

ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NAGA HILLS POLITICAL AGENCY

FOR

1875-76.

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No. 2115, dated Shillong, 29th May 1876.

From—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., Secy. to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,
To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, the annexed* copy of the Annual Administration Report of the Naga Hills Agency, with the remarks of the Chief Commissioner thereon.

No. 27, dated Samaguting, 1st May 1876.

From—P. J. CARNEGIE, Esq., Political Agent, Naga Hills,
To—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., Secy. to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following general Administration Report for the Naga Hills Agency for the year 1875-76. I was not myself in charge at any time during the year, so that this report is based on official records and information I have been able to acquire since joining, not on my own experience; consequently it will, I fear, be found meagre compared with those submitted in former years.

2. From 1st to 23rd April 1875, Mr. Needham, Assistant Political Agent, was in charge of the district during the absence of the Political Agent, Captain Butler, with the Naga Hills Field Force. From the 24th April, Captain Butler was in charge up to the 31st August, when he

left on special duty, making over charge to Mr. Needham who retained it to the 23rd October, when Captain Butler returned. On the 6th November, Mr. Needham again took over the current duties of the Agency and continued to carry them on until the 7th January when, on the lamented death of Captain Butler, he was appointed to officiate as Political Agent,—an appointment he retained until the close of the year.

3. *Annual tours.*—On the 6th of November, Captain Butler left Samaguting to accompany the survey party under Lieutenant Woodthorpe through the Naga country lying to the south of the Sibsagar boundary. Captain Butler was, owing to difficulties about carriage, detained at Golaghat until the 1st December when he left along with Colonel Tulloch, commanding detachment of the 42nd Assam Light Infantry, for Wokha, at which place he remained until the 8th, when he started for Golaghat, which he reached in two days on the 17th; he again started for Wokha arriving there and taking up the survey party on the 19th. After a halt of three days Captain Butler marched to Lakhuti, where having halted one day on the 25th December the party left for Pangti and was on the march attacked by the Nagas of Pangti and other villages; then occurred that sad accident which cost Captain Butler his life, and Government the services of a valuable officer. I need make no further allusion to this event, save to say that from all I can hear in the Angami country where Captain Butler was so well known, his death was looked upon by the people as a great calamity. The circumstances connected with this attack and the subsequent proceedings of the survey party have been reported by the officer in charge.

4. The Assistant Political Agent made no regular cold-weather tour, but in December marched across the hills from Samaguting to Wokha, and from thence accompanied a survey party under Mr. Ogle into the hills lying to the south-east and south, visiting the Lhota and Angami Naga villages of Jusema, Khotso, Vhagme, Sampi, Kiti, Goshutune, Nogame, Nanome, Ghoshulogme, Khakemogame, Selemi, Nocame, Inphema, Yanahama, Terepitzema, and returning through the Angami villages of Ronguguma, Khezoma, Khizimetuma, Dehoma and Ketsrama to Neruma early in January; thence Mr. Needham came by the political bridle path to Samaguting. After this in February and March Mr. Needham made five trips into the hills to superintend the road work then going on; on these occasions he went out as far as Nachamah, which is the last Angami village near which the road passes.

5. On the 26th March Mr. Needham left Samaguting for Wokha to remove the guard stationed there for survey purposes; this he did coming down by Golaghat and returning to Samaguting early in April.

6. No special incident occurred during the course of Mr. Needham's tour of the villages visited by him when with Mr. Ogle's party; two, Tesipetzema and Ronguguma, were then visited by Europeans for the first time. Mr. Needham says that at the first-named place his reception was more cordial than at any of the other villages he and Mr. Ogle went to; between Sampi and Kiti the Nagas turned out in some numbers and threatened an attack but matters were pacifically arranged.

7. *Weather and crops.*—The weather during the year under

	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876
January ...	1.59	0.25	...	0.12	0.47	1.20	1.84	0.11
February ...	1.00	0.25	1.90	0.44	1.28	2.85	0.74	0.58
March ...	2.00	2.75	0.50	1.52	1.76	2.68	2.31	2.39
April ...	2.00	2.50	5.29	2.74	5.79	2.71	4.17	...
May ...	6.00	4.75	7.52	1.53	2.97	6.62	4.22	...
June ...	8.00	7.75	8.67	9.93	7.65	6.82	15.62	...
July ...	3.50	11.60	8.32	10.35	2.41	7.13	6.95	...
August ...	9.00	14.75	13.13	7.86	6.00	10.26	12.47	...
September ...	7.00	10.12	7.10	4.95	3.33	4.75	7.12	...
October ...	4.00	1.60	6.26	7.06	2.21	3.62	3.46	...
November ...	...	...	0.46	0.10	...	...	...	...
December ...	...	...	0.27	...	0.33	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	39.06	55.62	58.52	48.54	44.20	52.54	58.54	3.08

report appears to have been fairly seasonable. The rainfall was more than an average one, as a reference to the table given in the margin will show. The greatest quantity of rain fell in June and August, therefore at a seasonable time.

8. The crops all turned out well on the whole. The rice crop, both in the plains and on the hills, though not so good as that of 1874-75, was about an average one. On the other hand, cotton turned out far better than it did last year, the crop being very good. There is no doubt too that in the protected Naga villages at least the area of cultivation is steadily increasing.

9. *Public health.*—The general health of the district appears to have been much as usual. The medical officer reports however that at Dimapur there was an unusual amount of sickness and mortality caused by fever and bowel complaints. There was however no epidemic in any part of the district. At Samaguting itself there was as usual a good deal of sickness, which the medical officer attributes to sudden changes of temperature and want of good water-supply, also to the scarcity of good vegetables and animal food. A very short residence here would, I think, convince any one of the cogency of these reasons. The water is bad, and hard to get at for natives; without a chance of getting good water and plenty of it, I do not see what can be done to improve matters.

10. In the police force the mortality amounted to 3.68 per cent. as against 1.22 in the preceding year, but the admissions to hospital were fewer, being 195 as against 242.

11. The charitable hospital appears to have been well attended and to have attained a popularity with the indigenous population which is steadily increasing. During the year under report the admissions of Nagas and Kukies exceeded by 158 those of the previous year. Some of the patients came from distant villages on the western ranges for treatment of goitre, which appears to be prevalent in those parts. Mr. Cooper has been very successful in effecting cures in these cases, which will lead to still more patients coming in. There is an increasing desire too amongst the Nagas to avail themselves of Mr. Cooper's skill in midwifery cases, and he has been called in on many occasions. The condition of the hospital and its success reflect much credit on Mr. Cooper.

12. *Prices of food and labour.*—The price of food seems to have been about the same as in former years, certainly not lower. The price of common rice has been from Rupees 4 to Rupees 6-8 per maund, and there have from time to time been complaints of scarcity at any price. The supply of rice from the Nagas seems to be increasing, and without it things would have been in a very bad way indeed. The difficulties about getting up supplies from Golaghat having been greater than usual, owing

to the Dhansiri falling unusually low very early in the season and continuing so ever since, so much so that even small boats have been prevented from coming up to Dimapur. A Marwaree trader had collected a large store of food at Dimapur during the rains, but early in the cold season his godown was burnt with its contents, estimated at about 500 maunds of rice besides other stores; this made a heavy inroad on the total supply for the place. Even my short experience has shown me that, situated as we are here, difficulties about the supply and price of food constantly arise and have to be faced, but I agree with Captain Butler in considering interference with the traders impolitic if it can be possibly avoided, and that it is better "to allow supply and demand to fight their own battles." The high prices fall very hard on the people we employ here,—constables, domestic servants and others.

13. Most of the hill rice which finds its way to Samaguting comes from the Kacha Naga country, and if money is available next year I should very much like to open out a bridle path into that part of the hills, feeling confident that it would lead to larger supplies coming in.

14. The price of labour continues as high as ever, and it is as hard to get coolies; wages were from Rupees 9 to Rupees 10 per month. On the bridle path to Kerhuma, however, numbers of Angamis seem to have worked freely because they could do so without leaving their villages. Mr. Needham informs me that he made several attempts to reduce the rates for labour and to get four days' work instead of three (now the customary rate for a rupee.) but at every attempt the Nagas at once struck work and the idea had to be given up. While looking over some old diaries of Captain Vincent's, I observed there that when at Kohima in 1850 he wanted to send a letter to Dimapur and called for a Naga to take it, offering six annas to any one who would do so, evidently considering the offer a most liberal one, two men at once came forward and took the letter: I believe that now no Naga would go from Kohima to Dimapur for anything under Rupees 2, and it is very doubtful if he would do it for that. Where rates have been allowed to run high, it is very hard to bring them down again.

15. At Samaguting there was as usual much difficulty about labour. The Bildar Corps was never recruited to anything like its full strength, and the supply of Naga workmen was very uncertain.

16. Most of the work on the Wokha road was done by hillmen who were recruited at Darjeeling; it was hoped that these men would take permanent service in the Bildar Corps; but when the work on the Wokha road was over, they refused to come to Samaguting, which seems to bear a worse reputation with natives than any other stations I have ever heard of.

17. *Manufactures and trade.*—It has been mentioned in former reports that the manufactures of the district are few and of primitive description—cloth woven in narrow strips from cotton, daos, hoes and spear-heads from iron, and some rude pottery. In this respect matters rest as they were, so far as I can ascertain. The process of manufacture has been explained in former reports, so need not be again mentioned.

18. Trade seems to be on about the same footing as when the report for 1874-75 was sent in. In that year 75 ponies had been

brought from Manipur ; this year the number was 71. The transit duty of Rupees 20 is still collected by the Manipur Government, and this I think in a great measure accounts for the trade not increasing. The ponies are readily sold here or in the plains at fairly remunerative prices ; one with any pretensions to goodness fetches about Rupees 80.

19. The trade in cloths from Manipur appears to be falling off somewhat ; last year the Samaguting and Dimapur traders purchased 500 cloths, this year 362 only.

20. During the year, 1,904 Nagas passed through Samaguting to trade at Dimapur, Golaghat and other places in the plains. In 1874-75 the number was 1,919 ; from these figures it appears that the trade is about stationary. This year 1,445 men took down cash, 74 went with ponies, 3 with wax and 382 with cloths. Last year 532 men went down with cloth. Salt is the great article of import to the hills. Iron, beads and brass-ware are the other things generally brought up by the trading parties.

21. From information received from the traders at Samaguting and Dimapur it appears that they sold 2,800 maunds of salt, which is nearly the same quantity as that in last year's report. These traders have purchased from the Nagas about Rupees 1,000 worth of rice, Rupees 3,750 worth of bees' wax and Rupees 4,497 of ivory ; they have also imported from Golaghat 1,460 maunds rice, 421 maunds dal, 82 maunds oil, 32 maunds ghee, 68 maunds tobacco, and 76 maunds of sugar, also cloth of the value of Rupees 3,829 and Rupees 1,572 worth of brass utensils. A concession was early in the year granted to the traders in allowing them to get supply bills on the Sibsaigor Treasury payable at Golaghat where the principals of the men here reside ; Rupees 14,160 was paid in for bills on Golaghat and Rupees 1,200 on other Treasuries. This, besides being a great convenience to the traders, causes a considerable saving to Government in the cost of bringing up treasure.

22. *State of public feeling.*—Amongst the inhabitants of the plain and lower hill portions of the district the state of feeling is good, and there is no reason to believe that they are other than well contented with our rule. The Kacha Nagas and Kukies have been well-behaved and have given no trouble in any way. The Angamis have been fighting amongst themselves as usual, but there has been no collision with us or any of the villages under our protection. Indeed, matters have been on as satisfactory a footing as under the circumstances could be expected. Mr. Needham passed through the hills many times and our people working on the bridge met with no molestation, but on the other hand received a good deal of assistance from the different villages near which their work lay. A guard of 14 men was posted in the village of Nerhuma from 10th November until the end of March ; they were not molested in any way, and indeed seem to have been on very friendly terms with the Kerhima people. In February, however, a constable of this guard who was bringing in the weekly reports disappeared and has never been heard of since ; most likely the man had been found asleep by a passing band of Nagas for whom the temptation to possess themselves of his rifle had been too much.

23. A Naga of Samaguting who had gone to work on a tea garden near Golaghat was, it is supposed, murdered, not far from Borpothar, and suspicion being thrown on another Naga of the Jotsamah village, his clan was ordered to give him up; some demur was made at first as to giving up and handing over to justice a fellow clansman, being against Naga custom; but on Mr. Needham going to the spot with a small escort, the man wanted was produced and made over to him. Subsequently he was discharged for want of conclusive evidence and seen safely back to his own people. Jotsamah is a large and powerful village.

24. Judging from the little I have seen and from the information at my disposal, the Angami Nagas seem anxious to remain on friendly terms with us. So many of them have visited stations in the plains or have been attached to the survey parties which have inflicted severe punishment when attacked, that the whole community have a wholesome respect for the power they know us to possess.

25. I regret to say that the use of firearms is steadily increasing in the hills. Very likely, in spite of all our precautions, a small quantity of ammunition and occasionally a gun may be smuggled up from the plains, but it is undoubtedly from Manipur that the main supplies come. As to the traffic thus carried on in ammunition, no secret is made about it, and I have been freely shown purchases so made. The ammunition is made up into old-fashioned musket cartridges, and the caps are apparently of native manufacture. It seems a great pity this should be allowed to go on; if the Manipur authorities really exerted themselves to put down this traffic, they would not have to complain as they do about attacks by Angamis on their villages. The possession of firearms and growing familiarity with their use goes also to increase the slaughter in intertribal feuds which is already quite bad enough. The sense of power given by the possession of firearms makes the large villages even more ready to bully the smaller ones than they otherwise would be.

26. *General state of police crime and civil justice.*—During the year the duties of the police have been almost entirely of a military nature. The force has been very much broken up and a deal of hard work has fallen to the share of the men constituting it; but they have, I believe, always performed their duty to the satisfaction of the officers under whom they happened to serve. During the cold season the number of men left at head-quarters was not sufficient for the duty required then, and 22 men of the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry were sent to assist them. The men of the Naga Hills Police appear well adapted for the work they have to do, and, from what I have seen, very willing to do it; if their drill just now is perhaps not what it might be, this is not to be wondered at. There is, I am sorry to say, an increasing difficulty in keeping men in the force, which is no doubt in some measure caused by the heavy amount of duty which falls on them.

27. During the year under report, there were only 31 criminal cases disposed of against 42 in 1874-75 and 66 the year before, so that there is a steady decrease in this respect. None of the cases deserve special mention: nearly all were assaults and petty thefts. The most serious case was one of theft of property valued at Rupees 110.

28. The civil work was as light as the criminal; only 25 civil suits were instituted and disposed of. These were almost all brought by the Dimapur and Samaguting traders for the recovery of petty debts. The highest amount for which a suit was brought was Rupees 230.

29. *General state of communication and public works.*—Most of the work done on the roads and buildings was carried on under the supervision of Mr. Needham. I have asked him to submit a report on the subject, which is forwarded in original.

30. The road from Golaghat to the foot of the hills I found to be in very fair order; most of it is quite fit now for wheeled traffic in the dry season, and with but little expenditure the road might be used for carts the whole way next cold season. The bridges finished this season have been substantially built and are in good order. Some of the old bridges still want renewing.

31. The bridle path from Samaguting to Wokha has been advanced 25 miles at comparatively small cost. I have been over this road and have been particularly pleased with this season's work. The line has been laid out by using a clinometer. The gradient is good the whole way, and a very good line of country has been selected. I certainly agree with Mr. Needham in thinking the man in charge of this road deserves great credit, not only for his work, but for the way he has managed the Nagas. Mr. Needham also deserves praise for the pains he has taken and for teaching the mohurir in charge to work properly. This road is much used by Nagas, who unlike Khasias seem ready to take advantage of an easy gradient whenever they can get. I am certain that pushing on road-making through the hills is about the most useful work of a civilizing nature which we can undertake at present. If funds are available next season, the whole distance to Wokha will be completed. Nothing was done this season on the path from the Zubza River, to Kohima, but I hope that next year funds will be forthcoming to put what has already been done in good repair and to carry on the line further.

32. The work on the road from Golaghat to Wokha does not seem to have been very well executed owing evidently to the unavailable want of European supervision, but still half the required distance has been completed as a bridle path.

33. The various buildings in the station have been put under repair, but, as Mr. Needham reports, several of them, including his own bungalow, are in very shaky condition. If Samaguting is to be maintained as the head-quarters station, a good deal of work will have to be done next season, for one thing a new magazine must be built.

34. The water-tank has been in good order during the year, the supply of water from it has been unfailing, and though not of good quality is a great boon to all in the place.

35. *Education.*—In the way of education very little has been done during the past year. No new apprentices have come forward for the Industrial School, but the carpenter attached to it has not been idle. The only other in the district is the Vernacular School at Borpothar which, as regards attendance and progress, is in a satisfactory state. The men of Mezoma begged to have a school opened in their village, and the American Missionaries at Sibsagor were applied to for a teacher, but none was to be found willing to come to these hills.

Character of officers.—On this head I can say but little, my experience having been so short. Captain Butler had, I am aware, a high opinion of Mr. Needham as a very energetic officer, well fitted for the work required here, and what I have seen induces me to think as he did. Mr. Cooper is, I believe, both willing and painstaking.

No. 2, dated Samaguting, the 21st April 1876.

From—J. F. NEEDHAM, Esq., Assistant Political Agent, Naga Hills,

To—P. J. CARNEGIE, Esq., Political Agent, Naga Hills.

IN obedience to your verbal instructions I have the honour to send you the following report on the (marginally noted) public works which were undertaken in this district during the past year, 1875-76.

1. Opening a new road to Wokha.
2. Continuing political path from Samaguting towards Wokha.
3. Repair of Golaghat road.
4. Repair of station buildings.

2. *Opening new road to Wokha.*—There was no special amount sanctioned for this road during the year under report, and as the probable available amount out of the lump sum of Rupees 5,000, which was placed at the Political Agent's disposal for "improving political paths in the hills and opening the Wokha road," was considered altogether inadequate to effect a really good beginning with the Wokha road. Captain Butler directed me early in November last to curtail as much as possible the Golaghat road expenses, to undertake in fact nothing but the most necessary and urgent repairs there, in order that a large saving might be effected and added to whatever sum might be available out of the Rupees 5,000 before alluded to and spent on the Wokha road, and as I carried out these orders, I am able to report that the Public Works Overseer, who was deputed specially from Shillong to superintend the cutting of the new road, received sufficient funds to enable him to cut a path quite half-way, if not more, from Sadgaon, a village about 7 miles from Golaghat, to which place a really good road, constructed, I believe, by the proprietors of the Ghiladhari Tea Estate, is already in existence to Wokha which is, I consider, most satisfactory. It is 8 feet broad from Sadgaon to the foot of the hills, a distance of 9 miles, 7 of which lies through a dense forest over a tolerable level, though here and there terribly broken country, and from thence on through the hills for 16 or 17 miles, i. e., as far as the path has been completed, it is from 2 to 3 feet wide. The gradient is nowhere bad, being in no place greater than 8 or 9 feet in 100, and even these places might be improved by making a few detours here and there. One great fault, however, which I have to find with it is that from beginning to end almost the work has been slurred over, "latas" and jungle have been left overlapping the road, while here and there, to save cutting through a little sandstone, an artificial road propped up by posts has been made, which, as I pointed out to the Overseer the other day, is simply money thrown away, inasmuch as when the posts rot, which they will do very quickly, the path will become impassable. It shows that the Overseer's supervision was not as good as it ought to have been. The Assamese "tikadar's" work too, through the forest as well as that in the open on the Golaghat side of it, has been vilely done. Instead of digging round the roots of the trees,

in clearing a path through the forests, and then cutting them well under ground, they have cut nearly the whole of the trees level with the ground, and then thrown a little earth over all to make believe that the work has been properly done, while the numerous hollows which occur have been so loosely filled in with earth as to render it impossible to move out for a walk on horseback for fear of breaking one's ponies' legs, and the numerous steep approaches to the nullahs and jâns have been but partially razed down, and are consequently many of them still too steep to ride down with comfort.

One and all of these defects were pointed out by me to the Overseer on my way in from Bandharree the other day, and I ordered him to reduce considerably the "tikadar's" contract rates, which was done. The Overseer complained bitterly against the Assamese and Goorkhalee coolies with whom the work has been done, and denounced them as useless for road-making, and I have little doubt that he is correct in saying so. He informed me that in the event of his being deputed here next year to finish the road, he could, if required to do so, engage 100 and 200 Cacharee coolies for the season, which, if feasible, would be a great boon to us, for, with the exception of a few Assamese living contiguous to Sadgaon, no labor whatever is procurable for the work, the Nagas in these parts being as yet too timid to take to such work, especially when going on at a distance from their homes, and I would therefore strongly urge that this course be pursued for next year's work, for with one or two hundred really good workers, and such I know Cacharees are, the road could easily be completed right into Wokha. I may add that if these men are not procured, I doubt if any work could be done during next cold weather, for even presuming that we can get Assamese, I doubt if they would trust themselves so far in the interior of the hills as Sonarigaon and Wokha where they will of course principally be required, and we shall have no Goorkhalee coolies to put on next year. The total amount spent by the Overseer on this road is Rupees 5,349; with another 6,000, therefore, we could have a bridle path at least right up to Wokha which might be subsequently improved upon at leisure, and I trust therefore that if it is still contemplated to move the head-quarters station there, funds to the above amount at the very least will be sanctioned in order to permit of all necessary arrangements being made to re-commence the work early in December next.

3. *Continuation of political path leading from Samaguting to Wokha.*—This path was very considerably extended during the past year from about 2 miles north of the river Zubza to Nidzukru, a distance of 25 miles at least, and we shall have no difficulty in reaching Wokha next year, provided the Lotha Nagas are as keen after rupees as their Angami neighbours have shown themselves. You have so recently travelled over this path that it is unnecessary for me to say much about the gradient, &c., here. I will merely add that it was cut entirely by Nagas, and cost but Rupees 1,058, which includes the jungle cutting along the whole line of road from Samaguting, and I think you will agree with me that the mohurir in charge deserves great credit for the work.

4. *Repairs of Golaghat road.*—Nothing but such repairs as were absolutely necessary were undertaken during the year under report for reasons given in para. 2. Three new bridges, viz., one over the Bogajan,

one over the Gerekoa, and one over the Nagajan, were erected, and at numerous other bridges planks were renewed, and the bridges otherwise thoroughly repaired, while more earth was thrown into one and all of the hollows between the Nambore and Golaghat, making the road thereabouts firm and easily rideable, and numerous other minor repairs, such as filling up holes caused by elephants, throwing up earth at ends of such bridges as required it, opening out the bridges between Horiajan and Nankata, &c., were effected. The total amount expended on these repairs, exclusive of the cost of cutting the jungle along the whole line of road, was Rs. 2,110-7-6, and in addition to this sum Rs. 1,935 were spent in improving the road from Samaguting to Dimapur, a large amount of earth was thrown on to the road from Dimapur (at 12th mile) to the 9th mile, while every one of the bridges (eight wooden and ten or more earthen ones) between Dimapur and the Nicho guard were re-built, and such portions of the road between the 6th and 4th miles as runs through low country has been thoroughly open to admit of more sunshine falling on it, and in fact the road between Dimapur and the Nicho guard was put into thorough order, and will require little or nothing more to be done to it for the next four or five years to come. It is in such capital order that a buggy might, as you know, be driven along with ease.

5. *Station buildings.*—One and all of the station buildings, *viz.*, lock-up hospital, magazine, police lines, married and single, Assistant Political Agent's house, Beldar's lines and clerks' houses have been put into thorough repair; the lock-up hospital and magazine however will all have to be re-built next year, as many of the posts of each house have suffered considerably from white-ants, while the malis and maralies in the roofs of one and all of the buildings are also more or less worm-eaten; three new Beldars' barracks measuring respectively 98 feet long 12 feet broad 98 feet 6 inches long by 14 feet broad, and 31 feet 5 inches long by 12 feet broad, were erected, containing sufficient room to accommodate 60 men, an increase in our Beldar establishment having been sanctioned. We were in hopes of having been able to collect some 50 or 60 new men who would have had to be housed during the rains. One new police barrack, 56 by 16 feet, for married men was also erected, and a large land-slip at the back of the old married men's barracks which occurred during the middle of last rains, and which was with very great difficulty prevented from destroying the whole barrack, was thoroughly repaired, a regular wall terrace shape of stone having been built to take the place of the old bank washed away. This latter was a long and very tedious job, for several hundreds of stones were required, and one and all had to be carried up from the Diphopani, a distance of more than 3 miles. The total expenditure on account of police buildings was Rupees 802-11-7; that on account of civil buildings, excluding amount spent on Political Agent's and Assistant Political Agent's houses, Rupees 539. I may also add here that the carpenter's work at the Political Agent's house and cutcherry was completed during the past cold weather; several new doors and windows having been put in, while at the Assistant Political Agent's house three mat-jhamp windows and nine mat-jhamp doors were replaced by properly made ones, and glasses and sundry other minor repairs executed. This house will also have to be re-built in the event of no move being made Wokha next year.

Dated Shillong, the 17th May 1876.

RESOLUTION—By the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

READ—

A letter No. 27 of the 1st May 1876, from the Political Agent, Naga Hills, submitting the general Administration Report of the Naga Hills Agency for the year 1875-76.

Government has already testified to its appreciation of the services of the late Captain Butler in Foreign Office Notification No. 237 P., dated 21st January 1876; and the Chief Commissioner does not therefore think it desirable for him to say more than that, by Captain Butler's death, this Administration has lost a most valuable officer. Colonel Keatinge need only express a hope that the officers of the Agency will continue to act with the energy and discretion which has distinguished their conduct in past years.

2. The Chief Commissioner considers that the success of the charitable dispensary is very satisfactory. The Nagas are such a hard, cruel people in their dealings with one another that the spectacle of a strong ruling race condescending to alleviate their sufferings must be highly beneficial to them.

3. Paragraph 13 shows that Mr. Carnegie appreciates the true way of meeting the difficulty of high prices at Samaguting. So little money is spent in these hills that the Chief Commissioner thinks that protection and means of communication for petty traders are all that is required to attract them to the station where it is to be had.

4. With regard to the deficient water-supply and the labour difficulty reported in paragraph 16, the Political Agent is already aware that Government has it in contemplation to move the station to a better site.

5. The statistics of trade seem to be ascertained with much accuracy. The Chief Commissioner thinks it desirable that they should be tabulated for the past and as many former years as possible, the calculation by seers being reduced to maunds, so as to bear comparison with other returns.

6. A copy of paragraph 25 of the report will be sent to the Political Agent, Manipur, who will be asked to report on the matter of the importation of arms from Manipur. Mr. Carnegie should procure and send to the Chief Commissioner some specimens of the gun-caps he alludes to.

7. Colonel Keatinge trusts that next year the police will have less to do, and that their drill and equipment may receive the attention they deserve.

8. The Chief Commissioner highly appreciates Mr. Needham's exertions in road-making and in other public works. The qualifications he possesses for making himself useful in such matters are amongst the most essential for an officer employed on frontier work.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT
OF THE
NAGA HILLS

For the year 1877-78.

BY
LIEUTENANT H. MAXWELL,
OFFICIATING POLITICAL OFFICER, NAGA HILLS.

CALCUTTA:
PRINTED AT THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT PRESS,
1878.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT
OF THE
NAGA HILLS

For the year 1877-78.

No. 1894, dated Shillong, 15th October 1878.

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

To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, the Report on the Administration of the District of the Naga Hills for the year 1877-78, together with the remarks of the Chief Commissioner thereon.

No. 122, dated Wokha, 25th May 1878.

From—LIEUT. H. MAXWELL, Offg. Political Officer, Naga Hills,

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

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual General Administration Report of the Naga Hills District for the year ending 31st March 1878.

I.—EXPEDITION.

2. As is not unusual on the frontier the past year has again seen us engaged in forcing compliance to what we considered very just demand. The independent Angami village of Mozema, a village by the by which has more than once given trouble and which has been subjected to punishment on more than one occasion, again was the offender.

3. Where perfect equality prevails and each individual member of the village is quite independent of all control, it would be strange indeed if acts contrary to the wish of the major portion of the community were not committed. So in the present case; in the cold weather of 1876-77 a small body of young men naturally imbued with a martial spirit and eager to cry quits with an inimical village left Mozema and in due course carried out their resolve. The village attacked happened however to be under our protection, and accordingly we were driven into the quarrel.

4. A second but minor offence committed by Mozema during the year was taking the initiative and fighting on the political path between Samaguting and Wokha with some Nagas of Kohima, a neighbouring village. This path was constructed with a view to open out the district, and the Nagas were enjoined that on no account would the settling of private quarrels be permitted on it. The road was dedicated to peace, and parties making use of it were to leave all ill-feeling at home.

5. The surrender of the men engaged in the above offences was demanded by the Political Agent and refused; there was nothing left them but to use force. An expedition on a small scale was organized, consisting of 200 sepoys of all ranks of the 42nd under a British Officer (Captain W. Brydon), and 55 men of the Naga Hills Police, and 40 of the Garo Hills Police, under the Assistant Political Officer, Mr. Savi.

6. With the Political Officer this force marched out of Samaguting on 6th December, and reached the offending village on the morning of 7th idem. On the approach of the force the enemy retired, and contrary to orders or perhaps accidentally the village was set in flames. The men of Mozema are renowned among the Angamis for their warlike propensities, and true to the local opinion behaved very well. They refused to submit till reduced to extremities and till their submission gave the expeditionary force constant trouble and annoyance. At length they agreed to the terms offered them by the Officiating Political Officer, Captain Williamson, and thus the expedition concluded.

7. Mozema is now rebuilt, and it is hoped that for some years at least a lesson has been taught the Angamis which they would do well to bear in mind prior to making resolves to undertake raids into our territory or against villages under our protection.

8. A gloom will always be cast over the expedition by the sad accident to the Political Officer, Mr. Carnegie, who was accidentally shot by one of our own sentries, and whose death shortly afterwards from the effects of the wound we all so deeply deplored.

9. At the conclusion of peace the Chief Commissioner made a successful tour across the hills from Samaguting, the present district head-quarters to Wokha, and thence to Golaghat. Kohima and Wokha, the centres of the Angami and Lhota countries, respectively, were carefully inspected and suitable sites for stations chosen. The former is proposed for the head-quarters and the latter for the sub-divisional station. The lateness of the working season only permitted the smaller station being opened out, and Samaguting for the present year remains head-quarters.

II.—WEATHER, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND THE STATE OF THE CROPS.

10. The weather during the year was seasonable, the heat perhaps a little greater than usual. Rain fell at opportune moments, and the staple crop rice gave a good outturn.

11. With the Angamis where irrigation is carried on to a great extent the failure of the cereal must be of rare occurrence. The Lhotas only grow the "aus dhan," and the past year has been favorable to them also. Cotton grows very well in these hills and, now as communication with the plains has been opened out, will form the coming trade of the Lhota Nagas. Till now the border villages have taken upon themselves the part of the custom authorities and little or no cotton was ever smuggled by the inhabitants of the interior beyond these villages which take over the cotton and selling it in Golaghat make an abnormal profit.

12. The public health has been good during the past year in and in the neighbourhood of Samaguting. Among the Lhota Nagas in the vicinity of Wokha a severe epidemic of small-pox has caused many deaths. These ignorant people make no attempt to stay the disease by segregation or other useful preventions, and it is truly painful to see them inviting good luck to their aid by chopping up of sticks into small pieces and an indiscriminate slaughter of fowls and pigs.

13. Considering the dirty habits of the people and the filthy state of the villages, their freedom from epidemics is remarkable. The villages are perched up on the tops of

hills and are generally subject to winds and perhaps we have here the saving clause. However, as is natural to suppose, an epidemic like small-pox, when once in the village, claims a very large percentage of victims. As soon as a person is attacked he remains all day in the sun and light, and should he be fortunate enough to survive, he becomes so greatly disfigured, that his nearest relatives, had they been absent during the course of the illness, would scarcely recognize him.

14. The Nagas fortunately are not troubled with any caste prejudices and are only too anxious to be vaccinated and receive medicine. A vaccinator has lately arrived and is busy operating among the villages now suffering.

III.—EDUCATION.

15. A vernacular school for some years existed at head-quarters, but latterly through want of funds has been closed. A moderately good master requires a high salary to come to Samaguting, and the climate is so unsuited to the higher classes of Bengalis and Assamese, that constant attacks of fever and debility soon compel them to throw up their appointments and return to the plains, where no doubt they report very unfavourably on the district, adding considerably to the difficulty of obtaining a successor. A further attempt will be made shortly to re-open the school.

IV.—PUBLIC ROADS AND LABOUR.

16. The expedition has in some measure retarded the repairs generally executed during the cold season; little or nothing could be done till February, as every one's time was other ways fully occupied. The bridges on the road between Samaguting and Golaghat have been repaired and renewed where required, and a small amount of earth-work thrown up in one or two of the low parts of the road. The rest-houses at Dimapur and Horiojan are in fair repair, but the rest-house at Barpathar, a pacca building, requires attention. A building of this description with a flat roof wants constant repairs and generally of an expensive nature. The Executive Engineer, Upper Assam Circle, is shortly to inspect this house with a view to estimating the probable sum required to place it in thorough repair.

17. The cutchery and Political Officer's house under the one roof are in good repair. Temporary buildings for the use of the Assistant Political Officer and Civil Surgeon were

erected soon after the village Mozema was carried, their former residencies being dismantled owing to the necessity of concentrating the station of Samaguting at one time considered to be in danger of an attack.

18. Labour is obtained in sufficient quantities in the plains, but the difficulty of getting porters for the hill work and of keeping the Bildar corps to its proper strength increases annually. My short experience in these hills will not constitute me an authority on this subject, so I will not further dilate on it, but merely remark that if the more active policy lately sanctioned is to be carried out efficiently, a transport corps to be stationed in the hills becomes a necessity.

V.—TRADE AND SUPPLIES.

19. The trade, chiefly an import one, is in much the same state as in previous years. The two Marwary shops contract all the business, and though seemingly owned by different concerns, their prices do not vary. Perhaps the obliging and persuasive manners of the one counterbalance the longer credit given by the other. Whatever the secret may be, customers are pretty fairly divided, and a sufficient inducement is held out to keep the shops open. Occasionally an itinerant trader arrives with a few articles from Golaghat, but visits of this nature are uncertain and of short duration, and the sales are trifling in amount.

20. A few ponies are brought across the hills from Manipur by the Nagas of Kohima, Konoma, and Jatsoma villages, and taken to the plains for sale, but owing to the want of capital of the original purchasers, added perhaps to their ignorance in horse-flesh, the animals are generally of an inferior stamp, more suited for carrying loads than for riding purposes.

VI.—PUBLIC CHARITIES.

21. The dispensary is much sought after by the Nagas, who place great faith in the medical skill of Dr. Cooper, the Civil Surgeon. His invariable kindness and good nature to all who ask his assistance, have made him most popular with the indigenous inhabitants, as well as with the foreign population of Samaguting.

VII.—REVENUE.

22. The revenue was collected punctually and without any hardship to the ryots. In all the mouzahs with the exception of Barpathar, where a land-tax is paid, a house-tax of Rupees 2 is levied.

VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

23. The order of Government sanctioning a more active policy among these wild tribes which will tend to settling their internal feuds in a manner more consistent with civilized notions, has been promulgated during the year, and measures are in contemplation which will give effect to the new policy. The head-quarter station is to be removed to a site near the village of Kohima in the centre of the Angami country, and a sub-divisional station with an Assistant Commissioner in charge is to be equally well situated among the Lhota tribe in the neighbourhood of Wokha.

24. In concluding this report, I must express my regret at being unable to make it fuller or more interesting, but having only joined my appointment in these hills in February last, my experience of the district is very limited, and though I had hoped to have visited head-quarters where all the records are, before submitting the report, I find I am precluded from doing so, and am thus compelled to submit it in this incomplete state.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Judicial Department, dated Shillong, the 23rd October 1878.

READ—

Report on the Administration of the Naga Hills for the year 1877-78.

RESOLUTION.

THE Report, prepared by Lieutenant Maxwell, of the year's administration in the Naga Hills scarcely affords scope for any remarks by the Chief Commissioner. The leading feature of the year was, of course, the punitive expedition undertaken against the Angami Naga village of Mozema; but, as this expedition has been the subject of several special reports, and as Colonel Keatinge has recorded the measure of success which, in his opinion, must be assigned to be undertaken, the present Chief Commissioner will not dwell upon this portion of the report. The main result has been the determination to move the head-quarters to Kohima, a powerful village in the midst of the Angami Nagas, from which point the Political Officer will be in a position to enforce the determination at which the Government of India have arrived, of suppressing feuds and keeping the peace. This move will be carried out during the ensuing cold wea-

ther; and, though there may be some difficulties to be overcome in the first instance, the Chief Commissioner has no doubt that it will have most important and beneficial results in the future.

2. The weather during the year was favourable to agricultural operations, and the outturn of the crops was good. The public health was generally good, but small-pox in an epidemic form broke out in the neighbourhood of Wokha. As the Nagas evince no prejudice against vaccination, the eventual stamping out of this disease in these hills may ultimately be looked for.

3. Education does not flourish in the Naga Hills. The Chief Commissioner hopes that it may be found possible to re-establish the vernacular school at head-quarters.

4. Trade in these hills is only in its infancy, but as the country becomes more settled it may be expected to expand, as the Nagas have strong trading instincts, and the capabilities of their country have as yet been undeveloped. Cotton, it would appear from the report, is likely to become an important article of commerce in future years.

5. Sir Steuart Bayley is glad to hear that the dispensary at Samaguting is appreciated by the Nagas, a result which, he understands, has in no slight degree been due to the personal influence of Mr. Cooper.

6. The revenue demand in these hills is, in comparison with the demand in other districts, insignificant; still it is satisfactory to learn that the revenue was paid in with punctuality.

7. The Chief Commissioner has no further remarks to make upon the report under review. A discussion upon the political situation in these hills would be out of place in this Resolution, and in the present circumstances of the district there is little beside political matters which affords field for comment.

ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NAGA HILLS POLITICAL AGENCY

FOR

1876-77.



CALCUTTA:
PRINTED AT THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT PRESS,
1877.

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ANNUAL
ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
NAGA HILLS POLITICAL AGENCY
FOR
1876-77.

No. 1831, dated Shillong, 14th July 1877.

From—T. J. MURRAY, Esq., C.S., Offg. Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam,
To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., C.S.I., Offg. Secretary to the Government
of India, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a copy of the Annual Report on the Administration of the Naga Hills for 1876-77, together with the remarks of the Chief Commissioner thereon.

Dated Shillong, 14th June 1877.

RESOLUTION on the Annual Administration Report of the Naga Hills District for the year 1876-77.

THE present Report is exceedingly full and interesting, and Mr. Carnegie has evidently been at much pains during the period of his incumbency to make himself intimately acquainted with the Naga Hills country and its inhabitants. The Report is especially valuable as affording a clear and reliable representation of the political situation in these hills,—depicting vividly the respective relations of the various tribes to each other and to the district authorities, and the sentiments entertained by them generally towards the British power.

2. Mr. Carnegie is evidently fully convinced that it needs but the unmistakable exhibition of a firm and vigorous policy in prohibiting raids and head-taking in general, and in reducing to a submissive attitude the two most arrogant of the villages, in order to inaugurate an era of peaceful industry among these hills, and to ensure a ready acceptance of our authority throughout these hitherto lawless tracts.

3. In these views the Chief Commissioner fully concurs, and he trusts that the measures which have recently been sanctioned for dealing with these tribes will bear the fruit which is anticipated from them, and that at no very distant date the Naga Hills District may attain the same degree of advancement from turbulence and barbarism towards civilization and good government which has already been reached by its prototype in the Garo Hills. Colonel Keatinge can see no causes at work amongst the Nagas which should make it as difficult to reduce them to order as it has been to subdue the Bheels, the Minas, and the Mairs of Central India and Rajpootana. We came amongst these tribes when they had been for generations constantly ill-treated and betrayed by the corrupt officials of the surrounding Native States, and they had received a deep-rooted suspicion of every overture made by people from the plains. It took years of patient labour to overcome this difficulty. With the Nagas our position is different. They have hitherto maintained their position as independent savages. It is only within the last four years that we have ventured to move through their hills. Differences, when they have arisen, have been settled on the spot by force of arms, leaving no ill-will behind. They have seen that we are as merciful as we are strong, and there appears no reason that the same political measures which have reclaimed the above-mentioned tribes should not civilize the Nagas, who in many respects are a superior race to any of the hillmen of peninsular India. The details which Mr. Carnegie has furnished of each of his various tours in the interior are interesting, as showing what opportunities he had of forming an opinion concerning the people among whom he travelled. The steady increase of the area under cultivation which Mr. Carnegie notices in the villages which have voluntarily come under our protection, is a most encouraging fact, and no doubt has a strong effect in inducing others to follow their example.

4. Samaguting was, as usual, unhealthy during the year. The spread of the threatened outbreak of small-pox seems to have been obviated to a great degree by the prompt and judicious measures of the authorities. The conduct of the Native Doctor in the matter of the treatment of the one person who was attacked by the disease will be brought to the notice of the Deputy Surgeon-General.

5. The disinclination of the men, both of the Beldar corps and of the Police, to continue in service in the hills is much to be regretted, and the consequent difficulty of obtaining recruits is of considerable importance. The Inspector-General of Police will no doubt suggest steps for overcoming the difficulties which have arisen. With the removal of the head-quarters to Wokha, it will perhaps be found that the men will be more willing to stay.

6. Trade of a certain kind appears fairly active in these hills, and, when tranquillity is thoroughly established, will no doubt considerably expand. The natural trade route between Assam and Burmah lies across the Naga Hills.

7. Colonel Keatinge has already, in another Resolution, commented upon the administration of Police and crime in these hills.

8. The energy with which the road-making operations were pushed on is very creditable to all concerned. The Chief Commissioner trusts that no hindrance will occur to the still further extension and completion of these communications, without which neither the pacification nor the management of these tracts can be adequately carried out. The readiness with which the Nagas of the eastern parts flocked to take employment on the road is a very gratifying sign of their inclination for settled pursuits.

9. The Chief Commissioner is glad to hear of the success of the school at head-quarters. He has no doubt but that the Rev. Mr. Clarke will be ready to render any assistance in his power towards promoting education at Wokha when the head-quarters are removed to that place.

10. The dispensary is evidently growing in popularity. It is an especially useful agent of civilization among the Nagas. Dr. Cooper deserves much credit for the success of this institution.

No. L-59, dated Samaguting, 1st May 1877.

From—P. T. CARNEGIE, Esq., Political Officer in charge, Naga Hills,

To—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commr. of Assam.

THE following General Annual Administration Report for the Naga Hills Political charge for the year 1876-77 is submitted for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

2. During the year the Political charge of the hills has been in my hands, Mr. J. Needham was Assistant Political Officer, and Mr. A. D. Cooper Civil Medical Officer, with powers as Assistant Political Officer. The former gentleman took three months' privilege leave from

* *Sic* in orig. 1st June 1876 to 30th September,* and the latter also three months' privilege leave from

6th November to 6th February, in neither case was any officer brought in to fill up the temporary vacancy, so that the administrative staff has continued unchanged.

3. *Annual Tour.*—Shortly after assuming charge of the hills I went out into camp for a few days to see the political path towards Wokha as far as it was then cut, and soon after went down to Golaghat to pass the work done on the road and to arrange about a supply of rice then much wanted at Samaguting. After returning from Golaghat my head-quarters were at Samaguting until the end of the rainy season, when I again went down to Golaghat to see what

repairs were wanted on the road, and to make arrangements for procuring carpenters and others for the work during the cold season. As the Chief Commissioner is aware, it was expected that a small military force would be sent into the hills after the rains were over, this expectation prevented any plans being laid down for the regular cold weather tour until final orders were received. On the 14th November 1876 I was informed that there would be no expedition, and then determined to go out as soon as carriage could be got in for the Police force I wished to take with me. There was some delay in procuring the carriers required, but on the 2nd December I left Samaguting with a guard of 50 men, intending first to try and effect the arrest of a Naga of Merama who had assisted in murdering a constable in January 1876, and to inflict some punishment on the village of Kohima for harbouring him, before doing anything else. On the 5th I reached Kohima, and was there until the 12th, making endeavours to arrest the man we wanted, without success; the village in which he lived had been entirely deserted, and all the property removed from it, and we could not succeed in getting more than two or three of the people to come in. It was soon apparent that if the man was to be caught it must be done through Naga agency, and as much as possible was done to set that at work. As the carriage wanted had not come out, and there was no object to be obtained just then by staying on at Kohima, taking a guard of 25 men and Naga coolies from village to village, I went south to the Manipur frontier, passing through the Angami villages of Phesama, Kigwema, Jakama, Viswema, &c., up to the Mao group of villages within the Manipuri boundary. One object in taking this route was to ascertain if a path could be taken that way towards Manipur, this it was apparent could be done with comparatively little trouble, there being a very good line along the eastern slope of the group of mountains, of which Jappa is the highest peak, at an elevation of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, and passing near the villages named above, from which plenty of labour would be procurable. Ponies from Manipur are brought by this route now without any difficulty. These villages are all in fine open country, and the large amount of carefully terraced rice land must strike any one; these terraces have been made at much trouble, and on enquiry I found the people to be very careful cultivators. Everything was very quiet, and the inhabitants apparently well-disposed in every way. Laying down a settled boundary line with Manipur has been a great boon in this part of the country where, before the line was fixed, the Manipuries were in the habit of making frequent visits, where they lived at free quarters, if nothing worse. This change has evidently been appreciated by the people who, like the Manipuries, have abstained from any aggression since the boundary was fixed. From Mao I went along the boundary line for some distance, and saw that the marks set up remained undisturbed, then passing through Kidima returned to Kohima on the 16th. The carriage required reached Kohima also on the evening of the 16th, and the next day I assembled the headmen of the different clans, of which there are seven in the village, and after hearing all they had to say, decided that there was nothing in the behaviour of four of the clans for which they deserved punishment. The clan which had sheltered

the murderer when the Police went out for him, I fined two hundred and fifty rupees, and the other two clans fifty rupees each, giving 24 hours for payment. On the morning of the 18th the clans fined fifty rupees each brought in their money, and to one of them Rupees 20 was returned, their numbers being small. There was some difficulty in getting in the rest of the fine, but by evening it was paid through the exertions of the well-disposed people of the village, and early next morning we left the place.

4. At Kohima information reached me that a grant of money had become available for carrying on the bridle-path from Golaghat to Wokha, and thence across the hills to Samaguting; and also of the Chief Commissioner's wish that it should be finished during the current season if possible. Such being the case, it was determined to make for Golaghat with as little delay as might be; accordingly the first march from Kohima was across the hills to Nerhema, a village lying on the part of the path already finished. Nerhema in April last was a fine village, but now half of it has been burnt down and plundered by a combined force from Konoma, Jotsoma, Mozema, and other villages, the Nerhema people were however to blame for aggression. Owing to the disturbed state of affairs the path had fallen into disuse, and it was not very easy following it up to the point where work ceased last year, about eight miles from Nerhema. Passing under the village of Chichama, which was only really brought into contact with our people last year, I was very pleased to see that when the path crossed the cultivation, scrupulous care had been taken to keep it open to the full width, and no encroachments made such as the Nagas farther east are fond of making if not well looked after. Having halted a day to look after the path and see what was necessary in the way of repairs, we pushed on to Wokha, which place was reached on the 24th. After the first march from Nerhema the route lay past villages which were fighting with each other, consequently the paths had become almost overgrown by jungle, or, where still a little clear, well panjeed, so that it was no easy matter to get along. The party met however with no opposition. At Teseprima, the village partially destroyed by Captain Butler in 1873-74, and which in March 1876 refused to supply rice to Mr. Needham, the people on seeing us approach took up the panjees from the entrance to the village and gave such supplies as were required; their behaviour was civil, if not exactly cordial. At Nongsechong, which bore the reputation of being anything but friendly, the path had been stopped by having branches thrown across it, fresh panjees also had been put down, but on our pushing straight into the village no opposition whatever was made, and the people became civil enough. Coming along we examined the country for a line for the path, and selected what seemed an easy one nearly all the way; subsequent experience has proved this selection to be correct. At Wokha we found the stockade and huts built during the expeditions of 1873-74 and 1875-76 carefully preserved, and the Nagas apparently well-disposed; supplies came in freely, and there was no hitch of any kind. The people who left the village after its destruction in 1874 are returning, though the village is still not nearly so large as it was before that event. At the time of my visit some of the Wokha men

had gone off to Golaghat to trade, a thing they never used to do before the country was opened up.

5. The 25th of December was spent at Wokha, and the ground selected by Captain Butler for a new station visited. The place is open and generally well-suited for the purpose, and when Captain Butler saw it, the water supply was most abundant; on the present occasion, however, though seven out of eight small water courses running down the slope of Thebzethu were dry, and it was a question whether water from the stream still flowing could be taken to the proposed station that I determined to settle at a future visit, but circumstances prevented me from making one. Should this site not be suitable, there is ground available nearer the village. In every respect the vicinity of Wokha is the best site for the head-quarters station. I have seen that materials for building are abundant, there is an endless supply of thatching grass and bamboos, while timber and stone can be brought down hill from Thebzethu, an advantage to be appreciated after a residence at Samaguting, where nearly everything wanted has to be dragged up hill some 2,000 feet. Near Wokha village I found no less than five fine springs, another thing to be appreciated after a residence at Samaguting.

6. From Wokha we marched on the 26th to Yekum, where we were civilly received; next day passed through Sanigaon, the people of which village are constantly going to and coming from the plains. The path from Golaghat was cut last year to within about five miles of Sanigaon, but we did not strike it until the 28th, not far from Bhandari. It had been quite unused by Nagas up to Bhandari, consequently overgrown by jungle, but from that village had been kept well under traffic until a short distance from the plains where a landslip had occurred, and the Nagas, too lazy to cut a fresh path for a little distance, had struck off straight down hill to the bed of a stream, and then followed up that until they struck the path in the forest under the hills; from this point the path was followed to Golaghat. We had to follow their example, and so got delayed, and did not reach Golaghat until the 29th. On my arrival there I expected to meet Kusnood Ali, overseer, Public Works Department, who had been deputed from Shillong to take charge of the road work up to Wokha; as he had not arrived, and there was no one at Golaghat to take the thing in hand, I determined to ride up to Sibsagar to see Colonel Campbell and arrange with him for a supply of local labour to carry on the work, it being then too late in the season to make arrangements for importing any workmen. Colonel Campbell was kind enough to promise me all the assistance required, and to give orders then and there to the Mouzadars and Kotokis from the Golaghat Subdivision, who were then present in Sibsagar on account of the Imperial Proclamation. Having spent one day at Sibsagar, I returned to Golaghat. Kusnood overseer had not arrived, but after making preparations to let him start work immediately on his arrival, I marched back to Samaguting, instructions having in the meantime been issued for the working party between Samaguting and Wokha to go out and commence operations at once. On the 10th January I reached Samaguting, intending to go out and see the road work towards Wokha started, then to return to the south, and after visiting Konoma and Mozema to go along the southern face of the Burail into

the Kutcha Naga country, and thence through the Kookie villages down to the Nowgong boundary. Wet weather kept me from marching on the 13th or 14th, and on the evening of the latter day the Native Doctor in medical charge during Mr. Cooper's absence on leave came up to inform me that one of the Kookie scouts had just been brought to hospital suffering from small-pox and with the eruption out all over his body. This alarming news upset all plans; there was a panic in Samaguting which ended in all the inhabitants of the Naga village taking to flight, leaving most of their property to take care of itself. After, in conjunction with Mr. Needham, taking such measures as we thought likely to stop the spread of the disease, I went out to camp on the 17th. The panic soon spread round, and no one would come near Samaguting. The different tribes inhabiting the hills being all greatly afraid of small-pox, there was no direction in which I could go to visit the villages without their being at once emptied on my approach, besides the risk of really taking disease amongst them. Such being the case, I went to the Zubza river away from any village, and stopped there to dispose of the case of one of the men who killed the constables near this place. After concluding the trial, I marched along the political path and joined the working party at Nerhema. Widely exaggerated rumours had preceded me, and at first scarcely any one would come near the camp. After a day or two however men gradually came in for work, and very soon we had as many labourers as we could find tools for. The time spent with the working party was well employed in taking the road, the Nidzakru hill, the most difficult part of the line to Wokha. Here we came across small-pox again, the disease being bad in Thema Katzama and Themokadima, two villages lying on the line our path would take. Hearing that the panic about Samaguting had greatly subsided, I determined to return and go out to the Kutcha Naga and Kookie country; an attempt to march across the hills had to be abandoned on account of small-pox being bad at Karhuma, one of the villages *en route*, consequently we returned by the regular path, arriving on the 7th February. On the 9th February I left Samaguting and had got as far as Lakema, when receiving information of the arrest of the second murderer of our constable, on the 13th I returned to Samaguting with two constables, and was there detained until the 18th, on which day I rejoined the camp at Lemhema, thence marched to Berrima, and on to Intu at the south-eastern corner of the district; from Intu we turned back to the north-west, and after passing through some more Kutcha Naga villages, visited the Kookie colonies at Kachama, Silim, and Songho, marching from the latter place back to Samaguting *via* Tesephima, and getting in on the 1st March. During this trip most of the Kutcha Naga villages were visited; at first there was some difficulty in communicating with them, as men from Mozema were going about spreading reports that half the inhabitants of Samaguting had died from small-pox, &c., &c. The Dobashias with the camp, however, managed to convince the people that there was no danger, and afterwards there was no trouble. This is the finest part of the hills in my opinion; there are forests of pine and oak, and the soil seems nearly everywhere good; the people have very fine jhums and raise much more rice than they can consume. Unfortunately, all I could learn and observe tended to show that the population is decreasing. Quarrels

leading to bloodshed amongst themselves and raiding by Angamis help to account for this; also it seems that a number of women are taken away by the Angamis. The Kutcha Naga women have a reputation as good workers and housewives, consequently are sought after in the Angami country. Several times the scarcity of wives was a complaint made to me. Everywhere we came across men from Mozema or Konoma wandering about two or three together; they always asserted they were trading, but in reality were roving about, living at free quarters, and bullying the people.

7. The Kookie villages were in a very satisfactory state, evidently prosperous. Near Silim I found two newly-settled villages and heard of others recently come from Manipur; there seems a steady movement to the north-west on the part of the Kookies. It is quite a relief to see their open villages and the fearless way they live after coming from the Kutcha Naga villages, where the people are skulking behind barricades and almost afraid to call their souls their own. The revenue-paying villages are better than the others in this respect, but have still a great dread of Mozema and Konoma, which it will require time to dispel. The Kookies were in particular good humour, because not called upon to furnish any carriage this season. Every Kookie village too has an acknowledged head, which makes dealing with them easy.

8. On the 3rd March I left Samaguting to visit the country towards Nowgong, then to cross the Rengma Hills to Golaghat, and return by the new road through Wokha, going through Dimapur, and then westward to Mohongdijua, thence down the banks of the Jamuna to the Nowgong boundary, one march from Doboka a road used to be kept up in this direction, which is the shortest and best land route to Lower Assam; for three years, however, nothing has been done to it, and in some places it has fallen into disuse. It might be advisable, when funds are available, to reopen this line. From the Jamuna I went south to the point where the Nowgong, Cachar, and Naga Hills districts meet on the Doyung river, and there settled some confusion which had arisen about the boundary. My intention to get across the hills through Rongbang Mouza could not be carried out, as, owing to recent migrations of the Mikirs, the paths leading across had fallen into disuse, and it would have taken days to re-cut them. I therefore marched back to Jamuna through the Nowgong District, and from Bhokulaghaut on that stream struck into the Rengma Hills, making three marches and reaching Phembikas Rengma Naga village on the 19th; at that place intelligence was received of the attack by a party of Angamies supposed to be from Mozema on the village of Gomaigojoo in North Cachar. Hearing this made me hurry back to Samaguting, which was reached on the evening of the 23rd March. On arriving at Samaguting I learnt that the raid on Gomaigojoo had been committed by a small party from the Piphuchuma clan of Mozema, and that two guns stolen there had been given up. From the information brought in there seemed good reason to hope for the surrender of the raiders. On the 30th I went to Mozema with a strong party of Police, but failed to procure the surrender of the men who had formed the raiding party, and being for reasons to be explained afterwards not anxious to bring on open hostilities, then I returned to

Samaguting on the 4th April. The weather was then very stormy and inclement, and not wishing to expose the Police and others to hardship without some strong reason, I did not again go out to camp.

9. When in the Mohongdijua, Rongbang, Duardissa, and Eastern Rengma Mouzas a number of villages were visited. The Mikirs, who form the most numerous part of the population in the country gone over, can scarcely be said to have any villages, though they live in small detached hamlets each consisting of members of one family. They are very quiet, inoffensive people, and tolerably industrious, though sadly falling off in this respect from the use of opium; this habit is a comparatively recently acquired one, but has taken great hold on them, and they give it to their children. There is no doubt these people were a good deal oppressed by their mouzadars and others, who took advantage of their ignorance and timidity to extort money, but one or two cases having come to light and proper punishment awarded to the offenders, I believe this has been put a stop to. There is also a good deal of confusion about the boundary between Nowgong and the Naga Hills—villages in one district have been paying revenue in the other and sometimes have been come down upon by the mouzadars of both. The Chief Commissioner has however since sanctioned the deputation of a European officer next cold season to thoroughly settle this question. In former days there must have been a comparatively large population in the valley of the Jamuna, traces of abandoned cultivation are frequent. Even 25 years ago the population about Mohongdijua was much larger than it is now, but the people moved away towards Nowgong for fear of the Angamis. I was very glad to see that people were coming back and breaking up new land for permanent cultivation. I was much struck too by the numbers and quality of the cattle in this part of the country, which has escaped the disease which devastated most other parts of Assam.

10. The Gomaigojoo raid took me back just as I was getting amongst the Rengma Nagas, therefore I saw but little of them, that was however satisfactory as they were well off and contented. One thing always in their favor is the fertility of the soil in their hills which is indeed very great.

11. The greater part of the country gone over this season had not been visited by any European officer for several years, Captain Butler having latterly been away each cold season with the expedition to the eastern hills.

12. Owing to Dr. Cooper's absence on leave during November, December, and January and the necessity of having one European officer always at Samaguting, Mr. Needham was not out in the interior so much as usual this year, but he made frequent visits to the work going on on the Golaghat road, and, after Dr. Cooper's return, was away from the 9th February until the 18th March principally employed with the road between Golaghat and Wokha, where he did much good in pushing on work and inducing Nagas to take employment in jungle-clearing and everything else required short of earth-cutting. Afterwards Mr. Needham went out to the working party between Samaguting and Wokha, and brought them in at the beginning of April.

13. *Weather and Crops.*—For some time after the beginning of the

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
January ...	...	0'12	0'47	1'20	1'84	0'11	1'55
February ...	1'00	0'44	1'28	2'85	0'74	0'58	0'98
March ...	0'50	1'52	1'76	2'68	2'31	2'39	3'28
April ...	5'29	2'74	5'79	2'71	4'17	0'96	
May ...	7'52	1'53	2'97	5'62	4'22	6'86	
June ...	8'67	9'93	7'65	6'82	15'62	11'55	
July ...	8'32	10'35	12'41	7'13	6'59	13'99	
August ...	13'13	7'85	6'00	10'26	12'47	7'90	
September ...	7'10	4'95	3'33	4'75	7'12	5'88	
October ...	6'26	7'00	2'21	8'52	3'46	2'25	
November ...	0'46	0'10	...	...	...	1'28	
December ...	0'27	...	0'33	...	...	0'16	
Total ...	58'52	46'54	44'20	52'54	58'54	53'91	

financial year the weather was very dry, and, except in the higher hills, hot. There was a great deficiency in the usual spring rains, the hill streams were lower than they had been for years, so much so that until the beginning of June it was impossible to get boats up the Dhansiri to Dimapur. In April the rainfall amounted to .96 against an average of 4.15 for preceding five years. From the end of May the rainfall was up to the average until the end of the rainy season, the two wettest months being June and July. In November there was a good fall which kept the

rivers well open until late in the season; since the beginning of 1877 there has been more rain than usual, so much so that the burning of jhums was a good deal retarded. There was no meteorological phenomenon deserving of special mention; the fag end of the cyclone of 31st October passed over these hills, but, though a tolerably severe gale, it was not hard enough to do very severe damage.

14. The outturn of the crops both in the hills and plains portions of the district has been very good and beyond the average. The dry weather in April and May kept back sowings in the hills, but once the crops were sown, they throve well. The rice crop in the Kutchha Naga and Kookie country was a very fine one. In the protected villages around Samaguting it was the same, while at Borpathar such a good harvest had never been known. Towards Mohongdijua the gale of 31st October did some damage to the rice fields, but not enough to spoil the harvest. At Samaguting and the other revenue-paying villages the area under cultivation steadily increases, as it would do all over the hills were it not for the fighting and raiding which goes on. Some of the Samaguting people must have had at least 100 maunds each of rice in store at the end of the harvest. The cotton crop was a good one. There was one crop though which was a total failure, that of tea-seed. The Nagas say very little seed formed on the trees, for they are trees in these hills and not shrubs as is generally supposed, and then what did form was attacked by insects and destroyed before ripening.

15. *Public health.*—The general health of the district has been much as usual. Amongst the revenue-paying villages there has been no unusual amount of sickness, nor has there been any in the regular Angami country, but on the north of the Zubzar small-pox has made considerable ravages. When going to Wokha in December we found the disease at Themokadima, from which place it spread to Themokadzama,

Tophima, and Keruma, in which villages many people have died. The Nagas in that part of the country do not seem so much afraid of small-pox as those further south, so do not abandon their villages when there is an attack. At Samaguting there had been no small-pox for many years, but the people have always been very much afraid of it, and the two Gaonbooras have always said that one case would be the signal for a general flight; when a man did get small-pox they were as good as their word. The Kookie attacked had been kept by his friends in the scouts, lines until the disease was well developed, consequently there were great fears of infection spreading, and immediate steps had to be taken to prevent it, including the destruction of the lines. Had the man's illness been reported at once he could have been sent to an isolated place and the thing kept quiet, as it was the Nagas knew of it at once. The two old Chiefs paid hurried visits to announce that they were all off, leaving their property to our care, and only asking for a bottle of rum to be taken as medicine if they got ill in the jungle. Attempts to reason with them were not of the slightest use, and away they all went. The disease was treated as a personal enemy, and the village abandoned as would have been done before the coming of an invader too powerful to resist. The men were all fully armed, the women and children were surrounded, and then all started fair at best pace; they kept away a month, and then returned with the same precautions as when leaving, approaching very cautiously with shields well to the front, and peeping round every corner before a further advance, until gradually the whole village was occupied. When they fairly satisfied themselves that no one but the Kookie had been ill, they were rather ashamed of running away; but it was not until some time after when they saw him going about, very little the worse in appearance, that the idea that he had been burnt alive was abandoned. Before, nothing would persuade them this had not been done, it being looked upon as merely a wise precautionary measure for which we deserved credit.

16. Most fortunately the disease never spread beyond the first man seized; he and another scout it was ascertained had spent a night in Themokidima against orders and caught infection there, but for some time there was much anxiety which was increased by fear of the Native Doctor who, during Dr. Cooper's absence, was in medical charge; he seemed perfectly ignorant or careless of the danger of infection. Finding him going straight from the small-pox patient to the other sick, I spoke to him about the danger, when he cheerfully replied that there was none, as he had had the disease. A watch had always to be kept on him by Mr. Needham, to whose care and prudence it was mainly owing that no harm was done. When the Native Doctor came and told Mr. Needham that the patient was fit to be let out of the isolated hut in which he had been treated, that gentleman replied that as Dr. Cooper would be in the station in two or three days, he would keep the man till his arrival. When Mr. Cooper came he informed me that the patient was at the very worst stage, so far as danger of infection was concerned. When Mr. Cooper was going on leave I applied for the services of a good Native Doctor, and was informed by the medical authorities that they had none better than the one already at Samaguting; if this is correct, it says very little for the others.

17. Most of the sickness in the district arose from fevers and bowel-complaints. Samaguting was, as usual, unhealthy, and indeed it cannot be otherwise with its impure and deficient water supply, want of vegetables, and sudden changes of temperature, besides hanging just over malarious terai.

18. The health of the Police force was worse than it has been for some years; there were 279 admissions to hospital, compared with 200 in 1875-76. There was however fortunately only one death. The sickly time is from June to October, during this period there was much sickness amongst private servants and other natives residing in Samaguting. A report in original from Mr. Cooper is submitted.

19. *Material condition of the people.*—In the whole of the district, both hill and plain country, the material condition of the people is satisfactory, more so than usual even, the late harvest having been such a good one. Considering what the wants of the people are, they have ample means for satisfying them. The Samaguting Nagas must have a great deal of money amongst them, for in addition to what they make by selling different things to the people employed here, when any one wants to earn a rupee, he has only got to go down to Dimapur and bring up a load for the shopkeepers. A good deal of money finds its way into the Kutcha Naga country too, for though numbers take away salt in exchange for the rice they bring in, there is always a certain amount of cash taken away too.

20. *Emigration and immigration.*—There has been nothing in the way of emigration from or immigration to the country about Samaguting, nor in the Naga country, but undoubtedly there is a movement towards the northwest on the part of the Kookies in Manipur which is bringing more of them within the Naga Hills jurisdiction. This movement arises from the quest of better jhums. On the western boundary of the district between the Doyang and Rengma Hills there has been a movement towards the east on the part of Mikirs and Cacharis to take up country abandoned in former days through fear of the Angamis who raided as far as Lonkah in Nowgong.

21. *Prices of food and labour.*—At the commencement of the year under report there was great scarcity of food, so much so that it was a question whether we should not be driven out of the place for a time. The Dhansiri having fallen so low that no boats could come from Golaghat, there was no means of importing in any quantity from that side, while, owing to a misunderstanding with the Police earlier in the season, no Kutcha Nagas would come in. At one time there was not more than 24 hours' supply in the place. By using all means possible to procure supplies, the difficulty was tided over. The Kutcha Nagas were induced to come in by having their rice weighed and paid for before me in person. When once the river had risen enough to permit of boats coming up, the Assistant Commissioner at Golaghat, Captain Peet, was kind enough to give assistance in forwarding rice, and afterwards there was no more trouble. The two Marwari traders at Dimapur had got up a good supply at the end of the rains, and the Nagas having had good crops, everything seemed safe for the coming dry season, when unfor-

fortunately one of the Marwari's godowns was burnt down and all the grain in it destroyed; there was every reason to suppose this the work of an incendiary, but no clue has been forthcoming to bring it home to any one. As Naga rice began to come in freely, there was no hitch until the small-pox panic took place, then all supplies from the Nagas ceased, and the store of imported rice was consumed. It seemed as if we would be in a worse plight than ever, but fortunately the river was high enough to allow small boats to come up, and after my visit to the Kutcha Naga villages their people began to come in freely again, and are doing so now. The late unusually fine harvest has left the Kutcha Nagas, with a large amount of surplus rice. Prices ranged from Rupees 3-4 (for Naga rice in November) to Rupees 6 a maund for common rice at Samaguting, the average price being about Rupees 5. When it does not rise above that, the men employed at the station are tolerably contented. Out in the hills the usual price of rice is an anna a seer (Rupees 2-8 per maund); this has become a sort of "dustoor," but the working party on the Wokha road when amongst the Sema and Lhota Nagas were getting a seer and a half, and sometimes a seer and three quarters for a rupee. Other articles of food besides rice are, when procurable, very dear.

22. The supply of labour is as limited, and the prices as high as ever. During the year a few men have come up seeking for service, but have almost invariably turned out to be runaway coolies from tea gardens, for whose apprehension warrants have in due time arrived. A few Nagas come in from time to time, but as a rule they very soon tire of regular work, and return to their homes. Steady work in fact does not at all suit the Angami, and that has led to the failure of the attempt made to teach them artisan's work by means of the industrial school. Out in the hills labour is always procurable for road work at the rate of three days' work for a rupee, but this work the Angami will scamp, if he can, and he never sticks to it long. Further to the north however towards Wokha the people are better and more steady workers; the man in charge of the road in that direction reports very well of them; when work was stopped thirty men had engaged themselves to work on monthly wages as long as their services were required. No doubt too these men would have been perfectly willing to give four days' work for a rupee had they not found others giving only three. The supply of indigenous labour looks promising when the head-quarters move over to Wokha.

23. The Beldar corps was at a very low ebb during the year; the men recruited at Darjeeling to bring it up to its full strength all went off from Golaghat early in April. As great cost had been incurred in getting these men, I did not wish to spend more, so carried on with the men left of the old Bildar establishment the best way we could. This have now dwindled down to 22, and as most of them wish to go, it will be absolutely necessary now to take steps for procuring fresh men. There is always a good deal of work to be done at Samaguting during the rainy season, clearing away jungles, landslips, &c.; then in the dry season there is work for more men than we can get. The repairs to the buildings at Samaguting were done by Mikhirs from the Jamuna valley, but there is no denying the fact that these men do not like to come to Samaguting, and it would be a great point gained to be able to do with-

out them ; as it is, the work must be done. Again, it is essential that a sufficient number of men to furnish carriage for any party going into the hills should always be on the spot. Naga carriers cannot be depended on even when procurable, for there is the certainty of their throwing away their loads and running away should any fighting begin on the line of march.

24. *Manufactures and trades.*—So far as manufactures are concerned, things remain just as they were, and are confined to the weaving of coarse cloth from cotton or nettle fibre, and making of dhaos, hoes, and spearheads from iron imported from Assam or Manipur. There is also some manufacture of coarse pottery. Salt is still made from the salt-springs in the valley of the Zillo, but not to any great extent, the use of home made salt having fallen off before the imported article. The systems of manufacture pursued by the Nagas have before been fully reported on.

25. Trade seems to continue about stationary, but then it was almost suspended for a time during the small-pox panic, and this must be taken into account in looking at the operations of the year. During 1876-77 the number of Nagas who took passes to go down to the plains was 1,935 against 1,904 in previous year. The greater number of these men went to buy salt, and for trading purposes they took with them Rupees 7,110 in cash. The most of these people came from Konoma, Mozema, Jotsoma, and Kohima ; of all the villages in these hills Konoma carries on the largest trade ; they import most of the cloths from Manipur, and the traffic in ponies is nearly all in their hands. This year 117 ponies were brought through Samaguting for sale, and to my personal knowledge a few more were taken across towards Nowgong without coming here. The ponies recently brought over have been of a better class than those ordinarily brought before. For one thing, the Nagas are getting more knowing in horse flesh than they were, and not so easily imposed on, especially in the age of their purchases. They used to buy quite indiscriminately colts too young for work, or beasts far beyond all mark of mouth ; now they begin to know better, still though cheapness is the thing most looked to, a Bengalie trader who crossed the hill has sent back a few ponies of a better stamp than the Naga purchases. The route across the hills to Manipur by Jotsoma and Mao is gradually being more and more used, twice Bengalis have gone over, and recently a party of Shans with laquered boxes and bamboo articles for sale arrived here. Earlier in the season another party of Shans crossed from Samaguting to their homes in Burmah. If a path was opened out between Samaguting and Manipur, I feel convinced that before long it would be freely used as a trade route between Manipur and Assam. Relations with the Nagas inhabiting the country through which this path would run have improved greatly of late years, and no one recently using this route has been molested in any way.

26. Fewer cloths were carried down for sale this season than usual—243 men went down with clothes against 382 last year. The greater number of people going down took cash to pay for salt, beads, &c. Salt is still the great article of commerce. The traders at Samaguting and Dimapur sold 2,722 maunds worth Rupees 27,220, the selling price

being Rupees 10 per maund ; a considerable quantity was also brought up from Golaghat by Nagas who took the longer journey to secure cheaper prices. Most of beads imported came from Golaghat, the traders here putting on very heavy prices to their own detriment. The sales of rice by traders amounted to 3,330 maunds, valued at Rupees 14,000 ; of this rice about 2,000 maunds was purchased from the Kutcha Nagas and Kookies and the remainder imported from Golaghat. The sales of cloth amounted in value to Rupees 5,000, and of brass utensils and wire to Rupees 1,800. From Nagas the traders purchased Rupees 3,200 worth of beeswax and Rupees 1,174 worth of ivory. There is a considerable export of cotton from the Mikhirs and Kachari country between the Langting and Rengma Hills, but I have not so far obtained any trustworthy statistics concerning it. This trade is in the hands of Bengali traders who have settled at Mohongdijua, Bhokulaghaut, and other places on the Jamuna river. There was an export of castor-oil seed also from this part of the country, but lately there has been no demand for it. The seed which was on the plants at the time of my visit far exceed in quality any I had before seen.

27. *State of public feeling.*—Taking the district altogether, things have gone on in a satisfactory way, and everything tends to show that the general feeling towards our rule is good, the exception being in a few Angami villages, to which special allusion will be made hereafter. Amongst the quiet tribes inhabiting the low country and Rengma Hills everything has been going smoothly. There has been some slight dissatisfaction on the labour question, but every care has been taken not to call out more men for work, nor to keep them away from home longer than was absolutely necessary. The Kookies who had furnished a number of porters for all the expeditions of late years were very sulky about it. In 1875-76 it was with a good deal of difficulty they were got in, and the Houssahs began to talk of leaving these hills altogether. I promised them that if nothing unforeseen occurred, there would be nothing asked from them in 1876-77, and none of them were called in ; this put them in good humour again ; they were willing to come and carry baggage now and again, but not regularly every year.

28. The Angamis have been behaving well so far as this district is concerned, for during the year under report they have not committed any serious offence towards people employed by us or under our protection. Excepting the misconduct of some of the Kohima people mentioned in paragraph 3, and the attack on Gomaigojoo in North Cachar, there has been no overt act requiring to be taken notice of. Amongst themselves they have been fighting away and killing each other's women and children as usual, for it is on them the brunt falls, and I have never heard of such a thing as a fair stand-up fight. Though even in this respect there is an improvement, on more than one occasion affairs which would formerly have led to a fight, have been peacefully settled. The more the country is opened up and the people take to trade and money-making, the less do they like fighting. Longer residence has only tended to confirm the opinion expressed in my last year's report, that the great bulk of the men would like to live at peace, but there is a rowdy minority with nothing to lose who can begin a disturbance into which all the community

will be brought. Everything considered, the wonder is that things go on so quietly as they do. Fortunately the Angamis unlike most Asiatics are not given to bickering, but avoid it, no doubt from dearly bought experience. Often a man will say "so and so is my enemy, and I do not wish to see him; we meet sometimes, but pass without noticing each other." Or, when some one has got killed, it will be—"Oh! he was a fool; he knew so and so were his enemies, and must needs put himself in their way and begin to quarrel; had he not done so, they would have taken no notice of him." Generally it is some one who has primed himself well with liquor who begins mischief.

29. Every year the circle extends in which our people can move about with feeling of comparative safety. As the Nagas see our people come and go without injuring any one, and as they receive good treatment when brought in contact with our officers, so the good feeling increases, and this is shown in many ways. I believe that any European officer could go without escort to nearly every one of the villages much brought into contact with us, and that, so far as the general community is concerned, with perfect safety, but all the while he might come across some evilly-minded or half-drunk warrior who might take the occasion as one for earning immortal fame by killing a saheb, and so use his spear or dhao with fatal effect. When at Wokha two scouts joined the camp who had come alone and unarmed across the hills from Samaguting. Even in the more remote villages the good feeling continues to spread, and as much encouragement is given to it as possible. Sometimes when visiting one of these villages a young fellow would join the camp and say he would like to accompany it and see the world; this he would be permitted to do, and, after having become friendly with the people in camp, would have a fine time of it, eventually returning home with his mind enlarged and a stock of beads, or other desirable articles which he had picked up cheap, and cloth sufficient to let him make quite a sensation in the village—for they all have a sharp eye to business. No doubt too the knowledge of the fate of every village which made an unprovoked attack has helped much to ensure a good reception.

30. Where there is at present ill-feeling against us, is, I believe, at Mozema, Konoma, and to some extent at Jotsoma. In the valley in which Mozema and Konoma lie, land suitable for rice cultivation is scarce and dear; in fact, there is not enough of it to support an increasing population. When a young fellow grows up and has to start in life for himself, he finds that to get a field yielding sufficient to keep him in food, he must pay a large sum, from Rupees 250 perhaps down to Rupees 80, according to proximity to the village, this probably he cannot do then, and he has to live as best he can until he can raise the necessary money by trading or plunder. This state of affairs causes there to be a number of young fellows always on the look out for some means of raising the wind. A certain amount do trade and earn money that way at Konoma especially, but others go prowling about the Kuteha Naga country or small Angami villages living at free quarters, and levying black-mail, refusal of either being followed by attack. Then they are always on the look out for opportunities where loot is to be got, either by taking part in the raidings of other villages, or forcing quarrels on those they consider weaker than

themselves. In every murderous attack it is sure to be found that Mozema or Konoma, or both have been at the head of it. Men now no longer young have grown up in a life of turbulence, and are always ready to take the lead, and give the benefit of their experience in any nefarious undertaking. The same remarks apply to Jotsoma, though not to the same extent. Some time ago Mozema and Konoma were at war with each other, and in each there were internal feuds, but these have all been patched up, and thus a great check on them has been removed. They have generally been so successful in their undertakings and have such confidence in their strength on account of the number of muskets they possess, that their audacity becomes yearly greater, particularly now they know that the Manipuries (whom they really fear, though the pretend not to do so) are held back by us. Exaggerated ideas of the strength of the two villages have got about in the hills too, and I have more than once been seriously asked whether I really consider myself able to cope with Mozema or Konoma. The real strength of the two in men is not greater than that of several other villages in the hills. Konoma contains 545 houses and Mozema 266, but the fire-arms they possess is what the others fear; of course the numbers of these are greatly exaggerated; so far as I can ascertain there are about 60 serviceable muskets in Konoma and 30 in Mozema. How they obtain ammunition I cannot find out, though having repeatedly tried to do so. The greater portion of it, if not all, is obtained from somewhere. Some time ago they were hard pushed for ammunition, but a fresh supply seems since to have come in. The Konoma men are called, and I believe truly, the best fighters amongst the Angamis; the Mozema men, though not such good warriors, have a great reputation for cunning, and justly too, but if it was not for their fire-arms they would be much more chary of going to war.

31. For three years now there then has been an increasing desire on the part of the Kutcha Nagas and of the smaller Angami villages to come under our protection, and this has no doubt irritated the Mozema and Konoma people, who know that as each village comes in, there is so much less black-mail and plunder to come their way. There is consequently a feeling of ill-will towards us not felt by any of the other villages. They have been using all their endeavours to prevent the Kutcha and other Nagas from claiming protection, and this has been the case especially with Mozema. I will do Konoma the justice to say however that in one case at least they did not attempt to prevent a village from coming in. In January last the small Angami village of Thesama was wantonly attacked and plundered by a party from Mozema, who also killed five people. The Thesama men went to Konoma for aid, and were told that the best thing they could do would be to give up the idea of revenge and go to Samaguting and offer to pay revenue, if they wished for protection and peace, as they were too weak to think of carrying on a feud with Mozema. At the same time the Konoma men exerted themselves to make Mozema return the cattle they had stolen.

32. During the year, as the Chief Commissioner is aware, there have been several complaints from the Manipur Durbar about raids by Mozema and Konoma on villages lying in Manipur territory, and it

has been ascertained that the complaints made were well founded, except that one of the villages raided on was not in Manipur. The Mozema and Konoma people know perfectly well that they make these raids in defiance of us. When the boundary line was laid down, its situation was carefully explained by Captain Butler, who told the people that they must on no account raid across it, that if people from the Manipur side committed aggressions on them, the aggressors would on complaint be punished by the Manipur Durbar, while, if the Angamis committed aggressions on Manipur, the British Government would punish them; this has been repeated to them over and over without the slightest effect, while, on the other hand, there has been no aggression from the Manipur side.

33. The last aggression on the part of Mozema was the attack on Gomaigojoo; it was not according to Naga idea a wanton outrage, because the Mozema people had an old blood feud against the Gomaigojoo people, who up to this time balked them of revenge by leaving their own village and keeping out of the way. Whenever the Mozema men who had lost relations found out their old enemies had come within their reach again, they took steps to attack them, though perfectly aware they would by so doing invade British territory. The raiding party being small in number, and belonging only to one clan of the village, while the other two clans were profuse in their assertions of loyalty and intentions to assist in getting the raiders given up, I was sanguine that this could be effected, as one clan alone would in all probability not make an open resistance. But on going to Mozema I saw enough to convince me that whatever might be said the recusant clan was secretly backed up both in their village and at Konoma, and that a forcible seizure would have been resisted, and an attempt made to play over again the game of Bhog Chand's time. This would have certainly cost the Mozema men and their allies dear; but having then the knowledge that after the rainy season sufficient force would be at my disposal to do whatever might be required in an efficient manner and to guard all points, I refrained from any attempt or threat of immediate use of force, though at the same time carefully warning all parties of the consequences of their misconduct. My deliberate opinion is that until Mozema and Konoma are properly brought to their senses, and shown how insignificant they really are, things will not go smoothly, but that when once this is done there will be peace. It can, I believe, best be accomplished by having on the spot force enough to make the idea of open resistance hopeless. This is a point on which the opinions held by the late Captain Butler were identical with those formed by me. In Konoma and Mozema both there are people who are well disposed in every way, but in these two villages, the "rowdy" element prevails more than in any others brought in contact with us. There is another way too in which mischief is being done, that is by undoing the good arising from our road-making. When Mr. Needham was bringing in the working party from near Wokha some of Themma-kat-Sama people told him they had received a threatening message from Mozema, telling them that now there was a road open to their village, they must give ten head of cattle if they did not wish to be attacked. This was totally denied by Mozema, but I have no

doubt some such message was sent. The Themma-kat-Sama people had made no objection whatever to the road being taken past their village and were only prevented from working on it by their being small-pox amongst them. But after receipt of a message like the one mentioned, they would be likely to form anything but favorable views of the benefits to be derived from having their country opened up. In doing so we certainly incur a responsibility towards those villages which are thereby made open to attack.

34. During the year under report six villages came in with offers to pay revenue and come under our protection. Two, Midzuma and Thesima, are Angami villages. The remaining four were Kutcha Naga villages; in the case of two others of this tribe former offers to pay revenue were taken up; in one case, that of Jalukema, the revenue was not taken, as the offer made was not a *bonâ fide* one, the other village Phuima was brought on the rent-roll. There are now 14 Naga villages under direct British protection, and this number will steadily increase. It is the general opinion that all the Kutcha Naga villages would be glad to come in and pay revenue if it was not for Mozema and Konoma keeping them back.

35. Since the survey expedition returned from the hill in April 1876, there has been no direct communication with the tribes living to the east of Wokha, but during the past year Mr. Clarke, of the American Mission, has been living at Dekha Haimong village, and is well satisfied with the progress he has been making amongst the Nagas there. The Nagas of the neighbouring villages have not attempted to interfere with him or show any displeasure at his continued residence in the hills. The Nagas of Tablong have asked one of Mr. Clarke's Assamese Christian teachers to come and take up his quarters amongst them and the man is going to do so. Mr. Clarke informs me that from all he can see and learn, he believes the Nagas amongst whom he is living would be glad to come under any settled authority established in the hills and to give up fighting. No doubt such is really the case.

36. *General state of Police, Crime and Civil Justice.*—As has been before pointed out, the Police here are entirely employed on military duties, there being little or no real Police work for them to do. The force

* Inspectors ...	...	2
Sub-Inspectors	...	3
Head Constables	...	8
Constables ...	...	150
Total		<hr/> 163 <hr/>

continues at its old strength,* but sanction for an increase is anxiously looked for. When Samaguting was first occupied and the intention was to sit still, then the present number of men was sufficient, but we have steadily been

moving on since then. All the protected villages rely on us for safety, and road-making has opened out the hills to an extent not thought of in former days. Now the duty required falls very heavily on the men, and is one of the causes of unpopularity of the service which I regret to say still exists. There are vacancies caused by casualties, and for some time now no recruits have been forthcoming; men sufficient to fill up ordinary vacancies used to come seeking employment, but for some reason the supply has fallen off. When I came here a year ago, some thirty men had applied for their discharge, except a few whom it was not thought desirable to keep, they were persuaded to try another year's

service, but since coming in from camp twenty men have again claimed their discharge and must be allowed to go. What some of these men say has much truth in it, *viz.*, that if they leave, while still in the prime of life, they can settle in their own villages with their families and get up cultivation and a comfortable homestead against their old age. Whereas if they stay on till health fails or they are not fit for active service in the hills, then there is no time for them to make a provision for themselves, while they can scarcely hope to put in service enough to secure any pension under the present rules, which they contrast with those in force for the Native Army. Considering the nature of the service in these hills, I believe that it would be really good policy to allow pension rules more liberal than those now in force. Hard hill work and exposure makes men aged prematurely, while a man at all decrepit is unfit for the duty he ought to be able to do, but it is hard to turn him away without any provision or recompense for what may have been very good service.

37. The conduct of the men has been good with a few exceptions. Two men were discovered selling their cartridges to Nagas and severely punished for it. Ammunition in small quantities had previously been missing from time to time, but since then this has entirely stopped. There has been no other serious crime committed.

38. As usual there was exceedingly little crime committed in the country under our direct control. Only 39 cases were disposed of during the year, and most of them mere petty ones, the most serious offences brought to trial were two cases of extortion from the Mikirs and a cattle theft at Samaguting. The murder of a constable in January 1876 was brought to light during the year, and the two men alone concerned in it were subsequently apprehended. They made full confession and were transported for life, the murder was committed to secure a gun. It had been said that Angamis would never give up one of their own clan, and this was told me over and over; however one of the men referred to was in the end secured and given up by his own people, who preferred doing that to being kept out of their village. This village was not a very strong one certainly, but what this village did Mozema or Konoma ought to do too, and I will, so far as my power goes, try and insist upon this principle of surrender by the offender's own people. Once that is generally accepted, it ought to make men chary of committing themselves; now they argue, "if the worst comes to the worst our Khell will stick by us, and we will get off in the end." A man's own people can always lay their hands on him if they like, and he knows he is never safe if they turn against him.

39. When Samaguting was abandoned, two or three of the Dobhas from outside villages who had small-pox before, and did not fear to remain, were told to take up their quarters in the village and see the property left in it was not stolen. When the Samaguting people returned they did not miss a single thing they had left behind, which speaks well for the honesty of Nagas when put in a position of trust. For the care we took of their property the Samaguting people evinced their gratitude by stealing three head of cattle in one day just after their return.

40. The civil work like the criminal was very light, only 27 cases were instituted, and these were almost entirely tradesmen's claims for small sums. The largest amount for which a suit was instituted was Rupees 270.

41. *General state of communications.*—The main road of the district is that leading from Golaghat to Samaguting. The distance between the two places being 67 miles, of which 64 miles is on the plain, and the remainder up-hill. This is a line of road which must always cost a good deal to keep up, as during nearly its whole length it crosses the line of drainage from the Rengma Hills to the Dhansiri, thus causing many bridges to be kept up, and on this, great part of the money sanctioned is spent. During the working season all the bridges were put in good repair, and nearly all made passable by elephants. Between Dimapur and the foot of the hills the road is fit for wheel traffic, and carts have been in constant use by the traders in bringing goods from the boats. From the foot of the hills laden elephants can now come up to the station. I was in hopes that the whole road from Samaguting to the foot of the hills would be open for carts this year as it certainly would have been, but that Mr. Needham, who was in charge of the road, has his time much occupied by other work, as it is, carts can easily go from Dimapur to Borpathor and thence to Golaghat, there are only two or three places presenting any difficulty, indeed, a pair of good strong bullocks could bring a fairly laden cart up now. The places where difficulty still exists are near the Nambur River, where the land is undulating and some more earth-cutting is required. Rupees 4,300 were spent on the repairs on this road.

42. At the end of March 1876 the bridle-path from Samaguting towards Wokha had been cut up to a point beyond the village of Chachama and 45 miles from Samaguting. The path from Golaghat towards Wokha had been cut up to a point near Sanigaon about 30 miles from the starting point. At the beginning of the working season no funds were available for carrying on these works, but when later on, money was forthcoming, the work was commenced. Roopram, the Jemadar of the Beldar Corps, was sent out from Samaguting with 16 Beldars and 30 Mikhir workmen by the end of January, he had finished repairs upon the portion of the path already cut and broken new ground. The first thing was to turn the Nidzakru Hill, which involved carrying the path over five miles of difficult country, after that an easy line was hit on, and the work carried on for 25 miles to a point seven miles from Wokha, when the party was recalled at the end of March; had it not been for the small-pox at Themakidima and Themakatzma, which kept off the labour from these villages, the road would have been completed. The greater part of the work was done by Semkah and Lotah Nagas, who especially latterly came in in larger numbers than could be employed. These Nagas are good workers, and far more persevering at it than Angamis, the only thing is that they require some watching at first for a new comer thinks nothing of energetically attacking a big rock with a new hoe. Roopram has a wonderful knack of managing Nagas and getting work out of them, he is not the least slack with them, but just the reverse. That he did get full work out of his people is proved by

its cost, which for clearing and repairing 45 miles of old path and cutting 25 miles of new was Rupees 1,944-14. For this Roopram deserves great credit. He is, though self-taught, as good a man for hill road making as we could wish to have.

43. The opening up this path has done great good already. What we saw of the state of the country, and the fact that some of the villages to be passed had the reputation of being hostile, made me feel anxious about this party. A guard of 25 men went out with them, and they had strict orders about using the greatest caution. As things turned out however, there was not the slightest hitch. The men of different villages who had been fighting just before worked together on the road, while supplies came in more abundantly than was wanted even. The guard and Roopram's people expressed themselves quite sorry to return, and said they found themselves so comfortable that they would gladly have spent the rains out in the Lotah country.

44. The path runs over fine high open country, giving free communication between Wokha and the Angami country all the year round. Between Wokha and the Zubza, a distance by road of 50 miles, there is not one stream of any size to be crossed.

45. The path from Golaghat to Wokha was under the superintendence of Khushood Ali, Overseer, who was deputed from Shillong. He reached Golaghat in January, and set to work on the portion of the road between Golaghat and the foot of the hills. A guard of 25 men of 44th S. Light Infantry was procured for his party, but owing to a mistake on the part of the military by which the guard was sent to Samaguting instead of towards Wokha on the 10th February, they were met and turned back by Mr. Needham, then on his way down to join Khushood's party, and it was not till Mr. Needham's arrival that they fairly began hill work. After clearing and repairing the path cut last year they went on to Sanigaon and then to Doyong. Mr. Needham stayed with this party until the 10th March, and then Khushood worked on alone until the 8th April, when he finished work at Wokha, having cut 25 miles of new road. The distance altogether from Golaghat to Wokha by bridle-path being 54 miles, of which 20 miles are on the plain and the remainder through the hills; 14 miles from Wokha the Doyong has to be crossed; this river is only fordable in dry weather. Between Golaghat and the Doyong the path never reaches an elevation of more than 2,000 feet; from the Doyong to Wokha there is a rise of 4,000 feet, but easy country has been found. From what I saw and what the Overseer reports, I think it would be possible to establish a ferry here, but if not, a suspension bridge could be thrown across.

46. The earth-cutting on this road was done by Assamese from the Sibsagar District. Nagas came in in plenty for jungle-clearing and removing stores but nothing would induce them to touch a hoe or pick-axe. The Nagas on the line of road between Golaghat and the Doyong were known to be friendly, but after crossing the river there was some anxiety felt, but everything went well. Khushood Ali deserves much credit for the way he has carried on this work. The cost incurred was Rupees 3,688-4-7, which shows that the labour on this side was very inferior to that with the other party which did the most work.

47. When coming down from Wokha it struck me that the line now taken is not the best one, and that there is a better one further to the east, by which a path would pass under Lakuti and strike the plains near the Kakadanga stream and thence go on to Titabur on the Dhodur-ali; by this line we should be very little further from Jorhat than from Golaghat by the present path and much nearer the Brahmapootra. Mr. Needham and Khusnood Ali, who have had better opportunities than myself of judging, are also of this opinion.

48. The sketch map sent herewith will show how the political bridle-path run. I have also marked on it two lines which might with much advantage be opened up, one from a point on the Wokha and Samaguting road near the Zubzer down to the Manipur boundary at Mao. The distance by bridle-path is estimated to be about 25 miles. Mao is about four marches from Impal, which would bring that place within seven good marches of Wokha and nine from Golaghat. The other from Samaguting south through the Kutcha Naga and Kuki country to the Semkhore guard in north Cachar: the distance is estimated at 45 miles. Semkhor is one march from Asaloo which is four marches from Cachar. With the existing paths and the two proposed new ones the country would be well opened out. When it became known that these roads were open and could be traversed with safety, no doubt they would be taken advantage of by many both in Assam, Cachar and Manipur, who never would think of crossing these hills.

49. *Buildings, &c.*—No new buildings were taken in hand during the year, but in Samaguting a great deal had to be done in the way of repairs, which almost amounted to rebuilding, in the case of two of the barracks, lock-up and some other houses. The Assistant Political Officer and Doctor's bungalows had each a layer of thatch put on the roof and had other repairs. Nothing was undertaken in the way of repairs that could be avoided, but the buildings renewed were in such a bad state that they could not have stood through the monsoon. What with an unusual quantity of white-ants and other destructive insects and high winds, the ordinary kutcha buildings last less time than usual. There was a good deal of trouble in getting a sufficient quantity of thatching grass and bamboos, both having to be fetched from long distances, but the work has been done well under the superintendence of Mr. Needham. The rest-houses at Dimapur and Hurriajan on the Golaghat road were put into good order.

50. The tank on which Samaguting depends for its water supply has been kept in good order throughout the year. Owing to the abundant rainfall it contains more water than usual at present, and the water though far from pure is better than it used to be. During the rains a number of small fish were put into the tank, and this also has had something to do with the improvement.

51. *Schools.*—At the commencement of the year under report there was no school in the district except the one at Borphathar. On 1st August 1876 the services of a fairly well qualified school-master were secured for Samaguting on a salary of Rupees 30 a month, of which Rupees 8 is paid from the Government educational grant, the remainder by private subscriptions, and since then the school has been

kept steadily open with good results. The attendance of children belonging to the Police and others employed here has been steady, and their progress good. A number of the men too take advantage of the opportunity for improving themselves. It has not however so far been found possible to secure the regular attendance of any Naga children. Their parents are the main obstacles as they find the children's services useful at home, and so will not enforce regular attendance. The children, knowing their parents will not interfere, run away when school become irksome, as it very soon does with them.

52. The industrial school after proving a complete failure was closed during the year. The reasons given for want of success by Captain Butler in his report for 1874-75 were doubtless the true ones. Everything, however, tends to show that if the head-quarters are removed to Wokha, we will have to deal with people more likely to take to steady work than the Angami Nagas. Mr. Clarke, the American Missionary now at Dekha Haimong, would, I believe, be very glad to join us at Wokha, where his services would be of great use in starting an organized system of education.

53. The school at Berpathar continues to be tolerably well attended. If funds are available, endeavours will be made to start a school at Bhokulaghaut on the Jamuna for the benefit of the Kachari population thereabout.

54. *Charitable Dispensary.*—The Charitable Dispensary has as usual been the means of doing much good. The numbers attending it both as in-door and out-door patients steadily increase, and people come from villages a long way off for treatment, especially for the ulcerated sores to which so many Nagas are subject. Mr. Cooper deserves much credit for the interest he takes in this institution and the pains he takes over it.

55. *Character of officers.*—Mr. Needham has generally performed the duties entrusted to him in a satisfactory manner, but I regret to say that I have sometimes found him wanting in temper and impatient of control.

56. Mr. Cooper has been painstaking, and always willing to do his best.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1876-77.

Public health.—The general health of the district does not appear to have improved very much, as there was a great deal of sickness present during the year under report, although the mortality was not very great.

The prevailing diseases were fevers and bowel-complaints.

There were 27 deaths as compared with 34 in the previous year: of these 15 were from fever, seven from bowel-complaints and five other diseases.

A great deal of the sickness prevalent here is due to the insalubrity of the climate, bad water, bad food, want of good vegetables and scarcity of animal food.

Dysentery generally terminates fatally among those who are addicted to eating opium largely. The ordinary dose of opium was found to be a two-anna bit or twenty-two grains every morning and evening and oftener during illness. Opium eating sometimes leads to serious injury as instanced in the case of a Mikir, who could not extricate himself, while under its influence, from a heap of fire into which he had fallen head foremost and was nearly burnt to death before he was rescued. He was brought to the Dispensary in a dying state, but after several weeks of constant care and attention he happily recovered, and has since returned to his village.

Small-pox made its appearance in some Naga villages along the eastern boundary of the district; quarantine was immediately established by the Nagas of the outlying villages.

One case of small-pox occurred at Samaguting in January last. A Kuki scout caught the infection during his stay at a Naga village, where small-pox had broken out.

The disease was discovered after the eruptions were fully developed all over the body of the man. He was removed from the Kuki lines and lodged in the compounder's house, while a grass hut was being quickly run up for him, some distance down the hill side in the jungle, to which place he was conveyed, and there strictly watched and carefully attended upon by Fyzul Rhymen, the compounder who was specially deputed for that duty.

I arrived at the station just in time to prevent the man from being set at large, as I was led to believe the Native Doctor contemplated doing while the scales were still falling off. The man however was kept confined to the hut for some days after the scales had all fallen off and the formation of scurf had ceased.

Ample precautions were taken by the Political Officer, Naga Hills, to stamp out the disease. The Kuki lines and the compounder's house were burnt to the ground with all the movable property they contained, and the inmates removed across the Dippupani stream; all the cloths found on them were previously burnt and new ones supplied to them. A few good ones were well boiled in hot water and then given back to them. They were encamped there until all danger was past.

There is more danger of infection spreading from small-pox when the scales are falling off than in the early stage of the eruption, as small particles of the dried matter are carried about in the air which may probably be breathed in by several persons at the one time, which would eventually cause an epidemic. Attention to this point was particularly directed, and great precaution was taken to bring the sweepings of the room in a hole made in the floor of the room occupied by the patient three or four times a day, and thus prevented the possibility of infection being diffused in the surrounding atmosphere. The result has been highly successful, and it is a matter of much congratulation that the disease was stamped out in the way it was—in this the first case that has occurred at Samaguting, and it will, it is to be hoped, be the last.

Although the Nagas of Samaguting deserted their village when they heard that small-pox had broken out on the body of the Kookie scout,

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they have however learnt a good lesson from an educational point of view in acquiring further confidence in the European method of treatment of this terrible scourge, inasmuch as they fully expected to hear that every one who were left behind at Samaguting was attacked with the disease, and that many had died from it, but they were greatly astonished to find on their return home to their village that not only had no one died, but that no other person had caught the infection, and were much more surprised to learn that the small-pox case was thoroughly cured and doing well.

The Charitable Dispensary continues to maintain its popularity with the people.

There were a large number of women and children admitted as in-patients of the Dispensary than in the previous year, which is in itself highly gratifying.

The average daily sick was 4.39, which is an increase of 0.53 as compared with 3.86 in the previous year.

Among the out-door patients there were 727 cases treated upon as compared with 699 in the previous year, showing a steady increase and a continued appreciation of the benefits of the institution.

Health of the Police Force.—The general health of the Police Force contrasted with that of the previous year shows that there has been a large amount of sickness among the men, although there was but one death, while there were two recorded in the previous year.

There were 279 admissions into hospital as compared with 200 in the previous year, showing an increase of 79 cases.

The daily average sick was 5.40 as contrasted with 5.33 in the previous year.

The average daily admissions into hospital was 0.76 as compared with 0.54 in the previous year.

The diseases prevalent among them were fevers and bowel-complaints, owing in a great measure to climatical causes as well as coarse food, bad water, a scarcity of animal food, and good vegetables.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT
OF THE
NAGA HILLS

For the year 1878-79.

BY
G. H. DAMANT, C.S.,
POLITICAL OFFICER, NAGA HILLS.



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REPORT
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT
OF THE
NAGA HILLS
For the year 1878-79.

No. 1578, dated Shillong, 26th August 1879.

From—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., C.S., Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam,
To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I AM directed to submit, for the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, the report on the General Administration of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79, together with the Chief Commissioner's Resolution thereon.

No. L-153, dated Kohima, 18th June 1879.

From—G. H. DAMANT, Esq., C.S., Political Officer, Naga Hills,
To—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., C.S., Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the Annual General Administration Report of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79.

**REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NAGA HILLS FOR THE
YEAR 1878-79.**

1. THE country nominally under the control of the Political Officer in charge of the Naga Hills, extends from east to west from longitude $92^{\circ} 40'$ to 96° , and from the Assam Valley on the north to the border of Manipur and the Patkoi and Saramete Ranges on the south. As however little or nothing has been done during the present year to the east of longitude $94^{\circ} 30'$, the present report will be confined to the history of the tract lying to the west of that line.

2. *Tribes and estimated population of the tract of country lying between long. $29^{\circ} 40'$, and $94^{\circ} 30'$.*—The tribes which inhabit this tract

of country are Kookies, Mikirs, Cacharies, Aitonias, Angami, Sema, Rengma, Lhota, Hatigoria, and Kutcha Nagas, the whole of whom are dwellers in the forest and live almost entirely by joom, and among the Angamies by terrace cultivation; they are in different degrees of barbarism, from comparative civilization among the Mikirs and Cacharies to utter savagery among the eastern Nagas.

3. *Rengmas*.—Starting from Golaghat and proceeding in a south-westerly direction, the first tribe we meet is the Rengma Nagas, who inhabit the range of hills lying north-west of the valley of the Dhansiri. They dwell in 30 small hamlets and have a population of about 2,000: this branch of the Rengmas is comparatively civilized, and they have for sometime paid us house-tax; they migrated many years ago from the west of the Rengmapani, whence they were driven by the constant attacks of their inveterate foes, the Lhotas and Semas. The greater part of the tribe however still remain in their old site, where they inhabit seven large villages, the principal of which are Themokedima and Tesiphima, each of which contains more than 500 houses. These people are destitute of any vestiges of civilization, and are only kept within bounds by the fear of our forces at Wokha and Kohima. Their numbers are probably about 10,000, which will raise the total Rengma population to 12,000.

4. *Mikirs*.—The next tribe we encounter is the Mikirs, who inhabit 30 small hamlets, and have a population of about 5,500; they are a very quiet inoffensive people, paying us house-tax and free from crime. They are however much addicted to opium smoking, a vice which is the curse of the people living in the lower hill ranges.

5. *Cacharies*.—The Cacharies inhabit about 18 villages in the neighbourhood of Mohungdijua, with a population of about 3,900; in their habits and customs they resemble the Mikirs. They have given no trouble during the year.

6. *Kookies*.—There is one small settlement of old Kookies in the district at Waklai; they belong to the Rangkhoh Division of the old Kookies; they have 43 houses and a population of about 200. They pay house-tax, and are in a degree civilized.

7. The new Kookies are without civilization, and were it not for fear of the consequences would be as troublesome as their Naga neighbours; they are an extension of the Langting Colony, who were settled down in 1856 to act as a buffer between the Angamies and North Cachar. These Kookies do not pay rent, having been granted their lands rent-free for 25 years; they are however willing to do so, and it would probably be advisable to accept it. They are divided into three clans—Thado, Changsen, and Shingool, under their Chiefs Khudingmang, Patong, and Kaikatang. They inhabit 21 villages, with a population of about 2,700.

8. *Kutcha Nagas*.—The Kutcha Nagas inhabit 23 villages, with a population of about 6,500. They are tolerably quiet on the whole, and murders and raids are rare among them, but at the same time they are far from being civilized. They are preyed upon by the larger Angami villages, such as Mozema and Khonoma, to whom many of them pay

tribute. Seven villages pay us house-tax; the remainder are still independent.

9. *Angami Nagas*.—The number of villages belonging to this tribe lying west of longitude $94^{\circ}30'$ is probably about 120, with a population of about 100,000. They are almost entirely independent, only 11 villages paying us revenue; to the east of $94^{\circ}30'$ there are probably not less than a 100 villages. The whole Angami population cannot fall far short of 200,000.

10. *Sema Nagas*.—The Sema Nagas to the west of $94^{\circ}30'$ inhabit some 30 villages, with a population of about 30,000. Their villages are large, containing many of them 400 or 500 houses, while to the east there are many more villages belonging to this tribe of which we do not know even the names, and have no accurate knowledge of the population.

11. *Lokta Nagas*.—The Lhota Nagas inhabit the tract of country bounded by the Hatigorias on the east, and the Rengmas and Semas on the south; on the north and west by the plains. They have about 40 villages, with a population of about 35,000 roughly speaking; they are entirely without civilization, and are treacherous in the extreme.

12. *Hatigoria Nagas*.—This tribe lies east of the Lhotas; they are a fierce and warlike race, dwelling in large villages containing 5000 to 6000 houses; we do not know how far they extend to the east, and it is impossible to give any estimate of their population; there is no doubt however that they are a powerful tribe and will give us trouble hereafter.

13. *Others*.—The remaining population of the district consists of some 800 Assamese and Aitonias. The latter are only remarkable as being members of the great Tai or Siamese family; they are closely connected with the Shans and Khamtis; they only number about 170.

14. *Raids and murder*.—In the history of a district like this the measure of success attained in its administration must, to a great measure, be estimated by the increase or decrease of raids and murders, and it is for this reason that this paragraph has been introduced into the present report. The absence of any precise information on the subject in previous reports renders it, however, impossible to make an accurate comparison with former years, but it may be asserted with perfect confidence that the number of murders has very considerably decreased during the present year, and more especially during the last eight months of the period under report, when the policy of active intervention in intertribal feuds has been vigorously enforced.

15. During this period there was only one case of murder by deadly weapons among the Angamis (two others occurred, but they were of an ordinary description); there were none among the Rengmas, Kutcha Nagas or Kookies, and comparatively few among the Lhotas and Semas. Amongst the distant and powerful tribe of Hatigorias, the new policy has hardly yet been introduced, and one or two years must elapse before they can be fully taught to abstain from their evil practices. The most satisfactory feature, however, in the year is the entire absence of wholesale massacres, such as at Themokedima in 1877, when over 200 persons

were killed, and at Guelong in 1875 when 80 fell victims. Among the Angamis there has not been a single party on the war path, except the party of Kohima men who attacked Khoma, and it is very noticeable that, although they took captives and spoiled the village, they carefully refrained from taking life.

16. A brief account of the raids and murders which have occurred is given below. The punishment inflicted may in some instances appear disproportionately light, but it must not be forgotten that this is the first year in which any attempt has been made to bring the Nagas under our laws, and at first it is found judicious to administer them as leniently as possible.

17. The Kutchas Nagas have been quiet during the year, and no murders have occurred amongst them; the only occurrence worth note is a little disturbance between the villages of Nakhama and Rezephima; an Angami village. The men of Nakhama came into Samaguting to trade, and on their return had occasion to pass through Rezephima; the people of the latter place refused them admittance, as there had been sickness amongst them, and on their attempting to force their way into the village, the Rezephima men attacked them with sticks and stones, and wounded three or four rather severely. The Nakhama men went away vowing vengeance, and the Rezephima men applied to the Assistant Political Officer for protection; he placed some constables in the village, and sent orders to Nakhama forbidding them to molest Rezephima; they however lay in wait outside the village, and succeeded in catching four Rezephima men, whom they beat severely with clubs. The village was fined Rupees 35 for contempt of orders, and the matter ended.

18. Amongst the Rengmas one murder only has occurred: a man of Themokedima was speared by four men of Teseephima. The Assistant Political Officer at Wokha enquired into the case, fined the Teseephima men Rupees 200, and recovered the head of the murdered man. This was in July last; since then the Rengmas have been perfectly quiet.

19. Amongst the Angamis the list is, as might be expected, somewhat longer.

The men of Jotsoma killed a man of Nerhama. The case was proved and the offending village fined Rupees 100.

20. The people of Kohima killed one man of Nerhama, two men of Mima, four men of Keruma, and two men of Tophima; in these cases no punishment was inflicted, as it was considered that the punishment given in other cases was sufficient. The same people also killed a man of Mozema; for this they were fined Rupees 250, and the two murderers were expelled the village, and their houses pulled down and destroyed.

21. The people of Khonoma killed a man of Meramah, mistaking him for a man of Kohima, with which village they were at feud. They were ordered to pay Rupees 50 as compensation to Meramah.

22. The people of Sopvoma or Mao, a village in Manipur, killed a man of Khonoma who was going to Manipur to trade; the offender was arrested by the Manipur authorities and imprisoned.

23. The same people also killed two men belonging to Khozama, a village in the Naga Hills, because the latter refused to pay them rent.

The Khozamia men retaliated by killing two of their men, and Mao then burnt Khozama and killed three more men; for this Mao has been fined Rupees 100 by the Political Agent of Manipur.

24. All the above-mentioned outrages occurred previous to July last; since then the Kohima men raided in force on Khoma and took five captives and looted a considerable amount of property. They were fined Rupees 400 for this outrage; three of the captives who had been sold to distant Kookie and Kutcha Naga villages were, after considerable search, recovered; the whereabouts of the remaining two is still unknown.

25. The people of Chaduma speared a Naga of Nakromi. The Political Officer went to the village to demand the murderer, which was refused, and a party sent to arrest him by force was attacked, and the result was that one Naga was killed and several wounded and the village destroyed. The people were informed they would not be allowed to rebuild it until they surrendered the murderer and tendered a complete submission. They remained in the jungle for about six weeks, when they submitted and offered to surrender the murderer when they could catch him; he had escaped to a very distant village called Swemi; these terms were accepted and the village is now rebuilt.

26. The Dakuchuma and Phechachuma clans of Kohima had a dispute, and as a way of settling it, resorted to a free fight with sticks and stones, in which several persons were wounded on each side. The matter was brought before Dr. Mountain, the Assistant Political Officer, then at Kohima, and both parties agreed to be friends, but unfortunately a few days afterwards one of the wounded men died of fracture of the skull, and the quarrel broke out afresh; both sides took to arms, and the Political Officer arrived in the village with a strong force of the military and police only just in time to prevent a collision. Eventually the man who threw the stone was expelled the village, his house destroyed, and his property sold.

27. At Putchama too a quarrel arose between two Nagas and one killed the other with a hoe; the villagers banished the offender, destroyed his house, and sold his property.

28. *Sema*.—The Sema Nagas have, so far as we know, been fairly quiet, but in fact we are only acquainted with the few villages which lie on the borders of the Lhota and Angami country. The people of Cherima killed a man of Imphima, but as both villages agreed to make friends and the Imphima men did not press for punishment, none was inflicted.

29. Three Nagas of Lozma speared a man of Teruphima in three places, fortunately without killing him; for this offence they were fined two cows, which they paid after some demur.

30. *Lhotas*.—The Lhotas have on the whole been fairly quiet, and although murder among them has not been entirely stopped, a fair measure of success has been attained.

The villages of Rephim and Yekom, both near Wokha, have been at feud for years past. Some men of Rephim severely assaulted some people of Yekom; they were fined Rupees 50. Shortly after this two men of Yekom seized an old man of Rephim and pulled off one of his ears; they were arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment each.

31. The men of Nangatung raided in force on Kanki or Kotsoma in search of heads; not being successful in this, they destroyed the greater part of the standing crop of the village. Mr. Hinde visited the spot, and fined the offending village Rupees 200.

32. In the month of March last the people of Chingaki invited the men of Kohtoh, a Hatigoria village with which they had for a long time been at war, to a friendly conference to make up their differences; they then attacked them and killed five and wounded two men; five of the ringleaders have been arrested and are now awaiting trial.

33. A man of Chingaki murdered a woman of Nangatung; he has been arrested and is now awaiting trial.

34. *Hatigorias*.—Amongst the Hatigorias we have as yet been able to do but little. With their internal feuds we are not as yet in a position to interfere at all, and I have no information to give regarding them. Our efforts for the present year have been mainly confined to the suppression of their raids on the Lhota villages, which have been taken under our protection.

35. The people of Nungtang murdered two men of Are. Mr. Hinde visited the village and was attacked by a combination of the villages of Nungtang, Mungrung and Phinsing; he beat them off, killing one Naga. The Nungtang men then submitted, and no further punishment was inflicted on them. The Mungrung men were fined two cows. On his return to head-quarters one of his coolies was speared, though not killed, by the men of Phinsing. Mr. Hinde went to the village and fined them five pigs, five maunds of rice, and five cows.

36. At the beginning of the year the Mungrung men murdered another man of Are. Mr. Hinde went to the village and was again attacked; he drove the Nagas back with a loss of three wounded, and burnt the village. The people have been informed that they will not be allowed to rebuild it unless they submit.

37. *Feeling and disposition of the people*.—Among so many different tribes, it is difficult to write generally of the feelings and disposition of the people towards the Government, but it would be merely a misrepresentation of facts to deny that in every part of the district, except the Mikir and Rengma Hills, we hold our position purely by force of arms, and this we must continue to do for some years to come. At present we are merely the strongest among the many tribes which inhabit the district, and it will be a work of time to blend these discordant elements in one harmonious whole, forming them into a community subject to regular laws; for the present we can hardly hope to introduce a regular administration, and must content ourselves by putting a stop to raids and murders, and introducing the merest elements of a regular government.

38. The Western Nagas, including the Angamies, have been fairly well behaved throughout the year; they have provided coolies and supplies when called upon, and they come freely to trade at the new bazar at Kohima. The smaller villages regard our coming with unmixed delight; the larger villages have in some instances been rather sulky, but latterly they have to a certain extent accepted the inevitable and become

more friendly; they are not however to be trusted, and should be carefully watched for some time to come, as they would probably attack us should they find a favorable opportunity, and the introduction of an obnoxious measure or the appointment of an officer who did not understand the Naga temperament might suffice to set the hills in flames.

39. But on the whole there is room for hope that time may see these wild tribes settling down into peaceful subjects; it is however a work which cannot be done in a few years, and I fear it will not be accomplished without at least one rising among the Angamies of the larger villages; this once safely over, years of patient work must follow, and perhaps ten years hence some advance may have been made in civilizing these tribes.

40. Our move to Kohima has had a great effect on them, and immensely strengthened the hands of the Political Officer, who is now in a position to punish at once and severely any Angami village which infringes the rule against murder and raiding, which could never have been done effectively from Samaguting.

41. The Nagas at present are not convinced that we intend to occupy Kohima permanently, and they are waiting to see the turn events will take; in all probability next year will see a fresh outbreak of raids and murders; in many instances villages at war with each other have been induced to promise to suspend hostilities for so long as we remain at Kohima. At present the only thing that we insist on among the Angamies is that they should refrain from homicide, raiding, and dealing in slaves. Smaller crimes, such as theft or wounding, are not as a rule noticed, unless they are likely to lead to a feud between two villages, or the people come to complain; they are beginning to do this, and many cases have been settled amicably, which only last year would certainly have led to bloodshed.

42. Among the Lhotas and Rengmas the feeling towards us is one of sulky submission. They obey orders when obliged to do so, but at present not willingly. They are much lower in the scale of civilization than the Angamies, and they are so thoroughly engrained with treachery that it seems impossible for them to believe that we mean well by them; they have not moreover the trading instincts of the Angamies, but still it is satisfactory to note that since the Wokha-Golaghat road has been opened many have gone to the plains to trade. They are on the whole less to be feared than the Angamies, as being less bold and not so well armed, but it is likely that it will take a longer time to civilize them.

43. The Semas are a shade better, and seem on the whole well disposed to us, but on the other hand we have not had so much intercourse with them.

44. With the Hatigorias we have had little intercourse, and what we have had has generally been of a hostile nature. They have attacked us and only made peace on compulsion; the tribe is a very warlike and powerful one, and it will probably during next cold season be necessary to make an expedition into their country.

45. *Move of head-quarters to Kohima.*—The cause and effects of this measure and the way in which it was carried out, has already been

fully described in Political Officer's letter No. L-34, dated 25th April 1879, to Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and no further mention of the subject need be made here. A sketch map on a scale of 40 feet to the inch, showing the station of Kohima is sent herewith, for which the Political Officer is indebted to Lieutenant Boileau, in command of the Detachment, 44th S. N. I. at Kohima.

46. *Annual tour.*—On account of the removal of the headquarters of the district to Kohima no regular cold weather tour could be attempted, but nevertheless the Political Officer spent the great part of the cold weather in camp. He started from Samaguting on the 12th November and reached Kohima on the 14th, where he remained till the end of the month engaged in building the new station. On the 1st December started again and marched *viâ* Basama, Sakhabama, and Thenejuma to Chaduma, which he reached on the 3rd and returned to Kohima on the 6th. On the 21st he started for Samaguting, which place he reached on the following day. He remained there till the 3rd January, when he started back for Kohima, which he reached on the 5th.

47. The 14th to 17th was occupied in a trip to the villages of Phesama, Jakhama, Viswema, Khozama, and Mao on the Manipur frontier.

48. The 26th to 3rd February was occupied in a trip to Samaguting and back. On the 10th the Political Officer started from Kohima and marching *viâ* Merama, Cheswema, Nerhama, Chichama, Tôphema, Lozma, Cherima, Themokedima, and Tesephima reached Wokha on the 16th; he remained there till the 24th, when he started for Golaghat, which he reached on the 27th; he halted there till the 4th March, on which day a start was made for Samaguting, which was reached on the following day. The 8th to the 10th was spent in taking out the records and women and children to Kohima. On the 18th the Political Officer started, and marched *viâ* Tatsama, Khonoma, and Suchema to Samaguting, which he reached on the 20th, returning to Kohima on the 23rd with the treasure.

49. The 26th to 31st was spent in making an exploration down the bed of the Zubza River as far as the point where it leaves the hills, with a view to opening out a new line of road. The distance travelled was about 700 miles, nearly the whole on foot. The whole of the Angami country proper was visited and a great portion of the Eastern Angami, Rengma, Sema, and Lhota country. It was not found possible to visit the Kutcha Nagas, Kookies, or Mikirs.

50. Mr. Hinde also made frequent trips in the neighbourhood of Wokha, and visited a great part of the surrounding country: He made one journey to the junction of the Rengmapani and Doyang Rivers to prospect for the proposed new road, and also visited some of the nearest Hatigoria villages, a tribe of which our knowledge is very limited. He discovered near Philé two large villages, called Leptopso and Kormaichang, of whose existence we had been ignorant.

51. *Prices of food, labour, &c.*—The price of rice has varied at different times and in different parts of the district from Rupees 2-8 to Rupees 7 a maund. In the month of August last, the supply at

Samaguting ran very short, the difficulty however was tided over by procuring supplies from the Kutcha Naga and Kookie country.

52. At Kohima our supply has been and still is rather precarious, but we have never been without food, and have good hopes of being able to get enough for the rains. Other grains, such as Indian-corn, Job's tears, kaun, or millet, and a small kind of bean can be procured cheaply at Kohima, and there is a bazaar which is well attended daily where fowls, eggs, fish, vegetables, and pork can generally be procured.

53. A large supply of Naga labour has been procured this year at four annas a day, a cheaper rate than has been paid in previous years when six annas was given; a good deal of road work was done by Naga labour, and they also brought out much of the stores from Samaguting to Kohima. A quota of coolies was demanded from each village, and generally given with little trouble except in the case of Khoroma, which the Political Officer was compelled to visit, and the coolies were then supplied. For road work, which the Nagas appear to like, any number of coolies can be obtained, but they do not come so freely to work as porters; they require a little careful management, and very much prefer to be paid daily; they are not however very trustworthy, and will not hesitate to steal anything if they can get an opportunity.

54. Besides the Nagas some Nepalese coolies were imported from the Garo Hills, and some Mikirs from the Nowgong border worked for a short time at house building at Kohima; they were paid at the rate of Rupees 9 per mensem. The Golaghat road was principally repaired by Assamese coolies from the Golaghat subdivision.

55. *Public health and material condition of the people.*—From the

* *Vide Annexure A.*

statement* annexed it will be seen that among the police force the mortality and sickness were both higher than they ought to be, but this only applies to Samaguting; since the men have been at Kohima sickness has decreased 5 per cent., notwithstanding the hardships and exposure which they have suffered.

56. During the rains there was a most violent outbreak of virulent ulcers, which broke out generally on the feet or ankles, and which were most obstinate and difficult to cure; at one time as many as 10 per cent. of the police force were suffering from them, and they were equally common among the Nagas of Samaguting. They are probably to be attributable to the bad water and a want of vegetables and milk; these evils however no longer exist, as we have a plentiful supply of good water and native vegetables at Kohima, and large gardens have been made which are already yielding well and will give a sufficient supply of vegetables for all. Arrangements have also been made for importing a supply of cows, of which we have but few at present.

57. The Nagas appear to have been generally healthy, and epidemics have, so far as is known, been entirely absent; the only exception being the village of Nakhama, where about 50 persons are said to have died from what is supposed to have been cholera, though it is very rare in these hills. A few cases however did occur undoubtedly among the party which first occupied Kohima, and there were five deaths; the disease however soon died out.

58. As a rule the people are fairly well-to-do. Beggars are unknown, and each person seems to be able to provide his food and clothing without difficulty. Some of the headmen are, comparatively speaking, very rich. One man, who gave a feast to his fellow villagers, killed 40 pigs and 20 cows on the occasion, besides providing an enormous quantity of beer, and instances of this kind are not uncommon. The tribe who are probably the poorest are the Mikirs; their land is not so good, and their cultivation is not so scientific as that of the Nagas, while they are addicted to opium-eating, to obtain which they fall into the hands of Bengali and Assamese traders, and live in a perpetual state of debt.

59. *State of roads, communications, &c.*—The only road worthy of the name in the district is from Golaghat to Samaguting, 67 miles in length; this is passable for horses and elephants throughout the year, and for carts in the cold weather; it has been put in good repair as far as the Nambar River, a distance of 57 miles, elephant and other bridges constructed and jungle cleared. The repairs of the remaining ten miles from the Nambar to Golaghat, with the exception of the jungle clearing which was done previously, was entrusted to the Executive Engineer, Central Assam Division, but not completed by the end of the year.

60. The road from Golaghat to Wokha, about 62 miles in length, is a mere track; it is passable for elephants as far as Merapani, a distance of 19 miles only; from thence for ponies to Wokha. The jungle has been cleared and bridges repaired.

61. A bridle-path exists from Samaguting to Wokha, which crosses the Zubza River, ten miles below Kohima. A new track with a fair gradient has been cut to connect this with the new station at Kohima, and the portion of the road from the Zubza to Samaguting has been put into a fair state of repair. It has been found impossible to repair the remainder owing to pressure of work elsewhere.

62. A new track from Mao to Kohima to complete our communication with Manipur was commenced and completed for about half the distance as far as Jakhama.

63. The proposed new line of road *via* the Zubza, Rengmapani, and Doyang Rivers from Kohima to Golaghat, with a branch line to Wokha, was prospected by Mr. Hinde, the road overseer, and the Political Officer, and found to be practical. A separate report on it has already been submitted.

64. There are only two schools in the district, one at Samaguting and the other at Barpathar, with 38 pupils between them. They are taught Bengali and a little English at the Samaguting school. Efforts were made to open schools among the Cacharies at Mohungdijna and the Rengma Nagas; the latter failed, but a school has been opened at Mohungdijna.

65. There was only one dispensary open during the year at the head-quarters station, which was attended by 449 out-door patients and 152 in-door patients, the greater number of them Nagas. The prevailing diseases were ulcers, bowel complaints, and chest diseases.

66. *Weather and crops.*—The outturn of crops was on the whole very good indeed, and it was probably above the average. The rice grown in this district is of two descriptions—one the ordinary hill rice, which is

grown in the jooms and resembles the áus rice of Bengal; the other and more important kind is the transplanted rice which grows in the terrace cultivation and resembles aman. The principal food grains grown in addition to rice are Job's tears, kaun, Indian-corn, and a kind of pulse. Cotton is largely grown in some parts.

67. The rain-fall, though less than in the last year, is still considerably above the average, as will appear from the following statement:—

Statement of rain-fall.					Year 1877-78.	Year 1878-79.
April	...	...	...	...	5.10	4.01
May	...	...	...	...	7.51	6.49
June	...	...	...	...	14.84	11.29
July	...	...	...	...	12.00	9.14
August	...	...	...	...	19.92	10.84
September	...	...	...	...	6.95	11.52
October	...	...	...	...	5.21	5.31
November	...	...	...	...	.....	2.97
December	...	...	...	...	0.31	0.13
January	...	...	...	...	0.78	0.19
February	...	...	...	...	1.17	0.78
March	...	...	...	...	2.88	0.09
Total					76.67	62.76

68. *Trade and Commerce.*—Under this head there is but little to record, as the amount of commerce is but small. A good deal of cotton is exported by the Mikirs, Cacharies, and Lhota Nagas, but of this trade I have not been able to obtain statistics.

69. Amongst the Angamies 1,995 persons took passes to trade in the plains, of whom 1706 took down Rupees 7943 to buy salt, 207 took Manipuri and Naga cloths, and the remainder took 45 ponies. They went to Dimapur, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Gauhati and Cachar.

70. The traders at Samaguting and Kohima imported goods to the value of Rupees 63,467, salt, rice and cloth being the principal items, and they bought from the Nagas ivory, wax, and cloth to the value of about Rupees 3000.

71. *State of Police, Criminal, and Civil Justice.*—Under this head there is very little to remark. The criminal cases tried by the Political officer and his Assistants amount to ten in number, none of which were of a serious nature; this does not of course in any way represent the real

crimes of the Naga Hills, which is, I imagine, ten-fold greater than in an ordinary district of the same population; murder, cattle and gun stealing are here regarded as virtues; it is true some descriptions of crime, such as rape, forgery, and others are rare; they will probably develop as civilization increases.

72. Only the other day on visiting Teruphima, a distant Sema village, about sixty-half anna and one-pice pieces whitened with quick-silver were brought to me by the innocent Semas, who complained that they were turning brown; I found they had been passed as rupees and eight anna pieces by some Nagas of Kohima, who will be arrested before long. I afterwards found that the same imposition had been practised on the people of a distant Angami village called Kotcoimi.

73. In another instance an Angami sold another a quantity of powdered charcoal for gunpowder; in fact my short experience of the Nagas leads me to modify very much the high opinion of their virtue expressed by my predecessors. Briefly, I believe them to be capable of any crime when they get the opportunity. Next year will undoubtedly show a very large increase in our crime returns, and this increase will continue for some years, as we exercise more and more direct control over the people.

74. Civil disputes are generally settled by the people themselves; twelve suits however, all of a petty nature, were decided by the civil officers.

75. The police of this district are purely military, and not invested with any civil powers whatever. They are, on the whole, a most excellent body of men, and are admirably adapted for the work they have to perform. They are composed almost entirely of Garos, Hill Cacharies, Mech, and Goorkhas, and for the rough work which they have to perform in these jungles, without proper carriage or supplies, it would not be easy to find another body of men who would do their work so well and with so little grumbling. Hillmen themselves, they care little for caste prejudices, and can feed themselves where a plains man would starve. Their conduct has been almost invariably good and very few departmental punishments have been inflicted. I regret however to have to record two bad cases of theft, one by a constable at Wokha, who, while on duty as sentry, broke open the Government treasure box with his bayonet and stole the contents, fortunately not a large sum, all of which was recovered; the man was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A similar sentence, with the addition of 20 stripes, was also passed on a constable, against whom five cases of theft from his comrades were proved.

76. During the year the force was raised from 163 to 232. It was brought up to full strength partly by a draft from the Garo Hills Police and partly by raising recruits; it is now at full strength, and I am glad to say that the difficulty which has been felt in former years in obtaining recruits has quite disappeared. The force has lately been armed with short Enfield rifles, a great improvement on the old carbines. These, it is hoped, will be exchanged for Sniders before long.

77. *Officers serving in the district.*—Lieutenant H. St. P. Maxwell officiated as Political officer from 1st April to 31st July 1878, when Mr. G. H. Damant, the permanent Political officer, assumed charge, which

he held till the end of the year. Mr. W. B. Savi acted as Assistant Political officer from 1st April to 15th July 1878, when Mr. Pughe relieved him, and held charge till 29th March 1879, when he was relieved by Mr. Cawley. Dr. Cooper, Assistant Political officer, was in medical charge from 1st April till 1st August 1878. Dr. Mountain took charge of his office on the 26th October 1878 and remained in charge till the end of the year. Mr. Hinde was in charge of the Wokha Sub-division from 24th May 1878 to the end of the year.

78. *Summary.*—On the whole the year has been one of progress. The great event as far as the district is concerned has been the introduction of a decided policy amongst the Naga tribes, and the decision which Government has arrived at that it is our duty to put a stop to the wholesale system of murder which has so long flourished unchecked among them. This determination has been made widely known among the tribes, and it has been emphasized by the occupation of Kohima and the punishment inflicted on villages who have offended in this respect. Although something has been done during the present year, very much yet remains before the civilization of the whole range of hills as far as the Singpho country can be effected. In time to come it will probably be found necessary to have a sub-division somewhere near Senua and to move the Wokha Sub-division further to the east; this is naturally a question of time and for the next year or two our hands will be fully occupied in civilizing the tribes which immediately surround Wokha and Kohima and in opening out roads and communications: this accomplished we can travel further east, advancing step by step until we have succeeded in eradicating the last vestiges of the murder and bloodshed which now prevails among all these tribes.

(Sd.) G. M. DAMANT,
Political Officer, Naga Hills.

Annexure A.

[Referred to in paragraph 55.]

Annual statement of the sick in the Naga Hills Police Hospital during the year 1878-79.

				Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables.	Constables.	Buglers.	Total.	Monthly average.
Admitted during the year (1878-79)	...	...	...	4	7	12	280	3	306	115'41
Died	"	"	...	...	...	...	6	1	7	
Discharged	...	...	...	4	7	12	274	2	299	
Total	...	...	...	4	7	12	280	3	306	

KOHIMA,
The 18th June 1879. }

(Sd.) G. M. DAMANT,
Political Officer.

**RESOLUTION ON THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE
NAGA HILLS DISTRICT FOR 1878-79.**

READ—

A letter No. 153, dated 15th June 1879, from the Political Officer, Naga Hills, submitting the Report on the Administration of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79.

RESOLUTION.

THE Chief Commissioner has read with much interest the very full and complete report submitted by the Political officer on his administration of the Naga Hills District.

2. Sir Stuart Bayley notices that Mr. Damant puts the eastern limit of the tract within which he describes the various tribes and clans more or less under his jurisdiction and control as longitude $94^{\circ}30'$. This is the limit within which Colonel Keatinge, in his letter to the Government of India, No. 560 of 25th March 1878, stated that he thought for the present the tribes could, with an adequate force, be kept in subjection and be required to pay taxes, while ultimately our influence might gradually be extended as far eastwards as longitude $96^{\circ}30'$. Sir Stuart Bayley would not lay down any hard-and-fast line in this matter; as, from the nature of things, our authority must be constantly expanding in these hills, and the limit must from time to time be a discretionary one, based on the principle of not attempting to exercise authority beyond easy and secure striking distance.

3. Mr. Damant's enumeration of the various tribes dwelling within the limits of the Political officer's jurisdiction is most useful and valuable. It shows that he has to deal with certainly not less than ten distinct tribes of various stages of civilization and power, ranging from the warlike and wealthy Angamis, numbering some 200,000, who have terraced cultivation and fire-arms, and an aptitude for trade, and who, besides tyrannising over weaker tribes, are already sufficiently civilized to deal in counterfeit coin and spurious gunpowder, down to the peaceful and long-settled clans of old Kookies, 200 strong, settled Rengmas, 2,000, and Mekirs, 5,500. Of the Eastern Nagas, whose power and civilization, if not their ferocity, is below that of the Angamis, little is known; but it may be anticipated that, as our authority extends eastward, we shall have trouble with such tribes as the Hatigorias and Semas, all of whom we speak of as Nagas, but who acknowledge no tribal connection with each other, and who, for the most part, cannot understand each other's speech.

4. To weld such a mass of disconnected and barbarous tribes into a law-abiding community is no easy task, and it must be many a year before even an approximate success can be attained. But the expedition against the Angamis of the previous year, and the determination of Government to adopt a stable policy of gradually suppressing raids and extending a settled administration among them, has not been without effect; as Mr. Damant testifies to a decided diminution in the number of raids, massacres, and murders during the year under report. Notwithstanding this improvement, the long list of murderous outrages quoted by Mr. Damant, shows a condition of ceaseless internecine warfare to be the normal state of existence among the tribes, and offers a

suggestive warning against the supposition that our mere presence at Kohima will of itself suffice to effect any immediate change in the habit of life and thought of a whole population. The work will be one requiring much time and patience to effect, and Mr. Damant is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, quite right in punishing such outrages in these early days of our occupation sufficiently to mark our determination to put an end to raiding, but with much less severity than would be necessary among a more settled community.

5. The punishment detailed in paragraph 24 for the raid on Khoma and that inflicted on Chaduma were the most severe, but both of these cases occurred after the orders of Government had been promulgated, and were well understood. The only case where, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, more vigorous action was called for, was in that of the combination of the villages of Nungtang, Mungrung, and Phinsing against Mr. Hinde. In all the others the action of the local officers was sufficient and judicious.

6. The Chief Commissioner is quite satisfied that the movement of the head-quarters of the district to Kohima was judicious, and was absolutely necessary for the proper execution of the policy decided on by the Government of India in regard to the suppression of raids, and the movement itself was carried out with much discretion and energy. The occupation of Kohima was unopposed, and, with the present force of the garrison, the post is safe against any attack which is likely to be made against it. But it would be dwelling in a fool's paradise to suppose that, as the tribes begin to apprehend the permanent nature of our occupation, and the advantageous position it gives to the Political Officer in dealing with disobedient and opposing villages, there will not be strenuous attempts made to dislodge us, or at least to harass us, on the part of the more powerful villages such as Mozema and Konoma, whose favourite occupation of harassing and plundering their weaker neighbours is thus brought to an end. For some time to come we shall have to be on our guard against such attacks, and our attitude in regard to these villages can for the present be considered as, at the best, one of armed neutrality; but year by year this state of affairs will inevitably tend to improvement. The early records of both the Sylhet and Gauhati Districts are full of the terror inspired by the raids of the "ferocious tribes of Khasias," who, moreover, resisted us when in armed occupation of their country for a period of four years, but are now a singularly peaceful, inoffensive, trade-loving community. So, too, it is probable that in a few years' time the ferocity of the Nagas will be a tradition of the past, and their natural aptitude for trade will find a full and unchecked development. The task in their case is in some respects likely to be less easy than with the Khasias, as the latter lived under the settled and organized government of their own Chiefs, while the Nagas own no Chiefs, either of tribes or villages, and yield only a precarious and uncertain obedience to such elders as may for the time being have acquired commanding influence amongst them; but this fact, if it tends to check the spread of civilizing influences, on the other hand greatly diminishes the danger of any combined or organized opposition. In this state of affairs the Political Officer rightly abstains from anything like detailed administration. If disputes in the way of petty criminal or civil cases are brought to him, it is quite right that he should settle them; but,

so long as the people prefer settling such matters among themselves by arbitration, it is far better that they should be permitted to do so. The Political Officer will for a long time have his hands full in the measures to be adopted to maintain his own security, to keep the peace, to prevent the stronger villages from raiding on the weaker, and to improve the means of communication, and generally in making his influence felt throughout the difficult country of which he is in charge.

7. Mr. Damant appears hitherto, so far as the present report narrates, to have grappled successfully with the difficulties involved in maintaining a sufficient labour-supply and food-supply for the troops and police occupying Kohima. Considering the difficulties attending this occupation in this centre of what is almost a hostile country, his success is most creditable to him. It will, however, be satisfactory to learn that he has succeeded in putting these matters on a permanently-assured footing, and beyond the reach of accidents.

8. The health of the Police at Samaguting appears to have been very unsatisfactory. Kohima, which is considerably higher, is also much more healthily situated, and in this respect the move has proved decidedly advantageous. In fact, Kohima ought to prove a sanitarium not less beneficial than Shillong.

9. Mr. Damant gives the following brief but satisfactory description of the condition of the people about Kohima :—

“As a rule, the people are fairly well-to-do. Beggars are unknown, and each person seems to be able to provide his food and clothing without difficulty. Some of the headmen are, comparatively speaking, very rich. One man who gave a feast to his fellow villagers killed 40 pigs and 20 cows on the occasion, besides providing an enormous quantity of beer, and instances of this kind are not uncommon. The tribe who are probably the poorest are the Mikirs; their land is not so good, and their cultivation is not so scientific as that of the Nagas, while they are addicted to opium-eating, to obtain which they fall into the hands of Bengali and Assamese traders, and live in a perpetual state of debt.”

10. The Chief Commissioner proposes, as soon as the season permits, to attach a trained officer to the Naga Hills District to assist Mr. Damant in aligning the new road which is to connect Kohima with its base at Golaghat. The line promises to effect a great saving both in distance and maintenance on the existing road *via* Dimapur and Samaguting, and will have the advantage of being connected by a short branch with Wokha. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that material progress has been made in the road connecting Kohima with Mao, and so with Manipur. When these two lines are complete there will be secure and easy communication between Golaghat and Manipur, and this will tend perhaps, more than anything else, to foster the trading instincts of the Angamies. That these are not unimportant, may be gathered from the fact that 2,000 passes were taken out by Nagas during the year for trading with the plains; and, although the Angamies at present assert their intellectual superiority over the neighbouring tribes, by selling them powdered charcoal for gunpowder, and pice rubbed with quicksilver for rupees, just as they assert their martial superiority by slaying and plundering them, these facts show also that they are a race

with keen energies both for fighting and trading, and may yet, if wisely managed, have a successful future before them.

11. The work done by schools and dispensaries in this district is as yet in its infancy, but it shows signs of growing to a healthy and useful extent.

12. The Chief Commissioner fully endorses the views expressed by Mr. Damant as to the Frontier Police in the following paragraphs:—

“The police of this district are purely military, and not invested with any civil powers whatever. They are, on the whole, a most excellent body of men, and are admirably adapted for the work they have to perform. They are composed almost entirely of Garos, Hill Cacharies, Mech, and Gurkhas, and for the rough work which they have to perform in these jungles, without proper carriage or supplies, it would not be easy to find another body of men who would do their work so well with so little grumbling. Hillmen themselves, they care little for caste prejudices, and can feed themselves where a plains man would starve. Their conduct has been almost invariably good, and very few departmental punishments have been inflicted. I regret, however, to have to record two bad cases of theft—one by a constable at Wokha, who, while on duty as sentry, broke open the Government treasure-box with his bayonet and stole the contents, fortunately not a large sum, all of which was recovered; and the man was convicted and sentenced to two years’ imprisonment. A similar sentence, with the addition of 20 stripes, was also passed on a constable, against whom five cases of theft from his comrades were proved.

“During the year the force was raised from 163 to 232; it was brought up to full strength partly by a draft from the Garo Hills Police and partly by raising recruits; it is now at full strength, and I am glad to say that the difficulty which has been felt in former years in obtaining recruits has quite disappeared.

“The force has lately been armed with short Enfield rifles, a great improvement on the old carbines. These, it is hoped, will be exchanged for Sniders before long.”

13. The Chief Commissioner congratulates Mr. Damant on the successful accomplishment of a delicate and difficult task in removing the head-quarters of the district to Kohima, and on the secure and peaceful occupation of that place. His general administration has been marked by courage, tact, and discretion, and Sir Steuart Bayley considers it fortunate that the administration of the district, at a difficult time, was entrusted to such a firm and experienced officer. He is also well satisfied with the manner in which Mr. Hinde, in charge of the new sub-division of Wokha, has carried on his difficult and anxious work during the year.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

(Sd.) S. O. B. RIDSDALE,
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

