

## APPENDIX VIII.

### Province of Assam.

#### STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

|   | Area in<br>square<br>miles. | Population.† |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| British territory . . . . .                                 | 53,615                      | 6,713,635    |
| Deduct excluded areas—                                      |                             |              |
| The Garo Hills.   |                             |              |
| The Khasi and Jaintia Hills (except Shillong Municipality). |                             |              |
| The Mikir Hills.  |                             |              |
| The North Cachar Hills.                                     |                             |              |
| The Naga Hills (with outlying tracts).                      |                             |              |
| The North-East Frontier Tract.                              |                             |              |
| The Lushai Hills.   |                             |              |

The area and population of the excluded areas cannot be obtained with accuracy, but the area of British territory dealt with under the scheme is approximately 27,500 square miles, and the total population approximately 6,000,000.

|   |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Male adults of 20 years of age and over . . . . .       |           | 1,868,933* |
| Do. do. do. literate . . . . .                          |           | 225,584    |
| Do. do. do. literate in English . . . . .               |           | 25,126     |
| Hindus—   |           |            |
| Brahmans . . . . .                                      | 118,005   |            |
| Non-Brahmans . . . . .                                  | 3,226,862 |            |
| Others † . . . . .                                      | 292,533   |            |
|   |           | 3,637,400  |
| Muhammadans . . . . .                                   |           | 1,886,528  |
| Animists . . . . .                                      |           | 1,109,187  |
| Indian Christians . . . . .                             |           | 63,763     |
| Anglo-Indians . . . . .                                 |           | 437        |
| European British subjects . . . . .                     |           | 2,153      |
| Others . . . . .  |           | 14,167     |
|   | TOTAL     | 6,713,635  |
| Total population of—                                    |           |            |
| (a) Shillong municipality . . . . .                     |           | 13,639     |
| (b) other municipalities . . . . .                      |           | 88,816     |
| Total population of rural areas . . . . . (approximate) |           | 5,897,600  |

Towns of over 50,000 population—  
*Nil.*

\* These and the following figures include the population of the excluded areas.  
† i.e., castes which cause pollution by touch and which bury their dead. *Vide* page 41 of Part I of the Assam Census Report, 1911. These castes are generally described as "untouchables."

## CONSTITUTION OF EXISTING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Ex-officio</i> (the Chief Commissioner) . . . . .        | 1  |
| Nominated members, of whom not more than 9 may be officials | 13 |
| Elected members   |    |
| (1) by municipalities . . . . .                             | 2  |
| (2) by local boards . . . . .                               | 2  |
| (3) by landholders . . . . .                                | 2  |
| (4) by Muhammadans . . . . .                                | 2  |
| (5) by the tea-planting community . . . . .                 | 3  |
| TOTAL   | 11 |
|   | 25 |

To which may be added one expert member.

### NUMBER OF ELECTORS.

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Municipal commissioners . . . . . | 119   |
| Local board members . . . . .     | 217   |
| Landholders . . . . .             | 193   |
| Muhammadans . . . . .             | 1,188 |

## Scheme for the constitution of and elections to the Provincial Legislative Council.

### A.—FRANCHISE QUALIFICATIONS.

[In cases where property is held or payments made jointly by the members of a joint family or partnership, the family or partnership shall be adopted as the unit for deciding whether the qualification exists ; and the vote shall be exercised in the case of a Hindu joint family by the manager thereof and in other cases by the member or partner authorised in that behalf by the family or partnership.]

### GENERAL DISQUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.

No person will be qualified to vote at any election, if such person

- (a) is a female, or
- (b) is under 21 years of age, or
- (c) is not a British subject or the subject of any State in India, or
- (d) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.

(i) *Urban Areas, i.e., municipalities and cantonments.*

Every person will be entered in the electoral roll of the constituency who has a place of residence in the area or within two miles of the boundary thereof, and

- (a) pays in respect of municipal or cantonment rates an aggregate amount of not less than Rs. 3, or in the case of the Nowgong municipality of not less than Rs. 2, or in the case of the Sylhet municipality not less than Rs. 1-8, or

- (b) pays income tax, or
- (c) is a retired and pensioned officer (commissioned or non-commissioned) of the Indian army, or
- (d) holds a qualification within the area which would entitle him to be entered in the rural roll if the area were not a municipality or cantonment.

*(ii) Rural Areas,*

Every person will be entered in the electoral roll of the constituency who has a place of residence in the area, and

- (a) in the districts of Sylhet, Cachar and Goalpara pays as chaukidari tax under Bengal Act VI of 1870 not less than Re. 1 per annum, or
- (b) in the remainder of the province owns land assessed or assessable at a land revenue of not less than Rs. 15 or pays a local rate of not less than Re. 1, or
- (c) pays income tax, or
- (d) is a retired and pensioned officer (commissioned or non-commissioned) of the Indian army.

In the urban constituency of Shillong one electoral roll will be kept for all electors. In rural constituencies two electoral rolls will be kept, one for Muhammadans and one for non-Muhammadans.

*(iii) Landholders' Constituencies.*

There will be two constituencies, one for the Assam Valley division and one for the Surma Valley division. Every landholder will be entered in the landholders' electoral roll of each constituency who has a place of residence in the constituency, and

- (a) holds in his own right as proprietor one or more estates or shares of estates, and pays in respect thereof land revenue of not less than Rs. 500 or local rates of not less than Rs. 125 per annum, or
- (b) holds the title recognized or conferred by Government of Raja or Nawab or any higher title.

Provided that no landholder shall have more than one vote in either constituency though he may possess more than one of the qualifications above described.

*(iv) Planting Constituencies.*

Three representatives will be elected by the members of the Assam Valley branch of the Indian Tea Association.

Two representatives will be elected by the members of the Surma Valley branch of the Indian Tea Association.

The election in each case will be conducted in accordance with regulations to be approved by the Governor in Council. Provision should be made to enable the Governor in Council to revise the method of election

for these constituencies from time to time in order to meet any alteration in the position or constitution of this association.\*

(v) *Commerce and Industry Constituency.*

The representative of this constituency will be elected by persons whose qualifications will be as follows:—

- (a) being the owner, or a person appointed by the owner for the purpose of voting on his behalf, of a factory, other than a tea factory, situated in Assam and subject to the provisions of the Indian Factories Act XII of 1911, no owner being entitled to more than one vote, or
- (b) being appointed for the purpose of voting by any company having a place of business in Assam and a paid up capital of not less than Rs. 25,000 and being a company as defined in section 2 of the Indian Companies Act VII of 1913.

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B.—QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES.

No person will be eligible for election as a member of the Council, if such person

- (a) is not a British subject or a subject of any State in India, or
- (b) is an official, or
- (c) is a female, or
- (d) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind,  
or
- (e) is under 25 years of age, or
- (f) is an uncertificated bankrupt or an undischarged insolvent, or
- (g) has, in circumstances which, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, involve moral turpitude, been (i) dismissed from the service of Government, or (ii) sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment (such sentence not having subsequently been reversed or remitted, or the offender pardoned), or
- (h) has been dismissed or is under suspension from practising as a legal practitioner by order of any competent court:

Provided that in cases (g) and (h) the disqualification may be removed by an order of the Governor in Council in this behalf.

No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council to represent

- (1) an urban or rural constituency unless such person is registered as an elector in an urban or rural constituency within the province, or
- (2) a landholders', planting or commerce and industry constituency, unless such person is registered as an elector in the constituency for which he seeks election.

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\* The term "member" will include any person entitled to exercise the rights and privileges of membership on behalf and in the name of any firm or joint stock company or corporation registered as a member.