

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

Records of the Government of India,

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

N^o. CXXXIV.

ANNUAL
ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MUNNIPOOR AGENCY,

For the year

1875-76.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 4 of the Report.—Naga raids.

Paragraph 10 of the Report.—Roads and Communications.

Paragraph 22.—Agency buildings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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