

Kanethi are administered by native officials of the British service deputed by Government. In Bāghal the council consists of a brother of the late chief and an official deputed by Government, while in Kuthār the manager is a member of the ruling family of Suket.

Legislation  
and justice.  
Customary  
law.

By the Punjab Laws Act of 1872 custom governs all questions regarding succession, betrothal, marriage, divorce, the separate property of women, dower, wills, gifts, partitions, family relations such as adoption and guardianship, and religious usages or institutions, provided that the custom be not contrary to justice, equity, or good conscience. On these subjects the Muhammadan or Hindu law is applied only in the absence of custom.

Legisla-  
tion.

A Legislative Council was created for the Punjab in May, 1897, consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor and not more than nine members nominated by him, of whom five were non-officials in 1904. The members do not as yet possess the rights of interpellation and of discussing the Provincial budget, which have been granted to the Councils of the older Provinces. The following are the chief legislative measures specially affecting the Punjab which have been passed since 1880:—

*Acts of the Governor-General in (Legislative) Council.*

- Punjab University Act, XIX of 1882.
- The District Boards Act, XX of 1883.
- The Punjab Municipal Act, XIII of 1884 and XX of 1890.
- The Punjab Courts Act, XVIII of 1884 (as amended by Acts XIII of 1888, XIX of 1895, and XXV of 1899).
- The Punjab Tenancy and Land Revenue Acts, XVI and XVII of 1889.
- Government Tenants Punjab Act, III of 1893.
- The Punjab Land Alienation Act, XIII of 1900.

*Regulations of the Governor-General in (Executive) Council.*

- The Frontier Crimes Regulations, IV of 1887, IV of 1889, and III of 1901.
- The Frontier Murderous Outrages Regulation, IV of 1901.

*Acts of the Punjab Legislative Council.*

- The Punjab General Clauses Act, I of 1898.
- The Punjab Riverain Boundaries Act, I of 1899.
- The Punjab Land Preservation (*Chos*) Act, II of 1900.
- The Punjab Descent of *Jāgīrs* Act, IV of 1900.
- The Sind-Sāgar Doāb Colonization Act, I of 1902.
- The Punjab Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Act, II of 1902.
- The Punjab Military Transport Animals Act, I of 1903.
- The Punjab Court of Wards Act, II of 1903.
- The Punjab Pre-emption Act, II of 1905.
- The Punjab Minor Canals Act, III of 1905.

attracted some attention. An attempt has been made to codify the custom as to pre-emption in the Pre-emption Act II of 1905, but it is not possible to say at present what the ultimate effect of that Act will be. During its first year it stimulated litigation to some extent.

Criminal  
courts.

The District Magistrate is ordinarily (and additional District and subdivisional magistrates and other full-powered magistrates are occasionally) invested with power to try all offences not punishable with death, and to inflict sentences up to seven years' imprisonment. Further, in the frontier District of Dera Ghāzi Khān and in Miānwāli an offender may be tried by a council of elders under the Frontier Crimes Regulation, and in accordance with its finding the Deputy-Commissioner may pass any sentence of imprisonment not exceeding fourteen years; but sentences exceeding seven years require the confirmation of the Commissioner, who has also a revisional jurisdiction in all cases.

Criminal  
cases.

The litigious spirit of the people is illustrated by their readiness to drag their petty disputes into the criminal courts. About one-third of the charges preferred are ultimately found to be false. In a normal year the number of true cases is about 5 per 1,000 of the population, but this figure naturally fluctuates from year to year. A season of agricultural depression will cause an increase in crime against property and a decline in the number of petty assault cases, the prosecution of which is a luxury reserved for times of prosperity. The commonest form of crime is cattle-lifting, which is rife in the South-Western Punjab and in those Districts of the Eastern Punjab which border on the United Provinces and Rājputāna. Crimes of violence, generally arising out of quarrels connected with women or land, are commonest among the Jat Sikhs of the Central Punjab and the Musalmān cultivators of the northern Districts. Offences relating to marriage have increased during the last five years, probably owing to the ravages of plague, which has caused a proportionately higher mortality among females than among males, and has thus enhanced the value of the surviving women. The same cause has led to an increase in civil suits relating to women. In an average year about 250,000 persons are brought to trial, about 27 per cent. being convicted.

Criminal  
appeals.

All sentences imposed by magistrates of the second and third classes are appealable to the District Magistrate; and in 1904, out of 28,564 persons sentenced by them, 34 per cent. appealed and 36 per cent. of these 'appeals were successful.

Sentences imposed by District Magistrates and magistrates of the first class are, as a rule, appealable to a Sessions Judge; and in 1904, out of 21,336 persons sentenced by those courts, 32 per cent. appealed, and of these appeals 37 per cent. were successful. Sentences imposed by Courts of Sessions, and those exceeding four years passed by District Magistrates, are appealable to the Chief Court; and in 1904, out of 1,799 persons so sentenced, 61 per cent. appealed, with success in 28 per cent. of the appeals.

Of the 6,618 civil appeals filed in the courts of District Civil Judges in 1904, 38 per cent., and of the 9,591 filed in the Divisional Courts, 26 per cent. were successful; but of the 2,374 filed in the Chief Court, only 9 per cent. succeeded.

The revenue courts established under the Punjab Tenancy Act are those of the Financial Commissioner, Collector (Deputy-Commissioner), and Assistant Collectors of the first grade (Assistant or Extra Assistant Commissioners), and Assistant Collectors, second grade (*tahsildars* and *naiib-tahsildars*). These courts decide all suits regarding tenant rights, rents, and divers cognate matters, in which the civil courts have no jurisdiction. Appeals from Assistant Collectors ordinarily lie to the Collector, from him to the Commissioner, and from the Commissioner to the Financial Commissioner, with certain limitations.

The Registration Act was extended to the Punjab in 1868. All Deputy-Commissioners are *ex-officio* registrars and all *tahsildars* are sub-registrars under the Act, but most of the registrations are performed by non-official sub-registrars, remunerated by a percentage of the fees. General control over them is exercised by the Inspector-General of Registration. The figures below are for the old Province up to 1900-1; those for 1904 are for the Province as now constituted.

	1880-1 to 1889-90 (average).	1890-1 to 1899-1900 (average).	1900-1.	1904.
Number of offices . . . . .	221	277	297	266
Number of documents registered . . . . .	70,994	129,067	134,906	75,573

Under Sikh rule revenue was realized from all known sources of taxation, direct and indirect. Land, houses, persons, manufactures, imports and exports, alike contributed to the income of the Khālsa under Ranjit Singh. The outlying provinces, in which revenue could be levied only by a military force, were

farmed out to men of wealth and influence, who exercised powers of life and death without interference from the court of Lahore, so long as their remittances to the royal treasury were regularly made. The revenue from districts nearer Lahore and more completely under control was collected by local tax-gatherers, called *kārdārs*, whose more important proceedings were liable to review by the ministers of the Mahārājā. The salt revenue was realized by a sale of the monopoly.

Under this system the country was, on the whole, wonderfully prosperous. Every Jat village sent recruits to the Sikh army, who remitted their savings to their homes; and many a heavily assessed village thus paid half its land revenue from its military pay. Money circulated freely, manufactures and commodities were in brisk demand, and commerce flourished despite the burden of taxation. From land revenue Ranjīt Singh raised 165 lakhs, partly in cash and partly, or mostly, in kind. From excise he realized 2 lakhs. In the Province generally the dual system of realizing the land revenue remained in force till 1847, and to a much later period in the Native States and great *jāgīrs*. During the regency, however, from 1845 to 1849, summary revenue settlements were made; and on annexation the assessments thereby imposed were maintained as a temporary measure, quinquennial settlements being made in tracts which had not been assessed. The customs and excise systems were also reformed, and in the year after annexation coin of British mintage replaced the old currency, 50 lakhs of which were withdrawn from circulation. The estimated revenue for 1849-50 was as follows: land revenue (including grazing tax, income from forests, gold-washing, iron mines, and rents of lands), 152 lakhs; excise (on salt, liquors, and drugs), including stamps and canal water rate, 26 lakhs; tribute, 5 lakhs; post office,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs; and miscellaneous receipts,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs—a total of 190 lakhs. After the Mutiny of 1857 the Delhi and Hissār Divisions were added to the Punjab, increasing its revenue by 66.2 lakhs.

Provincial  
settle-  
ments.

All items of revenue other than those derived from purely local sources, such as District and municipal funds, fall into one or other of two classes. They may be treated as Provincial, in which case they are at the disposal of the Local Government, or as Imperial, in which case a portion returns into the Province in the form of payments, the balance being absorbed into the Imperial exchequer (see chapter on Finance, Vol. IV, ch. vi). Since 1871 the financial relations of the Local and Supreme Governments have been regulated by periodical