

Boiler Inspection in Bombay.

THE report on the working of the Boiler Inspection department for the year ending 31st March is reviewed by Government in the following resolution:—

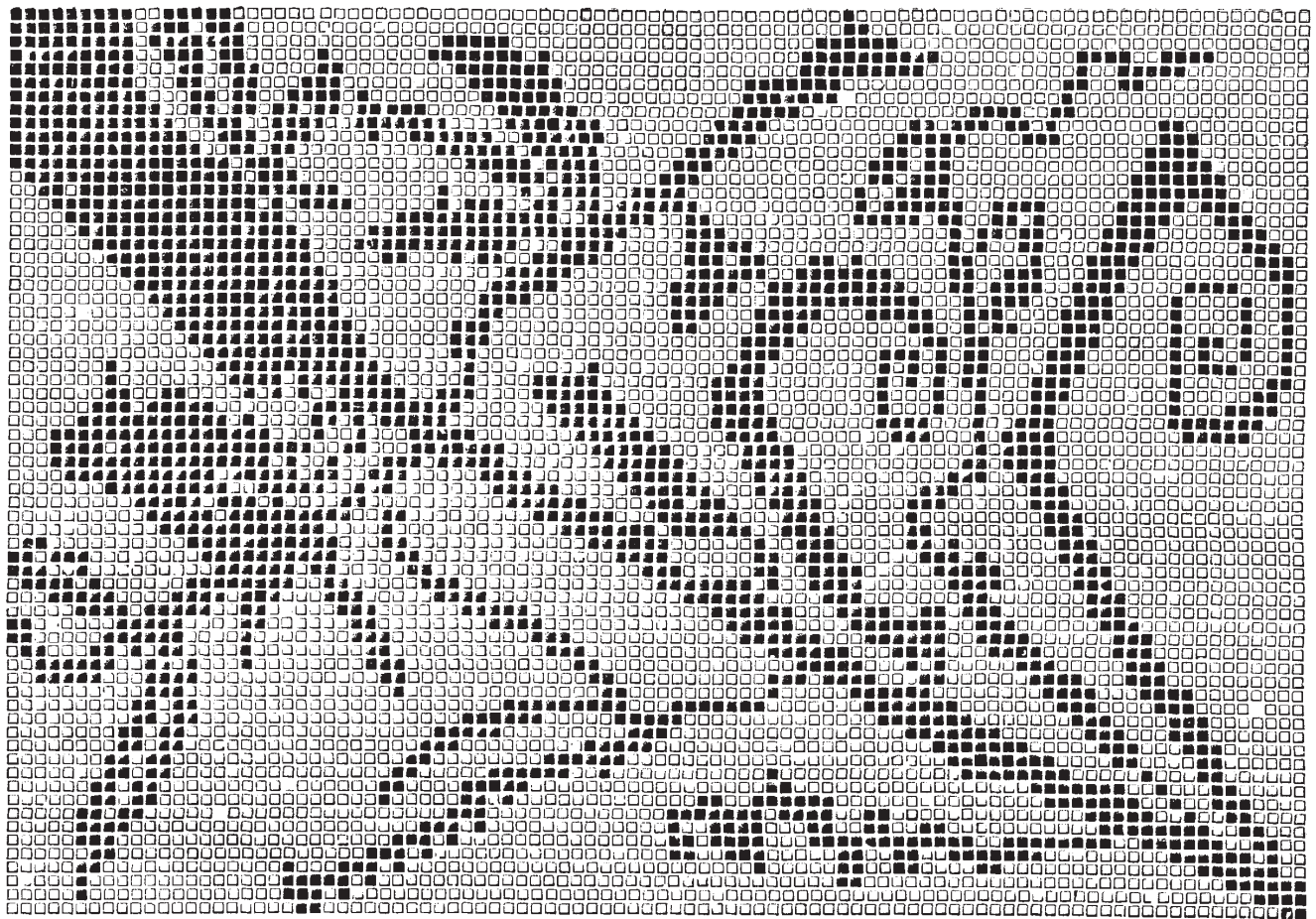
The chief events of the year under report were the extension of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1891, to the District of Satara, the appointment of a new Inspector on Rs. 350 to 400 and the raising of the salary of the Fourth Inspector from Rs. 250 to 300 per mensem There has also been some increase in the clerical and menial staff.

During the year the total number of boilers on the registers of Inspectors in the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, was 1,931 against 1,830

accused were convicted and fined. A prosecution was also instituted at Karachi against the owners of a flour mill for working their boiler at a higher pressure than that allowed by their certificate. On conviction the accused were fined Rs. 60. As in the preceding years, no accidents occurred during the year.

Three appeals under section 11 of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1891, were preferred to the Commission appointed in Sind under section 5 of the Act, alleging that insufficient working pressure had been allowed by the Inspector. These appeals were decided in favour of the owners and the pressure was raised.

In the Town and Island of Bombay 92 persons obtained certificates of competency under section 21, 15 under section 22, and 3 under section 23 of the Act. In Karachi the number of persons who obtained certificates under the three sections referred to was respectively 49, 2 and 2.



Design No. 1.

in the previous year. Of the total number only 602 were offered for inspection in Bombay and 685 in the mofussil. The remaining 644 boilers are reported to be either not in use or to have been removed to places where the Act is not in force. The total number of inspections, including reinspections, made during the year was 1,295 against 1,313 in the previous year, a decrease of 18, which is attributed to the closing of factories on account of the prevalence of plague. The number of boilers under inspection at Aden on the 31st March 1897 was 28. Besides the regular inspections 195 casual inspection were made of boilers under steam.

There were two prosecutions of owners in Bombay for working boilers without having properly qualified engineers in charge. In both cases the

Rs. 3,760 were received in Bombay as examination fees and Rs. 698 in Karachi.

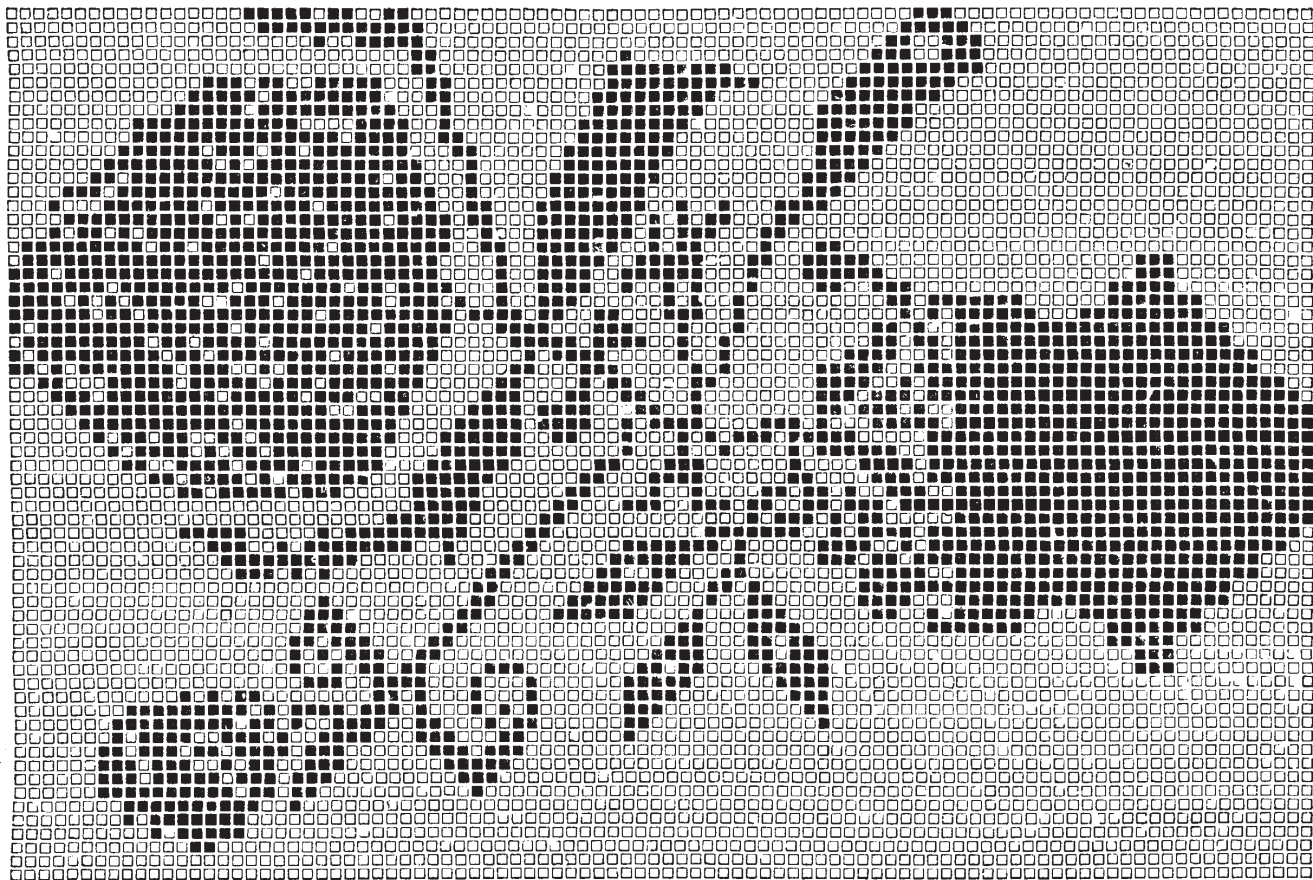
The total receipts of the Department amounted to Rs. 47,896-6-10, while the expenditure was Rs. 39,182, or higher by Rs. 5,931 than in 1895-96. The increase is reported to be due to the appointment of a new Inspector, increase in the salary of the Fourth Inspector, grant of exchange compensation and increased travelling allowance and contingent charges. The total balance to the credit of the Steam Boiler Inspection Fund at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 80,265-13-9, exclusive of a sum of Rs. 30,013-12-4, representing the purchase value of Government Promissory notes of the nominal value of Rs. 27,600.

The proposal made by Mr. Wood that Inspectors should be empowered to give short time certificates at proportionately reduced fees for reasons other than the bad condition of the boiler, would no doubt result in administrative convenience. But the provisions of section 10 (3) of the act operate to prevent the grant of such short time certificates, except with the consent of the owner of the boiler. Possibly if the fees were proportionately reduced as suggested, and the resulting advantages and convenience of receiving a short time certificate instead of one for a longer period pointed out to the owner of a boiler, he might in some instances agree to this course. If any separate report is made on this question, it should be accompanied by definite proposals as to the reduction of fees in such cases and as to any addition to, or amendment of, the Bombay Boiler Inspection Rules, published under Government Notification No. 1877, dated 21st May 1894, that may be entailed.

Collector should be requested to report whether the submission to himself of monthly diaries by the Inspectors would not ensure a better check.

The Collector should be requested to communicate the substance to the remarks made in paragraph 3 of his letter, in which Governmen concur, to Mr. Drewet, if he has not already done so. It is presumed that steps have been taken to act upon the suggestion made in paragraph 4.

The report submitted for the past year indicates that the work of the Department has been efficiently performed; and with the permanent increase of the Staff now sanctioned by the Secretary of State, His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that complaints of delay occurring in the inspection of boilers will be to a very large extent, if not entirely, removed.



Design No. 2.

It is suggested by the Collector in paragraph 7 of his letter, that District officers might be asked to exercise their powers under section 18 (1) of the Act with a view to testing steam pressures of boilers in their districts as they have opportunity. It is to be observed, however, that section 18 (1), only empowers Collectors or persons generally or specially authorized by them in that behalf to demand the production of certificates from owners of boilers, and that the Act does not apparently empower Collectors or other District officers to examine boilers at work, unless they have been appointed Inspectors under section 4, and act as such under section 15. With regard to the other suggestion, that District officers should watch the work and movements of Inspectors while in their charges and that the latter might be asked to submit a diary or short report to the Collector of the district or his divisional officers, the

Weaving Designs.

THE following are the particulars of the Weaving Designs given herewith :—

Design No. 1 ; 16's warp, 16's weft grey, 56's reed, 56 picks 50 p. c. size ; take plain picks and plain ends round the pattern as required.

Design No. 2 ; 16's warp, 16's weft grey, 56's reed, 60 picks, 50 p. c. size ; take plain picks and ends round the pattern as required.