

The temperature at the high levels of the Peak District is from 3° to 8° less than at the Observatory. At Victoria it is practically the same. The rainfall and humidity are considerably greater at the Peak than at Victoria, the Observatory, or Tai Po (New Territories).

The total rainfall for the year was 63.93 inches, as compared with an average of 84.21 inches during the ten preceding years. The wettest month was August with 15.71 inches, the driest, October, when 0.01 inch was recorded. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 6.12 inches on the 15th August, while no rain fell on 218 days of the year. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere for the year was 74%, as compared with an average of 78% during the ten preceding years. The average daily amount of sunshine was 5.5 hours, being 49% of the possible duration.

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#### X. POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue from the Postal Service in 1912 was \$401,054.32 and total expenditure \$296,867.12 leaving a credit balance of \$104,187.20. The total amount of payments during the year was \$256,582.88 less than that estimated for owing to the high rate of exchange, non-receipt of the claims in respect of mails sent *via* Siberia during the years 1910 and 1911, and non-payment of the shares of the Peninsular and Oriental Mail Subsidy for the 4th quarter by the Crown Agents.

Agreements to regulate the exchange of correspondence and parcels with the Portuguese Colony of Macao were signed on 23rd October, 1912.

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#### XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Chinese territory adjoining the New Territories was in a disturbed condition during the greater part of the year owing to the withdrawal of the military posts along the frontier to meet exigencies elsewhere. As a result some serious raids were made by armed bands of robbers into British territory. To guard against these incursions 354 officers and men of the 8th Rajputs and 153 officers and men of the 126th Baluchistan Infantry were, by the courtesy of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, South China, drafted on the 26th of June to various places along the frontier. This force furnished patrols which moved about the country at various hours by night and by day. It was withdrawn on the 30th of November for annual training in Camp in the New Territories. These patrols proved most efficient and the thanks of the Colonial Government were conveyed to the officers and men concerned and to the Military Authorities for the valuable assistance thus rendered.

On the night of the 19th of August an attack was made on the Police Station at Cheung Chau, where 1 European Sergeant and 4 Indian Constables were stationed, by a gang of pirates and robbers about 40 strong who came from Macao in a junk, landed