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some places a species of plants grows spontaneously, which is called bhang, and which never produces ganja."

(11) North-Western Provinces and Oudh witness No. 8, Hugh Fraser, Magistrate and Collector, Bijour:—"Bhang can be prepared from the hemp plant wherever grown and by any person; ganja and charas cannot."

(12) North-Western Provinces and Oudh witness No. 63, Birg Nath Sahai, Excise Naib-Tahsildar, Gorakhpur:—"Ganja and charas cannot be made from the wild plant."

(13) North-Western Provinces and Oudh witness No. 254, Lala Sheopershad Rai Bahadur, *et al*:—"Ganja and charas cannot be made from the wild plants. The sample shown to me is ganja, and has been grown from ganja seed. It could not have been got from the wild plants."

(14) Punjab witness No. 63, Sirdar Bahadur Bhugwan Singh, zamindar, Amballa District:—"Ganja is not raised from the wild hemp seed, for it is another class of product."

(15) Bengal witness No. 64, Gobindra Chundra Das, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Malda:—"There is one point to which I wish to lay particular stress in this connection. The cultivation of ganja has been confined to the Rajshahi tracts for nearly half a century; previous to that even there is no evidence to show that ganja used to be ever grown on a large scale in any other part of Bengal. It follows therefore that the cultivators of Bengal, even if they had ever cultivated ganja, have long forgotten the method of its cultivation, and would be unable to cultivate it now even if they be willing to do so. Further, it has been by no means established that the climate and soil of other parts of Bengal would be at all suitable to the growth of the ganja-bearing plant. An experiment to cultivate the ganja at Sibpur under the scientific supervision of the Director of Land Records has by no means proved a success. \* \* \* It is also known that the presence of a single male plant is sufficient to destroy the whole crop of a field. Ganja experts would be necessary to root out the male plants before one can hope to successfully raise the crop of ganja."

7. The consumption of ganja and charas per head has been fixed in the Report for the different provinces at the following rates:—

Disc.

Province.	Ganja.	Charas.
Bengal (paragraphs 342 and 349) ...	½ seer per annum ...	½ tola per day.
North-Western Provinces (paragraphs 336 and 337) ...	1 seer do. ...	½ seer per annum.
Punjab (paragraph 369) ...	Not used ...	½ seer do.
Central Provinces (paragraph 378) ...	1½ seer per annum ...	Not stated.
Madras (paragraph 385) ...	1 seer do. ...	do.
Dombay (paragraph 391) ...	1 seer do. ...	do.

The consumption seems to be fixed rather arbitrarily. One reading the Report cannot help thinking that the figures have been fixed so as to bring th

quantities within the purchasing power of the people, a proposition which ought to have formed the ultimate object of the Commission to establish.

- (a) *Paragraph 349 of the report.*—"The drug (charas) is used by people of better means. It is therefore in all probability taken more liberally and excess is more common."
- (b) *Paragraph 355.*—"If the average annual allowance of something less than one seer be regarded as being composed of  $\frac{1}{4}$  baluchar and  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs pathar, the cost comes to a reasonable figure."
- (c) *Paragraph 369.*—"In the Punjab a somewhat higher rate ought to be adopted because the drug is cheaper, the price to consumers ranging from Rs. 9 to 15 per seer in this province, while in the North-Western Provinces it was Rs.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to Rs. 25."
- (d) *Paragraph 378.*—"On the other hand, the comparative cheapness and inferiority of the drug suggests a higher allowance than was thought appropriate for the Bengal calculations."
- (e) *Paragraph 385.*—"Looking to the cheapness and comparative inferiority of Madras ganja, the average yearly allowance of the habitual consumer cannot be put at less than one full seer of 80 tolas."

8. Confining to Bengal, the yearly allowance of a moderate consumer is taken at 35 tolas or less than  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a tola a day; while Babu Hemchandra Ker, Bengal witness No. 80, a retired Excise Deputy Collector, who was especially deputed by the Government of Bengal to enquire into the use of ganja in 1877, estimates the dose for a moderate consumer at 1 dram or about  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a tola, and for an excessive consumer at 1 ounce a day, i.e.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  seers respectively as yearly allowance.

The quantity stated by several other well-informed witnesses is as follows:—

Province.	No. of witness.	Name and rank.	Daily dose of a moderate consumer.	Daily dose of an excessive consumer.	REMARKS.
Bengal	...	160 Raja Piari Mohan Mukerjee, Zamindar	$\frac{1}{4}$ tola	1 tola.	
	9	J. C. Price, Collector	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	2 tolas.	
	163	Raja Mohana Ranjan Roy Chowdhry	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	1 tola.	
	231	Rajkumar Sarbadhikari, Secretary, British Indian Association	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	2 tolas.	
	66	Nobin Chandra Ker, Excise Deputy Collector	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	1 tola.	
	11	F. H. B. Skrine, Collector	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	1 "	
	10	F. H. Barrow, Collector	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	
	69	Suresh Chandra Pal, Excise Deputy Collector	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	
	249	District Board Sub-Committee, Mymensingh	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	5 tolas.	
	31	Colonel Garbett, Deputy Commissioner	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	...	
	32	C. A. S. Bedford, Deputy Commissioner	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$\frac{1}{4}$ tola	

The average daily allowance for a moderate consumer cannot therefore be put at less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a tola and one tola for an excessive one. In the report the individual dose for charas, which is stronger than ganja, is fixed at  $\frac{1}{4}$  tola a day.

9. In paragraph 344 of the Report, the proportion of excessive to moderate consumers of the hemp drugs is taken at 5 per cent. for all the Provinces, apparently without assigning any reasons. I find that this view is not supported by well-informed witnesses, a few of whom are quoted below. The proportion of excessive consumers to moderate consumers should not, I think, be taken at less than 15 per cent.—

Proportion of excessive to moderate consumers of ganja.

Province.	Number of witnesses.	Name and rank.	Proportion of excessive to moderate consumers.
Bengal ...	134	Secretary, Bogra Medical Society	20 per cent.
	92	W. R. Rickets, Manager, Nilgiri State.	10 do.
	69	Suresh Chandra Pal, Special Excise Deputy Collector.	10 do.
	249	District Board Sub-Committee, Mymensingh.	20 do.
	32	C. A. S. Bedford, Deputy Commissioner.	20 do.
	10	F. H. Barrow, Collector	25 do.
North-Western Provinces.	33	Khan Bahadur Sayad Ali Hasan, Revenue Member, Rampur State.	10 do.
	178	Lala Nihal Chand, Zamindar and Honorary Magistrate of Saharapur.	15 do.
	248	Drug Contractor	15 do.
	182	Raja Lachman Singh, Retired First Class Deputy Collector.	20 do.
	48	Pandit Ragohar Dyal, Deputy Collector.	20 do.
	199	Thakur Lakhan Singh, Zamindar	15 do.
Punjab ...	222	Manager, Court of Wards	10 do.
	202	Kanwar Mandhata Shah, Zamindar	15 do.
	88	Drug Contractor	15 do.
	21	Extra Assistant Commissioner	17 do.
Central Provinces ...	32	Inspector-General of Prisons	25 do.
	14	Ragunath Rao, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	20 do.
	64	Rao Sahib Balwantrao Govind-rao, Jagirdar.	15 do.
	80	Abkari Contractor	10 do.
	46	The Hon'ble Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, Member of the Vice-regal Council.	10 do.
	13	Synd Mohamed Hasan, Extra Assistant Commissioner and Dewan, Khairagarh State.	15 do.
	17	Superintendent, Kalahundi Estate	20 do.

Cost and number  
of consumers in  
Bengal.

10. Combining the doses of moderate and excessive consumers with their proportion, I arrive at 132 tolas instead of 40 tolas given in the Report as the average quantity consumed per head per annum, and the cost per head of consumer will be Rs. 33 instead of Rs. 10 arrived at by the Commission, while the number of consumers for Bengal will be reduced from 4,00,000 to 1,14,000 for the quantity given in the Report.

Extent of use.

11. *Bengal.*—The excise system of Bengal is held to be the best and most complete of those extant in India. The ganja in that Province is subjected to two-fold taxation—(1) fixed duty on weight, (2) license-fee levied on shops by auction. Its cultivation is confined within a circuit of 16 miles, but the area of ganja itself is not restricted; the cultivators on obtaining a pass, which is granted free, being allowed to grow it on as large an area as they choose, provided they have taken the trouble to enter it in their application. The fixed duty during the last 15 years, 1878-79 to 1892-93, has been raised on four occasions, the increase on the average amounting to Rs. 2-4 per seer (from Rs. 3-13 to Rs. 6-1), and the license-fee has been more than doubled, without apparently any decrease in the *known taxable* quantity of the Province, a fact proving clearly that the gradual increment in the fixed duty that is made from time to time is not calculated to check its use.

On the other hand, the rise in the area of its cultivation—which was 482 in 1878-79 and 1,180 acres in 1892-93; the increase in the money realized by auction of licensed shops—which rose from Rs. 5,41,436 in 1878-79 to Rs. 11,05,435 in 1892-93; a fall in the incidence of recorded outturn per bigha of cultivation—which fell from  $9\frac{1}{2}$  maunds in 1853-60 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  maunds in 1872-84 and 2 maunds in 1892-93; all these clearly prove that a great deal of illicit use is going on. In support of my statements I subjoin two tables: (1) showing *ganja* production and taxation in Bengal during 15 years 1878-79 to 1892-93 divided up into three periods corresponding more or less with the periods of rise in fixed duties, and (2) showing average outturn per bigha.

TABLE (1).

Period.	Rate of fixed duty.			Production.			Taxation.		
	Chow.	Round.	Flat.	Sold within the Province.	Exported.	Total.	Fixed duty.	License-fee.	Total.
	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1878-79 to 1881-82, 4 years.	4 0	4 0	3 8	5,315	260	6,295	8,38,015	6,13,073	14,51,088
1882-83 to 1886-87, 5 years.	5 0	5 0	4 8	5,158	1,336	6,494	11,18,012	8,90,710	19,08,722
1887-88 to 1890-91 ...	6 8	6 4	4 8	5,224	1,542	6,866	13,00,545	10,01,585	23,02,130
1890-91 to 1892-93 ...	7 0	6 4	4 8						
1891-92 to 1892-93 ...	7 0	6 4	5 0						



TABLE (2).

Period.	Area under cultivation in bighas.	Outturn.	Outturn per bigha.	REMARKS.
		Mds.	Mds. sr. ch.	
1853-54 to 1859-60, for 7 years ...	2,280	21,637	9 19 7	Taken from the Report of the Spirit Commission of Bengal appointed in 1883, paragraphs 92-94.
1860-61 to 1871-72, for 12 years ...	1,366	11,443	7 12 3	
1872-73 to 1883-84, for 12 years ...	1,956	8,435	4 9 13	
1884-85 ...	2,014	7,168	3 22 0	
1885-86 ...	1,361	7,164	5 10 0	Taken from the memorandum of the Excise Commissioner of Bengal.
1886-87 ...	2,191	7,942	3 24 0	
1887-88 ...	1,780	8,224	4 24 0	
1888-89 ...	2,433	8,192	3 14 0	
1889-90 ...	2,408	7,790	3 9 0	
1890-91 ...	2,669	7,720	2 35 0	
1891-92 ...	1,315	7,258	5 20 0	
1892-93 ...	3,540	6,962	1 38 0	

The Commission in paragraph 350 of their Report have stated that the "consumption (of ganja) has been stationary during the last 15 years." This opinion is evidently based on the amounts of recorded sales of ganja without apparently any consideration of its area. My idea about the illicit use of this drug in Bengal which the present fixed high duty and its unchecked growth have done so much to encourage, is borne out by the following quotations:

(1) The Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, in paragraph 17 of his memorandum, admits that "the present system of storage is admittedly defective, and it cannot be denied that some ganja is smuggled or otherwise illicitly disposed of."

(2) Lord Ulick Browne, the Commissioner of Rajshahi, as quoted by the Spirit Commission of Bengal, says that—"Probably a closer watch and closer enquiries in the matter of the total area cultivated and the outturn prevail now than was the case 30, 20, and 15 years ago; and it may be that there are some errors in the outturns for the earlier years. But, allowing for this, the difference in the present average outturn per bigha, and the gradual reduction as the duty was raised, which you bring to notice, is startling; and the conclusion is almost irresistible that smuggling has increased with the duty, and that the increase in watchfulness has had little effect in preventing it."

(3) The same Spirit Commission, in their Report, paragraph 93, remarked that "The Commission are therefore unable to record any finding on the question discussed in this chapter, but they feel bound to state plainly that in their opinion the figures raise a suspicion of extensive smuggling of the drug and of its illicit sale by vendors under cover of licenses."

(4) This strong and emphatic expression of opinion made by so strong a body roused a suspicion in the mind of the Government and gave occasion to a full enquiry to be made on the subject, which was concluded by a letter from the Government of Bengal to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd March 1887. That enquiry confirmed the opinion of the Commission, and I will do well in quoting His Honor's own words. Paragraph 11 of the above letter runs thus:— "The Lieutenant-Governor has had an opportunity of visiting Nowgong and of personally inspecting the Ganja Department at that place; and from enquiries made by him on the spot it appears to him that the widest opportunities for fraud and smuggling exist, though no proof has ever been adduced of detected smuggling of ganja on an extensive scale. The cultivated area is never measured. The result therefore at the end is entirely speculative and uncertain."

(5) Mr. E. V. Westmacott, late Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, witness No. 2, *oral*:—"There is undoubtedly some smuggling, and the statistics do not therefore show the full consumption of ganja."

(6) William Colbrooke Taylor, Special Deputy Collector, Orissa, witness No. 36, Bengal:—"The use of ganja is said to be on the increase; can't give reasons except that the existence of so many ganja shops must have a tendency to attract consumers and increase the consumption."

(7) Hem Chunder Kerr, Government Pensioner, witness No. 80 (question No. 59):—"With increase of duty, smuggling becomes more rife (*vide* my report, paragraph 133). The first improvement that I would suggest will be the reduction of the duty levied on ganja, which has been raised rather too high."

(8) Mr. G. Toynbee, Commissioner, witness No. 4:—"The Excise officers were constantly complaining of the smuggling, but I could not say the extent to which it was carried on. The complaints were never ceasing."

12. *Extent of use.—Assam.*—Assam follows suit with Bengal; the following are its figures for the similar period:—

Period.	Rates of fixed duty.			Imported in the Province.	Sold in the Province.	Taxation.		
	Chann.	Kamoh.	Phul.			Fixed duty.	Licence-dut.	Total.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1875-76 to 1881-82, 4 years ...	4 0	4 0	3 8	655	579	81,975	26,130	1,58,105
1882-83 to 1888-89, 5 years ...	5 0	5 0	4 8	671	607	1,11,785	1,19,600	2,31,385
1887-88 to 1888-89 ...	6 8	6 4	4 8	734	673	1,35,823	1,28,600	2,64,423
1889-90 to 1890-91 ...	7 0	6 4	4 8					
1891-92 to 1892-93 ...	7 0	6 4	5 0					

13. *Extent of use.—North-Western Provinces and Oudh.*—In paragraph 359 of the Report it is admitted that in the last 20 years, from 1873 to

1892, the revenue from hemp drugs has grown from 4 to 7 lakhs, and that the consumption of ganja and charas is proportionately on the increase. The statements of a few witnesses of this Province seem worth quoting.

(1) Mr. T. Staker, Excise Commissioner, witness No. 6, North-Western Provinces, says in his oral statement :—" My idea that the consumption of charas is increasing is based on observation rather than statistics. I have explained how difficult it is to get accurate figures. The consumption is generally believed to be increasing in the eastern districts. I believe that to be undoubted."

(2) Witness No. 229, North-Western Provinces, Richard Burn, Excise Officer\* :—" The use of these drugs is said to be increasing because, under the Moghul rule, it was forbidden under such heavy penalties as whipping or mutilation, while now it is allowed, and the use is spreading."

(3) Witness No. 8, North-Western Provinces, Mr. H. Fraser, Collector, Bijnaur :—" The use of charas is, I believe, largely increasing, as shown by the following figures of import :—

1890-91	...	...	...	...	Maunds	79
1891-92	...	...	...	...	"	100
1892-93	...	...	...	...	"	111 "

(4) Witness No. 182, North-Western Provinces, Raja Lachman Singh :—" It seems on the increase—

(1) Because the facility of obtaining them is greater.

(2) Caste-bonds and reverence for religious commands have been much destroyed by the development of customs and freedom of Europe."

14. *Extent of use.—Punjab.*—In paragraph 372 of the Report the increase of consumption of charas is admitted :—" From 1881-82 onwards there is a steady increase in the figures for charas, interrupted only by a fall in the year 1890-91, which, however, was more than made up by the rise of the following year."

15. *Extent of use.—Central Provinces.*—In paragraph 376 of the Report the increase of the consumption of ganja in these Provinces is also admitted :—" The figures of consumption of ganja given in paragraph 52 of the Excise memorandum show, since 1887-88, increase in every district except Hoshangabad and Narsinghpore. The decrease in these two districts is small : the increase in several districts is large." In paragraph 379 of the Report the statement of Mr. Neill, Judicial Commissioner, is worth reading. As one of the reasons of increase he says :—" The excise arrangements have advertised the drug and made it popular and supplied a superior quality of it."

(1) Paragraph 3 of the memorandum of the Excise Commissioner runs thus :—" In 1872-73 in almost every district a few plants were to be found in the garden of cultivators."

\* Note.—This witness is not reported.



Paragraph 4: "In 1873-74 the amount privately grown for home consumption was insignificant."

This shows that the production and consumption of ganja in these Provinces up to 1874 was very much limited. In April 1875 the cultivation of ganja was for the first time confined to Khandwa, in Nimar district; and its result has been not only that consumption of ganja has been stimulated and increased within the Province, but also that large quantities of ganja are exported to other provinces.

(2) The following statement contains quinquennial averages for the last 15 years:

PERIOD.	Export in maunds.	Quantity sold and consumed in the Provinces.	TAXATION.		
			Fixed duty.	Licensed duty.	Total revenue.
	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1878-1879 to 1882-1883	2,056	726	48,207	46,348	94,556
1883-1884 to 1887-1888	6,800	860	67,602	1,08,022	1,75,625
1888-1889 to 1892-1893	5,048	1,056	81,495	1,36,509	2,18,004

(3) In paragraph 34 of his report for 1884-85 the Excise Commissioner states:—"While in most districts of the province the number of ganja shops remained stationary, the consumption of taxed ganja increased, in spite of an increase of prices, which in some districts followed the enhancement of the license-fees for retail vend. The probable explanation is that the improved quality of the issues of the drug attracted anew the consumers who had been driven to seek their supplies elsewhere by the poorness of the stuff sold by Government licensees in 1882-83."

(4) Paragraph 41, Excise Report for 1887-88, by Mr. H. V. Drake-Brockman: "The part played by the Khandwa store as entrepôt for the supply of the ganja demand of those provinces is quite insignificant when compared with its use as a mart for the convenience of foreign purchasers. To it throng traders from Bhopal, Indore, &c., States; and licensed vendors from the North-Western Provinces compete with contractors from Berar for the purchase of the cultivator's stock. Between 6,000 and 7,000 maunds are annually exported to other provinces."

16. *Extent of use.—Bombay and Madras Presidencies.*—The consumption of charas in these parts is as yet unknown and that of ganja only small, but it seems to be increasing on, as V. Guravaya Sastri Guru, Member, Taluka Board, witness No. 166, Madras, says: "The use is increasing. The recognition of the Government of the sale of these drugs in open markets is in my opinion the sole cause of the increase." It must also be noted that in Madras the excise system was introduced only in 1890-91, and ganja of a superior quality like that manufactured in Bengal and the Central Provinces is still unknown.

17. Of the witnesses who expressed any opinion about the extent of consumption of hemp drugs, 357 stated that their use is increasing, while 148 stated that it is decreasing. The following is an analysis of them:

PROVINCE.	NO DECREASE.							DECREASE.		
	STEADY.			INCREASE.			Total.			
	Officials.	Non-officials.	Total.	Officials.	Non-officials.	Total.		Officials.	Non-officials.	Total.
Bengal	20	8	28	26	35	61	89	33	29	62
Assam	...	2	2	3	11	14	16	3	1	4
North-Western Provinces.	11	17	28	37	68	105	133	6	4	10
Punjab	6	7	13	12	18	30	43	6	1	7
Central Provinces	...	1	1	13	24	37	38	9	11	20
Madras	19	6	25	36	31	67	95	15	14	29
Bombay	18	8	26	11	12	23	49	6	4	10
Sind	2	3	5	6	6	12	17	...	...	...
Berar	3	1	4	4	4	8	12	2	3	5
Ajmere	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Coorg	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTAL	79	54	133	148	209	357	490	81	67	148

18. There are no complete statistics for the consumption of hemp drugs available for all the Provinces; a statement of revenue is therefore appended, from which a rough inference might be made as to the rise of the consumption of hemp drugs. The revenue during the last 20 years has nearly doubled itself.

Statement of Revenue from Hemp Drugs.

Year.	Bengal.	Assam.	North Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Mizoram.	Bombay.	Mad.	Andhra.	Coorg.	Malabar.	Total.
1873-74	1,66,661	65,479	4,45,311	1,41,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1874-75	1,67,584	1,03,581	3,68,274	1,46,422	27,207	—	55,613	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1875-76	1,13,714	1,09,377	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1876-77	1,16,786	1,09,748	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1877-78	1,44,412	1,44,412	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
Total of 5 years	5,98,666	5,98,666	20,35,311	7,80,311	1,38,833	—	2,70,311	—	46,515	—	—	1,27,661
Average	1,19,733	1,19,733	4,07,062	1,56,062	27,767	—	54,062	—	9,303	—	—	25,532
1878-79	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1879-80	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1880-81	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1881-82	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1882-83	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
Total of 5 years	5,68,274	5,68,274	21,70,001	7,35,001	1,38,833	—	2,70,311	—	46,515	—	—	1,27,661
Average	1,13,655	1,13,655	4,34,001	1,47,001	27,767	—	54,062	—	9,303	—	—	25,532
1883-84	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1884-85	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1885-86	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1886-87	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1887-88	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
Total of 5 years	5,68,274	5,68,274	21,70,001	7,35,001	1,38,833	—	2,70,311	—	46,515	—	—	1,27,661
Average	1,13,655	1,13,655	4,34,001	1,47,001	27,767	—	54,062	—	9,303	—	—	25,532
1888-89	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1889-90	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1890-91	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1891-92	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
1892-93	1,13,527	1,13,527	4,34,001	1,45,311	27,207	—	54,551	—	9,253	—	—	1,27,661
Total of 5 years	5,68,274	5,68,274	21,70,001	7,35,001	1,38,833	—	2,70,311	—	46,515	—	—	1,27,661
Average	1,13,655	1,13,655	4,34,001	1,47,001	27,767	—	54,062	—	9,303	—	—	25,532

19. Public opinion, social and religious customs and class of consumers have an intimate connection with one another. They have been discussed in the Report at different places, but I will treat all of them together. Public opinion.

Paragraph 489 of the Report deals with the question of public opinion (social and religious) which was put to the witnesses in question No. 33.

I do not agree in the conclusions drawn in the above paragraph—

- (1) Because it was very essential to discriminate between the use of bhang and that of charas or ganja.
- (2) Because the expression "disapproval" used therein is quite inadequate to convey appropriately the ideas expressed by the witnesses against the use of the drugs.

On careful examination of the evidence I find that public opinion is very strongly against the use of ganja and charas, that almost all the witnesses condemn their use in unqualified terms, and that the very words *ganjakhori* and *charas-khor* are words of great reproach, like tipplers or drunkards in English, as admitted in paragraph 489 of the Report, but that the use of bhang is not so much in disrepute. The point under discussion is an important one, and requires more attention than has been given in the Report.

20. The Mahomedan religion strongly prohibits the use of liquor and other intoxicants, as already admitted in the Report, para. 437.

21. The Sikh religion also prohibits the smoking of ganja and charas and even tobacco, as admitted in para. 440 of the Report.

22. As to the Hindu religion, I find that in ancient times of the sacred scriptures ganja and charas smoking was unknown. Neither any of the Smritis nor any of the ancient treatises on Ayurveda, i.e., Hindu Medical Science, has a mention of it. It is admitted in para. 19 of the Report that the hemp plant is not indigenous to India. Bengal witness No. 52, M. Chakravarti, Sub-Divisional Officer, says in answer No. 25 that "with the later Mahomedan rule, tobacco-smoking and analogically ganja-smoking came into vogue." Bombay witness No. 91, Dr. Garde, Representative, Sarvajanik Sabha, Poona, says in answer No. 40 (5) that "the date of introduction of these narcotics in India cannot, in my opinion, go back beyond the 13th century A.D. Even to this day these narcotics have not made their way to any great extent in Southern India, where charas is hardly known by name, bhang scarcely even drunk, and ganja only smoked by a very insignificant portion of the population."

- (a) It has been shown in para. 65 of this note that ganja and charas are not less deleterious in their effects, if not more, than liquor. I am therefore justified, I think, in coming to the conclusion that the prohibition against liquor enjoined in the Hindu Shastras should also be held to apply to the use of these hemp drugs with equal force, if not more. In Vishnu Smriti Chapter XI.1, sloka 3, I find that eating nutmegs or other plants similar to intoxicating



drinks in their effects upon the system is one of the crimes causing defilement.

- (b) The Institutes of Manu, called Manu Smriti, is the universally recognized authority on the Hindu religion, and the following instructions about the use of liquor are therefore quoted from it:—
- (c) In Chapter XI of the above all the sins and crimes that can be committed by a man are divided into various classes according to their nature, and distinguished by different names. The worst of all the sins are enumerated as five in number and are called *Panchmahapatak*, the drinking of alcohol is one of them.—(See *Sloka 55, Chapter XI.*)
- (d) There are numerous slokas in Manu Smriti in which the use of liquors and other intoxicants is prohibited, but it will suffice to quote the following verses from Chapter VII:

*Sloka 45.*—"Let him carefully shun the ten vices, springing from love of pleasure, and the eight proceeding from wrath, which (all) end in misery."

*Sloka 47.*—"Hunting, gambling, sleeping by day, censoriousness, (excess with) women, intoxication, (an inordinate love for) dancing, singing, and music, and useless travel are the tenfold set (of vices) springing from love of pleasure."

*Sloka 48.*—"Tale-bearing, violence, treachery, envy, slandering, (unjust) seizure of property, reviling, and assault are the eightfold set (of vices) produced by wrath."

*Sloka 50.*—"Intoxication, dice, women, and hunting, these four (which have been enumerated) in succession, he must know to be the most pernicious in the set that springs from love of pleasure."

*Sloka 51.*—"Doing bodily injury, reviling, and the seizure of property, these three he must know to be the most pernicious in the set produced by wrath."

*Sloka 52.*—"A self-controlled (king) should know that in this set of seven, which prevails everywhere, each earlier named vice is more abominable (than those named later)."

The eighteen vices enumerated above have been compared with one another, and it has been ruled that intoxication is the most pernicious of all the vices. Under these injunctions the use of charas and ganja should be taken as strictly prohibited.\*

23. An analysis of the evidence received by the Commission with regard to the use of the hemp drugs is given in the following statement, which shows at a glance the public opinion as it prevails throughout the country at present.

\* NOTE.—The original Sanskrit slokas above referred to with their translation will be found in *Smriti Prakash*, a book which I have compiled and which contains a large collection of Hindu religious precepts from all the Smritis in Sanskrit, with their translation in Hindi and Urdu.

## GANJA AND CHARAS.

Province.	DISREPUTE.			NOT DISREPUTE.		
	Official.	Non-official.	Total.	Official.	Non-official.	Total.
Bengal ... ..	87	69	156	2	3	5
Assam ... ..	7	14	21	2	...	2
North-Western Provinces ... ..	46	81	127	3	5	8
Punjab ... ..	31	25	56	...	...	...
Central Provinces ... ..	21	38	59	1	1	2
Madras ... ..	73	56	129	1	5	6
Bombay ... ..	32	27	59	...	...	...
Sind ... ..	9	6	15	...	3	3
Berars ... ..	6	7	13	...	...	...
Ajmere... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coorg ... ..	...	2	2	...	...	...
Beluchistan ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...
Total ... ..	313	325	638	9	17	26

NOTE.—Witnesses who expressed no opinion on this question have not been included in this table.

24. The use of the hemp drugs is so much in disrepute that even the cultivating classes do not like to grow it, which will be seen from paragraph 174 of the Report, which runs thus :—

"Duthie and Fuller write that hemp-growing is restricted to the lowest classes of cultivators, being considered beneath the dignity of the higher castes. So much is this the case that the phrase 'may hemp be sown in thy house' is one of the commonest of abusive imprecations. Mr. Dharmanand and other witnesses corroborate this account."

25. The sale of liquor and hemp drugs has always been considered very objectionable and disreputable in India. There is no evidence to show that hemp drugs were ever sold by any class of persons before the introduction of the excise system. The sale of liquor was, however, practised by a certain class of people called "kalwars," who were considered so much impure that no high class persons would even touch them and no Brahman would receive a gift from them.

26. The use of ganja and charas is so much in disrepute that out of about 1,600 witnesses before this Commission not more than half a dozen were found to be consumers of these drugs, while there were a good many of the witnesses who used opium and admitted the habit without any hesitation before the Royal Opium Commission.

27. The class of consumers are also very low. As stated in paragraph 488 of the Report, "there are religious objections to the use of intoxicants by Mahomedans," and that "many of the Hindus who are both orthodox and respectable consider it contrary to their religion to indulge in these or any other intoxicants," that "orthodox Sikhs do not smoke and therefore regard ganja and charas as prohibited." It is mentioned there that ganja and charas are chiefly used by—

- (1) Fakirs and wandering mendicants, Sadhus, and Pandahs, &c.
- (2) Lower classes of both Hindus and Mahomedans, such as artizans, cultivators, fishermen, palki-bearers, day labourers, chamars, &c.
- (3) Domestic servants of all kinds, as syces, dhobis, &c.
- (4) Aborigines of different races, as Santhals, &c.
- (5) Tradesmen, &c., of the lower middle classes.

It is further stated that "these are among the classes specially mentioned by witnesses as smoking hemp drugs. Among the upper classes this habit is generally regarded as exceptional and indicating a special tendency to dissipation, but not so among these lower classes." Bhang is also occasionally used more or less generally and practically by all classes on certain feast days at times of social rejoicing."

28. In this country the females do not smoke ganja or charas at all. In paragraph 468 of the report the fact is thus mentioned: "It is to be noted, however, that with the very rarest exceptions the evidence points to the use of the drugs by males only. Women would therefore appear either not to require or to be denied the benefits ascribed to the drugs."

29. In all parts of India the use of hemp drugs is much in disrepute, and there are hundreds of national songs in every dialect condemning their use. I give the following songs which have been mentioned by some of the witnesses:—

Name of province.	Witness No.	Original in Roman characters.	Translation in English.
Bengal ...	108	"Ganja khāle bāper nām bhūle jai."	"He who smokes ganja forgets even his own father's name."
		"Siddhi khāle budhi bārey, ganja khāle lukhi chare."	"The man who drinks bhang thrives, he who takes ganja goes to the bad (is deserted by the goddess Lukhi)."
North-West-ern Provinces.	29	"Charas piye, gur gyañ ghatē, bij jāle wā ke andar kā; khānsat, khānsat pet phate, mūñh ho jāi jāisā bandar kā."	"If one smokes charas, one's learning is diminished, the seed is burnt up within, coughing goes on till one's belly bursts, and one's face grows red like that of a monkey."

Name of province.	Witness No.	Original in Roman characters.	Translation in English.
Punjab	70	"Wuh to charasi hai us ka kya thik."	"He is a charas smoker, you can't depend on him."
		"Hugge to hugga piwain afyun jangh khain ;	"Boasters smoke hukkas and wild people eat opium ;
		Bhang piyen so hooce ut posti jain."	Those who smoke bhang are mad, and those addicted to the use of poppyheads die childless."
		"Ut posti jain charas ke piwan hare."	"Childless die who use poppy-heads, as also charas smokers ;
		Ghul ghul kar marjain maha papi hatyare."	"Sinners of this type die after a protracted illness."
		"Kahen Girdhar Kab Rai unhon men ek na achha ;	"Girdhar Kabra, the poet, says no one is good among them ;
		Karke madhra pan bat men loten bachha."	(Those mentioned above) they use liquor and like children lie down in the way."
	8	"Charas pila gur gyin ghala aur bij ghala waka ander ka ; sukh sukh lakar ho jawa, munh howa jaise bander ka."	"A charas smoker loses religious wisdom imparted by the guru as well as vitality. He is gradually reduced to a mere skeleton, and his face resembles that of a monkey."
		"Khang karun, khurak karun, ankhan kolon aund karun, aje-bhi na mare, to main ki karun."	"I give (you) cough. I give (you) itch. I make (you) blind in your eyes. If (still) you do not die, what can I do (more)."
		"Bhang jab charti hai, kya kya maza dikhati hai ?	"When the effects of bhang rise (to the head), what feelings do they produce ?
Madras	157	Khat ko zor se pakarto ki kidhar jati hai."	(The man who has drunk bhang) holds on tight to his bed (and wonders) where it is going."
		"Ganja piwe mukh zard hai,	"Whoever smokes ganja, his face grows pale.
		Bibi kahe namard hai,	His wife will complain, he is impotent,
		Bhai kahe kuch dard hai.	His brother will say he is afflicted with pain,
		Ashak nashae me garq hai."	But the smoker will turn to his chillum again."
Sind	27	"Ganja aur suka pine se hurmat gayi,	"Through smoking ganja and tobacco character is lost and modesty destroyed. Does not the heart of that man break who
		Laj sharm gayi chhut, Ana j bechke lae ganja,	sells corn to buy ganja ?



Name of province.	Witness No.	Original in Roman characters.	Translation in English.
		Gayi haiye ki phut?	My heart was broken indeed. I did it without thought, and all who act without thought will have to repent."
		Gayi haiye ki phut, Kina yeh bina bichare, Bina bichare saukare, So pachhe pachtae."	
Sind	20	Charas nahi, kahir hai. Kaleja to jal gaya. Anki me lahir hai. Khang karun, khansi karun, Ankhon se andha karun, Paon se langra karun, Ne marre to me kya karun."	"It is not charas, but a curse. It burns the chest and heart to its worse. It brings on dimness of the eyes. To phlegm and cough it must give rise. To blind the eyes it never fails. Or cripple limbs that once were hale. In what but death ends its sad tale?"

Religious and  
social customs.

30. Paragraph 450 of the Report contains the general conclusions on this subject. It is stated therein that "charas, which is a comparatively new article of consumption, has not been shown to be in any way connected with religious observance"; "that as regards Northern India the Commission are of opinion that the use of bhang is more or less common everywhere in connection with the social and religious customs of the people," and that "as regards ganja they found that there are certain classes in all parts except the Punjab who use the drug in connection with the social and religious observances."

In the above statements I take exception to what has been said about ganja, which has no connection whatever with any social or religious customs.

31. It has been shown in paras. 19-29 of this note that the use of ganja and charas is in disrepute; in para. 27 that the use is confined to low class people, and in para. 28 that females do not use them. Moreover, there is no sect, caste or class of people, high, middle, or low, in which their consumption is sanctioned by religion or society. If their use had any connection with any religious or social customs, all the members of a class, whether high or low, would have used them. The absence of their use among any class as a body clearly shows that they have no such connection.

32. It is admitted in paragraph 451 of the Report that, "as a matter of fact, it is not usual for those who use the drugs, specially those who smoke them, to do so in the presence of others. It is usually only the dissipated who make a practice of publicly using intoxicants". A few of the many witnesses are also quoted,

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North-Western Provinces witness No. 49, Pandit Dharmanand Joshi, Settlement Deputy Collector: "Charas smokers will take care not to smoke in presence of their superiors or those whom they venerate."

Bombay witness No. 104 Desaiabhai Kalidas, Government Pleader: "Consequently when any one belonging to these three classes (Brahmans, Chatris, and Vaishyas of Gujrat) smokes or otherwise uses ganja, he has to do it in secret, and is ashamed of it in public."

Madras witness No. 173, Secretary, Gooty People's Association: "In these parts the consumers are held as contemptible, and a ganja smoker himself would not proclaim his habit, and feels it a disgrace to be known as a ganja smoker, but this remark is not applicable to fakirs and lowest classes of people." These drugs therefore can have no connection with any social or religious custom because all ceremonies are observed jointly by all the members of a family.

33. In para. 436 of the report a mention of Trinath mela is made. This mela of Trinath can in no way be called a religious one—

First, because its origin is of a very recent date, about the year 1867;

Secondly, because, as admitted in the last sentence of the above paragraph, this form of worship is dying out; and

Thirdly, because it is observed by Hindu and Muhammadan consumers of the drug alike, which would never have been the case had it been a religious worship of any of them. There is evidence to show that this mela is chiefly a creation of ganja-smokers. Witness No. 63, Abhilas Chunder Mukerjee, referred to in the above paragraph of the Report, as regards this form of worship, says in answer to question 33 that "educated people and people of the higher and middle classes in this country treat the ganja smokers with feelings of disrespect and call them "ganja-khor," "bhangi," "ganjari," &c.

34. I do not agree to the expressions contained in paragraph 435. It is a well-known fact that at the time of worship, water is poured on the image of Siva, the water being mixed with milk, sugar, and other ingredients. Sometimes those persons who are fond of taking bhang mix it with the water, but ganja is never so used. When the consumers of ganja cannot use it in presence of their elders, it can never be said or even imagined that it is consumed by the worshippers in temples, where as a matter of fact all kinds of smoking, even tobacco, are not allowed and are considered extremely objectionable.

35. In paras. 443 and 449 the statements of Reverend Campbell, Mr. Merriman (Madras witnesses), and Messrs. Campbell, Modie, Charles, Kothawoli, and Lamb (Bombay witnesses), have been quoted. In my opinion it is not safe, nor is it desirable to rely upon the evidence of European gentlemen only when questions connected with the Hindu or Muhammadan religious and social customs are under consideration. Bengal witness No. 1, the Hon'ble D. R. Lyall, says "but on this point natives will give better evidence," and in answer to question No. 33, "Here again native evidence will be best."

36. I therefore hold that, as the public opinion (social or religious) is quite against the use of ganja and charas, as has already been shown, and as they have no connection with the social and religious customs of the people, none but a

few of the habitual consumers will feel any hardship by their prohibition, and that class too for a time only. On the contrary, even the family members of the consumers will consider the prohibition of the drugs as a blessing to them. There will be no public discontent nor any interference with the religious and social customs of the people, if ganja and charas are prohibited, as the Hon'ble Gan-gadharao Madhav Chitnavis, Member of the Viceregal Legislative Council, witness No. 46, Central Provinces, says: "It would not be considered as an interference with religion to prohibit either ganja or bhang."

37. A few of the many witnesses are quoted in statement I appended to this note in justification of the above views; but the following expressions made by Mr. James Wilson, Deputy Commissioner, Shahpur, Punjab, witness No. 14, deserve special attention:—

"I recently had all the intelligent and respectable Hindus of the district assembled in connection with the ascertainment of their tribal customs. I asked those who wished to have opium restricted to stand up, and no one stood up. I then asked those who wished the present system of dealing with opium continued, and they all stood up with acclamation. I then put the same questions regarding charas and bhang, and nearly the whole assembly stood up for prohibition; for continuance of the present state of things only one or two stood up. These said that fakirs would suffer, and the others said that would not matter: they would soon get over it. Some of the assembly, even of those who declared for prohibition, were themselves moderate consumers of bhang. They had clearly bhang as well as charas before their minds. Several of the persons were dealers in opium, and very few, if any, dealers in the hemp drugs. There were about 100 present at this meeting, mostly shop-keepers from all parts of the district and representative of the best feeling of their class.

"A number of the more respectable object to charas because their young men get tempted by the fakirs to use it and ultimately join that body. Some of the excessive smokers of charas have themselves expressed regret to me that they ever took to the habit, much in the way that excessive consumers of liquor will do. These men were fakirs; but a fakir in Shahpur is not only a religious devotee, but often an idle good-for-nothing, who assumes a religious character."

#### Effects.

38. *Physical*.—The medicinal use of the hemp drugs, as noted in paragraphs 458-67, has been somewhat exaggerated, but so far I agree, that they are *sometimes* used medicinally. Such use is, however, confined more to bhang than to ganja or charas, and it was very necessary to make a distinction between them in the Report. As I am not going to advocate for the prohibition of hemp drugs as far as their medicinal use is concerned, I would not discuss this point further, but content myself with quoting the following sentence from paragraph 469 of the Report:—

"A drug may be a useful medicine but a bad thing to allow into the market freely for general consumption."

39. As to paragraphs 468 to 473 of the Report, the beneficial effects, if any, can be attributed to bhang only, and very rarely to ganja and charas. As to their being food-accessory or digestive, my opinion is that a man who has become habituated to the use of the hemp drugs cannot derive any such benefit



from their use even if it is presumed that they have any such beneficial quality. There is sufficient evidence on record which shows that the use of these drugs improves digestion for a short time only, and that afterwards it destroys the power altogether. The experiments of Dr. Cunningham, mentioned in paragraph 483 of the Report, shows "that the only persistent symptom attending the treatment during life was a considerable diminution in appetite for food, and so on." It is according to the general principles of medical science that, however good or powerful a medicine may be, it loses its effects when used for a long time, and when the medicine is tolerated in the constitution.

40. It is stated in the Report, paragraph 471, that "hemp drugs both as smoked and as drunk are used as a febrifuge or preventive of the diseases common in malarious tracts or arising from the use of bad water." But this is not the case, and they are very seldom used for such purposes, as will be seen from paragraph 339 of the Report, which runs thus:—"North-east and east of Calcutta lies a huge tract of low consumption, comprising the districts of Noakhali, Khulna, Jessore, Nadia, Backergunj, and Faridpur. This fact hardly bears out the theory that residence in low-lying country and river-side life are very intimately connected with the ganja habit."

41. As to their use giving staying power, I must say that there seems to be no good foundation for such a belief. Mr. Stoker, Commissioner of Excise, witness No. 6, North-Western Provinces, says in his oral statement that—

"As a District Officer and Settlement Officer I got into intimate contact with the classes. I believe that these drugs are comparatively little used among the agricultural classes as compared with the town population and that excess is still rarer."

Mr. F. G. Sly, Settlement Officer, witness No. 10, Central Provinces, says:—

"The good cultivating caste say that they never use ganja or bhang as a stimulant to hard work, but that during the season of hard work they increase the quantity of their food and more particularly of ghee and milk."

Bhimbhai Kirparam, Deputy Collector, Bombay, witness No. 24, says:—

"In Guzzat Kumbies and Kollis are the principal agricultural classes. They eat opium. Therefore very few cultivators in Guzzat take ganja."

Deshaihbhai Kalidas, Government Pleader, Bombay, witness No. 104, says:—

"Among the agricultural classes also ganja-smoking is found to a small degree only. On this side, even among the Sudras, ganja-smoking is so unfavourably looked upon that one from that class also would consider it low breeding to use it in public."

No one can deny that the poor cultivators of this country have to undergo more severe exertions, exposure, and fatigue than the common labourers and beggars. It naturally follows, then, that if these drugs possessed any such quality, the cultivators would have surely used them. Besides this the number of consumers is so limited as one in about every 500 of the population, and the overwhelming majority of labourers in India and Burma can do very well without them, as Mr. F. G. Sly, Settlement Officer of the Central Provinces, witness 10, says:—

"The information collected, however, tends to show that the use of hemp drugs as a stimulant to hard work is very limited indeed even amongst aborigines."

See also Trinidad Commission's remarks in paragraph 46 of this note on this point.

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It is also to be taken into consideration that if a man can undergo harder exertions under the influence of ganja than his might would allow, his health is surely to break down sooner or later, and that it is rather a kind of inhumanity on the part of his employers to extort more work from him than his natural health and strength can permit.

42. As to paragraph 493 of the Report, the question of moderate and excessive use is a very important one. In the questions framed by the Commission much stress was laid on this point and separate questions were framed to make a distinction between them, as will be found on reference to the following questions —

Moderate use.	Excessive use.
43, 47, 49, 51.	46, 48, 50, 52, 53.

But as no definition of the words moderate and excessive was made in the instructions attached to the question papers, many of the witnesses were much puzzled and not unfrequently misled. This difficulty has been accepted in the Report in paragraph 477 thus: "There is a good deal of justification of the failure of many witnesses to discriminate between moderate and excessive consumption. That which is moderate and harmless to one man may be too much to another." Some of the witnesses are quoted here in support of this. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Moriarty, M.D., witness No. 79, North-Western Provinces, says in his reply to questions 43 and 45 that "it is not easy to define moderate and excessive," and further on he has very truly said that "the greater the use, the greater the effect." Mr. E. V. Westmacott, late Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, witness No. 2, says, "I do not know how a moderate smoker is to be distinguished from an excessive smoker." Mr. H. M. Weatherall, Manager, Nawab's State, witness No. 197, Bengal, says, "It is very difficult to draw the lines where the harm begins." Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. Crombie, Bengal, witness No. 104, says, "I should cease to call smoking moderate when it began to affect the man's demeanor. This would be my definition of moderate smoking." Dr. J. W. Macnamara, M.D., Assam, witness No. 20, says in his oral examination that, "As to these intoxicants, I do not think the police would be in a position to discriminate between the moderate or excessive use. I do not think I could do it myself." Atul Chandra Roy, Assistant Surgeon, Assam, witness No. 25, says, "It is very difficult to draw a line of demarcation between moderate and immoderate use. As far as my experience goes habitual consumers scarcely keep within such a bound as not to be more or less sufferers in the long run." Mr. G. Godfrey, Commissioner, Assam, witness No. 1, says, "The excessive use of ganja has most pernicious effects, and it must be remembered that what is a moderate quantity for one person may be an altogether excessive quantity for another." Mr. S. S. Thorburn, Commissioner, Punjab, witness No. 5, says, "The difficulty is to know what constitutes moderate use. What is moderate for some would kill others." Surgeon-Major G. W. P. Dennys, Punjab, witness No. 34, says, "I do not know where to draw the line between moderate and immoderate. It really depends on how often and how rapidly a man inhales the smoke from his chillum." Dr. S. L. Dobie, Madras, witness No. 84, says, "In the case of alcohol I should of course discriminate between the moderate and excessive use. In the case of ganja I could not. It is much easier for a European to judge of alcoholism than of ganja."

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The fact is that small doses of these drugs may not produce noxious effects for some time, but such effects are sure to follow sooner or later, smaller or greater, according to the constitution, habits of life, and circumstances of the consumer. There is in them a slow and insidious undermining process going on in their digestive, respiratory, and nervous systems which predispose them to acute diseases and cut their lives short. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Hooper, witness No. 74, North-Western Provinces, says, "The physical and mental breakdown being gradual but certain in proportion to the rate and amount of indulgence and the constitution of the individual." Therefore the evil effects of the drugs should be taken into consideration without regard to the quantity consumed.

43. Again an overwhelming majority of evidence show that in the case of the use of hemp drugs there is a great tendency for the moderate habit to develop into the excessive. Question No. 31 was put to the witnesses on this point. The above conclusion is accepted in paragraphs 480 and 477 of the Report, which run thus: "It is a general belief that there is a tendency for the moderate habit to develop into the excessive," and that, "the moderate habit may undoubtedly develop into excess in some cases where excess might not have been looked for." In such a case it is quite immaterial to make a distinction between the effects of a moderate dose and that of an excessive one.

44. It has been alluded to in the Report in several places that the evil results from the use of hemp drugs have not hitherto obtruded themselves on observation, and that therefore some witnesses have abstained themselves from answering the questions 45 and 46 about the evil effects. But I find that a large majority of witnesses expressed their opinions about the effects of the use of these drugs, as will be seen from the following two statements, one of which is an analysis of the evidence of the medical witnesses and the other of the non-medical witnesses. An abstract of the two statements stands thus:—

TOTAL WITNESSES (EXCLUDING SQUADS)			DELETERIOUS.						NOT DELETERIOUS.					
			MODERATE.			EXCESSIVE.			MODERATE.			EXCESSIVE.		
Medical.	Non-medical.	Total.	Medical.	Non-medical.	Total.	Medical.	Non-medical.	Total.	Medical.	Non-medical.	Total.	Medical.	Non-medical.	Total.
328	812	1,140	209	414	623	286	361	647	76	167	243	1	1	2

It shows that out of 1,140 witnesses, 847 or 74·2 per cent. declare the excessive use to be deleterious against only 2, and that 623 or 54·6 per cent. declare even the moderate use to be deleterious against 243 or 21·3 per cent.

An analysis of evidence on effects from native states and army will be seen in paragraphs 66 and 67 of this note.