

## **Chapter-III**

# **Roads and the Extension of Urban Spaces: New Boundaries and Connections Beyond**

The construction of new roads, bridges, streets, educational institutions, public health and administration, establishment of markets and lighting facilities contributed to the urban growth of the different towns of North Bengal in the middle of the nineteenth till middle of the twentieth century. The co-ordination between the Government and municipality paved the way for urban development. All those urban machineries will be discussed in the ensuing pages.

### **A. Outlay on Improvement of Roads**

Mode of communication has undoubtedly been an essential aspect to concentrate different civilizations, cities and trade centres. The development of roads took a significant so to help urbanization. Geographically, North Bengal well communicated for the rivers like the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Tista, Mahananda etc. From the ancient period, these rivers had a great impact on the society and economy of North Bengal.

In case of communication in the plain of North Bengal, roadway and waterway systems were feasible, while in the hilly region like Darjeeling roadway traffic was the only way of communication. The heavy rainfall with land sliding made the road communication difficult. Even in the plain region due to flood in the rainy season sometimes made difficulties in the communication system. So with these natural hurdles British had taken initiative to solve the intricacy of the communication.

The roads and railways of Darjeeling district was a creation of colonial (British) rule. One of the first measures taken by the British was to establish communication between Darjeeling and the plains. When the Superintendent of Darjeeling A.Campbell said “in 1838-39, when the Rajah of Sikim ceded the

original Darjeeling Tract to the British Government for a sanatorium, it was decided by the Governor General in Council that the rents accruing therefore should be applied to local purposes of Roads, Police, & C.”<sup>1</sup> Between 1839 and 1842 Lord Napier of Magdala, then a lieutenant in the Engineers, was deputed to construct a road from Siliguri to Darjeeling. This road was laid out in the midst of thick forest and along the steep ridges for a length of 40 miles<sup>2</sup> at an expenditure of Rupees 8,00,000<sup>3</sup>. This road is known as old Military Road, winding its way by sharp ascents from Pankhabari to Kurseong and then mounting up Dow Hill and running along the crest of the ridge of Ghum.

As Darjeeling developed and the tea industry became firmly established, there was the need of having cart road which was further emphasized by the Sikkim Expedition of 1860<sup>4</sup>. R.J.Scott, Officiating Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division wrote to the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal in 1862: “The sum of Rupees 2-8 was advanced by the Darogah of Thannah Dimlah to some Cartmen who, with the carts, accompanied the Troops in the Sikkim War to Darjeeling. These Carts were supplied by Mr. Donough (who was the Deputy Magistrate of Titalyah, in May 1859) on the requisition of the Military Authorities.”<sup>5</sup> On the meeting of the Municipal Committee, the rent of the station Theatre was fixed at Rupees 20 per month, and an annual income of Rupees 240. The building was fitted for Theatre without entailing an additional expense the Fund was turned to more profitable account, unless it was used for transit store-room when the Cart Road was finished.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1862, Dinagepore Division Executive Engineer refunded Rupees 27,000, which was included in the item of Miscellaneous Receipts. Out of Rupees 44,068-14-9, the amount advanced from the Fund, on account of new Cart Road, perceived that Rupees 35,241 in all had been refunded

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<sup>1</sup> Judicial Proceedings, No. 342, July 1860.

<sup>2</sup> L.S.S.O’Malley, op.cit., p.132.

<sup>3</sup> E.C.Dozey, Concise and Complete history of Darjeeling , p.3.

<sup>4</sup> L.S.S.O’Malley, p.132.

<sup>5</sup> Judicial, Dec. 1862, Proceedings, 55-56.

and the balance of Rs. 8,854-14-9, remains to be back to the Fund. So in order to improve the town, it was the explanation of the Superintendent of Darjeeling. These were several sources of income to be appropriated for municipal purposes<sup>6</sup>.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 1861, in accordance with the Municipal Rules, a meeting of the landed proprietors was called in order to vote in commissioners for the year, when the following gentlemen were elected, viz.: Major-General Harvey, C.B., Dr. Collins, Messrs. Brine, Scanlan and Sreulter.

The only works of importance carried on during the year were-

The construction of the New Cart Road.

The construction of the Bazar shops.

The construction of the Bazar Shed containing stalls.

This cleared that Rupees were sanctioned for the hire of a cart for the use of Troops proceeding to Sikkim. Government accordingly sanctioned the construction of a cart road. The only works of importance carried on during the year 1861-62 was the construction of the *New Cart Road*. With reference to this road the Municipal Committee undertook to carry it with the Municipal Funds, of which 27,000 Rupees were given to Captain W. R. Fitzgerald, Executive Engineer, for this purpose. When, on the arrival of late, Lieutenant-Governor, who gave his approval to the steps taken by the Committee, the Road was made an Imperial One, and the 27,000 Rupees refunded to the Committee for other purposes<sup>7</sup>. The construction of the road from Darjeeling to Kurseong was commenced in 1861 and the whole road was completed in 1869. In the meantime the communications with the plains had been improved by the construction at a cost of Rupees 14,68,000 of a road 126 miles long from Karagola Ghat, on the Ganges opposite Sahibganj, to Siliguri; and a road had also been driven through the Terai to connect this with

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<sup>6</sup> Judicial, January, 1864, Proceeding No.242.

<sup>7</sup> Judicial, Dec. 1862, Proceeding No. 122.

the Hill Cart Road<sup>8</sup>. In 1868 there was the establishment of wheeled carriage between Kurseong and Darjeeling “If it succeeded coaches would started between Siligoree and Darjeeling.”<sup>9</sup>

There was a scheme for the future management of road repairs by the Municipal Committee of Darjeeling. J.F.Muller, Secretary to the said Committee referred this<sup>10</sup>. The expenditure outlay on the roads for the year 1861-62 was as follows:-

**Table No. III.1 Expenditure Outlay**

<b>Road</b>					<b>Rs.</b>
Station	...	...	...	...	16,712
Kurseong	...	...	...	...	4,894
Hope Town	...	...	...	...	955
Tuqoar	...	...	...	...	450
Leebong	...	...	...	...	358
Dooteriah	...	...	...	...	100
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Giving a total of Rupees....					23,471
Per mensem or Rupees 1,955-14-9, or Coolies 325, per mensem throughout the year.					

### **Road Construction: Labour Cost**

Further we have a reference that J.F.Muller begged leave for the following proposed arrangement:-That thirty coolies, at Rupees 6, three Chupprasies, at Rupees 7, and three Sirdars, at Rupees 7 per mensem, be placed on the Punkabarry Road and located at Sonadhur, Mahalderam, Pankabarry, Rungeet, Rungnoo 10 coolies, 1 Sirdar; 1 Chuprassy and at Leebang and Tuqoor 8 Coolies and 1 Chuprassy; Station fifty coolies, five Sirdars, and three

<sup>8</sup> L.S.S.O Malley, op.cit., pp.132-133 and also in E.C.Dozey, op.cit., p.9.

<sup>9</sup> March 1868, Judicial, Proceedings No.213-214.

<sup>10</sup> September 1863, Judicial Department, Proceedings No.31.

Chupprassies and two Orderly Chupprassies for taking his orders. His Baboo as Overseer with Rupees 30 (in addition to his Office allowance) to include Horse and Travelling Allowance. The cost of this Establishment are as follows:-

**Table No. III.2 Labour Cost**

Road	Number of Coolies	Rs.	Number of Chupprassies	Rs.	Number of Sirdars	Rs.	Number of Overseers	Rs.
Punkabarry	30	180	3	21	3	21		
Hope Town	6	36	1	7				
Rungeet	10	60	1	7	1	7		
Leebong	8	48	1	7				
Station	50	300	5	35	5	35	1	30

Total Rupees was 923 or 11,076 Rupees per annum, being Rupees 12,395 less than the outlay last year, and therefore allowing, if necessary, an increase of the proposed Establishment to double.

The scheme adopted by the Municipal Committee of Darjeeling for the future management of Road Repairs<sup>11</sup>. A detailed plan of the Darjeeling Station Roads were as follows:-

<sup>11</sup> J.F.Muller, Secretary to Municipal Committee, Darjeeling, The 20<sup>th</sup> August 1863.

**Table No. III.3 Plan of Darjeeling Station Roads**

Name of Roads	State	Remarks
The Mall ...	In good order...	There is a railing round it and a stone drain being made.
Leebong Road ...	Ditto	
Mineral Spring Road ...	Ditto	
Rungeet Road ...	Ditto	
Birch Hill Road ...	Under repairs	
Tuqoor Road ...	In good order	
Auckland Road ...	Ditto	This road which extended to the saddle has been cut away by the new Cart Road, so that it is only kept in repair as far as the Road to the Barracks.
From Bazar under convent to Victoria Road ...	Passable ...	
Zigzag from Auckland to near Cart Road..	Just repaired	
Zigzag from Cart Road near Mr.Jugge's to Bazar	Being repaired	

From Mall to Cart Road near Mr. Garstin's		
Back of General Lloyds'	...	Passable
Hospital Roads	...	Ditto
		Under repairs
From Mall to Victoria Road near Convent		
Jullapahar Road	...	Ditto
Muller's lane Road	...	In good order
		Just repaired
Punkabarry	„ ...	
Eastern	„ ...	In good order
Bazar	„ ...	Ditto
Kursiong Station Road	...	Ditto
		Just repaired
		being repaired
Zigzag from Mr. Templeman to Cart Road		
Burial Ground Road	...	Just repaired...
		In good order ...

Except just near Kursiong, where the rocky nature of the Road requires continued repairs and is considered too dangerous to blast.

Some grass and jungle on it, but being cleared away. All the Roads are passable, but the continual landslips and ruts produced by the heavy rain require constant repairing.

Until 1878 the only means of approaching Darjeeling was by a long and tedious journey along the plains of Bengal. After the year 1860, when the East Indian Railway had been extended upto Rajmahal, the traveller could proceed by rail as far as Sahibganj on the banks of the Ganges. But after crossing the river, he was forced to proceed by road to the foot of the hills past Purnea, Kishanganj, Titalya and

Siliguri in Siliguri in some conveyance such as a palki or slow moving bullock cart. The whole journey from Calcutta lasted 5 or 6 days. It was uncomfortable journey, which expenses so high. One example can be shown here in this regard. Sir Joseph Hooker paying Rs. 240 for his conveyances from Karagola Ghat on the Ganges to the foot of the hills. In 1878 the Northern Bengal State Railway was opened for traffic as far as Jalpaiguri, and by the end of that year it had been extended to Siliguri.

Tongas still continued to be the only means of travelling from that station to Darjeeling; but in 1878-79 a company was started for the purpose of constructing , maintaining and working a steam tramway between the terminus of the railway at Siliguri and Darjeeling. The line was open for traffic as far as Kurseong in 1880, and in 1881 it was carried as far as Darjeeling, the steam tramway being then dignified with the name of a railway and its designation changed to the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway<sup>12</sup>.

In the 70s of the nineteenth century we found that the condition of roads in several districts of North Bengal was quite satisfactory when we see that the imperial roads of Dinajpur district were pucca at that time. The others had wooden bridges, some of which had fallen in. There were 238 miles of road before the famine works began. Since then 742 miles had been constructed. Some of these had bamboo bridges; over the other bridges were being constructed. These roads at that time was made over to the Road Cess Department. The Road Cess amounts to Rupees 76,000 and were much good by this income by the increasing traffic and rendering the people wealthy. A part of this amount were for providing good drinking water for people travelling along these roads; either by improving existing tanks, or by digging wells at the stages where travellers rested.

In Malda district although the roads were kutcha, were in good condition, but they were liable to be flooded. There was road from Chanchal north to Surupgura, one north-east to Churamun and

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<sup>12</sup> L.S.S.O'Malley, Bengal District Gazetteer, p.,133.



Dinagepore, one south to Maldah, one south-west to Hyatpore, one north-west to Toolsipore and Purneah. The only road at that time had bridges was the one from Chanchal to Malda. This bridge was good in condition. The rest had bamboo bridges, which were broken in nature and carried away by the rivers. Five years ago there were no roadways or a single cart. But during that time 111 miles of roadway and about 900 carts. So the Kahars and dhangurs travelled more freely through north Maldah to Dinajpur than through middle Maldah to Gajole to Dinajpur, because the former route was direct and there were more villages to be met with and better water to be had along it. Old tanks, full of water-nuts, the centre of the stems of which was much eaten, because it was believed to be cooling to the constitution, existed there. During the late famine, two years ago, many ate it to save their lives<sup>13</sup>.

Regarding the condition and effect of Railways and other great public works the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling wrote in 1886:

“There has been no change in the railway system since last year. Only the terminus and about a mile of the Northern Bengal State Railway are in this district. The effects of the line in increasing the cultivation of jute in the Terai, in creating the gunny-bag manufacture there, and in developing the tract in every way, both as regards tea cultivation and ordinary agricultural produce, are still visible. The bazar of Matigara, two miles from the terminus, which ten years ago scarcely existed, has now become a centre of trade and distribution second only to Darjeeling, not only for the Terai, but for the hills, Nepal, Sikhim and even Tibet. In the cold weather it is thronged with Thibetan traders. The terminus at *Silligoree* has throughout the year effectively registered the Nepal trade in place of the old frontier station at *Nakshwarbaree*<sup>14</sup>.

“The Darjeeling and Himalayan Railway is now managed in every respect like an ordinary line in the plains, and has during the last year been very superior to the Northern Bengal State Railway in the item

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<sup>13</sup> General Department, August, 1877, Section V, 341.

<sup>14</sup> General Miscellaneous Proceedings, September 1886.

of punctuality. The engineering staff had a trying time during and immediately after the extraordinary rainfall of July, and then of September, and there were numerous serious slips in both the upper and lower sections of the line; but all were speedily repaired, and there was no appreciable obstruction to the traffic . There were some fatal accidents on the line during the year, but none of them reflected on the management.”

“ The Teesta suspension Bridge and roads leading thence to Darjeeling and Silligoree, the Darjeeling Cart Road, and the Public Works Department from the Nepal frontier at Nakshwarbaree at the foot of the hills are said to be in good order, except the serious obstruction on the Teesta Valley road owing to the bridge over the Sevoke river having been broken down and not having been repaired.”

The amount spent in original works and repairs in the several districts will be seen in the following statement<sup>15</sup>:

**Table No. III.4 The original works and repairs of roads in several districts**

Districts.	ORIGINAL WORKS		REPAIRS		Total proposed amount	Total actually expended	Percentage
	Total amount proposed to be expended	Total actual expenditure	Total amount proposed to be expended	Total actual expenditure			

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dinagepore...	10,650	10,379	50,742	49,435	61,392	59,814	97.4
Julpigoree...	10,500	11,374	18,515	18,210	29,015	29,584	101.9
Darjeeling...	10,000	.....	12,398	3,337	22,398	3,337	14.8
Total...	31,150	21,753	81,753	70,982	1,12,805	92,735	

The District Road Cess Committees of Dinajpur had spent a fair proportion of the amounts allotted for the maintenance and construction of district and village roads. In Jalpaiguri the expenditure on original works had exceeded the allotment. The percentage of expenditure in Darjeeling was not as a matter of fact, so small as the figures seem to show as some works were not paid for till after the year, though executed before its close. Some roads were repaired in the Jalpaiguri district by the managers of the Chaklajat estates but these were not included in the Committee's list<sup>16</sup>.

**Table No. III.5 Road Statistics (1886):**

Nature of work done during the year	Dinajpur		Jalpaiguri		Darjeeling		Remarks
	Total Number	Total Amout Spent	Total Number	Total Amout Spent	Total Number	Total Amout Spent	
		miles		miles		miles	

<sup>16</sup> General-Miscellaneous Proceedings, September 1886.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1.Road metalled ... ..	...	...	...	1 3,350ft	1,350	...
2.Original road made ... ..	...	...	...	...	(b)4,961	...
3.Old road repaired ... ..	57	1088	42,278	26	384 <sup>3/4</sup>	10,913
4.New village roads made ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	31 ... 2,939
5.Old village roads repaired ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1 1 <sup>1/2</sup> ...
6.New large bridges and culverts made ... ..	11	35 <sup>1/2</sup>	3,268	18	70 <sup>3/4</sup>	1,434
7.New middle sized bridges and culverts made ... ..	2	...	4,500	...	...	...
8.New small sized bridges and culverts made ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	5,355
9.Number of old bridges of all descriptions repaired ... ..	13	...	5,879	4	...	1,057
10.Trees planted ... ..	61	...	2,390	101	...	3,879
11.Drainage .... ..	2800	...	(a)800	100	...	200
	1	6	699	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	59,814	29,119		3,337

Not yet paid

Not yet paid for, nor the completion report received

Not yet paid for

(a) This includes the cost of maintenance of trees planted in previous years.

(b) This amount was spent in raising the embankment of Dalimkote road, Boda-Debigunge road and Alipore road<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> Table collected from General – Miscellaneous Proceedings September 1886.

In Dinajpur the district roads were fit for country cart traffic, but not for lighter wheel traffic on Springs during that year. The Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri said:-

“The most important event of the year as regards this department was the bringing on its list the emigration road west of Haldibari on the Northern Bengal State Railway. This road, which was constructed out of Cooch Behar State funds during the Maharaja’s minority, has since his accession been allowed to fall into disrepair.” “As the road was an important feeder to the Northern Bengal State Railway, it might be classed as an imperial road and made over to the Public Works Department.”

He further goes on to say that the road should be brought in the district list, but that the Maharajah might be expected to do something towards putting it in order. On this being brought to His Highness notice, he at once contributed Rs. 5,000 on the condition that the Road Cess Committee found Rs. 2,500 for the then current year 1885. This the Committee were able fortunately to do owing to some unexpected savings. Rupees 7,500 were therefore spent on the road during the year, and since the expiry of the year the Maharajah has contributed Rs. 2,500 more. This makes Rupees 10,000 altogether which has hitherto been available for the repairs of the road and reconstruction of the bridges. The total amount estimated necessary for replacing the old and rotten bridges was Rupees 24,000. Deducting Rupees 7,500, there remain Rupees 16,500 to be provided for bridge work on this road. It must be some years before this amount can be provided out of the slender income of the Road Cess Committee.

The District Road Cess Committee spent as their limited funds allow for the maintenance and construction of roads but more were wanted in the district. The planters contributed fair sums for the

maintenance and improvement of some of the roads in the Dooars<sup>18</sup> because they were interested for tea plantations and thereby wanted to pressurize the colonial Government to oversee the realization of their projects. It is true to say that the Dooars Planters' Association was purely European in character so they got liberal assistance from the Government<sup>19</sup>.

In Darjeeling the whole network of internal communications was under the District Road Committee, and in the hills in it maintained by the planters at a very moderate cost without any professional supervision and was said to be in high state of efficiency. In the plains the road system was crossed by the Himalayan drainage and the work was too difficult for the planters. The District Engineer changed the most important roads in the plains, and effected an improvement, though funds were too small for the roads to be in as good a state as could be desired<sup>20</sup>.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the number and lengths of district metalled roads in Dinajpur was 5 and 2.5 miles respectively and in Jalpaiguri was 4 and 24.0 miles and in Malda it was 5 and 9.0, whereas unmetalled roads were extensive in those districts. The following table will give us the clear picture on this:-

**Table No. III.6 District Roads maintained by District Board:**

Serial number	District Board	District Roads											
		Metalled						Un-metalled					
		No of Roads (nos)	Total Length (miles)	Cost (Rupees)				No of Roads (nos)	Total Length (miles)	Cost (Rupees)			
Original works	Repairs			Total	Per mile of	Original works	Repairs			Total	Per mile of		

<sup>18</sup> General-Miscellaneous Proceedings, September 1886.

<sup>19</sup> Shesadri Prosad Bose, Colonial India, Predatory State: Emergence of New Social Structure in Jalpaiguri District (1865-1947), Readers Service, Kolkata, 2008, p.227.

<sup>20</sup> General-Miscellaneous Proceedings, September 1886.

							each road						each road
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rajshahi Division													
1.	Dinajpur...	5	2.5	...	1,492	1,492	597.00	67	1,051.5	43,977	27,071	71,048	68.0
2.	Jalpaiguri...	4	24.0	...	5,661	5,661	211.00	77	737.0	15,445	34,443	49,888	68.0
Bhagalpur Division													
3.	Malda...	5	9.0	1,653	1,784	3,437	381.88	35	378.3	16,209	18,575	34,874	92.18

The above table indicates the development of the metal roads in North Bengal was very negligible and was not sufficient for the growing urban public demand for public use. The construction of roadways and railways in North Bengal clearly shows the interest of colonial purpose to serve plantation estates<sup>21</sup>. We will summarize the names of different roads in the districts of North Bengal by showing a list of roads as given by the Deputy Commissioner during the time of 1870s. The maintenance of important roads and bridges rested with the Public Works Department. As under PWD the total length of 93 miles imperial roads in Darjeeling district were-

1. The Darjeeling Hill Cart Road of 48 miles enters at Siliguri to Darjeeling station of which the first 8 miles of the Terai station was metalled and the other section was unmetalled.
2. The unmetalled New Cart Road of 2 ½ miles was from the Saddle to Jallapahar.

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<sup>21</sup>The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Districts Boards in Bengal during the year 1903-04, Municipal Department, Local Self Government Branch, January, 1905, Appendix C.

3. The unmetalled 7 miles road of Cinchona plantation road from the Saddle to Rangbi.

Under the Local Fund roads maintained by the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner the more or less 234 miles unmetalled roads were maintained as the road from the Little Ranjit river to Gok and Kalbang (6miles), from Balason to Nagri (4miles), Nepal road (20miles), Forest road (12miles), roads from the Tista river to Kalimpong and many others.

Under municipality around 100 miles unmetalled roads, except the road of the station within the limits of Darjeeling was metalled, were maintained as the Dhutiria road (8miles), Gok road from Darjiling town to the Little Ranjit (10miles), Hopetown road (16miles), 2miles road from Darjeeling station to Jallapahar, 8 miles mineral spring road, from Kurseong to Punkhabari (6 miles) and so on. No large commercial centres sprang up along the lines of roads in the 70s of the nineteenth century<sup>22</sup>.

In the Jalpaiguri district under the management of PWD the following roads were there:-

1. Imperial Cart road from Purniah to Darjeeling passes through Jalpaiguri of about 27 miles.
2. Road from Jalpaiguri town due west to Titaliya on the Purniah and Darjeeling road (29miles) along which Calcutta mails were carried.
3. The twenty-one miles length of a very fine road extends from Kuch Behar town to the military station of Baxa, the Bhutan range in the east of the Duars subdivision, lies within jalpaiguri district<sup>23</sup>.

Apart from this, the Jalpaiguri District Board maintained a total length of 24 miles of metalled and 778 unmetalled road. The principal road under local management was known as the Jalpaiguri-Alipur road upto Alipur Duar and thence was called the Alipur-Haldibari road. Its total length within the

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<sup>22</sup> W.W.Hunter, *Statiscal Account of Bengal*, Vol.X, pp-127-128.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, p.294.



district was 83 miles. Apart from this the Boad road of 31 miles, the Siliguri road (23 miles) ran through Ambari Falakata, 26 miles long Titalya road, from Boda to the Domar railway station (19miles), part of the Central Emigration road (28 miles) which was used for cattle and sheep movement as well as coolies for tea-garden purpose. An imperial road was constructed before the opening of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Karagola Ghat on the Ganges to the foot of the hills for good communication between the plains and Darjeeling and it entered the district at Titalya, 16 miles from Siliguri. A new road was constructed from the Dam Dim station to join a metalled road from the Fagu tea-garden in the Darjeeling district to the Bengal-Duars Railway. Another road from Hantapara tea-garden and Falakata was improved. West of the Torsa river a road ran to the Rajabhatkhoa station on the Cooch Behar State Railway. Alipur-Haldibari road and Jainti-Raidak road were also very important<sup>24</sup>.

During the time of the seventies of the nineteenth century, there were no roads in the Malda district maintained and managed by the PWD<sup>25</sup>, and the District Board maintained 20 miles of metalled road and 512 of unmetalled road<sup>26</sup> of which the following was a list of the roads under local management:- Three miles metalled roads in the Civil Station of English Bazar, unmetalled 5 miles road in the Civil Station, road from Umirti to Nimasarai of 7 miles, Rajmahal road of 18 miles, Dinajpur road from Maldah Ghat to Sankrol of 25 miles, four miles from English Bazar to Nimsarai, Tartipur road (20miles), from Tartipur to Baragharia(10miles), Simultala to Sadullapur (3miles), Sastanitala to Kaliachak (11miles), Rohanpur to Parbatipur (12miles), Rohanpur road (20miles), Sibganj road (2miles) and Kansat road (10miles)<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> Grunning,op.cit.,pp.117& 119.

<sup>25</sup> WWHunter,op.cit.,p.93.

<sup>26</sup> Lambourne ,op.cit.,p.69.

<sup>27</sup> WWHunter, Vol.VII,op.cit.,p.93.

In 1909 there was a rail communication of Katihar-Godagari and a steam ferry from Lalgola to Godagari in Malda district which was most important<sup>28</sup>.

In the first decade of twentieth century (1909-10) the total mileage of roads maintained by the Dinajpur District Board was 993. The important roads of Dinajpur district were:-

1. Murshidabad Road which runs almost due north from Godagari on the bank of the Ganges and passed through the entire length of the Rajshahi and Dinajpur district and a corner of Malda.
2. Rangpur road of 24 miles of which the first portion from Dinajpur to Chirirbandar, from Chirirbandar on to Parbatipur and this road also crossed the Kankura and the Atrai.
3. Malda road of 40 miles runs due west from Dinajpur as far as Birol to Bansihari with Malda.
4. Bogra road of 36 miles ran south-east from Dinajpur to the railway station of Hilli just across the Bogra border.
5. Forty-eight miles Purnea road ran in a northwesterly direction from Dinajpur, passed through the lower portion of the Pirganj thana and the northern portion of the Hemtabad.
6. Kisenganj Road took off from the Purnea road about five miles from Dinajpur and ran more to the north, crossing into Purnea in the extreme north of the Ranisankail thana.
7. Balurghat Road which connected Balurghat with the district head-quarter Kumarganj(16 miles from Dinajpur).

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<sup>28</sup> Lambourne, op.cit.,p.68.

8. Balurghat-Hilli Road of 16 miles ran in an easterly direction from Balurghat with the nearest railway at Hilli.
9. Twenty-six miles Nilphamari Road ran from Thakurgaon to Nilphamari railway station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Apart from those main roads there were various minor connecting roads in the district<sup>29</sup>.

In the first decade of the twentieth century (1903) a report by the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, gave us a necessary reference of sending a “Mission to Tibet as soon as the passes were opened. This Mission will be accompanied by a military escort of sufficient strength to ensure that it shall not prove abortive”. During the time and for sending Mission to Tibet we found an idea on the condition of road as said. The Cart Road up the Teesta was not in good condition at that time and that the roads further on in Sikkim also stood in need of much improvement for the utilization for carriage of stores and supplies to any considered extent. So an officer of the PWD deputed for examining and reporting whether the communications between Siliguri and the border at the Jalep and Superba Naku Passes was in good condition or not<sup>30</sup>.

## **Imperial Post Office and Telegraph-**

Before 1858 the Government postal system was prevalent but in the late nineteenth century it got huge utilization in British administration for the remittance of individual savings within India. Migratory people also sent their money order<sup>31</sup> for their dependence who lived in villages. Four new post offices

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<sup>29</sup> WWHunter,op.cit.,p.409 & F.W.Strong,op.cit.,pp.87, 90 &91.

<sup>30</sup> Confidential Political Department, 11/1903, Serial Nos.(1-2)

<sup>31</sup> Tirthankar Roy, op.cit., pp.243-244.

and an Imperial line from Hili to Balurghat were opened during the year 1885-86. A case of stealing Rs. 45 out of Rs.100 from the mail bag occurred at the Sudder post office. The despatching clerk was suspected and removed from the Department, and a complaint of theft of postal money (Rs.900) from Dinajpur railway station was laid by an overseer of the Postal Department but an enquiry on it came out as utterly false, and the complaint was dismissed.

The number of post-offices working in Jalpaiguri at the close of the year was 25. The number of letter-boxes fell from 30 in 1884-85 to 27 in 1885-86, two new letter-boxes opened and 5 closed in the year 1885. The Department continued to maintain its reputation as most useful to public in general. In Darjeeling there was nothing worthy of notice, except that the postal money-order transactions involved a very large sum of money<sup>32</sup>.

In India the major telegraph lines beside the railway lines were completed before 1855 for strategic needs of British empire<sup>33</sup>The receipts from Telegraph offices in Dinajpur was Rs.625 against Rs.838 in the year of 1885. The decrease was due to the fact that the postal telegraph office was mostly used by Government officials only as being nearer to the courts, while the public generally resorted to the railway telegraph office. The Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri said:- “There is no information available in this office on the subject. To enable me to deal with this section I asked for the necessary particulars from Mr. Ward, Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs, Jalpaiguri Division, but in reply he wrote to say that he is not permitted to furnish information.” In Darjeeling 23,612 messages were received and issued and the revenue amounted to Rs.17,509<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>32</sup> Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, General Department, Miscellaneous, September 1886.

<sup>33</sup> Tirthankar Roy, op.cit., p.244.

<sup>34</sup> Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, General Department, Miscellaneous, September 1886.

## B. Conservancy and Labour

The municipality controlled the entire conservancy arrangements under a code of bye-laws that were framed for the purpose years ago. The Darjeeling municipal conservancy system was well carried in the station as mentioned in the reports given by Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal for the year 1876. The surface cleansings were taken to the municipal garden, where they were burnt. Each house-holder was required to keep his premises clean, and if he neglects to do so he was fined. The station required to be kept free from jungle and undergrowth, which served only as a cover for nuisance and a receptacle for filth, particularly in the ravines, and interfere with the drains and water courses<sup>35</sup>. An advantages system of septic tanks for the disposal of sewage in the hill station of Darjeeling was prepared by Captain Clemesha, late Officiating Sanitary Commissioner and adopted by the Municipality in 1907<sup>36</sup>. A system of dry-earth conservancy at Darjeeling was introduced by sanctioning an estimate amounting to Rupees 4,200 on account of cost of constructing five latrines and providing the necessary establishment of conservancy<sup>37</sup>, as follows:-

	Rs.
Cost of five latrines in the Native Bazar, with roofed in deep holes below, where in the deodorized soil from the latrines will be daily thrown ... ..	1,683
Cost of digging and covering holes to three existing latrines ... ..	150
Cost of four carts to visit each compound within limits in there is no efficient latrine ...	600
Cost of four mules ... ..	500
Cost of six sets of harness ... ..	240
Cost of twelve metal pans ... ..	240

<sup>35</sup> Judicial, December 1868, Proceedings No. 58.

<sup>36</sup> Municipal Department, Municipal Branch, February, 1907, Nos. 7-8.

<sup>37</sup> Judicial, December 1868, Proceedings No. 58.

Cost of 1,200 feet to close railing to enclose latrines and their approaches and to fence ground in the centre of station to prevent the same being resorted to as hitherto	... ..	300
Pay of Mehters(6) for four months and half, at Rupees 9 each	... ..	243
Pay of four coolies for four months and half, at Rupees 6-8 each	... ..	117
Other petty charges	... ..	126
	Total...	4,200 <sup>38</sup> . The

conservancy arrangements throughout Malda and even in Dinajpur were very defective in the seventies of the nineteenth century, owing to the municipality having no spare funds to carry out any sanitary measure whatever. There were many pits and hollows in the town. These were filled up with the street sweepings<sup>39</sup>.

It was appeared that in 1905 Sir Andrew Frazer attracted the unfavourable sanitary condition of Darjeeling , and therefore ordered for a small committee consisting of Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, the Sanitary Commissioner and the sanitary Engineer. The general recommendations of the Committee were in the direction of a system of septic tanks, combined with an improved scheme of hand-removal and sent it to the Municipality. But in this regard it is better to have an idea of the previous sanitary system, for which Frazer criticized, as one of-

- (a) The removal of solid refuse by hand from latrines to a central railway siding, whence it was conveyed by train to Batasia and trenched, and
- (b) The removal of liquid sewage by pipes down the western slope.

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<sup>38</sup> A Report of W.B.D.Morton, Ex-Officio Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality.

<sup>39</sup>July 1892,Appendix No. V.

Finally the scheme was accepted by the Government fell into three sections, and was one of combined sewers and septic tanks, connecting with latrines to be rebuilt:

	Rs.
Section A- (1) Public Latrines and dumping basis...	37,580
(2) Night-soil drums and trucks   ... ..	1,320
Section B- Cast-iron sewers   ... ..	92,465
Section C-Septic tanks       ... ..	48,271
Total       ...	1,79,636

A fourth section was as follows-

Section D-(1) Ropeway for refuse disposal ...	15,494
(2) Carts, trucks and dustbins   ...	5,720

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Total 21,214 and Grand Total 2,00,850.

Although this project was started on the Bhutia Busti in water supply, the Sanitary Board was dissatisfied with the scheme, and finally put forward the following projects on the basis of pre-existing projects for a system of sewers and septic tanks and even water-supply:-

- (a) The formation of an artificial lake by damming the mouth of a large flat below the drinking water reservoirs on Senchal cost Rupees 4,266.
- (b) The replacement of certain piping for the connection of the septic tanks with the springs by an open conduit cost Rupees 5,296.
- (c) The relaying of the pipes saved between Jore Bungalow and Darjeeling cost Rupees 3,814.
- (d) The supplement of the old piping thus relaid by new piping for the completion of the distance cost Rupees 18,612.

- (e) The amalgamation of new water supply to be derived from the proposed lake (Jalapahar) with the existing drinking water-supply, and its joint use for drinking and flushing purposes.
- (f) A revision of the latrine and septic tank plans for use in the Bhutia Busti project, and an alternative electric pumping plan in order to provide water to this particular section should the larger scheme be negatived, cost Rupees 30,159, including the separate pumping estimate, and Rupees 27,437 excluding it.
- (g) Further for the ropeway for the disposal of rubbish. Although the last item was keep aside for a while<sup>40</sup>.

If we look into a Report of 1880s then we will see that in Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division, namely Rampur Beaulah and Darjeeling got the status of First Class Municipalities for performing fairly conservancy work. In Darjeeling the rubbish of the town was disposed of by being shot down the hillside from two appointed stations. This arrangement had given rise to some dissatisfaction among rate-payers; but until the rubbish of the town could be removed by means of the tramway, no better method than that time seemed with the means of the municipality. There were 15 latrines and 5 urinals at that time. Three more latrines were proposed of. In support of this a statement showing the strength of the conservancy and latrines. Establishments employed during the year 1881-82 in Darjeeling Municipality as first class municipality in Bengal<sup>41</sup>.

	Jemadars	Coolies	Bhisties	Mehters	Stable servants	No. of ponies and bullocks	Number of carts

<sup>40</sup> Municipal Department , Sanitation Branch, May, 1909, No.169 T-M.

<sup>41</sup> Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1881-82 under Act V (B.C.) of 1876.



Darjeeling	1	10	2	40	14	6	6
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**(a) Some Rules on the Prohibition of Nuisances**

It is to be said that in the sixties of nineteenth century there were some rules made in Darjeeling for the prohibition of nuisances were as follows-

First- Furious riding on Public Roads, and driving wheeled carriages, excepting those for traffic.

Second- Leading about horses or dogs for exercise on Public Roads, except between the hours of 9 am. and 3 pm.

Third- Allowing dogs to be at large on the Mall and other frequented Roads during the time of evening exercise.

Fourth- Driving of loose cattle on Public Roads, except in travelling from place to place.

Fifth- Throwing of stones, earth and other rubbish on the Public Roads, or laying building materials thereon, except by the permission of the Commissioners.

Sixth- Quarrying stones so as to endanger the safety of trees, roads or buildings without the sanction of the Commissioners.

Seventh- Refusing to permit the Commissioner to cut down or trim trees or low jungle along the Public Roads when they obstruct the Roads or cover filth, in all such cases the proprietor to be first requested to do so himself.

Eighth- Using ground as a necessary in any other place than such as may be appointed under the authority of the Commissioner, whether on private or public ground.

Ninth- Keeping a slaughter-house or piggery in any place except such as authorized by the Commissioner.

Tenth- Begging on or near the Public Roads or exposing some thereon to excite charity.

Eleventh- Defiling the Public Roads or spring, or obstructing the Roads to any Public Spring.

Twelfth- Encroachment on Public Roads by the temporary exposure of articles for sale, or by temporary or permanent owings or buildings, except with the sanction of the Commissioner.

Breaches of Rules quoted above regarded as punishable on conviction before the Magistrate at his discretion by fine not exceeding Rupees fifty, and continuing nuisances by fine not exceeding Rupees five for every day during which such nuisances are continued. An appeal from such decisions will be to the Sessions Judge<sup>42</sup>.

### **(b) Porters' and Dandywallas'**

In order to provide convenience to the residents as well as the tourists the Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality regulated the working of the *Porters*<sup>43</sup> and *Dandywallas*<sup>44</sup> by fixing rates as also by issuing badges so that nobody could face the indignity of arguing or by any chance if an unsavory incidence took place the *Porters* or *Dandywallas* could be identified by their badges and action could be taken against them<sup>45</sup>.

The objective of a Bill for the general control of Coolies in hill municipalities was “to regulate the conditions under which certain coolies may work for hire, and be hired in hill municipalities where their labour supplies the only form of locomotive power ordinarily available. Numerous complaints were made by residents of Darjeeling of the misconduct and extortionate charges of dandymen and porters, and it was decided to bring them under a law similar to the Act for the regulation of hackney carriages

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<sup>42</sup> Judicial, June 1860, Proceedings 325.

<sup>43</sup> Who bear their burdens on the back supported by straps fastened to the forehead, or shoulders when the weight is excessive.

<sup>44</sup> The dandy is a chair with a well in front, not unlike that of the carriages in the plains, which rises to the level of the seat, and is carried by four stalwart men; usually Bhutias, who place the horizontal cross-poles by which the dandy is supported on their shoulders and swing off with their fares up and down hill at a jog-trot, looking extremely well pleased if the occupants shew the slightest sign of nervousness.

<sup>45</sup> Kashinath Ojha, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Darjeeling, Study in Urbanization: 1835-1890, unpublished Thesis Paper, Submitted in the Department of History, NBU, 1997, p.81.

and palankeens, by which, on the one hand, their charges will be limited to a certain tariff, and provision will be secured. The payment of such hire as they may earn<sup>46</sup>.” However, this Bill awaited for the assent of the Governor General in Council. The Viceroy and Governor-General signified ‘A Bill for the registration and control of porters and dandywallahs in the Darjeeling and Kurseong Municipalities which were passed in 1883 under the Act V (B.C. ). It is to observe that the Bill as passed for the control, not only of coolies offering themselves by the month as domestic servants. Between these two classes there was an important distinction. A coolie of the former class may be compared to the driver of a hackney carriage plying for hire in a public thorough fare. The public have constantly occasion to employ him at a moment’s notice, and are practically compelled to accept his services without any knowledge of his character or antecedents. It is therefore not unreasonable that they should be protected by legislation against a capricious refusal or an extortionate demand, and should be enabled to require from him some evidence of his competency to perform his work. A coolie of the latter class is in the same position as an ordinary domestic servant; he is engaged at leisure, and with full deliberation. If he does not give satisfaction, he can be dismissed and replaced as readily as, indeed more readily than, any other servant of the establishment. Accordingly there appears to be no reason why his relations to his employer should not, as in the case of other domestic servants, be regulated by the ordinary law of contract.

Under the Bill, a coolie could not engage as a domestic servant without a license and if so engaged, he was charged with desertion or other acts of misconduct, he was liable to have his license withdrawn or suspended. The power of withdrawal or suspension was entrusted to the chairman of the Municipal Commissioners, who was apparently to act in an executive, and not in a judicial capacity. If whilst the

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<sup>46</sup> Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal For the year 1881-82, No. 775.

coolie was without his license, he found a new master willing to employ him, and entered into service with that master, he was liable to fine, and , in default of fine, to imprisonment. He was thus prevented, under severe penalties, from earning his livelihood as a domestic servant. A table is being shown here the offences of dandywallas and porters and under different sections they were liable to give fine:

**Table No. III.7 Showing prosecutions under the Dandywallas and Porters:**

Year	Municipality	Offences under sections 8&9		Offences under sections 13		Offences under sections 13&9		Offences under sections 14		Total	
		Number of offenders	Amount of fines in Rs.	Number of offenders	Amount of fines in Rs.	Number of offenders	Amount of fines in Rs.	Number of offenders	Amount of fines in Rs.	Number of offenders	Amount of fines in Rs.
1915-16	Darjeeling	3	6	...	...			1	2	4	8
	Kurseong	...	...							...	...
1916-17	Darjeeling	2	4	1	9			2	10	5	23
	Kurseong	...	...					2	8	2	0
1917-18	Darjeeling	4	55	...	...			...	...	4	55
	Kurseong	3	112					1	8	4	2
1918-19	Darjeeling	2	1	3	60					5	7
	Kurseong	...	...	5	44					5	4
1920-21	Darjeeling	8	16	3		2	10			13	2
	Kurseong	...	...							...	...
1921-22	Darjeeling	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	Nil				
	Kurseong	...	...								
1922-23	Darjeeling	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	Nil				
	Kurseong	Nil	Nil								

It appears to His Excellency that legislation of this kind was open to serious doubt. It was not warranted by the precedent derived from the enactment for the regulation of hackney carriages at Calcutta, and the

suggestion that the relations, between coolies or any other class of servants their employers at Simla, were regulated, otherwise than by the ordinary law of contract, proceeds on a mistake. As , however, those who were most competent to form an opinion on the subject, consider that the circumstances of the Darjeeling and Kurseong Municipalities and the conduct and habits of the coolies offering themselves for such that a special and exceptional measure of this sort was absolutely required, His Excellency did not withhold his assent to the Bill; but he is clearly of opinion that the power of withdrawing or suspending the license of a domestic coolie, ought not to be exercised without something in a nature of judicial enquiry. Such an enquiry was specially desirable in the cases of changes against domestic servants, where it was necessary to take into consideration, not only an isolated refusal to work or show of disrespect, but a whole course of conduct on both sides<sup>47</sup>. The Act V (B.C.) of 1883 was in force in the Darjeeling and Kurseong Municipalities only. The Chairman of the Kurseong Municipality reports that the Act worked smoothly during the year of 1917. The general conduct of the men under the supervision of 3 dandy-sardars was satisfactory. The Darjeeling Municipality received an annual grant of Rs. 210 from Darjeeling Improvement Fund which paid for the head Sardar. The Chairman reported on that year that dandywallas were a troublesome and independent body of men at the best of times and they were particularly so during the year under report in consequence of the military demand for men of their class for service as dooly-bearers at the front<sup>48</sup>. It is found from the report of different years that offences occurred due to the demand for more than legal hire. The case ended with conviction. There was one defect in the Act that no power was given to fix the hire of a rickshaw or dandy. Visitors to Darjeeling and Kurseong who had no rickshaws or dandies of their own were frequently made to pay excessive hire of those conveyance<sup>49</sup>.

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<sup>47</sup> Municipal, June 1883, Proceeding, 9 to 13.

<sup>48</sup> Municipal Department, December, 1917, File No. M-1R/4.

<sup>49</sup> Municipal Department, December, 1918, File.M.1D-16 & B.364-66.

A statement showing the number of dandywallas and porters registered, together with other information concerning them in several years is appended.

**Table No.III.8 The number of dandywallas and porters registered:**

Name of Municipalities	Number Registered												Number of Badges issues												Cost										
	Dandywalls						Porters						Dandywalls						Porters						in Rupees										
	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23							
Darjeeling	275	310	395	518	290	200	200	231	235	174	320	140	110	49	1	...	...	499	Nil	Nil	Nil	64	235	67	320	11	17	10	880	580	572	495	609	530	576
Kurseong	75	66	59	62	29	28	35	98	106	87	98	61	60	73	75	66	59	62	29	28	35	98	106	87	98	61	60	73	60	96	96	47	...	...	40

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 1942 we see the amendment of bye-law No.8 of the under section 71 (1) of the Calcutta Carriage Act of 1919, as adopted Commissioner's of the Municipality of Darjeeling. In this the rates of hire for every rickshaw-walla and dandiwalla were fixed and will be cleared by taking an idea from the following table<sup>50</sup>:-

**Table No. III.9 Rates of hire for rickshaw-wallas**

From-	To-	Fares

<sup>50</sup> Local Self Government, Municipal, September, 1942, No.9.

		Distance in miles	For rickshaw and 3 men	For rickshaw and 4 men
			Rs.	Rs.
Darjeeling Railway Station...	St. Joseph's College...	2.1	2	3
Ditto ...	Retreat ...	1.7	1	2
Ditto ...	Hotel Mount Everest ...	.26	1	1
Ditto...	Motor stand on Robertson Road...	.4	1	1
Motor Stand on Robertson Road...	Chowrasta...	.19	1	1
Ditto...	Hotel Mount Everest via Auckland Road...	.5	1	1
Chowrasta... ..	Lebong Parade Ground via Rungeet Road...	1.75	1	2
Hotel Mount Everest...	Pines Hotel...	3	2	3
Ditto ...	Retreat via Auckland Road...	1.6	1	2
Ditto ...	Jalapahar Parade Ground via Mackintosh Road...	1	1	1
Planters' Club...	Lebong Parade Ground via Rangeet Road...	2	1	2
Ditto...	Ghoom Railway Station via Auckland Road...	3	2	3
Ditto...	Gymkhana Club...	.4	1	1
Bazar ... ..	Mount Everest Hotel...	.6	1	1

Rates of Porters and Dandiwallas from Railway station to the Bazar were other goods per maund 1 anna and grain, salt and similar articles in bags per maund 1<sup>1/2</sup> pice. From any part of Municipality to different places like Badamtam, Bloomfield (Lower bungalow), Burnesbeg etc. varies for Porters from 6 Annas to 14 Annas; whereas for Dandiwallas from Annas 12 to Re. 1-6. But the rate was for adults. A Dandiwalla may be engaged as a Porter but a Porter was not compelled to serve a Dandiwalla<sup>51</sup>.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

### **C. Public Health and Hygiene (PHH)**

In the wake of new technology, new education and new administrative structure of British rule became so pervasive that they affected nearly all aspects of urban life. At the same time, much that was old or traditional also continued<sup>52</sup>.

Though cities of the country sometimes display the overcrowding insanitation, unhealthy and hazardous working condition as well. These problems are suffered by all citizens especially urban inhabitants. A healthy urban environment has been sought to be provided by the science of modern town planning. Water supply and sanitation measures were inadequate at that time and meager efforts were made to develop these systems<sup>53</sup>. However, in this study we would like to examine especially how the colonial administration reports show a general satisfaction with their efforts to extend these services.

A note given by the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal on Sanitation, prepared for the Sanitary Conference held in Calcutta in July 1892 and subsequently circulated. He raised a pertinent question there-“what is Sanitation and what do you mean by public hygiene?” The simplest answer according to him to such a question was that “sanitation or public hygiene is the science and art of preserving health, that is, of obtaining the most perfect action of body and mind during as long a period as is consistent

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<sup>52</sup> Impact of Colonial Rule on Urban Life, Kanchan Jyoti in Indu Banga ed. Book The City in India, p.207.

<sup>53</sup> Town Planning, Public Health and Delhi's Urban Poor A historical View, Ritu Priya, Chapter 10, p.223 in Sujata Patel and Kushal Deb's edited book Urban Studies, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2006.



with the laws of life. It aims at rendering growth more perfect, decay less rapid, life more vigorous and death more remote.

Differences of opinion may exist as to the exact relative order of their importance, but that is a detail-

- (1) Accurate registration of vital statistics
- (2) Pure water
- (3) Good drainage
- (4) Pure air
- (5) Adequate conservancy arrangements
- (6) Vaccination<sup>54</sup>.”

A special inquiry was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1896, C. H. A. Hill, under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department requested to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, that as directed by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Government of India may be informed what measures the Government of Bengal proposes to adopt or has adopted with a view to the improvement of the existing machinery for the collection and collation of vital statistics, as well as the registration of vital statistics.

A further notification issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1897- “ In exercise of the power conferred by Section 1 of Bengal Act IV of 1873 (an Act for registering Births and Deaths), the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to direct the registration of all births and deaths occurring after the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1897, within the limits of any Municipality which is administered under the Bengal Act, III of 1884, and in which this registration of both births and deaths has not ready been directed under Section 1 or arranged for under Section 11 of the said Act IV of 1873<sup>55</sup>.”

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<sup>54</sup> Municipal, July 1892, Proceedings 13.

<sup>55</sup> Sanitation, February, 1897, File S 6-V/2 1, No.8 & No.10.

J.F.Muller, Secretary to the Municipal Committee, Darjeeling, to the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal (dated the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1863), sent a report as directed by the President of the Municipal Commissioners were as follows:-

1. The old Hospital belonged to the suppers and Miners and Prisoners: there was a miserable ward for charitable patients quite insufficient for their accommodation or the probable future wants of the place.
2. At the time the New Hospital was voted and built it was impossible to foresee that the Sappere were to be removed from Darjeeling as had been the case, whether temporarily or permanently had not been informed; if permanently the erection of the proposed new Jail, which will contain its own Hospital, will place at the disposal of the Government the old Hospital, for which there are several purposes to which it can with advantage be devoted.

From the Sanitary Commissioner's Report for 1892, Bengal, which was submitted to the Government of India, the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division was requested to invite the attention of the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling to the fever mortality in the Terai of those districts, and if excessive mortality in the tea gardens was reported, to investigate the cause without delay.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal in the year of 1892 showed in order the sequence of the birth-death recorded in the following towns, of the province during 1892 together for purposes of comparison with the birth-rates of the adjoining rural areas. The death-rate of each area is also shown:-

**Table No. III.10 Comparison between Birth-Rates and Death-Rates:**

Districts	Towns & Rural areas	Population according to Census of 1891			Births	Deaths	Number of males Born to every 100 females born	Excess of births over deaths per 1,000 of population	Excess of deaths over births per 1,000 of population
		Male	Female	Total					
Darjeeling...	Kurseong...T.	2,147	1,375	3,522	24.70	57.63	148	...	32.93
	R	22,709	18,414	41,123	7.17	41.87	123	...	16.94
Malda...	English T	7,381	6,437	13,818	20.26	39.65	104	....	19.39
	Bazar... R	40,068	42,577	82,645	20.12	37.06	108	....	16.94
	Malda... T	2,112	2,066	4,178	18.90	52.17	119	....	33.27
	R	28,080	26,608	54,688	23.91	34.02	121	....	10.11
Jalpaiguri...	Jalpaiguri T	6,409	3,273	9,682	14.66	24.78	92	....	10.12
	R	37,721	35,505	73,226	25.16	33.43	95	....	8.27
Darjeeling...	Darjeeling T	8,923	5,222	14,145	9.11	16.96	130	....	7.85
	R	23,904	22,914	46,818	25.33	72.23	115	....	46.90

This statement showed clearly the deficiency of birth registration in rural areas generally. In regards to towns, we see that the lowest rates were shown against those in which the preponderance of males over females was most pronounced. The excess of males over females in the towns of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri were also to some extent the cause of the comparatively low rate shown against them. It is said for the remedy of large deaths due to fever specially malaria. Major Rogers found the system of selling pice packets of quinine at post offices in 1892, unsatisfactory because the villagers seldom visited the post offices and not purchasing quinine. So weekly markets nearest to the dispensaries distribution of quinine

to the villagers started but villagers showed no willingness. In 1909 on the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon, a number of primary school teachers were induced to undertake the sale of quinine tabloids. So leveling the river beds started, abolishing the ponds and cess-pools, anti-malarial campaign on the lines of that recommended by Major Sir Ronald Ross for Mauritius, was started in the town of Dinajpur in January 1908<sup>56</sup>. Charles A. Bentley said in his Report<sup>57</sup> “Dinajpur town does not appear to have been selected as a site for the carrying out of a special scheme of anti-malarial sanitation because it was more feverish and unhealthy than other municipalities in the province.” But if we look into the table given below, Malda and Jalpaiguri regarded as much affected by fever than Dinajpur. It clearly signifies the unhealthiness of North Bengal region as a whole<sup>58</sup>.

	Mean Total death-rate	Mean fever death-rate
Malda... ..	36.22	27.35
English Bazar... ..	26.33	17.35
Jalpaiguri... ..	24.40	21.02
Dinajpur... ..	23.03	18.72

Even Bentley had raised a pertinent question that why Dinajpur was chosen for anti-malarial measures than any other municipalities of North Bengal (12 Municipalities)<sup>59</sup>? So typical was Dinajpur of the

<sup>56</sup> F.W.Strong, op.cit., p.47.

<sup>57</sup> Report on the Anti-Malarial Operations at Dinajpur, The Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, 1913.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, p.1.

<sup>59</sup>

Municipalities of Northern Bengal	Population	Income (Rs.)	Income per head of population (Rs.)
(1) Sirajganj...	24,777	22,248	0
(2) Rampur-Boalia...	23,406	40,764	1
(3) Nawabganj...	23,322	10,303	0
(4) Pabna...	19,274	25,974	1
(5) Rangpur...	16,429	34,986	2
(6) Dinajpur...	15,945	46,374	2
(7) English Bazar...	14,322	18,403	1
(8) Jalpaiguri...	11,469	22,997	2
(9) Bogra...	9,113	25,933	2

towns of Northern Bengal. It had chosen as suitable because of the fact that such measures had been commenced there in 1906 on a small scale. Even the people more or less familiar with the methods. Although the Local Government was very anxious to introduce into the province the most modern method of malaria prevention, such as had been recommended by Major Sir Ronald Ross for Mauritius<sup>60</sup>.

In this connection mention may be placed here of the phenomenon of immunity to malaria can be observed amongst the labourers of tea gardens of Jalpaiguri Duars<sup>61</sup>. Amongst the two different classes of labourers working in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri Duars, viz., Madesias and Paharias, a distinct differences in susceptibility to malaria can be observed because the fact was that Madesias who came from malarious part of the district had already acquired some amount of immunity to malaria, which was not possessed by the Paharias as they born outside the garden. So the spleen rate of Madesia children was 79.5 per cent in comparison with Paharias spleen rate of 85.6 percent, because of heredity the Madesias children were found to have developed more immunity to malaria than Paharias.

But if we compared this development of malarial immunity at Chittagong Hill Tracts, it was clear that the parents of the hill-tribe children of that place marked development of immunity in them than that of the labourers of Jalpaiguri Duars<sup>62</sup>.

The following table will show the order of sequence Mortality of towns, rural areas and towns and rural areas combined during 1892,1891 and the average of the five years 1887-91 :

(10) Natore...	8,251	14,535	1
(11) Sherpur...	4,083	8,557	2
(12) Malda...	3,750	4,925	1

<sup>60</sup> Ibid,p.2.

<sup>61</sup> Records of Malaria Survey of India, Vol.III, No.2, December, 1932, The Development of Malarial Immunity in Jalpaiguri Duars, S.L.Sarkar, April 28, 1923,p.201.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid,p.202.

Table No. III.11 Statement showing in order of sequence the death-rates of towns, of rural areas and of towns and rural areas combined for 1892, 1891 and the average of the five years 1887-91:

Districts	Towns	Ratio per 1,000 of population in-			Towns	Ratio per 1,000 of population in-		
		1892	1891	1887-91		1892	1891	1887-91
Darjeeling...	Kurseong...	57.63	48.26	50.82	Jalpaiguri	24.78	40.28	23.96
Malda...	English Bazar ...	39.65	57.02	29.33	Darjeeling	16.96	23.96	17.03
					Total for the Provinces	33.57	27.28	22.69
Rural areas					Towns and rural areas combined, i.e., the entire district.			
Darjeeling...		41.73	31.98	26.74				
Jalpaiguri...		34.90	41.38	31.04				
Malda...	... ..	32.67	39.22	26.87				
Total for the Provinces...		31.85	26.93	23.18				
					Jalpaiguri ...	34.76	41.36	30.93
					Malda ...	32.89	39.80	26.91
					Total for the province	31.92	26.94	23.16

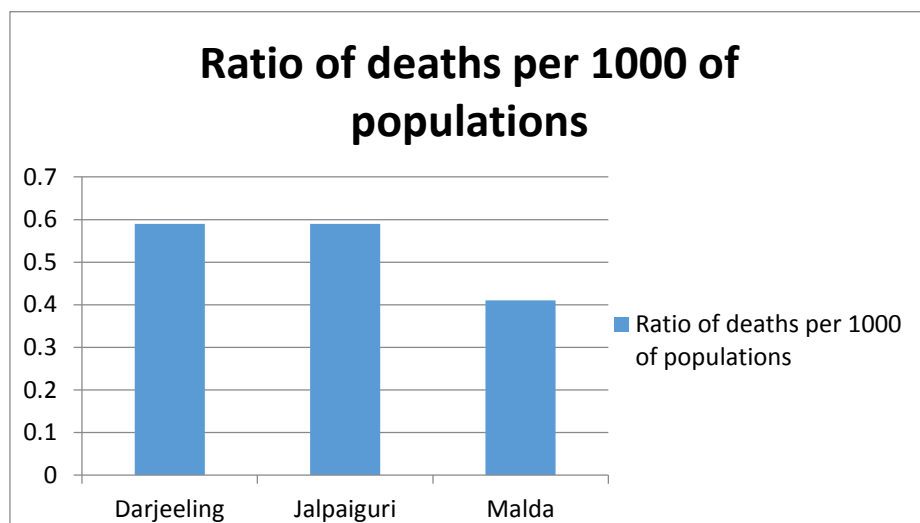
The total mortality from the various death-causes in urban, rural and combined circles of registration for 1892, 1891 and the average of the five years 1887-91 is compared in the following table:

**Table No. III.12 Statistics for various causes of death:**

Causes of Death	In 1892			In 1891			In 1887-91			Increase or Decrease as compared with 1891			Increase or Decrease as compared with 1887-91		
	Urban	Rural	Combined	Urban	Rural	Combined	Urban	Rural	Combined	Urban	Rural	Combined	Urban	Rural	Combined
Cholera ... ..	5.05	3.62	3.68	4.54	3.20	3.26	3.33	2.30	2.34	.51 I	.42 I	0.42I	1.72 I	1.32I	1.34I
Small Pox... ..	.48	.31	.31	.48	.22	.23	.32	.12	.13	Equal	.09 I	.08 I	.16 I	.19 I	.18 I
Fever ... ..	18.57	23.01	22.84	12.55	19.21	18.94	10.45	16.61	16.37	6.02 I	3.80 I	3.90 I	8.12 I	6.40I	6.47I
Dysentery and Diarrhoea ...	2.87	.59	.68	2.67	.52	.61	2.51	.62	.69	.20 I	.07 I	.07 I	.36 I	.03 D	.01 D
Injury ... ..	.44	.39	.39	.47	.41	.41	.44	.40	.40	.03 D	.02 D	.02 D	Equal	.01 D	.01 D
Other causes	6.13	3.91	4.00	6.54	3.35	3.47	5.62	3.10	3.20	.41 D	.56 I	.53 I	.51 I	.81 I	.80 I
All causes	----- 33.57	----- 31.85	----- 31.92	----- 27.28	----- 26.98	----- 26.94	----- 22.69	----- 23.18	----- 23.16	----- 6.29 I	----- 4.92 I	----- 4.98 I	----- 10.88I	----- 8.67I	----- 8.76I

It is observed that with the exception of fever which was more prevalent in rural areas than in towns, the highest rate of mortality from all the other causes notably Cholera occurred in towns. Briefly, the more insanitary condition of towns was the cause of the higher rate of mortality in them from Cholera, dysentery and Diarrhea and other causes, while the entire absence of drainage in the rural areas was the cause of the very high rate of fever mortality there.

The diagram showing the relative intensity of Cholera mortality in each district of North Bengal during the year 1892:



As per sanitary report by Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal in the year 1892, the death rate by Cholera per thousands of population for Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri under Rajshahi Division was 0.59 where as for Malda in Bhagalpur Division was 0.41. This indicates the condition of sanitation or health and hygiene was poor in Rajshahi Division in comparison with Bhagalpur Division<sup>63</sup>.

In 1872 the reported deaths from fever (mostly malarial) in Dinajpur were higher than in any other district of the Division<sup>64</sup>. As Buchanan Hamilton says: "Fever makes such ample havoc, that little room seems to be left for other diseases."<sup>65</sup> The year 1877 was unhealthy for Dinajpur because of 36,000 deaths were reported from this cause alone. Due to this reason, 15 Europeans left out of 17 adults. However, this insanitary condition little improved in 1891 due to slight increase of population was

<sup>63</sup> Municipal, July 1893 Proceedings 15.

<sup>64</sup> F.W.Strong, op.cit.,p.31.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, p.46.



noticeable and immigration from the Santal Parganas added with it<sup>66</sup>. Cholera found less in Dinajpur than in any other districts of the province. As people used drinking water from wells in their own compounds, and these were naturally much less liable to contamination than public source of supply, such as tanks and rivers<sup>67</sup>.

We now want to discuss the insanitary condition of towns in North Bengal <sup>68</sup> with the help of the following table:

**Table No. III.13 Data of Death in different districts:**

District	Name of Circle (Town)	Population	Ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population from-				
			Small pox	Fever	Cholera	Dysentery and Diarrhoea	Other causes
Darjeeling	Darjeeling	14,145	.....	7.14	.35	3.25	6.22
	Kurseong	3,522	.....	45.42	.28	6.24	5.67
Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	9,682	....	20.03	1.03	1.44	2.26
Malda	English Bazar	13,818	.57	26.19	.50	3.98	8.33
	Malda	4,178	1.43	46.91	.71	.95	2.14

The crowding of people into small space bears with it, a tremendous increase in specialization demands. The increase of population of different urban centers in North Bengal necessitated the construction of municipal latrines and enforcement of private scavenging. As the sanitary works such as drainage and

<sup>66</sup> Ibid, p.31.

<sup>67</sup> F.W.Strong,op.cit.,p.47.

<sup>68</sup> The report given by the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, The 10<sup>th</sup> April 1893.

conservancy associated with dirt. It was a great problems for the administrators to produce force for such works.

### **(a) Latrines**

We will discuss the condition regarding the subject in various urban centres of North Bengal. There were six public latrines in differently situated points in the bazar of Darjeeling town. They were constructed of timber and had wooden seats. There were also many private latrines and three others for servants. The night-soil from both the public and private latrines was removed by the municipal mehters in iron tubs and altered kerosene oil cans to the municipal gardens and to other plots below, set apart for the purpose and was there buried in trenches. The urine was separately removed and was also trenched and the washings of the latrines passed through wooden shoots and open stone drains into the ravines. Dry earth was necessary, which was not used there, two or three more cans required for the private latrines of the servants. Private latrines never kept as clean as public ones. The municipal garden, which was cultivated, was too small for the station focal matter. More ground needed then. It was reported in 1892 by the Sanitary Commissioner that there were thirty-two public latrines. All the private latrines were under municipal control and were in good condition<sup>69</sup>.

In Malda and English Bazar towns there were no public latrines as reported in the seventies of the nineteenth century. In the houses of the well-to-do people the lower rooms were used as privies and in them the accumulations of night-soil of years lie and rot. In some cases the night-soil was thrown into ponds and into the Cess-pits (caused by excavations made for building purposes), which were numerous.

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<sup>69</sup> July 1892, Appendix No. V.

Most of the people in old and new Malda resort- the men to the fields and the river-bank and the women and children to the nearest tall grass or clump of trees. The Mahomedans always had a clump of trees within their premises for their wives to resort to in privacy. A few of the people resort to ravines and patches of jungle. According to the Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1881-82 under Act V (B.C.) of 1876, English Bazar and Malda also took second class municipal status, for the same cause as in Darjeeling which we have already mentioned. So far as their funds allowed it appeared to have done their best to remove offensive matter from the dwellings of the people. In this district during the eighties of the nineteenth century 25 coolies and 20 sweepers were employed to keep the town clean, and to remove night-soil from public and private latrines. There were four latrines in the town open to the public free of charge. In the case of private latrines a fee of eight annas a month was charged for each privy<sup>70</sup>.

So it was necessary to frame a suitable Code of bye-laws, under the sanitary clauses of Act V (B.C.) of 1876, according to the report presented before, regulating the conservancy, latrine and other sanitary arrangements of the town, as was done in Burdwan and Dacca. Public latrines with separate accommodation for females required for convenient places. A plan was given by Surgeon-Major John Martin Coates, M.D., Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal in 1876 with the Magistrate. "A place outside the town should be provided for trenching the night-soil of both the public and private privies. These trenches should be one foot wide and one foot deep. Such portions of this land as become manured might be framed out for cultivation as is done in Monghyr, where land rented by the municipality for Rs. 5 per beegha. The entire management of both public and private latrines should be under the control of the municipality, a suitable establishment being entertained for the purpose."

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<sup>70</sup> Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1881-82 under Act V (B.C.) of 1876.

Excepting one at Decrebund, there were no public latrines in the Dinajpur Municipality in 1876 “It is stated that the people will not use public latrines: they generally resort to the fields.” It was impossible to all to resort to one latrine. So it was thought then a sufficient number of latrines , both for males and females, be provided in each mohulla. Regular inspection and report upon the private latrines and the compounds of the houses were also the need of the time. All filthy places, it was decided to be clean by the municipality at the expense of the owners<sup>71</sup>. From the Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1881-82 under Act V (B.C.) of 1876, Dinajpur got the Second Class Municipal status in the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division for the same ground as has been discussed earlier<sup>72</sup>.

We see that in the second decade of the twentieth century Kurseong Municipality got two plots of land, according to their need, belonging to the PWD marked (1) and (2) for the purpose of constructing latrines in connection with the sewage scheme in the town of Kurseong. Even the Hon’ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan already made a free gift of certain lands for the construction of six latrines together with a large plot of land for a septic tank and outfall works in connection with the sewage scheme and that the local Government had contributed two-thirds of the estimated cost of the scheme<sup>73</sup>. The Commissioners of the Kurseong Municipality, at the end of the thirties of the twentieth century, constructed an incinerator for the disposal of town refuse. Whereas at that time the small municipality of Old Malda was continued without a latrine system owing to paucity of funds and also failed to appoint a Sanitary Inspector<sup>74</sup>.

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<sup>71</sup> Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal for the year 1876, Section V.

<sup>72</sup> Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1881-82 under Act V (B.C.) of 1876.

<sup>73</sup> Municipal Department, Municipal Branch, December 1919, Programmes No. 6-11.

<sup>74</sup> Department of Public Health and LSG, LSG-(Municipalities), March 1938.

## **(b) Drainage**

The drains in the Europeans quarter of the Darjeeling station were surface drains, lined with stone in some parts and wood in others. They discharged themselves into the Hospital ravine, which was to the east of bazar. This ravine, the Bazar or native town ravine, which was in the centre of the bazar, and the Beechwood ravine, which was to the west, form, in addition to being water-courses during the rains, the main channels for the discharge of the drainage of the bazar northwards, and eventually into the Little Rungeet river.

During the rains the sewage was diluted and its outflow was thus rendered easy but in the dry season this sewage concentrated in the ravines. At the first rains it became very offensive and was possibly the cause of sickness in the station. To remedy this evil and other drainage defects, extensive improvements recommended by the municipality consisted of---

- (1) Covering in one of the branches of the Hospital ravine, which extends from the market-place in front of the Town Hall in an easterly direction to a wooden bridge crossing the ravine immediately below the junction of this drain with another shut ravine which had been partially revetted.
- (2) In completing the revetment of this shut branch to its junction with the proposed covered drain.
- (3) In making some clearances of rocks in the main ravine below the bridge along the Convent road for some 1,800 feet to the Victoria road;
- (4) In constructing two wooden drains, about 350 yards in length, for the native town drainage in the central or bazar ravine; and
- (5) In completing the improvement of the Beechwood ravine.

Mr. Smith recommended certain modifications to some of the foregoing schemes. With regard to the Hospital ravine, he thought that if, in clearing out the drain along the Convent road to the Victoria road, it was intended to clear away rocks here and there. He also suggested that the revetment intended for the small branch drain which joins the covered drain should be extended along the main one skirting the convent road to a length of 850 feet; and this arrangement, he believes, will for many years to come be a sufficient distance to convey sewage in a regulated channel. He also suggests that the shape of the drain proposed to be covered that two shut covered drains were added to the upper end of the main covered drain to receive the drainage from the two open surface drains in the bazar which run into the covered drain; and that a small covered branch drain should likewise connect the Town Hall with the covered drain. With regard to the Bazar or native town ravine, should be revetted down to the Victoria road, a distance of about 980 feet and also 500 feet boundary line of the municipal garden on the jail road be revetted.

Instead of the wooden drains proposed by the municipality for this ravine, stone drains be constructed as that wooden drains were not be durable and will emit most offensive smell after a few years. With regard to the Beechwood ravine it is suggested that it should be revetted down its full length from the Cart road to the Victoria road, a distance of 1,220 feet. In the dry season it was expected that a branch water pipe under water supply scheme be laid to the head of each outlet drain with a regulating cock, to afford the means of flushing them with rapidity and use. The total cost was estimated in 1876, November was Rs.14,850, which was very expensive according to the report<sup>75</sup>. A drainage scheme of the Kalimpong Bazar and Town was taken in 1917 with the estimate of Rupees 28,365. The Government approval was in need for this amount under Rule 97 of the Darjeeling Improvement Fund Account Rules

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<sup>75</sup> November 1876 ,387.

(sanctioned by the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division) for improvement of Kalimpong under the district of Darjeeling<sup>76</sup>.

The general drainage of the town of Dinajpur was bad according to the Sanitary Commissioner's Report on September 1876. So in order to improve its condition his proposal was the banking up of the marshy ground to the north and draining it to the south-east into the Ganeshwari nuddee. The measure proposed for the lower half of the town was putting up couple sluice gates (sluicing project) in the embankment in the south-east to prevent the Purnabhaha from backing, when it flood, up the Gogra. It would cost Rs.1,000, which will improve the health of the station<sup>77</sup>. The drainage system of Malda district was defective during the time of the seventies of the nineteenth century. The low intervals were largely under water. Regarding the drains along the streets of the English Bazar town of the district were in a fair condition, but the refuse from the houses find their way into them. The town was bunded up to prevent flooding from the inundation of the Ganges. The old bund to the west, that protected the town from inundation from the Ganges when it rose east of Gaur, keeps out the old Ganges river-bed water when it was excessive<sup>78</sup>. It has been said in the census of 1931 that scientific sewage disposal schemes were in existence only for Calcutta, Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong Bazar, Titagarh, Bhatpara and Dacca city, and of these all except the arrangements for Calcutta and Darjeeling were made during the 1920s<sup>79</sup>.

### **(c ) Water-Supply**

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<sup>76</sup> Municipal Department, January 1917, Nos.1-3.

<sup>77</sup> September, 1876, 300.

<sup>78</sup> October, 1876, 347 &353.

<sup>79</sup> Census 1931, p.79.

The principal water-supply of the Darjeeling station was obtained from eight springs, seven of which were situated on the Jullapahar hill, above the Auckland and Calcutta roads, and one (No.4) near the hospital in the bazar. The water in these springs was clean and pure. Formerly tank water was used in the bazar, and sickness prevailed to a great extent. Two of the springs above referred to, numbered land 2, situated on the north-western slope of the Jullapahar hill, from the source of the pipe water-supply of the civil station. Wooden sheds enclose these springs and they had a door each, which was kept lock to protect the water from pollution. The

water from these springs flowed into an iron pipe, which was 11,021 feet in length , or even somewhat two miles, extending to the Chourasta, where there was a hydrant. Thence to the Mall, where there was another hydrant below the Church. It was continued to and ended at Beach jill, where there was a third hydrant. A branch pipe was laid from the Chourasta to the Bazar, which was the fourth hydrant. The tap of this hydrant was left open during the rains, in order to reduce pressure, 480 feet pipes were freely charged and a constant discharge goes on into an iron tank at this hydrant Regulating Cocks were fixed near the Chourasta hydrant, by which the water diverted from the Mall or Bazar at pleasure.

These four hydrants were capable of supplying 31,265 gallons of water in 24 hours if all the taps were left open. The total supply from all the seven springs on the Jullapahar hill was in 1876, 262,101 gallons daily. However this supply obtained only during rains, as then 64 streams of different sizes cross the Auckland and Calcutta roads. In the dry season the supply was greatly reduced because very few streams were available then and suffering was great particularly among the population of the bazar and the houses surrounding it. The only springs from which a supply was expected at this season was from springs Nos.1,2,5 and 6 at Jullapahar, which together yield(as ascertained in May last) only 24,706 gallons in 24 hours. But even this supply could not relied upon. Thus the actual supply in the dry season could only be taken at 9,895 gallons daily, viz.-



				Gallons
<b>From Springs Nos. 1 and 2, which supply the hydrants</b>			.....	<b>4,838</b>
<b>Do. Do. No. 3, which supplies the Kotwali</b>			.....	<b>307</b>
<b>Do. Do. „ 7</b>		.....	.....	<b>1,941</b>
<b>Do. Do. „ 8</b>		....	.....	<b>2,809</b>
				-----
<b>Total</b>				<b>9,895</b>

Supplemented by 1,280 gallons from the small spring near the bazar. To meet this deficiency the municipality contemplated to arrange for a permanently supply, in round numbers of 20,000 gallons of water daily and with this view they proposed to extend the piping to the Kotwali, or No.3 spring, at a distance of nearby a mile from the two springs which laid additional pipes and six new hydrants at a cost of Rs. 13,000. But Mr. Smith, the Superintending Engineer, suggested more water and large reservoir in order to mitigate the problem<sup>80</sup>. In 1907 there was a report showing that the hill towns of Darjeeling and Kurseong were fortunate in being able to secure supplies of comparatively pure water from springs in the locality. Even it was impossible to guard the catchment area<sup>81</sup> from all chances of pollution, it was essential that the supply should be filtered and so the existing settling tanks at Darjeeling decided to be converted into filters and that arrangements were made for the filtration of the water-supply at Kurseong<sup>82</sup>. In 1909, in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sanitary Board, Bengal, the water requirements of the Darjeeling Municipality under various heads and at maximum and minimum periods were first discussed by Robertson, the Municipal Engineer, put the requirements as follows<sup>83</sup>:-

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<sup>80</sup> November, 1876, 386.

<sup>81</sup> Senchal Catchment Area, constructed by Thos. Kenay, the first Engineer to the Municipality, 26 springs which collect in the large lake, and from thence conveyed through large conduits to the reservoirs established at the St. Paul's School and Rockville, the three, with 20,000,000; 200,000 and 50,000 gallons capacity respectively; E.C. Dozey, op.cit. Further enhancement was done for the reservoirs at Tista Bridge, Kalijhora and Sivoke-places of the tourist halt.

<sup>82</sup> Municipal Department, Municipal Branch, 1906, February, Nos. 7-8.

<sup>83</sup> Municipal Department, Sanitation Branch, May 1909, No. 28.

				<b>Cold weather Gallons</b>	<b>Rains weather Gallons</b>
<b>Domestic purposes</b>	...	...	...	<b>330,000</b>	<b>480,000</b>
<b>Flushing purposes</b>	...	...	...	<b>132,000</b>	<b>96,000</b>
<b>Cantonments</b>	...	...	...	<b>34,000</b>	<b>34,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	...			<b>496,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>

A scheme was taken further in pursuance of section 37F. of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884), submitted by the Commissioner of the Darjeeling Municipality and approved by the Government of Bengal (Secretary at that time was H. C.V. Philpot) in 1932, for the improvement of water-supply in the Municipality. The said scheme are as follows:-

- (a) The scheme is designed for improving the water-supply of the municipal town of Darjeeling by laying out a new conduit including installation of engine, pump, ferro concrete tank and chaukidar's quarters at the 6<sup>th</sup> mile of the Old Military Road, and also, by lining the southern reservoir at the Senchal waterworks with 4<sup>th</sup> thick cement-concrete and pudlo with open joints filled with Bitumen.
- (b) The estimated cost of the scheme was Rupees 1,84,000.
- (c) The estimated cost of maintenance was Rupees 4,420.
- (d) The cost of the scheme would be met from the accumulated credit balance of water-rate fund.

(e) The total annual charge on account of the maintenance of the scheme would be met from the proceeds of the existing water-rate which would not be affected.

(f) The water-rate was levied at the rate of 3 ¾ percent. On the annual valuation of holdings.

The average incidence of the water-rate per head of the population in this Municipality was Rs.2 and annas 7<sup>84</sup>.

Sometimes water-rate exemption was appeared, although it is not connected with the matter discussing, when we see a reference of a Buddhist monastery and two Hindu temples at Kalimpong from the payment of water-rate with effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1927<sup>85</sup>. Regarding water supply in Dinajpur Municipality, there were numerous tanks, but majority of them were defiled by the middies and house refuse. The largest called the Zoolum Sagur, was in the centre of the civil station. There were wells in almost every house in the municipality. Where the soil is sandy, surface water percolates into wells; but where it was composed of clay or laterite, the water is free from this source of contamination<sup>86</sup>. The water-supply in Malda town is obtained from Mahanuddi and from tanks and wells. The best drinking –water is the river-water, but the Hindus prefer and insists on using tank-water. The Mahomedans use well-water freely and often have wells in the compounds of their houses, so that the female members of their families may use them unseen. The water of the tanks is annually renewed by the flooding of the Mahanuddi<sup>87</sup>.

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<sup>84</sup>Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March,1932,No.34.

<sup>85</sup> Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March,1928,No.14.

<sup>86</sup> September 1876,301.

<sup>87</sup> October, 1876,340.

Waterworks at Jalpaiguri made no satisfactory progress in regard to house connections till at the end of thirties of twentieth century. During that time the water was found on chemical analysis to be unsuitable for drinking purposes owing to the high percentage of iron contained in it. An iron elimination and chlorinating plant was installed towards the close of the year and the quality of water was reported to have improved gradually<sup>88</sup>. It does not mean that there was no water supply in that district till 30's, if we look into the expenditure made by municipality for the purpose of "Capital Outlay" and "establishment, repair etc". In the year before, e.g. 1916-17 Rupees 268 for "Capital Outlay" and "establishment, repair etc" Rupees 201<sup>89</sup>. While in 1936-37 expenditure on that purpose were Rs.15,860 and Rs.9,280 respectively and for this huge expenditure water rate was first imposed (Rs.13,803) from that year onwards<sup>90</sup>.

We have reference of installation of a water pumping machine to solve the water problem by Municipal Board on 27.07.29. although it was due to private donation given by Krishna sundar Sen from Benaras and for that reason the Municipal Board on that date made the following resolution:-

"it is resolved that the Commissioners of Jalpaiguri Municipality convey their grateful thanks for the magnificent offer, a gift of Rs.10,000=00 for the naming of the pumping station of Jalpaiguri water works as 'Ratanmani Water pumping station' and a gift of Rs.4000=00 for free pry, school at Corporation street". Gradually according to Bengal Municipal Act 1932 British Government made a substitute in 1933. The then Engineer of P.H.E Mr.F.C.Griffin had declared for the inauguration of drinking water, but from the Minute Book of Municipal Board this water works was inaugurated on 7<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Department of Public Health and LSG, LSG-(Municipalities), March 1938.

<sup>89</sup> Municipal Department, Municipal Branch, 1916-17.

<sup>90</sup> Department of Public Health and LSG, LSG-(Municipalities), March 1938.

February 1935 by Subhas Chandra Bose. Also one Sub-Committee was established for the inspection of water line<sup>91</sup>.

In 1915-16 the District Boards under Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Malda district had excavated or re-excavated tanks and wells and made proper expenditure for this. Following table will help us in this matter:

**Table No. III.14 Drinking Water facilities & expenditure by District Board:**

Name of District Board	Locality where excavated or re-excavated	Tanks excavated or re-excavated		Wells excavated or re-excavated		Total expenditure
		No.	Expenditure	No.	Expenditure	
Dinajpur...	Sadar...	...	...	10	3,023	3,023
	Thakurgaon...	...	...	2	432	432
	Balurghat...	1	...	7	...	...
Jalpaiguri...	Sadar...	...	...	37	8,769	8,769
	Alipur Duars...	...	...	13	2,747	2,747
Malda...	Sadar...	7	...	47	...	12,180

For drinking water purpose of that year in the municipalities of Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri executed or re-executed were 4 and 27 respectively with the expenditure of Rupees 1,195 and Rupees 143 respectively<sup>92</sup>.

<sup>91</sup> Umesh Sharma, Jalpaiguri Poursavar Sotottarbarsher Kotha.

<sup>92</sup> Local Self Government, Municipal Department, December 1917.

It has been said in the census of 1931 that there were filtered water-supply schemes prevalent in North Bengal of which Darjeeling and Kurseong Municipalities were important. In Kalimpong the scheme was not existed before January 1921 and carried out during the decade 1921-1930<sup>93</sup>. We found references of Mineral Springs called by indigenous people as ‘Devi Pani’ or medicinal waters near the Mall of Darjeeling and another known as ‘Mineral Spring Tea Estate’ which were used for medicinal purposes. W.W.Hunter had talked of this water used by the troops at Jalapahar depot. However, Dr.Hutchinson, an analyst of the water of Darjeeling, told that after June 1871 it was abandoned<sup>94</sup>. The Kurseong waterworks were maintained by the Kurseong Municipality. They supplied about 153,000 gallons of filtered water, 40,000 gallons of unfiltered water daily supply was used only for flushing 8 public latrines. Filtered supply were collected from Dow Hill Springs for Dow Hill area and for the town supply was collected from the Sepoy Dhura spring<sup>95</sup>.

#### **D. Institutionalization of Public Health and Administration (IPHA)**

The exceptionally unhealthy condition of the Terai was well known as has been depicted by R.T.Greer, the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling when saying it to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division. This unhealthiness formed the subject of frequent official references Habitually the vital statistics

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<sup>93</sup> Census 1931,p.79.

<sup>94</sup> E.C.Dozey, op.cit., p.128.

<sup>95</sup> A.J.Dash, Bengal District Gazetteer, p.93.

showed an abnormally high death-rate in this tract. The rate during 1896 was shown as 61 per mille. A feeling of depression was found in the locality at the fever-stricken state of the inhabitants.

In 1895 the Civil Surgeon, Dr.Cobb while inspecting certain alleged cases of Kala Azar, he found only the widespread existence of fever to an appalling extent but no case of Kala Azar there.The tract of Terai constituted a Government Estate directly under the management of the Deputy Commissioner, yielding an annual revenue of Rs.97,159. If the preservation of human life be regarded as a primary duty of the state, it appeared to be incumbent on Government to undertake special measures with a view to alleviate the exceptional distress of the inhabitants. In considering the subject of a water-borne disease one's thoughts naturally turn to the drinking water-supply. It was well known that the streams in the Terai induced malaria<sup>96</sup>. The surface pits, which answer for wells, furnished a more impure supply. In this connection construction of good wells throughout the country was needed. Efforts were made yearly to make wells in the Government hats and throughout the several jotes.

So at the end of the nineteenth century some efforts were taken by Government, e.g. some ring wells, 3 feet diameter were constructed at the expense of Government at Khoribari, Debiganj at a cost of about Rs. 1,379. A smaller well, 2 feet in diameter will suffice. The cost of which was not exceeded to Rs. 250. As the cost of this 10 years scheme needed much of money so the Subdivisional Officer induced the jotedars to bear half the expense and the rest will be given by the grant of Rs. 1,125 yearly from the fund for the improvement of Government Estates for the construction of wells in that estate.

In the Terai region two out-door dispensaries were established, one at Khoribari and another at Bagdogra, the cost of which met from the fund for the improvement of Government estates. The initial

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<sup>96</sup> The population of the higher levels, or temperate zone, suffer from chills, fevers, bowel complaints and phthisis, which was a great scourge: those living in the lower ranges and Terai, or tropical zone, are attacked by malaria, the Kala-azar and occasionally black-water fever (E.C.Dozey, op.cit.)

expenditure on the building, furniture and instruments of these two dispensaries was estimated at Rs. 2,504 and the annual maintenance charges at Rs. 2,398. A permanent quarters also provided at Khaprail for the itinerant Civil Hospital Assistant of the Terai at a cost of Rs. 952 with an annual expenditure of Rs.253 for repairs paid from the Darjeeling Improvement Fund<sup>97</sup>.

Lord H. Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division said to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Medical and Municipal Department, a Medical Dispensary in the Sudder station of Dinajpur was under the charge of Dinajpur Municipality. In reply to this Baboo Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, said that notice is necessary under paragraph 2, Section 34 of the Bengal Municipal Act, V(B.C.) of 1876. Finally a notification had come and said that under this Act mentioned above “the Lieutenant Governor intends to vest in the Commissioner of the Dinagepore Municipality the charitable Dispensary situated within that municipality, the said dispensary not being private property, or the property of any religious institution or society”<sup>98</sup>.

A.J.Payne, M.D., Surgeon General, Bengal suggested the placing of this dispensary in the first class. A private income of Rs. 1,096 was more than enough for the medical treatment of the patients who use the dispensary. The charge for a Hospital Assistant of the second grade was on Rs.35 instead of Rs. 50 per mensem. The compounder’s pay was Rs. 8, not Rs.12, if the Cuprassy was retained. The charge of the dispensary needed involvement of the municipality in no increase of outlay Rs. 30 was invested in 1880 and the total invested capital was Rs.2,602.

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<sup>97</sup> Municipal Department, Sanitation, June, 1898,Proceedings No. 1-7.

<sup>98</sup> Medical and Municipal Department, Sanitation Branch, November, 1881, Vol.23, Colln.8-62 & Colln.8-65.



There were 14 dispensaries in the North Bengal<sup>99</sup>, distributed as follows:-

**Table No. III.15 Treatment of patients in the dispensaries of different districts:**

Districts	Number	No. of indoor patients treated	No. of outdoor patients treated	Total
Dinajpur ... ..	5	381	9,370	9,751
Jalpaiguri ... ..	5	349	12,025	12,374 (exclusive the Devigunge Dispensary)
Darjeeling ... ..	4	339	10,325	10,664
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total ...	14	1,069	31,720	32,789

In Dinajpur as had been shown in the table the number of dispensaries were five under Government supervision and one private institution kept by the Maharajah. The one at the Sadder station admitted in-door patients was in class II. The four others received out-door patients only and were in class III. There were five dispensaries in Jalpaiguri -one at the Sudder station, one at Alipore and the other three at Boda, Titalya and Debigunge. The dispensary at the sudder was under the care of the municipality and was supported partly by local subscriptions and partly from municipal funds. The Alipore Dispensary was partly supported by the local subscriptions and partly by Government. The other three dispensaries were private institutions supported by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, a small subscription being realized in addition at Boda to supplement the allowance from Chaklajat estates<sup>100</sup>.

There were four dispensaries in Darjeeling against five in the previous year. The Naushwarbaree Dispensary closed from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1885, as it was found useless. Of the four dispensaries, the one at

<sup>99</sup> Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, General Department, Miscellaneous, September 1886, No.70

<sup>100</sup> Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, General Department, Miscellaneous, September 1886, No.70

Kalimpong did not admit in-door patients and it was maintained entirely by Government. The Darjeeling Dispensary was supported by the municipality but nearly half the cost was met from private subscriptions. The Kurseong Dispensary was entirely supported by the municipality. The number of patients in the *Silligoree* Dispensary considerably increased due to fever in the Terai<sup>101</sup>.

A statement showing the number of dispensaries wholly maintained or aided by the District Boards in Bengal, and the expenditure incurred on them during the year 1903-04<sup>102</sup>:-

**Table No. III.16 District Board Dispensaries:**

Division	No. of dispensaries maintained	Cost of maintenance	Number of dispensaries aided	Amount of contribution paid	Percentage of ordinary income expended by District Boards on medical charity and sanitation (excluding expenditure on plague camps)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajshahi Division					
Dinajpur ... ..	1	1,148	3	1,160	1.7
Jalpaiguri ... ..	...	...	6	1,848	1.5
Bhagalpur Division					
Malda ...	3	3,633	4	2,680	8.4

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Municipal Department, Local Self-Government Branch, January 1905, Appendix E.

In the eighties of the nineteenth century the financial condition of the dispensaries in Malda district, especially at English bazar dispensary can be discuss here with the attendance recorded-

**Table No. III.17 Total attendance of patients in Malda District from 1876-1880:**

Year		1876		1877		1878		1879		1880	
Name of Dispensary		Total	Daily	Total	Daily	Total	Daily	Total	Daily	Total	Daily
English Bazar Dispensary	In-Door	139	5.3	195	6.3	196	6.7	166	5.5	128	5.2
	Out-Door	5,850	56.5	6,153	60.3	6,724	59.6	6,229	48.8	5,800	44.6
Malda Town Dispensary	In-Door	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
	Out-Door	2,395	26.5	2,484	21.2	3,414	26.2	3,223	20.6	3,173	18.2
Chanchal Dispensary	In-Door	18	0.7	23	0.6	41	1.4	19	0.6	10	1.2
	Out-Door	1,854	21.9	2,295	26.5	2,685	23.8	1,824	16.3	1,980	16.7

**Table No. III.18 Establishment Cost in Rupees per mensem:**

Heads of expenditure	English Bazar Dispensary	Malda Town Dispensary	Chanchal Dispensary
Civil hospital assistant	25	30	50
Compounder and Dresser	10	8	8
Cook	4		
Sweeper	5	1	1
Coolie		2	1
Total	44	41	60

From the table given above it is very clear that high expense of Chanchal Dispensary was appeared. For that reason the in-door department of that dispensary was closed in June 1880<sup>103</sup>.

There was not work for a native doctor of the lowest grade and the maintenance of a compounder was altogether indefensible. So it was recommended that the enclosure of the dispensary ordered. The Malda Town Dispensary and English Bazar Dispensary in the district of Malda during that time brought under class I and made independent of Government aid.

The income of the English Bazar Dispensary exclusive of the Government grant and the expenditure, roughly estimated as follows:-

Income			Expenditure		
	Rs.			Rs.	
Municipal grant ... ..	600		Pay of Hospital Assistant .....	300	
Private Subscriptions ...	525		All other expenses, such		
Interest of deposit ....	25		as cost of feeling, cost		
			of European medicines ... ..	748	
	_____			_____	
Total ....	1,150		Total ....	1,048	

The English Bazar Municipality already undertook the management of this dispensary and also the Malda Town Dispensary was already under the management of the Municipal Committee. No guarantee-bond was therefore required<sup>104</sup>.

<sup>103</sup>Medical and Municipal Department, November 1881, Proceedings 62-66.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

The following table (year 1884) shows the mortality of the year in the several districts of the Rajshahye division as compared with the preceding years:-

**Table No. III.19 Mortality Statistics:**

Names of the prevailing diseases or other causes	Dinajpur				Jalpaiguri				Darjeeling			
	No. of deaths		Deaths per mille		No. of deaths		Deaths per mille		No. of deaths		Deaths per mille	
	Report				Report				report			
	1884	1885	1884	1885	1884	1885	1884	1885	1884	1885	1884	1885
Cholera ... ..	481	2,920	.31	1.92	205	265	.35	.45	27	30	.17	.18
Small pox ... ..	56	8	.03	.005	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	.03
Fever ... ..	24,454	27,090	16.14	17.88	10,614	13791	18.22	23.68	1,550	1,765	9.92	11.3
Bowel-Complaints ... ..	186	398	.12	.26	130	117	.22	.20	382	497	2.44	3.18
Injuries ... ..	629	726	.41	.47	108	102	.18	.17	43	65	.27	.41
Other causes ... ..	891	1,092	.58	.72	334	841	.57	1.44	345	496	2.20	.17
Total ... ..	26,697	32,254	17.62	21.30	11391	15116	19.55	25.95	2,347	2,858	15.0	18.27

The unhealthiness will be observed according to the deaths per mille were as follows in the several districts:-

Districts	1884	1885
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Dinajpur	17.62	21.30
Jalpaiguri	19.55	25.95
Darjeeling	15	18.27
Malda	19.44	23.25

The following table shows statistics regarding vaccination in 1885-86 and the previous year:-

**Table No. III.20 Vaccination Statistics:**

District	Number of thanas in which Vaccine operations were carried on.		Number of villages		Total Number of persons vaccinated		Remarks
	1884-85	1885-86	1884-85	1885-86	1884-85	1885-86	
Dinajpur ... ..	17	17	(a)1,707	2,147	35,446	40,438	(a)Taking the municipality as one village.
Jalpaiguri ... ..	8	8	549	770	13,770	20,655	
Darjeeling ... ..	2	2	425	398	13,316	11,429	
Ditto Terai ... ..	1	1	139	147	1,825	2,187	

There was a marked increase of vaccine operations in Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and in the Darjeeling Terai. The district operations in Dinajpur were under the direct supervision of the vaccination department, while in the town the municipal vaccinator operates for six months only under the orders of the civil surgeon. The Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling said that “the greater confidence of the people in vaccination, and consequently their readier willingness to accept it,” was the reason behind decrease in operations. The number of vaccinators employed was 19 and of the 20,655 cases, 20,405 were

successful. Operations in Darjeeling were usually limited and were the Deputy Commissioner observed apparently confined to the municipal areas of Darjeeling and Kurseong in which paid vaccinators were entertained<sup>105</sup>.

In the Census of 1931 it has been said that the health condition of North Bengal was not at all good, although in Jalpaiguri it was reported that the birth-rate was steadily increasing whilst the death-rate was very much lower than the birth-rate<sup>106</sup>. In 1932 there was a special case for sanctioning the retention of the services of the unregistered medical practitioners in charge of the three Mission Dispensaries at Sukiapokri, Kizam and Pulbazar in the district of Darjeeling, under section 31 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914 and in relaxation of rule 10(a) of the Dispensary Rules<sup>107</sup>.

While discussing the medical institutions in North Bengal, mentions may be taken from the town of Darjeeling. There we found three medical institutions-the Eden Sanitarium<sup>108</sup> for Europeans, the Lewis Jubilee Sanitarium for natives and the Victoria Memorial Dispensary for natives and Europeans. During the time of eighties of the nineteenth century these two hospitals except Victoria Memorial Dispensary, were established with the encouragement coming from Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division<sup>109</sup>. It is found from a Report by Colonel E. Bovill, Surgeon-Lieutenant, Superintendent of Darjeeling Eden Sanitarium, for the year 1896, as compared with the previous four years, the following table will show the number and class of patients during the season, given below:-

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<sup>105</sup> Annual General Report, Rajshahye Division, 1885-86, File No.22-3/4 .

<sup>106</sup> Census 1931, p.48.

<sup>107</sup> Revenue Department, Excluded Area, September, 1932.

<sup>108</sup> Established on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1883, designed by Mr. Martin, C.F., the architect to the Government of Bengal, erected at a cost of 2 lakhs of rupees=£13,333 and 1/3 (E.C.Dozey, op.cit., p.129).

<sup>109</sup> LSSOMalley, Bengal District Gazetteers, Darjeeling, pp-58-59.

**Table No. III.21 Eden Sanitarium Statistics:**

Admissions	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
First class ...	59	51	51	73	47
Intermediate class ...	90	52	50	62	82
Second class ...	146	144	139	140	152
Third class ...	119	112	109	145	183
Total ...	414	359	349	420	464

The majority of patients came from Calcutta and its neighbours<sup>110</sup> as it was the only institution in Bengal at which Europeans requiring treatment in a cool climate possible<sup>111</sup>. Even there were several admissions from locality and even from Andaman Islands, Benares, Upper Burma, Chittagong, Moulmein, Nagpur, Raipur, Central Provinces, Rangoon, Simla<sup>112</sup>. The income comprised of the following items:-

Rs.

- (a)Receipts from patients ... .. 35,677  
 (b)Annual subscriptions ... .. 885  
 Interest on bank account ... .. 249<sup>113</sup>

Annual Return of patients treated in the Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling, during 1896<sup>114</sup>

<sup>110</sup> Municipal, Sanitation Branch, March, 1897, Proc.No.66-67.

<sup>111</sup> LSSOMalley, op.cit., p.58.

<sup>112</sup> Municipal, Sanitation Branch, March, 1897, Proc.No.66-67.

<sup>113</sup> Report of E.Bovill, M.D, F.R.C.S, Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel; Superintendent, Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1879.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.



**Table No. III.22 Patients treated in Eden Sanitarium:**

Diseases	Males	Females	Children	Total treated	Cured	Relieved	Died
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Typhoid fever	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
Malarial fever	27	14	12	53	40	12	1
Secondary Syphilis	2	1	...	3	...	3	...
Debility	33	28	2	63	38	25	...
Rheumatic affections	5	1	...	6	2	4	...
Tubercle of Ung	4	2	1	7	...	6	1
All other general diseases	25	15	27	67	50	17	...
Diarrhoea	5	4	5	14	10	4	...
Dyspepsia	5	10	...	15	15	...	...
Diseases of nervous systems	14	14	...	28	16	12	...
Ditto respiratory system	9	17	3	29	21	5	3
Ditto circulatory system	4	2	...	6	1	5	...
Ditto liver	1	1	1	3	2	1	...
Ditto lymphatic system	2	1	2	5	2	3	...
Ditto urinary ditto	3	1	...	4	...	4	...
Ditto generative ditto	4	6	...	10	6	4	...
Ditto digestive ditto	8	6	6	20	13	7	...
Ditto organs of locomotion	4	3	...	7	3	4	...
Ditto connective tissue	3	2	2	7	6	1	...
Ditto skin	...	...	1	1	...	1	...
Ulcers	1	1	...	2	...	2	...
Local injuries	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
Alcoholism	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
Labour	...	6	...	6	6	...	...

Total	...	...	164	136	62	362	233	124	5
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In 1912 it had 64 beds, out of which 8 first class, 8 inter-mediate and 24 each for the second and third classes accommodated in a dormitory. Free-quarters were provided for the servants of residents. This constitution was maintained at an annual expenditure of about Rupees 50,000, under the control of the Civil Surgeon of the station assisted by an Assistant Surgeon (or member of the Sub. Med.Service) and an European steward and a number of sisters<sup>115</sup>.

### **The Lowis Jubilee Sanatorium**

In 1887 with the idea of Mr. Edmond Elliott Lowis by the liberality of Maharajah Gobindo Lal Roy of Rangpur<sup>116</sup> a sum of Rupees 90,000 and a gift of 7 ½ acres site by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar<sup>117</sup>, a sanatorium was established to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

By 1912 with Government grant-in-aid of 16,000 Rs. was laid for the erection of an annexe called the Edward VII House, the total sum of Rupees 3,54,134 was collected as donations and annual subscriptions. Therefore the accommodation of the sanatorium to 118 beds with Rupees 25,000 annual maintenance cost had occurred<sup>118</sup>.

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<sup>115</sup> E.C.Dozey,op.cit.,p.131.

<sup>116</sup> LSSO'Malley, op.cit.

<sup>117</sup>E.C.Dozey,op.cit.,p.131.

<sup>118</sup> LSSO'Malley,op.cit.

## The Victoria Hospital

The Victoria Memorial Dispensary was the Darjeeling Municipal hospital, started in 1864 in the building lately utilized as the Police Lines. This hospital by the end of 1915 had taken in its welfare by Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Carmichael with the duration of Rupees 3000 by the Rajah of Digapatia and to the assignment of funds raised for commemorating the memory of the Maharajah of CoochBehar<sup>119</sup>.

The Church of Scotland Mission maintained and managed some dispensary at Kalimpong, Nimbang and Kizom with aided by the state. A small independent medical mission was at Sukiapokhri<sup>120</sup>. The chief medical institution in the Jalpaiguri district was the sadar hospital, consisted of only 6 beds in a thatched hut situated on the opposite bank of the Karala river from the present site. In 1906 (but in John F. Grunning's Eastern Bengal District Gazetteer, Jalpaiguri; we found the year as 1905) this Hospital building constructed with 18 beds for males and females accommodated in a corrugated iron hut containing 6 beds. Since then numerous additions have been made till this time, there was accommodation for 58 patients and an Operation Theatre. The details are as follows:-

Male (medical) ...	...	...	18
Male (surgical) ...	...	...	12
Female ...	...	...	12
Phthisis ...	...	...	6
Septic ...	...	...	6
Cholera ...	...	...	1

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<sup>119</sup> E.C.Dozey,op.cit.

<sup>120</sup> LSSOMalley,op.cit.,pp.59-60.

Self-dieting ...	...	...	1
Paying ...	...	...	2
-----			
Total			58

In the year of 1923, the daily average of in-patients was 40 and of out-patients 77. In the unhealthy months the hospital was full to over-flowing many patients having to be turned away. It was introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1923, that fever out-patients must give the charge of one anna for medicines. Although this charge was not popular but a steady income obtained from this source of about Rs.70/- p.m. The financial condition of the hospital was not bright, the indebtedness was Rs.2000. The general donation of Rs.1000 was given by the District Board. Public subscriptions was also well maintained. The Medical Staff consisted of one Assistant Surgeon, one Sub-Assistant Surgeon and a Lady Doctor. The management was by Committee with the Deputy Commissioner as President and Babu Umapada Banerjee, Pleader, as Vice-Chairman and Secretary<sup>121</sup>. In March 1932 the District Board of Darjeeling of an annual grant-in-aid of Rupees 500 paid to the Leper Hospital attached to Kalimpong Charteries Hospital<sup>122</sup>.

In the Charteries Hospital hill-women were taught nursing in accordance with the scheme started by Lady Carmichael<sup>123</sup>. In 1916 Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Carmichael visited the Glen Eden experimental station at Darjeeling. The phenomenal success achieved by Prof. J.C. Bose while projecting the phenomena of irritability in tropical plants, induced the secretary of state to sanction the establishment of a research institute at Darjeeling<sup>124</sup>.

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<sup>121</sup> A Report from W.O.Walker, Major I.M.S.Civil Surgeon, Jalpaiguri, 23.1.24.

<sup>122</sup>Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March 1932.

<sup>123</sup> E.C.Dozey, op.cit.,p.179.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid, p.136.

## E. Education

The education in the modern concept was started with the British. About the middle of the nineteenth century the idea gained ground with the authorities that Government was responsible for the education of the people under its rule and that the private institutions in which education had been hitherto carried on were no longer sufficient for their needs<sup>125</sup>. In the district of Darjeeling education was backward. The Buddhist monasteries, which in theory ought to have been centres of teaching, had in point of fact done extremely little in this way. The Scotch Mission had for more than 20 years been systematically carrying on the work of education and Government had handed over this work almost entirely to the hand of the Mission in the hills, only subsidizing them with money grants<sup>126</sup>.

The education in Darjeeling at a preliminary stage was expanded with the advent of the Reverend Mr. Start, a private missionary, and Mother Teresa M.Mons; as a result of which a convent was fully established in 1846<sup>127</sup>. In the Terai also, it is found nothing existing in the shape of indigenous school and the introduction of pathshalas and upper primary schools was the later addition. From the old statistics i.e.of 1872 the number of schools in the district was 24 with 617 scholars, being 542 boys and 75 girls. The returns for 1890-91 showed 72 schools, 2,353 scholars, of whom 203 were girls. These figures were exclusive of European Schools<sup>128</sup>. In order to educate and enticing Bhuteas, Lepchas and other people of the upper hills as well as to become intermediaries of communication with the High Asia, the Director of Public Instruction requested to forward a scheme for rendering the English school

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<sup>125</sup> F.W.Strong, Dinajpur Gazetteer, op.cit.

<sup>126</sup> Census 1891 of Darjeeling, p.7.

<sup>127</sup> E.C.Dozey,op.cit., p.103.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid, p.8.

at Darjeeling. In reply of this an English School was kept up at Darjeeling for the benefit of the hill races and beyond a school for the benefit of children of Bengallee amlah<sup>129</sup>.

### **Education of children in tea-gardens-**

We have also evidence of schools for the education of the children of labourers employed in tea gardens existed in the district of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. During the year of 1917 the number of these schools increased from 85 to 94. Nine new schools were opened in the Jalpaiguri district making 28 numbers. Whereas in Darjeeling district it was numbered 66. These were under the management of Scottish Mission. However, the fall in the number of pupils in those schools were noticed. The parents withdrew their boys for the working of as whole-time laborers. The difficulties which had hitherto stood in the way of the spread of education in the Jalpaiguri tea-gardens had been largely surmounted and a special non-recurring grant of Rupees 5,250 was paid during the year for the establishment of 30 new schools<sup>130</sup>.

The total number of such schools were 100 with 1,907 pupils in 1920-21, against 110 schools with 1,959 pupils, in the year before. Jalpaiguri reported in the year of 1920-21, 40 tea garden schools with 584 pupils, against 43 schools with 740 pupils in 1919-20. Of these, five were "A" class schools managed by Government, 22 "B" class schools aided, and 13 "C" class schools unaided. Of the 22 "B" class schools, 17 were aided by Government and five by District Board. The expenditure out of the Imperial grant on the five "A" class and 17 "B" class schools was Rs.2,276. The District Board spent Rs. 464, on the five "B" class schools. Whereas in Darjeeling district it was numbered 66 in 1917. In 1920-21, 60 schools with 1,323 pupils, against 67 schools with 1,219 pupils, in the previous year. The total

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<sup>129</sup>General Department, Education Branch, November, 1871, Proceedings.No.54.

<sup>130</sup> General Department, Education Branch, July 1917, Nos.62-63.

expenditure incurred on these schools during 1921 amounted to Rs.8,794, against Rs.8,913, to which Government contributed Rs.5,657, against Rs. 5,126, in 1919-20<sup>131</sup>.

These were under the management of Scottish Mission. However, the fall in the number of pupils in those schools were noticed. The parents withdrew their boys for the working of as whole-time laborers<sup>132</sup>.

### **Missionary activities regarding expansion of education-**

Rev. W.Macfarlane, Church of Scotland Missionary, Darjeeling, stated the condition of education in the district of Darjeeling, with a proposal to establish more Vernacular schools. According to him the Mission of the Church of Scotland to this district was commenced in June 1870. Shortly after its commencement an influential committee was formed to manage its affects consisting of Major Morton, the Deputy Commissioner of the District, the Chaplain of Darjeeling, influential tea-planters of the district and others along with the missioneries themselves, ordained and levy<sup>133</sup>.

Shortly after the establishment of the mission, a strong representation was made to the Director-General of Public Instruction by the Local Committee of Public Instruction in Darjeeling, pointing out to him the very backward state of education in the district. He proposed for its improvement, that all the schools in the district should be made over to the mission, as it was conceived that, in a hilly district like this, the education of the people would be much better superintended by the missionaries, whose work would lead them to be always among them than by any other parties.

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<sup>131</sup> Annual Report on the Progress of Education, Rajshahi Division, 1920-21, p.20.

<sup>132</sup> General Department, Education Branch, July 1917,Nos.62-63.

<sup>133</sup> General, Education Branch,November,1871, Proceedings.No.53.

The Director-General obtained the sanction of Government to the transfer of all the vernacular schools in the district to the charge of the mission, but decided to retain the Darjeeling Anglo-Vernacular school in his own hands, on the ground that he conceived it to be the duty of Government to maintain one school in the district in which a purely secular education would be given. Accordingly, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November last year (1870), the mission received charge of the vernacular schools in the district, along with a grant-in-aid from Government to the amount of Rs. 125 a month, given on condition that the mission should expend at least an equal sum on the school then existing, or on additional schools.

When the mission overtook the charge of the vernacular schools, there were nominally five schools, but in reality only three schools in existence, as in one of the five the teacher had no pupils, and in another the pupils had had no teacher for a number of months. The average attendance of the pupils was about 40; and these were taught both very irregularly and very indifferently, through the teachers knowing nothing of the art of teaching and through there being no systematic of superintending them<sup>134</sup>.

The mission at once took steps to increase the number of schools and the result has been that there were now fifteen vernacular boy's schools and four girls' schools in the district, in addition to two normal schools-one for the Nepalese and another for the Lepchas and these during the past six months, had an average of 413 boys and 33 girls on the roll and an average daily attendance of 267 boys and 24 girls. The establishment of the two normal schools which have each at present 20 students in attendance, was necessitated by the fact that no suitable teachers could be had in the district which was completely separated from the plains below by language, race and climate<sup>135</sup>.

Hindi was used as the Vernacular language in the hills, on account of its being so generally understood. It was so like Nepalese that the Nepalese boys find little difficulty in understanding it. Nepalese was

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<sup>134</sup> General, Education Branch, November, 1871, Proceedings. No. 53.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.



written in the same character as Hindi so that a boy who has learned to read and write. Hindi can read and write Nepalese also. In Hindi there was a complete set of suitable school-books. The Lepchas were taught to read the few books which have been printed in their language.

The object proposed by these schools was to give the people of the district a simple education, so that they may be able to read and write their own language and to know sufficient arithmetic to be able to keep accounts of their business affairs. It was proposed to include the subjects of grammar, geography and history which were taught in well conducted vernacular schools in the plains. We found some difficulties faced by the Mission School were due to the want of suitable teachers and by the great loss the mission sustained in the death of Mr. Campbell, the energetic mission teacher.

So many new district schools and two new normal schools had not been established without incurring great expense on the part of the mission. While Government had given only Rs. 125 a month, the mission has contributed, on an average, nearly Rs. 400 a month towards the expense of the schools and this large sum has been contributed chiefly by residents in the district, aided by other parties apart altogether from the general funds of the mission.

The Mission Committee thought that on account of the large sum that was contributed towards the mission from private sources, it had a strong claim upon Government for a large increase in the grant-in-aid. The Director-General of Public Instruction, proposed that Government should give as much in grant-in-aid as was contributed by the mission and showing that if this were done, sixteen new schools could be established in the district, and some 300 more boys taught daily. It was proposed to establish these new schools chiefly for the Lepchas in the Teesta Valley and for the children of the coolies on the tea-plantations<sup>136</sup>.

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<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

This representation of the Mission Committee received the support of both the Deputy Commissioner of the District and the Commissioner of CoochBehar. However, the Director-General stated that the funds of the educational department precluded all hope of any increased assistance in the shape of grants-in-aid for schools at Darjeeling.

Therefore, the Mission Committee disappointed in its expectation of getting additional funds of the district. It has been already stated that when the Director-General of Public Instruction made over the vernacular schools to the mission last November, he reserved the Darjeeling Anglo-vernacular school in his own hands. Mr. Thomas, the head-master of that school, held the double appointment of inspection of the vernacular schools, with the necessary result that he was unable to discharge either duty satisfactorily, as when he was inspecting the vernacular schools he had to neglect the Anglo-Vernacular school and when he was teaching in the English school he could not be inspecting the vernacular schools. So he was transferred from the district<sup>137</sup>.

On his transfer from the district, application was made on the part of the Mission Committee to secure for the mission schools the allowance of Rs. 50 a month, which the late inspector received for inspecting the vernacular schools.

The Anglo-Vernacular school received a grant of Rs.154 a month, exclusive of contingencies from Government. It has an average attendance of about thirty boys. The half of these were not natives of this district at all, but the children of Bengali Baboos and Mahomedan amlah about the Government officers.

Hindi, the vernacular language of these hills, is not taught in the school at all. Bengali and Persian-Urdu which were taught in the school were foreign languages to the Nepalese and Lepchas. The instruction given in English was very defective. This was chiefly owing to the difficulty in securing the services of

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<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

a suitable English master. The salary, Rs.100 a month was not sufficient to secure the services of a competent European and educated Bengalis appear to have a great aversion to educational appointments in these hills.

The boys learn only a smattering of English which had generally the effect of puffing them up with pride and of making them despise their own language. As far as the Committee was aware, only some three boys belonging to this district had learned enough English in the Anglo-Vernacular school to be of use to them in obtaining situation in life.

The Committee therefore proposes that the English department at least in the Anglo-vernacular school, should be closed altogether; that Bengali and Persian-Urdu should still be taught, if the boys should wish. The funds expended in teaching English should be contrasted to the mission for the establishment of the sixteen new vernacular schools it proposes to set up among the Lepchas in the Teesta Valley, and among the Coolies on the tea-plantations. The Committee conceives that it would be conferring a much greater boon on the people of this district that 300 children should be taught reading, writing and the elements of arithmetic in their own language than that some 30 boys and only half of these natives of this district, should be taught a smattering of English, which in nine cases out of every ten was never of any practical use of them.

It may further be noted that which the primary object of the mission was the conversion of the people of these hills to the Christian faith, it has been resolved to keep the schools to their proper function of educational work. While the Bible, and books founded on the Bible, taught in those schools. Both the teachers and pupils were told that the primary object in the schools was to teach the children reading,

writing and the elements of arithmetic in their own language and the question of the conversion of the people were settled outside the schools by the missionaries in fair open discussion with the people<sup>138</sup>.

### **Government efforts for expanding education-**

It appeared from the Annual Report on Public Instruction for 1870-71 in the Rajshahi Division the Commissioner, all the civil officers paid much attention to educational affairs, and native zemindars liberally contribute to the support of schools. By showing the Commissioner's educational statistics, we will be very clear about the condition of education in the different districts of North Bengal. During that time the Dinajpur district possessed 1 Zilla school, a training school for masters, 4 aided Anglo-Vernacular schools, 37 middle class vernacular schools and 198 pathshalas. The average daily attendance was 3,375. The Commissioner wrote, only the bare elements of reading were taught.

In Malda, there were only 4 Government schools and 16 aided schools; containing 982 scholars in all. The Pathshala system was not introduced into Malda and neither the Commissioner nor the Inspector mentioned whether there were any indigenous unaided schools of any kind.

The Darjeeling district during that time consisted of 20 schools with 518 pupils as against 9 schools with 182 pupils in the previous year. At 1 only of these schools English was taught. The Vernacular schools were all under the charge of the Presbyterian Missionary. At three of the Mission schools Lepcha boys were taught in their own language.

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<sup>138</sup> General, Education Branch, November, 1871, Proceedings.53.

In Jalpaiguri district there were 62 schools with 1,381 pupils on the rolls: at 4 aided schools English was taught. The pathshalas were a smattering of grammar, geography and geometry taught in the course of teaching. At elementary Pathshalas it was confined to reading, writing, arithmetic and account-keeping<sup>139</sup>. The establishment of a Zillah school at Jalpaiguri had been three times recommended by the local authorities. In March 1871 the Commissioner suggested as financial difficulties were no longer pressing, measures must be taken for the establishment of Government school as before proposed.

Finally it has been decided by the Deputy Commissioner and District Committee that to assign an increased grant to the aided school to the extent of Rs.100 a month out of the district grant-in aid allotment to meet Rs.100 a month from the local sources. For the establishment of a Zillah School at Jalpaiguri a grant of Rs. 200 per month made for. The amount being debitable to savings in the budget grant of Rs. 2,36,953 for Zilla schools for the year 1876-77. Looking of the actuals for the first six months of 1875-76, there appeared reason to expect that funds available from savings in this item<sup>140</sup>. At Darjeeling the aided Anglo-Hindee school was established as a Government school with an establishment as follows:-

	Per mensem. Rs.
Head Master .....	70
Second Master ....	50
Moonshee ....	25
Contingencies ...	13
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<sup>139</sup>March,1872, Education Branch, Proceedings 43.

<sup>140</sup> General,Education Branch,May 1876,Proceedings.6 & File 88.

Total ..... 158 Costing of Rs.158 per mensem, met from the income of the school derived from the grant taken from different segments were as follows-

	Per mensem	Rs.
Government grant ... ..	...	83
Subscription ... ..	...	60
Fees and fines ... ..	...	25

Total .... 168. In this regard the Government

received the subscription money, Rs.60 per mensem, (which was regularly paid to the credit of the school) as payment of its outlay<sup>141</sup>. In regard to the schools for Europeans and Eurasians, the Lieutenant-Governor sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 18,000 for the purchase of “Constantia”, the site chosen for the establishment of the Government Railway school at Kurseong, which was in the possession of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta. The charge met from general savings in the Education Budget for the year of 1878<sup>142</sup>.

**Darjeeling Boarding School:-**

In 1856 on the recommendation of the then Superintendent this school was established for the benefit of the people of Darjeeling, and especially for the education of the children of native officials. But due to some problems the Lieutenant-Governor had decided in the 70s of the nineteenth century to abolish that Zillah School at this station, and place the education of the natives in Darjeeling under grant-in aid system with a monthly aid of Rs. 40 only. The problems as had been attributed by the Memorial from Baboo Dino Nath Mojumdar and others, native officials and Residents of Darjeeling were as follows-

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<sup>141</sup> General, Education Branch, September 1878, Proceedings 1-3, File 109.

<sup>142</sup> General, Education Branch, September 1878, Proceedings 1, File 109.

Firstly, the injudicious selection of teachers who was inefficient in vernacular language and secondly, the absence of adequate supervision on the part of local committee. Apart from those problems they earnestly prayed before the Lieutenant-Governor that the school be allowed to continue in a modified manner<sup>143</sup>, even the Local Committee of the Public Instruction, of whom Deputy Commissioner was Major Morton, wanted to conduct a boarding school in addition to his other duties and also recommended a qualified native of Bengal as English master in order to mitigate the problem<sup>144</sup>.

Further report found in this regard in July 1877 we see according to the instruction was issued to the Public Works Department of the Government regarding the purchase of the house for the accommodation of the Bhooteah School at Darjeeling, and that the purchase was provided partly from the Public Works budget and partly from the Educational budget. It is better to know more about the fact in detail. Colonel Mainwaring in earlier offered to give up some property at the beginning of the Lebong Spur for a Lepcha school on the conditions that the Government would bear the whole cost of carrying out his projects. As the houses were very much out of repair, a considerable sum would have to be spent on them at the outset in addition to the permanent charge for maintenance. What is interesting here is that Mainwaring was eager to protect Lepchas languages which was dying out because the Lepchas prefer to use a dialect of Thibetan. So his main object was to check this tendency.

Finally in the shape of Bhooteah Boarding School at Darjeeling, Mr. Edgar, Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, proposed the purchase of an adjoining house and the lease of the land on which it stands for Rupees 9,000 could be found by a grant of Rupees 5,600, being the balance of the Darjeeling Local Improvement Fund, by another grant of Rupees 806 from a receipts of a similar nature to the Improvement Fund, and by a grant of Rupees 2,600 from the Government educational Fund so it was

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<sup>143</sup> General Department, Education Branch, October 1872, Proceedings 19 to 21.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid, Proceedings 21.

likely for the benefit of the hill races<sup>145</sup>. This school was raised to the status of a High School in 1892, which was practically divided into two departments, one being a High School, and the other an elementary school for hill tribes boys<sup>146</sup>.

In 1879 Major J.E.T.Nicolis, R.E.Secretary to the Government of Bengal Public Works Department, requested to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department, Railway Branch, that the amount of Rs.10,000 required for the purposes of a school for the children of the State Railway Employee. In reply of this A. Mackenzie, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, said that “the Lieutenant-Governor, in the General (Education) Department, is of opinion that the expenditure of Rs. 62,682, for the construction of the children of the State Railway employees, should be met from the Public Works Department budget”<sup>147</sup>. From 7<sup>th</sup> November 1892, the new scale of establishment for the amalgamated Darjeeling Zilla and Bhutea Boarding School, costing Rs.750 per mensem sanctioned which was composed of-

	Rs.
Establishment ....	600 per mensem
Contingencies ....	125 „
Prizes ...	9 „
Library and gymnastic apparatus ...	16 „
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<sup>145</sup> General Department, Education Branch, July, 1877, Proceedings 1 to 8.

<sup>146</sup> LSSOMalley, op.cit., p.177.

<sup>147</sup> General, Education Branch, January 1879, File 13-5 & 13-7.



750 This effected a

saving of Rs.100 per mensem. It was because in view of Darjeeling school being raised to the status of a high school as a preliminary to its amalgamation with the Bhutia Boarding School.

A table is being shown here the expenditure incurred in the amalgamated Darjeeling Zilla and Bhutea Boarding School<sup>148</sup>.

**Table No. III.23 Proposed Expenditure Statistics:**

Items of expenditure	Monthly charges	Annual Charges	Remarks
	Rs.	Rs.	
Head Master (Class V) ...	133	1,600	
2 <sup>nd</sup> „ ( „ VI) ...	93	1,125	
3 <sup>rd</sup> „ ... ..	50	600	
First additional master...	50*	600	
4 <sup>th</sup> master ... ..	40	480	
5 <sup>th</sup> „ ... ..	30	360	
6 <sup>th</sup> „ ... ..	20	240	The municipal rates for the new building have not yet been settled.
7 <sup>th</sup> „ ... ..	20	240	
2 <sup>nd</sup> additional master (in abeyance)	18	216	
8 <sup>th</sup> master ... ..	15	180	*It is contemplated to transfer him elsewhere and to appoint a drawing-master on Rs.50 in his place.
Head Pandit	35	420	
2 <sup>nd</sup> „ (formerly styled 6 <sup>th</sup> master or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pandit)	25	300	
Head Lama ... ..	30	360	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tebetan teacher (formerly pupil-teacher)			
Clerk and librarian	15	180	
Peon ... ..	10	120	

<sup>148</sup> General, Education Department, July 1893, Proceedings 8-14.

Chaukidar ... ..	8	96	
Sweeper No. I ... ..	8	96	
„ „ II... ..	6	72	
Prize ... ..	3	36	
Library ... ..	9	110	
Contingency(including boarding charges and a firewood)	12	150	
	125	1,500	
Total .... ..	-----	-----	
	756	9,081	

The following was a comparative statement showing the number of schools of different denominations in the year 1884-85 and 1885-86 and the number of pupils studying in them:-

**Table No. III. 24 statement showing the number of schools:**

Description of Schools	Dinagore				Julpigoree				Darjeeling				Divisional Total*				
	1884-85		1885-86		1884-85		1885-86		1884-85		1885-86		1884-85		1885-86		
	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	Number of Schools	Number of Pupils	
Higher English	1	198	1	185	1	180	1	206	2	a		2	a	17	2,716	18	2,979
Middle Dito	5	244	5	250	2	102	2	142	4	291	3	226	65	4,456	67	4,737	
Do Vernacular	21	1,002	22	1,133	18	657	18	708	...	...	2	72	140	6,554	142	7,020	
Lower Vernacular or upper primary	18	553	21	615	15	460	15	457	12	565	11	614	281	9,550	288	10,118	
Lower primary	597	13,996	579	11,338	187	3,665	185	4,103	38	929	39	864	3,112	72,209	2,902	63,811	
Girls School	5	89	2	43	26	346	15	228	2	174	b	...	171	2,682	125	2,102	
Normal Schools and schools for special instructions	...	...	...	...	3	45	1	25	2	39	2	40	6	131	5	175	
Indigenous Schools	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	676	34	568	
Sanskrit Tols	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	44	6	40	
TOTAL	647	16,079	630	13,564	253	5,462	237	5,869	60	1,998	60	1,816	3,843	99,018	3,587	91,550	
Increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	407	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Decrease	...	...	17	2,515	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	182	...	...	256	7,468	

a- figures not supplied  
b- abolished during the year  
\*- it includes also Rajshahye, Pubna, Bogra, Rungpore

The following table III.25 will show that there was a considerable increase in the number of girls in Malda in Bhagulpur Division:-

**Table No. III.25 Girls' Schools in Malda:**

1884-85			1885-86		
Number of girls' schools aided and unaided	Number of students on the rolls on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1886	Number of girls in boys schools	Number of girls' schools aided and unaided	Number of students on the rolls on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1886	Number of girls in boys schools
Malda ....	7	134	70	7	154
Total ....	118	2,268	2,027	128	3,201

## **European Education:-**

The European schools based on European model were secondary schools. The European children educated here and further sent for education in England. These type of schools were needed in Darjeeling for the children of those European Government servants who used it as a sanatorium and could not afford to send their children in their native land for education. A number of Indian parents gradually interested to send their children also who could afford the fees of these schools. So 15 to 25 percent of the total number of their pupils were accepted the children of Indian parents<sup>149</sup>. These schools were for boys namely St. Paul's School and St. Joseph's College at Darjeeling and Victoria School at Kurseong. The schools for girls were the Diocesan Girls' School, the Loreto Convent, the Queen's Hill School at Darjeeling and the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong<sup>150</sup>.

## **Loreto Convent**

Loreto Convent for girls founded in 1846 was the earliest of the European schools in Darjeeling district. It was managed by the Loreto Nuns who had their mother house in Rathfarnham, Dublin. The course of study were laid down by the Code of Education for European schools and include preparation for the Cambridge Junior School and Higher School Certificate examinations, for the Trinity College and Royal Academy examinations in Music and Theory of music, the Royal Drawing Society Art examinations and for elocution examinations<sup>151</sup>.

## **Diocesan Girls' School:-**

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<sup>149</sup> A.J.Dash, Bengal District Gazetteer, p.271.

<sup>150</sup> LSSOMalley,op.cit., p.177.

<sup>151</sup>A.J.Dash, Bengal District Gazetteer, p.272.

The Archdeacon of Calcutta was the Honorary Secretary to the Diocesan Board of Education. He had requested to move to forego the mortgage on the buildings of the Diocesan Girls' School at Darjeeling at the very beginning of the twentieth century. The question is why this was happened and why he requested for?

Before going to the discussion its better to know the history of the school. It was as follows:-

The Darjeeling Girls' School was started in the year 1875 by the Chaplain of the Church of England in Darjeeling for the education of the daughters of Europeans and Eurasians. A sum of Rupees 200 a month was contributed by Government towards its support from its commencement. For its further support, a grant of Rupees 1,200 and Rupees 2,500 were made by the Diocesan Board of Education in the year 1876 and 1878 respectively, on the condition of certain rules. In 1881 for futher development, the Secretary of State made a gift of land and buildings valued at Rupees 7,500 together with the sum of Rupees 7,500 in cash. Another advanced were made out of surplus funds of the Cooch Behar State of Rupees 13,000. The repayment with interest was secured by the execution by the Secretary of State of a mortgage of the school property. So by 1881, the Secretary of State and Lord Bishop mortgaged the land for repayment of 13,000, and a deed of further change secured further advance was executed on 1882.

Again 1898 and in 1899 a grant of Rupees 5,000 and 4,000 respectively sanctioned by Government under grant-in-aid system, and also the landslips in 1899 in Darjeeling cause very great damage to the Diocesan Girls' School; and also on behalf of the school authorities Secretary to the Government of Bengal requested to forego the mortgage for the loan of Rupees 9,000 on the buildings and property of the school, to sell and to use the proceeds in erecting new school buildings<sup>152</sup>. So it is very clear that

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<sup>152</sup> General Department, Education Branch, May, 1900, Proceedings 4-7.

despite several hardles attempts were made to expand the education. Although this was for the interest of European children and for the cause of their cultural imperialism, but it is true to say that benefit to some extent came to the North Bengal people and therefore the town based educational centre expand the cause of urban development in a short while.

### **St.Paul's School:-**

St. Paul's School<sup>153</sup> had its origin in Calcutta in 1846 but as it was unendowed it failed to its own hold as against its rival endowed institution called Doveton and La Martiniere Colleges. Finally it was closed in 1863 and sold its premises for Rupees 1,30,000. Its history started with this interesting aspect to Darjeeling in 1864 with the endowment collected by Bishop Cotton for the private subscription and Government contribution<sup>154</sup>. This school was run on the line of the Public School system as in the United Kingdom and was said to train leaders for the erstwhile British Empire<sup>155</sup>.It gradually got the status of the first College in the district by taking affiliation from Calcutta university in the year of 1880-81. We have a reference in this regard when we found in Mac Donnell's letter "a grant of Rupees 100 is sanctioned for the High Department of St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, together with a grant of Rupees 150 to the College Department"<sup>156</sup>. The question here arises (1) wheather a school should be allowed to draw a fixed grant under article 30 of the Code, as well as instruction grants under article 28.

(2) wheather state aid should be given to a course of education which is beyond the scope of the code for European schools and outside the Calcutta University course. Mr. Nash, Inspector of European

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<sup>153</sup> It was accomplished in Simla by Bishop Cotton, the Metropolitan of Calcutta, where that institution existed for years and was known as "Bishop Cotton's School." E.C.Dozey,op.cit.,p.106.

<sup>154</sup> LSSOMalley,op.cit., p.178.

<sup>155</sup>Education in the Darjeeling Hills An Historical Survey: 1835-1985, Dick B. Dewan, p.88.

<sup>156</sup> General Department, Education Branch, March, 1886, Proceedings 1-7.

Schools in Bengal, had cleared in a note appended to rule 30 of his annotated edition of the code, that grants under both sections will be allowed to a school. Sir Rivers Thompson accepted the view on the condition that school management would ensure the students are of 'final standard'.

Regarding the first question a Resolution dated the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1886, the Government of India sanctioned the recommendation of the Educational Conference at Musoorie, that Schools may be allowed to receive fixed monthly grants on account of classes preparing for the entrance examination, and to earn in addition the grants specified in Article 28 for the final examination of high schools recognized in the code.

As to the second point, the Lieutenant-Governor considered the followings:-

- (a) That a pupil who passes schedule I standard, and continues his studies for Rurki, should be considered as belonging to the College Department.
- (b) That a boy who has passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and continues his studies for Rurki, should also be considered to belong to the Colege Department.
- (c) That a boy who, having passed the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University, studies for an English University, as for the competitive examinations for the Military and Medical Services should not be considered to belong to the College Department<sup>157</sup>.

So therefore it is clear that the best pupils often prepared for competitive examination to occupy several posts and sons of members of the European community got the chance of high standard who could not afford to send their children to England<sup>158</sup>.

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<sup>157</sup> General Department, Education Branch, September, 1886, Proceedings 8-9.

<sup>158</sup>LSSOMalley,op.cit., p.178.

### **Education of special classes for the aborigines and other backward races-**

Aborigines were chiefly found in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Dinajpur and Malda. They classified as Santhals, Oraons, Mundas, Lepchas, Meches, Bhutias, Pharias, Bunas, Dhangars, Gariaths, Ghat wars and Modshis, etc.

There were 80 schools (besides the 100 tea-garden schools) in the Rajshahi Division for the education of the hill tribes and other aboriginal races and depressed classes. A brief account of these schools are as follows:-

i) Jalpaiguri- There was one Bhutia School at Chunabhati with 31 pupils. Besides, there were 10 primary schools for boys and one for girls, for the education of the hill tribes and other aboriginal people<sup>159</sup>.

ii) Dinajpur- There were 14 pure Santhal schools with 242 pupils, and 38 Mission Santhal mixed schools attended by 770 pupils or altogether 52 Santhal schools with 1,012 pupils in 1921, against 47 schools with 963 pupils, in the year of 1920. Out of these 52 Santhal Schools, the Board of Santhal Education had under its control only 29, and spent Rs.2,527, out of the Imperial grants, on account of recurring and non-recurring charges, in addition to the ordinary District Board stipends given to them.

It may be noted here that under the scheme, two new pure Santhal Schools were established by the Board of Santhal Education, during the year under report, making a total of six up to the end of 1920-21.

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<sup>159</sup> Ibid, p.19.



iii) Malda- There were 16 Santhal Schools with 310 pupils. These were, for the most part, mixed schools. The total number of pupils belonging to aboriginal and backward races was 5,554, including 2,642, low class Hindus, 31 indigent Muhammadans, and 2,881 aborigines<sup>160</sup>.

Hostel facilities were sometimes provided as we have seen the establishment of a hostel for Santhal female pupils at Samuktola Santhal Colony in the Jalpaiguri district during the year of 1920. The hostel was under the supervision of one or more teachers of the schools to which they were attached, denominated as Resident Superintendents. The messing charges varied from Rs.6 to Rs.19 per mensem<sup>161</sup>.

### **Training Schools-**

There was also elementary schools which took the domestic course continued to give domestic training to girls of North Bengal. The Helen's Convent Kurseong, St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong and Kalimpong Mission Training School were examples of those higher elementary schools. The Cookery class in the Dow Hill School, Kurseong was continued to moving 6 students. The cost of maintaining the class during the year of 1916 was Rupees 4,980 met from provincial revenues. It was expected that with this domestic training of the girls of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian communities will economically strong<sup>162</sup>. The training class for women attached to the Dow Hill School, Kurseong was regarded as the only recognized institution for the training of teachers in Bengal at that time. The number of students under training on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1916 was 14. The annual examinations of the students were held in November 1915. Six senior and 10 junior students were examined, of whom

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<sup>160</sup> Ibid, p.20.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid, p.21.

<sup>162</sup> General Department, Education Branch, July, 1917, Proceedings.61-67, No.103.

4 and 5 were passed<sup>163</sup>. It was found from the abstract of the proceedings of the Government of Bengal for the month of April 1932 “sanctioning the reorganization scheme of the Kalimpong Mission Training School for the training of primary school teachers in the Darjeeling Hill for a period of five years with effect from the year 1932-33 and according to administrative approval to the scheme at an annual cost of Rupees 7,992 subject to 10 percent cut in the pay of trained teachers for the period the pay of the Government servants in subjected to such cut.” This annual contribution made to the school in the manner indicated below:-

	Per annum Rs.
12 stipends at Rs. 10 per mensem and 6 stipends at Rs. 15 per mensem ... ..	2,520
Contribution towards the pay of two teachers except during the period the 10 percent	
Cut in pay will remain in force when the contribution will be Rs. 3,845 ... ..	4,272
Grant-in aid (Rs. 100 per mensem) ... ..	1,200
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Total ...	7,992” <sup>164</sup>

The Kalimpong Lace School was started by Mrs.Graham in 1905 under instruction at the central and out schools was 1,146. It was successful in lace-making, embroidery, carpentry, carving, weaving, tailoring and other industries which were taught here<sup>165</sup>. Government grant was given to this lace making and wool weaving school at Kalimpong. One reference can be given here that a grant of Rupees 1,500 sanctioned towards the expenses of the instructresses of the Lace School at Kalimpong during the year 1910, and the school authorities informed that it would continue beyond the year 1910.

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<sup>163</sup> Ibid, No.103.

<sup>164</sup> Revenue Department, Excluded Area Branch, June, 1932, A Proceedings.

<sup>165</sup> Final Report on the survey and settlement of Kalimpong Government Estate 1919-21 by H.C.V.Philpot, 1925, p.28.

Statement showing the number of pupils attending school, Home workers & Occasional workers in Kalimpong Lace School and its branches<sup>166</sup>:-

No.	Name of Institution	1907	1908	1909
1.	Central School ... ..	90	88	76
		10	24	48
				14
	Kalimpong District Branch Schools.			
2.	Lolay ... ..	8	8	14
3.	Chhobo ... ..	8	10	14
4.	Sitong ... ..	6	11	13
5.	Sindipong ... ..	...	6	8
6.	Aragarah ... ..	...	...	6
7.	Bhalukop ... ..	...	...	3
8.	Rinkingpong ... ..	...	...	6
	Sikkim Branch Schools.			
9.	Vok ... ..	...	6	6
10.	Phambong ... ..	...	6	6
11.	Chidam ... ..	...	7	14
12.	Gangtok ... ..	...	11	11
13.	Darjeeling district..Darjeeling ...	...	12	12
	Total ...	122	189	251

<sup>166</sup> General Department, Education Branch, February, 1910, Proceedings 32 to 42.

Statement of establishment during 1907 and 1908, and estimate of establishment for 1909 (on the basis of a Government grant of Rupees 450 a month)<sup>167</sup>

No.	Designation	1907	1908	1909
	A	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	Members occupied full-time, monthly salary and cost of maintenance, if any, in addition-			
1	Miss Channer ... ..	1,850	1,300	2,040
2	Honorary- Mary H. Scott, charge of Hostel ...	..	440	1,800
3	„ Miss Gladys Korb, Assistant ... ..	...	440	720
4	Mr. Cuthbert Archibald or other designer ...	...	...	1,760
5	Miss Winifred Korb (office word) ... ..	...	60	240
6	Indian Teacher of Lace ... ..	283	420	360
7	Clerk and servants ... ..	69	197	360
	Total ... ..			
		2,202	2,917	7,280
	B			
	Members occupied part-time portion of monthly salary and cost of maintenance attributable to their work in the Lace School-			
	Mrs. Crawford, Deaconess, for literary teaching ...			
1	Indian teachers to help with literary teaching ...	600	600	600
2	Mrs. Graham, General Superintendent ... ..	...	...	120
3	...	...	...	...
	Total ... ..			
		600	600	720
	Grand Total ... ..			
		2,302	3,517	8,000

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

The percentages of boys of school-going age, reckoned at the ordinary estimate of 15 percent of the male population attending schools during the year of 1885-86 and the preceding year, were as follows in the following districts:-

Districts	Percentage in 1884-85	Percentage in 1885-86
Dinajpur ... ..	16.6	11.1
Jalpaiguri ... ..	11.8	12.7
Darjeeling .... ..	22.01	21.5

The number of girls attending boys schools during the year were as follows:-

Districts	Number
Dinajpur	254
Jalpaiguri	87
Darjeeling	161 (attending both boys' & girls'schools)

In Dinajpur there was a decrease of 17 schools and 2,515 and it was principally in lower primary education. The reason for this according to Mr. Beadon wrote, "lies partly in the fact that for this year, for the first time, all schools having less than 10 boys are, under the Director's orders excluded from the returns, and partly in the discontinuance of stipends and the payment of village lower primary school teachers on the results of the examinations held at the close of the year." With regard to the falling off in the number of girls attending boys' schools from 571 to 254, Mr. Beadon observed-"It may be the sign of a weak point in our system, or it may be that just as the number of boys has decreased, so has that of the girls."

There were Mahomedan boys at school, or 1.5 percent of the whole population of that religion. Out of these, 7,458 boys, or 89 percent of the total number, read in lower primary schools. It is observed that

the Mahomedan school-going population was to the Hindu school-going population as 8 to 5. In 1942 a branch of Ripon College was established in Dinajpur<sup>168</sup>.

In Jalpaiguri there was a loss of 16 schools, but a gain of 407 pupils. Of these 16 schools, 8 had actually disappeared and the remaining 8 were said to have excluded from the returns under the Director's orders, because of their having less than 10 pupils on the rolls. The decline in the number of girls in girls' schools was owing to the loss in the number of institutions. With regard to these schools the Deputy Commissioner observed:- "There is no doubt that the girls' schools are losing their popularity, and that a reaction of feeling in regard to them has set in this part of the country at all events. It is said that no permanent benefit is conferred on the girls, whose education is never carried beyond their 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> year, and that in many instances the effect of the little knowledge they acquire is to make them unhappy and discontented, if it does not lead to more evils in after life. The more respectable classes educate their girls at home".

In the Darjeeling hills primary education was entirely in the hands of the Scotch Mission, excepting a night school at Kurseong, which was opened during the year. Nearly all the Scotch Mission Schools consist of both a day and a night school under the same teacher, but with a different set of pupils. In the Terai the falling off in the attendance at the lower primary schools was partly compensated and accounted for by the increased numbers in the upper primary class, and partly due to the Director's circular, which excludes from the returns all pathshalas having less than 10 pupils. The schools were almost wholly supported by Government funds and one anna cess fund was nearly equal proportions<sup>169</sup>.

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<sup>168</sup> Satyaranjan Das, Dinajpurer Gaurabajjol Adhaya, Amar Varati, Kolkata, 2012, pp.90 & 94.

<sup>169</sup> September, 1886, General, Education Branch, 69.

The number of public schools and that of pupils in them (exclusive of figures for technical, industrial and other special schools of this type)<sup>170</sup> in 1922 varied district by district. This could be seen from the following table:

District	Schools	Pupils
Dinajpur... ..	+213	+4,930
Jalpaiguri... ..	+61	+784
Malda... ..	+51	+2,174
Darjeeling... ..	+14	+677

So the increase found although the economic conditions were not satisfactory as before, but we could notice that schools and their population were not affected<sup>171</sup>.

### **Primary Education of Indian Boys-**

We see the increase of the number of primary schools for boys comparing with previous year in each district of North Bengal under study for 1919-20 and 1920-21:-

Districts	1919-20		1920-21		Gain or low	
	Upper Primary	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Lower Primary
Dinajpur...	117	1,036	120	1,177	3	141
Jalpaiguri...	55	707	56	762	1	55
Malda...	63	403	59	455	-4	52
Darjeeling...	9	198	12	206	3	8
Total...	244	2,344	247	2,600	3	256

<sup>170</sup> These were not included in the Report as it was transferred to the control of the Director of Industries.

<sup>171</sup> Annual Report on the Progress of Education, Rajshahi Division, 1920-21, p.1.

<sup>171</sup> General Department, Education Branch, July 1917, Nos.62-63.

The Report showed the increase, while the decrease appeared in Malda in case of Upper Primary for boys did not mentioned the cause<sup>172</sup>.

### **Education of Indian girls and women-**

There were two Assistant Inspectresses for the supervision of female education- one with her headquarters at Jalpaiguri had Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dinajpur, and Darjeeling under her charge, while the remaining four districts of Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Malda of the Rajshahi division were under the supervision of the other with headmasters at Rampur Boalia.

The only High School at the time of the twenties of twentieth century was the Maharani High English School at Darjeeling. It had 77 pupils including 25 boys on its roll on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1921, against 76 pupils including 29 boys on the previous year. The teaching staff consisted of nine mistresses, of whom two were B.A'S, one B.A., B.T., one a passed student of senior Cambridge Examination and the rest undergraduates. The total expenditure incurred on this institution amounted to Rs. 13,516, of which Rs.4,650, came from Provincial revenues and Rs.240 from municipal funds. It sent up three candidates for the last Matriculation examination and they all passed, two in the first division and one in the third<sup>173</sup>.

Besides the Primary Schools receiving aid from the District Boards and the Municipalities, the classes of Zenana education was also included in the primary school. In the district of Jalpaiguri there were 6

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<sup>172</sup>Annual Report on the Progress of Education, Rajshahi Division, 1920-21, p.9.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid, p.15.



centres of Zenana classes; the number of ladies attending them rose from 43 to 46. Of these 46 ladies, 30 were married and 16 unmarried and they were all Hindus<sup>174</sup>.

### Organization of Education-

The number of Sub-Inspectors will appear from the table given below-

	No. of Sub-Inspectors	Average number of primary schools under the inspection of each Sub-Inspector
Dinajpur...	7	241
Jalpaiguri...	5	176
Malda...	3	168
Darjeeling...	2	113

If we look into the average number of primary schools under the inspection of each Sub-Inspector, more than a Sub-Inspector can properly manage. The Divisional (Rajshahi) Report also mentioned “that the Subdivision of Kalimpong (in Darjeeling) where the schools are scattered far and wide requires a Sub-Inspector with headquarters at Kalimpong.” The number of Inspecting Pandits were 3 in Malda under the District Boards and 2 in the district of Darjeeling paid out of the primary funds.

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<sup>174</sup> Ibid, p.16.

The progress of education was generally depended on the harmony of Department and the District and Municipal Boards<sup>175</sup>. The District Board spent on schools under their direct management or aided by them and the Municipal Boards managed schools in the municipal areas through Municipalities “The Scotch Mission, the Scandinavian Alliance Mission at Ghoom, and the Roman Catholic (Jesuit) Mission are doing admirable work in the district of Darjeeling. The Christian Missionary Societies in Jalpaiguri are doing good work in the Duars, in spreading education among the aboriginal races and the hill tribes.”

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Some private institutions were there in the Rajshahi Division which received contribution from public funds during the year of 1920. The one was a monastic school in the Darjeeling district attended by 14 Buddhist pupils, to which Rs. 180 was paid from Provincial revenues. The other was the Mahakali girls’ *pathsala* in the town of Malda to which English Bazar Municipality contributed Rs.48 in 1921.

During the time of non Co-operation movement, two national schools came into being and one such school was started at Balurghat and one at Malda<sup>177</sup>. While we are talking about the expansion of schools in different districts of North Bengal, similarly an exception in case of discipline has to be mentioned here. Nabin Chanra Bose, Head Master, Malda Zilla School, was murdered in January 1916, and one of the boys of the School had been convicted by the District and Sessions Judge of complicity in the crime. During the year several students were interned under the Defence of India Act<sup>178</sup>.

### **Libraries and Newspapers-**

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<sup>175</sup> Ibid, p.4.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid,p.5.

<sup>177</sup> Ibid,p.20.

<sup>178</sup> Report of W.W.Honell, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, July, 1917, General Department, Education Branch.

It has been found from the Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1885-86, the library facility was not so prevalent in Dinajpur and even in Jalpaiguri, except a very small one at Sudder Station with a few Bengali novels. It was said that the items of subscription were so trifling, and the payment were so irregularly made, that except any improvement in its condition was out of the question<sup>179</sup>. Museums were none in the Rajshahi Division<sup>180</sup>.

The following *vernacular* and English Newspapers were published in the year of 1885-86-

Districts	Names of Newspapers	How often published
Dinajpur	Dinagepore Masik Patrika	Monthly, in Bengali
Darjeeling	Darjeeling News	Weekly, in English
	Mission-ki-Masik Samachar Patrika	Monthly, in Hindi.

In *Dinagepore Masik Patrika* was a newly started periodical. It was published at the Sen Press, kept by Baboo Kalimohon Sen. It was chiefly devoted to the agricultural matters. The *Darjeeling News* supported the Government, but only dealt with local questions, and had little influence. The *Mission-ki-Masik Samachar Patrika* solely related to local mission work. The papers that were principally read in the division of Rajshahi were *the Englishman*, *the Statesman*, *the Indian Mirror*, *the Indian Echo*, *the Bengalee*, *the Hindoo Patriot*, *the Amrita Bazar*, *the Sanjivani*, *the Bangabasi*, and *the Sadharani*<sup>181</sup>.

## (F) Street Light

<sup>179</sup> Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1885-86, September.

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> Ibid.

The introduction of good lighting facilities made the town different from village. Electricity generation in colonial India saw significant private public coexistence and cooperation. The first private firm to produce electricity for Calcutta city was proposed in 1891. After 10 years, legislation laid down the basic framework of regulation<sup>182</sup>. LSSO'Malley in his Gazetteer said that the heaviest charge on the income of the municipality was the electric charge installation, introduced in 1897, which supplies the streets and a large number of houses. The installation was at Sidrapong, on the lower slope of the hill, four miles from the west of the town<sup>183</sup>. It is said that the first hydroelectric installation in India was installed near a tea estate at Sidrapong for the Darjeeling Municipality in 1897<sup>184</sup>. By 1900, Darjeeling had replaced Kerosine lamp lights by Electric lamp lights, the former numbering only 27 and the later numbering 202<sup>185</sup>.

It was found in 1938 the approval to the estimates amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 relating to the project for the extension of the Hydro-Electric Plants of the Darjeeling municipality. *Electrical Engineer's Note* dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 1937, give us an idea about the plan in detail:-

In order to overcome the difficulty of the transport of heavy parts in the steep unmetalled hill roads, Messrs. Burn and Co. will have the engines specially dismantled in lighter pieces and the weight of their heaviest box is 19 cwt. The weight of the heaviest part of Messrs Bellis and Morcon Engines is 6 ¼ tons. So as it would cause a most risky task to take down such heavy parts to Sidrapong; the Electrical Engineer prepared two separate estimates for installing the Oil-engine plants at (a) Lebong and at (b) Sidrapong.

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<sup>182</sup> Tirthankar Roy, op.cit., p.244.

<sup>183</sup> LSSOMalley, Op.cit, p.167.

<sup>184</sup> Local Self Government, Municipal Branch, December, Quarterly Proceedings, 1938, Progs. B 89-95.

<sup>185</sup> Kashinath Ojha's unpublished Thesis, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Darjeeling, Study in Urbanization: 1835-1890, NBU, Department of History, p.81.

He further goes on to say that if it is decided to install the plants at Lebong the following Municipal Estimates was be sanctioned:

(a) Estimate No. 30 E.L. 1937-38 for Oil Engine Plants and Switch-gears amounting to	Rs. 1,35,000
(b) Estimate No. 30 E.L. 1937-38 for Power House and Staff Quarters etc.	Rs. 32,000
(c) Estimate No. 30 E.L. 1937-38 for H.T. mains from Chowrasta Transformer House to Lebong	Rs. 20,300
(d) Telephone line from Fire Brigade exchange to Lebong, Estimate No. 34 E.L. 1937-38 for	Rs. 1,400
(e) Staff for Lebong Power House Estimate No. 34 E.L.1937-38 for	Rs. 5,352

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Total Rs. 1,94,052

Alternatively if decided to install the Oil Engine Plants at Sidrapong the following estimates may be sanctioned.

(a) Estimate No. 35 E.L. 1937-38 for installing Oil Engine Plants for	Rs. 1,21,900
(b) Estimate No. 36 E.L. 1937-38 alteration of the Power Sidrapong for	Rs. 9,000
(c) Qrs. For additional staff Estimate No. 37 E.L. of 1937-38 for	Rs. 2,700
(d) Additional Staff for Sidrapong for Oil Engines	Rs. 1,884

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Total Rs.1,35,484<sup>186</sup>

The increase of expenditure on lighting indicates the progress in lighting. The quality of light especially the introduction of electric bulb in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and coverage of additional areas under lighting,

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<sup>186</sup> Local Self Government, Municipal Branch, December, Quarterly Proceedings, 1938, Progs. B 89-95.

indeed indicated the level of urbanization in the different parts of North Bengal. The following table will support this in a descriptive manner:-

**Table No. III.26 Expenditure on Lighting (establishment, purchase of lamps, oil, repairs, etc.) in various years (Figures in Rupees)<sup>187</sup>:**

Name of Municipality	1916-17	1918-19	1921-22	1922-23	1926-27	1931-32	1936-37	1939-40	1941-42
Dinajpur	3,642	4,731	4,642	4,248	4,610	2,144	1,998	3,133	3,631
Jalpaiguri	2,376	3,060	3,807	4,368	3,632	5,463		9,998	11,292
English Bazar	1,324	1,818	1,533	1,853	2,325	2,346	8,719	2,273	2,456
Old Malda	564	576	717	628	544	477		525	695
Darjeeling	63,606	37,287	51,892	52,565	87,288	63,370	2,320	1,07,600	3,41,325
Kurseong	2,735	4,010	2,397	2,759	2,154	4,961		10,297	11,866
							452		
							88,828		

<sup>187</sup> Municipal Report of the Rajshahi Division for the year 1916-17,1918-19,1921-22,1922-23 & Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipality in Bengal under 1934-35,1937-38 & 1939-40.

							11,612		
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In Darjeeling the expenditure of 1916-17 amounted to Rs. 63,606. Of this Rs. 14,641 was for the generation, and Rs. 5,287 for the distribution of electric light, Rs. 3,678 for public lamps, Rs.3,568 for lighting management; Rs. 438 for tools and plant; and Rs. 35,994 for capital outlay. The increased expenditure was said to be due to the payment for certain works which could not be finished in the previous year<sup>188</sup>. According to the Municipal Report of the Rajshahi Division for the year, 1918-19, it appeared that the decrease was marked in Darjeeling and it was due to less original work being undertaken by the municipality of Rs. 37,287 spent in Darjeeling, Rs. 15,883 was for generation, Rs. 6,104 for distribution of electric light, Rs.5,411 for public lamps, Rs.4,274 for lighting management and Rs.5,615 for capital outlay. The decrease in Old Malda it was attributed to the appointment of lightmen on less pay and purchase of a smaller number of street lamps during the year. More expenditure in the year of 1921-22 in Darjeeling was due to distribution mains were extended and were renewed at some places. Fifty-two new houses were connected and 26 public lamps were added. The largest expenditure in other municipality was Rs.4,642 in Dinajpur<sup>189</sup>. In the year of 1922-23 Darjeeling spent Rs. 52,565. An additional 200 Kilowatt set as a stand-by was provided at a cost of Rs. 33,483 which included the cost of a building required for its accommodation. The distribution mains were renewed. Ten new houses

<sup>188</sup> Municipal Report of the Rajshahi Division for the year 1916-17, Progs.B 328-31, December 1917.

<sup>189</sup> Municipal Report of the Rajshahi Division for the year 1921-22, Progs.B 167-71, February 1923.

were connected and five public lamps were added, thus revising the total numbers of the Rajshahi Division to 965 and 893, respectively, as against 955 to 888 of the previous year. As an experimental measure 28 long ferro-concrete pillars to carry wires were built at a cost much less than that of steel posts of equal size and strength<sup>190</sup>.

Darjeeling, which holds its own license, continued to make various improvements in the system of lighting and as a result showed a marked expenditure of Rs. 20,204 in the year 1934-35<sup>191</sup>. The Municipal Act of 1884 remained in force in the two hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong throughout the year but the new Act of 1932 was brought into force at these places with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1936. The expenditure on lighting in the Rajshahi Division increased from Rs. 1.93 lakhs to Rs. 2.36 lakhs. The increase was mainly due to larger expenditure by the Darjeeling Municipality. The scheme for the electrification of the town of Dinajpur made no headway owing to the bad financial position of the municipality. The municipality of Jalpaiguri made some progress towards electrification of the town by increasing the number of electric lights from 116 to 154. The installation of electric lights at Kurseong greatly increased the amenities of the town.<sup>192</sup>

The scheme for the supply of electric energy to the town of English Bazar made fair progress in the year of the 1940. As we have already mentioned that Darjeeling was the only municipality in the province to hold its own license for electric supply. During the time of 40s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a change-over from the single-phase system to a three-phase system having proved inadequate, particularly in the dry season

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<sup>190</sup> Municipal Report of the Rajshahi Division for the year 1922-23, Progs.B 388-89, December 1923.

<sup>191</sup> Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipality in Bengal under 1934-35, Proceedings Number 37, June, 1937.

<sup>192</sup> Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipality in Bengal under 1935-36, Proceedings Number 35, March, 1938.



when supply of water-power became scanty. So therefore in order to mitigate the problems, the municipal commissioners submitted for the approval of Government a proposal for obtaining the supply in bulk from a company offering 6,000 volts high tension current at Sidrapong at the lowest rate and for extending the range of transmission of power to Sikkim in the north and the district of Jalpaiguri in the south. A lighting rate of 2 percent of the annual value of holding was imposed for the first time by the Kurseong municipality during that time. As the receipts from this source was inadequate to meet the expenditure, the municipal Commissioners approached the Hydro-electric Company for a reduction of their existing high rate of Rs. 40 per light per annum<sup>193</sup>.

It has been found from a proposal of the Municipal Commissioners of Darjeeling in the thirties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that limitation of the lighting area must be needed. An enquiry was made as to what extent the proposal will affect the lighting rate from the rate –payers, so the proposal made no difference with regard to the lighting rate fund. In order to limit the lighting area, the boundaries were confined with the northern side by Fern Hill Location, North Point Location, part of the East Birch Hill Road, Rungnit Tea Estate, Lebong Cantonment and Bannockburn Tea Estate. Towards east by Bannockburn Tea Estate, Pandam Tea Estate, Aloobari Busti and thence along Calcutta Road and along the western, southern and part of the eastern boundaries of the Jalapahar Cantonment and then by Aloobari Busti. Southernly by a line joining Tiger Hill Road, Senchal Road along Cart Road and then by a line through the municipal land about 600 feet below Sukia Road; and in the west by Government Forest and by a line drawn from a point about 600 feet below the junction of the Sukia Road and Ghoompahar Road, Government Forest, southern and eastern boundaries of the Soom land upto where it cuts the Cart Road,

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<sup>193</sup> Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipality in Bengal under 1936-37, Proceedings Number 39, Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government, Municipal Branch, March, 1940.

and then it goes upto Auckland Road near the Pines Hotel, then by a line joining Auckland Road and Cart Road then along the west of the Cart Road below Jalpaiguri House, then through the land of the Bloomfield Police-Station upto Bloomfield Road, then along a line parallel to Cart Road and Victoria Road and Carmichael Road cutting Singtom Road till it touches the northern boundary line defined above<sup>194</sup>.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1933 the following proposed plan for lighting a portion of the Darjeeling Municipality in the district of Darjeeling, which showing the lighting area, submitted by the Commissioners of that Municipality to the Government of Bengal for sanction under Section 308, read with section 319 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884), in suppression of the plan sanctioned in Government Notification No.5866 M,dated the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1897, was published for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby.

The plan supplied from one thousand and six electric lamps, current provided from the municipal power station at Sidrapong. The lighting rate levied at 3 percent on the annual value of holdings<sup>195</sup>:

(1) Statement showing the number of lights in each road and lane to be lighted within the Darjeeling Municipality.

Name of Road	No. of lamps.			Name of Roads	No. of lamps.		
	60	75	200		60	75	200
Bryngwyn Road ..	6	..	1	Dharamsala Road ..	..	2	..
Mackenzie Road ..	..	..	9	Auckland Road up to the gate			
Waddell Road ..	..	..	5	of Retreat ... ..	67	..	7
Banstead Road ..	7	..	..	Auckland Road from Pines			
Salt Hill Road ..	7	..	..	Hotel to Ghoom Post Office ..	..	8	..
Harmonn Road ..	5	..	..	Jalapahar Road up to the			
Theatre Road ..	2	..	..	gate of Mount Vernon Villa ..	97	..	4
Tonga Road ..	9	..	..	West Birch Hill Road up to			
Mahatab Chand Road ..	5	..	..	St. Joseph College ..	43	..	..
Mackintosh Road ..	22	..	..	East Birch Hill Road up to			
Elysee Road .. ..	5	..	..				

<sup>194</sup>Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March 1934, Proceedings Numbers 15-16.

<sup>195</sup> Source: Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March 1934, Proceedings no. 19.

Prestage Road .. ..	10	..	..	Holmden .. ..	14	..	..
Kutchery Road .. ..	6	..	..	Cart Road from the gate			
Jail Road .. ..	23	..	1	gate of St. Joseph's College			
Dharmasala Road .. ..	3	..	..	to the gate of Jalpaiguri house..	111	..	..
Chowk Bazar Road .. ..	11	..	..	Cart Road from Ghoom Post			
Jhaman Busti .. ..	3	..	..	Office of Veterinary Hospital ..	..	23	..
Daroga Bazar Road .. ..	4	..	..	Victoria Fall Road from the			
Old Cutchery Lane .. ..	2	..	..	junction of the Ferndalen			
Dispensary Road .. ..	3	..	..	Road to the junction of			
Ballen Ville Road .. ..	3	..	..	Marion Road .. ..	8	..	..
Mount Pleasant Road .. ..	8	..	..	Victoria Road from Tonglu View to			
Liyod Road .. ..	3	..	..	Bertram Villa .. ..	10	..	..
Musjid Road .. ..	2	..	..	East Mall Road .. ..	22	..	..
Convent Road .. ..	15	..	..	West Mall Road .. ..	2	..	7
Hooker Road .. ..	9	..	..	Auckland Zig Zag Road .. ..	6	..	..
Rivers Hill Road .. ..	3	..	..	Ashley Road .. ..	3	..	..
Snowy View Road .. ..	2	..	..	Babuganj Road .. ..	8	..	..
Rungeet Road (partly) ..	35	..	..	Chowrasta pavilion* .. ..	1	..	..
Apple Tree Road .. ..	13	..	..	Eden Falls Road .. ..	6	..	..
Chebu Lama Road .. ..	4	..	..	Hermitage Road .. ..	8	..	..
Bhutia Busti Lane .. ..	4	..	..	Holmden Road .. ..	7	..	..
Commercial Row .. ..	..	..	12	Karma Road .. ..	3	..	..
Robertson Road .. ..	..	..	12	Marion Road .. ..	10	..	..
Mendow Bank .. ..	..	5	..	Pound Road .. ..	2	..	..
Mohanlal Busti .. ..	3	..	..	West Point .. ..	8	..	..
Singtom Cemetery Road..	2	..	..	Toongsoong Busti .. ..	11	..	..
Singtom Road (partly) ..	6	..	..	Toongsoong Zig Zag Road ..	6	..	..
Tukvar Road (partly) ..	13	..	..	Sudhir Kumari Road .. ..	9	..	..
Morgan Road .. ..	7	..	..	Fish and Vegetable Market ..	15	..	..
Goode Road .. ..	8	..	..	Meat Market .. ..	9	..	..
Ferndale Road .. ..	26	..	..	West Lebong Road .. ..	17	..	..
Conservancy Road .. ..	32	..	..	Burdwan Road .. ..	1	..	..
Forrest Road .. ..	23	..	..				
Senehal Road up to				Grand Total .. ..	<del>858</del>	71	76
Keventer's Diary Farm ...	..	5	..				
Rajhatta Ghoom .. ..	..	2	..				
Bhanjan Road up to							
Kharga Villa..	..	26	..				

1,005 +1\* = 1,006  
\*One 500 Watt lamp.

(2)Statement showing the number of lights proposed in the Public latrines within the Darjeeing Municipality<sup>196</sup>.

No. of latrine.	No. of lights.	
	Watts.	
	60	75
B1 Near "Glen" ..	1	..
B2 Near " Altamont Villa II" ..	1	..
B4 Near Railway Station ..	2	..
B5 In Butcher Busti ..	1	..
B6 On Rockville Road ..	2	..

<sup>196</sup> Source: Revenue Department, Excluded Area, March 1934, Proceedings no. 19.

B7 On Liyod Road ..	2	..
B8 Between "H" and "K" Buildings ..	3	..
B9 Near "H" Buildings ..	4	..
B10 Near Rope Way ..	1	..
B11 Near Jiten Jhora ..	1	..
B12 On Forest Road	1	..
B13 On Mount Pleasant Road		
Near Thorn Cottage ..	2	..
B15 Commercial Row ..	1	..
B16 Mount Pleasant Road ..	3	..
B17 Near "C" Building ..	1	..
B18 Near Old Municipal Office	2	..
B19 Pound Road ..	1	..
B20 Jail Road ..	1	..
B21 Beechwood Road ..	1	..
B22 Prestage Road ..	1	..
K1 Below St. Paul School ..	1	..
K2 Collinton Road ..	1	..
K3 Werneckie Road ..	1	..
K4 Marion Road ..	1	..
K5 Tonga Road ..	1	..
K6 Kagjhora (North) ..	1	..
K7 Mackintosh Road ..	1	..
N1 Karma Road ..	1	..
N2 Rungeet Road ..	1	..
N3 Chebu Lama Road ..	1	..
S1 Rungeet Road near ..	1	..
Slaughter house ..	1	..
S2 Rungeet Road near school..	1	..
S3 Rungeet Road near septic tank..	1	..
W1 Near Gymkhana Club ..	2	..
W2 Near Caroline Villa ..	2	..
W3 Kutchery Road ..	2	..
W4 Convent Road ..	1	..
W5 Hooker Road ..	1	..
W6 Kutchery Compound ..	3	..
W7 Near Happy Valley Trans-		
former House ..	2	..
W8 Near Meat Market	3	..
Chowrasta Urinal .. ..	3	..
Singamari near St. Joseph's		
College .. ..	1	..
Jorebungalow near Jangbir		
Sardar's house .. ..	..	..
Jorebungalow near Messrs.		
Siridharilall Badri Narayan's..		
Shop .. ..	..	..
Jorebungalow near Veterinary..		
Hospital .. ..	..	..
Singtom Road latrine ..	1	..

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Grand Total : 67 4

=71

## (G) Development of Slaughter Houses:

The increase of population and extension of towns of North Bengal necessitated the creation of regular slaughter houses. As we have sources available in the time of the second decade of the twentieth century, we see in Dinajpur there was no slaughter houses. But in Jalpaiguri two such houses were maintained by municipality in the place of Jalpaiguri Municipal location. The total number of cattle slaughtered during the quinquennium ending 1920 was 1,500 cows and buffaloes roughly. There were no regular slaughter houses in tea-gardens where cattle were slaughtered in open places, 56,360 cows and buffaloes roughly were slaughtered at 146 such slaughtered places. In Malda, English Bazar municipality with its locality had maintained 1 slaughter house. No statistics were available, cattle were also slaughtered in rural areas.

Much more slaughter houses appeared in Darjeeling district which was maintained by municipalities, private or other agencies. Five slaughter houses maintained by Darjeeling Municipality and 5 slaughter houses maintained by Kurseong Municipality were under Darjeeling district. Total number of slaughtered animals at Darjeeling municipality location were 35,000 cows, 2,800 buffaloes and 900 calves. Apart from this 23 private agency in municipal area slaughtered 795 cows and 788 buffaloes. Kurseong municipality slaughtered 10,340 cows, 560 buffaloes and 344 calves while disased and worn out cattle were not allowed to be slaughtered and 8 private agency under Kurseong municipal area had slaughtered 690 cows and 876 buffaloes. Other 5 private agency in Siliguri (1,042 cows and 442 buffaloes) and 9 private agency in Kalimpong (1,549 cows and 967 buffaloes) were maintained. So out of 45 private slaughter houses in Darjeeling district eleven were irregular<sup>197</sup>.

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<sup>197</sup> LSG-Municipal, March 1922, No. 52 &53.

