

SELECTIONS

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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 Sopvoma 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° 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° 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	...	41.22

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.

					<i>Rs.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
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	Mussoom 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.

