

Similarly, the mule columns and animal drawn transport have shown a high standard of efficiency. In this connection I would specially mention the assistance rendered by the corps raised by Indian Princes, viz., Jaipur, Bharatpur, Gwalior and Mysore Imperial Service transport.

The Ordnance Services have been conducted and developed with energy and efficiency with a view to making the Force as self-supporting as possible and to the consequent saving of sea transport. To this end boot-repairing shops, disinfecting and repair stations, and other workshops have been established or extended.

The duties of the Works Department in providing protection for the communications to Baghdad and Baghdad itself against floods have proved long and arduous, and show good progress. It is not, perhaps, realised that in this undeveloped country the only local products are mud bricks, reeds for making mats, lime and bitumen in small quantities, and gravel in isolated localities. Every other requirement, from a constructional point of view, has to be imported. The supply of good drinking water has been well maintained. Automatic suction chlorination is now in general use, and mechanical filtration plants have been or are being erected at all important posts.

The conduct and administration of the Remount Department is most satisfactory, and I consider that the Remount Depot and attached farm at Baghdad are models of their kind.

Owing to the increased area over which this Force operates, to the amount of animal diseases existing in the territories conquered, and to the consequent danger of the animals of the Force becoming infected, it has been found necessary to increase the Veterinary administrative staff and to form extra veterinary hospitals. The results are most gratifying, and reflect great credit on this Department.

The Irrigation Department, as such, has been recently constituted, though irrigation work was carried out previously, chiefly on the Euphrates. The work done can only be described as extraordinary, and I look forward to a great development in this direction next year. The excellent results already achieved are due to the untiring zeal and energy of all ranks in a country where, until recently, there was no military control.

The period has been one of constant construction work and of steadily increasing demands on the Railway Department. Floods have caused several interruptions, but the service of trains has been maintained with great success in face of difficulties inherent to lines rapidly constructed in a new country, where all material has had to be brought from overseas.

The Department of Local Resources has, in addition to its former duties, taken over the control of grass farms, the feeding of the civil population, and the arrangements for the collection and transportation of the coming harvest. Tanneries, and a poultry farm primarily to supply hospitals, are being formed. The blockade system has been carefully regulated, and ample evidence is available of severe shortage of supplies among the Turkish troops resulting in increased desertions and loss of moral. The Department has been conducted with considerable ability.

Agriculture has made great progress, and my especial thanks are due to Mr. C. C. Garbett, I.C.S., first Revenue Officer, for the initiative

displayed and the valuable work done by him in this connection. The latest estimate for the coming harvest is most gratifying. I hope, by the institution of a properly constituted Department of Agriculture and by its co-ordination with the Irrigation Department, that a very large increase will be shown next year in the agricultural development of this country.

The Postal Services have had to compete with the ever-increasing wants of this Force, and the Department has worked satisfactorily.

17. The Chaplains of all denominations have continued to devote themselves to the spiritual welfare of the troops, and have carried out their duties to my entire satisfaction. I am indebted also to the Church Army for the provision of tents for social and religious purposes, which have not only afforded opportunities for recreation to the troops, but have assisted the chaplains in their work.

The activities of the Y.M.C.A. have extended considerably during the last six months. There are now a total of seventy centres, and the system of soldiers' clubs has been initiated throughout the country. I greatly appreciate the excellent work of this society in undertaking the management of these recreational centres, which tend so largely to the well-being of the troops.

Considerable advance has been made in Graves Registration, and the special difficulties inherent to this country have been satisfactorily overcome.

To all those ladies and gentlemen who have so generously worked for, and contributed to, the comfort of the troops by the provision of war gifts, hospital ships and launches, and in numberless other ways, I can only, on behalf of this Force, tender our very grateful thanks and assure them that their kindness will never be forgotten.

18. The Directorate of Signals and Telegraphs has had to deal with ever-increasing communications and to improve those already existing in connection with the extension of the area occupied and of the railway system and with the development of the country. In addition the telephone systems have been enlarged and extended, and the work done by the wireless squadrons has been of a high order. The efficiency of this Directorate has been well maintained.

The work performed by the Surveys has assumed very large proportions, but my demands have always been met in the most satisfactory manner, and the Map Compilation Section has been of the greatest assistance.

19. In the working of the civil and political branch of this Force I have been most ably advised by the Civil Commissioner, Sir Percy Cox, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., to whom I am greatly indebted. The military developments on both flanks have involved a corresponding extension of our political responsibilities. The functions of the civil administration consists in the extension of political control, the exercise of influence on agricultural shaikhs and tribes, the levy of revenue in kind, and not least the work connected with Central Arabian politics and the local Arab tribes.

The administration of the Basra Vilayet continues to run smoothly on what are practically peace lines, and satisfactory progress is noticeable in all branches.

20. The Royal Navy has ever been anxious to give me every assistance when called upon, and