong</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3,417</td>
<td>1 to 488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sibsagar</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,855</td>
<td>1 to 408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Lakhimpur</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3,724</td>
<td>1 to 532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sylhet</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5,381</td>
<td>1 to 186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cachar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>1 to 257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>94</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,667</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 to 294</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, the average area commanded by a Police Station or an Out Post was 294 sq. miles in 1884. Judging by this criterion, the most 'policed' district then was Sylhet, followed by Goalpara; and the least 'policed' district was Sibsagar, followed by Darrang and Nowgong.
PUNITIVE POLICE: /

0 the total Civil Police, Armed Civil Police proper of 277 Officers (including 9 District and Assistant Superintendents of Police) and 1351 men in 1885. In addition to this strength "extra Police" and "Punitive Police" were entertained at a number of places. Thus is Nowgong one Head Constable and 4 Constables were entertained to accompany the Railway Survey Party from January to April, 1885. The cost of this extra Police was borne by the Survey Department. Similarly on requisition from the Executive Engineer, Upper Assam Division of the Railway Survey Party, an extra guard of 1 Head Constable and 4 Constables was entertained. Two additional Constables were added to the extra police of 1 Head Constable and 8 Constables were added to the extra Police of 1 Head Constable and 8 Constables sanctioned for the Kolilamukh State Railway at Rs.7/- per Constable per month. Extra Police consisting of 151, One Head Constable and 7 Constables were also stationed at the Margherita Railway Station. A number of extra policemen were also employed to guard the 'Sadar' Jail and other temporary sub-jails in the Sylhet District. The 'Punitive Police' was mainly employed in Goalpara, Sylhet and Khasi Hills districts. In Goalpara, a guard of 2 Head Constables and 12 Constables was entertained under Section 13 of the Police Act V of 1861 on an application made by the elder Rani of Bijni. This Punitive Police was stationed at Salbari and Dumiria for preventing disturbances which had arisen due to land disputed between the RANIS and the ryots. The cost of the force was
was borne by the Banis, although later on after considering the representation submitted by the Banis, the Chief Commissioner decided that half the cost should be borne by the Banis and the other half by the inhabitants of the villages concerned. In the Khasi Hills, after a riot which occurred between the people of Nongjiri and Sobar, Punitive Police was posted at Nongjiri and Sobar at the cost of the quarreling villagers.

"Punitive Police" under Section 15 of the Police Act of 1861 had to be employed in Sylhet and Goalpara districts during 1888. One Head Constable and 5 constables were quartered at village Loharpura under Karimganj P.S. for a period of 3 months. Of the 21 Constables quartered at Jhongaon under Bagragar O.P., 19 had to be retained throughout the year. Due to continued disturbances in the Bijni Estate in Goalpara, 2 Head Constables and 14 Constables were entertained at the Timber Depots and villages within Habraghat and Khuntaghat parganas. The 'Special Police' appointed in 1886 to help the regular Civil Police in supressing riots in the Bijni Estate were also retained throughout the year. As regards 'Extra Police' a force consisting of 1 Sub-Inspector, 5 Head Constables and 50 Constables was employed for 7 months at the Public Works Jail at Telikhat in Sylhet at a cost of Rs.3,509/- which was paid by the Public Works Department. Thus, the regular Civil Police was assisted by generally three different types of auxiliary Police in those days - the 'Punitive Police' the cost of which was realized from the erring inha-
inhabitants of the locality; the "Special Police", the cost of which was paid by the requisitioning private persons or institution, and the "Extra Police" which were financed by the requisitioning department of the Government of Railways or the Public Works Department. The strength of the regular Civil Police stood at 273 officers and 1412 men in 1888 and this strength was far from sufficient for meeting the various demands of duties placed on the Police Department. The Armed Branch of the Civil Police known as the "Armed Civil Police" was a meagre 46 officers and 303 men only and the nature of their duties entailing provision of guards and escorts and other miscellaneous duties was sufficient to keep them overworked most of the time.

Punitive Police was employed in Sylhet, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Naga Hills during 1891. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, a force of one Head Constable and 8 Constables was located at village Lairityngew in the semi-independent territory of the Siyem of Cherra in consequence of a murder which was hushed up by the villagers, Rs.675-15-7 were recovered from the Siyem of Cherra as the cost of the guard. Special Police under Section 17 of the Police Act V of 1861 was appointed in give places in Sylhet District. The largest number of Special Police were employed in Goalpara District under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner, Goalpara Sub-division. Altogether 65 persons were appointed for three months from 6th October, 1891 to keep the peace between the Rani of Bijn. As regards "Extra Police" the force of 2 Head Constables and 30 constables entertained in connection with the Lushai Expeditions in the
in the previous year was continued for some months during
1891. A number of Extra Police were entertained in Kamrup, 
Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts in connec-
tion with the Manipur Expedition during the year. In fact, 
from all the Assam Valley districts even regular Police had 
to be transferred for transport duty in connection with the 
Manipur Expedition and extra hands were taken on whenever 
necessary. All the charges connected with these Extra 
Police were debited to the cost of the Manipur Expedition. 
Apart from this a number of extra duties were also imposed 
upon the regular Civil and Armed Civil Police during the 
year. A number of Police Officers continued to be deputed 
for census work for some months of the year. The treasure 
with the staff of engineers engaged on the Bengal-Assam Rail-
way had to be guarded by escorts from Kamrup and Nowgong 
districts. As a result of disputed between the two Ranas of 
Bijni Estate, 2 Head Constables and 7 Constables of the Goal-
para District Police had to be posted for about 6 months 
at Dumuria to keep the peace and prevent riots between foll-
owers of the two Ranas. Disputes also developed in Goalpara 
District between the Zamindars of Gauripur and Parbatjower 
and as a result one Sub-Inspector and 6 Constables had to 
be posted for about two months at Saresswar 'Bil' to prevent 
riots. The effect of the large number of extra duties impos-
ed upon the police in Sibsagar had, according to the Deputy 
Commissioner, resulted in the increased number of casualties 
in the force. "The last year has been a exceptionally hard 
one for the police. Their work has increased in nearly
nearly every direction. Owing to hard work and difficulty for obtaining leave, service in the force is far from being as popular as it should be. It is difficult to get suitable recruits, and the number of departmental and judicial punishments in significant when the effect on the personnel of the force is considered." Obviously, the term 'nervous breakdown' had not gained popular usage by the time.

**TERRITORIAL REORGANIZATION 1894-95.**

Certain important changes in Thanas and Outposts were carried out during 1894. In Cachar, the Outpost at Nagdiggaram under Lakhimpur Police Station was transferred to Silchar Police Station as an experiment. This change was finally sanctioned in the Chief Commissioner's Notification No. 5727-J dated the 10th September, 1894. In Kamrup, the following changes were introduced by authority of Chief Commissioner's Notification No. 4673-J dated the 26th July, 1894:

(a) The Police Outpost at North Guwhati was abolished.

(b) The Police Station at Palashbari was reduced to an Outpost.

(c) The Outpost at Singra was removed to Boko.

(d) The Outpost at Singra was removed to Boko.

(e) A new Police Station was opened at Rangiya.

(f) The Outpost at Chaigaon was converted into a Police Station.

(g) The Outpost at Durakahara was transferred from Guwhati Police Station to the newly opened Rangiya Police Station.
station.

(h) The Outpost at Tambulpur was also transferred from Nalbari to Mangiya Police Station.

The reasons for making the above changes were stated to be better supervision over the Police in the interior and to facilitate better access to the Police by the public. Another change made was in the Garo Hills district where the Police Outpost at Putimari was removed to Garobadha which was nearer to Tura.

The next year two new Outposts were opened in Cachar; one at Katlicherra under Hailakandit Sub-Division and the other at Borkhola under Sadar (Silchar) Sub-Division. Having been first opened as an experimental measure their permanent retention was later sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner in Notification No. 4641 -J & 4642-J dated the 3rd October, 1895. Certain changes were also carried out in Goalpara district under authority of Notification No. 11-J dated the 3rd January, 1895:

(a) The Outposts at Agomoni, Mansochar and Lakhimpur were converted into Police Stations.

(b) The Police Station at Sukchar was reduced to an Outpost.

(c) Salpara Outpost was transferred under Krisnai Police Station.

(d) The Outposts at Jamadarghat, Baida, Agia, Khagra-bari and Kachugaon were abolished, although Agia Baida and Kachugaon were instated as Road Posts.
More stress was laid on road patrolling by the Civil Police during the year and the cart-road from Burnihat to Shillong was regularly patrolled twice a week by the Khasi Hills Police. In Garo Hills, the Constables carried out patrolling and from Turia and Garobandha and Dalu also acted as patrol on these roads. Due to the improved law and order situation, the system of patrolling the trunk road from Shillong to Dibrugarh in the Assam Valley districts was abolished by orders of the Chief Commissioner conveyed in his Secretary's letter No. 77 Police - 2555 J, dated the 21st May, 1896.

Only those portions of the trunk road were to be patrolled now in which the Deputy Commissioner or the District Superintendent of Police considered that road patrol was advisable.

**TOTAL STRENGTH : 1896:**

At the end of 1896 the sanctioned total strength of the Civil and Armed Civil Police stood at 2,627, against which the actual strength entertained was 2,223. The break-up of officers and men sanctioned and actually entertained was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sanctioned</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District and Assistant Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Police</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inspectors</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sub-Inspectors</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Head Constables</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>234</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: 1923 officer strength.*
Bank Sanctioned Actual
B/F- 304 300
5. Constables 1570 1540
Armored Civil Police.
6. Head Constables 48 47
7. Constables 357 349
Total 2279 2336

Under head 'District and Assistant' Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police employed as Commandant, Garo Hills Military Police Battalion was not included, while the two Officers employed as Sub-divisional Officers in North Caohar and Mokokchung were shown included. Due to the nature of duties involved it was considered essential to post Police Officers instead of members of the Civil Service as Sub-Divisional Officers in North Caohar and Mokokchung.

329 men were enlisted in the Civil and Armed Civil Police. The largest number of these (121) consisted of Assamese caste Hindus, excluding Brahmans, thirty of whom were also enrolled in addition to the above. Fifteen Assamese Kalitas were shown to have been recruited, while the Cheiris and Rajputs numbered 25. The Kaoharis and Babbas recruited numbered 30. The Annual Police Administration Reports of those days paid special attention to the patronage of Muhammadans which dealt with separately in a special paragraph. Among the 31 total Muhammadans recruited during 1896
1896 there were only 4 Assamese Muslims and 2 Hindusthani Muslims, while the largest number of Muslims recruited were Bengalis (25). The Assamese Muslims either did not have any predilection for Police Service or were not preferred by the British administration. The total number of Muslims in the Civil and Armed Civil Police and Military Police by the end of 1896 consisted of 4 native officers and 4 non-commissioned officers in the Military Police and 2 Inspectors, 9 Sub-Inspectors, 29 Head Constables, 2 Clerks and 2 Muharrirs in the Civil and Armed Civil Police excluding obviously the 31 recruits constables taken in during the year.

Owing to the formation of a Civil Police force in the Lushai Hills, the total sanctioned strength of the Civil Police increased by 130 during 1898, which included other additions such as the addition of 1 Sub-Inspector and 14 Constables to the Cachar Civil Police, the raising of the strength of the Nowgon-g Armed Police by 1 Head Constable and 10 Constables, the increase in the Armed Civil Police of Goalpara by 2 Head Constables and 10 Constables and some other minor changes. There were no significant changes in the location of thanas and outposts in 1898. In the following year the amalgamations of the outposts at Bijni and Sidli into an investigating centre at Popragaon as also those of Fakiragram and Bagribari into an investigating centre at Bilashipara in the Goalpara district were sanctioned. In Nowgong district, the outpost at Dharamtol
Dharamtol was transferred under Nokhala Police Station and that at Doboka was transferred under Jamunamukh Police Station. As a result of the transfer of certain plains portion of the Naga Hills district to the Nowgong and Sibsagar districts, the Civil Police Outposts at Dimapur and Barpathar were transferred to Sibsagar District. The Railway Outpost at Luming, Diphu and Rangapahar were transferred to Nowgong district and Railway Outposts at Bokajan was transferred to Sibsagar district. The Outpost at Dorakahara in the Kamrup district was removed to Kamalpur.

REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS 1898.

The report submitted by Mr. A.W. Davis, I.C.S., Inspector General of Police, Assam to the Government in June, 1898 on the Re-organisation of Civil Police in Assam dealt with the following three proposals, namely:

(1) The discontinuance of deductions of 6 pies in the rupees from the pay of the Civil Police towards the superannuation fund.

(2) The re-organisation of the investigating staff by the substitution of Sub-Inspectors for Head Constables as investigating Officers, and the improvement of the position of the officers on this staff by -

(a) The grant of special allowances to officers-in-charge of stations.

(b) The grant of pony allowance to investigating Officers other than those in receipt of station allowances.
(3) The re-organization of the non-investigating force, including the grant of special prosecuting allowances to Court Sub-Inspectors at Sadar and Sub-divisional Courts.

Regarding the first proposal namely the discontinuance of deductions from the pay of the Civil Police towards the superannuation fund, a proposal had earlier been negatived by the Chief Commissioner on financial grounds. However, in 1898, Mr. Davis reiterated that this concession which was already being enjoyed by the Civil Police in Bengal since 1891 should also be conferred upon their colleagues in Assam. After examining the financial details of the proposal, Mr. Davis came to the conclusion that if both the 'Civil Police' and the 'Civil Armed Police' were exempted from deduction on account of the superannuation fund it would cost the Government Rs. 7,414/- only per annum. Considering what an annoyance this deduction had become to policemen in Assam this total annual cost to Government was not much.

The second proposal regarding re-organization of the investigating staff by substituting Sub-Inspectors for Head Constables as investigating officers was based on the long-felt need of improving the standard of investigation. Mr. Davis supported his arguments with statistics of cognizable and non-cognizable cases and figures relating to unnatural death cases. These statistics are interesting to study for they reveal the volume of crime in Assam at the time. Thus in the five years period preceding 1897 on the total average number of investigations in cognizable cases, and 224 unnatural death cases. The volume of cognizable crime in
in the Surma Valley was more than double the number in the Assam Valley. The volume of non-cognizable offences investigated by the police was more or less equal for both the Surma Valley as well as Assam Valley. But then again between 1892-97, the number of unnatural death cases investigated by the police in the Surma Valley went four times the number investigated in the Assam Valley. This could be due to much larger incidence of such cases in the Surma Valley or perhaps due to the greater care with which the Police took note of these cases there.

Working out his statistics in 1898 for the period 1892-97 Mr. Davis found the unnatural average of investigations to each investigating Officer of 72 in the Surma Valley and 70 in the Assam Valley. Areas in Assam were so large that it was quite impossible to make any considerable reduction in the number of investigating centres. The average area covered by an investigating centre was 263 square miles in the Surma Valley and 367 square miles in the Assam Valley. It was proposed to reduce the number of investigating centres totally by 4, that is one in Sylhet and 3 in Goalpara. But at the same time it was found necessary to propose two new investigating centres, one at Behali in Darrang and another at Chabua in Lakhimpur district. All investigating centres were henceforth to be divided into 3 classes: Class I having three or more investigating officers, Class II having two Investigating Officers and Class III having one investigating officer only. Thus of the total 109 investigating
investigating centres in Assam there were to be 10 belonging
to Class I, 38 belonging to Class II and 61 belonging to
Class III. At most district or sub-divisional headquarters
a Head Constable was provided for doing station work and to
help the Sub-Inspector or Investigating Officer by making
miscellaneous enquiries, inspecting excise shops, etc. The
re-organisation of the investigating staff by substituting
Sub-Inspectors for Head Constables increased the total streng­
th of Sub-Inspectors in Assam from 45 to 158. The number
of Head Constables was reduced from 134 to 23 only. 7 Head
Constables out of these 23 were to be in-charge of remote
and unimportant outposts, while the remaining 16 were to
assist the Sub-Inspector or Investigating Officers at the
Investigating centres.

A re-grading of Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables was
also proposed by adopting the Bengal System. As regards Sub-
Inspector there were to be five grades instead of the exist­
ing 4 grades. For Head Constables there were to be 3 grad­
es only instead of the existing five grades. Instead of
having 15 per cent 1st grade Sub-Inspectors with pay Rs. 80/-
p.m. there were to be only six per cent 1st grade Sub-Ins­
pectors on the same pay. The pay of the 5th grade 32 per cent
Sub-Inspectors was to be Rs. 30/- p.m. On the whole, as a
result of this re-organization the average cost (pay) per
Sub-Inspector was reduced to Rs. 51/- p.m. instead of Rs. 60/-
although, as stated earlier, the total number of Sub-Inspect­
tors increased from 45 to 158. Similarly the average cost
cost (pay) per Head Constable now became Rs. 14-6 annas instead of Rs. 15-7 annas. Fifteen per cent of the Head Constables were to be in the 1st grade carrying pay Rs. 20/- p.m., 40 per cent in the Second grade carrying pay Rs. 15/- p.m. and the remaining 45 per cent in the 3rd grade carrying pay Rs. 12/- p.m. These figures sound fantastic considering the cost of living today, 76 years after.

Regarding the grant of special allowance to Sub-Inspectors in-charge of stations, Mr. Davis recommended the Bengal rates. This allowance was to be Rs. 20/- p.m. for 1st Class Station; Rs. 15/- p.m. for Second Class Station and Rs. 10/- for Third Class Station. All Superior Officers on the investigating staff were also to be given a pony allowance of Rs. 5/- p.m.

In the rank of Constable, this re-organisation scheme proposed an increase of 7 Constables only, i.e. from 867 to 874. The average pay of a Constable then was Rs. 7.8 p.m. and Mr. Davis good-humouredly stressed that this would mean an additional financial burden of Rs. 630/- per annum only.

On the question of re-organisation of the non-investigating staff, that is force meant for guards, Magistrates, Courts, escorts, miscellaneous duties, municipalities, ordinary reserve etc., it was proposed to improve the constitution of this force from 16 Sub-Inspectors to 30 Sub-Inspectors, 65 Head Constables to 54 Head Constables and from
from 660 Constables to 665 Constables. The increase in the rank of Sub-Inspectors was due to the necessity of providing at least one Sub-Inspector to each Sub-Divisional Court. The Reserve Officer at every district headquarter was also to be a Sub-Inspector henceforth instead of an H.O. as had been the practice until then. The Sub-Inspectors in-charge of Court Offices were to get an allowance of Rs. 20/- at 'Sadar' and Rs. 10/- at Sub-Divisional Courts. There were totally 11 'Sadar' and 12 Sub-Divisional Courts in Assam at the time.

The main aim of the Re-organization Scheme of 1898 was to improve the existing standard of investigation by providing Sub-Inspectors in-charge of investigating centres, who are mainly fall on the rank of Head Constables, whose numbers was greatly reduced. The total financial implication of the Scheme was Rs.54,660/- per each year till the scheme was completely carried out. Since it was impossible to fill up the very large increase in the number of Sub-Inspectors and only a few qualified Head Constables could be considered for fast promotion, it was proposed to fill up these vacancies over a period of ten years.

RE-ORGANIZATION : 1900

The year 1900 was noticeable in that scheme for the re-organization of the Civil Police was sanctioned by the Govt. of India. Consequent to the new scheme which was put into effect from 1st April, 1900, the amalgamation of the Assam Civil Police with the Civil Police was carried out.
with effect from 1st August, 1900.\textsuperscript{21} The new scheme envisaged substantial changes in the strength of Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables and it was decided that the increase in the number of Sub-Inspectors and the decrease in the number of Head Constables should be spread over a period of ten years in the interests of economy as well as to ensure the regular intake of superior type of officers for investigation of crimes by direct appointment by a system of examination. One of the principal aims of the re-organization, in fact, was to raise the standard of the Police Officers at the Sub-Inspector level by direct intake of superior quality. Compared with the total sanctioned strength of 2,450 of the Civil and Armed Civil Police o/ in 1899, after re-organization the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police (including the Armed Reserve) now stood at 2,748 at the end of the year 1900.

The details of the comparative strengths were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanctioned Strength</th>
<th>1899</th>
<th>1900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. District and Assistant Superintendents of Police</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inspectors</td>
<td>....</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sub-Inspectors</td>
<td>....</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Head Constables</td>
<td>....</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Constables</td>
<td>....</td>
<td>2,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,450</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,748</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main changes were in the sanctioned strength of Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables respectively. As a result of the re-organization, the number of Sub-Inspectors was
was increased by 165, while the number of Head Constables was reduced by 105. The number of Constables was increased by 248.

In pursuance of the Policy of phase change over, the number of Head Constables was reduced by 12 in 1901 and 9 Sub-Inspectors were newly appointed by direct entry from amongst candidates who had passed the University Entrance Examination. The idea of having a proper entrance examination was not liked and preference in selection of Sub-Inspectors was given to qualified men from respectable families. In the following year 6 Sub-Inspectors were directly appointed and the number of Head Constables was reduced by 8. During 1903 the number of Sub-Inspectors newly appointed was 15, but the number of Head Constables reduced was 2 only. As a result, at the end of 1903 fifty-two Head Constables were being entertained in excess of the sanctioned number, while there was a shortage of 84 Sub-Inspectors and 56 Constables according to the revised sanction. There were complaints about the heavy guard and escort duties from various districts. The Inspector General of Police remarked that there could be no doubt that the Assam Civil Police were undermanned and in the Assam Valley, underpaid as well. A perusal of the 'Morning Report' in any district would show that the number of men 'present and fit for duty' was quite inadequate since this category formed the reserve from which guards for both jails and treasury had to be relieved and escorts to be furnished. Due to this insufficiency
insufficiency of forces the men on treasury and Jail guards both at the district and sub-divisional headquarters remained on 'Standing guard' duties for days and sometimes for weeks together. The men scarcely got any 'nights in bed' and in consequence could not perform their duties as sentries efficiently. In the Army, the minimum number of 'nights in bed' allowed for a soldier was four, but the Civil Police (including the Armed Reserve) would be quite content if this was possible even twice a month. It was impossible to give any material help to the portion of the Civil Police doing guard and escort duties by withdrawing men from the thanas and outposts, since such a step would weaken the force employed on investigations and miscellaneous inquiries. Even if crime was light under some of the outlying police stations and the average number of investigations per head of the investigating staff was small, the areas commanded by the police stations and outposts were so large and the means of communication so poor that the staff sanctioned for each unit was barely sufficient for its needs.

In the following year ten more Sub-Inspectors were directly appointed but there was only a slight decrease in the number of Head Constables by 8. As a result by the end of 1940 the last year of the Chief Commissionership of Assam, 48 Head Constables remained in excess of the sanctioned strength, while on the other hand 74 Sub-Inspectors and 30 Constables were short of the revised sanction under the re-organisation Scheme of 1900.
The year 1905 witnessed the formation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam by the addition of the 14 districts of Eastern Bengal to the Chief Commissionership of Assam. Prior to 16th October, 1905 there was no separate cadre of superior police officer (or establishment as it was then termed) and the Police Department was administered by an Inspector General of Police who was also in charge of Jails, Excise and Registration. The services of superior officers were generally obtained from Bengal. After the constitution of the new Province the Government of India sanctioned a provisional Superior Cadre consisting of Two Dy. Inspectors General, 23 Superintendents of Police and 20 Assistant Superintendents of Police. The Inspector General of Police was relieved of all other duties and he now became exclusively the Inspector General of Police. The plains districts were organised into the police ranges, each under the immediate supervision of a Dy. Inspector General of Police. The Railway and River Police were placed under an A.I.G., and the C.I.D. and the Special Branch (S.B.) were organised under an officer with the rank of Superintendent of Police. The Hill Districts and Military Police were left under the immediate control of the Inspector General of Police.

REORGANIZATION OF SUPERIOR OFFICER CADE : 1906.

In implementation of the recommendations of the Indian Police Commission 1902-3, the Secretary of State for India,
India, sanctioned the reorganization of the Superior Cadre for the Province of East Bengal and Assam with effect from 1st April 1906. The cadre was to comprise of one Inspector General of Police, three Dy. Inspectors General of Police (Two Range and one C.I.D., Railway and the River Police), 28 Superintendents of Police (22 for district charges, 1 Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Police, 1 Personal Assistant to Deputy Inspector General of Police, C.I.D., 1 for the Railway Police, 2 for the River Police, and 1 for the Provincial Training School), 29 Assistant Superintendents of Police (including 3 provided for deputation) and 12 Deputy Superintendents.

The Annual Report for the year recorded that the sanctioned post of the P.A. to the I.G.P. could not be filled up during the year as the post was, being temporarily held by a Deputy Magistrate. The sanctioned posts of the Principal Police Training School and the Superintendent of River Police also could not be filled up. The number of Assistant Superintendents remained short by 16 although during the latter part of the year 4 Assistant Superintendents of Police recruited in England were posted to the Province. Due to the shortage of available staff an S.P. had to be transferred from Burma and posted to the province.

In 1907, though there was no change in the actual strength of the Superior Police Cadre of the Province. On the transfer from Bengal of the police control of certain Railway lines to the Province an additional appointment in the
in the 5th lowest grade of Superintendents was sanctioned in the Secretary of State's despatch No. 69 Judicial, dated 13. 10. 1907. The actual control of the railways was, however, assumed from 1st January 1908 and thus the post was actually filled up from that date. The posts of Personal Assistant to the I.G.P., Principal of the Police Training School, and one of the two sanctioned posts of Superintendents of Police, River Police, were filled up during the year. Four probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police recruited in England were posted to the Province towards the close of the year. There were still 13 vacancies in the rank of Assistant Superintendents of Police and in view of this 2 officers were transferred from the Provincial Civil Service to be Assistant Superintendents of Police, while the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained to the appointment of three military officers of about 6 to 7 years of service as Asstt. Superintendents of Police of the first grade. The proposal of the Provincial Government for the appointment of Six Additional Superintendents of Police was, however, turned down by the Supreme Government which favoured further recruitment of military officers.

During the year 1908 the second sanctioned post of the Superintendent of Police River Police continued to remain vacant. Four Police Officers had to be borrowed during the year from other provinces for appointment as Additional Superintendents of Police for a period of two years during the unrest prevailing in certain districts of the Province of
of East Bengal and Assam. Three new probationary Addl. Super-
-intendents of Police recruited in England joined towards
the close of the year, while three military officers had
to be appointed as Additional Superintendents of Police.27
However, the strength of Additional Superintendents of Poli-
ce in the Province still remained short by 11. √

The second post of the Superintendent of River Police
was at last filled up in August, 1909. However, due to acute
shortage of officers in the superior ranks the Superintende-
t of Police thus posted had to be employed on district work.
A fourth grade Supdt. of Police was temporarily added to
the cadre for the post of Superintendent Political Branch of
the C.I.D (now known as Superintendent of Police, Special
Branch). This marked the beginning of the bifurcation in the
C.I.D. between the Criminal Investigation Branch and the pol-
itical intelligence branch and was the first material recog-
nition of the need of having a properly established political
intelligence set-up in the Province. It was also in a way a
recognition of the growing political unrest which had begun
to pose a serious law and order challenge in the Province.28
One Deputy Superintendent of Police's post was also tempora-
rily created for the Political Branch of the Criminal inves-
tigation Department.

THE EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM POLICE MANUAL:

The Eastern Bengal and Assam Police Manual was prepared
by the Inspector General of Police under the orders of the
Manual recognised the Inspectors of Police as a vital link between the Supdt. of Police of the district and the mofussil police stations and a paragraph was devoted exclusively to the status of Inspector. The respect accorded to the post was probably more than it is now-a-days. An Inspector of Police was entitled to the privilege of a Chair whenever visiting officers of Government and the list of Inspectors, both of Grade I and Grade II, was to be published in the Quarterly Civil List. Their names were also to be contained in the History of Services of Gazetted Officers. Thus, the Inspectors of Police were to enjoy an almost gazetted status. In addition to the Police Station which was already defined in Section 4(8) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1861, the Manual clearly defined the terms O.P. and the Investigating Centre. The Police Outposts (O.P.) were defined as follows:

"O.P.s are either independent or subordinate. At an independent O.P. the same registers are maintained as in a P.S. (Police Station), and reports are submitted direct from such an O.P. to Sub-divisional headquarters. For a subordinate O.P. there is no separate First Information Report Book. The cases occurring within the O.P. Jurisdiction are treated as belonging to the parent P.S. and all reports are submitted to the P.S." An Investigating Centre was defined as follows: "The term investigating centre comprises P.S.s and O.P.s. An investigating centre should ordinarily be incharge of a Sub-Inspectors".

The 'Beat
The 'Beat Houses', on the other hand, which were not to investigate crime ordinarily but were meant for performing miscellaneous duties only, were to be in charge of Head Constables. 'Road Posts' whose duty was to patrol and watch bad characters were to be manned by Constables only. The 'Town O.P.s' were for the Town Police employed on watch and ward duty. Part IV of the Manual dealing with the Court Officer was prepared by the Inspector General of Police under the orders of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1911. It dealt with the prosecuting staff, the prosecution of cases, procedure in appeals and withdrawal of cases and contained instructions regarding evidence, police papers and records, bail and recognizance, measures to be taken against absconders, custody and production of prisoners, disposal of property connected with cases, disposal of counterfeit coins etc.

Part II of the Manual already prepared in 1910 dealt with Office of the Supdt. of Police, Expenditure, Correspondence and police buildings.

THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM IN 1912:

In the year 1912, when the separate province of Assam came into existence again, further progress was made with the reorganization of the subordinate civil police and the total sanctioned strength rose from 3,096 to 3,271 by the end of the year. The details of this increase of 199 were as follows:
follows:- 33

(a) 3 Inspectors and 1 constable for Court work.

(b) 7 S.I.s, 3 H.J.s. and 61 constable towards the
reorganization of the headquarters force.

(c) 1 S.I. for the Mariani Government Railway Police
Station.

(d) 1 Sergeant for the Chittagong Jetty Outpost.

(e) 1 H.J. and 94 Constables for policing important
Railway and Steamer Stations.

(f) 1 H.J. and 4 Constables for guarding prisoners in
the Sessions Court at Sylhet.

(g) 2 H.J.s and 9 Constables for treasury guards.

At the same time the posts of 1 S.I., 2 H.J.s. and 21
constables of the Government Railway Police were abolished
and as such the net increase to the sanctioned strength was
by 175. only.

In 1912 armed reserves were reported to be existing in
all the plains districts excepting Lakhimpur and Cachar where
Military Police battalions happened to be stationed. In
accordance with the recommendation of the Reorganization
Scheme (1900) an additional force of one S.I., 2 H.J.s and
25 Constables was sanctioned as armed reserve for the Khasi
and Jaintia Hills Civil Police. The Inspector General of
Police noted that the State of the armed reserve everywhere
was unsatisfactory and the system of joint recruitment for
the armed and unarmed branches of the Civil Police had prov-
ed to be a failure. Members of the armed reserve preferred
preferred the easier thana life and were generally quick to avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to return to it. The Chief Commissioner observed on this that - "For the functions required of the armed branch a well organized and efficient body of men, recruited mainly from upcountry, is essential. He also remarked that separate recruitment and higher rates of pay were also essential to remove the existing unpopularity of service reserve.

THE PROVINCIAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

The provincial constables' Training School was moved from Silchar to Dibrugarh in the beginning of 1917 and accommodated in the buildings formerly occupied by the Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion. Provision was also made in the School for the training of cadet Sub-Inspectors and consequently the school was redesignated as the Provincial Police Training School. The existing Indian Principal of the School, Rai Sahib Ananda Chandra Agarwala, Deputy Superintendent of Police, continued as the Principal of the upgraded Police Training School, without the assistance, however, of any Deputy or Assistant. The number of cadet S.I.s initially received training at the school was reported to be 10, while the number of recruit constables under training was 432, including six Head Constable of the unarmed Branch. The Principal of the School reported that the conduct of the staff, the cadets and the recruits had on the whole been very good and at the end of the term 201 trainees passed in law, 170 in first aid, 130 in musketr
musketry, while all passed in drill and gymnastics. The Inspector General of Police, Col. D. Herbert as well as the Hon'ble Chief Commissioner of Assam, visited the school in the course of the year.

Seventeen cadet Sub-Inspectors were appointed in 1918, which included 3 promoted Head Constable. Eleven of these were Hindus, 4 Muslims and 2 of other denominations. Among the 359 men recruited to the Civil Police in 1918, 256 or 71.3 per cent were Hindus and 11.4 Muslims. The average height of the recruits to the Civil Police was 5 feet four and a half inches, and the average age of entry was 21 years 5 months. Including the 7 cadet Sub-Inspectors under training from the previous year, the Police Training School had 24 cadets on its rolls during the year. One died of pneumonia in the course of the year and another was ultimately discharged as unfit for police service. The cadet Sub-Inspectors were reported to be instructed in law and Police procedure and methods, and also made to attend the Thana Courts and the Reserve Offices in Dibrugarh for practical training. 483 men, including 7 Head constables were under training at the Police Training School during the year. The results of the training at the end of the year showed that 286 recruits constables and Head Constables had passed in law, 279 in first aid, 241 in musketry, while all had passed in drill and gymnastics. Only one recruit constable who had been found guilty of committing thefts in the
in the barracks was discharged. The cadets, recruits and the staff of the Police Training School were reported to have rendered valuable service in the out-break of 'hut' looting cases in the Lakhimpur district, which were part of the out-break all over the province, particularly Goalpara Sylhet and Lakhimpur districts, due to high prices of food stuffs and other necessaries of life. The also helped in putting down two fires in the Dibrugarh town. As regards the training of Assistant and Deputy Superintendents of Police, only one Dy. S.P. was appointed during 1918 and he was sent to the Bengal Police Training College, Sardah, with the permission of the Inspector General of Police, Bengal.

REFORMS OF 1919.

Assam Police was honoured with its first professional I.G.P. in 1919 and the first Police officer to grace this post was Mr. A.A. Campbell, I.P. who took charge of the office on 21st September, 1919. The following other important changes also took place in the internal administration of the Civil Police in the course of the year.36

(a) A time scale of pay was sanctioned for the Imperial Service (I.P.) and the Provincial Service (Cadre of Dy. S.P.s) by the Secretary of State. The time scale of pay for the I.P. was given effect from 1st January, 1919, while that for the Provincial Service was given effect from 30th October, 1919.
(b) The proposal for the increase of pay of Head Constables and constables was accepted by the Government and the same was given effect in the following year.

(c) The Lakhimpur district armed Reserve was strengthened by 1 Head Constable and 15 Constables,

(d) One Inspector and one constable were added permanently to the strength of the Criminal Investigation Department.

**DISTRIBUTION OF DUTIES : 1920.**

The sanctioned strength of Civil Police rose by 15 S.I.s, 15 H.Cs. and 114 Constables during 1920 and the distribution of duties of the 3,831 strong force was as follows :-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. On Court duty at Headquarters and Sub-divisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. At Thanas and Out-posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. In Municipal Towns and Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Miscellaneous duties including orderly, guards, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Armed Reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ordinary Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Recruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Sick, leave etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>1322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>202</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>309</strong></td>
<td><strong>3382</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Ordinary Reserve was considered to be insufficient in many districts for routine duties such as escorting prisoners and treasures and there was a general complaint that the standard of the Armed Reserve could not be kept up in drill and training due to frequent employment in aid of Ordinary Reserve. The Inspector General of Police, Mr. W.C. M. Dundas, felt that it would be better to do with the distinction between the Armed Reserve and the Ordinary Reserve and to treat both together as the District Armed Branch instead. By treating the Armed Branch as a whole in this way it could be possible to keep the number of men fixed for the Armed Reserve in each district at the headquarters and to use the rest for the duties then performed by the Ordinary Reserve only. The distinction between the Ordinary Reserve and the Armed Reserve was thus done away and the District Armed Branch, generally referred to as A.B. in police terminology now-a-days, came into being. The prevalent high standard in drill and musketry of the Armed Reserves was lowered a little to ensure a uniformity of standard for the Amalgamated Armed Branches in the districts. On order to relieve the district Civil Police of escort duties in the Railway the requirement of having a separate Armed Branch for the Railway was put up before the Railway Police Commission then appointed by the Government. In 1921 the question of creating a Railway Police Armed Reserve was reported to be receiving the detailed consideration of the Commission. In the meantime, in view of the Non-Co-operation Movement and the Political agitation thereof, the tea-garden disturbances and the
and the Assam-Bengal Railway strike, the existing strength of the Armed Reserve was considerably increased. From 11 officers and 202 men it now became 17 officers and 398 men. The training manuals were also modernized and the platoon system of organization and drill introduced. In view of the political agitation the question of increasing the strength of the Ordinary Reserve also demanded attention but it had to passed over in the interest of first augmenting the strength of the Armed Reserve. The requisitions on the Armed Reserve for treasury and prisoner escort duties continued to increase in number as a result of the insufficiency of the Ordinary Reserve and its increasing employment in dealing with the political agitation.

**TERITORIAL REORGANIZATION: 1921-25.**

A large number of changes took place in the establishment and location of police stations and investigating centres during the year. From out of the sanctioned strength of the Habiganj P.S. in Sylhet an investigating centre was opened at Bahubal with a force of 1 S.I., one H.C. and 6 constables. Administrative approval was also received for the opening of another investigating centre at Madhyanagar in the same district. In Darrang, the Dalgaoon Police Station was started under the Mangaldoi Sub-division. Administrative approval was also received for the construction of buildings for the new police stations at Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon, which had been started for the purpose of checking the menace of dacoity in the Goalpara
Goaipara district. The opening of a new investigating centre for the 'KHIS MAHALS' at Bijni was also under consideration. In Kamrup District, the existing jurisdiction of the Rangiya Police Station was considered too unwieldy and it was proposed to divide this jurisdiction by opening another police station. The proposed investigating centres at Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon could not be started in the following year. It was hoped to establish the one at Kokrajhar in the course of the year while the opening of the centre at Gossaigaon had to be deferred till the next year. The starting of the investigating centre at Bijni was also deferred. But a draft notification was submitted during the year for publication in the Assam Gazette for the establishment of the Police Station at Dalgaon under Mangaldoi Sub-Division. This was considered indispensable in view of the increase of population, mostly immigrants from Bengal, in the area. The location of the Jagi Road Police Station was decided to be removed to a more central site at Morigaon. The proposed investigating centre at Gaurigram and the 3 platform beats at Netrakone, Shamganj and Kishoreganj in Sylhet also could not be started for lack of buildings. The newly opened police station at Bahubal in Sylhet also continued to be housed in a 'Kutoha' building. Inspite of administrative approval, the opening of new Investigating Centres at Madiyanagar and Sukhair in Sylhet had also to be deferred for lack of funds. The much-wanted investigating centre at Bihpuria under North Lakhimpur Sub-Division had also to await finance. The long-awaited increase of pay for Inspectors was at last san-
sanctioned in 1922 in the form of an increased rate of pay on a time-scale and the sanction was given effect to within the year itself.

Although there was a slight increase in the sanctioned strength of the Civil Police in 1923, the economy drive launched by the Government affected all branches of the Police Administration, and the Assam Rifles as well as the Civil Police were kept considerably under-strength throughout the year. Against the total sanction strength of 4,370 the total actual strength stood at 3,681 only. However, the economy drive was reported to have had an adverse effect on the efficiency of the force by causing an acute all round shortage of staff and creating difficulties in granting leave. At the same time there was a rapid growth of population in the Assam Valley since areas formerly rather sparsely populated were quickly filling up with the migration of what was described as "turbulent population" from Eastern Bengal. Certain towns like Shillong were already reported to have outgrown their Police organisations, while in the rural areas there was an immediate need of expanding the Police machinery to meet the requirements of an increasing population engulfing formerly uninhabited areas.

An investigating centre was opened at Kokrajhar during 1923, but the proposed opening of the new centre at Bijni in the 'Khas Mahals' of Goalpara district, necessitated by the increasing number of dacoities in the area, was postponed till
till the starting of a Police Station at Gossaigaon and
till such date when the effect of its working in the area
had become clear. However, the proposed Police Station at
Gossaigaon itself had to stand over for the present for
lack of funds in view of the all round economy drive laun-
ched by the Government. For the same reasons, the propos­
ed opening of new Police Stations at Madhyanagar and Sukh-
air in Sylhet was also abandoned and instead the existing
Police Station at Dharampasha was divided into two, with
headquarters at Dharampasha and Sukhair. In 1924, finally,
a new investigating centre was opened at Sukhair as an out
post under Dharampasha P.S. A proposal was also submitted
in that year for transpiring some mouzasa and villages from
the jurisdiction of Golaghat P.S. to Dergaon P.S. in Sibsar-
gar district. The main problem confronting the Police in
the domain of crime control and law and order was the huge
influx of immigrants from Mymensingh and other districts of
Bengal to the Assam Valley districts, mainly Nowgong, Darra-
ang and the riverine portions of Kamrup and Goalpara Districts.
A good deal of criminal population had managed to
come in with this unchecked influx and the number of thie-
ves, burglars and forgers of currency notes was increasing
rapidly. Colonies of Mymensingh immigrants were generally
far away from the sparsely located existing police stations
in the Assam Valley districts, sometime as much as forty to
to fifty miles away from the nearest police station. Heino-
us crimes like murder and dacoity were reportedly consider-
ed little more than unfortunate incidents among these virile
virile people. The settlers were mostly flocking to areas which hitherto been uninhabited, in support of the latter day contention of the defenders of Pakistani infiltration in Assam that 'Nature abhors vaccum'. Also, in the twenties the immigrants in search of land and livelihood came from nearby the same areas in East Bengal as the latter day Pakistani infiltrants in the fifties and sixties. However, the infiltrants in the fifties and sixties were pushed into Assam with the design and plan of subversion by a foreign country, but in the twenties their influx gave rise to different types of problems, the chief of which was criminal activity. In view of this the I. G. P. Mr. W. J. M. Dundas asked for a large-scale increase in the strength of the Civil Police and the opening of a number of new Police stations and investigating centres. In the following year the legislative council accepted the necessity of opening three new police stations and noted a supplementary grant to the Police Department to make a start in this direction. A new Police Station was opened at Bijni in Goalpara district with a staff of one S.I., one A.S.I. and 7 constables on 16th December, 1925. As the notification defining its jurisdiction had not been published till the time of opening, the Police Station had to be treated as an Out Post dependant on North Salmara Police Station for some time. In order to accommodate the new Police Station temporary buildings were constructed departmentally at a cost of Rs. 727/- In the course of the year Government's sanction for the establishment of a new police station at Labarighat
Laharighat in Nowgong was also obtained. A new investigating centre was also opened at Buhpuria in Lakhimpur district with a staff sanction of 1 S.I., 1 A.I. and 7 constables. However, proposed investigating centre at Gossaigaon still could not be opened since the buildings were not yet completed.

**Reorganization of Ordinary Reserves: 1926.**

The Commissioner Assam Valley Division summed up the State of the Police generally in the following words in his report to the Government for the year 1925:

"The inadequacy of the Armed Reserve, and the reserve for the ordinary police, the dilapidated state of many of the police buildings and the want of facilities for training the constables in elementary law are matters requiring the serious consideration of the department. At the present juncture with communal feelings running high, the elections coming on, and the immigration problem becoming more acute, it is most important that each district should have an efficient striking force always ready for emergencies."

The new I.G.P., Mr. M.A. Luffman I.P., who took over from Mr. Dundas on 12th April, 1926, agreed with the remarks of the Commissioner excepting those pertaining to the inadequacy of the Armed Reserves. In his opinion the strength of the Armed Reserves was generally adequate except, perhaps, in Kamrup. Nowgong and Goalpara districts where the population had increased very materially in the last few years. But with the bolstering up of the Assam Rifles there was no ques-
question of any inadequacy of force whenever required. The existing Armed Police Reserve had been called out to quell minor disturbances on several occasions during the year and its performance everywhere had been quite satisfactory. Apart from this, owing to the insufficiency of the ordinary Reserve, the Armed Reserve had been frequently called out to furnish guards and escorts and to render help in conducting important house-searches and raids, as well as evicting Mymensingh settlers from reserved areas in the Assam Valley. But the insufficiency of the Ordinary Reserve if already not grave had been further aggravated by the reductions made in the interests of economy. Consequently, the Armed Reserve had to be frequently called upon and this badly interfered with its training and efficiency as a striking force. Acute difficulty was also being experienced in both the Armed as well as the Ordinary Reserves in the grant of leave and the restrictions imposed in this respect were breeding discontent in the force. A proposal for the reorganization of the Ordinary Reserve had already been submitted to the Government and it was hoped that the dismal state of affairs existing presently would soon be remedied.

A notable development in the meantime was the improvement in the terms and conditions of service in the All India Police Service, I.P., as a result of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Service in India, which was submitted in 1924. The Royal Commission took note of the
of the fact that the I.P., like the I.C.S., though an All
India Service worked primarily under the Provincial Govern-
ment and at the first sight the term 'All India' would app-
ear inappropriate to almost any one. However, although the
I.P. was scattered throughout the provinces, it was recrui-
ted by the Secretary of State for service in any part of
India, and it formed one service with one basis of remunera-
tion. Though an officer of the I.P. served as a rule in
any one province, he could be transferred to another provi-
ence, and a certain number of members of the service who had
acquired sufficient field experience were also taken by the
Government of India from the provinces to assist in the dis-
charge of its central functions - "The All India Services
are the main executive agents of the administration through-
out the country". The total sanctioned strength of the
Indian Police Service on 1st January, 1924 was 732, while
the actual number entertained was slightly in excess at 739.
On the other hand, the actual strength of the I.C.S. on 1st
January, 1924 was sufficiently below the sanctioned strength
against the sanctioned strength of 1350 the actual strength
stood at 1290. It showed that the need for expansion in the
ranks of the I.P. was already being felt. The Royal Commiss-
ion recommended that for every 100 recruits to the Indian
Police Service 50 should be Europeans recruited directly, 30
(thirty) should be Indians directly recruited and the remain-
ing 20 should be obtained by promotion from the Provincial
Police Services. As regards pay, the Commission remarked -
"The case of the Police Service is peculiar. The conditions
The conditions have changed and whilst, on the one hand, more specialised training is now necessary to equip the present day police officer for the efficient discharge of his duties, his responsibilities, one the other hand, have become more onerous and irksome and require greater intelligence and resource. With a view, therefore, to make the Service more attractive, we are prepared to treat it as an exception and to improve its basic pay. However, in order to avoid disturbing the relative position of the Service to other Services, the maximum basic pay in the junior and senior time-scales was not altered but the initial basic pay in both time-scale was raised. The overseas pay for European officers was also raised.

Towards the end of 1928 Government orders were received for reorganization of the Ordinary Reserve on the lines of the proposal submitted in the preceding year. 30 posts of S.I.s and 45 posts of constables were abolished and in their place 91 posts of Assistant Sub-Inspectors were created. Additional Police staff was also sanctioned for Sylhet, Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar and the Railway Police. As a result of all these changes there was a net increase by 77 in the total sanctioned strength of the Civil Police, which now stood at 4,405. But the I.G.P., Mr. Dundas, was not fully satisfied with what had been given to him in the reorganization of 1928 and commented that the raised reserve establishment would have sufficed if the strength of the existing investigating staff had been sufficient in many areas. Delays in the disposal of cases caused unnecessary increase in police
In police work and since there were many police stations where only one S.I. existed the strain sometimes became severe. It was, however, expected that when the new reorganized strength of the Ordinary Reserve was filled up there would be less difficulty in granting leave to S.I.s and A.S.I.s.

**TOWN POLICE: 1928.**

A special pay of Rs. 2/- per month was sanctioned for the Town Police in 1928. It was felt that in view of the specialized training in traffic control it might eventually become necessary to constitute the Town Police as a separate branch of the Civil Police, like the Armed Branch, and once posted to keep the men permanently in the Town Police. This was agreed to by the Governor in Council and the Town Police was accordingly made a separate branch of the Civil Police.

**THE ASSAM CIVIL POLICE COMMITTEE: 1929.**

In view of the increase of pay of constables of both armed and unarmed branches in neighbouring Bengal the Government of Assam also followed suit and the pay of Armed Branch constables was brought on par with that in Bengal. But as regards unarmed branch Government had its reservations and according to the Governor in Council before introducing any revised rate of pay it was better to explore the possibility of obtaining an improved class of recruits, particularly men of superior intelligence and status in public life. A committee consisting of the Judicial Member of the Council, the I.G.P. and 5 non-official members elected by
elected by the Legislative Council was accordingly appointed to look into the matter and to advise the Government "towards the creation of a more disciplined, intelligent and efficient force which will command the respect and secure the cooperation of the public".

'The Assam Civil Police Committee' under the Chairmanship of Sir Muhammad Sadulla, and members consisting of the I.G.P., Mr. W.J.M. Dundas who was assisted by the prospector I.G.P., Mr. T.P.M. O'Callaghan, three members of the Legislative Council namely Babu Gopendralal Das Choudhury, Babu Paresh Lal Shome Choudhury and Shrijut Kuladhar Chaliha, and Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, submitted its report to the Govt. on 14th November, 1929. After going through the replies received to the two questionnaires, one meant for the general public and the other for the Superintendents of Police, and after formally examining a number of witnesses representing various shades of public and political opinion at Sylhet, Jorhat, Sibsagar and Gauhati as well as visiting police lines, thanas and outposts in these places, the Committee arrived at the following conclusions with regard to the unsatisfactory relations existing between the police and the public and the unpopularity of service in the police which deterred local youths of some education from adopting the career of a police constable.

(1) The existing unsatisfactory relations between the police and public were to a very great extent due to the abuse of powers with which a policeman was vested by law. Instead of realizing their responsibilities as the keepers
keepers of public peace and guardians of law and order many policemen thought themselves to be the masters of the public. It was also found that whenever there was any complaint against any police officer the whole force combined to a man and assisted the offender in every way. However, the Committee quite realized the fact that by the very nature of his duties the policeman could not but be unpopular with a section of the public. This, in fact, was the crux of the entire problem pertaining to police-public relations. But by exercising stricter supervision and control over the subordinate ranks the superior police officers could remove the mistrust and fear with which the general public looked upon the police force.

(2) It was the opinion of many witnesses, both official and non-official, that the quality of the police could not be improved unless men with a higher degree of intelligence and education were recruited. For instance, corruption was reportedly decreasing since men with higher education had been recruited to the post of Sub-Inspectors. It seemed that the greatest offender in the police force was the upcountry constable and if the constables could be recruited from amongst the educated youths of the province there could be a great improvement in the tone and morale of the force and in the relationship with the public. The committee had found that matriculates and under-matriculates, youths with a couple of years' college education (and even one graduate) were joining as police constables in the Surma Va-
Valley. Although the same could not be said of the Assam Valley, a few constables sufficiently educated in the vernacular were found to be serving there. However, the average earning of an unskilled labourer was about Rs. 24/- per month and more educated youths could not be expected to join the police in the salary offered. The Committee recommended the Bengal scale of Rs. 20/- per month rising up to Rs. 24/- per month for police constables with increment of one rupees in the fourth, eights, eleventh and 18th years of service, but acknowledging the inadequacy of this pay scale to attract educated youths recommended that 75 per cent of the vacancies in the grade of A.S.I.s should be filled by promotion from amongst constables who had put in at least one year of service after completion of training.

(3) The training of the constabulary was in a neglected state and the Committee emphasised the need of a proper training school. After an year's training in physical drill, discipline, law, defining the powers, duties and responsibilities and behaviour towards the public, these constables who showed proficiency in English education should be granted an allowance of Rs. 3/- per month over the basic pay and those who showed proficiency in the vernacular should be given an allowance of Rs. 2/- per month over the basic pay. The provision of such allowances would serve as an incentive to educated youths to join as police constables.

(4) The existing scale of pay of A.S.I.s from Rs. 25/- per month to Rs. 40/- per month was inadequate considering
considering that men with similar qualifications entered other Government Departments on a basic salary of Rs. 40/- per month. However, in view of the grant of free quarters and free uniforms to the A.S.I.s, the committee thought that a pay scale of Rs. 35-1-50-2-60 should suffice. The committee also suggested certain improvements in the type of accommodation provided to the Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

(5) The Committee noted that the fatigue duties consisting of sweeping the barracks, the thana buildings and the compound were not to the liking of educated youths and acted as a "deterrent to those of the educated or 'BHANDRA-LOG' Class" who wanted to join the police department as constables. It, therefore, recommended that these fatigue duties should be abolished. Certain educated constables at Sylhet had also complained that living together with illiterate constables whose manners were uncouth acted as a deterrent for the educated class to join as constables. It was, therefore, recommended that the educated constables should be accommodated separately as far as practicable, even by a partition in the existing barracks.

(6) To provide sufficient incentive for the educated youths to join the subordinate police ranks, 50 per cent of the recruitment to the posts of Sub-Inspectors should be from amongst A.S.Is. by a departmental examination.

(7) The existing uniform of the constabulary required reform. The 'LAL BAGREE' (red turban) which had inherited a bad tradition should be replaced by some sort of a hat. The
The blouse should be substituted by a coat. Some sort of foot gear should also be allowed to all constables.

There was a complaint from the Inspectors, S.I.s and A.S.Is. everywhere that the existing pill box cap was insanitary and the cotton pad inside touching the head made it hot and caused premature baldness. The committee realized that the policemen had a right to look well like any one else and sounded a humorous note by acknowledging that the cause of premature baldness among police officers be allowed to wear hats instead of existing pill box caps.

(8) Admissibility of T.A. and daily Allowance for constables and A.S.Is. was desirable but in view of the recommended increase in pay for these ranks the suggestion would have to wait.

(9) The allowance of Rs. 2/- admissible to constables serving in the Town Police should be continued in view of the higher cost of living in the towns.

(10) Although the grant of deferred pay at the end of a particular length of service would be an incentive the Committee refrained from making any recommendation in this regard in view of the financial implication of the other recommendations already made.

(11) In towns where public opinion was more vocal, it might be advisable to experiment with model police
Police Stations manned entirely by the new class of educated personnel.

(12) There was no doubt truth in the saying: "Spread more education and automatically you will get educated Constabulary" - but it was incorrect to assume that improvements in the police were not of much urgent and imperative necessity as the demands of the public for more education and better sanitation. It was equally incorrect to say that the expenditure involved in improvement in the police should be met by retrenchment among the ranks of Inspectors, Deputy Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents whose supervisory duties appeared to be overlapping. The committee arrived at the conclusion that having recommended stricter supervision of the subordinate ranks it would be "cutting at the root of their attempt to improve the efficiency of the service and remove corruption if more supervising officers above the ranks of Inspectors are eliminated".

A Resolution on the Report of the Committee was issued by the Governor in Council on 26th May, 1930. It took into consideration the recommendations of the Committee relating to the training of the constabulary and the increase in the pay of constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors. Steps also taken for re-establishing the Police Training School for constables, which had been closed down in 1923 under the economy drive, and a site was selected at Jhalukbari near Gauha-
Gauhati. Plans and estimates amounting to nearly three lakhs for the construction of necessary buildings were drawn up, but a provision of Rs. 1 Lakh only was made in the budget for 1930-31 to give a start to the project. An increase in the pay of constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors was sanctioned with effect from 1st April, 1930. But the percentage of local recruits for the Civil Police went down further and specially in the case of Muslims it was found that although on the whole a greater number were enlisted than before it was extremely difficult to obtain any recruits in the Assam Valley districts although the influx of Muslim immigrants from Bengal was continuing unabated there. It was hoped that the increased rates of pay newly sanctioned would facilitate local recruitment to the unarmed branch of the Civil Police.

THE INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION: 1930.

It would be interesting here and historically important to see how the various tasks facing the Police in India generally appeared to the Indian Statutory Commission, the Report of which was presented to the British Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (U.K.) in May, 1930. The Commission admitted that the Police had indeed a good deal of difficulty in carrying out its assigned role. In the first place, it had become the target of much political attack in the social and political climate created by the Independence Movement. As
As regards crime, the absence of an active public opinion in support of the Police as in U.K. and the increasing lack of readiness to assist the Police in emergencies, were a serious impediment. There also happened to exist entire communities given to professional crime for ages past, a fact which necessitated the enactment of various Criminal Tries Acts from time to time. The slightest relaxation in police control led to organized violent crime. The ordinary Indian peasant, who was normally servile and law-abiding, was also capable of serious violence under excitement, especially religious excitement. The religious divisions in the population of the country created another problem and communal rioting was known to cause uncontrollable upheavals in entire provinces. The policemen themselves happened to be recruited from various communities and the heterogeneous composition of the force as well as highly sensitive religious susceptibilities made the task of the Police in controlling communal disturbances many times more difficult. All this was topped over by the poor state of communications in the countryside and the fact that the average area per policeman in India was five times as great and the population to police ratio twice as much as in contemporary U.K. But perhaps the biggest inadequacy of the Police force lay in the general insufficiency in the officer ranks, who were required to provide guidance and leadership to the Police in facing their difficult tasks - "For the whole of the Governor's Provinces and a total force of about 1,37,000 men, there are roughly 1000 officers, taking together the
the Indian Police Service and the higher grades of the Provincial Police Service". 45

**TEKTITITAL REORGANIZATION : 1932-36.**

The establishment of an Investigating Centre at Tarabari in the Barpeta Sub-Division in Kamrup was sanctioned in 1932. The Out-Post at Rupohihat in Nowgong District, which had so far been subordinate to Nowgong and Samaguri Police Stations, was finally converted into an independent Police Station. In the Naga Hills the two Out Posts at Viswema and Zubza were abolished and the Out-post at Kongnyu converted into a Police Station. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills the Out-post at Garikhana (Now part of Shillong Town) was declared a Police Station for the administered areas under clause (s) of sub-section (l) of section 4 of the Criminal Procedure Code in 1933. Two Out Posts at Chabua and Doom Dooma in Lakhimpur district were also established in that year. In Goalpara district, the transfer of 71 villages from the jurisdiction of the Kokrajhar P. S. to the Gossaigaon P. S. received Government’s approval and the establishment of an investigation centre at Sidli was also reported to be under consideration.

Due to continued financial stringency numerous proposals for opening badly needed investigating centres in Sylhet, Nowgong, Goalpara, Sibsagar and Garo Hills
Hills district continued to pend during 1935. However, temporary out-posts were sanctioned at Tarabari in Kamrup and Bordubi in Lakhimpur. The old Orang Out-post in Darrang was replaced by a new police station, which was sited on the railway line and well placed to control crime and criminals. In the Lakhimpur District a temporary staff of one A.S.I. and 4 constables was sanctioned for the patrol post at Chabua. The revised boundaries of Margherita, Digboi, Doom-Dooma and Tinsukia Police Stations in Lakhimpur District also came into force during the year. The boundaries of Dhubri and Golokganj police stations in Goalpara, Lakhimpur and Udairbond police stations in Cachar, Kalaigaon and Udalguri Police Stations in Darrang and the Jowai, Cherrapunji and Shillong Police Stations in Khasi and Jaintia Hills were revised in 1936 to ensure the convenience of the inhabitants of the area and more efficient Police supervision. The scheme for opening new investigating centres in 5 districts where the rapid growth of population due to influx of immigrants as also better medical control over fatal diseases which had brought down the death rate considerably could not be put into effect due to the prevailing financial stringency. However, two new investigating centres were opened in the year, one at Barama in Kamrup which later became a police station from 1st April, 1936, and the other at Sidli in Goalpara district.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT : 1935.

The Government of India Act, 1935 introduced parliamentary democracy and the concept of Federation in the coun-
country. Based on the recommendations of the Indian Statutory Commission, 1930, which had rejected the plea for either centralizing the Police or retaining it as a Reserved Subject in the division of subjects to be administered by the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments, 'Police including railway and village Police' was included as item(3) in the Provincial Legislative List under the Seventh Schedule to the Act. Public Order, excluding the use of Naval, Military or Air Forces in aid of the Civil power, the administration of justice and preventive detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order headed the Provincial Legislative List. 46

With the Police Department now entirely with the provincial legislative jurisdiction under the new federal set-up an important development in 1936 consisted of the transfer of administration of the Motor Vehicles Act, 47 with the exception of roads in the hill districts, from the Public Works Department to the Police Department from 1st August, 1936.

EXPANSION DURING WORLD WAR II:

In connection with the outbreak of war and the Defence of India Act, 1939 a special police staff consisting of 1 Inspector, 4 S.Is., 8 A.S.Is., 2 H.C.s and 56 constables was sanctioned on a temporary basis. 9 S.Is., 7 A.S.Is and 8 constables were also sanctioned for the Motor Vehicles:
vehicles offences in various districts. A guard of 1 H.C. and 13 Constables was maintained under Section 13 of the Police Act V of 1861 at Digboi at the expense of the Assam Oil Company. In view of the growing political and labour unrest, the 'Satyagraha' movement launched by the Congress Party, the formation of the branches of the Communist Party of India in the Assam and Surma Valleys, the increasing activities of the C.P.I. on the student and agrarian fronts in the shape of the student Federation and the 'Krishak Samities' 48, the Intelligence Branch of the C.I.D. which had been abolished in 1937 was also revived in 1940 and Government's sanction was received in July, 1940 for the entertainment of a staff consisting of 3 Inspectors, 14 S.Is., 25 A.Is and 14 constables. The War necessitated the sanction of an additional temporary staff of one Inspector, 5 S.Is., 7 A.Is, and 3 H.C.s in the Armed Branch of the Civil Police and 1 H.C and 37 constables in the unarmed Branch in addition to the staff already sanctioned in the previous year and this staff was employed in surveillance and guarding of foreigners and various other protective duties. A temporary post of Superintendent of Police, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, combined with that of the Secretary Provincial Transport Authority was created in Shillong. Government's sanction was also received for the temporary post of Additional Superintendent of Police, C.I.D. was now occupied fully in super­cising the Intelligence Branch, the work in which had increased manifold in the War conditions. Seven posts of Deputy
Deputy Superintendents of Police together with 2 Inspectors were also created for motor spirit rationing duties. The strength of the additional staff sanctioned in the Civil Police on account of the special war demands, like surveillance and guarding of foreigners and various protective duties, was also increased and its strength now stood at 3 Inspector, 8 S.Is., 18 A.S.Is., 7 H.C.s. and 125 constables. The detachments of Assam Rifles stationed in Tura and North Lakhimpur were relieved by platoons of the District Armed Police during the year.

1942 was the year of unprecedented war difficulties as well as unprecedented expansion for the Assam Police. The triumphant march of Japan was continuing unhampered in the East and the Japanese armies had crossed the eastern borders of Burma towards the end of 1941. By March, 1942 they had penetrated deep into Burmese territories and the fall of Burma had become a reality. Large numbers of refugees from Burma were crossing into Assam via Manipur and from early March a Superintendent of Police, Mr. Lloyd-Rees with a number of C.I.D. and other police officers was stationed at Tamu to assist in the control of refugees. As the situation deteriorated and the Japanese armies neared Manipur it was decided to evacuate this party, which was done only a few days before the first air raid on Imphal on 10th May, 1942. The air raid produced great panic and many of the civilian Government employees deserted their posts and fled. In order to deal with the refugee problem, a mixed
a mixed police force from Punjab and U.P. under Mr. J. Ferguson, I.P. from U.P., which had originally been intended for Rangoon, was diverted to Assam. The force was to proceed down the Kabaw and Chindwin Valleys to deal with the refugees coming up in large numbers from Burma. As a result of the air raids on Manipur in May the force never proceeded beyond Imphal and shortly afterwards disintegrated following the death of Mr. Ferguson. However, this force had served its time as a useful stop gap arrangement before Assam Police could be ready to cope with the situation. In this emergency situation, as the war approached the borders of Assam, increases in the force were sanctioned on priority basis and by the end of the 1942 the sanctioned strength of the Police was nearly one half more than its original strength. However, acute difficulty was experienced in clothing and equipping the extra force in view of the Central Government's orders prohibiting the booking of all civilian goods traffic to Assam. The Railway administration had also deteriorated due to the widespread panic caused by the advancing Japanese armies and it became next to impossible to obtain any supplies. The 'Railforce' formed for protecting the Railway was ultimately clothed and equipped by the Army. Apart from coping with the gigantic refugee problem, preventing subversion and protecting vital installations, the Police had also to deal with the political disturbances which broke out violently from 22nd August, 1942. The districts worst affected were Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong and Sibsagar. The Police were also hard-pressed administratively in the distric-
districts and were often required to supply requisitioned vehicles at a very short notice. Though the volume of requisitioning work decreased in the following year, the police had to deal with the aftermath of a large number of unsettled claims.

PROVISION OF VEHICLES AND CREATION OF FIRE SERVICE 1942-43

Apart from further expansion of the force the two notable developments in the administrative sphere during 1942-43 were the provision of motor transport to the Assam Police and the proper organization of the 'Fire Service'. The limited scheme for providing motor transport to the police sanctioned in 1942 had envisaged the provision of 4 vehicles only. In 1943 this plan was extended and 16 vehicles were distributed to various districts. The very limited organization of the fire Brigade undertaken in 1942 was also expanded and in 1943 the fire service was extended to 14 classified towns in the province. The services of the Six British National Fire Service Officers were requisitioned and 484 non-gazetted members were recruited. Mr. Fenn was appointed as the first Fire Adviser to the Government of Assam. The war-time temporary increases in the police in the non-gazetted ranks totally amounted to 3,860 men by the end of 1943, against the permanent pre-war total sanctioned strength of 4,681. It was an enormous all round expansion. The strength of the newly organized Fire Service, which was changed with protecting 15 classified towns and certain immediate areas and had by now been
now been provided with all necessary equipment and motor vehicles stood as below.

Director of Fire Service.
7 British Natural Fire Service Officers
18 Station Officers.
73 Leading Firemen.
18 Assistant Station Officers
69 Drivers.
354 Firemen.

Twenty-two Fire Stations were constructed on a war-footing during the year and also provided with adequate water supplies. In the Course of the year the Fire Service attended to 186 fires at which they were employed for a total period of 745 hours 38 minutes. These figures, however were for civilian tasks only and did not include 'Military Risk'. The estimated loss by fire in the certain tasks was about 9½ Lakhs whilst the estimated value of the property at risk was well over 30 lakhs.

**THE RENUMERATION OF 1945:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Armed Branch</th>
<th>Unarmed Branch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspector</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Inspectors</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asstt. Sub-Inspectors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Constables</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constables</td>
<td>2718</td>
<td>1643</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the retrenchment undertaken in the later part of 1945 the posts of 3 Unarmed Branch Inspectors, 17 S.I.s (UB) 28 A.S.Is.(UB), 3 H.C.s. of the Armed Branch, 67 H.C.s. (U.B.), 27 constables (A.B.) and 485 Constables (U.J.B.) were abolished, while the temporary post of the Addl. S.P. District Special Branch, Sylhet was downgraded to that of a Dy. S.P., other temporary posts such as the post of the S.P. Khasi and Jaintia Hills combined with that of Secretary of the Provincial Transport Authority, the post of Special Superintendent of Police C.I.D., the posts of Addl. Superintendents of Police, Lakhimpur, Kamrup, Sibsagar, Margherita and Cachar and the posts of Dy. Ss.P. sanctioned for Barpeta Sub-Division and the C.I.D., were retained. But for the retention of a skeleton staff the entire Fire Service Organization was abolished from 31st July, 1945.

POST WAR REORGANIZATION 1946.

In order to adjust the expanded Police apparatus to the vastly changed post-war conditions, a Reorganization Scheme covering various branches of the armed and civil police was formulated. Apart from the gist of the A.F. Battalion the war bestoed several other organizational improvements in the police set-up. The Anti-Corruption Branch, which had seen busy days in combating wide-spread corruption, profiteering and hoarding in the war period, was constituted into a separate entity working under the
the direct orders of the Home Department. The stock of wireless sets available after the war made it possible to establish wireless stations in all district headquarters and to utilize the service of mobile sets in emergent situations. In the field of police communications this was perhaps the biggest gift bestowed by the war. The re-establishment of the Police Training School was also agreed to in the Re-organization Scheme. (The Re-organization Scheme first drawn up at the end of the War in 1946 was formally sanctioned only in August, 1948 after Independence. Its chief feature was the increase in the strength of the sub-ordinate Police. As a result of this re-organization the total sanctioned strength of the police increased from 3679 at the end of 1947 to 7755 on 31st December, 1948).

After the abolition of the Fire service Organisation in the previous year, the axe now fell on the Civil Defence Organisation which was totally abolished in the course of the year with the exception of retaining a skeleton staff only to tie up all its loose ends and the dispatch all equipment and auxiliaries back to U.K. The skeleton staff retained in the Fire Service, consisting of 1 station Officer, 1 Leading Fireman, 1 Driver and 3 Firemen for each district headquarters town continued to exist for the time being for the time being for the packing up and despatch of equipment back to U.K., the preparation of pumps for storage and dispatch and general supervision of vehicles etc.
PARTITION: 1947

1947 was the year of Independence and also the year of partition of the country into India and Pakistan. From 15th August the entire Sylhet district excepting the areas within the jurisdiction of Putharkandi, Ratbari, Badarpur Police Stations and a portion of Karimganj Police Station was transferred to East Pakistan. All Police Officers serving in Assam and East Pakistan were given a option to serve in whichever country they liked and subsequently there was exchange of officers opting for service in India and Pakistan respectively. The British Officers were given the option of either continuing in service in India or Pakistan as they chose or retiring from service with full benefits. Consequently, a large number of senior British Officers chose to retire and there was a vaccum in experienced hands in the senior echelons of the Police. Difficulties were created by the refusal of the East Pakistan Government to re-organize the concession granted by Assam for the revision of options, as a result of which the fate of many police officers in Cachar hung in uncertain balance pending negotiations between the two Governments. The figures pertaining to the exchange of officers between Assam and East Pakistan were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Other Ranks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam to East Pakistan</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Pakistan to Assam</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of the loss of the greater part of Sylhet
Sylhet district, which was by far the most criminal and difficult district in Assam, certain reductions occurred in the overall strength of the Assam Police. These were of two types: one directly the result of the loss of territorial jurisdiction, and the other caused indirectly by the natural lessening in the total volume of police work. In the latter category fell the reduction in the Gazetted ranks by 2 senior pay-scale posts and 3 junior pay-scale posts and the keeping in obevance of the posts of the Special Supdt. of Police, C.I.D., S.P., Anti-Corruption, Addl. Supdts. of Police, Sibsagar, Kamrup and Khasi and Jaintia Hills and certain non-gazetted posts in the C.I.D. In the former category also fell the transfer 'in toto' of the River Police (which existed in Sylhet only), and the reduction in non-gazetted ranks by 14 Inspectors, 82 S.Is., 128 A.S.Is, 37 H.C.s and 963 constables belonging to the District Police and the Railway Police. In the final analysis, the total sanctioned strength of the Assam Police now stood at 3,579 all ranks compared with 4,788 all ranks just Independence and Partition.
REFERENCES.


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6. Ibid.


8. Ibid.

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10. Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Assam, 1880.

11. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Judicial Department No. 172 dated the 22nd December, 1881.


15. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Judicial Department, No. 1227, dated Shillong, the 19th August, 1884.


17. Ibid.


29. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Police Manual, 1910

30. Rule 33, Part V, The Eastern Bengal and Assam


33. Annual Report in the Police Administration of the Province of Assam, 1912.


35. Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Judicial Department No. 5022-J dated 16th September, 1913.


39. The constant disputes between the Rani of Bijni on the one hand and the unabating friction between the Zamindars and their tenants of the Goalpara District on the other were finally settled with the passing of the Bijni Succession Act, 1931 (Assam Code 1939, Vol. III) and the Goalpara Tenancy Act, 1929 (Assam Code 1939, Vol. III) respectively.

40. 'Civil Police' - Annual Police Administration Report, 1925.

41. Report of the Royal Commission in the Superior Civil Service in India, dated the 27th March, 1924 - Better known as the "Lee Commission's Report".

42. Ibid.


45. Ibid.


47. The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1936.

48. See 'Political Crime - 1905 to 1947'.

49. See Political Crime - 1905 to 1947".


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