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Assam Ba - 4





SELECTIONS

FROM THE

*Records of the Government of India,*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

For the year ending 30th June

1873.

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*Published by Authority.*

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CALCUTTA :

PRINTED AT THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT PRESS.

1874.



No. 117, dated Munnipoor, 17th October 1873.

From—Political Agent, Munnipoor,

To—Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Administration Report from this Agency for the year ending 30th June 1873.

2. As an explanation of its brevity I may state that I was absent on furlough in Europe during the whole of the year under consideration. I have therefore had to fall back for the most part upon letters and other correspondence for such information as I am able to convey.

3. The submission of the Report has been delayed as I felt constrained to ask Government before commencing it whether such a report would be necessary under the circumstances, for last year. Government decided however that it should be submitted as usual, and I now do so.





ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
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For the year ending 30th June  
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A generally descriptive and historical account of the State of Munnipoor having been given in my Report for the year 1868-69, it will be unnecessary to introduce any further descriptive detail here. I therefore omit any mention of this subject in this Report.

2. *Condition of roads, &c.*—As formerly reported, by far the most important road in connection with the State of Munnipoor is that lying in the hilly tract which separates the valley of Cachar from that of Munnipoor. As I had an opportunity of examining this portion of the road system of this State during the month of June last I am able to make some observations on its present condition.

In passing along it was very evident that nothing in the way of heavy repairs had been effected for many years, in fact since the road had been taken over by the Raja at his own request in 1865. Various excuses have from time to time been made by the Munnipooree authorities to account for this neglect, and it has been evident to me for years that nothing but a heavy pressure brought to bear upon the Raja will be of service in inducing him to undertake those repairs, the execution of which he voluntarily undertook. Some three years or more ago I applied for and received on account of road repairs a supply of tools and blasting powder; none of the powder has been used in levelling the road up to the present time.

By Treaty the Raja is bound to keep the road in sufficient repair to admit of laden bullocks being driven along it, its present condition does not fulfil this, and no laden animal could, I am certain, pass along it with safety.

As it happens, however, animals as bullocks or ponies are not used for carriage and never have been so far as I can ascertain, and bad as the road is it is quite passable for coolies and likely to remain so for some years even with the trifling repairs which the Munnipoorees annually execute on it.

I found then, in June last, the road comparatively free from jungle and fallen trees, and quite passable for foot passengers throughout its whole length. The bridges of cane which span the larger rivers, three in number, I found in better condition than I had ever before observed, and in spite of the forebodings of the officials with regard to the supply of cane for these bridges, there seems to be yet a plentiful stock. Three years ago there was some talk amongst them of procuring chains to pass over the river and form the mainstays of the swinging bridges, but the project collapsed, and cane is still used as formerly.

3. *Cold-weather repairs.*—Although not at all sanguine of success from my experience of former disappointments, I intend making every endeavour to rouse the authorities to take some action likely to be effective this cold weather. The very bad places requiring blasting and levelling are really few in number, and were the authorities at all willing to exert themselves the difficulties would be easily got over.

4. *Roads in the Munnipoor valley.* The roads in the valley have suffered from neglect in like manner to that in the hills. That portion in continuation of the hill road leading to the capital, and over which the largest portion of the traffic passes, is yearly getting into worse condition. The brick bridges which were in fair condition five years ago are now in a very dilapidated state, and several of them have been swept away: no attempt for the above period has been made at repairing them, and the half of the road nearest the hills has never been bridged (with brick) at all, although this was originally intended.

There are no other roads of any importance except one leading north-east to the salt wells; it is also in an unfinished state, and likely, I am afraid, to remain so.

5. *Health of the Munnipoor Valley.*—The usual healthy condition of the valley, which, except in rare seasons and on the occurrence of epidemics such as cholera, holds a high standard, was put an end to by the appearance of cholera in April 1872 of a more severe form as evidenced by the mortality than is usual, cholera having been observed by me hitherto to be decidedly a milder disease in Munnipoor than say in Bengal Proper.

As has been almost invariably observed the disease was introduced from British territory, the village of Luckipore, 14 miles from the frontier, being much infected. An attempt was made to close the road on hearing of the prevalence of the complaint, but it must have been too late as the epidemic broke out in the valley at once.

It is curious to note that none of the hill villages were affected, and this leads me to infer that the infection was brought by a single traveller or group of Bengali traders, who have no communication as a rule with the villagers on the way and camp on the road generally in some spot convenient to water. I have before observed the same phenomena, pointing to the introduction probably in the clothes of the cholera poison by traders from the British provinces.

The Native Doctor attached to the Agency informs me that the mortality was very great, probably he thinks some 400 people died; he cannot estimate the rate of mortality amongst those attacked, but knows

it was very high. The Raja was attacked but recovered; one of his Ranees, however, who was seized with the disease, died.

The epidemic slowly subsided and finally disappeared during the month of July.

6. *Vaccination.*—Very little has been done indeed in the way of vaccination during the year under survey. The absence of the Native Doctor during the cold season with the Political Agent and survey party accounts for the small number operated on: in all 30 Munnipoorees were vaccinated, of whom only 16 were successful, and no hill-men.

During the ensuing cold weather I hope to have a larger measure of success, especially among the hill population who occasionally suffer cruelly from epidemics of small-pox, but in spite of this are apathetic in a remarkable degree about protection from the disease.

No epidemics of any kind have occurred amongst the hill population during the year, and they have been generally very healthy.

7. *Temperature and rainfall during the year.*—I append two Tables showing the minimum and maximum temperature during the year, and the rainfall, which is above the average:—

Months.			Minimum.			Maximum.
July	1872	...	...	72·9	...	82·2
August	"	...	...	73·19	...	83·13
September	"	...	...	71·29	...	83·8
October	"	...	...	68·	...	80·7
November	"	...	...	62·17	...	77·4
December	"	...	...	45·2	...	74·4
January	1873	...	...	39·17	...	66·6
February	"	...	...	46·21	...	79·8
March	"	...	...	52·2	...	77·1
April	"	...	...	60·15	...	82·1
May	"	...	...	66·22	...	86·25
June	"	...	...	72·19	...	86·12

*Rainfall.*

July	1872	...	8·98	January 1873	...	0·50
August	"	...	5·38	February	"	0·56
September	"	...	5·12	March	"	3·0
October	"	...	5·14	April	"	3·76
November	"	...	None.	May	"	2·20
December	"	...	0·46	June	"	8·56
						Total
						... 51·42

8. *Earthquakes.*—Slight shocks of earthquake were felt on one or two occasions, but they were so unimportant as not to be noted. Their direction were from west to east, it is said, but this information can hardly be depended on.

No floods or droughts have visited the valley during the year.

9. *Cattle Epidemics.*—There have been no epidemics of disease amongst cattle in the valley since 1870-71 during which period a murrain swept away about two-thirds of the horned cattle and ponies; during the above period cultivation had to be carried on to a great extent by hand labour. Matters are now improving, but some years at the best must elapse before affairs assume their normal condition. Ponies fit for present use at present are so scarce that prices have doubled within the last two years. Two or three years hence will probably see prices again nearly at their former level, for rates once risen seldom under the most favourable circumstances resume their former standard.

10. *State of trade during the year.*—There is very little to be said on this head as trade varies but little from year to year, the supply of articles either for import or export remaining pretty stationary. The chief articles exported from the Munnipoor State are in live stock, elephants, ponies, and buffaloes. An excellent and unusual catch of elephants was made in October 1872, in the valley of the Limetak river, immediately at the base of the first range of hills to the west of the valley; in former times it was not unusual to catch a few elephants to the north-west of the valley, but of late years their appearance at all near the valley and in any numbers have been rare. In all 21 elephants were captured at the above place and most of them sold in Cachar.

For reasons already given the trade in ponies has been limited and will remain so for probably another year or two. On account of the cattle epidemic already alluded to there has been no exportation of buffaloes or other cattle whatever during the year. Rubber and elephant tusks, tea seed, wax, silk, and various kinds of coarse cloths are exported. I have not been able to ascertain the value of the trade between Munnipoor and Bengal, or *vice versa*, for 1872-73, the Munnipooree authorities being averse to giving particulars.

11. *Imports to Munnipoor.*—The following is a list of the principal articles of import as furnished by the authorities:—Long cloths, American cloths, muslins, chintz, serges, woollen cloths, and flannel, broken brass pots (for re-manufacture into the small coin called “sel,” &c.), cocoa-nuts, betel and pân, dried-fish, looking-glasses, soap, sandal wood, cutlery, &c. The importation of fire-arms, gunpowder, or the materials for its manufacture are forbidden by the State.

12. *Duties, &c., levied.*—There is no change reported on former years in the amount of duties levied on imports or exports. As in the case of the gross proceeds of trade for the year the nature of the duties levied, although pretty generally known as to the more valuable articles, is not complete, information being withheld.

13. *Monopolies and trade restrictions.*—From time to time notice has been taken by the Political Agent for the time being to the increasing tendency of the Raja to monopolize trade both import and export, either by retaining it in his own hands, or by farming out the exclusive right to deal in sundry articles to officials. The articles of export ostensibly monopolized are India rubber, tea-seed, and ivory amongst exports, and betel-nut amongst imports. I have drawn the attention of the Maharaja and the authorities to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty

of 1833, and pointed out to them that a monopoly of any articles of trade is expressly forbidden by their provisions. In the event of any merchant being desirous of trading in the articles mentioned above, it would necessitate a further communication on the subject should the impediments be maintained. No complaints of the kind have however up to this time been made to me. Tea-seed which is found plentifully in the hilly tracts north-east of the Munnipoor Valley is eagerly sought for by the Tea Planters of the Cachar and Sylhet Districts and commands a good price. Very little India rubber or ivory is exported.

As regards restrictions upon traders these press more heavily upon the Munnipooree than the Bengali or other western traders. Before any Munnipooree can leave the country on whatever errand he must give security for his return to the amount of rupees eighty (80), an enormous sum for such a poor country; he must also definitely state a time for his return. Should he overstay this period by even a single day a fine of Rupees 5 is inflicted, half of which goes to the officer who grants the passes (without which no one can enter or leave the country), the other half to the State. Traders from the west pay a small fee amounting to about one anna on entering, and twelve annas on leaving the country, besides having to run the gauntlet of the various thannahs on the road, the officials of which they have to bribe, but at what rate is uncertain.

Notwithstanding all this, complaints are remarkably few, and it is probable that this irregular mode of realizing dues commends itself to the native mind from its uncertainty leaving room for evasion and bargaining which would not obtain under a more regular *regime*.

One complaint has been frequently brought to my notice; it is the delay made by the pass officer in granting passes, this doubtless being to increase his fees. I have brought this to the notice of the authorities and they promise immediate amendment and punishment should complaints again occur. The Maharaja writes thus on the subject:—"I have warned the Mohurdur previously. In case of any future complaint he will meet with severe punishment."

14. *Trade with Burmah*.—Trade with Burmah has been in a generally unsatisfactory state for the last three years. On the occasion of the outbreak of cattle disease three years ago the trade in cattle, buffaloes, and ponies was completely stopped, and this prohibition continues up to the present time. Remonstrances made to the Burmese authorities, or calls for explanation as to the reasons for such restrictions have simply produced flat denials as to their existence.

Although cattle, &c., trade appears to be forbidden the Munnipoorees inform me that trade is freely allowed in other articles as gold, silver, wax, Burmese boxes, &c. They profess themselves unable to give any reason whatever for the prohibition in the case of cattle, &c. The Munnipoorees are allowed to trade and introduce into Burmah any articles of merchandize with the exception of cattle and ponies. It might be supposed that the introduction of cattle from Munnipoor would be forbidden during the time of the epidemic, though not from Burmah: this cause has however long ceased while the prohibition there is no doubt still continues. The trade in ponies for conveyance to the

British Provinces, which was a marked feature in the valley and on the road every cold season, could scarcely have abruptly ceased, as it has, unless prohibited.

15. *Trade with the hill tribes*.—There is, as might be expected, not much trade carried on between the hill population around Munnipoor and the valley itself, such articles as cotton, wood-dyes, coarse cloth made from the tree bark, &c., are bartered by the Nagas and Kookies. Occasionally Nagas from the Angamee country pass through the valley on their way to Cachar for purposes of trade. Protection and encouragement is always given by the Political Agent to these parties, as it is of the utmost importance to cultivate the trading spirit amongst those wild tribes as furnishing a security for their good behaviour. Unfortunately it is only a few of them that seem to take to trading, and the unsettled state of the country to the north, with the existence of clan feuds, renders journeying in these parts anything but safe.

During last cold weather a small trade seems to have sprung up in ponies purchased in Munnipoor by the Angamees for conveyance to Assam and for which Captain Butler, Political Agent, Naga Hills, states, in his annual report dated 25th April 1872, they obtained remunerative prices. At the same time Captain Butler complains of the obstructions thrown in the way of these traders by the Munnipooree authorities and the probable failure of the trade unless the objections of the above can be got over. On this Government called upon my predecessor, Colonel Thomson, for a report on the subject, which was submitted under date 21st September 1872. Although agreeing generally that there had been at least an unwillingness to afford encouragement to traders taking away ponies to Assam he concludes his report as follows:—

“I enclose a copy of the Maharaja’s letter in reply to mine, calling on him for the report, from which you will perceive that he says there will be no obstruction for the future. It seems to me that Captain Butler has been rather premature in making his report, for there has been no opportunity of judging whether ponies would not have been allowed to leave the country this cold season as they did last, for since last March the country has been (I am given to understand) impassable for pony traffic, there being no made road in that direction.”

During the ensuing cold weather, should any traders from Assam or the intervening hills come here for the purpose of purchasing ponies or other articles, I can only repeat that so far as I am concerned they will have afforded them every security and encouragement that I can command.

The few remarks I have to make regarding the encouragement and developement of trade with the Looshais and other tribes to the south will be more appropriately given when discussing the present and probable future relations of these tribes with the Munnipoor State.

16. *Crops*.—The prospects of an unusually good crop of rice, &c., are highly favorable in the valley, and grain will be cheaper probably than it has been for some years past. The area under cultivation has been extended somewhat during the year.

17. *Relations with the hill tribes.*—The independent tribes to the south of the Munnipoor State with which it is brought into relation are the Eastern Looshais and the Sooties or Kamhow Kookies lying immediately to the east of the Looshais and in contact with them. With regard to the Looshais it is to be hoped that the success of the late expedition against them will ensure peace amongst them for many years to come. I am the more inclined to think that this will be the case, as one of their greatest boasts previous to the entrance of troops into their country was, that it could not be done, and that any body of men entering the country with a hostile intent would never return. This idea has been somewhat rudely overthrown, and there is no doubt that the Looshais have been powerfully impressed by the comparative ease with which their country was invaded.

Previous to the withdrawal of the Munnipoor troops from the outpost of Cheebo, where they were stationed during the expedition, two Chiefs of some note and nine others entered into an engagement with the Munnipooree authorities to keep the peace with Munnipoor for the future. Several of the Chiefs afterwards visited the Munnipoor capital and these before the Maharaja, the Political Agent, and officials renewed their engagement, taking the oaths usual to the tribe and consenting to the following Treaty, which was explained to them:—

#### TREATY.

We, the undersigned, *viz.* Damhoom, Raja of Tikung, on the part of Poiboi; Daloom, Muntri on the part of Lenkoom; Lallkoop, Raja of Laireek; Konga, Raja of Puchoochi; and Bolo, Muntri of Dalkoom, hereby swear according to our custom that mutual friendship shall always be maintained by us towards the British Government and the Maharaja of Munnipoor, and we will faithfully abide by the following Articles of Treaty with the Maharaja:—

#### ARTICLE I.

We engage never again to be guilty of acts of aggression towards the subjects of the aforesaid powers, and to renounce making human sacrifices for the obsequies of our Chiefs.

#### ARTICLE II.

We engage to hold no communication whatever of a designing nature with any tribes hostile to the aforesaid powers, and we promise to give due notice of any inimical intentions on their part that may come to our knowledge.

#### ARTICLE III.

We engage to give free passage through our country to any forces which the aforesaid powers may deem necessary to send through it, to reach other tribes, and we promise to give any assistance to such forces as we may be called upon to render.

## ARTICLE IV.

We promise to afford support and encouragement to traders from British and Munnipoor Territories.

## ARTICLE V.

The Maharaja of Munnipoor on his part promises to forgive all acts of aggressions against his subjects committed by us previous to this treaty conditionally that none of his subjects who are in captivity shall be detained against their will.

## ARTICLE VI.

The Maharaja further promises to support us if unjustly attacked by any of our neighbouring tribes, and in such case to assist us in recovering any of our people who may be carried into captivity.

## ARTICLE VII.

The Maharaja also promises, in event of drought or famine, to assist us with food, also to exact no dues whatever for a period of five years from merchants or traders going to and coming from our country.

Since the above occurrence these conditions have been faithfully observed and a certain amount of trade intercourse has been carried on between the Looshai country and Munnipoor. Inhabitants of the valley have also visited the Looshai country without molestation.

During the ensuing cold weather it is expected that intercourse will be resumed, and every attempt will be made to encourage communication and trade, although this encouragement of trade can only be limited from the few articles in the possession of the tribe likely to find a sale here and *vice versa*. Free communication is of the greatest importance; should this exist there will be less fear of disturbances in the future. A most important point with reference to this tribe is the getting them, if possible, not only to communicate freely with Munnipoor, but to settle near the valley; there is a large tract of land lying between the Looshai country and the inhabited portions of the Munnipoor hills well fitted for their mode of cultivation, and every encouragement should, and I believe will, be given by Munnipoor to any wish of the tribe to occupy the ground.

A number of both Looshais and Sooties or Kamhows did settle close to the Munnipoor valley near Moirung to the south at and shortly after the time of the Looshai expedition: these settlers seem, from all I hear, to have permanently established themselves in villages and will probably remain as an evidence that they are kindly treated. I may mention that but lately, some time in June last, another extensive emigration from the Looshai country took place, five villages arriving in all. It is reported that these people numbered 1,250: these have all been settled and supplied with seed, &c., for their rice crop by the Maharaja; they are likely to settle permanently. The number of former refugees and settlers is given by General Nuthall, the then Political Agent, at 649 released captives and 2,112 refugees and settlers chiefly from the Looshai country.



This is an encouraging result if the policy of encouraging the settlement by outside tribes of unoccupied lands in Munnipoor territory be a sound one, which I believe it to be, and there is a prospect of a still further increase to their number in the future.

The nearer to the Munnipoor valley the Looshais settle I am convinced they will be the less dangerous. The Munnipooree authorities agree with me on this point. I will however be, I hope, in a position to speak more authoritatively on matters connected with the Looshai tribe when I have had, as I hope to have, an opportunity of personally communicating with them should they visit the valley this ensuing cold weather as they did formerly.

18. *The Sootie or Kamhow tribe of Kookies.*—This tribe of Kookies, who resemble the Looshais much in appearance and language although a finer race physically, inhabit the hilly country lying to the east of the Looshai country and bordering on the Burmese frontier. The Munnipoorees consider this tribe as a much more formidable one than the Looshai; they are more courageous and are even better provided with fire-arms (said to be procured through Burmah), lying as this tribe does in closer relation to Burmah than Munnipoor it would be expected that the Burmese Government would exercise some control over them: this is not the case however apparently, as the frontier Burmese authorities generally repudiate the idea of their being under Burmese control although they lie unmistakeably to the eastward of the Munnipoor boundary.

Little is known about this tribe, but enough to make them a cause of anxiety and watchfulness on the part of Munnipoor. The Looshai tribe hold them in great dread and are decidedly falling back before them.

During the progress of the Looshai expedition, while the Munnipoor Contingent were stationed at Cheeboo, a large number of Kamhows were (57 in number) intercepted and made prisoners by the force while in the act of carrying off captives from the Looshai country. These prisoners, by the judicious efforts of Colonel Thomson, late Officiating Political Agent, have been gradually exchanged for Munnipoor subjects carried off in raids made at various times on Munnipoor hill territory by the Kamhows. These proceedings have been fully reported from time to time to Government and the action taken by Colonel Thomson approved. At present there are still eight prisoners in the hands of the Munnipoorees, and in continuation of the policy so successfully carried out by Colonel Thomson I propose communicating with the Kamhows as soon as communication is again open, and if possible getting these prisoners exchanged for Munnipooree captives, several of whom, I understand, are still detained by that tribe.

I found shortly after my arrival here that these Kamhow prisoners were ironed, though not heavily. I at once pointed out to the authorities that they ought not to be treated like ordinary criminals, and suggested that their security could be amply provided for otherwise than by putting them in irons: these were at once removed. The health and general condition of these prisoners could not be better.

Altogether I am in hopes that during the next cold season matters will be settled satisfactorily with this tribe and peace secured with them for some considerable time at least.

19. *Nagas to the North or Assam boundary.*—There is nothing new to report regarding these tribes. No raids or disturbances of any consequence appear to have taken place in that direction during the year, and although the tribes are somewhat unsettled on account of recent changes in the boundary line between Munnipoor and Assam, they are generally in a peaceable condition, and coming as regards those formidable tribes lying north of the boundary much more under control since the establishment of the Naga Hills division.

20. *Boundary and Survey Operations.*—The continuation of the settlement of a boundary line between Assam and Munnipoor during the last cold weather gave rise to an unexpected amount of opposition on the part of the Munnipoor Government and its advisers, who were exceedingly averse to any further prolongation of a boundary line to the east of that part of the Naga Hills occupied by the Naga Hills division: this opposition became so formidable that operations had to be suspended and a period of nearly two months was occupied in trying to persuade the Maharaja to lend his co-operation to the carrying out of the survey. The whole of the proceedings have been fully reported by Colonel Thomson to Government and eventually on peremptory orders being received from it the survey was allowed to be continued. Eventually matters ended by the Maharaja being censured by Government (letter No. 1087P. of date 29th May 1873), and Major Roma Sing, one of the obstructive officials, being punished. It fell to me to convey the censure of Government to the Maharaja which was done effectually shortly after I rejoined; the Major was also suspended at my desire for three months.

During last cold season the furthest point east on the watershed actually surveyed and fixed is reported by Colonel Thomson to be latitude 25°6'13," Longitude 94°36'40".

21. *A guard sanctioned for the Agency.*—Consequent upon the attitude of the Raja and his officials during last cold weather, in relation to the survey of the boundary between Assam and Munnipoor, it was considered inexpedient that the Political Agent should be dependent on the Raja for his personal escort, and in letter No. 1091P. of date, Simla, 29th May 1873, to the Officiating Political Agent, it was intimated that arrangements would be at once made for the permanent detachment of half a Company of Sepoys from the regiment at Cachar to be relieved at intervals. This detachment arrived in the latter end of June last, and on their arrival the Munnipooree guard was at once removed. The Raja was anxious to have a few Munnipooree Sepoys retained, but this was at once refused.

I consider the presence of this guard as a very great improvement upon the former system, by which the Political Agent could be practically cut off, whenever the Munnipoorees wished it, from communication with any one wishing to see him; that this was frequently done there is ample proof. As a further evidence of the advisability of having a guard here entirely independent of Munnipooree control, I may add that the authorities look upon its presence with evident dislike.

22. *Internal affairs of the country.*—During the year under review there are no changes in the administration of the country by the present

Maharaja which call for lengthened remark. The narrow exclusive system formerly described still continues and no improvement except under pressure is to be looked for. It has struck me since my return that if there is any change it is not for the better; discouragement of trade and traders is more apparent. This however from no actual desire to discourage trade, but from the action of the authorities, so often and so vainly remonstrated against, of putting fresh burdens on traders yearly, and this in an irregular manner: this short-sighted policy of course tends to the restriction of trade in a degree corresponding with the burdens imposed. With all the abuses however which exist, the people are tolerably comfortable, and an actually destitute person or a case of hardship and suffering from starvation I have never seen or heard of. Beggars are never seen about the bazaars or public roads, and I doubt if they exist, at least in the form we are accustomed to see them in other countries.

23. *State of the Raja's Army, &c.*—The constitution of the irregular Militialike force which forms the army of Munnipoor has been described in the Annual Report for 1868-69, page 53. From the returns given monthly it would appear that the numbers have not increased, but decreased, the total number liable for duty being given in the above as 5,400 men, the present number in recent returns being about 5,200.

The sepoys are partly armed with percussion and partly with flint muskets, the former amounting to about 2,500 stand, most, if not all, in good condition. The flint muskets amount to about 1,970 stand, and are generally unserviceable and unfit for use.

24. *Education.*—The subject of education in this small State has not been much attended to until recently, and the Munnipoorees are very apathetic in the matter. A beginning was however made in the shape of a school for boys which was established by General Nuthall in February 1872, and which was aided by a grant of books from the Bengal Government. I had heard somewhat unfavorable accounts of the success of this attempt and paid a visit to the school without more than half a day's notice. I found it well attended and tested a number of the boys picked out by myself on their knowledge of reading and writing; they all showed that they were making good progress. The following are the numbers attending on the morning of my visit:—

Number in the Register	...	...	111
Attendance	...	...	87
Sick	...	...	17
Absent	...	...	7
—			111

The number of classes is five and teachers four. The boys are taught Bengali and to translate from Munnipooree into Bengalee and *vice versa*. The most of the children are taught free; some few whose parents can afford it pay a small fee of two annas a month.

25. *Agency Staff.*—There are no changes to report with the exception that the entertainment of three interpreters has been sanctioned,

one for Munnipooree, one for the Kookie, the other for the Naga language. The Munnipooree Interpreter has been engaged, but the others have not yet been so, as I consider it of importance to have men as interpreters who are not under the influence of the authorities, and to procure such is a matter of some difficulty, but during next cold weather I have no doubt the right men will be procured and entertained.

26. I have in conclusion to report favourably on the conduct of all the subordinates of the Agency for the year.



SELECTIONS

FROM THE

*Records of the Government of India,*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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N<sup>o</sup>. CXVIII.

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ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

For the year ending 30th June

1873-74.

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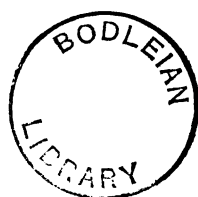
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ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
OF THE  
MUNNIPOOR AGENCY  
For the year ending 30th June  
1873-74.

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*Introductory.*—In accordance with the orders of Government as embodied in the Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department, dated Simla, 12th May 1873, this Report has been framed as much as possible after the form and instructions therein conveyed.

A general description of the Native State of Munnipoor, which is applicable almost in its entirety to the year under consideration, will be found in the following publications :—

“Annual Report of the Munnipoor Political Agency for 1868-69, No. 78 of Selections Records, Government of India, Foreign Department,” and “Statistical Account of the Native State of Munnipoor, 1873.” Where changes of any kind have taken place these will be noted under the various heads.

*Frontier affairs and relations with frontier tribes.*—The State of Munnipoor is brought into immediate territorial relation with the following States and tribes.

The British Government, whose boundary line forms the western frontier of the State, and is continuous with the district of Cachar-Burmah, that part of it forming the Kubbo Valley on the east; south, the Kookie tribes Loosai and Sootie; north, the Angami and other allied tribes; and north-east, various tribes of Nagas, visited for the first time by the survey party under Captain Butler last cold season.

*Trade with Burmah.*—A good deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed by the Munnipoori authorities at the continued stoppage of trade in ponies and buffaloes between Burmah and Munnipoor, which acts harshly on the Burmese themselves, as well as on traders from Munnipoor and British territory.

The unsatisfactory nature of the trade relations between Munnipoor, Cachar, and Burmah was alluded to in page 5 of last year's Annual Report. The fact of trade in ponies, &c., having been completely stopped was brought prominently to the notice of Colonel

Thomson, my predecessor, during a visit which he paid to the Burmese frontier in November 1872. Affairs are in the same position as described by Colonel Thomson, that is all trade in ponies and buffaloes has entirely ceased up to the present time.

In order to satisfy myself thoroughly as to the existence of this stoppage of trade, although the fact of no ponies or buffaloes arriving in the country was pretty conclusive, I arranged with a Munnipoori, who had been a resident in Burmah for 25 years, to take a letter and money to the Woon of Kendat, in which letter I stated that not finding a pony up to my weight in Munnipoor (which was the case), I would feel obliged by his allowing the bearer of the letter to purchase one for me. At Tummo my messenger told the Poongree of that place that he was desirous of purchasing a pony for me. The Poongree stated that permission could not be given for purchasing ponies, as strict orders had been issued that no ponies or buffaloes were to be exported to Munnipoor. My messenger, continuing his narrative, stated that he would then go on to Kendat, but was told that the Woon of that place could not give permission either. In Kendat he presented my letter to the Woon, who on reading it told him to remain 25 days as sanction for the purchase of ponies would have to be obtained from the Mengyee at Mandalay. He remained one month in Kendat without hearing anything further, and anxious to have the matter settled he applied for and obtained permission and a pass to enable him to go on to Mandalay, he, when within six days of the capital, was caught up by men from Kendat, who informed him that the necessary permission had arrived, he then returned. He informs me that after the arrival of the permit he might have purchased hundreds of ponies, the people were so anxious to get rid of them. On asking him what his ideas were on the stoppage of trade, and whether he thought the King of Burmah had actually issued such orders in suppression of the former open trade or not, he replied that the King might not be aware of it, the orders emanating from the Mengyee or Minister at Mandalay; the reason for the stoppage he could not divine. Although the result of the above experiment was I consider conclusive, I determined to try another by making a similar application to the semi-independent Raja of Sumjok, north of the Kubbo Valley, feeling sure that from the friendly terms we had hitherto been on, he would make an effort to meet my wishes; however the same reply was received from him, this time direct, to the same effect, *viz.*, that permission had first to be obtained from Mandalay, which had been asked for. Some three or four months have now elapsed since my first application, and nothing further has been heard of the matter.

Burmese traders it may be added when questioned on the subject always affirm that the prohibition to trade in ponies and buffaloes is in consequence of a distinct order from Mandalay.

From this it will be clearly seen that there is a distinct prohibition on trading in ponies and cattle, from whom emanating is uncertain; the penalty for a contravention of the prohibition being I am informed a fine of one hundred rupees for each offence.

*Accusations of theft of ponies and cattle.*—This leads me to speak of what very naturally flows from the above stoppage of trade. Number of complaints of cattle smuggling and stealing being lodged by the Burmese against Munnipoori and hill-people residing near the Burmese frontier,

these cases on investigation have never led to anything conclusive, the Burmese having always failed to identify the cattle alleged to have been stolen. The Munnipoori authorities very plausibly maintain that there is no truth whatever in nine out of ten of these alleged thefts. The Burmese are anxious to get rid of their ponies and cattle at every available opportunity, and the Munnipooris are just as anxious to obtain them, hence surreptitious sales, which when followed by detection leads the guilty party to at once bring forth an accusation of theft to save the penalty of a fine, hence also the want of success in identifying the alleged stolen property.

I have no doubt that the re-opening of trade would almost entirely cause these complaints to cease.

*Case of alleged murder or manslaughter of a Munnipoori subject by Burmese.*—The case now to be mentioned occurred some time about the beginning of December last, and the particulars briefly are as follows: The Munnipooris state that being about to construct a new temple in Munnipoor they sent two men, subjects of Munnipoor, to the officer of the Ngatsangah Thannah in Burmese territory with a letter regarding timber for building, these two men returned the same evening to the Munnipoori Thannah of Moreh, and when within a short distance of the Thannah two shots were suddenly fired from behind some trees on the roadside, one man named Mykhore, a Kookie, was shot through the thigh, the other was unhurt. The wounded man was taken to the Munnipoori Thannah, where he shortly afterwards died. The Munnipoori authorities maintain that these men were on *bona fide* business, and duly reported themselves at the Burmese Thannah. The Burmese on the other hand deny that any letter was delivered, and contend that these two men were cattle thieves, and say also that they had with them ropes and a bag used in leading off animals. There is only one point of agreement on both sides in the account given, *viz.*, that a man was shot by the Burmese, who afterwards died; this case will have to be referred to Mandalay: but there is one point on which I am satisfied, that is that the Burmese acted hastily, as these men could have been easily arrested. They, the Burmese, would appear now to think so themselves, as they have since offered compensation to the deceased man's family; this has however been declined by the Munnipooris.

*Kidnapping of Munnipoor subjects by Sootie Kookies, and sale of them to Burmese subjects.*—In June last two hillmen were brought before me by the Munnipooris, who asserted that they had escaped from Burmese territory, where they had been sold as slaves by the Sootie or Kamhow Kookies, by whom they had been taken captive in a raid. Their statements taken by me were as follows:—

Hanghey, a villager of Chantheng in Munnipoor territory, which was recently destroyed by Kamhow Kookies, states:—In February last our village was attacked by Kamhow Kookies, headed by the Chiefs Yatol and Kooding, they numbered about two hundred men. Twelve of our number were killed, and fifty-six were carried off, the village being fired. I was one of the captives, and was kept in close confinement with forty others in Kooding's village. I was put aside one day to be taken away and sold, but my wife and daughter (who are still captives) cried so much that I was not taken till four or five days afterwards. I was taken a three days' journey, and there sold in a Burmese town named

Kulleh for Rupees 25 in cash, and a Burmese cloth called Tendai. I was nearly two months in Kulleh, and finding an opportunity fled to Munnipoor, accompanied by a man named Chowkhay, who was sold with me.

Chowkhay states :—I was taken with seven others to Yatol's village and confined there. After being there one month I was taken to Kulleh and sold, a gong only being given for me. I was in Kulleh two months, and then escaped with Hanghey.

*Loosai Kookie affairs.*—With regard to the Loosai Kookie tribes there is but little to communicate : it is satisfactory to note that peace has still continued to be preserved, no attempts at raiding having been made. The Loosai tribe, however, have assumed a sullen and dogged manner, and have not fulfilled the hope expressed in last year's report, that free communication for trade purposes would obtain during last cold weather.

*Proposed visit of a Loosai Chief and Munnipoori traders to the Loosai country.*—In October last it was brought to my notice that several Loosais had been seen in the bazaar, and that the somewhat important Chief, Damboom, was also in the capital. I immediately sent for the Munnipoori official, whose duty it was to have brought those men before me, and found that they had left as a deputation for the Loosai country together with some Munnipoori traders. No satisfactory explanation having been given why these men had not been brought before me, I wrote to the Maharaja and requested that Damboom might be at once recalled and a clear statement given of the aims and objects of the deputation.

The Maharaja sent for Damboom, explaining at the same time that the present visit which was meant for the Chief Poiboi was mainly to ascertain what frame of mind he was in. The Munnipooris accompanying the Loosais, twelve in number, were to try and open out trade for the mutual benefit of both parties. No explanation of any weight was ever given as to why, contrary to rule and usual custom, the Loosais were not presented to me.

*Arrival of Damboom.*—On the arrival of Damboom, who had only gone as far as his village about two days' journey from the capital, I had an interview with him, and instructed him fully as to what he was to note, and also told him to assure the Loosai Chiefs that Munnipoor desired to remain on friendly terms with the Loosai people, and desired to encourage trade and communication between the two countries. He was also desired to ascertain whether Poiboi and the other influential Chiefs would like a visit from the Political Agent, and in that event what sort of reception he was likely to meet with. Damboom and his followers were then dismissed with some small presents.

*Damboom detained in the Loosai country.*—Unfortunately on the return of the Munnipooris in about three months from the Loosai country it was found that Damboom had been detained in the Loosai country by the Chief Poiboi ; he has not since been heard of, and nothing is known regarding him further than what is communicated in the statement of Amoo, Munnipoori Subadar, which I now give.

*Statement of Amoo, Munnipoori Subadar.*—"About three months ago I left this accompanied by twelve Munnipooris and ten Kookies of

Oolthung's clan, and proceeded to the village of Poiboi's mother, called Sychul. On the second day of my stay there, Laloom (one of Poiboi's brothers) and his followers about fifty in number arrived. Laloom said that he was going to attack Kamhow (assisted by Poi Kookies, Shendoos), but as their spies were met on the way he had given up the attempt and come back for the present. On the fifth day Poiboi, Dalkhoom, and Lenkom arrived, and asked me the reason of my coming there. I replied that our object is to open trade. They said very good. Poiboi then enquired of me whether the Saheb and the Maharaja were going to invade Kamhow's country this year. I replied that I could not say. Poiboi then said to me the Kamhows have destroyed a village of the Pois, the latter have asked us to join with them and attack the former. Although we expressed our inability to do so this year, the Pois are still persisting, and we are going to invade Kamhow.

Damboom was living in Sychul (Poiboi's mother's village) with his wife. Poiboi's mother wanted to keep him there, but Poiboi refused, and carried him to his village called Shasong. Poiboi was displeased with Damboom, saying that he assisted the villagers of Nailei in their flight to Munnipoor. Damboom would have been killed, but Poiboi hearing that the Maharaja and the Saheb would be angry desisted from the act.

Poiboi has also expressed his displeasure with the Chief of Lowsow, who is now living near Moirang, stating that he had been to Kamhow's country and informed them of our present state of affairs. If the Maharaja will not send him away, I will anyhow get that Chief killed."

The Subadar gives it as his opinion that the Loosais have been much crippled in their resources by the recent Loosai Expedition, also that they are far from being well disposed towards either the British or Munnipoor Governments, and will probably give trouble again when they recover strength. He also stated that although it would probably be a safe move to enter the country as far as danger to life was concerned, Poiboi from what he heard was averse to having any interview with the Political Agent. Of course while these savages are in this temper it would be useless to attempt any visit, even if such should be sanctioned.

The position of isolation assumed by the eastern Loosais is very unfavorable for obtaining correct information regarding their sentiments and doings, and nothing further has been heard of or from them since the above party returned.

*The Sootie or Kamhow Kookies.*—I regret to have to report unfavorably with regard to prospects of peace with this tribe as they have recently made several unprovoked attacks on villages situated in Munnipoor hill territory, murdering some of the inhabitants, and carrying off those spared into captivity. With a view of endeavouring to carry out the expectations expressed in the latter part of paragraph 18 of last year's Report, one of the Kamhow prisoners detained here was released with a view of allowing him to return to his country, and with instructions to the effect that the Munnipoor authorities were anxious for a meeting with the Kamhows to arrange terms of peace and restoration of prisoners, but for some reason unknown, nothing further has been heard of the released man, and raiding as above noted has again been resumed.

*Munnipooris propose attacking Kamhows.*—The Munnipoori officials despairing of effecting anything by negotiation, even were such possible,

are anxious to be allowed to send an expedition into the Sootie country to exact reprisals. I have asked them to submit a plan of what they propose doing before committing myself to any opinion; my idea however is that something by way of punishment for these wanton raids is imperatively called for, and should the Munnipooris convince me that they will not attempt more than they are certainly able to carry out without fear of a repulse, I shall certainly consider it to be my duty to recommend strongly that they be allowed to send an expedition into that country. I hope to be able to report further on this subject shortly.

*Sootie prisoners.*—The eight Sootie prisoners last year in the hands of the Munnipooris have been reduced to five, one having died, one escaped, and one as above narrated sent into the Sootie country as a messenger. Under the circumstances of these renewed raids the rest are still detained in custody.

*Angami and other Naga tribes to the north.*—The tribes to the north of Munnipoor, chiefly consisting of Angami Nagas, have during the year made several raids on Nagas on the Munnipoor side of the border.

*Attack by British Nagas on a village in Munnipoor hill territory.*—The first and most serious of these occurred at the beginning of last cold weather, and was made by the inhabitants of Papalongmai or Konomah and Mozoma with another smaller village not yet satisfactorily identified, all situated in British territory on the Munnipoor Naga village of Phweelong or Togwemah. The following account is from my official report, and has been tested carefully as to its correctness :—

“The Major states that the village was burned to the ground and everything of value carried off; the loss of life was one man and one woman killed. After remaining near the village for three days the attacking party took their departure without making any further disturbance; they had, it is said, numbers of fire-arms with them, and the above two victims were killed by gun-shot wounds.

“As the above two villages are in your jurisdiction, may I beg the favor of your making such enquiry into the matter as you may think necessary with a view of ascertaining the truth or otherwise of the report.”

The most important point relative to this raid is the unusual proceeding of firing and looting the village, this removes this raid out of the common run of such occurrences, and demands some special remedy, the nature of which I have given an opinion on in the above report, but which it is unnecessary to reproduce here.

*Disturbances on the frontier near the Maow or Sopvomah Naga country.*—The nature of the only other case will be ascertained from the following letter addressed to the Officiating Political Agent, Naga Hills, No. 34, of date 5th May 1874, which I give in full :—

“I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 78L., dated 22nd April 1874, brought by two constables, who arrived here four days ago.

“2. Before the receipt of your letter it had been reported to me that attacks had been made upon Nagas in Munnipoor territory by villagers on the British side, and I have since then been making inquiries into the matter.

" 3. With reference to your first paragraph, it may be well to state what the object was in placing Munnipoori sepoy in the Sopvumah or Maow villages, their number, and what number, and why muskets were issued to certain of these villagers. Before the survey expedition under Captain Butler set out last cold weather he considered it advisable that two small reserves of Police and Munnipoori sepoy should be posted in the hills, one at Kohima, the other of Munnipooris at some convenient point in the Maow country, this was accordingly done, and fifty men from Munnipoor were established in a convenient position. During the absence of the expedition several raids on a trifling scale took place between the villages at present concerned, from what cause, except some long pent-up feud, is unknown. On representations from the Munnipoori authorities and by my consent they were permitted to retain the sepoy in the Maow villages as a protective measure until it could be seen that they might be safely removed, at the same time thirty villagers were armed and placed strictly under the orders of the Native officer commanding the guard.

" 4. About two weeks ago the guard was reduced to twenty men, it being considered that although several trifling disturbances had taken place, matters would quiet down, however almost immediately after the withdrawal of the men an attack was made upon the Maow villages by Visweemah or Tangal and other villages near it. The attack is thus described in their own words by my informants, the Maow villagers, who only arrived here four days ago:—

" ' Nine days ago the villagers of Tangal (Visweemah) again came and cried out that we have nine hundred armed men with us, we will destroy your villages. When they approached near we went out, and a fight took place, in which two of our men were killed. They fired several times, but on hearing the bugle of the Munnipoori Thannah sepoy they retired.

" ' They also state that they cannot carry on their cultivation from fear of the inhabitants of the above and other neighbouring villages.'

" 5. Although by no means inclined to accept the statements of either the Munnipooris or Nagas as absolutely true, I am inclined to believe from the most careful enquiries that all the encounters that have taken place lately between the villagers on either side of the boundary line have occurred on the Munnipoori side of that boundary. Should this be afterwards shown to be correct, it will prove conclusively that the attacks have been made from the British side, and that the Munnipooris have carried out the orders which I carefully impressed on them—to act purely on the defensive.

\* \* \* \* \*

" 6. With regard to the propriety of arming the Nagas, a step which I agreed to with extreme reluctance, it must be borne in mind that of recent years the Nagas in British territory have been accumulating fire-arms in numbers, and now use them in their raids. In the attack by the villagers of Mozomah on the village of Phweelong or Togwemah in Munnipoor territory fire-arms were used (see my letter No. 142, dated 27th December 1873), and in the most recent raid on the Maow villages it is said that the attacking force had with them some 30 muskets which

they used with the effect of killing one man. I would thus be incurring a very serious responsibility were I to remove the Munnipoori guard and disarm the villagers, as this course would at the present time be, I am convinced, followed by an attack on the villages, and (from the superiority of the attacking force in the way of fire-arms) great disaster.

"7. I think I may confidently state that the Munnipooris have no intention of fomenting disturbance on the Naga frontier with ulterior views, they have been too fully assured of the consequences of such a proceeding to follow out such a suicidal policy, however I have again impressed them most carefully as to the absolute necessity of strictly carrying out a defensive policy, and that alone; should they neglect this they will undoubtedly suffer.

"8. Captain Butler and myself have had frequent conversations on the subject of the relations existing between Government and the tribes under the jurisdiction of the Naga Hills Division, and we have been quite unanimous in thinking that the time has now come when these internal feuds should be put down with a strong hand. At present, if I understand Captain Butler rightly, the Angami and other Nagas in the division pay no revenue to Government, and are permitted to raid amongst themselves and on the Munnipoor boundary with impunity.

"9. I regret that the lateness of the season will prevent our meeting in the disturbed district, but trust that for the present hostilities may cease, and that some amicable understanding may be come to next cold season.

*Effect of placing a guard near the boundary line.*—Whether the placing of a protective guard on the Munnipoor side of the boundary line is wholly or partly responsible or not there is no doubt that never before has communication between Assam and Munnipoor been so apparently safe as during the past year, small unarmed parties of not more than two passing freely through the various tribes that lie on the line of road. On June 14th two unarmed policemen arrived in Munnipoor from Samuguting, and they described the country then as profoundly quiet.

*Survey operations during the year.*—The operations of the survey have been more extensive, successful, and important than in any former year, and the cordial co-operation of the Maharaja and authorities rendered the work comparatively easy. I was myself directed to act with Captain Butler in his exploration and survey of the hitherto unknown parts of the Naga Hills, and remained with his party until close upon the end of the season. The duty of this survey party was important, and they succeeded in determining the true watershed between Assam, Burmah, and Munnipoor, which had been before not only doubtful but was supposed by experts to be entirely different to what it proved to be. A full report of the proceedings of this party having been already submitted, it is unnecessary here to allude further to it.

*Survey of Munnipoor hill territory and valley.*—The following extracts from correspondence will fully explain the nature of the work proposed to be done last cold weather in and around the Munnipoor valley: the first letter is from Captain Badgley in charge No. 6 Topographical Survey Party, and is dated Gowhatty, 7th November 1873:—

"Mr. Ogle will carry the triangulation from Cachar to Munnipoor to join with Major Austin's work of last year: and will reconnoitre



southwards on the hills drained by the Barak river. Two Surveyors will fill in the survey between Cachar and longitude  $94^{\circ}$  and above latitude  $24^{\circ} 45'$ ."

Immediately on receipt of the above letter I communicated with the Munnipoori authorities, and requested them to instruct their Agent at Luckhipoor to expedite the progress of the party and to make the desired arrangements for guides, coolies, and guard; this was at once attended to.

Mr. Ogle in response to a request of mine addressed to me the following letter, which I give in full. The complaints alluded to in his letter were carefully enquired into, and the authorities enjoined to punish the offending parties. The excuse given generally when a complaint was made of neglect, &c., was to the effect that the orders given had been misunderstood:—

"In continuation of my letter of 23rd April I have the honor now to reply in full to your No. 28, dated 1st April 1874.

"2. The season's operations of the survey party deputed to Munnipoor embrace the area contained between the Numbijong range of hills on the west into the valley of Munnipoor up to longitude  $94^{\circ}$  and from latitude  $24^{\circ} 30'$  on the south up to nearly  $25^{\circ} 30'$  on the north, with the extension of triangulation into Munnipoor. I will briefly describe how this work has been carried on.

"3. Mr. Robert left Luckhipoor accompanied by the Raja's Mookhtear for Hangnem on the 14th December, to which place it was necessary he should first proceed before entering Munnipoor territory. His instructions from the officer in charge of this survey were to sketch in the country from latitude  $25^{\circ} 0'$  up to near  $25^{\circ} 30'$ , and from the Numbijong range of hills up to longitude  $94^{\circ} 0'$ , thus joining on with the work that had been completed during previous seasons. This work has been done on the scale of 2 miles=1 inch.

"4. Moung Hay, Sub-Surveyor, and myself left Luckhipoor on the 18th December with an interpreter each. I commenced a route survey from Ramphan G. T. S. along the Government road up to the Godam Ghat (and eventually carried it up to the Numbijong range), and at the same time sketched in the country on either side of the route. From Godam Ghat we struck across country towards the north, keeping along the Jhiri river, and cutting our way through jungle till we arrived at the small Naga village of Bait after five days. From this place Moung Hay was detached from me, and his instructions were to work from latitude  $24^{\circ} 45'$  up to  $25^{\circ} 0'$ , that is joining on with Mr. Robert to the north, and from the Kalanaga range of hills up to  $94^{\circ} 0'$  east. This work has also been accomplished on the scale of 2 miles=1 inch.

"5. My instructions were to carry the triangulation from Ramphan and Tukbye into Munnipoor, and to make a reconnoissance of as much of the country as I could to the south of  $24^{\circ} 25'$  on the scale of 4 miles=1 inch.

"6. I started the triangulation at a point about two miles to the north of Bait, and then marched to Tukbye. On my arrival there I was sorry to find that my orders had not been carried out regarding the clearing of a peak on the Kalanaga range, though I had sent two of my men with a Munnipoor sepoy on the 16th, and I did not arrive at Tukbye till the 26th, giving them ample time, 10 days, to make the

necessary arrangements for its clearance. I returned to Luckhipoor on the 31st under the impression that I should have to clear the hill myself. But on going up to Ramphan I found that a point had been cleared, but not the one I pointed out. However as it did not interfere much with the progress of the work I accepted the station. This want of attention to orders at starting put me to much inconvenience and unnecessary expense at the end of the season.

"7. On my arrival at Luckhipoor from Tukbye, Ningomba Subadar and eight sepoy were told off to accompany me, and I marched from there along the Government road to Kalanaga. From that place I sent the Subadar with two of my khallassies to make arrangements for clearing two other hills, *viz.*, Kamningching and Phoorangba, and here again the wrong points were selected, though I pointed out over and over again what hills should be cleared, and there is no excuse for their having cleared others, for those that I showed them are most conspicuous. Phoorangba in particular close to Kowpum Thannah can't be mistaken. Thus of three stations required to be got ready by the Munnipooris not a single one was prepared. Very fortunately these wrong clearings did not interfere with the extension.

"8. After leaving Kalanaga I marched to the village of Shang-nongba, near which place Moung Hay had cleared a point. Here I was joined by Chaondon Jemadar and I think fifteen sepoy. From this I again proceeded to Bait, and on my return found that the Raja had sent out twelve more sepoy with a Havildar. I was now provided with a guard of 35 men (I am not sure of the number, but I think I am rather under the mark when I say 35). Out of this eight were on duty with the Subadar, and the remainder were under the orders of the Jemadar. I enter into these particulars with the view of informing you that out of the 27 men with the Jemadar, at one time I had not more than three with me, allowing for men that were detached with Heliotropers in the Jemadar's "Ilaqua," there ought not to have been more than six absent (my orders were that two should accompany each set of Heliotropers so as to arrange for russud, &c.), and two went into Munnipoor sick, so that I should still have had nineteen with me. Where these men were that the Raja had sent out for my use I could not find out. The Havildar suddenly discovered one day that he was without a single man. He made a complaint to me about it, and said that his sepoy were sent away to villages for the Jemadar's private work, but he appeared to be too much afraid to acknowledge anything in his presence when questioned by me, except the bare fact of his men being absent, nor did they turn up till I was approaching Munnipoor.

"9. One other complaint I feel bound to make. At starting with the Jemadar I was supplied with rice at Rupees 2-12 a maund. It was not fit to eat, and to eat it for any time was to ensure certain sickness. It was no excuse for him to say that he could get no other. Moung Hay had been to a number of villages before he was joined by the Munnipooris, and the Nagas always gave him good rice and at a much lower rate charged for by the officials; the Munnipooris themselves were feeding on wholesome rice. When he met with them he was supplied with bad rice, and had to pay at a higher rate for it. Mr. Robert also was served in the same way. But I am glad to say that they did not persist in giving this bad rice for any time. As far as I could ascertain the villagers never got paid for the russud they supplied.

"10. With the exception of the above, the authorities have given satisfaction. I was never unnecessarily delayed for want of coolies, but always got them whenever I required them, and there was no lack of labor for the clearing of hill peaks. The success of the operations prove that the Munnipoori officials did endeavour to carry out orders, though they gave much trouble and annoyance at the onset, and I think they ought to be warned for the delinquencies mentioned in my 7th, 8th, and 9th paragraphs. The triangulation has been carried into Munnipoor, and connected on with last season's work, and the total amount of topography executed both on the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch scales is about 2,500 square miles."

*Arrangements for next cold weather.*—I have received no communication whatever as yet as to whether survey operations are to be continued in the valley and adjacent hills during the approaching cold season.

*Legal matters.*—There is little to report in the way of legal business. One case only under the Extradition Treaty occurred during the year, an escaped convict from Cachar was reported to be residing with a certain Munnipoori official in Munnipoor, and a request for his arrest was made by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar. He could not however be traced.

*Case of attempted murder.*—Serious crimes against the person are very unfrequent in Munnipoor amongst the natives of the valley. In the case which is now to be briefly detailed, both the criminal and his victim were Bengalees, long however settled in Munnipoor. The following is a copy of that part of the proceedings stating the nature of the case:—

"Brijonath Roy, age 27, a native of Kallyghat, Zillah 24-Pergunnahs, writer in the service of the Maharaja of Munnipoor, states as follows:—

"I got up very early this morning (11th October 1873) and called Monohur Lalla, who lives in a separate house adjoining mine, and told him, Lalla, I have a mind to worship 'Sutta Naraina' this evening. You go and invite Hurrydoss Babajee to come and perform the 'Pooja' with me. Lalla said I do not know where this Babajee lives. I then told him to call Nobeen, who also lives in another house within my compound. Nobeen was called and he came before me. I was worshipping at the time. Lalla went to wash his face. I told Nobeen you go and invite Hurrydoss Baba to come this evening and perform the 'Pooja' here, and on your return home bring one rupee's worth of ghee. He said very good. He then went into my sleeping room and I heard him ask my wife Attombe for some ganja. I cannot say whether the ganja was given to him or not. I was worshipping and repeating morning prayers with my eyes closed, when I was bowing down I suddenly felt a flash in my eyes, and thought of a thunderstroke, and called out 'Doorga, Doorga.' When the first blow was struck I thought a thunderbolt fell upon me, and never thought I was struck with a sword. Afterwards I was struck several times and I became insensible. The first stroke I felt was on the nape of the neck.

"I was not aware that Nobeen had any spite against me. The only cause of his spite may be this. Sometime ago he was provided by me with funds to trade. He took a Munnipoori slave-girl and I paid Rupees 32 on her account. This woman lately gave birth to a female child, and Nobeen was trying to get another girl. I prevented him from doing so, and threatened him that if he did so, I would make his wife a

slave of mine and turn him out. Seeing his constant absence from home and his negligence towards the woman and child, I took from him all the articles of trade I supplied him with. This occurred about 14 or 15 days ago. He did not remonstrate at the time. I never doubted that Nobeen was angry with me."

The above deposition was taken from Brijonath when it was supposed he would not recover, and comprises the history of the case as far as is necessary.

The man who committed the assault having been taken red-handed there was no difficulty in the case; he made no defence, and was tried before a Mixed Court, consisting of Munnipoori officials and the Political Agent, and was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the Munnipoor Jail.

The recovery of the wounded man was marvellous and unexpected, his head was nearly cut off, the spine being cut into, his skull was fractured, and he had numerous deep cuts in various parts of his body, yet he recovered.

He was a emaciated man and a confirmed opium eater, and the only way I can account for his recovery is that he really had not blood enough in his body to get up the necessary (for a fatal conclusion) inflammation and consequent suppuration.

*Munnipoor Militia Force.*—There is no change to report either in the numbers, equipment, or efficiency of the large and useless body of men constituting the force of the Munnipoor State.

*Weather, crops, &c.*—The following tables give the temperature and rainfall for the year:—

*Temperature and rainfall for the year in the valley.*

Month.		Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.	Rainfall.
July	1873	85	82	74	7.76
August	"	85	81	73	4.78
September	"	85	81	71	5.56
October	"	80	77	67	2.40
November	"	75	70	54	0.54
December	"	71	64	46	0.24
January	1874	64	62	42	1.8
February	"	67	64	52	3.58
March	"	75	72	56	3.42
April	"	82	72	66	2.54
May	"	68	82	78	6.14
June	"	72	85	81	9.18
Total ...					<u>41.22</u>

Observations made once daily at 6 A.M.

All agree that this year has been exceptionally hot for Munnipoor.

On the 9th, 19th and 26th of November 1873 slight shocks of earthquake were felt in the valley; the direction of the shocks were from west to east.

*Rice crop.*—Some anxiety regarding the staple crop of the country—rice—was felt during the month of October last on account of want of rain, some additional rainfall being required to ensure the safety of the harvest, fortunately that anxiety was of short duration, as there occurred

a plentiful fall in the nick of time which ensured a favorable harvest. The crops this ensuing harvest season are not expected to be so good from the scarcity of rainfall at the period of transplanting, but a sufficiency is expected to meet all wants.

*Extension of wheat cultivation.*—The Munnipoori authorities have been giving some attention lately to the cultivation of wheat (which cereal grows well in the valley), and a considerable extension of its area of cultivation is in progress. Three years ago they state the yield of wheat, the consumption of which was limited to the Raja and his immediate followers, was only some twenty-five maunds. Last year the yield was about two hundred and fifty maunds, and the consumption will probably increase, as the more well-to-do inhabitants are taking to the use of atta. There is a difficulty it is said in getting sufficient suitable land for wheat culture, but this I can hardly believe, as although the country is more or less flooded during the rainy season, large tracts of good land sufficiently high and dry can always be found suitable at the proper season for sowing.

*Roads and communications.*—The usual annual inspection of the Government road lying in the hills between the Munnipoor valley and Jeeri river, the left bank of which forms the Munnipoor boundary, was not made until April last. The following extract from my report on it will show what condition it then was in :—

“That portion of the road lying in the valley, a section some 12 or 14 miles in length, and which was laid out by Colonel McCulloch, and constructed by the Munnipooris, is in fair order, although it wants levelling badly in some places, and some of the smaller bridges are insecure.

“Speaking generally, the hill road is in better condition than I have seen it for some years, but as usual while it has been cleaned and partially levelled in the easy places, the difficult and heavy portions of the repairs have been again as I anticipated entirely neglected. Altogether however the condition of the road contrasts not unfavorably with the section on the British side lying between the Jeeri river and Luckhipoor.

“The question of bridging the larger rivers in the rains is again causing much anxiety, and I am afraid (in spite of my opinion in last year's Annual Report that cane was not apparently scarce) that I must confess my error and acknowledge that it is both scarce and of inferior quality, as is evidenced by the fact that eight years ago these swing bridges used to last with repairs two seasons, while at the present time they barely last one, this from no fault of construction but from inferior materials. Cane is an indispensable article in making these swinging bridges as at present constructed. The only remedy for this is the substitution of wire-rope as supports and guys instead of cane, this would enable the Munnipooris to construct bridges which would last many seasons. I would ask Government kindly to sanction a supply of wire-rope for this purpose, this State being a very poor one can hardly afford to purchase it. Old telegraph wire would also be very useful.”

I pointed out in a letter to the Maharaja on my return the condition of the road, and made suggestions for its repair, and in answer received the annual stereotyped reply that everything desired would be set about next cold weather. I have again addressed him on the subject of road repairs, and pointed out again what his obligations are under Treaty. I am not very sanguine as to the result however, although I have

promised to devote a considerable portion of my time this cold weather to personally superintending road repairs, should he on his part furnish the labour required.

*New road in valley.*—I am glad to have to report that the Munnipoori authorities have spontaneously constructed a new line of road extending from the capital in a straight line to the eastern slope of the western range of hills overlooking the valley; this road, which is scarcely finished yet, is about eight miles long, is almost straight, and appears from the traffic I have observed on it on several occasions (this road suits me in visiting a hut I occasionally occupy on the crest of the hills) to be found useful; two branch roads leading to neighbouring villages also diverge from it. I hope to see this road entirely finished during next cold season.

This road would form the commencement of Pemberton's Aquee route, which is still used by the hill-people for trading purposes. I have not yet been over it, but hope soon to have an opportunity of examining the route, as it might prove valuable in the present bad condition of the Government road as an alternative line to Cachar from Munnipoor; it lies considerably north of the Government road, and forms one of the series figured in Pemberton's Route Map.

No other roads have been constructed during the year.

*Trade and traders.*—Speaking generally, there is no change in matters connected with trade, and if there is no improvement in the way of facilitating its operations, neither are matters worse than formerly. The complaints made by traders, who now resort to me pretty freely, have been trifling and easily rectified. The same tendency on the part of the subordinate officials still exists towards levying petty sums from traders, but this abuse is checked as much as possible, any case reported being at once enquired into.

*Tax on ponies.*—I found shortly after rejoining this appointment on return from furlough that the pony tax, which had been fixed at Rupees 20 a head before I left, had been gradually increased to Rupees 23-4 to Rupees 23-8. I at once took this matter up, as the tax is even at Rupees 20 much too high, and insisted on the arrangement formerly agreed on being strictly adhered to.

Since this protest I have questioned many traders, and they all inform me that the proper sum is now only demanded.

*Monopoly of trade.*—The Munnipoori authorities allow that they hold a monopoly of the two articles, tea seed and India-rubber. By Treaty no monopoly whatever is allowed, but I think it unnecessary to interfere so long as no trader complains of their existence.

*List of duties charged.*—I managed to get from the Munnipoori authorities a complete list (which I append) of duties levied on imports and exports. I have found it useful already for reference in a case where a Bengallee trader thought himself aggrieved. The list has not been changed since issued, and is applicable to the present time.

The following articles are not allowed to be exported from Munnipoor, as they are meant as presents, &c., for services rendered to the State :—

Khameng Chuppa	...	...	...	Colored silk dhoti.
Numthang Kulel	...	...	...	Laced puggree.
Ningthow Phi	...	...	...	Shirt like garment.
Lai Chuppa	...	...	...	Colored sheet.

*Duty on imports to Munnipoor from British Provinces.*

			Rs.	a.	p.
1	Betelnuts, per thousand ...	...	...	0	4 0
	American cloth, per piece ...	...	...	0	5 0
	Longcloth, per piece ...	...	...	0	5 0
	Mull Mull, per piece ...	...	...	0	2 6
5	Satin, for each coat ...	...	...	0	2 0
	„ flowered, for each coat ...	...	...	0	2 6
	Seetin or American Drill, per piece ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Swiss (Chikun), per piece ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Paniel, for each coat ...	...	...	0	5 6
10	Chintz chadur or sheet ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Broadcloth, for each sheet ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Noyansook, per piece ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Book Muslin, per chadur ...	...	...	0	0 3
	Silk dhoti, each ...	...	...	0	2 0
15	Steel iron, per seer ...	...	...	0	0 6
	Small carpets, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Brass, copper, &c., per seer ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Hookah, Kanchunpoori, each ...	...	...	0	0 6
	Thread, white, double bundle, per pack ...	...	...	0	6 0
20	„ „ single bundle, per pack ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Colored handkerchief, each ...	...	...	0	0 6
	Thread, red, per packet ...	...	...	0	0 0
	„ yellow „ ...	...	...	0	5 0
	Serampoor paper, per ream ...	...	...	0	4 0
25	Foolscap „ „ ...	...	...	0	5 0
	Soap, country, per seer ...	...	...	0	0 6
	Joypooree chadur, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Iron pan, large, „ ...	...	...	0	2 0
	„ „ small, „ ...	...	...	0	0 6
30	Iron nails, per seer ...	...	...	0	0 3
	Red Saloo and Toon, each chadur ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Chikun Swiss, per coat ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Chintz coat, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Longcloth coat, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
35	Drill, jin, per piece ...	...	...	0	4 0
	Swiss chadur, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Dacca „ „ ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Doorria „ „ ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Velvet, for two yards ...	...	...	0	1 6
40	Santipoor dhoti, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Flannel, each chadur ...	...	...	0	2 0
	Salt (rock), per seer ...	...	...	0	0 6
	Kudlet, for two yards ...	...	...	0	1 0
	Muttapalum chadur, each ...	...	...	0	1 0
45	Woollen chadur (Aktaree), each ...	...	...	0	2 0
	„ dhoti ( „ „ ) ...	...	...	0	2 0
	Kora jin or drill, for 3 yards ...	...	...	0	1 6
	Woollen coats, each ...	...	...	0	2 0
	Umbrella, each ...	...	...	0	0 9
50	Chunderkona dhoti, each ...	...	...	0	1 3
	Doorria curtain, each ...	...	...	0	2 0
52	Thread (green), per pack ...	...	...	0	5 0

Taxes on following are not levied:—Bottles, phials, shoes, namabullee, Brindabun brass stamps, books, sunko or sea shells.

Looking-glass, hooka, hooka stand, dye, spices, pepper, sandalwood, wood, cards, lace, buttons, sugar, tamarind, wooden box, iron dao, axe, knife, padlock, saw, hammer, needles, &c.

One anna is charged on one rupee worth of the above articles.

*Duty charged on exports from Munnipoor.*

		Rs.	a.	p.
1 Ivory, per maund ... .. .	...	5	0	0
Wax (bees), per maund ... .. .	...	2	8	0
Silk, per seer... .. .	...	0	3	0
Dyed thread, per seer ... .. .	...	0	1	0
5 Mussom Phi (Kness), each ... .. .	...	0	1	0
Musquito curtain, each ... .. .	...	0	1	0
" colored each ... .. .	...	0	1	0
Saloo Fanek, each ... .. .	...	0	1	6
Hekok " " ... .. .	...	0	1	0
10 Lai " " ... .. .	...	0	1	0
Oormit Kness, " ... .. .	...	0	1	0
Bed Sheets " ... .. .	...	0	0	9
Murring Phi " ... .. .	...	0	0	9
Lai Fanek, small ... .. .	...	0	0	6
15 Chadur, thin ... .. .	...	0	0	6
Koomnung Foorid, or coat, each ... .. .	...	0	0	3
" small ... .. .	...	0	0	1½
Thowri Phi, each ... .. .	...	0	0	6
Laieng Kness, each ... .. .	...	0	1	6
20 Lairoom Kness, each ... .. .	...	0	1	6
Thread carpet " ... .. .	...	0	1	0
Lissing Phi " ... .. .	...	0	1	0
23 Silk Fanek and silk dhoti ... .. .	...	0	4	0
All sorts of Munnipoori cloths charged from one anna six pias to half pice each.				
Munnipoori buffaloe (female) ... .. .	...	10	0	0
" " (male) ... .. .	...	9	0	0
" pony ... .. .	...	20	0	0
Burmah " ... .. .	...	3	0	0
" buffaloe ... .. .	...	2	0	0
" young ... .. .	...	1	0	0
Mohurdar for each Mohor on Burmah pony ... .. .	...	1	0	0

*Nationality of traders entering the valley.*—By far the larger number of traders entering the country are Bengalis from the districts of Cachar and Sylhet in British territory, and the larger number of these again are Mussulmans. Restrictions on Munnipooris leaving the country are so vexatious, that few attempt trading, and when they do, take ponies from Munnipoor, bringing back cloths, &c. Since the prohibition by the Burmese of trade in ponies, &c., fewer of that race are to be seen in the valley, and none whatever on the road to Cachar, for they apparently depended entirely on the profits arising from the sale of cattle for the means of purchasing articles to take back with them to Burmah.

This year a number of Kamptee men from Upper Assam passed through Munnipoor in a body, designing reaching Assam through Samaguting. This Kamptee party which race had never been in Munnipoor before, I was informed, are very like the Burmese in appearance and dress. They stated that they had gone from their country as far as Gowhaty trading in metal articles, boxes from Burmah, &c., and were now returning, having crossed the Cossiah Hills and passed through Sylhet and Cachar. Opportunity was taken of the fact of two Policemen, messengers from Samaguting, being on the point of returning, and they were asked to look after the traders. The country being quite tranquil at that time, they reached Samaguting quite safely as I afterwards heard.



A few Angamee Nagas have also visited the valley and taken with them a few ponies.

*Rest-houses for traders in the hills.*—Many complaints have been made by the Munnipooris from time to time of the damage done to the hill road by travellers squatting on it, digging up the roadway for cooking places, and sometimes almost blocking it up by their temporary huts, while admitting the evil I explained to the authorities that this could only be avoided by establishing proper rest-houses on the line of road after which the road nuisance could be stopped. Apparently agreeing with me it was arranged by Tangal Major in consultation at what points on the road these rest-houses should be placed. These houses were to be in readiness for the cold weather.\*

*Sickness in the valley and hills during the year.*—I have to report the occurrence of a considerable epidemic of small-pox both in the valley and the adjacent hills, but most prevalent in the valley proper. It is impossible to ascertain correctly what number died from the disease, the Munnipooris themselves estimate the number at about six hundred; as in moving about the capital here I have seen numbers of recovered people, in fact a large population, the numbers attacked must have been very numerous.

Small-pox still lingers in the valley, but the cases are now few in numbers.

The Munnipoori treatment of small-pox consists only in the external application of a mixture of urine (human, and a favorite application with them), salt, lime juice, and the juice of the leaf of a tree which I cannot identify.

*Vaccination.*—Regularly every cold season vaccine matter is indented for from Calcutta, and the Native Doctor attached to the Agency does his best to get as many as possible to undergo the operation.

Both Munnipooris and hillmen are however wonderfully apathetic on the matter, and vaccination is not spreading as I would wish. The fact of the Maharaja and most of the authorities being indifferent or hostile, tends to check any influence which would work in its favour.

Another matter is important, the lymph supplied from Calcutta turns out frequently inert, although the operation is carefully performed, this failure tends to discourage intending applicants, not a difficult matter when they are so lukewarm. I should say that the establishment of a vaccine lymph depôt at Shillong from which Munnipoor and other out of the way places could be supplied would be a great boon.

\* To my surprise on visiting Cachar early in August last, I found that with one exception instead of rest-houses, strong stockades had been built and no accommodation for travellers whatever, in fact so much had they been ignored in erecting these stockades (which except one were built across the road completely blockading the way) that to my questions the men in charge invariably replied that they had heard nothing regarding the accommodation of travellers whatever, and had no orders on the subject.

I immediately communicated with the authorities and told them these stockades must be pulled down at once, and on my return journey had the satisfaction of seeing that they were being demolished.

During the year 262 people were vaccinated, of this number only 108 were successful. The Native Doctor reports that a great many applied to be vaccinated on the outbreak of the epidemic, but as several of those operated on were subsequently attacked by small-pox and died, the numbers quickly fell off.

I have often pointed out to the authorities here how easy it would be to enforce in such a small country the plan of compulsory vaccination; they seem heartily to approve of the idea in theory, but are not likely to carry it out in practice.

During the ensuing cold weather no efforts will be wanting on my part or on that of the Native Doctor to vaccinate as many as can be persuaded to submit to the operation, and it is hoped that the lymph forwarded may prove more efficacious than that supplied last season.

*Cholera, &c.*—Several sporadic cases of cholera have occurred during the year, and there have been one or two deaths. Nothing like this disease in an epidemic form has been experienced either in the valley or the hills during the past year.

*Education.*—There is nothing new to introduce under this head. The school mentioned in my last report is still in existence, but the number of scholars has diminished, so far as I hear caste prejudices have a good deal to do with this falling off.

*Political Agent placed under the Chief Commissioner of Assam.*—The constitution of the Assam Chief Commissionership has led to orders somewhat altering the former rules relating to business here, and the Political Agent is now placed, as regards general matters, entirely under the orders of the Chief Commissioner. The following are the instructions as conveyed to me in letter No. 429P., of date Fort William, 14th February 1874:—

“The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council directs me to state, for your information and guidance, that, on all matters of a purely political nature affecting the internal affairs of Munnipoor, or the relations of Munnipoor to Burmah or to foreign tribes, you will continue to correspond with this office, but your letters and communications should be sent under flying seal through the Chief Commissioner of Assam, through whom also the instructions of Government from time to time will be conveyed to you.

“You will correspond with the Chief Commissioner direct on all matters affecting the Assam Frontier and the relations of Munnipoor to Assam, and you will conform to any instructions which you may receive on these subjects from the Chief Commissioner.”

*Two Interpreters appointed.*—The two interpreters, one for Kookie and the other for the Naga language, the entertainment of which was sanctioned in Foreign Secretary's No. 1093P., of date 29th May 1873, have been appointed. The Kookie interpreter is a peculiarly good man, and formerly served in the Kookie Levy; he speaks Bengali, Hindustani, Munnipoori, and his own language, the Kookie. The Naga engaged is an intelligent young fellow, who acted as my interpreter during the survey of the Lanier river last cold season.

MUNNIPPOOR AGENCY,  
The 30th October 1874. }

Exd.—J. D. G.







SELECTIONS

FROM THE

*Records of the Government of India,*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

For the year ending 30th June

1874-75.

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ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
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A GENERAL description of the Native State of Munnipoor, which is applicable almost in its entirety to the year under consideration, will be found in the following publications:—

“Annual Report of the Munnipoor Political Agency for 1868-69, No. 78 of Selections Records, Government of India, Foreign Department” and “Statistical Account of the Native State of Munnipoor, 1873.” Where changes of any kind have taken place these will be noted under the various heads.

*Frontier affairs, &c.*—The State of Munnipoor is bounded on the west by the British province of Cachar, the boundary line being the Jhiri river running from north to south; on the east by the Kubbo valley, a portion of Upper Burmah; south by the hill country inhabited by the Lusai and Suti tribes of Kukis; north by the Angami and Katcha Naga country, now forming the Naga Hills division.

*Cachar affairs.*—With reference to the neighbouring district of Cachar there is little of importance to report. A question arose in September last regarding a suspicion of India-rubber being smuggled from the Cachar district, where at present its collection is forbidden, into Munnipoor, and from thence reintroduced as if from that State originally.

In order to check any such attempts as much as possible, I undertook to inform the Deputy Commissioner monthly in advance by certificate what quantity of rubber the Munnipoori authorities proposed exporting at each monthly period. This has been done, and although there is of course still room for fraud, it would appear to have given satisfaction as no further complaints have been preferred on the subject.

*Extradition case.*—There has been only one case of extradition during the year. One Munnipoori by name Karuna Sing, convicted of

dacoity and sentenced to imprisonment in the Cachar Jail, had made his escape, and was supposed to have found his way to Munnipoor. A careful search was said to have been made for him by the Munnipoori authorities, but without effect.

*Cattle disease.*—The cattle disease which has lately proved so fatal in Cachar has not succeeded in invading the Munnipoor valley, which is a matter for congratulation, as this country is only now recovering from the disastrous epidemic which ravaged it some four or five years ago. On hearing of the outbreak in Cachar I informed the authorities, and urged upon them the desirability of strictly excluding cattle importation of any kind from Cachar until the epidemic ceased; this, I believe, they carefully attended to.

*Burmese affairs.*—It is now necessary to notice briefly the events of the past year as bearing upon the relations of this State with Upper Burmah.

*Trade matters.*—Although the consideration of the subject of the stoppage of trade in cattle and ponies has been ended by the receipt of copy of letter No. 1697P. of date Simla, 10th June 1875, to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, in which the Political Agent at Mandalay is instructed "to take no further steps in the matter," it may be well to recapitulate a little, more especially with a view of showing how false and contradictory are the reasons given by the Burmese authorities at Mandalay regarding trade stoppage.

*Stoppage of trade in cattle but slightly affects Munnipoor.*—It is essential to point out that the matter of trade in ponies and cattle has been urged upon the attention of Government much more in the interests of British territory than of Munnipoor, in fact that State rather gains than loses by the prohibition, the trade having been *through* and not *to* Munnipoor, as prices of ponies in this country have risen at least 75 per cent. since 1871, and a ready market for all the good ponies in the country can always be found at these rates in the neighbouring province of Cachar. That district is particularly unfortunate at this time as having lost such a proportion of their ploughing cattle that the cultivation has been seriously diminished, they are as anxious to purchase buffaloes, &c., as the Burmese are to sell, but for this mischievous prohibition. Munnipoor, as it happens, cannot assist them, as only sufficient cattle for the wants of the country are available at present. The people then who suffer are the Burmese themselves, and the ryots of the Cachar and Sylhet districts.

*Reasons for trade prohibition, and facts regarding it.*—Referring to the recent correspondence with the Court of Mandalay on this subject, it will be seen from the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mandalay (accompanying the before mentioned letter), that the fact of a strict prohibition being in existence is now acknowledged, a fact which was formerly, on a reference being made to the Political Agent at Mandalay, utterly scouted and denied (see letter No. 884P., dated 13th May 1871), the reason given being that the "prohibition has been a standing national rule from the very first, and it is owing to the observance of this rule that the export of ponies, buffaloes, and bullocks is prohibited to Munnipoor."

*Date of actual restriction on trade.*—Nothing whatever was known in Munnipoor of this so-called national rule prohibiting exportation of buffaloes, &c., previous to the cold weather of 1871. During that year traders from Munnipoor, Cachar and Sylhet, who had gone as usual for trade purposes, were, on endeavouring as usual to purchase animals, curtly informed that all trade was forbidden by orders from the King at Mandalay. No other intimation of any kind was ever given, and no formal notice of trade stoppage intimated to Munnipoor.

As regards the freedom of trade which actually existed formerly, I can personally testify, having had a three and a half years' experience in the country previous to the above period, and amply satisfied myself as to how open the trade then was.

To conclude this subject it should be added that there is no demand here for Burmese saddlery, and that therefore any prohibition on export would be unnecessary (letter No. 27 of date Mandalay, 27th April 1875, from Political Agent to Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah), on the contrary Munnipoor saddles are much sought for in Burmah.

*Frontier line between Munnipoor and Burmah.*—The question of the proper boundary line between the State of Munnipoor and Burmah which cropped up some years ago, after a raid made by the Burmese on a village named Ngatsangah and situated west of what had hitherto been considered the boundary line between the two States, has since last report advanced a stage, and will probably give no further trouble. The Munnipooris only wish the old boundary line as laid down by Captain Pemberton some 40 years ago to be recognized and retained.

On the Burmese side there seems a desire to drop the matter, there indeed appears every reason to suppose that the subject would never have attracted any attention had the Burmese authorities not been anxious to evade blame in carrying off the inhabitants of the above village (in which they were most culpable) by escaping so to speak under the shadow of the cloud raised by the alleged wrong boundary, which was intended to show that the village belonged to them and not to Munnipoor. The question then at present stands thus. The Burmese authorities have expressed themselves as satisfied with the boundary line as laid down in 1833 and have no wish for change; they also consider it unnecessary to depute an officer or officers to go over the boundary line (see letter No. 2053P., from Under-Secretary, Government of India, dated Fort William, 1st October 1874, and enclosures). On the other hand the Maharaja of Munnipoor is quite satisfied with the old and well understood boundary line as laid down by Captain Pemberton in the above year, provided it is adhered to in its entirety.

The following extract from my letter No. 103, dated 30th October 1874, to the Under-Secretary, Government of India, Foreign Department, will show what my ideas are on the subject :—

"I have consulted with the Munnipoori officials on the subject, and they are willing to accept what has long been recognized on either side as Pemberton's line as the boundary, this line has only within the last few years been called in question, the Burmese having overstepped it

and established a thannah, and also laid claim to two villages immediately on the Munnipoor side. The thannah has long been removed, and the claims to any villages situated west of the old line abandoned.

"The boundary line was visited by the former Political Agents, General Nuthall and Colonel Thomson (see letters Nos. 71, dated Munnipoor, 29th April 1872, and 159, 12th December 1872). General Nuthall seemed to have satisfied himself that the old boundary (marked in red in the map sent, which is an enlarged copy of a portion of Pemberton's map) was the correct one. Colonel Thomson on his visit satisfied himself that all the villages claimed by Munnipoor really belonged to them.

"Colonel Thomson modified the line, however, and cut out an old established Munnipoor thannah named Moreh without however explaining why; his line, which seemed intended to run straight nearly from village to village, is strongly objected to by Munnipoor, as it would deprive these villages of almost all the land they cultivate. I think this objection holds good; there is another, that bringing the Burmese line close up to these villages would be a strong temptation to interference.

"I have with the consent of the Munnipooris altered a portion of the line between the marks O on the map making it agree with that of Colonel Thomson which cuts off an angle of country, giving it to Burmah. The rest of the old line should, I think, be adhered to as marked.

"Should the Burmese Government agree to the old line as marked in the map sent, all that would be necessary for an immediate settlement would be to point out what villages are on one side and what on the other, the map shows this."

Nothing further has been heard on the matter since the above letter was submitted.

*Raids in connexion with Burmah.*—With reference to the cases as mentioned in last year's report, *viz.*, the one of alleged manslaughter of a Munnipoori subject on the frontier by Burmese, and alleged sale to Burmese of kidnapped Munnipoor hillmen, no reply has been received regarding the last case; and as to the first, it has apparently by both parties been allowed to die out. As nothing has been recently heard from the Munnipoori authorities for a considerable time regarding either of the above cases, I have done nothing more, and probably further attempts at enquiry would prove abortive.

*Lusai Kuki affairs.*—There is but little to report regarding this tribe, and from the fact of there having been no communication whatever during the past year between the Eastern Lusais and Munnipoor, there is an absolute dearth of direct news of any kind from their country. They still retain the exclusive and sulky demeanour of former recent years.

Last cold weather some anxiety was felt both in Munnipoor and Cachar regarding the movements of a large well armed party of Lusais who suddenly appeared amongst the tea gardens situated furthest south-east in the Cachar district.

Ostensibly their object was to collect India-rubber, but the fact of their having arms and being observed closely examining the various tea gardens around was rather suspicious.

Their movements were rather more pronounced in Munnipoor territory, for in the Jheerie forest they helped themselves freely to India-rubber, destroying many valuable trees; they were, it appears, mildly remonstrated with by the Munnipooris, but excused their proceedings by saying that their own stock of rubber trees having given out they were perforce obliged to help themselves from Munnipoor.

The circumstance of their having poached on Munnipoori ground was made the subject of a complaint by the authorities here, but I had to inform them that the British Government having no direct control over these wild tribes, they must protect their own interests where these tribes were concerned the best way they could.

The alarm caused by the near presence of these Lusais led to numerous Nagas near the line of road deserting their villages and flying into British territory. These villagers, I understand, all returned after the alarm had subsided.

Although no actual attack was made on any part of Munnipoor territory by this body of Lusais, there was a strong suspicion that such was at one time intended, as a village south of the Kala Naga stockade reported that they found the path leading from their village to where the Lusais were encamped, panjied; on taking up these panjies they were again replaced, and fearing an attack the villagers thereupon decamped.

Although the fact of these Lusais (about, it is calculated, 500 at least in number, all young men) committing no hostilities and showing themselves openly looks as if their errand was entirely peaceful, it is just as likely that their main object was to fix the position and strength of the various gardens, outposts, &c., in south-east Cachar with a view to future raiding; keeping this in view I have warned the authorities to be on the alert to check any hostile movements on their part from such time as the country is open enough to admit of them. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar is also fully alive, I understand, to the possible significance of the late movement.

*Kamhow or Sootie Kuki affairs.*—To understand what has hitherto been known regarding the Sootie tribe of Kukis, I give first an extract from an official communication on the subject of raids committed by them on Munnipoor hill territory by General Nuthall, late Officiating Political Agent, which communication is a translation of information furnished by the Munnipoori authorities :—

*Report upon the past relations of the Maharaja of Munnipoor with Kamhow, Chief of the Sootie tribe.*

“ In Regent Nursing’s time Kamhow made several raids upon the Maharaja’s villages and took possession of Molbee (the present residence of Kokatung) and Heeroway, then within Munnipoor territory.

“ In 1855 Kamhow attacked and burnt Numfow.

“ Next year, 1856, the Maharaja, in consultation with the then Political Agent, Colonel McCulloch, made preparations and proceeded

with a force against Kamhow, but owing to failure of supplies and want of communication he was obliged to retire.

"On return from this expedition the Maharaja established a thannah on the hills near Numfow, and placed 200 sepoy (including Khongjai Kukis) there.

"In 1857 Kamhow raided on Chasat and carried off the Chasat Raja's wife, named Toonghoolmah, with her two boys (Toonghool and Yakapow) and one girl, killing eight men.

"In 1858, on the 6th Pous, Kamhow raided on Sitol, but was unable to destroy any property or to carry off any men as at that time there was a Munnipoori guard then under Moyna Subadar. They drove the raiders off without loss on either side.

"In the same year, on the 3rd Cheyt, a fight took place between Kamhow's men and a Munnipoori force at Kublook villages, in which one Noongum, a Chief of Kamhow, and twelve men were killed; two sepoy of the Munnipoori force under command of Sewai Jamba Major were also killed.

"In 1862, 15th Cheyt, the present messenger 'Kykole' with some men came to take tribute from our village Khenglum. He with one of his followers was arrested by Ooyna and Athokpa, Subadars, who were at that time in the Numfow and Shoogoonoo Thannahs, and brought them to Munnipoor as prisoners. They were put in prison here. Hence Kykole understanding the Munnipoori language. He is a Muntri of Yatol.

"In 1865, 8th Pous, Kamhow destroyed Chengbolekhool, twenty-nine men were killed, only three of the villagers escaped.

"In the same year, 1865, Kamhow sent two of his Muntris named Khygumba and Looplakpa with seven men to ask for the Maharaja's pardon and future friendship, as well as for the release of Kykole and his men. They also wanted to open trade with us.

"Kykole was released, and Athokpa Subadar was sent along with the Muntris to hold a conference with Kamhow. He saw that Chief and his son Yatol, also the Rajas of Molbee and Lyang. After that up to the death of Kamhow no raids were committed upon our villages.

"Kamhow died about three years ago, a year after, *i.e.*, in 1869, a raid was made on Bombang, eleven men killed, and eleven carried off as captives.

"About two years ago another raid was made on Monkow, Khoolakpa and the villagers ran away towards Kamhow.

"Two villages of Fukloway (Numfow district) were attacked in 1871, 15th Pous, one man killed and seven carried off as captives. Athokpa Subadar was deputed to enquire as to the tribes by whom this raid was committed, whether by the Pois or Kamhows.

"It was ascertained from Yatol that the sons of the Molbee Raja committed this, but as they were Yatol's uncle's sons, he, Yatol, asked for pardon and promised to restore the captives and to pay a fine for those killed.

"On the return of Athokpa Subadar in November 1871 there came with him two men from Molbee Raja, two Muntris from Yatol, and one from Kokatung named Sowome. They saw the Maharaja and the Political Agent. Some presents were given to them, and they were ordered to join the force at Tseklapi in the middle of December.

"During our stay at Cheebo, they committed raids upon Teebeekung, Tooyel, and Ngajan, and carried off 67 persons, and killed 11 persons, and never joined as allies."

From the isolated position of the Sootie tribe of Kukis it is a difficult matter to ascertain anything trustworthy about them: the general opinion here, however, amongst the best informed of the authorities is, that as regards strength at least, 2,000 men, two-thirds of them armed with muskets, would be available in the event of an attack being made on the villages in the interior.

In general appearance and language they resemble the Lusais, but they are usually taller and stronger, and have the reputation of being much more formidable as foes. The Lusais and they are unfriendly and not unfrequently come into hostile contact, when according to all accounts the Sooties almost invariably get the best of it.

It is impossible to say how far this tribe extends in a southerly direction, but their villages commence about five days march south of the Munnipoor valley, in what is called the Mombee group of villages, this group being all situated in Munnipoor territory (as laid down by Pemberton). It is this Mombee branch of the tribe which has lately and is now giving trouble, they are undoubtedly backed up however by the more powerful of the tribes south of them.

Of the many raids made by these Mombee men, the most important of recent years is the one which occurred in the cold weather of 1874, when two villages inhabited by Kukis of the Anal Numfow tribe, named Mukpong and Kumsol, were attacked and destroyed. The importance of this raid chiefly consists in the fact that these villages were so close to the valley that several large Munnipoori villages were with a two or three hours' journey of them and quite open to attack. This is the only instance of an attack being made by hillmen on villages so close to the inhabited part of the valley, and shows how these savages have become emboldened by the ease with which these raids can be made, and the immunity from punishment following their occurrence.

The following account is from the official report, No. 113, of date 26th November 1874, written after I had personally visited and inspected the villages raided on:—

"On the 7th of this month (November 1874) I left by boat for the scene of the raid, and visited the villages which had been attacked on the 11th. I first went to Kumsol, which is but a short distance from the village of Chairel on the left bank of the Munnipoori river where I was encamped. The village of Kumsol was reached in about an hour, and was found abandoned and partly burned; it is badly situated for defence, being easily entered from the slope above the village.

"After leaving the villages of Kumsol and satisfying myself of the general correctness of the account of the attack as given in letter

No. 101, of date 17th October last, I proceeded to a high point in the first range of hills, from which a good view was obtained of the country looking south. This was found quite uninhabited, rough, and jungly, with high ranges intervening between the point of observation and the Kamhow country some four or five marches off. The Toombee river was also observed just under and south of the first range, flowing east through a valley covered with long grass jungle.

"On returning the village of Mukoong was passed through, the other which had been attacked, its position and open condition was very similar to that of Kumsol, and could have presented no difficulties in the way of entry to an attacking party; this village was also partly burned and abandoned; the survivors of both villages have taken refuge on the other bank of the Munnipoori river in the villages of Chairel and Wangoo inhabited by Loe Munnipooris.

"The statement of the sepoy Erabunto, as detailed in paragraph 2 of my letter No. 101, would not bear investigation: it appears that no such fight as he describes took place, and the Kamhows were merely seen in the jungle on the opposite bank of the Toombee river, and a few shots exchanged without any apparent effect. The Kamhows had made a bridge across the river on their advance, which they destroyed on retreating.

"There appears little doubt from my investigations that this raid was committed by the section of the Kamhow tribe residing at Mombee, about four marches from the point I reached. This Mombee, according to Pemberton and Colonel Thomson, is within Munnipoor territory, and the said territory has been encroached upon, and the former inhabitants driven out by the Kamhows.

"As intimated in the last paragraph of my letter No. 101, I asked the Munnipoori authorities to furnish me with a plan of what they proposed doing in the way of reprisals for these raids; the reply was rather disappointing, for the main point in it was a request that Government should be solicited to give them a grant of 2,000 light muskets with ammunition for the expedition. I informed them that I should certainly not make any such recommendation, and would report against it, and also suggested their withdrawing the letter, which they did, and substituting what I really required, *viz.*, a plan of their proposed operations; this has not yet been done, hence the delay in submitting this report. Should they submit the letter required, it will be forwarded.

"As regards the undertaking of a small expedition to punish these raiders, I am still of opinion that should the Munnipooris desire it permission should be granted. I would recommend, however, that Government should not identify itself with the expedition further than limiting the Munnipoori advance to Mombee. From all the information I can glean, and that is meagre, the tribe of Kokatung, who inhabit Mombee, and whose villages contain some five hundred houses, will fight, and will most likely be backed up by the tribes further south.

"Further raids are, it is said, contemplated, and the Munnipoori villages in the valley nearest the hills have been threatened, and are in great danger; several outposts have been recently formed as protectives, but I have little faith in their utility."



As time went on it became clearer day by day that the Kukis of Mombee had the whole hand in the raiding, and preparations were continued for an attack on their villages.

The following programme (which was approved of by Government) was framed by me and submitted to the Maharaja, who apparently thought well of it, and promised to have it carried out :—

“1st.—Any force sent to confine its operations to the group of villages named Mombee, which group it appears pretty clearly furnished the raiders.

“2nd.—Mombee, if resistance is offered, to be destroyed. If opportunity offers, prisoners to be taken, who can] be afterwards exchanged for captives now in the hands of the Sootie clan. Should any negotiation take place after attacking Mombee, the chief object should be to arrange for the return of captives.

“3rd.—Should the Mombee villagers make no resistance, the Munnipooris should insist upon hostages from the villages being given up, to be held until the captives are returned.

“4th.—Munnipoori authorities to report carefully on the progress of the expedition.”

In my letter No. 125 of date 21st December 1874, I made the following suggestion, on ascertaining that, so far as could be made out, the Sooties intended resistance, and the Munnipooris were also apparently in earnest :—

“As the Munnipooris are evidently in earnest in their desire to punish these wanton raids, and as the Kamhows promise to show fight, I now think that it would be well for me to accompany the expedition. Should sanction be given kindly telegraph, as a start is contemplated not later than the 15th of January.”

The proposition was however negatived by Government in letter No. 91, dated 6th January 1875, as it would be “contrary to precedent for the Government of India so far to identify itself with the warlike expeditions which a Native Prince may undertake, as to depute its Agent with the Prince to join them.”

In sanctioning an expedition to punish the raiders, Government laid down the following propositions to be observed :—

1st.—The group of villages named Mombee only to be attacked.

2nd.—The Munnipooris to send a sufficient force to obviate all chances of defeat.

3rd.—Reprisals on women and children to be strictly avoided.

The expedition having been determined on, and the Maharaja having been informed of the wishes of Government on the above points, arrangements were at once commenced, and provision depôts established, the chief one being at Shoogoonoo.

The Maharaja writes on 4th January that he proposes to despatch a force of 2,000 men all told about the 22nd, and closes his letter by making the stereotyped (on all possible occasions) request for a grant of

ammunition, &c., which I at once refused to recommend, which refusal led to the withdrawal of that part of his communication.

On the 20th of January I reported to the Chief Commissioner that I had requested the Maharaja to postpone the departure of the Kamhow (Sootie) Expeditionary Force on account of the somewhat suspicious movements of the Lusais on the Cachar frontier as alluded to in this report. This was done, and the force was not despatched finally until the 26th February, when 500 men, the number intended to march into the enemy's country, left Shooگونoo. The two Majors in command, Tangal Hazaree and Sewai Jamba, had previously left the Capital in advance on the 19th of the same month.

Before the force started two women, who had been carried off in the raid, managed to make their escape and were able to give information as to the attitude of the Mombee people, which ought to have been useful to the two officers in command.

The following is the account of the above two women :—

*Statement of LENGPHA, aged 45 years, and LENGLEI, aged about 15, formerly inhabitants of the village of Kumsol in Munnipoor territory.*

"About six months ago our village was suddenly attacked by a force of about 300 of Kamhows tribe, many of whom were armed with muskets; they came in great force, and completely invested the village, so that we could not escape. In the attack they killed 11 persons (all men) and made 34 captives (women and children, including the Khoolakpa, headman). We were amongst these 34 captives, and were kept in Lumyang (one of the Mombee group of villages), the village in which Kokatung's son, Song-gam, is the Chief. The captives carried off from Mukoong were also kept in this village. All the captives, with the exception of the Khoolakpa and eleven men, have been sold to the Kamhows of the interior and Pois (Shendoos). The value taken for each man and woman adult being two muskets or two methnas (hill cows), for each boy and girl one musket, or else ear ornaments and pebble necklaces. One Kykole of Yatol's village came several times to buy slaves, but returned without any. This Kykole it appears came three times to Munnipoor as an emissary of Yatol, the Chief of the Kamhow tribe, and arranged with Colonel Thomson for the exchange of captives. We lived in the house of Song-gam's sister; we were told that we would be sold in a few days. Hearing this we resolved to escape. Seven days ago we got away from the village in the forenoon; we were sent to collect firewood, whether we were pursued or not we cannot say. On the fifth day we reached Shooگونoo (in the Munnipoor valley).

"During our stay in the village the Kamhows, about 300 or 400 in number, twice started to attack the villages of Sugang and Sytol (I cannot identify the position of these villages at present, but think they must be east of the ones formerly destroyed), but they returned twice without success. We have heard them conferring about attacking and destroying the stockade built at Namphow Khoomul (occupied by Munnipooris). They sent some of their spies to see the place. Their rice is already collected, and they are looking for a good omen to start.

They have also stockaded their villages and have placed 'panjics' all over the walls and roads. The Chief's house has been strongly fortified by wooden palisades. Our Khoolakpa and eleven men are still in the villages."

*Progress and results of the Expedition.*—But little was heard of the progress of the expedition until its final return on the 14th April 1875, when the following account was given of its progress and results. I copy from my official account, under date 25th April 1875 :—

*Narrative of the Munnipoori Officers, TANGAL MAJOR and SEWAI JAMBA, in charge of the Kamhow Expeditionary Force.*

"On the 19th February (Friday) the force consisting of 2,000 Munnipooris and 400 Khongjais, in all 2,400, under the command of Majors Sewai Jamba and Tangal, left the Capital and marched to Shoo-goonoo, the base of operations, on the 21st. Having made the necessary arrangements for the despatch of supplies, the force started for Mombee on the 26th. As it was known that the Kamhows were watching our movements we set fire to the roadside jungle as we proceeded on. The force reached Nowantah and encamped there in a stockade. Some of the Lumyang Nagas were seen by our spies at this place, but they ran away. On the 1st March the force reached Toomul and encamped there; Kamhow spies, about 10 or 12 in number, armed with muskets, were observed by our men here.

"7th March.—Force reached Toel Eemkha. A Kuki was seen on the top of a Oochal tree, probably observing our movements.

"9th March.—The force reached Yangnoong. Our Naga Dobhasis (interpreters) informed us that the Kamhow Chief, Yatol, with his men were at Noongeah, Thangapow, and the villagers of Lumyang were encamped on the other side of the river. Hearing this the Majors proceeded to the spot, but found no one.

"On the 20th March our advance guard, about 300 men (with some Nagas employed in roadmaking) reached Diloom. Two hours before sunset the Lumyang Nagas, said to be headed by Yatol's brother and son, made an attack and fired at one of our parties who were encamped near the Diloom river. Our men made a good stand, and continued firing. After an interval of one and a half hours' fighting the Kukis gave in and fled. Our men on examining the spot found some blood marks, and thought some men must have been wounded or killed.

"Early next morning the Majors and the main body of the force arrived and preparations were being made for attacking the Sootie villages. At 8 or 9 p.m. a deputation from Noongeah, consisting of Kumteh and Thangjeeloom, came into the camp, and said we are afraid and don't want to fight any more, two of our men have been killed and five wounded in last evening's skirmish. We request you not to advance any further; we acknowledge to be the Maharaja's ryots, and will pay tribute; we are also ready to abide by the terms you wish to propose. Saying this they placed before the Majors the Chief Yatol's sword. They also added that their women and children with the live-stock and paddy have been removed to the distant villages in the interior a long time ago, and they are in great distress for want of food.

"The Majors replied, 'if you are afraid bring in the men you took as captives from Kumsol.' They said they would give up what captives they had. The Majors wanted to go up to their villages, but Kumteh and Thangjeeloom said, 'if you with such a large force go there our villages will be ruined: you can send one or two of your Subadars with a few men.' Upon this Athokpa and Mungsoong Subadars with twenty-two sepoys were sent along with them.

"On the 31st March the two Subadars above alluded to returned to the camp bringing with them the Kumsol Chief's wife and child.

"On the 4th April Kikoul, emissary of Kamhow Chief Yatol, Kumteh of Lumyang, Thangjeeloom, Semhool, and the Chief of Noongeah came to the camp bringing with them the Chief of Kumsol and six other captives, also a Methna.

"On the 9th April the Majors with the force and the Naga Chiefs abovenamed returned and arrived at Shoogoonoo on the 11th and the Capital on the 14th."

My concluding remarks on the above narrative may be here given:—

"To conclude, although I am disappointed at no hostages having been brought in, I think the expedition has been fairly successful. Whether or not the prisoners will now be given up is uncertain, and as to the continuance of peace, time only can show. The Munnipooris, I may add, effected the whole operation without losing any of their number. One Khongjai Kuki died from wounds received in a skirmish at one of the outposts established before the expedition proper started as formerly reported. No deaths from sickness have been reported."

*Results of the Expedition.*—The further results of the expedition may be thus briefly summarized:—

On May 5th it was reported (letter No. 58 of 5th May 1875 to Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Assam) that four more captives had been restored by the Mombee Sooties, and that the headman of Kumsol, one of the villages in Munnipoor territory destroyed by the Mombee men, stated that all the captives taken from his village had now been accounted for.

In consequence of this further surrender of captives, I directed the immediate liberation according to promise of the five Mombee men who had been so long in the hands of the Munnipooris; they were in excellent health and condition, and did not seem particularly anxious about returning to their own country.

A messenger from the Chief Yatol accompanied the party of returned captives; he expressed himself as confident that more would be given up; he was dismissed with sundry small presents.

*Munnipoori account of their operations exaggerated.*—Having had considerable experience of Munnipoori accounts of their valiant doings when engaged in operations like the above, which accounts were almost always found on further independent investigation to be untrue, I naturally made some enquiry as to the correctness of the Major's accounts, and found that, so far as my informants knew (and some of

them were with the force), not a shot was fired on Mombee, and each party seemed to be afraid of the other.

What the result of the expedition will be it is impossible to say, but I should conclude that matters are much as they were, and should the Sooties feel inclined to commit further raids on Munnipoor territory, they are not likely to be deterred by any fear of the Munnipoor troops. The authorities themselves seem quite apathetic in the matter.

*The Angami Nagas and other northern tribes.*—My last annual report gave a somewhat unfavourable account of the condition of affairs on the northern boundary of the Munnipoor State. Matters instead of mending have, I regret to say, gone on from bad to worse, and chronic raiding had been the order of the day, to the loss of many lives and much valuable property.

A glance at the following list of raids as communicated by letter will do more to show the utterly lawless condition of affairs obtaining on this frontier than any amount of description :—

*List of raids committed by British subjects on Munnipoor Hill territory.*

No.	Date.	To whom.	SUBJECT.
99	9th October 1874.	Political Agent, Naga Hills.	Brings to his notice that the destruction of the village of Phweelong has again been threatened by the Nagas of Papalongmai or Konomah.
126	22nd December 1874.	Ditto ...	Brings to his notice the murder of one Assasso Naga of Maow Kholel by a villager of Tangal.
1	6th January 1875.	Ditto ...	Forwards a complaint made by the Nagas of Oklong to the effect that their village had been attacked and destroyed by the Nagas of Sammoomai, and that two men killed and three men wounded.
11	23rd ditto.	Ditto ...	Forwards a complaint preferred by the Nagas of Lulong against the Nagas of Konomah regarding extortion of money from them as tribute.
41	20th April 1875.	Ditto ...	Forwards a complaint made by the Nagas of Togwemah against the Nagas of Rakoomai to the effect that their village had been attacked and two men killed and one man wounded.
45	25th ditto.	Ditto ...	Forwards a complaint made by the headmen of the Naga villages of Theelol, Seramba, and Panbrem against the Nagas of Konomah to the effect that their villages have been threatened to be destroyed, and that their pigs and fowls have been killed and eaten.
77	5th June 1875.	Ditto ...	Forwards a complaint by the Nagas of Lulong to the effect that their village had been attacked and plundered by the Nagas of Mozemah.

With reference to the above formidable list of outrages, it is necessary to state that there has not been a single complaint of counter-raiding on British Hill territory by Nagas of Munnipoor brought before me; neither, I am assured by the Political Agent of the Naga Hills, have any occurred.

*Repressive measures to be shortly adopted.*—It is, I understand, contemplated to put an end to this state of affairs by strictly repressive measures directed to the villages implicated which are few in number and well known; the sooner this is done the better I consider for all parties, as emboldened by the impunity with which they have been permitted to raid, the Angamis concerned are likely, as time goes on, to give more and more trouble, and this especially as they are tolerably well supplied with fire-arms and ammunition and increasing their store of them at every available opportunity.

The Munnipooris with considerable reason complain very bitterly about the present state of affairs, and it is really a matter of some awkwardness to bring forward any reasonable excuse for these constant unchecked outbreaks, the carrying out of strictly punitive measures with the offending clans will bring matters however speedily to rights.

*Survey operations.*—No survey operations whatever have been carried on during the past year in Munnipoor territory. I understand that during the cold weather of 1876-77 the survey will be re-opened, there being plenty of fresh ground to cover.

*Legal matters.*—Under the new Extradition Act of 1872 no cases have occurred, although an attempt was made by the Munnipoori authorities to bring a case under its operation in which a number of Munnipooris, sepoys chiefly, took the opportunity of remaining behind in Cachar after the Durbar of August 1874, at which the Munnipoor Maharaja was present.

*Case of deserting Munnipooris.*—As an example of the untruthful character of the Munnipooris this case is worth alluding to.

In first making the complaint no reference whatever was made as to any fault having been committed by the runaways (15 in number) other than desertion, but on its being pointed out to the authorities that action could not be taken unless a case could be brought against them under the Extradition Act, a complaint absurd in every way was at once brought forward. As is not uncommon, any entertainment of the charge was rendered impossible by the manifest absurdity of the charges laid, their nature and my reply to the complaint is conveyed in the letter sent in reply, which I now quote in full:—

“I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th September 1874, enclosing a list of names of 15 sepoys, &c., who deserted from your escort during your recent visit to Cachar. I now return the list for correction, and may add that I am convinced you could not have been made aware of its contents before causing it to be sent.

“In the report given me in Luckipoor of the occurrence, it was stated that one sepoy had carried off his musket, bayonet, &c., but no mention whatever was made of any rupees having been stolen. In the list enclosed, however, every man in it is credited with having carried off

from different individuals large sums of money amounting in one instance to the sum of Rupees 200, besides this large quantities of valuable property are said to have been stolen, the money alone amounting in the aggregate to the utterly ridiculous and incredible sum of upwards of Rupees 1,500. How men in the position of sepoy, havildars, and other inferior officers of your State become possessed of such enormous sums of money, and why, if possessed of such, they took their wealth with them to Cachar, is not explained.

"I have, therefore, on account of the exaggerated statements contained in the list (which no sane individuals could for a moment believe in), no alternative but to return it, with a remark that such untrue statements should not be submitted, as harm rather than good ensues from their presentation."

The authorities who steadily adhered to their story were finally advised to bring their complaint to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar (who was advised of the matter), but this they did not do.

*Durbar held in Cachar.*—The unique circumstance of a visit by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India to farther Eastern Bengal and Assam led to arrangements being made in August 1874 for the Maharaja of Munnipoor to meet His Excellency in Cachar.

These arrangements were duly made, and the Maharaja with two of his sons and several of his principal officers, with the Political Agent (who followed two days afterwards), left for Cachar on the 30th July 1874, marching to Cachar by easy stages. A suitable camp had been provided in the station of Silchar for the Maharaja and his attendants by the Deputy Commissioner, and gave every satisfaction. The Durbar was duly held on board of the Viceroy's yacht, and was, I believe, of a satisfactory nature; presents were as usual exchanged, and the Maharaja with his sons were also entertained at an evening reception. The Chief Commissioner of Assam was with the Viceroy, and had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with the Maharaja.

After the departure of His Excellency and the Chief Commissioner, which took place on the day after the Durbar, the Maharaja rested for a few days, and had an opportunity of being introduced to many of the leading tea planters of the district, &c., taking his departure on the 14th August.

The time selected for this visit was not a good one, being during the height of the rainy season in the Munnipoor hills. Amongst the followers a good deal of fever took place, and some mortality on the return journey. The Maharaja himself, who was suffering from slight indisposition before leaving for Cachar, improved greatly in health before his return. He seemed, I may add, glad of the opportunity of having an interview with His Excellency the Viceroy and the Chief Commissioner of Assam, and I experienced no difficulty whatever in making the necessary arrangements for a meeting.

As might be expected in an isolated country like this, and with a profoundly ignorant population, a good deal of speculation and suspicion attended the above movement: bazaar rumour had it that the whole thing

was a plan to entrap the Maharaja and keep him in confinement, &c., &c.; and I had the pleasure of hearing afterwards that some of his younger sons had sworn, in such an event, to have my life. As it was I was forgiven on the safe return of the Maharaja, whom I did not, and do not, credit with any suspicious feeling on the matter.

*Temperature, rainfall, &c.*—The following table gives the temperature and rainfall for the year:—

*Temperature and rainfall for the year in the Munnipoor Valley.*

Month.		Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.	Rainfall.
July 1874	...	85	80	74	4·28
August "	...	83	80	74	4·14
September "	...	84	72	79	2·14
October "	...	83	79	69	2·84
November "	...	78	74	59	0·30
December "	...	66	64	41	...
January 1875	...	63	61	45	1·54
February "	...	72	74	49	0·30
March "	...	78	75	59	5·42
April "	...	81	79	66	2·10
May "	...	83	80	66	4·38
June "	...	82	79	73	8·82
Total ...					36·26

Observations made once daily at 6 A.M.

No earthquakes were noted as having occurred during the year.

*Crops.*—The prospects of a good harvest are favourable, although some anxiety was felt early in the season of this year of a local kind, however, on account of floods, the rice crop having been swept away on three different occasions on certain lands lying in proximity to the largest of the rivers flowing through the valley. Rice is, I am informed at the present time of writing, cheap, and likely to remain so.

*Health of the Valley.*—There have been no epidemics of any kind during the year; cholera has not invaded the valley. Small-pox has occurred but only in a mild form, and in scattered cases two of the sepoy guard here were attacked, but both recovered.

As usual vaccination has languished, and the population generally, both of the valley and hills, have shown their usual apathy in the matter.

The following table gives the results, in which it will be noticed the proportion of failures is greater than that of successful cases of the number vaccinated:—

Vaccinated.	Succeeded.	Result failed.	Total.
57	24	33	57

*Roads and Communications.*—With reference to the Government road lying between the Munnipoor Valley and the British frontier on the Jheerie river, I have much pleasure in reporting favourably on the



repairs executed during last cold season, as will be seen from the following extract from letter No. 28, dated 15th March 1875, and written after the repairs had been executed:—

“My former annual reports on the state of the road have been unfavourable, the Maharaja having failed to keep it in that state of repair as required by Treaty. I am happy, however, to be able to report that this year the obligation has been faithfully carried out, and that the road is in a better condition than it has been for many years.

“I have visited and carefully gone over the road on two occasions during this cold weather, pointing out to the various road sirdars what was required. I found them attentive and willing to attend to my suggestions, and I may here remark that the Maharaja accorded me full powers to give what orders I thought necessary in regard to the road repairs.

“My weekly diary has informed you of the working of the road inspection, I need not therefore enter into particulars. The condition of the road on my last inspection is briefly as follows:—

“The part leading from the Capital to the foot of the hills has been raised and levelled, and is in capital order. The whole of the hill portion, with the exception of about two miles near the Jheerie river (the frontier line) which is in progress, has been levelled and widened. Several miles of entirely new road have been constructed through the Jheerie forest, and the khalls have been securely bridged with heavy timber.

“I have addressed a congratulatory letter to the Maharaja on the condition of the road, which step I trust will be approved of. I have at the same time urged him on to fresh exertions next cold weather, as there is still a good deal to be done in the way of rock blasting, which operation could not be carried on owing to a complete want of blasting tools.

“I am happy to report that Government have granted a supply of wire rope, &c., for bridging the hill rivers, and I trust that my duties will admit of my actively superintending their construction during next cold season.”

The efforts made by the Munnipooris during the season to repair the road were acknowledged by the Government of India in letter No. 803G. of date 1st May 1875, to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, and were duly communicated by me to the Maharaja by his, the Chief Commissioner's, orders.

*Tools for road repairs.*—A supply of tools necessary for road repairs having been asked for in June last by the Maharaja, I made an application on the subject to the Chief Commissioner of Assam in letter No. 84 of date 12th June 1875, which was favourably received; it is to be hoped that the tools granted will be sent in time to admit of their being of use during the ensuing cold season.

*Wire rope for bridging.*—The wire rope formerly applied for and sanctioned for the construction of bridges over the rivers in the Munnipoor hills, and which I expected to have received during the rainy season, has not yet arrived; although it has been asked for; unless it comes pretty

early in the cold season, it will be impossible to make any use of it for bridging before the next rains.

*Bungalows on the hill road.*—The want of proper accommodation on the road between the Munnipoor valley and the Cachar frontier has been much felt, but up to this year, although frequently brought to the notice of the authorities, no steps had been taken in the matter, I have much pleasure in reporting, however, that after the road repairs had been finished, arrangements were made for building substantial accommodation for travellers likely to last with occasional repairs for some years. I have seen and occupied the new bungalows, and although got up in a rough style, they are perfectly good for the purpose; they have been built in situations named by me, are high up, and in healthy positions.

*Roads in the Valley.*—No new roads have been constructed in the valley during the year, but the few in existence have been kept in a good state of repair.

*Trade matters.*—There is very little to note under this head. I have found the table of duties levied on imports and exports given in last year's report useful in one case of a complaint brought by a Bengalee trader of overcharge. I found upon comparing the goods shown with the list that he had not been unfairly charged, and informed him accordingly. I am told that no change has been made in the list formerly given for this year. A few observations regarding the palpable decline of trade within the last year will be found under the head of Concluding Remarks.

*Proposal for new Agency buildings.*—The present buildings occupied by the Political Agent, and which are rented from the Maharaja's eldest son, having long been found unsuitable and badly situated in every way, an application was made through the Chief Commissioner of Assam (letter No. 81, dated 10th June 1875) for a grant of money to enable the Political Agent to build a new residence and offices, &c. The application has been favourably received.

*Present of rifles to the Maharaja and his Officers, &c.*—Owing to the obstructive and almost actively hostile attitude assumed by the Munnipoor Durbar on the occasion of the survey operations towards the east and north of the valley in 1872-73, a number of breech-loading rifled carbines, which had been presented by the late Lord Mayo to the Maharaja and his chief officers on account of the assistance given by them during the Looshai Expedition of 1871-72, were detained in Dacca until satisfaction and apology was given for the offence. This being done and a rebuke administered, the detained rifles (eleven in number) were forwarded; and were distributed by me in accordance with the instructions formerly received.

*Education, &c.*—There is nothing fresh to report regarding educational matters. The remarks made in last year's report are quite appropriate to this.

*Supply of ammunition to the Munnipoor Militia Force.*—A supply of ammunition having been applied for by the Maharaja in May last, consisting of lead, gunpowder, gun-caps and cartridge paper (no supply having been granted since 1869), I having satisfied myself by actual inspection of the magazine that such a supply was really required, it was

recommended for sanction, payment to be made in the proportion of one-third granted free of charge, the balance of the remaining cost to be repaid by easy periodical instalments. This has been agreed to, and the ammunition may be looked for some time during the ensuing cold season.

*Falling off of trade.*—In former years a brisk trade existed between Bengal and Munnipoor, traders bringing up betelnut and pân chiefly, and carrying down ponies, cloths, &c. Gradually, as by the oppressive measures adopted, the traders were forced to acknowledge that trade could only be carried on at a loss; their visits became fewer, and within the last year or two have almost ceased entirely. As trading has fallen off, so necessarily have failed the profits of former years, and as a consequence to fill the pockets of the authorities, their attention has been more directed to robbing the people of the country, and great and widespread discontent is the result.

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY, }  
The 16th November 1875. }

(Sd.) R. BROWN,  
Political Agent.







SELECTIONS

FROM THE

*Records of the Government of India,*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

For the year

1875-76.

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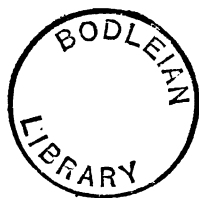
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No. 4199, dated Shillong, 20th November 1876.

From—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., B.A., C.S., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward herewith the Annual Report of the Political Agency at Munnipoor for the year 1875-76. I am to say that, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, Mr. Damant appears to have made a full report of the circumstances attending the administration of the affairs of the Munnipoor Agency during the year. There is little in the way of progress to report; but the Chief Commissioner thinks this result was to be expected.

2. In paragraph 4 of his report, Mr. Damant narrates the raids committed by Angami Nagas, from the Assam side of the frontier, on the Munnipoor Nagas. He recounts how, during the year under report, these marauders have sacked five villages and killed 106 persons, *viz.*, fifty-six men and fifty women and children. Besides this, eight men were wounded, and six men and fourteen women were carried away as captives. Of the persons killed, the heads of some were taken as trophies, and the ears of one man were cut off and carried away.

3. Mr. Damant states that the road from Cachar to Munnipoor is passable for laden cattle; but the Chief Commissioner believes that this is the case only in the dry weather, not in the rains. This point could, of course, easily be ascertained, if the Government think it necessary to inquire about the matter. The wire-rope for the bridges which Mr. Damant refers to was sanctioned by the Government of India so long ago as the 26th February 1875 in your letter No. 751P., but has not yet been received.

4. In paragraph 22 it is stated that the Government of India in the Foreign Department have sanctioned Rupees 5,000 for the construction of a Residency for the Political Agent at Munnipoor; but the Financial Department struck this sum out of the estimates, and proposed that the expenditure on

Paragraph 4 of the Report.—Naga raids.

Paragraph 10 of the Report.—Roads and Communications.

Paragraph 22.—Agency buildings.

this account should be met from the Assam Provincial Assignment on account of Public Works. But the Chief Commissioner would desire to point out that, when the Provincial Assignment for Assam was settled, expenditure on account of Munnipoor was not contemplated nor provided for. The assignment is at present insufficient to meet the internal wants of the Province; and, consequently, no funds are available for the much-required residence of the Political Agent.

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No. 160, dated Munnipoor, 25th October 1876.

From—G. H. DAMANT, Esq., Offg. Poltl. Agent, Munnipoor,

To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward, through the office of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the Annual Report from the Munnipoor Political Agency for the year 1875-76.

ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
OF THE  
MUNNIPOOR AGENCY  
For the year  
1875-76.

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A GENERAL account of the State of Munnipoor, which applies with little exception to the year under report, will be found in the Annual Report of the Munnipoor Political Agency for 1868-69, No. 78 of Selections from the Records of the Government of India, Foreign Department, and Statistical Account of the Native State of Munnipoor, 1873. No changes of note have taken place since the publication of these accounts.

2. *Cachar affairs.*—With reference to the District of Cachar, there is little to report; the following matters came under notice, and were disposed of during the year.

Some property belonging to Government, *viz.*, one carbine and some cartridges and caps, were reported to have been stolen from the Assaloo guard in North Cachar, and strong suspicion was attached against one Raujimba Naga of Impa village within Munnipoor territory. A careful search was said to have been made for the man by the Munnipoori authorities, but without effect.

One Bengalee trader, by name Mujoo Meah Hazee, who visited Munnipoor for the purposes of trade in company with other traders, was reported to be missing. On a search being made for him, it was found that he had left this country and gone to Upper Burmah to purchase buffaloes with one Yakoob Hazee of Banskandy, Cachar.

3. *Loosais.*—No news of any importance have been received from the country of this tribe, and therefore there is but little to report.

In November last the Maharaja of Munnipoor brought to notice that a party of Loosais had assembled in the Jheeri forest on the Cachar frontier (within Munnipoor territory), and by firing on wild elephants had completely ruined the Khedda operations in progress. He asked the Political Agent to communicate with the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar with a view to a stop being put to these excesses.

In addressing the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, on the subject, the Maharaja was informed that that officer has no power or authority to interfere, and that it lies with himself to take steps to protect his own interests in the tract of country in which that interest lies. On instituting an enquiry it was however found that no hostile movement was intended by the Loosais, but they came simply to gather India-rubber, as they had exhausted their own supply, and therefore had to take from Munnipoor. They were remonstrated with, and prohibited from doing so in the future. Since then nothing has been heard of their re-appearance.

There is no doubt that the supply of rubber in the Loosai country is nearly exhausted, and the Loosais will doubtless, unless prevented, pay annual visits to the forests in Munnipoor and the south of Cachar for the purpose of cutting it there.

4. *Northern Naga affairs.*—In the last year's report a list of the raids committed by British Nagas on Munnipoor hill territory was included. I now beg to add the following raids which had taken place during the year under review, and the loss of lives and properties occasioned thereby:—

In September 1875 the village of Phweelong or Togwemah was attacked by the Nagas of Papalongmai and Mozema, about 500 in number (many of whom were armed with muskets), and two men and ten women killed and four men wounded. Property plundered, and houses set on fire. Five of the heads were carried off.

On the 31st January 1876 the village of Mukoelong was attacked by a party of about 35 Konomah Nagas, and four men killed with gunshots and one man with spear. They cut and carried off the ears of one man killed, plundered from the villagers 12 spears, 14 daos, 6 axes, some cloths and four baskets of salt worth twelve rupees.

In April last the village of Kedima, situated on the British side of the boundary line, but close to Munnipoor frontier, was attacked by the Angamee Nagas of Mozema, Viswema, and seven others. The attacking party was more than one thousand in number, and had about 80 or 90 muskets with them. The village had been completely destroyed, and nine men killed, and their heads carried off; the houses, about two hundred, have been burnt down, and four men wounded with spears. The women and children and the escaped villagers took shelter in the Maow Naga villages within Munnipoor territory.

In the same month another Munnipoori Naga village called Quelong was attacked by the Nagas of Mozema and Konomah clans, headed by their Chiefs Musscori and Sanseleh, and eighty villagers killed (men, adult 40, and women and children 40), and seven wounded with spears; of the men killed twenty-four heads have been carried off. They also carried off as captives six men and fourteen women. A correct account of the property plundered and destroyed was not obtained, but ten of the villagers' houses were burnt down with some paddy.

Of the captives carried off, some escaped and some obtained their freedom by paying ransoms; only one man was sold as slave to another village for Rupees 30.

Since writing the above a rumour has come in apparently on good authority that the village has again been attacked and destroyed and several lives taken.

All the raids described above were duly brought to notice of the Political Officer in charge of the Naga Hills, and the truth as to their occurrence was ascertained and acknowledged by him, but whether any punitive measures have been adopted or not is not known.

This shows a total of one hundred and six persons killed, eight wounded, and twenty carried into captivity during the year under report on the Angamee frontier alone. It appears to me the Munnipooris have just grounds of complaint in this matter; nearly all the raids have been done by the villages of Mozema and Konomah, which are supposed to be under British protection, and yet no measures have been adopted to punish the offenders or put a stop to such acts in future. We may confidently expect more raids this year, unless some repressive measures are speedily adopted.

In September 1875 Dr. Brown paid a visit to Shillong to consult with Captain Butler on the subject of the Angamee Naga raids, and to receive the Chief Commissioner's orders with regard to repressive measures. Dr. Brown's absence on duty in Calcutta and Captain Butler's death interfered with the carrying out of their plans to put a stop to these wanton raids. Nothing was done in the past cold weather, and the raiding is going on.

5. *Extradition case.*—Five Constables of the Samaguting Police force and six Bildars made their escape from Samaguting. Their descriptive rolls and warrants for their apprehension were received during the year. Two of the Constables, Doia Ram and Khellander Sing, were arrested by the Munnipoori authorities and made over to the guard sent by the Political Agent, Naga Hills, to receive them; the other men are believed to have made their way towards Burmah.

In handing over the above two deserters the late Political Agent expressed a doubt, and observed that the rendition of these men is illegal, there being no provision in the Extradition Treaty Act XI of 1872 applicable to their cases.

6. *North-Eastern boundary or the boundary line between Munnipoor, Naga Hills, and Burmah lying north and east of Telizo Hills.*—The correspondence regarding this boundary was forwarded to Political Agent with letter No. 3430 of date 26th September 1875, from the Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, together with a map, in which the proposed boundary line was marked in red, and he was requested to consult the Maharaja and report whether he accepts the definition of the line as therein given.

The submission of the desired report was delayed till March 1876 owing to Dr. Brown's absence on duty in Calcutta on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. On his return to Munnipoor the late Political Agent addressed himself to the matter in hand, and took every pains to ascertain whether or not any villages and tract of country which had undoubtedly been under Munnipoor rule for some considerable time might not be excluded from its rule were the new line to be adopted in its entirety, and came to the

conclusion that such would be the case, and that the Maharaja would be deprived of a number of villages of the Tankhool tribe, to which he had an undoubted right by long occupation.

Following out his instructions, the Political Agent submitted the map, with the boundary line which had been approved of in Shillong, to the Maharaja, explaining verbally that this proposed boundary line was by no means decided on, and that Government was anxious to have a frank statement from him as to what line of boundary he would approve of. He was also requested to mark out such a boundary clearly on another map (should the one submitted not be approved of), and to state his reasons for its selection.

In answer to the above, the Maharaja submitted a long list of the villages which he would be deprived of should the line marked red in the map be approved, also a map as representing what the Munnipoor Durbar claimed as the proper boundary line.

This claim was not approved by Dr. Brown, as the line drawn by the Munnipooris would undoubtedly trench not only on the territory of the Province of Assam, but also most materially on that of Burmah. He, Dr. Brown, at first attempted to come to an arrangement with the Durbar and show what his ideas were on the subject of a suitable boundary line, but he failed owing to the hostile attitude of the Munnipoori authorities towards him. Failing in his effort at a compromise, Dr. Brown, who had personally gone over the whole country during the survey operations with Captain Butler, modified the map received from Shillong, included all the villages that could be claimed by Munnipooris, as also considerable slice of territory to which they could lay no claim of former occupation, and submitted the whole case to the Chief Commissioner with his letters Nos. 23 and 65, dated 18th March and 2nd June 1876 respectively. Dr. Brown's first letter fully explains his reasons for rejecting the Maharaja's claim to the watershed as the boundary, and need not be recapitulated here.

The question is at present under the consideration of Government, and nothing further has been heard on the subject. The Munnipoori authorities are very anxious to obtain early orders on the subject, as they were forbidden by Colonel Thomson in 1873 to interfere with the villages in that direction until the whole question is settled. They state that further delay will give them great trouble in restoring order amongst the Nagas, who are now left without any kind of control both by the British and Munnipoori Governments.

7. *Boundary between Munnipoor and Burmah.*—The question regarding the boundary between Munnipoor and Burmah is believed to have dropped. The Burmese as well as the Munnipoori authorities seems to be satisfied with the line as laid down in 1833 by Captain Pemberton, *i.e.*, the Mahanal road, and no wish for a change has been expressed from either side. The question stands as reported in last year's report.

8. *Burmese Frontier affairs.*—No raids of any kind on the Burmese frontier by the Munnipoor hill people have been heard of, nor any complaints regarding cattle-lifting, as was always the case in the previous years, was received from the Burmese authorities. Everything seems to be quiet on this frontier.



9. *Kamhow or Sootie Kuki affairs.*—Since the expedition sent by the Maharaja into the Sootie country, which was fully reported on in the last year's Annual Report, no raid have been committed by this tribe (though attempts have been made) on Munnipoor hill territory, but hostilities have again been resumed, and I think it will not be easy to bring the Sookties to terms.

The effect of the expedition has not been much felt by them; they seem to be becoming more aggressive and arrogant than before.

The establishment of four new Thannahs on this frontier prevented in a great measure the attempts at raiding.

The following attempts at raiding were made by this tribe, but proved unsuccessful. The story as related by the Munnipoori authorities is given below :—

“On the 29th Choet (10th April 1876) the Noongeah Chief Poomthungpa, with three of his village men and two men of Lengthongkhool, in all six men, having been to reconnoitre the pass south of Sarangbaching, came upon a party of Kamhows about 500 or 600 in number; they, the above six men, on nearing them, fired at them, but finding the party very strong and their inability to make a stand, fled. Poomthungpa entangled his feet in the grass and fell to the ground; upon the enemy coming towards him with a view to take his head, his son returned and fired at them, his firing prevented them from cutting the head of his father. The Kamhows also fired, but only struck the barrel of Poomthungpa's son's musket.

“After this, hearing the report of muskets, the Molbee men, about twenty in number, came and, joining with them, fired.

“After this 40 Munnipoori sepoy from the guard stationed at Tooyang stockade, headed by Satpah Subadar and Thingoo Chumbah Jemadar appeared at the spot and returned the firing till sunset; on getting dark both parties retired. None of our men have been wounded. In the morning upon examining the place of engagement some blood marks were seen at the spot. Some of their men must have been wounded. The enemy has not been seen again.”

On the 22nd Bysak (3rd May 1876) the headmen of the Khongjai sepoy stationed on the Moirang frontier, named Poomlul and Munglep of Lowsow, brought a Kamhow head, and their statement as given is written below :—

“I, Poomlul, and I, Munglep, of Lowsow, with seventy Khongjai sepoy proceeded to reconnoitre towards Tseklapi; on our arrival there, after a short interval, at or about three hours before sunset, we spied an advance party of Kamhow force and proceeded as far as the banks of the Khooka river; on reaching this place the Kamhows first fired at our men; on our returning the fire one of the enemy fell and the advance party retreated in confusion. Poomlul took the head. Shortly after this the Kamhows, about three hundred men, appeared and began to fire indiscriminately; our sepoy shot four of their men; none of our men were wounded; at two hours after dusk they (the Kamhows) ceased firing and retired. In the morning our sepoy went to see the place, but found no Kamhows; on the road they observed some blood marks.

In August 1875 the Sookties promised to give up some captives, and three Doobashas were sent from Munnipoor to fetch them, two of whom were shot on the road by Kaikol and other Sookties. This Kaikol, I may mention, is the Mantri of the Sooktie Chief Yatol, and he visited Munnipoor several times and negotiated with Colonel Thomson and Dr. Brown and the Munnipoori authorities for the exchange of the captives in the Munnipoor Jail. The story of this deliberate murder of the Doobashas as related by a Kuki Chief, named Bomyam of Mungote, is given below :—

“About a month ago two Sootie Kukies of the village of Noongeah, one named Sookyam, and one named Thangjill, came to my village and told me that some of the captives promised to be returned by Kaikol have been collected at Noongeah; if you will come there they will be handed over to you. Hearing this, I and two of my village men, named respectively Dowkut and Paowtong, started next morning in company with the above-named two Kukies for Noongeah, and reached it on the third day of our journey before sunset. Kaikol (who came on several occasions to Munnipoor as a messenger from the Sooties) and Khooding (a brother of the Kamhow Chief Yatol) were there in the village; we met them, and were informed that some captives were at Lumyang; if we will accompany them as far as that place, they will be given up; we accordingly left with them the following morning. On our way we reached the place where the large Semul tree is, and sat there for rest. Here we were joined by about ten men of Sungam's village. When we were about to resume our journey, Kaikol and Khooding suddenly turned towards us and said, “your Munnipoori Saheb and the Majors have threatened to destroy our villages, we will kill you, so that they may come sooner.” Saying this they fired at my companions and both of them fell; the musket of the man who shot at me missed fire. I then fired my musket and killed him and ran away; they pursued me for a long distance, but were unable to overtake me.

10. *Roads and communications.*—With reference to the Government road lying between the Munnipoor valley and the British frontier on the Jheeri River, I have much pleasure in reporting favourably upon its condition, and give below the following extract from letter No. 12, dated 2nd March 1876, from the late Political Agent, Dr. Brown, written on his return from Calcutta, and after the repairs had been executed :—

“I have the honor to report, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, that on my return journey to Munnipoor I made a careful inspection of the road leading from the frontier at the Jheeri River to this, and found it generally in a satisfactory condition and passable for laden animals according to the terms of the Treaty.”

Some small though important defects were pointed out in the wooden bridges and road repairs, and were duly rectified.

A supply of tools necessary for road repairs was received from the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division, and given to the Maharaja free of charge; it is to be hoped that the blasting operations hitherto not done for want of tools will now be carried out and the repairs of the road will be more satisfactorily executed during this cold weather months.

The wire-rope formerly sanctioned by Government for the construction of swinging bridges over the rivers in the Munnipoor hills has not been received as yet, and nothing has been done in the matter. The information as to the distance, &c., required by the Director-General of Telegraphs in India has been furnished to him in March last, but nothing has been heard of from him. Unless the wire-ropes are received early in the cold season, it will be impossible to make any use of it for bridging before the next rains.

All the fair-weather roads in the valley are in good state of repair. No new roads have been constructed.

11. *Trade matters.*—There is no change in matters connected with trade. No complaint of any kind (except an instance of an extortion by a Thannadar on the road) was made by traders. No change in the levy of duties on exports and imports has taken place.

A short correspondence took place between the Maharaja and the late Political Agent, Dr. Brown, with reference to the prohibition in the export of cattle from this country, but as cattle were so scarce in the country owing to the murrain which prevailed four years ago, the Political Agent agreed that stopping the export was quite justifiable.

I learn however on very good authority that the real objection of the Munnipooris to the export of cattle is the fear that they should be slaughtered in Cachar.

12. *Tax and trade in ponies.*—The trade in ponies from Munnipoor has been larger than usual during the past cold season. The Angamee Nagas alone carried across the hills to Assam no less than seventy-five ponies in batches from two to ten. The transit duty, Rupees 20, taken by the Munnipoor Durbar for each pony had been considered as unreasonably high and almost equivalent to a prohibitory rate, and made a subject of complaint by the Political Officer in charge of the Naga Hills District, and he was of opinion that were the export fees to be lowered, the trade in ponies would very soon increase enormously, paying a corresponding increase into the revenue of the State.

The following extract from letter No. 114, dated 18th August 1875, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, will explain the view taken by Dr. Brown in the matter:—

“The unequal nature of the fixed tax on the export of ponies has been long recognised by me, and many ineffectual representations made on the subject to the authorities here. I have always recommended a percentage on the actual cost of the ponies purchased. The present duty of Rupees 20 is not at all complained of by traders from the west or by the Munnipooris themselves. What they formerly complained of was a series of irregular charges amounting to some Rupees 3 or 4, and which additional tax I succeeded in having removed on my return from furlough two and a half years ago. Considering the large profits made on ponies by traders, I am of opinion that the State charge of Rupees 20 is not excessive, more especially as being now fixed, it can be taken into account in the regular way of trade both by buyer and seller. Good ponies are so scarce here, it may be added that no change in the amount of duty levied could make much difference in the number exported.”

13. *Munnipoori exiles.*—Of the three Munnipoori Rajpootras exiled and detained in Hazareebaugh under British surveillance, one Kaifa Sing was released last January on condition of his residing in Munnipoor and not re-appearing again in British territory. He was brought here in March, and arrangements were made for his settlement; the Maharaja has treated him with the greatest possible kindness and consideration since his arrival.

The remaining two, *viz.*, Gokul Sing and Doyabundo Sing, prayed to be released, or if this be not granted, to be transferred to Dacca or Nuddea. The Maharaja was consulted, and as he had no objection to their unconditional release, their liberation was recommended to Government and favourably received. These two men have been ordered to be released on the same condition as the above-named Kaifa Sing—they are not to appear in British territory again. They are shortly expected, and the Munnipoori authorities have been written to, to make all necessary arrangements for their settlement here.

Two more detenués, *viz.*, Shekor Sing and Nirjeet Sing, are living in Sylhet since their release from Dacca, and nothing against them has been heard of.

There now remains only Kanhai Sing under British surveillance, he is now living in Kishnaghur, Nuddea District, and receiving a monthly maintenance allowance of Rupees 30 from the Munnipoor Durbar.

14. *Munnipoor Militia.*—There is no change to report either in the numbers, equipment, or efficiency of the Munnipoor Militia force. A quantity of ammunition, *viz.*, 50 maunds gunpowder, 200 maunds of lead, three lakhs percussion caps, and Rupees 400 worth of cartridge paper had been supplied to the Maharaja for the use of his troops, on the terms proposed by Dr. Brown, *viz.*, one-third of the cost to be remitted and the balance to be paid by easy instalments.

The whole cost of the above ammunition was valued at Rupees 5,091-2, two-thirds of which amount, *viz.*, Rupees 3,394-1-4, was ordered to be recovered from the Durbar by easy instalments. The Maharaja was consulted, and he proposed to pay the above sum by three equal instalments within one year. Two of the instalments have been already recovered and remitted to the Examiner of Ordnance Accounts, and there now remains the last instalment, which will fall due shortly.

15. *Present of two Arab stallions to the Maharaja.*—The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council was pleased, as a token of friendship, to present the Maharaja with two Arab stallions for the purpose of improving the breeding of horses in this country. These animals arrived here in December last, and are in good condition.

16. *Present of medals, &c., by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.*—The Maharaja's attendance upon His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the occasion of His Royal Highness' visit to Calcutta was excused by Government, but a party of Pole players to play before the Prince was taken down by Dr. Brown, with whom a collection of the different hill tribes and some small presents were sent also by the Maharaja.

In February last a letter and the following presents were received from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and made over to the Maharaja :—

A gold signet ring, a many-bladed knife, a silver medallion, and a portrait of His Royal Highness.

17. *Earthquakes*.—Several slight shocks of earthquake were felt during the year, but none of a serious nature; their directions were mostly from south to north.

18. *Crops*.—The prospects of a good harvest are favourable. Rice is, I am informed at the present time of writing, very dear, and has reached almost to a famine price, and the poorer classes of the population are suffering considerably. In another fortnight or twenty days the early rice crop called Doomai will be fit for reaping, and it is expected that the present distress will be alleviated in a great measure.

19. *Health of the valley*.—During the year under review very few cases of cholera occurred, and only one or two deaths were reported. Since the middle of July up to the present time of writing, cholera is raging both in the town and the villages, and many lives have been lost, two of the Police sepoy attached to the Agency guard have also fallen victims to this disease. It has also spread to some of the hill villages, but seems there to assume a milder form than in the valley. The distant hills have not been infected with the disease.

A few cases of small-pox occurred, but were not of a fatal nature.

No other disease of an epidemic form has appeared either in the valley or the hills during the past year.

20. *Vaccination*.—Very few men were vaccinated during the last cold weather months, owing principally to the absence of the Native Doctor on duty to Calcutta with the Munnipoori Polo players and hillmen.

21. *Education*.—There is nothing new to report under this head; the last year's report is generally applicable to this.

22. *Matters connected with the Agency*.—*Agency buildings*.—The proposal for the construction of new Agency buildings was favourably received by Government, and orders were given to include the estimated cost, Rupees 5,000, in the Budget of the current year 1876-77. On the amount being included in the Agency Budget Estimate, it was struck off by the Government of India, Financial Department, stating that the cost of the building is chargeable to the Assam Provincial Funds.

The Chief Commissioner of Assam in Secretary Major Trevor's letter No. 51T., dated 28th February 1876, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, declines to include the amount in the Assam Budget, stating his reasons that the political charges in Munnipoor have never been counted as part of Assam expenditure, and this Administration is not financially in a position to meet any such drain.

Since the above nothing has been heard of, and nothing has been done towards the construction of the building.

A site for the building in question has been selected on the side of the main road leading to Cachar about a mile from the Maharaja's enclosure and accepted by Dr. Brown, but nothing has been done as yet towards the levelling of the ground. In my opinion, however, the spot selected is not a very good one, and a much better site might be found on a hill about a mile to the north, which the Durbar is perfectly willing to give up for a Residency.

A barren hill called Chingah, close to the Maharaja's Pat, was originally selected by Dr. Brown as a suitable site for the Agency buildings, but objections were raised by the Munnipooris on the ground that the place is a Laiphum or sacred place. A long correspondence took place between the Maharaja and the Political Agent, Dr. Brown, on the subject, and Tangal Major, a principal officer of the Maharaja, who used to come on all business matters, was prohibited by Dr. Brown to wait upon him, as he had made certain mis-statements until he retracted them and made an apology.

The Major refused to apologise and adhered to the statements made by him. His case was submitted to the Chief Commissioner of Assam for orders with letter No. 148 of date 1st December 1875. Since then nothing has been heard of the matter, and the prohibitory order against the Major is still in force.

23. *Branch Post Office at Munnipoor.*—The opening of a Branch Post Office at Munnipoor was sanctioned in November 1875, but owing to the delay in the transmission of forms, registers, &c., it has not been formally opened.

I fail to see any advantage to be gained by the establishment of a Post Office here, as it must necessarily be as before, entirely under the Political Agent.

24. *Camp equipage.*—Two servants' pāls and a necessary tent to complete the camp equipage of this Agency were sanctioned and purchased.

- 25. *Chuprassies' pay.*—The pay of two of the three chuprassies attached to the Agency, which was deemed inadequate to secure the services of good men and represented in last year's Annual Report, has been ordered to be raised to a maximum of Rupees 10 by an annual increment of annas eight.

26. *Assistant to Political Agent.*—The application for the appointment of an Assistant to the Political Agent has been negatived by Government.

27. *Travelling allowance.*—An application for extending the period allowed to the Political Agent for travelling allowance from three to four months was made and negatived by Government.

28. *Personal guard attached to the Political Agent.*—The personal guard attached to the Agency was sanctioned, and all along supplied from the regiment stationed at Cachar, but the late Political Agent, Dr. Brown, found the men unequal to undergo the hardships and inconveni-

ences attendant on travelling in the hills, and recommended that they should be exchanged for men from the Cachar Frontier Police. This recommendation was favorably received, and since March last a Police guard has been supplied.

29. *Agency Staff.*—There are no changes to report in connection with the Agency Establishment, except that the Second Class Hospital Assistant Beharry Sing, who was attached to this Agency for the last eight years, has been transferred, and Third Class Hospital Assistant Koonj Beharry Sookul sent in his place.

30. Dr. Brown was in charge of the Political Agency throughout the year.

31. I have, in conclusion, to report favourably on the conduct of all the subordinates of the Agency for the year.

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY, }  
• The 25th of October 1876. }

(Sd.) G. H. DAMANT,  
*Officiating Political Agent.*





**ANNUAL**  
**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MANIPUR AGENCY,**

**For the year**

**1877-78.**

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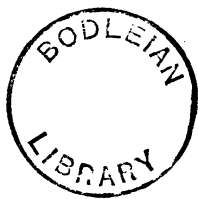
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No. 199, dated Manipur, 10th October 1878.

From—LIEUT.-COL. J. JOHNSTONE, Political Agent, Manipur,

To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secy. to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I HAVE the honor to forward the Annual Administration Report of the Manipur Agency for the year 1877-78, and regret that severe illness and subsequent weakness should have prevented its earlier submission.



ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
OF THE  
MANIPUR AGENCY  
For the year  
1877-78.

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THE little State of Manipur is situated between latitude  $24^{\circ} 30'$  and  $26^{\circ}$  north and longitude  $93^{\circ} 10'$  and  $94^{\circ} 50'$  east approximately, being bounded to the west by the British District of Cachar and the Naga Hills Agency; to the north by the Naga Hills Agency and Naga tribes yet unsubdued and with whom no relations are kept up; to the east by Naga tribes and Burmah; and to the south by a collection of Kookie tribes called by various names and in various states of barbarism.

Manipur includes within its bounds upwards of 7,600 square miles, of which however the valley portion comprises only 650 square miles, the remainder consisting of mountainous land inhabited by various hill tribes speaking at least 20 different languages.

The valley of Manipur is the centre of the chain of valleys which connect India and Burmah, having to its east and west those of Kubbo and Cachar, from which however it is separated by several ranges of hills which, rising from the two above-mentioned valleys, reach their culminating point where they abut on the Manipur valley, where they reach the height of from 5,000 to 6,500 feet above the sea level. The height of the valley is about 2,570 feet above the sea, with drainage from north to south.

The first view of the valley, when approaching it from Cachar, is most striking. On reaching the summit of the Limetol Range much to my disappointment I found myself enveloped in mist, but after descending a few hundred feet, the clouds rolled away in front of me, showing the valley spread out below; it was like a world in miniature, a wide plain enclosed on all sides by hills and presenting a varied picture of hills, lakes, rivers, and cultivation. To the right lay the great Logtak lake, the sole remnant of the larger lake that once covered the whole valley, in front the wide plain studded with villages, far away to the left the glittering temples of Manipur, while all around and far beyond the valley rise the hills, range upon range, the whole forming a most striking and beautiful panorama.

*Absence of Timber.*—In viewing the valley and surrounding country from a height it is impossible not to notice the entire absence of forests in the valley, and also the barrenness of many of the hill sides where the fine timber that once existed has been in a great measure destroyed by the recklessness of the hill tribes. This state of things has caused a great scarcity of wood for fuel and building in the valley, so that there is probably no part of our Eastern frontier so ill supplied with this necessary. So much impressed am I with the evil that will in future result from such improvidence, that I have made several representations to the Maharaja on the subject with, however, I fear, little effect, the prospect of immediate profit to be gained by establishing a system of forest conservancy not being sufficient to induce him to make an effort, more especially as, having the command of all the labor of the country, he himself will not feel the want of wood so long as there is any to be brought from a distance. Apart from the vicinity of the valley also, Manipur has certainly less fine timber than might be expected, and as the Kookies gradually advance from the south the quantity will still more diminish, as those ruthless tree destroyers have a system of cultivation more destructive to the forests than any other tribe under the Maharaja's authority.

*Rainfall.*—The destruction of the surrounding forests has had a corresponding effect on the rainfall in the valley, which is, for a place so situated, remarkably small, as will be seen from the following register; and Manipur is probably drier than any other place on this frontier. The rainfall in the hills is at the same time excessive and almost continuous during the rainy season.

The following is the Statement of temperature as taken at 6 A.M. every morning; it is generally said that the months of May and June have been hotter than usual:—

MONTHS.	THERMOMETER.		RAINFALL.	REMARKS.
	Minimum.	Maximum.	Inches.	
July 1877	72	77	9.59	The rainfall, though much greater than usual, is probably over-stated here, as the gauge is out of order.
August "	75	78	12.48	
September "	76	79	8.86	
October "	76	78	7.23	
November "	63	77	3.47	
December "	42	54	2.89	
January 1878	40	45	1.84	
February "	45	58	2.15	
March "	56	67	1.54	
April "	59	69	1.39	
May "	66	72	2.16	
June "	73	79	.70	
Total rainfall	...	...	54.30	

*Crops.*—The rice crop was excellent, indeed far above the average, and all the minor crops, with the exception of wheat, have been good; the latter was unfortunately unsatisfactory, owing to the want of rain when the ears were forming.



*Health.*—There was comparatively little sickness during the first ten months of the year under review; during May and June, however, bowel complaints were very prevalent, and there were some isolated cases of cholera, including several sepoy of the Agency Guard, one of whom unfortunately died. Cholera here, however, seems to be generally of a comparatively mild description, though the symptoms are well marked.

*Dispensary.*—The dispensary attached to the Agency seems to be daily becoming more popular, and the Hospital Assistant, Lutchmun Pershad, takes much interest in his work. He has performed two operations for stone, one of which was most successful, and the other would have been so but for the bigotry of the patient, a Manipuri, who refused to follow the treatment prescribed, on the grounds that he would lose caste by so doing; indeed until, in respect of their religious prejudices, the Manipuris become more like Hindoos of the rest of India, it is to be feared that it will be merely waste of life attempting first class operations. The fact of medical treatment, however, gradually finding favor in the eyes of the people is a hopeful sign, and as this was not the case a few years ago, it is to be hoped that prejudices will be gradually relaxed, and that a few years hence successful after treatment in surgical cases may be pursued.

It is very satisfactory to find that vaccination is daily becoming more in request. In the month of May the inhabitants of a Naga village had their children vaccinated at their own request, and there is little doubt that their example will be followed by others.

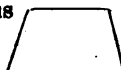
*Murrain among cattle.*—During the months of August and September a very severe murrain raged in the valley, from which large numbers of horned cattle and ponies died; of the latter the Maharaja alone lost 162, and the prices of both classes of animals have risen considerably, so much so, that the export of buffaloes from Manipur has been prohibited; that of cows has not been permitted for several years, as the Maharaja objects to letting them go to a district where they are likely to be slaughtered.

*Roads.*—The most important of these is that connecting Cachar with Manipur, which was constructed at the expense of the British Government and finished in 1842. When I passed along it in October last it was, considering that the repairs are carried out by the Maharaja, in excellent condition, and care had evidently been taken to keep it clear. A few bridges were wanting here and there, over small jungle water courses, but otherwise there was nothing to complain of, and I managed to take with me a small wheeled carriage.

The gradient is generally good, and it struck me that a moderate expenditure would make it available for carts drawn by buffaloes in the cold season. This road was formerly repaired at the expense of Government, but in 1865 the Maharaja undertook to keep it in order at his own expense, and since then he has done so. According to the terms of the original agreement made with Ghumbeer Sing in 1833, the Maharaja is bound to keep it in a fit state for laden cattle during the cold season, and so it certainly was when I saw it.

The large rivers on the road remain as before, and during the rainy season passengers are still dependent on the picturesque cane suspension

bridges, whose great defect is that they need repair every year. During the cold season, however, very ingenious pontoon bridges are constructed by mooring large bundles of bamboos at intervals in the stream, and over these carrying a substantial roadway. One of these bridges will bear 50 or 60 men with their loads at once, and costs much less trouble in construction than one built on posts. The wire rope for the new bridges, so long sanctioned, arrived during the cold season, but could not unfortunately be used, as disturbances on the Burmese frontier prevented my visiting the road for the purpose of superintending the erection of the bridges, and the Manipuris did not trust themselves to perform the work without my assistance. It is, however, intended to carry out the work during the ensuing cold season, and it is to be hoped that by the month of March all the rivers will be bridged.

The valley is well supplied with very tolerable roads, almost all of which have been made by the present Raja, who takes much interest in works of public utility ; none of these are metalled, but they are quite fit for traffic, and most of them have wooden bridges over the different streams quite strong enough for laden cattle to pass over. Every day the existing roads are being improved and new ones planned, so that in a few years' time Manipur will be exceptionally well supplied with them. The bridges to which I have referred, though apparently ricketty structures, seem to stand floods better than many more substantially built ones that are to be seen in British districts, and this I attribute to the posts being placed sloping inwards so as, with the cross bar which supports the roadway, to form a trapeze thus  by which means more

resistance is offered to the force of the current than when the posts are perpendicular ; also to the fact that the posts are far enough apart to allow drift timber to pass without being arrested by them. Perhaps, however, the best explanation of all is the system by which the villagers have to keep them in repair, so that it is in the interest of each community to do their work well in the first instance, and so avoid the unpleasantness of being called away from their own business at an inconvenient time to execute repairs.

*Road to the Naga Hills.*—This road has been regularly laid out for the first 13 miles, and is, after leaving the vicinity of the capital, as straight as an arrow ; thence for the next 33 miles it is merely a good jungle track running over undulating ground, where a good road could without difficulty be made. The next 15 miles are more difficult, the path ascending a ridge and running along the summit with an occasional descent and ascent till about three miles from the village of Muram it rapidly descends till the river Quace is reached, on a bend of which, enclosing some good rice land, the Manipuri outpost of Mythe Phum is situated. Thence to the frontier beyond the Mao or Sopvumah group, a distance of 16 or 17 miles, the path is indifferent, but nowhere so bad as to prevent laden cattle going along it.

From a Manipuri point of view there would be little advantage in improving this road, which, for all practical purposes, is good enough ; but whenever, in the general interest of the empire, it is deemed advis-

able to open it out, I anticipate very little difficulty in the undertaking. I should add that there are no streams the bridging of which would be attended with any real difficulty.

*Roads to Burmah.*—The only other roads of importance are those to the Valley of Kubbo, and of these, four in number, I only propose to notice the two along which I have myself travelled. The first of these latter, called the Kongal route, is the most northerly of all, and is by far the most difficult; it leaves the valley at a place called Ingorok, and immediately ascends a ridge 6,500 feet above the sea and 4,000 above the valley, by a very precipitous path. From the summit, the Kubbo Valley, and even the hills beyond the Ningthee, are plainly visible. Thence there is a gradual descent, with an occasional steep ascent, for several miles, and then a sudden and most trying descent of about 3,000 feet to the River Turet, 1,500 feet above the sea, on the banks of which there is just room to encamp. The hills on either side are so precipitous that lights on them at night seem to those encamped below like stars.

After leaving the Turet an ascent of 2,500 feet is made, and afterwards a gradual descent of 15 miles till just above the river Maglung 1,000 feet above the sea, when the path is again very steep till the river is reached.

From the Maglung to Kongal Thannah, a few hundred yards from the Burmese Frontier, the road runs nearly parallel with the northern boundary of the Valley of Kubbo and is tolerably good. About 500 feet above the Maglung (1,500 feet above the sea level) I found a flourishing group of fir trees of a good size, and the high ridges nearer the Manipur Valley are well covered with oak and chestnut. By this route, 71 miles in all, the Kubbo Valley can be reached in six or seven days, but for practical purposes it is of little use, as none but strong men could undertake a journey along it. The other route by which I proceeded, commonly called the Morai route, is that by which the Burmese entered Manipur in 1819; it leaves the valley about 33 miles from the capital, and in a couple of hours a village by name Imole is reached, from whence there is a fair view of the Manipur Valley. Imole is 5,000 feet above the sea level, and about a mile further on is the summit of the ridge, 295 feet higher; thence the road descends gradually to a place called Konggang, 4,200 feet above the sea and 18 miles from Imole.

From Konggang a beautiful view is obtained of the Kubbo Valley. It was here that the Manipuris made a great stand against the Burmese invading force in 1819.

After an abrupt descent from Konggang the road runs along a highly undulating country till close to Morai Thannah. The total distance by this route to the Kubbo Valley is 68 miles (five days' march), and it is considered by far the best, and is kept in good order by the Maharaja. No difficulty would be experienced in taking laden cattle or elephants by it.

The two other routes to the Kubbo Valley, called respectively the Yanga Pokpee and the Ngnasunna routes are, I am told, tolerably good. The first mentioned has already been described by the late Dr. Brown in his Annual Report for 1868-69.

*Trade.*—The state of trade in Manipur is anything but satisfactory, and owing to peculiar circumstances it has been worse than usual during the past year.

*Trade with Cachar.*—This, as usual, consists of imports in the shape of betelnuts, calicos, broadcloths, brass vessels, hookhas, spices, tools and implements, and various small articles of luxury; the first mentioned article, however, is by far the most valuable and is in universal demand, the Manipuris being great pân eaters.

The exports consist of Manipuri ponies, cloth, silk, hockey sticks, beeswax, tea seed, ivory, and India rubber. The four last mentioned articles are a monopoly of the Maharaja's, strictly against the Treaty of 1833. This was never objected to by Dr. Brown, as he thought it unnecessary to interfere so long as traders did not complain, and this being the case, I have thought it better not to be too precipitate in objecting to what, though an undoubted infraction of the Treaty, is not an acknowledged grievance of the trading classes; this, like many other abuses, however, I have determined to put a stop to as soon as a fitting opportunity arrives. On every article imported and exported a small duty is levied, and the Maharaja's police on the road examine every load that passes, causing endless trouble to the unfortunate traders. This system, together with the most vexatious interference in Manipur, undoubtedly does much to check trade and raise the prices of all imported articles, and I have constantly had to interfere to protect men from the rapacity of the Manipuri officials. It seems next to impossible to induce the Durbar to believe that a more liberal system would pay better in the end, and I fear that nothing short of the entire abolition of all duties, except those levied on ponies and horned cattle, will afford any real relief.

The difficulty in the way of abolishing the duties is the loss of revenue which would thus be incurred, and which would be severely felt, as nothing in cash is realized from the land, the system of forced labor or laloo so often described being substituted for land revenue, and the people being unwilling and unable to bear any new impost. On this question of transit duties, however, I propose to submit a separate report in the course of a few months.

*Natural difficulties in the way of trade.*—One of the chief difficulties in the way of the development of trade, however, is the want of means of transport for goods which must always have a great effect in keeping it in a backward state. It can hardly be hoped that any money will be available for the improvement of the road for many years to come, at least such improvement as would make it available for carts; but there is a way in which much improvement in the means of transport might be effected, and that is by the employment of pack-bullocks for the conveyance of baggage.

At present a famine might rage in Manipur and no assistance could be given from without, except in the shape of a few loads of rice for those who could pay at the rate of 15 or 16 rupees per maund for it, or there might be a redundant harvest in Manipur and terrible scarcity in Cachar without a grain of food going from one place to the other. This will be obvious when it is stated that the cost of conveying a maund weight from Cachar to Manipur or *vice versa* costs from Rupees 5 to 10 or even more. Whatever may be said of it, the road to Cachar is quite as good as many of the Bunjarah tracts in other parts of India,

certainly better than the road from Rewah to Chutteesgurrh or that from Midnapoor to Sumbulpoor, along both of which thousands of bullocks pass annually.

Unfortunately it never seems to have occurred to any one to try the experiment, and conservatism is strong in these parts; but were the transit duties abolished and the trade suddenly increased in consequence, it is possible that some of the more enterprising traders in Cachar and Sylhet might be induced to adopt a plan by which the cost of carriage would be reduced to an average of 25 per cent. of what it is at present.

Were there a large establishment here to be provided for with articles not indigenous to the country I should urge that Government should lead the way in establishing a pack-bullock train, and even now there may be an opportunity of trying the experiment in another direction should there be any difficulty in supplying the new station of Kohima in the Naga Hills, as in ordinary years the surplus products of the Manipur Valley might be conveyed there on pack-bullocks at a very moderate cost.

*Trade with Naga Hills.*—Owing to the unsettled state of the Naga Hills during the past cold season, fewer Angamies than usual have come in to Manipur and trade has been dull. While the Naga Hills expedition was in progress several large parties came in ostensibly to trade, but in reality to see what preparations were being made, and they took away little. As soon as the expedition was over, however, and the roads safe, some Naga horse dealers arrived and altogether 72 ponies have passed out of the valley in this direction. Besides these, iron, spirits, salt, cloth, &c., have been exported. Strange to say the Angamies who regularly trade with Manipur often prefer to buy Manipuri salt at the rate of two seers per rupee instead of the far better article which they can get at Samaguting nearer their homes at the rate of four seers per rupee. It is surprising too to see the quantity of spirits bought by them to be carried away, when it would be easy for them to manufacture an equally good article at home.

In return for what they take away the Angamies bring large quantities of brass vessels from Assam and also cornelians. The way seems to be for an active trader to come to the valley as soon as the rains are over, or even a little before, and buy as many ponies as he can: these he sells in Assam and lays out the proceeds as I have described. The trade in brass vessels will doubtless greatly increase, even now it is quite common to see Assamese brass basins in the possession of Manipuris.

The other tribes of Nagas bring in little for sale except beeswax, oil seeds, cotton, and cloths. Many of the Tankhul Naga villages pay their tribute in oil seeds. It was hoped that an annual fair might have been established in one of the Mao village (Sopvumah group) during the ensuing cold season, but Burmese affairs have diverted attention from anything else, and nothing can be effected this year it is feared.

*Trade with Burmah.*—In consequence of the attack made by the Burmese on the Manipuri outpost of Kongal Thannah trade has dwindled down to nothing.

The vexatious prohibition of the export of ponies and buffaloes from Burmah to Manipur continues to be severely felt in Manipur, especially by the few traders belonging to the country. A really good pony cannot now be purchased in Manipur, though to the east of the Ningthee the people are most anxious to sell. Buffaloes also seem to be in great demand in Cachar, to judge by the number of traders who come from thence to purchase but return disappointed; in the case of the latter animals, however, the vigilance of the Burmese authorities is often defeated, and notwithstanding the heavy punishment they risk by so doing, the inhabitants of the Kubbo Valley often manage to smuggle them across the frontier.

I have lately been assured by a Burmese officer that as soon as the perpetrators of the Kongal outrage have been punished and the road opened again, the prohibition will be removed and ponies and buffaloes allowed to pass free as before, and it is to be hoped that this will be the case.

*Manufactures.*—These consist of cotton cloths of various kinds and excellent quality, though coarse, and in large demand in Cachar and the Naga Hills; also cotton yarn, which is exported to the surrounding hills there to be made into cloths of the patterns peculiar to each tribe. Silk, leather, saddlery, pottery, brass vessels, daos and knives, jewellery, wood-work, &c.

All these arts are indigenous, and to judge from the work turned out, appear to have come from the east and not from the west—this is very noticeable in the silver work, which has a much greater resemblance to that of Burmah and the Shan States than to that of India.

The carpenters of Manipur are tolerably good workmen and very intelligent, and have made great progress in their art during the last few years. Wooden bedsteads are in common use among the better classes, so that there is some demand for their labor.

Generally speaking, the workmen of Manipur have suffered from the system by which a large portion of their labor is given to the Maharaja in lieu of taxes; this has had the usual effect of forced labor in making them slow. Indeed it may be said that many branches of industry suffer in like manner. On the other hand, however, to judge by the analogy of Assam, where formerly many arts existed which have now died out, though the same are still flourishing in Manipur, it is, I think, reasonable to believe that, but for the Maharaja, many useful arts which are now in a flourishing condition and daily improving under his tutelage would have long since ceased to be, and had Manipur been retained as a British district after the first Burmese war, the indigenous manufactures no longer in demand would have died out, and with exception of cloths, earthen pots, rude daos, and such rough carpentry as would suffice to build a native hut, nothing worthy of the name of manufactures would have been left. As it is, a certain amount of protection is afforded to art, and the Maharaja having a strong desire to improve what already exists, and to introduce more, it is to be hoped that these branches of industry will be so fostered as not to fall into disuse till civilization has so far progressed that a demand will arise sufficient to keep them up without any artificial stimulus.

*Burmese Frontier affairs.*—I mentioned in my last year's Report that affairs in this direction were far from satisfactory, Burmese and Manipuris being suspicious of one another.

This bad feeling unfortunately culminated in an attack made by a body of from 100 to 200 men from the Valley of Kubbo on the Kongal Thannah in December 1877, the stockade in which the guard of 20 men lived being burned and eight men killed. This attack was in every way most unprovoked; for years past nothing has been proved against Manipur, though the Burmese authorities have on more than one occasion brought vexatious charges, indeed all the active hostility has been on the side of the latter. The scene of the outrage was visited by me and the matter duly reported to Government.

At first a suspicion was entertained that the Sumjok Raja, who is charged with having caused the attack, had received countenance from Mandalay, but subsequent events tend to disprove this, and the affair having, by order of Government, been brought prominently to the notice of the Burmese Court, the latter promised to make an investigation, which is now being carried on, and though the officials charged with it show no disposition to hurry the proceedings, it is to be hoped that a satisfactory conclusion will soon be arrived at, and then if the Manipuris assume a conciliatory attitude, as they at present seem inclined to do, a long period of peaceful relations may be confidently looked for, though there can be no doubt that the possession of the Kubbo Valley (formerly Manipur territory) by Burmah, and the remembrance of past injuries secure for that country the eternal enmity of Manipur, amply repaid by the contempt of the Burmese. Such being the case, a false move on either side might again cause trouble, and it is to be remarked that the Sumjok Raja still complains of an attack on one of his Naga villages, which he alleges to have been made by some Kookies, subjects of Manipur. This case Dr. Brown investigated on the spot, the result being that the charge was proved to be utterly false. Two other attacks on the same village, Namye, were said to have been made; but as these charges were evidently intended as a set-off against the Kongal outrage, and as, moreover, the number of men said to have been killed far exceeded the number of the inhabitants of the village, I quietly told the Burmese officer who mentioned what he had heard to me, that the statement was manifestly untrue, and he said no more on the subject.

Ever since the attack on the Kongal Thannah the passes leading to Burmah have been closed to all comers from thence except Burmese officials, but Burmese and others coming from the west have been allowed to pass on, on the understanding that their safety can only be guaranteed as far as the Manipur Frontier. It was deemed advisable to adopt this procedure to prevent a constant succession of panics in Manipur, where the people at once prepared for flight when the news of the attack arrived, and when the appearance of a few Burmese unescorted would have created great alarm.

It seems also to have had a good effect in other ways, as the officials charged with the investigation seem very anxious to have the road opened again and are consequently disposed to be very civil.

*Angami Nagas.*—Only one raid was made by men of this tribe during the past year, when towards the end of October the Manipuri Naga village of Gwelong was attacked by a party of the Sememah clan of Khonomah in conjunction with some men from the Manipuri Naga village of Chuhka.

The above is the only actual raid committed during the year, but while the Naga Hill expedition was going on, some men from the Meremah clan of Khonomah proceeded to a Manipuri Naga village near Acquee, and far within the Manipur border, and extorted provisions and were about to levy a larger contribution when they were fortunately arrested by a party of Manipuri sepoys. The men were brought to me, but could not be punished as the plundered villagers were afraid to give evidence, fearing subsequent vengeance, so I warned the offenders and let them go.

No raids have been made by Manipuri Nagas in British territory, but a Khonomah man was murdered in a Mao village (Sopvumah group). At my request the village was ordered to give up the murderer, and on their failing to do so an expedition was sent against it and the man arrested. He has been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Apart from the above there is little to notice in connection with the Angamies, except the aid rendered by Manipur during the late Naga Hill expedition. From the beginning of December 1877 till the early part of February 1878, the Maharaja had a body of troops of an average strength of 300 men posted on the frontier as auxiliaries to the detachment of 35th Native Infantry forming my escort, and when the latter advanced to Poplongmai on the British side of the border, a detachment of 50 Manipuris under a Subadar were attached to it to act as scouts and keep the Native Officer commanding the party informed of the movements of the enemy.

In addition to the above troops the Maharaja offered, if necessary, to furnish a body of 800 men for service in the Naga Hills, and sent a large supply of provisions for the use of the force at Mozema, refusing to receive payment for either provisions or colies employed in conveying them to Poplongmai.

During the progress of the expedition deputations from several villages came to both the Maharaja and myself to ask advice as to the line of conduct they should pursue, and the former invariably joined me in telling them that they would receive no countenance from him in disobeying the orders of Government, and that their only course was to remain quiet and discourage to their utmost the Mozema men and others who were disaffected.

The men forming these deputations belonged chiefly to those clans whose second language is Manipuri and not Assamese and who have generally held more intercourse with Manipur than with Assam, and in fact carry on their chief trade with the valley.

*Looshai affairs.*—These have been highly satisfactory so far. The arrangement proposed to be made last year with the Looshai Chiefs, and indeed set on foot, has been carried out apparently to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The Nagas inhabiting the villages on the



Cachar Road paid a visit to the Looshai country taking with them some presents for the Chiefs which could not be conveyed last year owing to the lateness of the season, and vows of eternal friendship were exchanged. After this the deputies of the Looshai Chiefs visited the different Naga villages, where they again, on the part of their Chiefs, entered into solemn engagements to preserve peace. Finally they came to Manipur, accompanied by the Naga headmen, and both parties made the same promises in my presence and before the Maharaja. It was agreed that Looshais visiting Manipur were to be kindly treated, and the same hospitality was to be extended to Manipuris visiting the Looshai country. It was also stipulated that Looshais should always enter Manipuri villages by the ordinary village path, and the deputies were told that any of their people doing otherwise must expect to be wounded by panjees; this they agreed was reasonable. It was further explained that shooting elephants and cutting India rubber in Manipur territory could not be permitted, and this arrangement also they agreed to abide by.

The deputies left Manipur apparently well satisfied with the treatment they had received, and it is the opinion of all who are competent to judge that they were quite sincere in their protestations, and that the agreement made will be adhered to.

*Kookies.*—During the first part of the year under review some inroads were made into Manipur territory by small parties of this tribe, and several Manipuris have been killed; if, however, the authorities are to be believed, the marauders have generally had the worst of it, and this view of the case is rather borne out by the fact that latterly they have been quieter.

The most remarkable fact, however, connected with this tribe, is that during the past year over 2,000 persons belonging to it have migrated into Manipur territory, where they have been settled down on lands assigned to them by the Maharaja in the neighbourhood of Moirang, to the south-west of the valley. The Chiefs of the immigrants have been to see me, and they assert that if they keep their health during the rainy season, they will go and fetch more of their people, so, as I have not heard that they have suffered at all from illness, their number may be expected to be increased next year. The men who came to see me were splendid specimens of the human race, tall, with very powerful frames, and altogether the finest Kookies I had ever seen; they told me that I was the first European they had ever seen, but they showed no unseemly curiosity and comported themselves with great dignity. The immigrants brought with them a large number of muskets and some ammunition, so that the colony of them now established will be at present a source of strength to Manipur.

It is, I think, impossible to over-rate the importance of the above movement. Weakened by the loss of 2,000 of their number and the prospect of losing more, the Sootis will be less formidable than before, and Manipur will be relieved of the constant dread of an attack from them. The new comers are mostly, not actually, of the Sooti tribe, but appear to belong to a Helot race living in villages of their own among the Sootis. The last party that came in brought in some of their former masters (Chiefs) bound hand and foot, who are being kept as hostages

for the good behaviour of the rest of their tribe. The Sooti Chiefs seem to be in no way superior to their former dependants and would appear to belong to the same race in reality. The object of these people in leaving their country appears to have been to get to a place where they might enjoy peace and security and be free from the constant state of turmoil in which they had hitherto lived, and which seems to be daily becoming more unbearable to many of the tribes on this frontier. Certainly the life of these tribes is not an enviable one, hard work by day, always armed to the teeth, and constant watching at night against their relentless enemies, who, given an opportunity, spare neither age nor sex.

While it is an undoubted advantage to weaken the Sootis, it remains to be seen what will be the permanent effect of the introduction into the valley of a hardy race of hillmen, also one probably far superior to the Manipuris in courage. At present they are chiefly looked upon as a valuable addition to the hewers of wood and drawers of water, as well as useful auxiliaries to place in the front of the battle when on field service, as well as scouts; but it is possible that at some future time they may, if they remain uncorrupted, take a different view of the question, and may decline to occupy the subordinate position assigned to them,—then the question will be a serious one for Manipur. However, this is a question for the future, at present the only problem is how to deal with a troublesome race on the frontier; they are there, and cannot be made to go back, and the matter for consideration is whether to keep them (if possible) in their native hills as enemies, or admit them into Manipur as friends; and at present there can be no doubt that the latter is the wisest, if not the only practicable, course to pursue. If the Kookies settling in Manipur are treated with justice and kindness, they will prove a source of strength to the country and be among the most useful of its population; if, on the contrary, a selfish policy is adopted, and this, I fear, is most likely to be the case, they may prove a thorn in the Maharaja's side and entirely alter the present state of things. Could the Kookie tribes produce a leader and act in combination, they would soon make themselves felt; at present however there seems little prospect of this, and it is a matter of congratulation that people formerly enemies are now peaceful subjects.

*Education.*—The school at the capital containing 50 or 60 boys, who seem to work or not as they like, is the sole educational establishment, and at present there seems no demand for more. A few men are able to read and write sufficiently well, to keep whatever few accounts are kept in the State, and to transact ordinary business, and beyond that nothing is attempted. So long as the authorities are contented, and even desire to leave them in a state of ignorance, no effort will be made by the lower classes to improve themselves in this respect.

Education has certainly retrograded in Manipur instead of advancing, as 40 years ago there was an English school in the State which, among its pupils, counted two little girls. One scholar survives, a Brahmin, by name Gokul Thakoor, who has not forgotten all he learned, and still understands English tolerably well. For many years past, however, no effort seems to have been made in this direction, and in this, as in many other respects, Manipur presents a most unfavorable contrast

to many other Native States. Taking a great interest in education myself, it is a matter of deep regret to me that I have been unable to do anything to improve the state of things, by urging the introduction of such reform as would lay the foundation of a good system of education suitable to the country. My chief task, however, since I have been here, has been to try and establish friendly relations with all parties and allay the suspicions with which for years past the Political Agent has been regarded, and I have felt the necessity of moving very slowly, and only when I could carry the Durbar with me so as to give them confidence. For these reasons I have thought it right to propose as few changes as possible, and only to interfere when absolutely necessary. I hope, if all is well, that I may another year be able to report more favorably on this most interesting subject.

#### PLAINS POPULATION.

*General state of the people of Manipur.*—I have been at much pains to ascertain what is the real state of the population as regards their general welfare, the more so as, though I have seen forced labor as an institution in other States, I have never before been brought face to face with a system such as that in existence here, where every man is more or less the servant of the Maharaja, and where, under the name of "lalloop," every man is bound to work for ten days in every 40 for the Raja, receiving a certain quantity of land for his subsistence. This system is so much at variance with our ideas that we are inclined to condemn it at once without examination, or enquiring into its effect on the country, and to it we are inclined to ascribe any evils which cannot be otherwise accounted for.

After very careful observation I cannot but confess that, strange as it may appear, the Manipuris generally seem to be quite as well off as the inhabitants of an average British district; they are, as a rule, better clothed and have the appearance of being quite as well fed as thin men are the exception. Abject poverty is unknown. The explanation is, I believe, easy, as in India proper the vast majority of the inhabitants of Manipur are cultivators, and have an immense amount of spare time on their hands; part of this spare time is, instead of, as in other parts, being devoted to idleness, employed in serving the Maharaja, who of course does not take them away from their fields during the cultivating time, in addition to this a portion of the produce of their fields is given as revenue, and beyond that the people are free to do what they like with the remainder. This system, though much disliked by the people, who contrast their lot with that of the inhabitants of British provinces, is in reality a great advantage to the State at large, as much of the labor thus given is employed in constructing roads, irrigation canals, and other works of public utility which would otherwise remain unaccomplished, so that by the time the valley has fully recovered from the depopulation caused by the ravages of the Burmese, it will, if the Public Works Department is always as much in favor as at present, be covered with roads, drained and irrigated in a way that would be impossible were it not for the system now in force. Were the lalloop system at once abolished, it is very doubtful whether,

without a greatly extended commerce to bring money into the country, it would be possible for the people to pay revenue in cash, and even were they able to do so, without some special stipulation that a certain number of days of labor in the year were to be given free, it would be impracticable to keep the existing roads in repair, without sacrificing the greater part of the revenue thus realized, and in any case the people would most likely, when their wishes were granted, be dissatisfied and wish to return to the old system.

Of course the present system will not always do when the country becomes more civilized, but it would be a great mistake to change it at present, as whatever its faults it is the only system suitable to these parts, under which a backward country can be brought forward without extraneous support, as it utilizes much of the surplus labor of the country which would be otherwise\* unemployed at a more nominal cost. Were the system abolished to-morrow not one additional acre of rice would be cultivated, as the country is so isolated that none can be exported, the revenue realized in its stead would be expended by the Maharaja on selfish objects, out of the country; the roads would no longer be repaired, and the people instead of being active and energetic would fall into the state of apathy which characterized the Assamese 18 or 20 years ago. The real remedy is patience; as the population increases and money pours in from without, the Raja will find that however much the country at large may benefit by having the population employed in public works instead commuting service for a money payment, he individually is a great loser, and self-interest will dictate the advisability of a change, and it is needless to say that a change brought about by inward conviction will be better in every way than one forced on him by the advocates of political economy.

*Hillmen.*—The hillmen of Manipur must be divided into three portions:—

1st.—Those residing in the valley.

2nd.—Those who live in the hills and pay regular revenue and perform service.

3rd.—Those who live in the more remote hill ranges and pay irregular tribute, but do not perform regular service.

*Hillmen residing in the valley.*—These are almost without exception slaves, the descendants of captives or of those who have become slaves for debt, or those who have themselves become slaves for debt. The lot of all these slaves is miserable, as though positive ill usage seems to be rare, they and their children are debarred from the chance of ever acquiring sufficient to make themselves comfortable, and cannot by

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\* No Manipuris will perform any of the rougher kinds of work, such as road making, &c., for payment, so that were lalloop abolished, all such labor would be delegated to the Nagas. Manipuris are like the Assamese of former days, and consider work on the roads, except when done as part of their lalloop, as dishonorable. This prejudice is gradually wearing away in Assam, if it has not quite disappeared, and so it would probably in Manipur; but the transition period, if the changes were made before the population had filled the valley, in which case a poor class willing to work would have arisen, would be one of difficulty, and would probably cause some very obnoxious measures to be introduced far more distasteful to the people than the old system which has been in force so long.

their own exertions make themselves independent. Some of the slaves perform regular work, others pay a certain sum to their masters and are, so long as they do this, free to do what they like; the terms exacted under this system are, however, usually harsh.

Slavery in Manipur is not usually seen under its most revolting aspect (though I have known a case of a man maddened by the sense of his wrongs attempt the murder of all his family and then commit suicide), but it is sufficiently bad to make it one of the crying evils of a State where evils abound, and to make its abolition the most necessary of all reforms.

*Hillmen living in the hills and paying revenue.*—These, next to the slaves, are those who suffer most from the system of government prevailing in Manipur; all the load carrying falls to their lot, and in addition to this, they pay revenue. As a rule, every man is liable to be called upon to make two journeys to Cachar in the year on the Maharaja's account, without payment, and as, working for a private individual, he might by these two journeys make at least Rupees 16, the hillman may be said to pay a very heavy tax. Comparing the condition of this class with that of the hillmen in British districts, I should say that, as regards material comfort and well-being, there is little difference. With exception of the liability to capricious and bad treatment, these people are tolerably well off, and when not called upon to work for the Maharaja are happy enough. Debt is the hillman's great bane; the necessity of buying a wife and propitiating evil spirits is a heavy tax on his purse. Self-denial is not thought of; the wife is bought or the devil appeased, and when the reckoning day comes, the unfortunate fool goes, like the moth to a candle, to some Manipuri, and for an advance of twenty or thirty rupees agrees to serve as a slave for life, or till he can pay the principal.

It may easily be imagined that such a system without any limitation gives great advantages to a crafty set like the Manipuris. The simple Naga or Kookie once a slave is always a slave; he does not know how to tell a clever lie, and though he may by some peculiar stroke of good luck manage to raise the money to pay off his debt by instalments, it is ten chances to one that when the last of these is paid, his Manipuri creditor will declare that he has advanced a fresh sum, and the corrupt courts, if the case come before them, would, on receiving a small bribe, receive the statement of the latter and fix the bonds of the slave more firmly than ever.

The reform needed here is the instant abolition of slavery, and the promulgation of an order making it illegal for a man to bind himself to serve for more than one year at a time. No reform, however, is to be expected, as all the higher classes have a direct interest in maintaining the present infamous system.

*Hillmen paying tribute only.*—These comprise a few Kookie villages with the greater part of the Tankhool and Lahoopa tribe, also the Mao and Muram Nagas. The tribute paid by the people varies from a little oil seed given as an acknowledgment of superiority to a regular payment in money, which in the case of the Muram Nagas amounts to a sum of Rupees 100 per annum. In addition to the above, all the

villages are subject to an irregular exaction whenever a Manipuri force goes into their country, at which time also they have to build houses and serve as coolies. As a rule, it may be said that the further from Manipur these people live, so much the happier are they, being thus freer from interference. At the same time, Manipur does some good to these distant tribes, as it suppresses feuds and makes the road safe for travellers, and gradually introduces the thin end of the wedge of civilization.

No just comparison can be drawn between the condition of the Mao, Muram, and Tankhool Nagas, and the Angamies to their north within British territory, as the latter are traders which those in Manipur are not and will, while this state of things continues, always remain inferior to their northern neighbours.

*Administration of justice.*—Justice exists but in name, the courts being entirely corrupt, and decisions given in favor of the one who can pay most, or who has most friends in office. Notorious evil-doers may go unpunished for years, because they have powerful protectors, and the poor are ground down and ill used without any chance of redress. It is said that the state of things is worse now than it ever was before, and this seems to be highly probable, as the Maharaja attends less than ever to public business, and the immense personal influence which Colonel McCulloch (who had known the Raja since his childhood) exercised has never been possessed by any of his successors. Personal influence is useful, but it requires to be directed rather to a general reform than to the redress of particular grievances, where wrong decisions have been given. As far as I have seen, there appears to be no desire on the part of the Maharaja to improve matters, and any improvement must come from without. While the present system exists, of leaving all in the hands of favorites and friends, no improvement is to be expected. British subjects being able to appeal for protection to the Political Agent can always obtain justice, though it is sometimes grudgingly given.

*Settlement of boundary question.*—The question of the boundary between Manipur and the Naga Hills, which had been a constant source of trouble and dispute for five years, was amicably and satisfactorily settled during the past year, and received the approval of the Viceroy. The Durbar has since shown every desire to abide cheerfully by the arrangement made, which has finally set at rest a subject which had been most fertile of trouble and was, while a settlement remained uneffected, the cause of much irritation.

The arrangement gives much less territory to Manipur than was demanded, nevertheless there is every reason to believe that it was as fair and equitable a one to all parties as could have been devised, and it has on the whole given satisfaction.

*Rumour of an intended invasion of Gokul Sing.*—Early in 1878 rumours were abroad that Gokul Sing, one of the sons of the late ex-Raja Debendro Sing, contemplated an invasion. This man, who has already joined in two expeditions with a view to dethroning the present Maharaja, was only lately allowed to return from Hazaribagh, where he had lived for many years under surveillance. Several of has

supposed adherents were arrested in Manipur in the month of March just as, according to their own admission, they were about to leave for Cachar to join him, and several more were taken on the Erung river, where, after flying from Manipur, they had embarked on a raft with a view to getting to Cachar also. The men who were arrested were, with the exception of the ringleader, released; the latter were kept in confinement as an example, but I received an assurance from the Durbar that no severe punishment would be inflicted, and in no case would the wives and children of the offenders be harshly dealt with. Gokul Sing has since then, by orders of Government, been warned and the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar directed to keep an eye on him.

*New postal arrangement.*—During the past year an immense improvement has been effected in the arrangements for carrying the post between Cachar and Manipur. It is needless to enter into a history of the arrangements that have from time to time existed, it is sufficient to say that the arrangement which I found in force when I took over charge was as follows. A certain number of Nagas along the road were made over to the Political Agent by the Maharaja for the postal service, the money disbursed on their account being Rupees 67 per mensem. In addition to the above men, however, the Maharaja employed some of his police, who carried the post along that part of the road where there have been no Naga villages since the last Looshai raids. The result of the system was that the dāk generally occupied from eight to fifteen days, especially in the rainy season. By the new arrangement the Maharaja's police carry the post along the whole line of road from Lukhipoor, fifteen miles from Cachar, the average time occupied being a fraction under four days. This average has been very fairly maintained ever since the rains set in, and as the new arrangement does not really place the post more in the hands of the Raja's officials than before, there is every reason to be satisfied with it.

*New Agency building.*—Suitable site having been selected near to the old one and within easy reach of the Raja's residence and those of the Chief Durbar officials, the building of the new Residency has been at last commenced. Every effort will be made to finish the work during the present financial year, but owing to the dilatory habits of the people it is exceedingly doubtful if it will be possible to effect so much. In any case, however, it is to be hoped that the building will be fit for me by October 1879, if not before that time.

*Manipur Militia.*—There is little to be said under this head that has not been said in former Annual Reports. The militia still remains a large body of men tolerably well armed, but lamentably deficient in discipline and drill; while, however, out on the frontier with parties of Manipur troops during the past cold season, I was much struck with many admirable qualities which I observed in them, and I cannot but think that the raw material is excellent, and that well drilled and well commanded Manipuris would make first-rate troops for service on this frontier. None of the men out with me had the slightest claim to be called regular troops, but they seemed active, hardworking, and patient, and ready to move at a moment's notice. Every man, in addition to his clothes and arms and ammunition, carried a supply of food for several

days, and all were able to build their own huts on arriving at the halting place, so that no tents were needed.

Whatever their defects, the troops of Manipur are much dreaded by the surrounding tribes who seem to regard them as great heroes, and treat them with every respect.

*Supply of arms and ammunitions.*—In the month of August 1877 sanction was given to a petition from the Maharaja to be allowed to purchase a supply of arms and ammunition amounting to 750 stand of arms and 200 maunds of lead and 100 maunds of gun-powder. These arrived in the month of March and gave very great satisfaction. Since then further permission has been granted to purchase 50 reams of paper and 300,000 percussion caps which had not been included in the former indent. In granting the arms and ammunition it was stipulated that all the old flint muskets should be given up and sent to Calcutta, and this will be done as soon as the rains have ceased.

*Introduction of English fruit trees, &c.*—During the last cold season I have introduced the following English fruit trees, &c., with a view to acclimatizing them in Manipur, *viz.*, apple, pear, plum, peach, apricot, Himalayan apricot, cherry, currant, quince, vine, raspberry, Spanish chestnut, also deodars and three kinds of Himalayan pine.

With a view to giving them a thorough trial, I have planted the above in two gardens, one in the valley at a height of 2,570 feet above the sea, and the other in the hills at 5,250 feet above the sea.

Notwithstanding the difference in temperature and rainfall, many of the young plants seem to do equally well in both places; this applies especially to apples, plums, apricots, and pears, though owing to the more stimulating climate, those in the valley have grown much more quickly than the others. The Spanish chestnut however seems to prefer the cooler climate, and while those in the hills are doing well, the one planted in the valley is languishing. Cherries I have only tried in the hill garden, and of five trees none are really flourishing, though at first they promised to do better than any others. I intend trying some in the valley next year. The quince flourishes in the valley and so does the vine, while the currants, raspberries, and rhubarb are doing admirably in the hill garden. The deodars and pines evidently prefer the cooler climate of the hills and there, if the winds allow them, will do well, but those in the valley are at present very little inferior in appearance.

It is much to be regretted that the experiment of introducing English fruit trees was not tried long ago, as any time since the opening of the railway to the north-west it would have been easy to procure them, and had a commencement been made ten years ago, Manipur might now be producing really fine fruits.

There is every reason to believe that apples will eventually succeed well, as a species of wild apple, far from despicable for cooking purposes, grows well in both the hills and valley of Manipur. For the same reason it is to be hoped that apricots and plums will do well, as an uncultivated kind of both these fruits grows and produces luxuriantly



in the valley. I believe that the existence of the apricot in Manipur has never before been noticed by any one ; it is rather strange that it should be found here as it is unknown elsewhere nearer than the Himalayas ; it seems therefore probable that it was brought in former ages from China, when intercourse between that country and Manipur was frequent. The raspberry of Manipur grows in both hills and valley, and is of three kinds, *viz.*, yellow, red, and black. Dr. Brown mentions the existence of the blackberry, but I have never seen it, and think that he must have mistaken the black raspberry for it.



ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
OF THE  
MANIPUR AGENCY,  
FOR THE YEAR  
1878-79.

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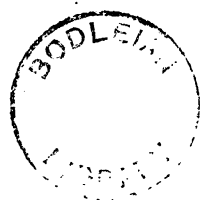
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ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
OF THE  
MANIPUR AGENCY  
FOR THE YEAR  
1878-79.

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No. 615, dated Shillong, 22nd April 1880.

From—C. J. LYALL, Esq., C.I.E., Offg. Secy. to the Chief  
Commr. of Assam,

To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secy. to the Govt. of India,  
Foreign Dept.

IN forwarding herewith the Administration Report of the Manipur Agency for the year 1878-79, I am desirous to say that the delay in the submission of the Report was owing to the Chief Commissioner being under the misapprehension that, as in the previous year, the Political Agent at Manipur had forwarded a copy of his Report direct to the Foreign Department, and that it would be reviewed there. Having learnt that this is a mistake, Sir Stuart Bayley now forwards it with a brief review. Henceforward the Report will, as directed in Mr. Durand's letter, No. 477 G.G., dated the 26th February last, cease to be separately submitted to the Government of India.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, in the  
Judicial Department, dated Shillong, 22nd April 1880.*

READ—

A Report on the Administration of the Manipur Agency for the year 1878-79  
by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Johnstone, Political Agent, Manipur.

**RESOLUTION.**—The Report is full and interesting, and exhibits the strong personal interest which the Political Agent takes in the affairs of the State to which he is accredited.

2. The period dealt with is from July 1878 to the close of June 1879. It was a year on the whole unfavorable to agriculture; the crops were deficient owing to the late commencement of the rainfall and its

unseasonable distribution, and there was consequently some apprehension of scarcity; and, generally speaking, the seasons were more than usually unhealthy. Politically, too, troubles were numerous on the frontier, especially in regard to the relations with the Burmese Government; so the year was not without its anxieties.

3. The rapid denudation of the forest-covered hills by the jhúming tribes is much to be deplored, and the Political Agent very rightly endeavoured to induce the Maharaja to take some steps to check the progress of this destructive custom. But the Chief Commissioner is not at all surprised to hear that the Manipuri officials professed their inability to put a stop to the practice. The same difficulty has arisen with the jhúming tribes within our own territories in North Cachar, and no efforts of our Administration have as yet been successful in inducing these savages to abandon their hereditary practice, which is the only form of cultivation with which they are acquainted.

4. It is satisfactory to learn that the dispensary commands an increasing amount of popularity, and that no active religious prejudice is found to exist against vaccination. It is much to be hoped that the extension of vaccination among the people will not again be retarded by the badness of the lymph supply.

5. The importance of maintaining the main road between Manipur and Cachar in good order seems to be sufficiently recognized by the Manipur authorities under the stimulus of the Political Agent's care. The road is described to have been kept in sufficiently good repair through the year of report; and, as the Chief Commissioner has since then personally travelled over the whole of it during February last, he can vouch for its having been at that time in excellent order. The road is a necessity for the Manipur State; it has been designed and constructed with much skill, and its maintenance in efficient repair throughout should be insisted on.

The substitution of iron wire supports for the rude suspension bridges over the Erang and Limetak rivers, in place of the cane fastenings on which they formerly depended, has been a great improvement, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the Political Agent will be able to carry out his project for similarly improving the bridges over the two remaining principal rivers which cross the Cachar road. Sir Steuart Bayley will gladly give him any assistance in his power in obtaining the necessary materials for the work. A better class of bridge over these four main rivers would undoubtedly be a very great improvement; but, as the traffic during the rains is, the Chief Commissioner imagines, but trifling, while in the cold weather the floating bamboo pontoon bridges, which are so readily and cheaply constructed, afford a very efficient means of crossing, the Chief Commissioner is inclined to doubt whether any large expenditure on this account would be advisable. If the Maharaja could see the expediency of abandoning his restrictions on trade, and of so fostering it as to induce the use of pack-ponies and bullocks (which but for these restrictions would surely find work on the line of road), then, indeed, it would be desirable to expend money freely on the bridges; but in the present state of affairs there is little prospect of trade developing as it might.



6. The explorations which the Political Agent has conducted in this and in the preceding year of the several routes from Manipur to the Kubo Valley are of much interest and importance in view of the complications which have arisen on that border. The personal acquaintance thus obtained by the Political Agent with these routes will be of much value, should it be necessary for the Manipur State to take any active measures for the protection of its territory in this direction.

7. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that the Political Agent has taken every opportunity of impressing on the Durbar authorities, and on the Maharaja personally, the importance, in their own interests, of removing all possible obstacles to the freedom of commercial intercourse. It can never be to the advantage of a Government to prevent its subjects from obtaining the highest prices for their commodities. The Chief Commissioner quite shares the Political Agent's conviction that, were the present restrictions and prohibitive duties relaxed, trade would very largely increase, and the State reap a much larger income.

Instead of placing an embargo on ponies, it would surely be a wiser course to encourage the establishment of large herds of pack-bullocks, for the maintenance of which the valley seems eminently suited, which, besides being themselves a large source of wealth, would provide the State, when necessary, with the requisite amount of transport for military purposes, and at the same time would set free for agricultural or other occupations the large numbers of human beings now employed on such occasions as beasts of burden. Even were it necessary to spend a considerable sum of money in establishing such a system, it would no doubt be a more profitable investment than the money now wasted from time to time by the Maharaja in attempts to copy European arts, in which practical success is obviously hopeless.

The cotton manufactures in the valley appear to have already acquired a considerable reputation, and to have created a demand elsewhere, which, were the present restrictions on the export trade removed, would no doubt largely increase.

8. The relations of Manipur with the Burmese Government during the year of report have continued to be a source of very grave anxiety. No satisfactory settlement for the outrage perpetrated on the Kongul thanna has yet been arrived at, in spite of the renewal of negotiations.

It seems, indeed, evident that there was never any *bonâfide* intention on the part of the Burmese officials to allow the true facts of the occurrence to be ascertained by local inquiry, much less to afford reparation for the outrage; and, although the Government of India have again urged on the Government of Mandalay the necessity of coming to a speedy settlement of the matter with the Manipur authorities, it seems very doubtful whether the Burmese will make any actual reparation.

The matter has now been further complicated by raids having been made into Manipur territory by the Chasad Kukis from the Kubo Valley, in which the Political Agent sees reason to suspect instigation on the part of the Burmese local officials. Since the submission of this Report, these disturbances have been repeated, and a more serious outrage has been committed by the Chasads on a Manipur village; to

punish which an expedition is now being despatched by the Manipur State. This affair is, however, being reported separately to the Government of India, and the Chief Commissioner will not therefore notice it further here.

The attitude assumed by the Political Agent in regard to these complications and the advice he gave to the Durbar as to the course of action to be adopted have been judicious, and have met with the approval of the Government of India; his counsel and assistance were no doubt of much value to the Maharaja during this critical period.

9. The movement northward of the Sooti (or Sakte) Kukis is also a matter of much interest and importance. This tribe appears to be obeying the same occult impulse which is gradually pushing the various savage nationalities lying in the region between the Chittagong hill tracts and the plains of Burmah to a migratory movement towards the north. The Sooties appear, from the Political Agent's description, to be a warlike athletic race, whose existence and movements it will not be possible for the Manipur State to ignore. If, however, either by a display of force or by concessions of land, they could be brought under sufficient control, they would be a valuable acquisition for defensive purposes on this frontier.

10. It is satisfactory that no disturbance of any importance occurred among the Lushais to add to the frontier troubles of the year.

11. The want of interest displayed by the Manipuri officials in the matter of education is certainly much to be regretted. It can only be hoped that the continued representations of the Political Agent in the matter may ultimately have some effect in convincing them that a State is directly benefited by the progress of its people in intellectual as well as in material advancement.

12. The general condition of the people is, the Chief Commissioner gathers from the Report, on the whole not unprosperous or unhappy, and such opportunities as he had of personal observation on this point during his visit to Manipur certainly gave Sir Steuart Bayley the same impression. But the description given by the Political Agent in paragraph 65 of the general tone of the administration is not encouraging; he writes:—

“In the administration of affairs generally, evil counsels prevail, and there is little hope of improvement. Justice is still bought and sold, and the rich have their way and the poor go to the wall.”

Still, the Political Agent appears not to despair of ultimate reform; but he is quite silent as to what particular reforms are needed, or what steps should be taken to ameliorate the present state of affairs.

13. In their treatment of the hill tribes, the Manipur authorities have no doubt hit upon the best mode of management in exacting service in labour, a system which, if not unreasonably abused, may be very efficacious, without being in the least oppressive.

14. It is satisfactory to learn that some attention is paid by the State authorities to the care of the prisoners in the jail. During his late visit, the Chief Commissioner observed that the prison had a clean and orderly appearance, and should be fairly healthy.

15. Colonel Johnstone's account of his experiments in horticulture, and of his endeavours to introduce European fruits and flowers both in the valley and in his hill garden at Kangjhpukul, is of interest. His labours in this direction, and the great improvements in the house and grounds of the Residency now in progress, will tend materially to lessen the drawbacks now thought to attach to the appointment at Manipur on account of its isolation and inaccessibility.

16. On the whole, the Chief Commissioner thinks Colonel Johnstone may be congratulated on the results of his year's administration and on the accounts he has now submitted of it.

ORDERED, that a copy of the above remarks be communicated to the Political Agent at Manipur, with the intimation that the Report has been forwarded to the Government of India.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

(Sd.) C. J. LYALL,

*Offg. Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam.*

#### ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE MANIPUR AGENCY FOR THE YEAR 1878-79.

THE State of Manipur is situated between latitude  $24^{\circ} 13'$  and  $26^{\circ}$  north, and longitude  $93^{\circ} 10'$  and  $94^{\circ} 50'$  east approximately, being bounded to the west by the British district of Cachar and the Naga Hills Agency; to the north by the Naga Hills Agency and Naga tribes yet unsubdued and with whom no relations are kept up; to the east by Naga tribes and Burmah; and to the south by a collection of Kuki tribes called by various names and in various states of barbarism. Some of these latter tribes are now pushing forward towards the north-east, so that in a few years' time they will probably together with the Tankhool Nagas and Burmah form the eastern boundary.

2. The territory under Manipur comprises upwards of 8,000\* square miles, the valley portion of which, or Manipur proper, is only 650 square miles, the remainder consisting of mountainous land inhabited by a variety of hill tribes speaking at least twenty different languages.

3. The valley of Manipur in the centre of the chain of valleys which connect India and Burmah having to its east and west those of Kubo and Cachar, from which however it is separated by several ranges of hills which rising from the two above-mentioned valleys reach their culminating point where they abut on the Manipur valley, where they reach the height of from 5,000 to 6,500 feet above the sea level. The height of the valley is about 2,570 feet above the sea level with drainage from north to south. The rivers running through the valley are, as a rule, dirty looking, muddy, and insignificant, but when they leave it and again enter the hills, they once more become bright and picturesque hill-streams, till they are lost to view, as they follow their winding course among the hills in the unknown country to the south.

\* NOTE.—In last year's Report 7,600 square miles was given as the extent of Manipur territory, but since then I have ascertained that to the east, where the boundary is undefined, Manipur influence extends much further than was suspected.

4. *Destruction of trees.*—In my last Report I had occasion to notice the barrenness of many of the hills and the general want of timber throughout Manipur owing chiefly to the reckless destruction caused by the peculiar mode of cultivation practised by the hill people. My attention has, I regret to say, been again drawn to this subject, and further observation only confirms what I then said. On a recent visit to the Burmese frontier, I passed for miles over hills where the forests had been recklessly laid low and the charred trunks of noble trees were lying on the ground, and at night I was kept awake by the loud sound of the destroying fire which lighted up the country for many miles round. The destruction of these forests is the more to be regretted as the trees composing them were not young undergrown saplings prematurely brought forward by a tropical sun, but fine old seasoned oaks of eighty or one hundred years growth in a comparatively temperate climate at 4,000 and 5,000 feet above the sea.

5. As I have before mentioned, there is little hope of this destruction being stopped, as when remonstrated with, the Manipuri officials are contented with saying that it is the custom of the hill tribes, though a bad one, and that they have always done so. I believe that the more intelligent portion of the community, including the Maharaja, really object to the waste of timber, but no one has energy enough to stop it and insist on the hill tribes adopting permanent terrace cultivation instead of their present objectionable system.

6. *Rainfall.*—During the past year there has been a variation in climate from that usually experienced; in July, August and September the rainfall, as will be seen by the following statement, was greatly deficient, while in October the amount was excessive, so much so as to damage the wheat, pulse, and potatoe crops, while it did no good to the rice which had already suffered beyond recovery. Again, there was hardly any really cold weather till the end of January, and from early in April to the middle of May the weather was, it is said, hotter than it has ever been known in Manipur, and for want of rain to allow of the rice being sown, there were anticipations of a famine. The great rains however set in with great violence on May 23rd, or three weeks before the usual time, and since then the sun has hardly been seen:—

*Statement of temperature and rainfall.*

MONTHS.			THERMOMETER.		RAINFALL.	REMARKS.
			Maximum.	Minimum.	Inches.	
July	1878	...	73	63	2.30	} Approximate, but not entirely correct, as instrument was out of order.
August	"	...	71	62	2.	
September	"	...	71	61	1.50	
October	"	...	72	58	6.38	
November	"	...	71	51	6.28	
December	"	...	54	42	Nil.	
January	1879	...	49	40	0.32	
February	"	...	59	42	0.72	
March	"	...	71	53	6.34	
April	"	...	73	68	Nil.	
May	"	...	72	60	19.26	
June	"	...	77	70	21.68	

The temperature was taken at 6 A.M. every day, but does not give a fair idea of the heat and cold of Manipur as the thermometer is placed close to the hospital where the temperature is more equable than in open places.

7. *Crops*.—The rice crop in the past year was very deficient owing to the causes already mentioned; it is generally stated to have been three-fourths below average. I am, however, inclined to think that when the irrigated lands are taken into consideration, it may be said to have been a six-anna one, or three-eighths of what it should have been. The wheat, pulse, and potatoe crops were also much below the average.

At present the prospects of the rice crops for the ensuing season are good, notwithstanding many gloomy forebodings.

8. *Health*.—The past year has not been a healthy one. There was much sickness, chiefly fever, in the valley in August and September, and since June an epidemic fever has been raging in the valley from which many have died. There were several cases of cholera in both hills and valley in August last.

9. *Dispensary*.—The dispensary continues to be popular, and many people are daily treated there. One or two serious operations have been successfully performed during the past year by the Hospital Assistant Lutchnun Pershad.

Several people have been vaccinated, but, as a rule, candidates for vaccination have to be sought out, and do not come forward spontaneously; this is to be ascribed more to apathy than to any prejudice against it. Unfortunately, too, owing to the distance it has to come, the lymph is often bad and the operation fails; this has been notably the case during the past year, when, as a rule, the lymph may be said to have been always bad; a representation of these facts is being made to the Superintendent of Vaccination.

10. *Road to Cachar*.—I passed along this road in December, and again in January, and on both occasions found it in tolerably good order, though the hill road here and there wanted repairs, which I pointed out to the Manipuri official accompanying me; these will be taken in hand in the ensuing cold season, the tools required for the work having arrived too late to admit of its being done before the rains set in. On the whole, I think the road is kept in as good repair as can be expected. I found some of the bridges over small streams in the low lying land near the Jeeree in a very bad state, but they have since been rebuilt, though their condition is always unsatisfactory, as though much labor is expended on them they never last more than a single season, being destroyed during the floods by drift timber. I propose next season having them replaced by cane or wire suspension bridges, which can easily be done as the streams, though deep, are very narrow.

11. *Wire suspension bridges*.—During the past cold season wire-rope supplied by Government, and which arrived too late to be utilized last year, was brought up, and two bridges constructed with it over the Erang and Limetak rivers, it being found on examination that the quantity supplied was not sufficient for the four rivers over which it was proposed to substitute wire for cane bridges, owing apparently to

no allowance having been made when indenting for the wire for the amount required for securing the ends.

12. The two new bridges have been constructed on the same principle as the old cane ones, except that the cables supporting the structure, and also the guys, are of wire instead of cane. I have also endeavoured to make the roadway a little more level. The substitution of a more durable material than cane for the main supports is in itself a great advantage, but it would have been desirable, in my opinion, to have aimed at something still better, and to have attempted a bridge which would have required fewer annual repairs, and would at the same time have sufficed to carry laden bullocks; this would have necessitated a wooden roadway and wire supports, and also skilled supervision in construction. Still the new bridges are a vast improvement on the old ones, and are very much steadier and infinitely stronger, so much so indeed that I hope next season to make them available for ponies and unladen cattle. I have reported the case of the two remaining rivers, Mukku and Barak, to the Chief Commissioner, Assam, urging that if an additional supply of wire-rope be sanctioned for the purpose of bridging them, the small extra expense of providing skilled supervision should be incurred with a view to making strong useful structures likely to last for some time, and able to sustain the weight of increased traffic.

13. *Road to the Naga Hills.*—Nothing has been done on this road during the past year, as Burmese affairs have occupied the attention of the Durbar to the exclusion of almost everything else, but the subject has been brought to the notice of the Maharaja, and he has promised to do his best to improve it as soon as the road from Kohima to the Manipur frontier has been finished. As I have already stated in my last Report the work will not be difficult, and I hope that in a few years the road from Manipur to the Sopvumah or Mao\* villages may be as good as that on the British side. During the ensuing cold season a river about forty-five miles from Manipur, which is the chief obstacle to traffic during the rainy season, will be permanently bridged.

14. *Yangapokpi route to Burmah.*—Last year I described the Kongul and Morai routes to the Kubo Valley in Burmah, since then I have had an opportunity of going along the Yangapokpi route which lies between the two former. This route, though hitherto not much used, is an excellent one of its kind, and well supplied with water; it appeared to me, however, to be less healthy than the Morai route, and certainly not so picturesque, by it, too, the traveller is longer in reaching the highest point, or indeed a point high enough to make much difference in the temperature. The highest part of the road is about 5,200 feet above the sea, or 25 feet lower than the summit of the ridge where the Morai route crosses it. The Yangapokpi road enters the hills at Hytookpokpi about thirty miles from Manipur, and crosses the watershed of Manipur and Burmah about eight miles further on, though the highest point in the route is not reached for another eight miles. Up to this point the road is, with a few exceptions, one gradual ascent, thence it gradually descends to Kumbang, eighteen miles from Hytookpokpi, after which

\* NOTE.—On the Manipur frontier.

there is a rapid descent to the Kubo Valley, the road there branching off in two directions, one leading to the Yangapokpi Thannah, and the other to the Morai Thannah.

15. Kumbang being in a commanding position, and thus situated at the junction of two roads, was selected as a suitable spot for the establishment of a small outpost, and since April last, when there was a great panic owing to the rumour of an invasion from Burmah being contemplated, twenty men have been posted there. From Kumbang to the Kubo Valley is about fifteen miles, the total length of the route from Manipur being about sixty-five miles. Owing to the excessive haze from the heat, I was unable to obtain a good view, and so came back rather disappointed. I found the winds coming from the Kubo Valley hot and stifling, though I was at a height of 4,600 feet above the sea when halted at Kumbang, and was glad to turn my back on it; after crossing the summit of the range and meeting the breeze from the west, I found great relief. It is noticeable that the thermometer at Hytookpokpi, 2,700 feet above the sea, was  $55^{\circ}$  at 6 A.M. the morning I left (4th April), whereas the next morning at Kumbang, 4,600 feet above the sea, it was  $67^{\circ}$ ; the following day at the same hour at Hytookpokpi it was  $56^{\circ}$ .

16. This great difference in the temperature between the two places, when the reverse might have been expected from their respective heights above the sea, is very remarkable, and can only be accounted for, I imagine, by attributing it to the hot winds from the Kubo Valley raising the temperature in an exposed place like Kumbang. I may remark, however, that nothing in Manipur has surprised me so much as the variation in the temperature of different places.

17. *Ngnasuna route to Burmah.*—This is the most southerly route of all, and as I have only been along it for the distance of nine miles, I can say little regarding it, except that for many months in the year it is practicably impassable, as there is no water to be had after passing Chukpee, the place I visited, which is nine miles from the entrance to the Pass. Up to Chukpee the valley is extremely pretty, opening out occasionally into fine open spaces of rich grass land studded here and there with trees. There is nothing particularly remarkable about this route, except that as the Pass is entered the vegetation suddenly assumes a different character to that without, and this without any apparent reason. Fir trees appear on the scene, and the hill sides are clothed alternately with oak and pine. As far as I could judge, with the exception of the scarcity of water, a difficulty which might be overcome by digging tanks, the Ngnasuna Pass appears to present fewer physical obstacle than any of the other ones leading into Burmah, so that it is possible that at some future time it may become one of the principal trade routes.

18. *Roads in valley.*—No new lines of road have opened out in the valley this year, though some of those to the eastward have been improved.

The Maharaja in compliance with my repeated advice had promised to plant out the road to Bissenpur (the first eighteen miles of the road to Cachar) with trees on either side, but the severe drought made it impossible to carry out the plan, it is to be hoped, however, that it may be accomplished during the ensuing cold season. Whenever done it will be a great

boon to travellers; as at present the road is very hot for several months in the year, being entirely devoid of shade from one end to the other. I have suggested the planting of India-rubber trees as being in the future a sure source of profit.

19. *Trade with Cachar.*—This remains in much the same state as last year. Notwithstanding the heavy duties exacted, and all the vexatious interference to which traders are subjected, the profit made is sufficient to induce people to submit to all, and a fair amount of traffic is carried on, and the more I see of it the more I am convinced that whenever all obstacles to free trade are removed, the amount of business done will greatly increase, though, as I have already stated, I see no reason to hope for any improvement in the existing state of things for the present, and all that can be done is to press matters quietly and endeavour to show the Durbar where its true interest lies.

I am happy to state that owing to my representations, the monopoly of four articles to which I referred in my last Annual Report, *viz.*, bees-wax, tea-seed, ivory and India-rubber, has been abolished, and I shall take care to see that it is not again established. I may add that I have not heard so many complaints of obstruction by the Durbar officials as last year, but I cannot learn that trade has increased; piece-goods and betelnuts still seem to be the chief articles imported.

20. *Pony trade.*—During the past year 280 ponies were exported to Cachar and sixty-six to the Naga Hills. The numbers would have been larger, but that owing to the disturbed state of affairs in Burmah, and the possibility of hostilities occurring, it was deemed inadvisable to allow the country to be emptied of all its baggage animals, and an embargo was placed on the export of ponies which will be maintained till the Eastern horizon is clearer. This step, which I was reluctant to consent to, was, I believe, apart from other considerations, a very necessary one, as owing to the high price paid for hockey ponies in Cachar and Sylhet, the number exported from Manipur of late years has been so great that a good pony is hardly procurable in the valley, and as none have come from Burmah to fill up the gaps thus caused since 1871, when the export of ponies to Manipur was arbitrarily prohibited, much inconvenience has been caused in Manipur, and the Raja's cavalry cannot be mounted. The stoppage of export for even one year will serve to recruit the numbers, and when affairs in Burmah have settled down, it is to be hoped that the pony trade from thence will be again opened out.

21. *Trade with Burmah.*—This has been entirely stopped throughout the year owing to the Passes having been closed, pending the settlement of the Kongul affair, but the people of the Kubo Valley have been the chief sufferers, as they depend much more on Manipur than Manipur does on them, and since the restriction on the export of ponies and buffaloes from Burmah, the imports from that country have for some years past been of little value. At present the total stoppage of trade has chiefly affected the traders of Cachar, Sylhet, and the Kubo Valley, who carried on most of the traffic.

22. *Trade with the Naga Hills.*—This has been much as usual, though I have not noticed any great increase. The articles taken away from and brought into Manipur are the same as noticed in my last Report.



Owing to the bad harvest and the consequent scarcity, no articles of food could be allowed to leave the country, and it is still a problem whether it will ever pay traders to take rice so far as the Naga Hills without some improvement in the way of carriage, there being at present no way of conveying things but on men's backs, though if some enterprising individual would start a pack bullock train, there can be no doubt that a large traffic in articles of food would be the result. It is a question, however, whether the Durbar will ever willingly consent to allow food to be exported in large quantities, as the extreme inaccessibility of the Manipur valley makes them anxious to keep a large supply in hand in case of famine, and the failure of last year's harvest has increased the anxiety on this score.

23. *Manufactures.*—Since last year a successful attempt has been made by the Maharaja to manufacture glass, he having imported a man from Calcutta to teach some of his own people, and several neat articles of glassware have been made. The Maharaja's enterprise in trying to introduce new arts may be admired; but it is to be regretted that the meagre resources of the State should be wasted in undertakings of this kind, which do not really benefit any one, and at the best end in the production of inferior goods at a cost perhaps ten times in excess of that at which superior articles could be purchased in Calcutta, more especially as there is not within any reasonable time likely to be a demand for them in Manipur, so that no one is really benefitted by the experiment. The above remarks, however, do not apply to many other industries, such as carpentering, silver work, &c., which the Maharaja has carefully fostered, and for which there is a steady demand, and in which daily improvement is made.

24. The more I see of them the more I am impressed with the excellence of the Manipuri cotton manufactures, which are all of first-rate quality, and very cheap, when their weight is considered.

First-rate rough towelling is made in large quantities and worn by the people in the form of shawls in the cold weather, and large bathing towels can be purchased at about half the price paid for them in our own jails. Some of the coloured cloths are of very pretty designs, more especially those used by the better class as curtains, which could compare very fairly with many of the English reps. The manufacture of cloths from English thread is apparently increasing, and during the past year the whole of the Assam Forest Department was supplied with turbans of this description made to order in Manipur.

25. *Burmese affairs.*—The relations of Manipur with Burmah have occupied the entire interest of every one, both great and small, in Manipur during the year under review. In my last year's Report I related the incident of the attack on Kongul Thannah, and the measures taken to secure redress, though up to the end of the year nothing had been done beyond commencing an enquiry which was then in progress. This enquiry which was held at Tummoos commenced in the end of June 1878, and the Manipuri witnesses in the case were sent early in July, but no real effort was made to elicit facts or arrest any of the offenders, and after keeping the Manipuris in attendance till the end of August, they were suddenly sent back by the Burmese officials, being told that there would

be no further investigation as the Sumjok Raja had denied having committed the outrage on Kongal Thannah, and that they (the witnesses) would receive instructions later on ; it was further added that Manipur had committed many outrages.

26. This news which made a profound impression in Manipur, being duly reported to Government, a representation was again made to the Court of Mandalay by the Resident, who was told that there had never been any wish to evade an enquiry, and I was requested to again send the Manipuri witnesses to Tummoo giving due notice to the Resident, so that the Burmese officials might be in readiness. These instructions were carried out, and early in January 1879 the witnesses were again sent to the Morai Thannah so as to be in readiness to attend when the Burmese officials arrived. A very civil and conciliatory letter was also received by the Manipuri official for the eastern frontier from the Burmese Government in November, asking that the witnesses in the Kongul case might again be sent and promising full justice.

27. Meanwhile, it is necessary to enter into some detail regarding the outrages committed by the Chusad Kukis to which allusion is made in paragraph 58. I first heard of these on 15th October 1878, when the Manipuri official for the eastern frontier reported to me that the Chusads, instigated as was supposed by the Burmese, were attacking the Tankhool Naga village, belonging to Manipur to the east, and not only living at free quarters, but also carrying off Nagas as slaves. I was asked to allow an expedition to be sent against these men, who certainly came from the Kubo Valley, to which place it was proposed to pursue them. I gave my consent to the establishment of a Manipuri post in a village called Numbesa, about twelve miles from the frontier, but I gave the most stringent instructions to the Officer in command not to go beyond the border, and to do his utmost to avoid fresh complications, as I pointed out to the Durbar that there was no positive evidence to show that the Burmese were implicated, as the normal habits of the Kukis were predatory, and the fact of their having arms in their hands and no food was quite sufficient to account for their acts. Before the result of the establishment of a post at Numbesa could be seen, news of a fresh outrage was brought to me on the 25th October, when it was reported that the Chusads had attacked and plundered some more villages, and had finally taken up their position in a large village called Chattik, about six days' journey to the east of Manipur, where they were living at the expense of the inhabitants, numbers of whose pigs and fowls were daily killed for them.

28. This news caused the greatest excitement, and one of the Ministers came to me in a very perturbed state of mind, telling me that every one was convinced that the Burmese had instigated all these acts of hostility by the Kukis, and that the Maharaja proposed at once to send a force to attack a Burmese village, as he could not sit still and submit to daily insults. I had much difficulty in calming the old Minister, but I told him firmly that I would not countenance any attack on the Burmese, or even on the Chusad village, as it was situated in disputed territory, where the boundary was not very clearly defined. I wrote to the Maharaja in the same strain warning him against being

led to commit an act which would compromise him, and I again pointed out to the Durbar that there was still no evidence as to the complicity of the Burmese, while any hostile act committed by Manipur would vitiate the extremely good case they already had against Burmah, and I urged patience and reliance on the British Government to secure justice in the Kongul case, the non-settlement of which was constantly held out to me as a reason for letting Manipur act herself. My remonstrances had the desired effect, but it was some days before people's minds were calmed, but I received an assurance from the Maharaja that he would be guided by my advice entirely.

29. By way of putting a stop to the attacks of the Chusads and calming the minds of the Tankhool Nagas, whose representatives flocked in, begging for justice, an expedition was sent to Chattik, but I stipulated that it should go under a responsible officer, who should receive his orders from me. These were that he should not on any account go beyond the frontier line, and that in case of finding any Burmese with the Kukis, he should offer no violence to them further than was necessary to make them prisoners, and that his object generally should be to arrest and not kill the marauders, so that evidence might be obtained from them as to their reasons for acting as they had done. My orders regarding any Burmese found were given with a view to preventing so far as possible the slightest complications from arising. I also suggested the advisability of trying to induce the Chusad Chief to return to Manipur and bring his tribe with him.

30. The despatch of a force to Chattik had a good effect, and after November 1878, though petty depredations were committed, no regularly organized warfare was carried on. The Chusads only once met the Manipuris in fight, when they lost a man or two, after which they always retired before them, and finally crossed the border and took up their abode again in the Kubo Valley, where I refused to allow them to be touched. No formal complaint was made regarding them to the Burmese, as I thought it inexpedient to do so while the far graver Kongul case remained unsettled.

31. Only one thing more regarding the Chusads requires to be noted here. While away in December, I heard from the Maharaja that six of his sepoy had been arrested in Manipur territory by six Burmese and thirty Kukis and carried off to the Kubo Valley, and he asked me how he should act, as I had previous to leaving most strongly urged him not to commit himself in any way. I wrote in reply that he had better send me particulars. On my return to Manipur I heard from the Ministers that the men had been arrested in the Kongul village, but I subsequently found out from some Nagas who were present that this statement was false, and that the sepoy had been sent to the Chusad village *in disputed* (I should say *Burmese territory*), with a view to inducing the Chief to come into Manipur, and that there they were arrested by the Chusads and carried off to old Sumjok, where they were kept for several days, and then sent by the Burmese authorities with a letter to the Yangapokpi Thannah.

32. In this case it appears that the Burmese authorities were quite justified in detaining men of a foreign State who entered their

territory with arms in their hands, and the conduct of the Manipur officials in making a deliberately false statement shows how necessary it is to be exceedingly careful in order to arrive at a correct conclusion even in the most trivial cases where they are concerned.

33. To return, however, to the promised investigation of the Kongul case. The Court of Enquiry assembled towards the end of January 1879, and consisted of—

Khampowoon,  
Mengwoon,  
Nakhal,  
Tummooruckpa,  
Son of Woonduk,  
Kemai, son of Sumjok Raja,  
Younger son of Sumjok Raja,  
Amakie, officer of Sumjok.

but no real attempt seems to have been made to arrest the offenders, or to call the chief instigator, the Sumjok Raja, to account, and so things went on till the 17th February, when I received a letter from the Tummo Poongree saying that two of the men named by the Manipuri witnesses did not exist, and that the others when brought before the witnesses were not recognized, so that, under the circumstances, the best thing would be to pay Manipur Rupees 900 and let the matter drop. Some days previously I had heard that it was the intention of the Burmese to substitute other people for the real offenders, in the hope that the witnesses might say they were the right ones, in which case decisive proof would have offered that they were not, and it subsequently appeared that this is the course that was pursued. The Manipuri witnesses had previously been strictly cautioned that the slightest deviation from the truth in their evidence would be severely punished, as it was greatly feared that the case might have been spoiled by their saying too much; fortunately they did not fall into the trap laid for them.

34. As an instance of the way the Burmese Commission went to work, it may be stated that the son of the Sumjok Raja, who is supposed to have first suggested to his father the idea of attacking the Kongul Thannah, was employed by them to arrest the offenders, with what result has been already seen.

35. In reply to the Poongree's letter, I wrote suggesting that he should make fresh efforts to secure justice, and saying that the money compensation offered could not be accepted.

36. While the mock investigation was going on at Tummo, a Burmese high official, called the Woonduk, was staying at Gendat, and two days after receiving the Tummo Poongree's letter, I heard from the Morai Thannah that he had sent a message to the witnesses to say that they were to come to him as he would investigate the case, strict orders were however sent to them not to comply with the request, as there appeared to be no real desire on the part of the Burmese to do justice, and it seemed probable that if acceded to, the request might have been

followed by an intimation that the witnesses were expected to go to Mandalay; in short, the whole affair seemed to be intended for an insult.

37. From the 19th February to the 19th March nothing beyond vague rumours was heard of the intentions of the Burmese, but on the latter date I heard from the Morai Thannah that the Woonduk had left Gendat for Mandalay, and that the witnesses had been told by the Tum-moo Poongree that they could expect nothing beyond the sum of Rupees 900 already offered. Nothing more transpired till on or about the 29th March, an old man unknown to any one at the Morai Thannah, came to the Subadar there, and after saying that he was one of the Manipuris carried away captive by the Burmese in 1819, warned him to be on his guard as the Burmese meant mischief. This news reached me in Manipur on the morning of April 1st, just as a relieved party of the 34th N. I., which had formed my escort, was leaving. As it seemed possible that the rumour might be true, and with a view to allay the panic that was sure to arise, I detained them, and also urged on the Maharaja the advisability of doing his best to secure the fidelity of the hill tribes inhabiting the Yomadoung range between Manipur and Kubo.

38. On the 3rd April I started with the frontier officer to examine the Yangapokpi and Ngnasuna Passes and fix on sites for stockades. Suitable sites were found and guards posted so as to be in readiness for any emergency. The state of mind of the hill people seemed to be satisfactory, and I heard many rumours from the Kubo Valley, including a report that 1,000 Burmese troops had arrived at Tummoo, all of which however tended to show that at that time the Burmese authorities rather feared an invasion from Manipur than contemplated one themselves.

39. On the 12th April when returning from a rapid journey along the Cachar road to inspect a new bridge, I was met about nineteen miles from Manipur by a special messenger from the Maharaja, who came to beg me to return instantly as there was a great panic in Manipur owing to the news that the Burmese troops, who had lately arrived at Tummoo, had advanced to the Lokeheo river close to the Morai Thannah, and this was looked upon as preparatory to an invasion. I rode into Manipur as quickly as possible, and saw the Ministers, and did my best to restore confidence by walking in the bazaar, which was very badly attended. The next day the Maharaja visited me; he was much troubled about the news, and as usual was anxious to increase the strength of the frontier posts, a measure which I deprecated, as it would probably have precipitated a rupture, while doing no real good as the thannahs in the Kubo Valley could all be cut off and the force there was already too great; the real use of these outposts being to give the alarm and retreat to the almost impregnable Passes in the hills. I suggested, however, the posting of a reserve of 200 men in the valley at an easy distance from the two principal Passes, so that either if threatened, could at once be reinforced.

40. While taking these measures of precaution, I expressed my opinion that the movement of the Burmese troops could be easily accounted for, *firstly*, by their wishing to be near water; *secondly*, that it might be intended to frighten the Manipuris into accepting the settlement of

the Kongul case by a money payment; *thirdly*, it was very possible that it was intended as a counter-demonstration to an expected attack from Manipur, as it was highly probable that rumour was as busy on the other side of the hills as on this.

41. From April up to the 11th June nothing of importance occurred, though rumour was as busy as ever, and frequent reports of the assemblage of troops on the Manipur border reached us. On that day, however, news was received from the Subadar at the Morai Thannah that the compensation offered had been increased to Rupees 2,400, which he was immediately instructed to refuse, firmly but courteously intimating that no terms that did not include the punishment of the four known offenders could be agreed to. From this day up to the close of the year under review things remained in *statu quo*, though intelligence was received that the Sumjok Raja had been summoned to Mandalay, report said to answer for his crime, and it was further stated that he had taken heavy bribes with him for the Court officials.

Meanwhile, though the Passes remained closed, outwardly friendly relation continued to be maintained between the Manipur frontier officials and the Burmese.

42. Before proceeding to another subject, it may be well to mention that I have in a separate report to Government strongly deprecated the idea of accepting pecuniary compensation for the Kongul outrage, as it would, in my opinion, be preferable to wait any length of time for a satisfactory settlement rather than accept a compromise, which on one side at least would leave the wound unhealed, and sow the seeds of endless bad feeling which would most assuredly ripen into acts of hostility and keep this frontier in a state of constant disturbance. Of course a speedy settlement is most earnestly to be desired, but if not effected at once, it must not the less surely come; in fact it is merely a question of time, unless untoward events occur to prevent it, as in the interests of the traders on the Manipur frontier the Burmese must do their utmost to cause the Passes to be re-opened, and this will not be done till they have satisfied the just claim of Manipur. It is a hopeful sign that almost every letter from Burmah has contained a request that the Passes might be re-opened, and it can only be hoped that the firm but peaceful conduct of Manipur, coupled as it has been with very great self-restraint, may be crowned with success, and that next year's report may announce that no cause of quarrel remains.

43. *Sooti Kukis*.—This tribe has as usual been troublesome during the past year, and has made a few raids into Manipur territory, besides cutting off stragglers. In these raids the Sootis have killed several Manipuris, but have also lost some of their own people, so that they have gained no material advantage, though one of their parties had the audacity to penetrate as far as Shoogoonoo within three days' easy march of the capital.

44. In last year's Report I mentioned the fact that over 2,000 persons had emigrated into Manipur territory and had settled down quietly to the south of the valley. Since then one hundred more of the Sooti tribe have followed their example, and were cordially welcomed by the Maharaja, who assigned them lands and food. These men also

presented themselves before me; they were in no wise inferior to their countrymen who visited me last year, and, indeed, could not in any way have been distinguished from the latter, though belonging to the dominant and not the Helot race. The dignified air of these noble savages, for noble they certainly are in appearance and demeanour, was in striking contrast to the attitude assumed by some of the eastern Tankhool Nagas, who came to see me about the same time. Neither had ever before seen a European, but while the latter cringed and crouched on the ground like beaten hounds, the Sootis, though exceedingly respectful, comforted themselves in a manner that would have done credit to the proudest of mortals. I remarked the same difference, too, when I showed them a watch, a musical box, a burning glass, and other, to them, wonderful things, for while the Kukis viewed everything with the well-bred indifference manifested by the Incas under similar circumstances, the Tankhool Nagas burst out into exclamations of surprise, or refused to approach the dreaded devil as they termed some of the things.

45. The Sooti emigrants brought with them ten or twelve muskets, and when questioned by me as to their reasons for leaving their country, told me that they did so to avoid the oppressive conduct of their Chief, who, they said, robbed them of their goods, and was constantly bringing about quarrels with his neighbour. According to them, indeed, life and property are never safe.

46. I tried to obtain some information regarding the tribes to the south of the Sooti country, but my informant seemed to have a very vague idea of distance, and I could not learn anything of the Howlongs and Shendoos, about whose intercourse with the Sootis I was anxious to find out something.

47. The Sooti Kukis seem to be gradually pushing their way up towards the north-east, and even now are unpleasantly near the Ngnasuna route to Burmah, and it is probable that unless checked they will eventually, and at no distant date, occupy the whole of the Yomadoung range which divides Manipur from the Kubo Valley. I cannot but think that this move, whenever it takes place, will be to the advantage of Manipur, as it will enable the Durbar more thoroughly to control these troublesome people, though it will be necessary to hold them well in check, as otherwise they will be making constant raids on the Kubo Valley, and thus lead the way to frequent disputes between the Burmese and Manipuris. Even now I hear that the Sootis are a great nuisance to the people of the valley of Kulé (south of Kubo), whom they appear to pillage at pleasure.

48. The Sooti difficulty is one of long standing, so far back as 1856. The Maharaja of Manipur incensed at their continual depredations on his territory, led up a force into their country in person, but met with a disgraceful defeat, and was obliged to fly ignominiously. This want of success is said to have been owing to defective commissariat arrangements, which enforced a retreat as the only alternative to starvation. Whatever may have been the cause, the Maharaja has long wished to avenge the disaster, and make such a demonstration as would not only prevent outrages by the Sootis for the future, but would leave him in possession of part of their territory.

49. This scheme was proposed to me, and I was asked to obtain the sanction of Government, and to ask at the same time for sufficient ammunition to enable the Maharaja to carry out his purpose. The arrangement proposed is one that in the abstract met with my entire approval, as whatever may be the defects of the Maharaja's government, it is far better than the fearful state of anarchy and barbarism in which these people live, and the subjection of Sootis to his rule would not only secure the valleys of Manipur, Kubo and Kulé from their outrages, but would in time have allowed us to join hands with the Chittagong hill tracts, and would have thus shut in the Lushai tribes on all sides, and enabled us to take them in flank, thus conducing much to the peace of all the tract of country lying between Cachar and Chittagong. When the question was put to me however, I frankly told the Maharaja that while I approved of his plans, I could not recommend that Government should secure the necessary sanction unless he adopted the measures I proposed for the improvement of his army, as I pointed out that in a hill campaign, especially where a fierce and hardy race, every man of whom is an athlete, has to be encountered, quality is desirable and not quantity, that a good man requires no more food than a bad one, and that his only hope of success was to make his troops at least as efficient as our frontier police. My advice then was, though I told him I was by no means sure that Government would agree to his application, to apply for the services of a native officer and ten non-commissioned officers from the Assam local corps to superintend the drill and discipline of his army and help to train a few good officers in place of the useless ones he now has. This proposal the Maharaja disapproved of, on the ground of expense I understand, and as I refused to make any recommendation on other terms, the matter was allowed to drop.

50. I believe that the real truth is that the Sooti question not immediately affecting any of the Maharaja's chief advisers, they are not really in earnest in wishing to make a sacrifice to wipe away their former disgrace and secure peace for the future, and until a more self-denying spirit is shown, and money spent on real improvement instead of being wasted on temples and the latest European inventions, nothing will be done. Arms and ammunition are considered necessary to the safety of the country, but beyond that everything is left pretty much to chance until the evil day arrives, when there is a panic.

51. The evil day as regards the Sootis is still apparently thought to be distant, notwithstanding an occasional desire to amend matters. As things stand at present, the best hope is that as the Sootis advance to the north-east they may be gradually brought under control, and that as the tribes that are advancing from the Chittagong side follow them up, the influence already acquired over them by the officers in the Chittagong hill tract may follow them until the whole of the tract between southern Manipur and the Chittagong hill tract is brought under British influence. If this policy is carefully pursued, we may hope during the next twenty-five years to acquire without bloodshed such an influence as may result at no distant date in the substitution of peaceful arts for war and rapine in these vast and unknown wilds.

52. *Lushai affairs.*—Since the settlement made last year, to which I referred in my Report, up to the month of April things went



smoothly, and there was every appearance of a desire on the part of the Lushais to maintain their part of the compact. In the month of April, however, without any apparent provocation, a party of the Senkum tribe of Lushais, relation of Poiboi, attacked a village of Manipur Kukis of the Loksao tribe in the neighbourhood of Moirang to the south of the Manipur valley. The Loksao sustained no further injury than the loss of one of their granaries which was destroyed by fire, but the assailants lost one man, as the attacked party were on the alert, and seizing their arms pursued the enemy for some distance. I at once reported this case to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, with a view to having the Lushais called to account and prevented from committing further depredations; the latter, however, at the same time preferred a case against the Manipuri Kukis, whom they declared to be the aggressors and threatened with vengeance.

53. I assume the truth of the charge brought by the Manipuri Kukis as the evidence of the burned granary is on their side, as also that of the people in their vicinity, but it is possible that they may have given some provocation, though there is none evident, and experience has shown that a savage tribe like the Lushais when they have the power to make a raid can rarely restrain themselves for long. The Manipuri Kukis are peaceful cultivators, forming part of the military colony settled near Moirang for the protection of the valley from Lushai incursions.

54. Since the occurrence of the above outrage nothing more has been heard of the Lushais, and if they have any hostile intentions, they have carefully kept them to themselves. It is hoped, however, that all questions between the two parties may be amicably settled by arbitration during the ensuing cold season, and every effort will be made by Manipur to secure peace, as a fresh dispute with the Lushais would have the effect of disturbing all the Kowpoe Nagas on the Cachar road, who having settled down to peaceful pursuits are in no way fitted to resist the attack of a warlike race like the Lushais.

55. *Angami Nagas*.—Only one or two outrages by this tribe have been reported during the past year, while more than the usual number of complaints have been brought against the Manipur Nagas. This reversal of the usual procedure is, I believe, due in both cases to the removal of the head-quarter station of the Naga Hills Agency to Kohima, which has already checked the outrages committed by the Angami Nagas on this side of the border, while it has given those villages situated just within the British side of the frontier line an opportunity of more readily bringing forward any complaints they may have to make against those on the Manipur side, than they were able to do when the station was at Samoogoodting. It is, I think, a very good thing that the people on both sides, more especially the Angamis, are beginning to bring forward every complaint they have to make, as it shows them more clearly their respective responsibilities, and this is a point which I think the Durbar is beginning to appreciate.

56. As to the best mode of settling these international disputes and claims, the Political Officer, Naga Hills, and I have not as yet made any definite arrangement, as owing to difficulties on the Burmese frontier,

I have been unable to leave Manipur for the Naga Hills, where it was proposed that we should meet to discuss affairs on the spot, and the whole question is so complicated that it could not well be arranged without a personal interview. As soon, however, as the rains are over, I hope, unless something unforeseen occurs, to be able to proceed to Kohima, there to meet Mr. Damant, when we may lay down certain rules for our mutual guidance in cases of disputes between the inhabitants of both sides of the borders. I believe that all the difficulties in the way of a satisfactory settlement may be overcome, though doubtless many of the questions to be discussed are exceedingly intricate, and for some time there must be some danger of complications arising; still there is every reason to hope that matters may be settled in a way so as to satisfy all parties.

It is satisfactory to me to be able to add that the Durbar has during the past year shown every desire to adapt its policy so as to suit the new arrangements made in the Naga Hills, and I believe that the Maharaja will cheerfully co-operate in the promotion of any measures devised for the settlement of Naga affairs and the opening out of the country.

57. During the ensuing cold season I propose, after meeting Mr. Damant, to march leisurely along the Naga Hills frontier line, explaining to the different Manipuri Naga villages the obligations under which they rest to keep the peace, and the heavy penalties they will incur by committing outrages. Before leaving the subject of the Naga frontier, I must express my deep regret that owing to a failure of the crops, I have been unable to aid Mr. Damant in his arduous task by helping him to supply Kohima with food. I trust, however, to be able to do so to some extent in the cold season if he can find the means of transport.

58. *Chusad Kukis*.—This tribe, which formerly inhabited Manipur, but a few years since emigrated to the Kubo Valley, has lately again appeared in Manipur, and has brought itself into unenviable notoriety by its depredations. As the latter are more or less connected with Burmese affairs, they have been described under that heading; it is only necessary to state here that these troublesome people show a disposition to again make Manipur their residence, and reports have lately been received that some of them have penetrated as far as the Tankhool Naga villages to the north-east of Manipur, and far away from the Kubo Valley, where, however, the main body remain.

59. *Eastern Tankhool Nagas*.—During the past year several parties of Nagas from the villages of Wahong, Somrah and Tusone have visited Manipur. These villages, though not included within the boundary of Manipur, appear from the statements made by those of their inhabitants whom I have seen, to have paid a small tribute consisting of pulse and oil-seeds to Manipur for some years past, and now that a Manipuri outpost has been established in the frontier village, Kuhsom will probably be gradually drawn into nearer relations with their more civilized neighbours.

60. The men of these villages whom I have seen were, as a rule, inferior in physique to the southern and western Tankhools, whom nevertheless they in many respects resembled, both in personal appearance and dress, also in their arms and accoutrements. In complexion, however,

they generally struck me as being darker than their neighbours, and in many respects they reminded me much of the Jawangs of the Guttack Tributary Mahals. Though evidently far from being at ease in my presence, these people evinced great curiosity as to everything I did, and gave me the impression of their being very inquisitive. Among the eastern Tankhools each village appears to have a different language unintelligible to its neighbours, and this is the case even with villages containing no more than fifteen or twenty houses; however interpreters seem to abound. The chief cultivation of these people seems to be rice, pulses of good quality, and oil-seeds, and the chief trade carried on is with Burmah. The largest village is Somrah, which is held in great awe by its neighbours, as its inhabitants are said to be very warlike, though huddled together and cowering before me, they seemed a rather miserable set; it is certain, however, that the adjacent communities are always complaining of them.

61. Somrah from what I could learn from its inhabitants is not much less than 7,500 feet above the sea level, and in winter snow falls, and ice forms to a thickness of three or four inches. It is seven days' journey from Manipur to the north-east and about eight from Kohima, while it is only three days' journey from the nearest Burmese villages, Chukpa and Mulleetoo, its tributary Kongainoo being situated on the eastern face of the great eastern range of hills about 5,000 feet above the sea, at a distance of one day's journey from the two latter villages and two from Somrah. One of the most remarkable facts connected with the people of Somrah, and I suspect that the same remark applies to its neighbours, is that they declare themselves to have originally sprung from the Maha Wallee or sacred grove of Manipur, from which they emerged many ages ago. Unlike many of the other tribes roundabout, they do not use the Manipuri name for Manipur, but have a word of their own "Kennee." This tradition is the more strange when it is considered that it is only of late years that the Manipuris have known even the name of Somrah, all traditions of its existence having been lost by them. However, I can safely assert that in all my wanderings in wild parts of India, I have never yet met a people who taken all in all have so few traditions or so little knowledge of their past history as the inhabitants of the Manipur valley; even historical reminiscences that were well kept up forty-five years ago in Major Grant's time seem now lost, or only vaguely known to the few.

62. *Education.*—Regarding education, I regret to say I can report little more favorably than I did last year. The fifty or sixty boys who then attended the school have not increased in number, and the slovenly way in which they get through what little they do, does not hold out much hope of any improvement being made without some effort from without, or a change of feeling on the part of the more influential people, and of the latter I see little reason to hope until the people generally are brought more into contact with the rest of the world when they will see the advantage of learning and make some spontaneous efforts to attain it. When I spoke to the Maharaja on the subject, he said what I believe is the truth, namely, that the boys of Manipur much preferred playing at hockey to learning to read and write, and that their parents did not care to coerce them. There can be no doubt, too, that

the feeling among the upper classes is in favor of discouraging education for fear of its making the people too independent. In fact education is at a discount, and some movement from without is needed as a stimulus. What would best answer the purpose would be the establishment of a school within the Agency limits, where under the Political Agent's eye education might be fostered and a taste for it instilled into the people, but of course expense is the obstacle. The Maharaja would not bear the cost, and Government could not be expected to do so, and even were I in a position to bear the charge myself, which at present I am not, it would, I fear, be little use establishing a school which my successor might not care to maintain when I left.

63. Under these circumstances, the only thing that can be done is to wait quietly and take advantage of any favorable occurrences which may act in favor of an improved system of education, and though things at present seem unfavorable, I am not hopeless. Judging from my past experience, and it has not been small, I should say that the people of Manipur are rather favorable subjects for education, but they require a stimulus which for many reasons it is at present hard to apply. Manipur is, as I have before said, intensely conservative, and during what is for an Asiatic ruler an unusually long reign, conservatism tends to increase. At present conservatism is all in favor of very little education, and it gains the day. While, however, unable to bring about an immediate change, I take every opportunity of putting forward my views, and trust in the end to effect some good; it is up-hill work, but not therefore to be neglected.

64. There can be little doubt that until education spreads, there will be no permanent improvement in the government of Manipur, as where the rulers are utterly unprincipled, any reform conceded under pressure of Government by the influence of any particular Political Agent, will remain a dead letter so long as the people have not sufficient intelligence to insist on its being put in force. Even a knowledge of mere reading and writing is a powerful weapon in the hands of an oppressed people.

65. *General state of the population of Manipur.*—On this subject there is little to add to what I said in last year's Report, excepting that a season of scarcity has made everyone more than usually discontented, and that the distress has been enhanced by the few rich men in the State (high officials) who have kept up the price of rice for their own benefit.

The Maharaja, though well meaning, trusts too much to his chief advisers, and in the administration of affairs generally evil counsels prevail, and there is little hope of improvement. Justice is still bought and sold, and the rich have their way and the poor go to the wall. A striking instance of the want of consideration for the people occurred in February, when many hundreds of men were for weeks employed in building a small temporary town on the banks of the Logtah Lake, that the Dowager Ranee might with a company of about 1,000 people enjoy a fine day's holiday; this too at a time when prices were rising and scarcity beginning to be severely felt.

66. While, however, there is very much to be mended in the existing state of things, I am of opinion that if the general state of happiness

of the people is considered, they are certainly not worse off than in the majority of Native States. What perhaps would strike a casual observer most is the absence of the more showy externals of improved rule, and the fact that all classes of officials boldly assert that they cannot aim at the same high standard that is attained in British districts, I am not sure, however, that this state of things is not more promising for ultimate reform than the other, but what is most to be regretted is the undoubted fact that in the past many opportunities of improvement have been neglected, opportunities too when reforms might have been introduced without in the least trespassing on the Maharaja's functions, or in any way actively interfering with the government of the State.

67. In many ways the hill people are the most interesting portion of the population, and that too among which most progress in the immediate future might perhaps be expected, as they are free from religious bigotry and prejudices, though many of the numerous tribes are doubtless doomed to die out before the stronger. The system of Manipur, however, though it has done much in the way of stopping feuds and maintaining a degree of peace and quiet before unknown, is, as it at present exists, fatal to all real advancement of the tribes, and no hill-man can hope to raise himself without losing his national individuality and becoming merged in the mass of Manipuris.

68. The system of exacting labor from the hill tribes is excellent, and has had a most salutary effect, but it is carried to excess, and abused by the Manipuri officials. Moreover, as the calls for service are in practice very arbitrary and capricious, no hill-man can count on having any particular time to himself. I am not sure that this is considered the greatest of hardships by the hill people, but it is not the less certain that it prevents their improvement, and interferes with that material well-being which is the prelude to a taste for civilized habits.

69. *New Agency building.*—The work of the new Residency has not progressed as well as could have been wished, owing to the procrastinating habits of the Manipuris and the large number of officials through whom orders have to be carried out. Whenever a single piece of timber is required, the Ministers have to be applied to in the first instance, and then the matter is laid before the Maharaja, who issues the necessary order to one officers, who again passes it on to another, and so on till at last it reaches the man who has charge of the wood. If there is any hitch half-way, the whole process has to be again repeated, and it may easily be imagined what delay this absurd procedure causes. At present the building has risen about six feet from the ground, and it is hoped that it may be completed before the end of next cold season. When finished it will be a fine and commodious building, and as healthy I believe as any house in Manipur.

70. A few months ago, under sanction from the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the sum of Rupees 300 was spent in clearing out and thoroughly repairing two tanks within the Residency limits. The work has been well performed, and has already been greatly conducive to the health of all who benefit by it, and during an exceedingly unhealthy season the sepoys of the 34th Native Infantry composing the Agency guard, though fresh from the North-West Provinces, have not suffered

so much from sickness as the party of the 35th Native Infantry, which had had three years' acclimatization, did last year. I have done my best to lay out the new grounds assigned for the Residency compound with as much taste as possible, and have labored generally to improve the place, so that I hope in time that the Residency will be the most picturesque spot in the valley.

71. *Maharaja's Jail*.—Some description of the Maharaja's jail may be of interest. The prisoners are housed in two long thatched buildings, one for Manipuris, the other for hillmen, a third building acts as kitchen for the former, the hillmen being expected to cook in the building they sleep in. The whole is surrounded by a mud wall with platforms for the sentries as in our own jails. In the centre of the enclosure is a tank of very doubtful looking water. The sanitary arrangements are not, perhaps, all that high authorities on hygiene would approve, but the establishment is considering all things not otherwise than a credit to the State, and the prisoners are well fed and not particularly hard worked. All the labor is extramural, and for a long time past has been confined to brick-making. The Manipuri prisoners are supplied with brass vessels for cooking, and the hillmen with the earthen pots they are accustomed to use, otherwise no distinction seems to be made between the two. There are no compartments for female prisoners, as the customs of the country does not allow of woman being imprisoned or put to death. In cases where women are considered deserving of severe punishment, they are exposed to public gaze on a raised platform in the bazaar, while a crier proclaims their crimes.

72. *Experimental Gardens*.—In last year's Report some account was given of experiments made in horticulture and arboriculture, and it may, perhaps, be interesting to give the result of another year's experience.

73. To begin with forest trees, the deodars and Himalayan pines raised from seed do well in the hill garden at Khangjhoopkhool, some of the former having in the space of a year and a half from being sown, grown to a height of fifteen inches, the latter are healthy with the exception of one kind, but have not grown to a greater height than six inches, though, as I am not aware of the rate at which they grow in their native soil, I cannot say whether they have made fair progress or not; all my plants have however suffered much from the excessive rain and want of sunshine.

Deodars at present seem to do almost equally well in the valley of Manipur at a height of only 2,600 feet above the sea. At Khangjhoopkhool, too, I have planted a grove of Khasia pines, with a view to introducing that useful tree into the hills bordering on the north and west of the valley. A species of this tree grows to the south of the valley and supplies most of the timbers used in Manipur. The Spanish chestnuts planted at Khangjhoopkhool last year are doing remarkably well, while one planted in the valley is much the same as last year. It may, I think, be safely said that deodars and Spanish chestnut will do well in these hills, and that they may eventually become of great use to the people, besides being very ornamental; it remains to be seen whether they will live permanently in the valley. I incline to think they will, as the past year has been a trying one, and the plants have lived through an exceptionally hot and exceptionally rainy season.

74. To turn to fruit trees : apples, pears, apricots and plums appear to do admirably in Manipur, and six apples of fair size and excellent flavour have already rewarded my exertions, while as some of the Himalayan apricots raised from seed sown in November 1877 are already seven or eight feet in height. I hope next year may give a good crop of fruit. English apricot trees, though not nearly so large, are doing well, and also give promise of bearing fruit next year. The pear and plum trees are also doing well, and a vine planted at Manipur is flourishing, though it is too soon as yet to say whether or not it will produce fruits.

An English mulberry also does well, and has already borne a small quantity of good fruit. Two English peach trees in Manipur are flourishing.

75. In the hill garden at Khangjhoopkhood, apples, pears, plums cherries and rhubarb are in a flourishing condition, though all have suffered much from excessive rain ; raspberries also will, I think, succeed ; a red currant bush is alive, but that is all that can be said for it. Last year I planted several apricot trees, both Himalayan and English, in the hill garden, but they cannot there stand against the multitudes of small green insects that attack them and devour every leaf that appears between June and October ; and I have therefore taken all the English grafts down to the Manipur garden, leaving the Himalayan variety, as less valuable, to struggle on. Strawberries for some unaccountable reason, though growing well in Manipur, bear hardly any fruit, while those at Khangjhoopkhood yield a good amount. Besides the trees I have mentioned, I have tried several kinds of English flowers, not commonly seen in India, with success, and the eyes of future Political Agents will be gladdened by the familiar broom and gorse of their native home, both of which do remarkably well at Khangjhoopkhood. I can only hope that my endeavours in the direction of horticulture will do permanent good. My gardens are already much appreciated by the Manipuris.

76. Before concluding this subject, I should mention that I was wrong in my last Report in taking to myself the credit of first bringing to notice the wild apricot of Manipur, as I have since seen it alluded to in an account of India published in 1840.

77. *Manipur Militia*.—As a separate report has been submitted giving full information regarding this force, it is hardly necessary to say much on the subject here. The numbers and organization remain much the same as last year, but an attempt has been made by the Maharaja to improve their drill, and the troops on duty in the capital have been regularly paraded and drilled in his presence, while he himself has taken great pains to learn the different manoeuvres, and has thus acquired sufficient knowledge to enable him to acquit himself very creditably when in command of a battalion on parade. A considerable portion of the Manipur army has also been put through a course of ball practice, much to the delight of the population generally, who view with pleasure anything that has an appearance of making Manipur a better match for Burmah. A sensible improvement has undoubtedly been made during the year, but no one capable of giving an opinion on the subject can

deny that Manipur would be in every way more efficient, both for offence and defence, were the existing force reduced to half its present strength, and efficiency rather than numbers made the highest object of ambition. At present, however, large numbers are deemed the *sine qua non*, and efficiency thought highly desirable, but nothing more, and while this hallucination remains, strength will continue to be wasted. It is worthy of remark that while during the time that ball practice was going on, the Maharaja daily attended parade for several hours at a time, none of his sons but the heir-apparent ever were present, and he only displayed his interest in a very lukewarm way, taking advantage of the slightest excuse to absent himself.

78. *Present of arms to the Maharaja of Manipur.*—In the month of April it was intimated that His Excellency the Viceroy had been pleased to present the Maharaja with hundred muskets; these have since arrived, and have afforded the greatest satisfaction, the troubled state of the eastern frontier making the present doubly acceptable.

MANIPUR, }  
The 15th October 1879.

(Sd.) J. JOHNSTONE,  
Political Agent.





SELECTIONS

FROM THE

*Records of the Government of India,*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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N<sup>o</sup>. CIX.

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ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

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