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BENGAL DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

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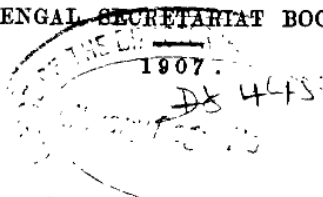
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valuation; this is generally assessed on the rentals, but the holdings in or near the bazar and on the outskirts of the town, which are owned and occupied by natives, are usually assessed at a certain scale of rates fixed for every 100 square feet of ground area occupied. This rate brought in Rs. 55,250, and the next important source of revenue consisted of the rents of lands and houses owned by the Municipality, which amounted to Rs. 45,300. The Municipality owns 45 acres of land in the bazar, various buildings leased out as shops and residences, a Town Hall rented by the Amusement Club, and two covered markets, where sites are let out for the sale of meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, etc. In the same year the lighting rate, which is assessed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the valuation of the houses, yielded Rs. 38,450; the water-rate, assessed at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., Rs. 22,500; and conservancy, including scavenging and latrine rates, Rs. 22,550; the latter rates are assessed at Re. 1-12 to Rs. 17 on houses valued up to Rs. 600 and at Rs. 3 per cent. on houses valued above Rs. 600. Besides these receipts, the municipal market brings in a revenue of over Rs. 9,000. Apart from loans and extraordinary items of receipts, the ordinary income of the Municipality is Rs. 2,18,390, and the current demand on account of taxes is Rs. 1,41,000. The incidence of taxation is higher than in any other town in Bengal, being Rs. 8-5-10 per head of the population.

The average annual expenditure in the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 1,72,000, and in 1905-06 the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,01,800. Excluding debts and extraordinary heads, however, it was only Rs. 2,50,250; and of this amount, 26·9 per cent. was spent on lighting, 24·8 per cent. on conservancy, 17·4 per cent. on public works, and 7·6 per cent. on the water-works. The heaviest charge on the income of the Municipality is the electric-light installation, introduced in 1897, which supplies the streets and a large number of the houses. The installation is at Sidrapong, on the lower slope of the hill some 4 miles to the west of the town. The conservancy arrangements are on the whole very complete, a large staff of sweepers from Alwar in Rajputāna being entertained and the night-soil removed by train to Batasiā near Ghum. It is now proposed, however, to substitute for the present arrangement a complete system of septic tanks and sewage pipes. A volunteer fire-brigade has recently (1906) been started.

The length of the roads kept up by the Municipality is 37 miles; and the maintenance of these roads and of the various buildings is a heavy recurring charge. The water-supply is obtained from a number of springs on the western flank of Senchal, where it is led into settling tanks. It is then